

December, 2024

# WIFY

WORLD FOR YOU

Global Indian Diaspora Magazine



## COVERSTORY

# **The Great Indian Migration: The Birds That Flew To The Corners Of The World**







SEEKING 'DUAL CITIZENSHIP' IN INDIA FOR THE INDIAN DIASPORA SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE.

# KEEP THE DOOR OPEN



INDIAN DIASPORA GLOBAL

Africa, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Georgia, Germany, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA.

[www.indiandiaspora.world](http://www.indiandiaspora.world)



**Melwyn Williams**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Manoj K Sharma**  
Associate Editor

**Col. Vikram Kashyap (Rtd.)**  
Associate Editor

**Virender Rawat**  
Executive Editor

## Editorial Team

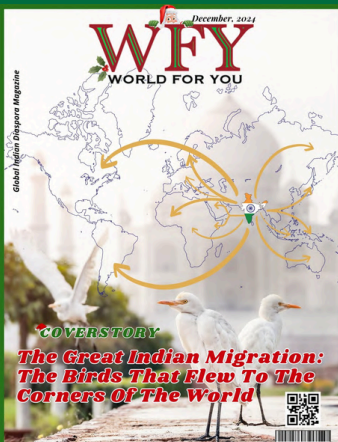
Jaimy K Antony  
Selvan Durairaj  
Sunita Krishnan  
Ridhima Kapoor  
Kavya Patel  
Manish Singh  
Wynona M

**Sudhir J Kumar**  
Head, Design

**Girinder Kumar**  
Head, Accounts

**Wilfred Melwyn**  
Art & Design

**William Melwyn**  
Events & BD



## EDITORIAL

- 04 **Reflecting On The Past Year And Welcoming Better Days Ahead**  
– Melwyn Williams

## COVERSTORY

- 05 **The Great Indian Migration: The Birds That Flew To The Corners Of The World**  
– Melwyn Williams

## WORLD POLITICS

- 10 **India-Canada Tensions: A Diplomatic Standoff with Uncertain Future**  
– Tushar Unadkat
- 11 **India-Afghanistan Relationship Now 25 Years Of The Kandahar Hijack**  
– Leon Jose Vithayathil

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

- 13 **Know How Aloe Vera Can Make Your Hair Better?**  
– WFY Bureau

## HUMAN INTERESTS & SOCIAL PURSUITS

- 14 **Remarkable Story Of The First Indian Divorcee And Female Doctor**  
– Naisa V Melwyn

## LIFESTYLE

- 17 **This Is The Trend Now: Marrying Late Or Staying Single**  
– Kavya Patel
- 18 **Marriages and Cohabitation: The World of Ancient India Revisited**  
– Ridhima Kapoor

## FEATURED

- 23 **The Best Authentic Christmas Cake Recipe For You**  
– WFY Bureau
- 25 **Introducing Dalgona This Is The Best Whipped Creamy Coffee**  
– Sudha Mukhopadhyay
- 26 **St. Nicholas To Santa Claus: The Most Fascinating Guy**  
– Wynona M

## ART & CULTURE

- 28 **The Last Sentinel**  
– Rema Pisharody
- 29 **The Invisible Shackles**  
– Sudha KK
- 30 **Which Is The First Popular Modern Novel In Hindi?**  
– WFY Bureau
- 31 **Speaking Art Fest The Best And Better Hues Of Creativity**  
– WFY Bureau

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

- 33 **Trump's America First 2.0: A Turning Point for Indian Trade and Canadian Opportunities**  
– Tushar Unadkat

## FINANCE & LEGAL

- 34 **Know The Gift Tax Implications For NRIs: Useful**  
– Kamal Arora

## TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

- 35 **Which Is The First One To Come? Egg Or Chicken?**  
– Selvan Durairaj
- 36 **ChatGPT Picks A Better James Bond To Be For You**  
– Kavya Patel

## ACADEMICS

- 37 **The English-speaking Nations: The New Destination Of The Indian Students**  
– Krishnakumar T N

## SPIRITUALITY

- 38 **Interesting Facts About The World Of The Neem Karoli Baba**  
– Jaiprakash Bhande

## SPORTS

- 40 **The Great Indian Maharaj Of The SA Cricket World**  
– Saji Chacko

*Disclaimer: The WFY magazine aims to share experiences, opinions, and information on various topics. However, it is important to note that the authors of this magazine does not possess any professional authority or expertise, especially in subjects related to health, medical advice, or legal matters. The information provided on this magazine is based on the personal experiences, research, and general knowledge. While we strive to provide accurate and up-to-date information, we cannot guarantee the completeness, reliability, or accuracy of the content. Therefore, any action you take based on the information found on this blog is at your own risk. The contents of this magazine should not be considered a substitute for professional advice or consultation from experts in the respective fields. If you require specific advice or assistance, we strongly recommend consulting with a qualified professional. The WFY magazine and its publisher and authors will not be liable for any errors, omissions, or any losses, injuries, or damages arising from the use or reliance on the information presented on this magazine. It is your responsibility to verify any information obtained from this blog and to use it at your own discretion. Please note that the opinions expressed in the articles and comments on this blog are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, owner or any associated individuals. By reading this magazine, you acknowledge and agree to the above disclaimer. If you do not agree with this disclaimer, please refrain from reading this magazine.*





# Hello December



## Reflecting On The Past Year And Welcoming Better Days Ahead

*Reflecting on 2024 and Stepping into a Brighter Future*

*Dear Readers,*

As we bid farewell to 2024, it is time to reflect on an eventful year, one that tested our resilience and celebrated our collective strength. From heartwarming tales of Indian communities flourishing abroad to critical issues that brought us together as a global family, this year has been a journey of learning, growth, and inspiration.

Our cover story, *The Great Indian Migration: The Birds That Flew to the Corners of the World*, highlights the indomitable spirit of Indians who have made homes across continents, carrying with them our values, culture, and heritage. Despite geographical boundaries, their stories reinforce one truth: home is where our roots are, and they are deep in our shared culture.

This year, however, brought challenges too. Financial scams, cyber frauds, and economic uncertainties have been persistent threats. Indians worldwide have faced unprecedented cybercrime targeting even the most prominent figures, such as S.P. Oswal. Such events remind us of the importance of

vigilance and informed decision-making. In a world that often moves faster than our ability to adapt, staying grounded in values of caution and wisdom is essential.

On a brighter note, 2024 also witnessed inspiring progress. The “do good economy” has gained traction globally, with local social enterprises promoting inclusive growth. From Melbourne’s west to cities in the Americas, the wave of responsible capitalism is a hopeful sign that humanity is capable of balancing profit with purpose. As individuals, supporting these initiatives, even in small ways, contributes to creating a fairer and more equitable world.

This final issue of WFY encapsulates the richness of our experiences this year. From stories of historical milestones, like the 25th anniversary of the Kandahar hijack, to thought-provoking pieces such as *Marriages and Cohabitation: The World of Ancient India Revisited*, and creative highlights like *Speaking Art Fest*, we hope this edition informs, inspires, and uplifts you.

As the year closes, let us carry forward the lessons of 2024—of resilience, innovation, and shared growth—into 2025. Let’s remain vigilant in protecting ourselves from threats and open to embracing opportunities. As we celebrate our past achievements, let us not forget the incredible possibilities the future holds for all of us.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here’s to stepping into a new year of hope, purpose, and joy.

Warm regards,

**-MELWYN WILLIAMS**  
Editor-in-Chief,  
The WFY Magazine





## COVERSTORY

# The Great Indian Migration: The Birds That Flew To The Corners Of The World







By Melwyn Williams

The global diaspora of Indians has evolved over centuries and across continents, showcasing resilience, adaptability, and significant contributions to diverse fields globally. From the pioneering Indian traders who established trade routes in Southeast Asia, such as the Cholas, to the resilient indentured labourers who toiled on Caribbean sugarcane plantations, Indians have left an indelible mark on the global landscape. Today, the Indian diaspora is a vibrant and diverse community, contributing to the cultural, economic, and political landscape of countries around the globe. Let us look at the historical journeys, obstacles, and achievements of the Indian diaspora, emphasizing their resilience and ability to prosper amidst challenges.

### Brief overview of the history of Indian migration

Indian migration has a long and complex history, with waves of emigration dating back centuries. From the early Indian traders who sailed across the Indian Ocean to establish trade links with Southeast Asia to the indentured labourers who were forcibly sent to work on sugarcane plantations in the Caribbean during the colonial era, Indians have travelled far and wide in search of opportunity and prosperity. Despite facing discrimination and hardship in their new homelands, the Indian diaspora has persevered and flourished, carving out successful careers and establishing vibrant communities in countries around the world. Today, the Indian diaspora continues to grow and evolve, playing a significant role in shaping the global landscape.

For instance, in addition to the Indian entrepreneurs thriving in Silicon Valley, notable successes include Indian-origin professionals excelling in diverse sectors like healthcare, academia, and the arts, enriching global industries. Additionally, the vibrant Indian community in the United Kingdom has made significant contributions to business, politics, and culture, enriching the fabric of British society. However, it is important to note that not all members of the Indian diaspora have experienced the same level of success. There are many who have faced discrimination and barriers to social and economic mobility, particularly in countries where they are a minority. For example, in Malaysia, some members of the Indian community have been marginalised and face challenges accessing education and employment opportunities.

### Importance of exploring how Indians have evolved in different corners of the world

Understanding the evolution of the Indian diaspora in various regions is essential to grasp the multifaceted impact of their experiences on the global community, shedding light on their resilience, cultural richness, and collective contributions. By studying the achievements and contributions of the Indian diaspora, we can gain valuable insights into the resilience, adaptability, and ingenuity of this group of people.

Their stories serve as a testament to the power of the human spirit and determination in overcoming adversity and thriving in new environments. As we continue to witness the growth and influence of the Indian Diaspora, it is crucial that we recognize and celebrate its unique cultural heritage and rich history.

### A glimpse into the various facets of the Indian diaspora

From successful entrepreneurs to renowned artists, the Indian diaspora has made significant contributions in various fields around the world. Their ability to navigate different cultures and environments while maintaining a strong sense of identity is truly inspiring. As we look to the future, it is important to continue supporting and promoting the achievements of the Indian diaspora, as they play a vital role in shaping the global community and fostering greater understanding and unity among people of diverse backgrounds.

### Early Indian Migration

Early Indian migration began in the 19th century, when British colonies like Fiji, South Africa, and Malaysia recruited Indian laborers to work on their plantations. Despite facing discrimination and hardships, these early migrants played a crucial role in shaping the economies of their host countries. Their struggles and perseverance laid the foundation for future generations of Indian immigrants to thrive and excel in various professions across the globe. Today, their legacy lives on through the achievements of the Indian diaspora, who continue to break barriers and make a positive impact on the world stage. For example, in Fiji, Indian laborers worked long hours under harsh conditions on sugar plantations, contributing significantly to the growth of the industry. Their descendants have since become successful entrepreneurs, politicians, and professionals, making valuable contributions to the country's economy and society. The Indian community in Fiji has preserved its cultural heritage and traditions while also integrating with the wider Fijian society, showcasing the resilience and adaptability of the diaspora.

### Historical context of Indian migration to Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East

As an illustration, in Malaysia, Indian immigrants arrived as indentured labourers to cultivate rubber plantations under arduous conditions, defining their journey of resilience and perseverance amidst adversity. Many of their descendants have gone on to excel in various fields, including business, the arts, and politics. The Indian community in Malaysia continues to celebrate its rich cultural heritage through festivals and traditions while also actively participating in the country's multicultural society.

The Indian diaspora has not only made significant contributions to their host countries but has also maintained strong cultural ties to their homeland. Through their hard work and determination, they have established themselves as successful entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders in various industries. Their resilience and adaptability have allowed them to overcome challenges and create a lasting impact on the global stage. As we look back on the history of Indian migration, we can appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of those who paved the way for future generations to thrive in new lands. **Factors like the lure of trade routes, colonial policies, and labour demands have been pivotal in moulding the Indian diaspora and influencing its economic, social, and cultural**

**trajectories across the globe.** Reasons for migration, such as trade, colonization, and labor opportunities, have played a significant role in shaping the Indian diaspora. The Indian migrants have not only contributed to the economic growth of their host countries but have also enriched the cultural tapestry with their traditions and customs. Despite facing discrimination and hardships, they have persevered and excelled in their chosen fields, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire others. The history of Indian migration bears witness to the strength and resilience of a community that has flourished despite numerous challenges.

For example, Indian migrants who moved to countries like the United States and the United Kingdom in search of better job opportunities have excelled in fields such as technology, medicine, and finance, contributing to the growth and innovation of these nations. Additionally, Indian traders who established businesses in Southeast Asia during colonial times have left a lasting cultural and economic influence in the region, showcasing the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of the Indian diaspora.

### Cultural influences and adaptations

The widespread popularity of Indian cuisine, exemplified by the global appeal of dishes like biryani and curry, along with the influence of Bollywood music and dance, underscores the significant cultural imprint of the Indian diaspora on a global scale. The blending of Indian traditions with local customs has created a unique fusion that has captivated people from all walks of life. This cultural exchange has not only helped to bridge gaps between different communities but has also fostered a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity. The Indian diaspora continues to make a lasting impact on the global stage, showcasing the power of unity and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Examples of these include the integration of Indian cuisine, fashion, and traditional practices, along with the establishment of temples, cultural associations, and Indian language schools. These cultural exchanges have enriched the local communities and fostered a sense of diversity and inclusivity in these regions.

### Indian Diaspora in the Western World

The popularization of yoga and meditation practices, which are widely embraced and integrated into mainstream culture, is one specific example of the Indian diaspora's impact in the Western world. Additionally, Indian Americans have excelled in various fields such as technology, medicine, and entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to the economic and social fabric of their adopted countries. However, the success of Indian Americans in these fields does not negate the challenges faced by other members of the diaspora, such as lower-income immigrants who struggle to find stable employment and face discrimination in Western societies. Furthermore, the popularisation of yoga and meditation practices can sometimes lead to cultural appropriation and commodification, detracting them from their spiritual origins and significance.

### Overview of Indian migration to North America, Europe, and Australia

In North America, for instance, Indian communities have enriched the cultural tapestry through vibrant festivals like Diwali and Holi, showcasing the diversity and traditions of India to a global audience. In North America, Indian immigrants have excelled in various fields such as





technology, medicine, and entrepreneurship, making significant contributions to the economy and society. In Europe, Indian communities have established themselves as vibrant contributors to the arts, academia, and business sectors. Similarly, in Australia, the Indian diaspora has played a vital role in shaping the multicultural fabric of the country, bringing their rich traditions and customs to the forefront. Overall, the Indian diaspora in the Western world continues to thrive and make a positive impact on their adopted countries.

**Factors contributing to the growth of the Indian diaspora in these regions**, such as education and employment opportunities, as well as political stability and immigration policies, have allowed for the Indian community to flourish and prosper. This has led to an increase in Indian immigrants moving to these regions in search of better opportunities and a higher quality of life. With their strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit, Indians have been able to integrate successfully into Western societies and make significant contributions in various sectors, further enhancing the diversity and cultural richness of their adopted homes. The Indian diaspora's success in the Western world serves as a testament to the resilience and determination of this vibrant community.

#### **Cultural preservation and integration in Western societies**

Despite facing challenges such as discrimination and cultural barriers, Indian immigrants have managed to preserve their rich cultural heritage while also integrating into Western societies. Through community centres, religious institutions, and cultural events, they have been able to maintain their traditions and values while also embracing the customs and practices of their new home. This dual identity has not only enriched the cultural landscape of Western societies but has also fostered greater understanding and appreciation for the diverse tapestry of humanity. As a result, the Indian diaspora continues to thrive and contribute to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of their adopted countries.

While the Indian diaspora may have contributed positively to diversity and cultural exchange, it is important to recognise that there can also be challenges and tensions that arise from differences in values, beliefs, and practices between the diaspora and local communities. Additionally, not all members of the Indian diaspora may have equal opportunities or access to resources in the Western world, leading to potential disparities and marginalisation within these communities.

#### **Evolution of Indian Identity**

One example of the positive contribution of the Indian diaspora to their adopted countries is in the field of technology, with many Indian immigrants playing key roles in Silicon Valley and driving innovation. However, tensions can arise when traditional Indian cultural practices clash with Western values, such as gender roles or religious beliefs, leading to discrimination or misunderstandings within the diaspora community. A detailed counterexample to the positive contribution of the Indian diaspora in technology can be seen in instances where Indian immigrants face discrimination and barriers to advancement in their careers due to their ethnicity. Additionally, conflicts within the diaspora community may arise when individuals from different regions of India have differing cultural practices and beliefs, leading to divisions and a lack of unity within the community.

The shift from traditional to modern values in the diaspora community can also lead to generational conflicts, as younger members may embrace Western ideals while older generations hold onto traditional customs. This can create tension and a sense of disconnection within the community, making it difficult to maintain a cohesive identity. Overall, while the Indian diaspora has made significant contributions in various fields, there are challenges and complexities that can hinder the unity and progress of the community. It is important for individuals within the diaspora to work towards understanding and respecting each other's differences in order to foster a stronger and more inclusive community.

**Challenges faced by second and third-generation Indians** in maintaining cultural ties include the pressure to assimilate into the dominant culture while also trying to preserve their heritage. Many struggle to balance their Indian identity with their Western upbringing, leading to a sense of identity crisis. Additionally, language barriers and lack of exposure to Indian traditions and customs can further alienate younger generations from their roots. Despite these challenges, efforts to educate and celebrate Indian culture within the diaspora can help bridge the gap between generations and create a more cohesive community.

**The emergence of a global Indian identity** has become increasingly important as the Indian diaspora continues to grow and spread across the world. Through events, festivals, and community organisations, individuals are able to connect with their heritage and form a sense of belonging within the larger Indian community. This sense of unity and pride in their cultural background can help individuals navigate the complexities of being a part of multiple worlds, ultimately leading to a stronger and more resilient global Indian identity.

While the Indian diaspora may have contributed positively to diversity and cultural exchange, it is important to acknowledge that not all members of the diaspora may face challenges or tensions in their adopted countries. Additionally, many individuals within the Indian diaspora have successfully integrated into Western societies and have equal opportunities and access to resources.

#### **Economic Impact of Indian Diaspora**

For example, a second-generation Indian-American who has a strong understanding of both Indian and American cultures may be able to leverage their background to form international business partnerships and navigate global markets effectively. On the other hand, a member of the Indian diaspora in a Western country may face discrimination or barriers to employment despite being highly qualified, highlighting the importance of acknowledging and addressing systemic challenges within adopted countries. However, it is also possible for a second-generation Indian-American to face discrimination in the business world due to stereotypes or biases against their ethnicity, hindering their ability to form partnerships or advance in their career. Additionally, a member of the Indian diaspora in a Western country may not necessarily face barriers to employment if they are able to network effectively and showcase their skills and qualifications, demonstrating that individual effort and determination can sometimes overcome systemic challenges.

**Contribution of Indian diaspora to the economies of host countries**

The Indian diaspora often brings valuable skills and expertise to their host countries, contributing to economic growth and innovation. Their entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic have led to the creation of successful businesses and the generation of employment opportunities. By overcoming barriers and showcasing their talents, members of the Indian diaspora have played a significant role in shaping the economies of their host countries and fostering cross-cultural exchange.

Entrepreneurship and innovation among Indian expatriates have not only benefitted the host countries' economies but have also strengthened diplomatic and trade relations between India and their adopted nations. The success stories of Indian entrepreneurs abroad have inspired others in the diaspora to pursue their own business ventures, further fuelling economic growth and diversification. Through their hard work and determination, Indian expatriates have proven themselves to be valuable assets to their host countries, driving progress and prosperity in a globalised world.

**Role of the Indian diaspora in shaping global industries**

Their contributions have not gone unnoticed, as Indian expatriates are now sought after for their unique skills and expertise in various industries. As pioneers in technology, healthcare, finance, and more, they continue to break barriers and make significant impacts on the world stage. The Indian diaspora's influence in shaping global industries is undeniable, showcasing the power of diversity, innovation, and collaboration in driving forward the global economy.

- The economic impact of the Indian diaspora on both their home country and adopted countries, including contributions to various industries and sectors. For example, Indian expatriates in the technology sector have played a crucial role in advancing artificial intelligence, coding, and software development, leading to groundbreaking innovations and advancements in technology worldwide.
- Challenges faced by some members of the Indian diaspora in terms of discrimination, cultural identity conflicts, or struggles with integration into Western societies. For instance, Indian immigrants may face barriers in accessing employment opportunities or encounter racism in their host countries. Despite these challenges, many members of the Indian diaspora have successfully navigated them and made significant contributions to their respective communities and industries.
- Success stories and examples of individuals within the Indian diaspora who have excelled in their careers, businesses, or communities in their adopted countries. One example is Indra Nooyi, who immigrated to the United States from India and became the CEO of PepsiCo, leading the company to enormous success. Another example is Sundar Pichai, who moved from India to the US and rose to become the CEO of Google, revolutionising the tech industry with his leadership and innovation.
- Cultural exchange and diversity initiatives led by the Indian diaspora that promote understanding and appreciation for Indian culture within Western societies. For example, the Indian American Cultural Association in the US organises events and festivals to showcase Indian traditions, music, and cuisine, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.





- Additionally, the Australia India Youth Dialogue brings together young leaders from both countries to exchange ideas and foster mutual understanding, promoting diversity and cooperation between their societies.
- The role of education and professional networks within the Indian diaspora community in supporting its members' personal growth, career development, and overall well-being. For example, the South Asian Bar Association provides mentoring, networking opportunities, and access to resources for Indian American legal professionals, helping them advance in their careers and make meaningful contributions to the legal field. Similarly, the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin offers educational scholarships, leadership training, and career guidance to young Indian professionals around the world, enabling them to excel in their respective fields and connect with like-minded individuals for personal and professional development.

While it is true that some members of the Indian diaspora may face challenges in their adopted countries, it is important to recognise that many have achieved success and integration. Additionally, focusing solely on the challenges faced by some individuals overlooks the positive economic impact that the Indian diaspora has had globally.

The Indian diaspora has come a long way since the days of indentured labourers and is now a thriving community that contributes significantly to various industries worldwide. By acknowledging the achievements and successes of the diaspora, we can gain a more balanced perspective on their impact. Moving forward, it is crucial to continue supporting and empowering young Indian professionals to reach their full potential and further strengthen the global Indian community.

#### **Reflection on the impact and significance of Indian communities around the world**

It is also important to recognise the cultural and social impact that Indian communities have had in their host countries, enriching the diversity and vibrancy of their societies. The success stories of Indian entrepreneurs, artists, and professionals serve as inspiration for future generations, showcasing the potential and talent within the diaspora. By fostering connections and collaborations between Indian communities worldwide, we can create a powerful network that promotes mutual understanding, cooperation, and collective progress. The evolution of Indian migration and diaspora continues to shape the global landscape, demonstrating the resilience, creativity, and innovation of the Indian community.

#### **Call to celebrate and honour the diversity of the Indian diaspora**

It is important to recognise and celebrate the diversity of the Indian diaspora, as each individual brings a unique perspective and set of skills to the table. By honouring the contributions of all members of the community, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for future generations to thrive. Let us come together to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and achievements that make up the Indian diaspora and continue to build a brighter future for all. While celebrating diversity is important, focusing solely on the Indian community may inadvertently exclude other marginalised groups and perpetuate a hierarchy

of importance based on ethnicity. It is essential to promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity across all communities, not just one specific group.

*Indians have flourished in their respective societies, making significant contributions. By embracing and valuing diversity in all its forms, we can create a more inclusive and equitable world for everyone. Let us work towards a future where all individuals feel seen, heard, and respected, regardless of their background or heritage. Together, we can build a more harmonious and united global community that celebrates the unique contributions of every culture and individual.*

**-MELWYN WILLIAMS**





# The WFY Writes Magazine Production Services



Your creative partner

## A one-stop point for A-Z Magazine Production

O  
U  
R  
  
S  
E  
R  
V  
I  
C  
E  
S



White Label Services



Design & Production



Printing



Digital & Print Magazine



Editorial Support



### Discover the Power of Your own Magazine.

At The WFY Writes Magazine Production Services, we are more than just a magazine production agency. We are your creative partner, dedicated to bringing your vision to life and connecting you with your audience in powerful ways.

- We Become Your Unseen Team Extension, Eliminating Production Headaches.
- Leave behind the anxiety and welcome professional knowledge.
- We take care of every aspect to ensure your magazine stands out, from the initial design to its final delivery to your doorstep.
- We're unique. We're experts at driving growth.
- Discover new ways to connect with audiences and foster greater engagement through dynamic digital editions that extend beyond traditional pages.
- Create Compelling Content for Your Magazine: Professional Editing & Production Simplified.

### World is Your Canvas! We are your Swiss Army Knife

Our team specialises in creating visually stunning and engaging content for a wide range of mediums. Whether you need a magazine, journal, newsletter, we have the expertise to bring your vision to life. Best of all, our services are affordable, so you can achieve your goals without breaking the bank.



### Contact Us



info@writer.thewfy.com  
wfywrites@gmail.com  
www.writer.thewfy.com





# India-Canada Tensions: A Diplomatic Standoff with Uncertain Future

As of late 2024, the relationship between India and Canada remains fraught with tension following a significant diplomatic fallout. The strain deepened after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of being involved in the assassination of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in 2023. India has firmly rejected these allegations, labeling them as baseless, politically motivated, and a result of misinformed sources. In retaliation, both countries expelled several diplomats and reduced their diplomatic presence, severely damaging bilateral relations.

In a dramatic development, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) released an evidence report in late October 2024, which included findings suggesting potential links between individuals connected to the Indian government and the Nijjar assassination. The report, while not naming any specific government officials, implied a level of coordination that further fueled tensions between the two countries.

## India's Perspective: Integrity of the Allegations

India has rejected the RCMP's findings unequivocally, calling them speculative and lacking concrete evidence. Indian officials have argued that the Canadian government's accusations are based on conjecture rather than verified facts. They have consistently maintained that the allegations are politically motivated, a response to the growing concerns within Canada about the activities of certain groups within its borders. India has emphasized that the charge of state involvement in the killing of Nijjar is unfounded and lacks substantial proof. In India, such accusations are part of a broader pattern of mischaracterizing the country's policies and actions.

The Indian government has accused Canada of ignoring the role of extremist elements within its borders, particularly those advocating for the separatist Khalistani movement. Indian officials argue that Canada has become a haven for these individuals, which has led to increasing radicalization and violence. From India's perspective, the allegations against its government are an attempt to deflect attention from these domestic issues and avoid confronting the natural sources of extremism operating in Canadian territory.

## Impact on Trade and Immigration:

Trade and immigration, traditionally key pillars of India-Canada ties, have also taken a hit. Bilateral trade, valued at over USD 9 billion in 2023, has slowed significantly, while immigration policies are under heightened scrutiny. The Indian student community in Canada, one of the largest foreign student populations, has been notably affected. In response, India suspended visa services for Canadian citizens, further complicating diplomatic and people-to-people ties.

## Outlook for 2025:

- **Short-Term Outlook:** Diplomatic ties are likely to remain tense unless the ongoing disputes—centered on allegations of interference in domestic affairs, mainly related to the Khalistani movement and terrorism concerns—are addressed. A breakthrough may hinge on resolving these critical issues through sustained dialogue.
- **Economic Impact:** Trade and investment between the two nations could face a prolonged period of stagnation. However, areas of mutual interest, such as IT, agriculture, and education, might offer opportunities for dialogue and gradual recovery.
- **Diaspora Influence:** Canada's sizable Indian diaspora, which plays a crucial economic and social role, could become a vital force advocating for the normalization of ties. Their contributions and ongoing educational exchanges may serve as catalysts in rebuilding the relationship.
- **Geopolitical Implications:** As India strengthens its global partnerships, particularly with strategic powers, Canada's implicit stance towards India will be under increasing international scrutiny. Potential mediation by allied nations, such as the United States or the United Kingdom, who have strong ties with India and Canada, could help ease tensions by facilitating dialogue and negotiation. Despite the challenges, normalization remains possible. Progress will depend on resolving core disputes and fostering trust through high-level talks. The two nations can work towards improving relations as soon as they address these issues.

## Recent Developments:

The diplomatic crisis further escalated in October 2024, when Canada expelled six Indian diplomats, including High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma, accusing them of involvement in criminal activities. India reciprocated by expelling six Canadian diplomats, intensifying mistrust.

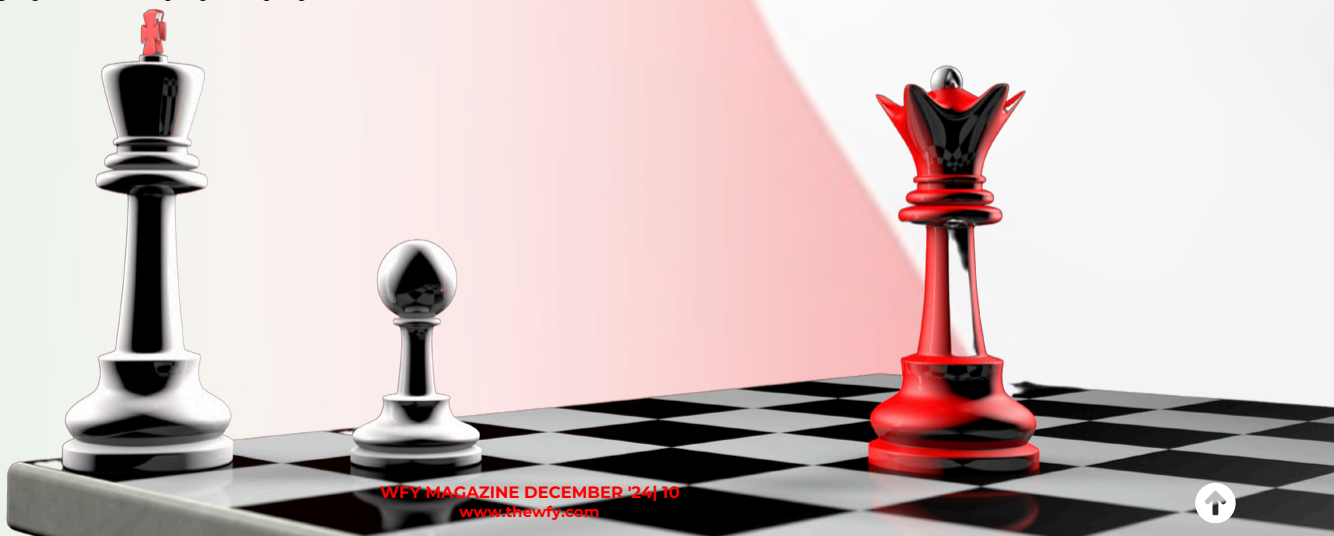
## Cyber Threats and Immigration Disruptions:

Canadian authorities have voiced concerns about potential cyber threats, including espionage activities linked to India. In addition, the reduction of Canadian immigration staff in India has caused processing delays, adding strain to the fragile relationship.

## Political Outlook:

The future of India-Canada relations could depend on political changes in Canada. Analysts suggest that relations may not improve significantly as long as Prime Minister Trudeau remains in office. However, the upcoming Canadian federal elections in October 2025 could pave the way for shifts in foreign policy, potentially altering Canada's approach to India. A change in leadership could lead to a thaw in diplomatic relations, as a new government might bring a fresh perspective and approach to the relationship.

By Tushar Unadkat





# India-Afghanistan Relationship Now: 25 Years Of The Kandahar Hijack



By Leon Jose Vithayathil

## A Bond Through History

India and Afghanistan have shared a strong bond for thousands of years, connected by ancient trade routes and a rich exchange of culture, language, and art. This deep-rooted friendship has continued to grow through both good and challenging times. This month, when we reach 25 years of the Kandahar hijack, we look back on how India has supported Afghanistan in their challenging period.

### The Kandahar Hijack

One of the toughest events in the relationship between India and Afghanistan was the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 on 24th December 1999. The flight was taken over by terrorists and forced to land in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where the passengers were held hostage for days. The Indian government made a difficult decision to negotiate with the hijackers, eventually releasing prisoners in exchange for the hostages' freedom. This tragic event showed the impact of terrorism and is still haunting India by the activities of the released terrorists with the Pakistan backing, especially Mohammad Masood Azhar founder and leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad.

### India's Support for Afghanistan

India has continuously offered its support to Afghanistan by helping with essential infrastructure and providing humanitarian aid. One of India's significant projects in Afghanistan is the Afghan Parliament building, which was a gift to support Afghan people to strengthen democracy at the time of the previous Government.

Another major project is the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam, also known as the Salma Dam, which India built to support Afghanistan's agriculture and energy needs. The dam provides irrigation water for farming and electricity, helping Afghan people improve their quality of life.

India also built the Zaranj-Delaram Highway, connecting Afghanistan to Iran and supporting Afghan trade. By building these infrastructure projects, India has helped Afghanistan strengthen its economy and create more opportunities for its people.

In addition to infrastructure, India has helped Afghan students by offering scholarships to study in Indian universities. Education is vital for Afghanistan's future, and India believes that supporting Afghan youth will contribute to a progressive Afghanistan, specially when education for girls has become a serious concern under Taliban rule. In times of need, India has provided food, medicine, and even COVID-19 vaccines to the Afghan people, showing a commitment to Afghanistan's welfare.

### Cricket: A Sport That Brings Friends Closer

Cricket has played an essential role in bringing India and Afghanistan even closer. Afghan players like Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi have become popular in India and are celebrated in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Seven Afghan players have been bought by different IPL teams in November 2024 IPL auction. Cricket has become a bridge between the two countries, creating shared excitement and joy. For Afghan fans, cricket is also a source of hope and inspiration, as they see players from their country achieving success.

India has also supported Afghan cricket by providing training, coaching, and access to world-class facilities. When Afghanistan's cricket team needed a home ground, India offered them stadiums in cities like Greater Noida and Dehradun, allowing Afghan players to train and play international matches. This support has helped Afghan cricket grow and inspired a new generation of players in Afghanistan.

### Current Relationship and Afghan Perspectives

Today, India and Afghanistan continue to share a strong relationship. Many Afghan people have positive feelings toward India due to the years of support they have received. A survey conducted states 69% of Afghan people consider India as their best friend. However, the current situation is more complex, with the Taliban in power since 2021. While the Taliban's leaders may have different opinions, most of the senior leaders view India as a friend. At the same time, Pakistan's influence on the Taliban before was always a concern for India.

### The Taliban and Pakistan Tensions

The Taliban and Pakistan have had a complicated relationship. While Pakistan supported the Taliban in the past, recent tensions have risen over border and security issues. India watches these developments closely, as any instability in Afghanistan can affect the region's peace.

### Strengthening Ties in a Changing World

As we reach 25 years of the Kandahar hijack, we are reminded of both the challenges and the strength of the India-Afghanistan relationship. Even as India faces diplomatic difficulties with other neighbors like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Maldives who were former allies, Afghanistan remains friendly even under Taliban regime.

By continuing to support Afghanistan in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, India can help build a stronger future for both countries. Indo Afghan friendship will always remain a key element while dealing on the tensions with Pakistan.

-LEON JOSE VITHAYATHIL





# FOR ALL YOUR **WELLNESS &** **MEDICAL** TOURISM NEEDS



# INDIAN SPITAL

## Heal with US

Africa, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA.

**Work with India Diaspora's leading Medical Tourism platform!**

*If you represent a doctor, medical center, or facilitator and would like to recommend patients from your area, please reach out to us. For further inquiries or to discuss potential collaborations, please contact us at*

**[www.indianospital.com](http://www.indianospital.com)**





# KNOW HOW ALOE VERA CAN MAKE YOUR HAIR BETTER?

By WFY Bureau

**A**loe Vera, often regarded as a humble plant, has garnered admiration for centuries due to its countless health and beauty advantages. One of the most talked-about benefits is its ability to potentially stimulate hair growth. Aloe vera gel is frequently celebrated as a natural remedy for hair regrowth when applied directly to the scalp. Is this really a proven fact, or could it just be another myth floating around? Today, we're diving into the evidence to see if fresh aloe vera gel really has the potential to aid in hair regrowth. Let's explore this intriguing topic together!

## Is it a myth or a reality? Can rubbing fresh aloe vera gel actually help in regrowing hair?

Aloe vera is a fascinating plant that has captured the attention of many due to its numerous benefits. This succulent is not only known for its soothing properties but also for its rich history in traditional medicine. From skincare to digestive health, aloe vera has been a go-to remedy for centuries. Its gel-like substance is packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making it a powerhouse for both topical and internal use.

Aloe vera is a fascinating succulent plant celebrated for its gel-filled leaves, which are packed with a range of compounds that can work wonders for both skin and hair. Among the essential components are vitamins like A, C, and E, along with minerals such as zinc and magnesium, not to mention amino acids and enzymes. Aloe vera is well-known for its soothing, moisturising, and anti-inflammatory properties, thanks to these remarkable components.

Aloe vera gel boasts a nutrient profile that's packed with essential vitamins and minerals, making it a powerhouse for promoting healthy hair growth. Vitamin A is known for its role in promoting cell turnover, while Vitamins C and E serve as powerful antioxidants that help shield hair follicles from oxidative stress. Zinc plays a vital role in maintaining healthy hair by aiding in the repair and proper functioning of hair tissues.

Aloe vera is packed with proteolytic enzymes that work wonders by gently exfoliating the scalp. This process helps eliminate dead skin cells, which can otherwise lead to blocked follicles and hinder hair growth. It's a natural way to keep your scalp healthy and promote

luscious locks! The exfoliating action might just pave the way for a healthier environment that encourages hair growth.

Aloe vera is known for its amazing anti-inflammatory properties, which can work wonders for an irritated scalp. By soothing inflammation, it helps reduce dandruff, a pesky condition that can lead to hair loss. Who wouldn't want to keep their scalp happy and healthy? Aloe vera has the potential to create a healthier scalp environment by reducing inflammation, which could be beneficial for promoting hair growth.

## Exploring the connection between aloe vera and its potential benefits for hair growth

The theoretical benefits of aloe vera are certainly intriguing, but what does the scientific research reveal about its effectiveness in encouraging hair regrowth?

## Clinical studies have shown some limited yet promising research regarding the potential of aloe vera in promoting hair growth.

In 2009, a fascinating study appeared in the *Journal of Dermatology*, exploring the potential of aloe vera as a treatment for androgenetic alopecia, a prevalent type of hair loss. A recent study revealed that aloe vera can significantly boost hair regrowth among participants. This effect is mainly attributed to its remarkable ability to enhance scalp health and minimise inflammation.

**Case reports and anecdotal evidence:** Aloe vera has been the subject of numerous anecdotal reports and case studies, showcasing its beneficial effects on hair health. Numerous individuals have shared their experiences of reduced hair shedding and enhanced hair growth after incorporating aloe vera gel into their routine consistently. It's important to note that these reports don't quite meet the standards of controlled scientific studies, so we should approach them with a healthy dose of caution.

**Exploring how this stacks up against other treatment options:** Aloe vera is often hailed as a natural remedy, but it's important to weigh its effectiveness against other well-known treatments for hair loss, like minoxidil and finasteride. Aloe vera can be a beneficial addition to traditional treatments, but it's important to remember that it shouldn't be seen as the only answer for serious hair loss issues.

## Exploring the application and usage

**Thinking about using fresh aloe vera gel to boost your hair growth?**

**The way you apply it is crucial!**

*Let's dive into some effective ways to use it:*

To get the most out of your aloe vera, start by cutting a leaf from the plant. Once you have your leaf, simply slice it open and scoop out the clear gel inside. It's that easy! Make sure the gel is spotless and devoid of any green or yellowish areas, since these can lead to irritation. For a refreshing scalp treatment, take some fresh aloe vera gel and gently massage it directly onto your scalp. Pay attention to spots where hair thinning is noticeable. Let it sit for around 30 minutes to an hour before washing it out with a gentle shampoo.

For the best results, consider applying aloe vera gel a couple of times each week. While consistency plays a vital role, it's equally essential to pay attention to how your scalp and hair react to the treatment.

## Possible side effects

Aloe vera is often considered safe for the majority, but it's essential to keep in mind that there can be some side effects to watch out for:

Allergic reactions can occur in some people when using aloe vera. Symptoms might include redness, itching, or even a rash. Before diving in and applying it all over your scalp, it's a smart move to do a patch test first. Dryness or irritation- Occasionally, aloe vera may lead to some dryness or irritation on the scalp. If you experience any of these symptoms, it's best to stop using the product and reach out to a dermatologist for advice.

When considering the use of aloe vera alongside other topical treatments for hair loss, it's important to check for any potential adverse interactions between them. This ensures that you are getting the best results without any unwanted side effects. If you're feeling unsure, reaching out to a healthcare provider is definitely the way to go. Fresh aloe vera gel has long been celebrated as a natural remedy for hair regrowth, combining both scientific insights and traditional practices.

*There's a bit of evidence suggesting that it can enhance scalp health and might even help with hair growth, but it's important to remember that it's not a miracle solution. Aloe vera is a fantastic addition to any hair care routine, especially when paired with other proven treatments. Its benefits can really enhance your overall hair health.*





# Remarkable Story Of The First Indian Divorcee And Female Doctor

By Naisa V Melwyn

**R**ukhmabai Raut's journey is a remarkable tale of resilience and transformation. Once a child bride, she defied societal norms to become India's first divorcee and a pioneering female doctor. Her story highlights the struggles and triumphs of women in a changing society.

Rukhmabai Raut stands out as a figure who, had she garnered more recognition, could easily have become an icon for contemporary radical feminists. The conversation surrounding the first Hindu woman in India to legally secure a divorce remains insufficiently explored.

In 1885, Rukhmabai's case emerged as a pivotal moment in Indian legal history. She bravely challenged an unwanted marriage and pursued a divorce, which ultimately resulted in Queen Victoria annulling her marriage. This significant event paved the way for two crucial legal reforms: the Age of Consent Act of 1891 and the eventual abolition of child marriage through legislation.

The renowned divorce case serves merely as an introduction to her remarkable life and significant contributions as one of India's pioneering female doctors practicing Western medicine, a distinction that may have been held by Kadambini Ganguly before her.

It is noteworthy to consider how a young Indian woman in the patriarchal 19th century grasped the concept of consent and a woman's autonomy in a manner that resonates with contemporary understanding.

She emerged as a trailblazer long before her era, playing a crucial role in the women's liberation movement during pre-independence India. Her efforts significantly contributed to establishing the foundation for subsequent feminist movements in the nation.

In the formative years of life, significant events often shape one's future. This period is marked by personal growth and the establishment of foundational relationships. Marriage, a pivotal milestone, typically follows this early phase, intertwining lives and setting the stage for shared experiences and challenges ahead.

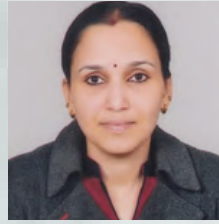
Rukhmabai Bhimrao Raut, a notable figure in Indian history, was born in Mumbai on November 22, 1864. At the tender age of 14, her mother became a child bride, entering into marriage at a very young age. In a reflection of societal norms of the era, Rukhmabai entered into matrimony at the tender age of 11, joining Dadaji Bhikaji, who was 19 years old at the time. In a remarkable turn of events, she chose to remain at home, pursuing her education with the unwavering support of her stepfather.

In March 1884, following nine years of marriage, Dadaji made a request for his wife to reside with him. Rukhmabai declined the offer. The act of defiance culminated in the landmark Dadaji Bhikaji vs. Rukhmabai case in 1885, marking an unprecedented moment in Indian legal history when Dadaji initiated a lawsuit in the Bombay High Court.

## A SIGNIFICANT DIVORCE CASE

Rukhmabai's defiance of societal norms and her bold opposition to an arranged marriage ignited a legal confrontation that drew widespread public interest.

The matter concerning 'Reinstating the Marital Right of Dadaji Bhikaji' was initially presented to Justice Robert Hill Pinhe, who ultimately dismissed the case, asserting that Rukhmabai could not be compelled to maintain a marriage she had entered into as a minor. Dadaji made an appeal, leading to a new hearing conducted by a panel of two judges. In a significant ruling delivered in March 1887, Justice Farhan sided with Dadaji, presenting Rukhmabai with a critical decision: she could either reunite with her husband or endure a six-month prison sentence.



Rukhmabai's decision to embrace imprisonment has captured the attention of both national and international audiences. This bold move has ignited social unrest and highlighted the deep divisions within India, pitting orthodox beliefs against reformist ideals.

The battle for divorce she undertook transcended personal challenges, marking a pivotal moment in the evolution of women's rights within India. She established a foundation that would influence future feminist movements in India.

## Exploring the Intersection of Literature and Community Influence

The influence of her education was profound, enabling her to rally public support through her compelling writings. She recognised the influence of the written word and is unreserved in her application of it.

In a notable development, a new voice emerged in the literary landscape as a writer began contributing to The Times of India, adopting the pseudonym 'A Hindu Lady.' This event highlighted her intellect and advocacy skills while bringing to the forefront critical social issues, including gender equality, women's rights, and the need for social reform.

Media portrayals emerged depicting Rukhmabai as a figure of education and refinement, contrasting sharply with her husband, who was characterised as illiterate and lacking in culture.

The case has attracted significant attention from notable figures and leaders in Mumbai and throughout India. The establishment of the 'Rukhmabai Protection Committee,' spearheaded by prominent figures such as Behramji Malbari and Ramabai Ranade, sought to garner public backing for Rukhmabai's plight.

In Britain, there was a notable divergence of opinions. In a society divided over the case of Rukhmabai, opinions varied significantly. Some regarded her as a victim trapped in a mismatched union, while others contended that her educational background empowered her to defy Dadaji.

There are those who believe that Rukhmabai's education played a significant role in the conflict, positing that it enabled her to recognise the disparities in her marriage. The case emerged as a contentious arena of differing perspectives, as Rukhmabai skilfully harnessed public sentiment to attain her freedom and uphold her dignity.

In a significant move, Rukhmabai garnered extensive backing from reformers and activists who acknowledged the critical role of women's agency and autonomy. She subsequently appealed to the Privy Council in England, while Dadaji proposed to retract the case in exchange for compensation.

In a remarkable turn of events, her writings captured the attention of Queen Victoria, prompting the monarch to take personal action in the divorce case. The court acknowledged the unfair treatment endured by Rukhmabai and ultimately delivered a ruling in her favour.

In July 1888, a resolution was reached in the case, offering a measure of relief to Rukhmabai. The recent royal intervention has not only liberated Rukhmabai but has also established a significant precedent for women's rights and legal safeguards against forced marriages.

The recent victory marked a significant moment in the ongoing struggle for justice, challenging entrenched patriarchal norms and serving as a source of inspiration for numerous women advocating for their rights.





**Exploring the Intersection of Education and the Medical Profession**

Following a reprieve in her divorce proceedings, Rukhmabai has returned to her fervour for education.

The choice to pursue studies at the London School of Medicine for Women marked a significant milestone, challenging traditional gender norms and setting a precedent for future generations of women aspiring to enter the medical profession.

In 1893, she completed her graduation and made her way back to India, where she took on the role of chief of the women's hospital in Surat. Over the course of 35 years, she distinguished herself as the first Indian woman to practice western medicine.

Rukhmabai, known for her substantial contributions to social reform and women's rights, found that her dedication to her medical career resulted in a lack of widespread acknowledgement.

**Who Was India's First Female Doctor To Practice Western Medicine?**



*India's first female doctor to practice Western medicine was a pioneering figure in the field of healthcare. Her contributions marked a significant milestone in the history of medicine in the country, paving the way for future generations of women in medicine.*

Confusion often surrounds the identity of India's first female doctor to practice western medicine, with names such as Kadambini Ganguly, Anandibai Gopal Joshi, and Rukhmabai Raut frequently mentioned in discussions. Anandibai achieved her MB degree from the Women's Medical College in Pennsylvania in 1886, while Kadambini completed her qualifications in India before pursuing further studies in England.

In a heartbreaking turn of events, Anandibai succumbed to tuberculosis in 1887, just after her return to India, preventing her from commencing

her medical career. Kadambini holds the distinction of being the first woman in India to practice Western medicine as a doctor.

**Why Rukhmabai's Fight Against Child Marriage Was Different**

Rukhmabai's struggle against child marriage stands out for its unique approach and impact. Unlike many of her contemporaries, she not only challenged societal norms but also sought legal recourse to assert her rights. Her determination and resilience in the face of adversity highlighted the urgent need for reform in a deeply entrenched system. Rukhmabai's story serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for women's rights and the importance of education and empowerment in combating such practices.

Rukhmabai's struggle against child marriage stands apart from the efforts of other social reformers in India during that era.

It is important to highlight that during that period, there was a lack of opposition to child marriage based on arguments like the "naïve age of the bride at the time of marriage"—a key point raised by Rukhmabai in the court of

In a poignant piece for The Times, a Hindu woman expressed her sorrow, stating, "The brutal custom of child marriage had deprived all happiness of my life." The situation presents a significant obstacle in what I consider to be the two most crucial aspects of my life: my education and the development of my mind in alignment with my aspirations. Isolation has befallen me through no wrongdoing of my own. The aspiration to elevate oneself above countless uninformed peers has been met with scepticism and has drawn unwarranted criticism.

Rukhmabai's position redirected attention from mere physical immaturity to the wider implications of child marriage, highlighting a pivotal feminist viewpoint. In a recent court session, Rukhmabai presented a compelling case against the practice of marrying off young girls, highlighting the negative impact such early unions have on their education and mental growth.

Her opposition arose from a commitment to preserving women's freedom and dignity, going beyond simple empirical arguments. She brought attention to the injustice of child marriage, a practice that robbed her of happiness and obstructed her dreams for personal development.

In a striking contrast to their male counterparts, Rukhmabai's protest emerged as a profoundly personal endeavour, embodying her enduring fight for survival and independence throughout her life. In a groundbreaking move, she introduced the idea of 'woman's space' in India, championing the cause of women's rights and identity within a society marked by deep-rooted patriarchy.

**LEGACY AND INSPIRATION**

In a time when phrases such as 'woman's freedom' and 'woman's dignity' were largely absent from discourse, Rukhmabai Raut courageously set out to advocate for these principles. In a bold move, she took on societal norms, igniting discussions surrounding women's rights in decision-making processes, especially in relation to child marriage and the appropriate age for marriage.

Despite her death in 1955, her influence continues to resonate deeply. The transformation of a child bride into a trailblazing female physician serves as a powerful testament to the potential of one person's journey to ignite change and motivate future generations. *Rukhmabai's struggle for independence and the rights of women stands as a remarkable chapter in history.*

Her unwavering decision to reject societal expectations and her commitment to living life according to her own principles resulted in Queen Victoria ending her marriage, establishing a significant milestone in the movement for women's rights.

**-NAISA V MELWYN**





# KING ZIPPER

*Seal it with US*

[kingzipper.com](http://kingzipper.com)





# THIS IS THE TREND NOW: MARRYING LATE OR STAYING SINGLE



By Kavya Patel

**W**hat's Behind the Trend of Indian Women Marrying Later or Choosing to Stay Single? The Freedom Found in These Answers

In today's world, the challenges of being a woman remain significant. As time goes by, the pressure seems to mount, and a familiar question arises: when will you tie the knot? The expectations placed on women over the age of twenty-five are truly intense.

As Indian women near the milestone of 30, it's common for relatives and parents to become increasingly involved in their lives. "Have you met someone special yet?" "Time keeps moving, doesn't it?" "Is it a good idea to create a profile on a matrimony website?"

Here's the scoop: tying the knot later in life, particularly for women, is becoming the standard these days. While some relatives might view it negatively, it really highlights the evolution of our times.

**There are several facets to consider:**

## Statistics

A recent report from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which was carried out by the government across 13 states and two Union Territories, reveals that there has been a decline in early marriage over time.

The findings revealed that women with 12 or more years of education tended to marry significantly later than their peers with less schooling. "According to the data, the median age at which women aged 25-49 first marry rises from 17.1 years for those with no schooling to 22.8 years for those who have completed 12 or more years of education."

According to the NFHS, the median age at first marriage for women aged 25-49 reveals some interesting trends. Jain women lead the pack at 22.7 years, followed closely by Christian women at 21.7 years and Sikh women at 21.2 years. In contrast, women from other specific religions tend to marry earlier, with ages ranging from 18.7 to 19.7 years.

One remarkable action taken by the government was raising the legal marriage age to 21, a move that is sure to alleviate a significant amount of pressure.

*"I'm not one to conform just because time is pressing on me. Anticipating the perfect connection."* – Vandna

**Times have certainly evolved.**

Throughout history, women have often married at a younger age than men, influenced by various factors including societal sexism and limited access to formal education. Women are now pursuing formal education and achieving remarkable success in schools, colleges, and their careers. Individuals possess the freedom to reflect on their own journeys. A choice has emerged now. Additionally, there is a growing interest among women in pursuing personal development and growth.

*"I'm on the lookout for that special something that makes me want to commit. Additionally, my journey of personal growth."* – Drishti, Doctor

*"I'm looking to dip my toes in before committing to anything serious, and I believe that's completely within my rights."* – Rakhi, lawyer.

*"I'm really looking to concentrate on my career and achieve some financial stability."* – Renu, Teacher

**They aren't quite prepared for the extra pressure.**

Do you recall the stories that emerged during the pandemic, highlighting how women were seen as superheroes for juggling household responsibilities, careers, and parenting? Just because the idea of being overburdened and overworked has been glamorised doesn't mean women should feel obligated to embrace it. For many women, the priority lies in advancing their careers, and the thought of taking on the additional responsibilities that marriage brings may not be appealing just yet.

Women from previous generations faced limited options, but today, we have the freedom to choose.



*"Marriage brings a significant amount of responsibilities, and navigating them without proper planning and preparation can lead to overwhelming stress and challenges. I'm focusing on investing my time in my personal goals, especially my work, to ensure that I have no regrets down the line."* – Priyanka is a fashion designer.

*"I'm just not sure I'm prepared for it yet. I have a lot on my plate right now before I can consider adding more responsibilities. In today's world, pursuing a career often takes precedence over starting a family. Why not, right?"* – Pratiksha is a digital content creator.

**It's not really about the absence of romance.**

As women age, they often come to a profound understanding of their desires in relationships. They seek a partner with whom they share a deeper romantic and emotional compatibility, prioritising meaningful connections over superficial ones. These days, the concept of arranged marriage doesn't hold the same allure for women as it once did. People are eager for love and are willing to be patient if it means achieving true happiness in the end.

*"Marriage without love just doesn't resonate with me. Right now, I'm in a phase of waiting because I don't have that special someone in my life."* – Neha, a corporate executive

*"I'm not interested in being with someone who doesn't share my values or interests. Ultimately, I need to embrace the journey of growing old alongside this individual. "I prefer to take my time and discover someone special on my own terms."* Tanvi is a painter.

*The concept of discovering true love has transcended the boundaries of Bollywood films and entered our everyday lives.*

**There's an opportunity for deeper reflection.**

It's fascinating how much our personalities, dreams, and life ambitions can evolve over just five years. It's interesting to reflect on how our life goals can shift over time. What seemed important at 23 might not hold the same significance at 28. These days, women are on a journey of self-discovery, exploring their identities and seeking out those who resonate with them the most. Many women today are choosing not to live in joint families or have children. Making such significant life changes is no small feat, and it's perfectly understandable to take the time to weigh your options.

*"I've come to the conclusion that having kids is no longer something I desire. Perhaps I just need a little time to discover someone who shares my vision."* – Kumud is a make-up artist and stylist.

At the same time, there are women who believe that marriage is an antiquated idea, and embracing it seems illogical.

*"Choosing not to marry at all, rather than waiting until later. Matrimony feels like a relic from the past these days."* – Ragini, Chartered Accountant

There are numerous reasons why many women are choosing to marry later in life, but it's also important to acknowledge that there are quite a few who have decided to tie the knot early. And that's totally okay as well. Even though tying the knot later in life has become the trend, it's perfectly okay to embrace your own timeline without feeling uncomfortable or out of sync with others. Trust your instincts; when it feels right to you, that's all that matters.

**- KAVYA PATEL**





# Marriages and Cohabitation: The World of Ancient India Revisited



By Rihima Kapoor

**E**xploring the intriguing dynamics of marriage and live-in relationships in ancient India reveals a fascinating tapestry of cultural practices and societal norms. This journey into the past uncovers how these unions were not only a reflection of personal choices but also deeply intertwined with the social fabric of the time. From arranged marriages to cohabitation, the historical context provides a rich backdrop for understanding the evolution of relationships in this ancient civilisation.

Live-in relationships are capturing attention as Uttarakhand unveils its proposed laws aimed at the registration of live-in couples. This piece refrains from assessing the merits or drawbacks of these laws. In this exploration, I examine the insights our literary texts provide regarding the treatment of various unions within ancient Indian society.

In the ancient Sanskrit epic Mahabharata, a compelling dialogue unfolds as Pandu shares with Kunti a striking revelation about the past. He reflects on a time not so long ago, when women roamed freely, unbound by the confines of their homes. These women pursued their own desires and aspirations, living independently without the need for a husband or the support of relatives. During that time, open marriages were considered the standard practice. This tradition enjoyed social approval, allowing married women to engage with partners beyond their husbands without facing negative judgement (Adi Parva, chapter 122).

It was expected that husbands would maintain a composed demeanour, free from any signs of jealousy, even in such situations. It was not uncommon for wives to embark on brief escapades with other partners, yet more often than not, they would return home. The narrative took a turn, as recounted by Pandu, with the emergence of a boy named Shvetaketu. Disturbed by the sight of his mother departing with an unfamiliar man, the boy voiced his concerns to his father. In response, his father reassured him, clarifying that such behaviour was simply part of their cultural norms.

Shvetaketu, unyielding in his convictions, embarked on a quest for social reform as he matured. His vision, however, leaned toward an imbalance, advocating for married women to adhere to monogamy while placing no such constraints on their male counterparts. Pandu elaborates that during their era, it was quite common for marriages to embrace openness in specific regions, such as Uttar Kuru. Some scholars, including Harvard professor Michael Witzel, intriguingly associate Uttar Kuru with the contemporary region of Uttarakhand. Whether open marriages have been the standard practice in various geographical regions remains a topic of debate. An exploration of the Ramayana, for instance, reveals that Ayodhya approached marriages with distinctly traditional values.

Open marriages were prevalent enough to warrant specific provisions for children who could potentially be born from an extramarital affair. Initially, the mother faced the crucial task of determining the identity of the child's father—was it her husband, or perhaps another partner? In this scenario, the purported father

would take on the crucial role of nurturing and raising the child. In a captivating turn of events, Tara, the wife of Brihaspati, the revered guru of the devas, was drawn to Chandra and embarked on a temporary journey of companionship with him. Upon her return, she discovered she was pregnant. Upon identifying Chandra as the father of her child, the responsibility of raising it fell upon him. Conversely, should the mother assert that the child belonged to her husband, he would be obligated to assume responsibility for the child. The Mahabharata, specifically in the Adi Parva, chapter 5, unfolds a captivating tale featuring Bhrgu, one of the most revered sages, alongside his wife, Puloma. Puloma, one of the wives of Bhrgu, made her way back home after a romantic escapade with a former lover, a man to whom she had been engaged prior to her marriage with Bhrgu. In a remarkable turn of events, Bhrgu embraced his role as the carer for the child, stepping into the shoes of a devoted biological father.

The Mahabharata showcases a fascinating array of marriages, each with its own unique story and significance. In a fascinating exploration of unconventional unions, some marriages were established under specific agreements, where one partner relinquished any claims to future offspring. In the tale of Arjuna and Chitrangada, the enchanting princess of Manipur, we find a captivating narrative of love and destiny. In a tale woven with the threads of love and tradition, Arjuna sought the blessing of Chitrangada's father, the king of Manipur, to unite in marriage. However, the king's approval came with a significant stipulation: Arjuna would have to relinquish any claims to the rights of their future children. This intriguing condition adds a layer of complexity to their romantic narrative, as detailed in the Adi Parva, chapter 217. As a consequence, their son Babhruvahana ascended to the role of crown prince in his mother's kingdom of Manipur, exempt from the call to arms in the epic Kurukshetra war. In a striking juxtaposition, the Pandavas summoned all their other sons to join the battle, even those born from brief unions with their mothers.



A captivating painting by Raja Ravi Varma featuring the iconic figures of Arjun and Subhadra. In the realm of ancient unions, certain types of gandharva relationships emerged quietly, shrouded in secrecy. However, as noted by Manu in the Manusmriti, there existed alternative forms where the woman took the initiative, often seeking to elope with her chosen partner. This bold move was typically driven by the looming pressure from her family to enter into a marriage with someone else. Within the pages of the Mahabharata, one can discover numerous instances that stand out remarkably. Among the notable events in this epic narrative is the union of Arjuna and Subhadra, who famously eloped from Dwaraka. This daring act was fuelled by the fact that Subhadra's brother, Balaram, had intentions for her to wed Duryodhan.

One compelling narrative that illustrates a mother's relinquishment of rights to her future children is found in the tale of Madhavi, as detailed in Udyog Parva, chapters 114-117. In a tale steeped in ancient tradition, the story unfolds around Madhavi, a princess of the impoverished Chandravanshi dynasty. With a heart full of compassion, she aids a determined student named Galav in his quest to gather eight hundred white horses adorned with striking black ears. This remarkable endeavour serves as guru dakshina for his esteemed teacher, Vishwamitra, highlighting the intertwining of duty, sacrifice, and the pursuit of knowledge. Throughout her journey, she engages in a series of temporary unions with three kings, each one a unique chapter in her story. The terms of the contract remained consistent with each iteration. Madhavi remained by the king's side, her presence unwavering as she awaited the arrival of a son. In a surprising turn of events, she chose to leave without asserting any rights over the child. In a fascinating tradition, the king would present a bride price of two hundred exquisite white horses adorned with striking black ears as a symbol of his commitment to this unique form of marriage. In a poignant conclusion to the narrative, Madhavi's sons—each having blossomed into remarkably virtuous individuals—united as adults in a heartfelt quest to locate their mother. She was found, and in that moment, she was treated with the utmost honour and love.

The Mahabharata presents a fascinating exploration of polyandry, an intriguing and less common form of marriage that captures the complexities of relationships in ancient narratives. Undoubtedly, the most renowned union among the central figures is that of the Pandavas and Draupadi, characterised by its polyandrous nature. Furthermore, during a conversation with Draupadi's family in Adi Parva, chapter 168, Yudhishtira highlights instances of polyandry from even earlier periods. He references the notable marriage of Jatila, hailing from the esteemed Gotama lineage of sages, who was wed to seven brothers, among other significant examples.

Historical writings delve into the complexities surrounding divorce. Among the notable works is one authored by Chanakya, often referred to as Kautilya, who served as the esteemed mentor to Emperor Chandragupta Maurya. The



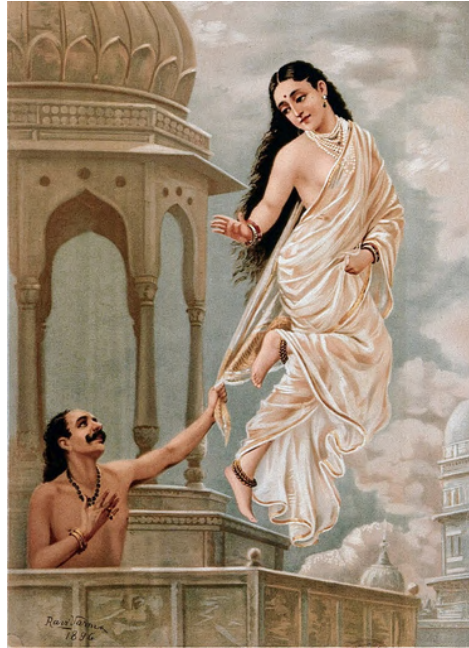


Arthashastra, a renowned manual on political science and law, was penned by him. In the pages of the Arthashastra, specifically in Book 3, chapter 3, the concept of divorce is explored through the lens of mutual enmity. It articulates that when both spouses experience a sense of paraspara dveshat-moksha, or a desire for liberation from their shared animosity, divorce becomes a permissible option. The stance taken was notably more traditional when it came to matters of unilateral separation or remarriage. Traditionally, unilateral divorce was not permitted for either gender. Nevertheless, it asserted that women had the right to leave their husbands under certain circumstances. These included instances where the husbands displayed poor character, were absent for extended periods without explanation, or experienced a loss of virility, among various other justifications. In a fascinating exploration of marital customs, it is noted that men had the opportunity to remarry under specific circumstances. If their wives were childless, they could indeed seek new partnerships, albeit after a considerable waiting period. This intriguing practice highlights the complexities of relationships and societal expectations in historical contexts. In the event of remarriage prior to a 12-year period, individuals were required to provide financial compensation to their former spouses, in addition to facing a state-imposed fine, as outlined in Book 3, chapter 2. In certain circumstances, women had the opportunity to remarry, particularly if their husbands had been absent for an extended period—specifically, around ten months without any communication. This provision also extended to widows, allowing them the chance to find companionship once more (Book 3, chapters 2 to 4). Interestingly, the Rig Veda touches upon the topic of widow remarriage in its renowned “burial hymn” (RV 10.18).

The Kamasutra, an ancient text, delves into the topic of widow remarriage with notable depth in Book 4, chapter 2. The author expresses a progressive view, asserting that a widow should have the freedom to choose her partner based on her preferences and what she believes will be a suitable match.

Despite the significant focus on marriage found in our ancient texts, it was not deemed essential to enter into matrimony. Indeed, numerous women—and men—garnered immense respect, even without ever entering into marriage. In Harita's Dharmasutra, the text reveals that women are categorised as either sadya vadhus or brahmavadinis. In a fascinating contrast, the first category embraced the traditional householder lifestyle, while the brahmavadinis embarked on intellectual journeys as scholars, often choosing not to marry, though exceptions did exist. In the ancient text of the Grihya-sutra by Ashvalayana, a fascinating tradition unfolds. It presents a curated list of esteemed teachers whose blessings are essential before embarking on the journey of self-study. This practice highlights the deep respect for knowledge and the revered figures who guide seekers on their intellectual paths. The list featured a number of remarkable female educators, among them Gargi, Sulabha, and Vadava Pratitheyi. Gargi, a prominent figure in the Upanishads, and Sulabha, noted in the Mahabharata, are both recognised for their single status. In a fascinating turn of events, Lilavati, the daughter of the renowned mathematician Bhaskara II, chose to remain single, utilising her exceptional mathematical skills to forge her own path and support herself. Historical writings reveal intriguing accounts of single fathers from

ancient times. Among the most renowned figures in ancient literature stands Ved Vyas, celebrated as the author of the epic Mahabharata. Numerous Puranas narrate the remarkable story of Ved Vyas, who single-handedly raised his son Suka, choosing the path of solitude over marriage. Drona, hailing from the esteemed Bharadwaj clan, had a father who remained unmarried.



A stunning chromolithograph by the renowned artist Raja Ravi Varma captures the enchanting tale of Pururavas and Urvashi, showcasing the intricate details and vibrant colours that bring this mythological narrative to life. This artwork, available on Wikimedia Commons, exemplifies Varma's mastery in blending traditional themes with a modern artistic approach.

The time has arrived to explore the fascinating concept of gandharva vivaha. Among the pages of ancient law texts, including various Dharmasutras and Grihyasutras, one can find references to this as one of the eight widely recognised forms of marriage. In contrast to various forms of marriage that often involve elaborate rituals or ceremonies, the Gandharva union stands out for its simplicity. This unique union requires no ceremonies, witnesses, or even parental consent, highlighting a more personal and direct approach to commitment. The union was formed purely on the foundation of shared emotions.

In the Dharmasutra, Baudhayana delves into the various forms of marriage, highlighting the gandharva marriage in Book 1, chapter 11.20.16. He notes, “gandharvamapyeke prashansanti sarvesham snehanugatvat,” which translates to the idea that this form of marriage is esteemed by all due to its foundation in mutual affection. Similarly, Vatsyayana, in the Kamasutra, extols the virtues of gandharva marriages, asserting that their roots in prior love enhance the likelihood of happiness. Sanskrit literature brims with captivating tales of unions that intertwine romance with an intriguing blend of uncertainty and danger. In the renowned play Abhigyan Shakuntalam by Kalidasa, the character Shakuntala engages in a gandharva union with Dushyanta, showcasing a captivating moment in the narrative. As the story unfolds, Dushyanta finds himself at a crossroads, compelled to

depart in haste. Later, when a visibly pregnant Shakuntala seeks him out, the unexpected occurs: he publicly disavows any knowledge of her. Gandharva unions take centre stage in the Brihatkatha, an expansive anthology of narratives woven within narratives. They also make notable appearances in the works of the playwright Bhasa, particularly in the play Avimaraka, as well as in Dandin's celebrated novel, Dashakumaracarita, which chronicles the adventures of ten young men. In many of these narratives, a captivating union unfolds between a princess and her chosen partner, a figure of lesser status whom her family would have disapproved of. This enchanting tale explores the complexities of love that transcends societal boundaries. In a discreet arrangement, she concealed him within her lavish apartments, all while her attendants were fully aware and supportive of the secretive endeavour. Challenges arise when the girl's parents unexpectedly discover the truth. Their acceptance of the marriage would likely be hesitant. In certain tales, such as that of Avimaraka, the search for a suitable partner often led to unexpected choices, like a shepherd who captured the heart of a princess. In these narratives, conflicts often reached a satisfying conclusion, typically through the male partner's actions that demonstrated his value in the eyes of the woman's family. One fascinating example of this phenomenon can be found in the life of Bilhana, a poet from Kashmir who flourished in the eleventh century. In a tale woven with romance and intrigue, Bilhana, the esteemed court poet, found himself entwined in a clandestine affair with the king's daughter, culminating in a sacred gandharva union. In a dramatic turn of events, the king found himself consumed by rage over the clandestine affair, contemplating the harshest of punishments for Bilhana. In a captivating turn of events, Bilhana crafted and performed an exquisite collection of verses known as the Caurapancasika (Fifty Verses of a Love Thief), celebrating his enchanting romance with the princess. Moved by the exquisite quality of the poetry, the king extended his forgiveness and formally united him in marriage with the princess.

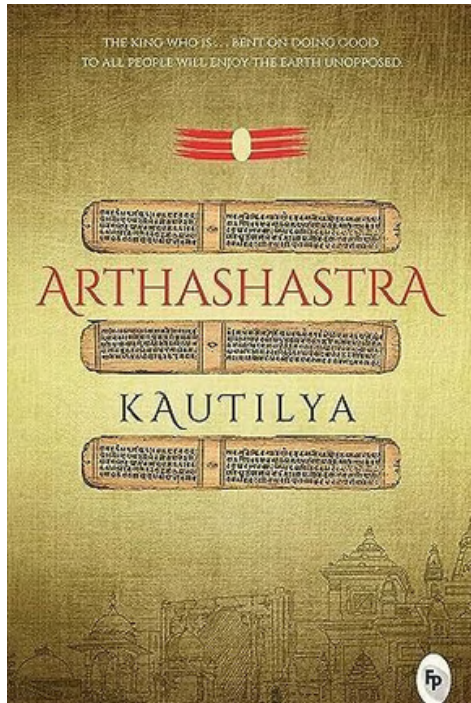
Initially, these forms of Gandharva unions were shrouded in secrecy. However, Manu's writings in the Manusmriti reveal another scenario where a woman would take the initiative to elope with a man, often driven by the pressure from her family to marry someone else. Within the pages of the Mahabharata, one can find numerous instances that exemplify its rich narrative tapestry. Among the notable tales of love and elopement, the union of Krishna and Rukmini stands out. In a bold move, Rukmini reaches out to Krishna, seeking his help to escape the pressures of her family, who are intent on marrying her off to Shishupal. Similarly, the romance between Arjuna and Subhadra captures the imagination, as the couple flees from Dwaraka, defying the wishes of Subhadra's brother Balaram, who favours a match with Duryodhan. One of the most renowned historical unions is that of King Prithviraj Chauhan and the enchanting princess Samyukta. In a strategic move, Prithviraj found himself intentionally left out of Samyukta's swayamvar, effectively removing any possibility for her to choose him as her husband. Yet, he remained concealed, and together they made their daring escape.

It is fascinating to note that all the lawgivers, the architects of the Dharmasutras, acknowledged the existence of gandharva unions, even when they occurred without the approval of parents.





In a surprising twist, even Manu, often viewed as the epitome of ultra-conservatism, acknowledged in the Manusmriti (9.90-91) that when girls reach a certain age, they possess the right to select their own husbands. Remarkably, he stated that neither the girls nor the husbands they choose would bear any blame for this decision. The Rigvedic hymns reveal intriguing insights into the romantic dynamics of Vedic society, highlighting the existence of relationships between unmarried girls and young men.



Discussions surrounding divorce can be traced back to ancient texts. Among the notable works is one authored by Chanakya, who is also recognised as Kautilya, serving as the esteemed mentor to Emperor Chandragupta Maurya. The Arthashastra, a renowned manual on political science and law, was penned by him. According to the Arthashastra, specifically in Book 3, chapter 3, divorce is permissible when both partners experience a shared sense of animosity, referred to as paraspara dveshat-moksha, which translates to a desire for liberation from mutual hostility.

In the timeless pages of the Kamasutra, Vatsyayana devotes an entire book—Book 3—to offering guidance to those seeking the path of love marriage, addressing both men and women with insightful counsel. He provides guidance on how to secure parental approval after pursuing Gandharva unions. The couple is encouraged to gather kusha grass, ignite a fire, and circle around it in a meaningful ritual. In a fascinating exploration of marital traditions, it is revealed that even in the absence of a priest or human witnesses, a union can still hold significant validity. This unique scenario suggests that the couple's parents would find it challenging to dispute the legitimacy of the marriage, as fire, a sacred element in Hindu customs, serves as the principal witness. This underscores the profound importance of fire in the rituals of Hindu marriages, highlighting its role as a divine observer in the sacred bond between two individuals. In the ongoing discourse, one might consider live-in relationships as akin to gandharva unions. The legislation mandating registration could be seen as a significant move

towards formal acknowledgement and legitimacy, much like the essential functions of fire and kusha grass.

In the tapestry of ancient society, the intricate web of unions showcased a remarkable complexity. However, amidst this rich landscape, children occasionally found themselves in precarious situations. In the intriguing world of Gandharva unions, a fascinating dynamic unfolds where fathers, much like Dushyanta, had the power to deny paternity. Numerous tales emerged of children born to apsaras, who were sent on missions to divert sages from their intense penances. When biological fathers turned their backs, these children found themselves at the mercy of compassionate strangers, as even the apsaras were reluctant to take on the role of carers. Abandoned by her biological parents, Shakuntala found solace in the loving embrace of Sage Kanva, who adopted her and provided her with a nurturing home. In some heartbreaking circumstances, children have been born from acts of violence, leaving both parents in a position where they may feel unprepared or unwilling to take on the responsibility of raising them. During that era, societal norms often mandated that the perpetrator of a rape be responsible for raising any children resulting from the assault. However, in reality, this expectation was not consistently upheld. In a troubling narrative, Brihaspati committed an act of violence against a female relative and a child, leading to the birth of Bharadwaj. Brihaspati ultimately declined to assume responsibility for the child. Both the rape victim and her husband declined. In a heartwarming turn of events, the baby's maternal grandparents took on the responsibility of raising him. He blossomed into a renowned sage.

Throughout history, ancient lawgivers displayed a remarkable awareness of societal challenges, as evidenced by the explicit recognition of two distinct forms of marriage rooted in force or fraud within numerous legal texts. In the realm of ancient traditions, there existed rakshasa marriages, characterised by the abduction of a woman, alongside pishacha unions, where intoxicants or drugs were employed by the man, echoing the troubling dynamics of date rape in contemporary society. While the authors of the Dharmasutras did not endorse these practices, their acknowledgement of them as forms of marriage served a significant purpose. It aimed to offer legal protection to children born from such unions, legitimising their status and enhancing the rights of abducted women, ensuring they were afforded certain protections and entitlements. It is clear that the system had its flaws, with certain loopholes remaining evident. In a noteworthy development, certain aspects of the proposed live-in laws today aim to safeguard the rights of women and children. In a notable development, when live-in couples choose to register their relationship, any children they welcome into the world are deemed legitimate. This legal recognition also empowers the woman to seek maintenance from her male partner, ensuring her rights are upheld in this modern family dynamic.

It can be argued that society has indeed come full circle. In the annals of history, one can observe a remarkable fluidity within ancient societies, where individuals made a diverse array of choices concerning their personal lives. A remarkable array of marriages and other unions addressed this situation. In a similar vein, the situation presented a myriad of intricate challenges that required the attention of lawmakers and intellectuals alike. A notable



example can be found in the Arthashastra, which strives to protect the inheritance rights of children born to a mother who remarries and may have additional offspring in the future. At a certain juncture, society took on a more rigid, conservative, and homogeneous stance regarding these issues. Once more, we find ourselves at a crossroads where individuals embrace a variety of lifestyles and beliefs. It's no surprise that our legal framework must evolve to address the intricacies that come with such diversity.

- RIDHIMA KAPOOR





# Flags & Banners



www.flagsandbanners.in



## Guinness World Record 16th Feb 2017 Biggest Manufacturer of Flags In India



Country Flags



Feather Flags

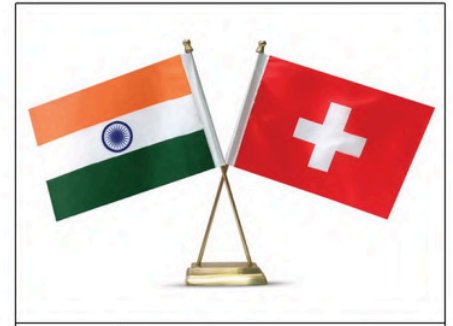


Table Flags



Corporate Flags



Beach Flags



Pop -Up Banners

and much more

"Here at Flags And Banners,  
we have a wealth of experience in producing flags, banners,  
promotional displays and much more. Our vast range of products is ever-growing.

In addition to this we have a Product Development Team  
to cater to your Custom Requirements."

[www.flagsandbanners.in](http://www.flagsandbanners.in)

Phone  
+91 9818924424  
+91 9971413366

E-mail  
jvd0075@gmail.com

Address  
D-54, Block D, Naraina Vihar,  
New Delhi, 110028

Factory :  
• C-159, Block C, Naraina Industrial Area  
Phase 1, Naraina, Delhi, 110028  
• RZ-37A, Syndicate Enclave Street No.-3,  
Dabri Mod, Janakpuri, Delhi-110045





### JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

### MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# 2025



## INDIAN DIASPORA GLOBAL

Connecting Dots  
Connecting Roots



Facebook: @globalindiandiaspora  
Twitter: @IndianDiasporaG  
Instagram: @IndianDiasporaG  
Website: www.indiandiaspora.world





FEATURE

# THE BEST AUTHENTIC CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE FOR YOU



FROM THE KITCHENS OF INDIA





# The Best Authentic Christmas Cake Recipe For You

We have the most authentic and traditional Christmas cake recipe for you. Rich, moist, and packed with festive flavours.

## INGREDIENTS

### For the fruit mixture:

- 500g mixed dried fruit (raisins, sultanas, currants)
- 100g mixed candied peel, chopped
- 150g dried apricots or prunes, chopped
- 100g glacé cherries, halved
- Zest and juice of 1 orange
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 100ml dark rum or brandy (plus extra for feeding)

### Optional decorations:

1. Marzipan and royal icing
2. Edible decorations or nuts

### For the cake batter:

- 250g unsalted butter, softened
- 200g dark muscovado sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- 250g plain flour
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 100g ground almonds
- 50g chopped nuts (e.g., almonds, pecans, or hazelnuts)
- 1 tsp baking powder

## INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Prepare the fruit mixture:

1. A day before baking, combine all the dried fruits, candied peel, cherries, orange and lemon zest, and juice in a large bowl.
2. Pour over the rum or brandy, mix well, and cover with cling film. Allow to soak overnight, stirring occasionally.

### 2. Preheat and prepare:

1. Preheat your oven to 140°C (120°C fan)/275°F/Gas Mark 1.
2. Grease and line a deep 20cm (8-inch) round cake tin with two layers of parchment paper. Wrap the outside of the tin with a double layer of brown paper or newspaper and secure with string—this helps prevent the cake edges from overbaking.

### 3. Make the batter:

1. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. If the mixture starts to curdle, add a tablespoon of flour.
3. Stir in the black treacle.

### 4. Combine dry ingredients:

1. Sift together the flour, spices, and baking powder, then fold into the wet mixture gently.
2. Add the ground almonds and chopped nuts, folding until combined.

### 5. Incorporate the fruit:

1. Stir the soaked fruit mixture into the batter until evenly distributed.

### 6. Bake:

1. Spoon the batter into the prepared tin, smoothing the surface with a spatula.
2. Bake in the preheated oven for 4–4.5 hours. Check after 3.5 hours; if the top is browning too quickly, cover with foil.
3. The cake is done when a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean.

### 7. Cool and feed:

1. Allow the cake to cool completely in the tin.
2. Once cooled, pierce the top of the cake with a skewer and drizzle with a few tablespoons of rum or brandy.
3. Wrap the cake tightly in parchment paper and foil, storing it in an airtight container. Feed the cake weekly with a little alcohol for a richer flavor.

### Finishing Touches

- **Marzipan and icing:** Brush the cake with apricot jam, roll out marzipan, and cover the cake. Top with royal icing and decorate as desired.
- **Rustic look:** Top with a mix of nuts or fruits glazed with apricot jam for a simpler finish.

This recipe yields a dense and flavorful cake that improves with age, perfect for the festive season!

-WFY BUREAU





# Introducing Dalgona: This Is The Best Whipped Creamy Coffee

By Sudha Mukhopadhyay



## DALGONA COFFEE (WHIPPED CREAMY COFFEE)

Coffee, I am sure many will agree, has a magical effect on one's physical as well as psychological well-being. A cup of coffee, which smells divine can help one in a myriad ways....either while preparing for an exam, or during a coffee break, or coffee taken to help relax one's nerves or simply to feel good any time of the day.

Espresso, cappuccino, black coffee, café au latte, Turkish coffee, filter coffee, Irish coffee, café mocha, Instant coffee, Coorg coffee, etc....give it any name, each of these will still taste as good, just as Shakespeare's Juliet said "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

As it turns out, we have the Arab world to thank for coffee. It was here that coffee was given the name we all know today, derived from the Arabic word Qahwa.

"Coffee drinking certainly has a fair share of romanticism attached to it" is what I remember reading somewhere. And how true it is, poetically speaking. Coffee, I believe, has a positive effect on brain health, as caffeine present in coffee helps to speed up the activity in the neurons.

The aroma, the flavour, the taste, everything that is coffee, is very therapeutic. My love for coffee extends far back, which is more than a decade back when I used to sip some coffee here and there while living in the middle east where coffee is a symbol of hospitality. It almost became a tradition, when my friends would either come over to my place or we would all go to a coffee shop (there are plenty in the mid east) and nonchalantly order for the beverage of our choice – coffee.

Dalgona coffee, also known as beaten coffee, is a beverage made by whipping equal parts of instant coffee powder, sugar, and hot water until it becomes creamy and then adding it to cold or hot milk.

Now, let's get into the making of the simple yet awesome dalgona coffee.

### INGREDIENTS

Take equal amounts of coffee powder, sugar and hot water. The following measurements are for guidance:

- 4 Tbsp sugar (I use brown sugar)
- 4 Tbsp instant coffee
- 4 Tbsp hot water
- Milk, chilled or boiled

The above measurements are for making and storing the coffee cream. One can reduce or increase the quantity according to one's requirement.

Combine instant coffee, sugar and hot water in a mixing bowl. Mix them well. Then using a hand blender, whisk it on high speed until the coffee mixture forms a stiff peak. Whipped creamy coffee is ready for use with the milk.

If you wish to drink it cold, add ice cubes in a glass, then pour the chilled milk and finally scoop out the whipped coffee cream and add it to the milk. Give it a stir and the chilled dalgona is ready.

If you wish to drink it hot, pour the hot milk in a mug, scoop out the whipped coffee cream and add it to the milk. Give it a stir and the hot dalgona is ready.

One can top up the coffee mug with cocoa (which I generally do), or crumbled chocolate, or honey and take the dalgona to a different level of heavenly delight.

The good thing about the whipped creamy coffee is that, if you make a large volume, it can be refrigerated for a few days in an air tight container (without milk) and enjoy a dalgona as and when you are magnetically drawn towards it.

So, all ye coffee lovers go ahead and have your cup of coffee without the guilt attached to it.

Before closing this little write-up, I would like to share an interesting fact: Just like the equator that crosses the globe, there is a coffee bean belt that wraps around the world between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. All the coffee grown in the world falls within this Bean Belt. Amazing, isn't it?

-SUDHA MUKHOPADHYAY





# St. Nicholas To Santa Claus: The Most Fascinating Guy



By Wynona M

**T**he transformation from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus is a fascinating journey through history and culture.

Santa Claus, Father Christmas, St. Nick—regardless of what you call him, the tale of this cheerful, round figure who brings gifts is familiar to all. Or perhaps they don't?

Every child knows that Santa Claus hails from the North Pole. His historical journey is not just remarkable; it's even longer and more fantastic than his annual, one-night circumnavigation of the globe.

The modern American Santa has a fascinating origin story that traces back to the Mediterranean during the Roman Empire. Over time, his legend transformed as it spread across northern Europe, eventually taking on his recognisable shape when he arrived on the shores of the New World. Have you ever wondered about the origins of Santa Claus? Let's dive into the fascinating history of this beloved figure and explore how he has evolved throughout the years.

## Jolly Old St. Nicholas!

On December 6, people around the globe come together to celebrate St. Nicholas Day, with the most vibrant festivities happening in various European cities. The portrayal of St. Nicholas has evolved over time, and it's fascinating to see how different images emerge. However, none of these depictions resemble the familiar red-cheeked, white-bearded figure we commonly recognise today. Imagine uncovering the true visage of St. Nick, a figure who walked the earth in the third and fourth centuries. Surprisingly, this captivating image wasn't crafted by the hands of ancient artists but rather brought to life through the innovative technique of modern forensic facial reconstruction.

The discussion surrounding the final resting place of the Greek bishop remains lively and ongoing. Traditionally, it has been thought that during the 11th century, Italian sailors made off with the bones of St. Nicholas, transporting them to the crypt of the Basilica di San Nicola located on Italy's southeast coast. During the 1950s, the crypt underwent repairs, and this fascinating process included documenting the saint's skull and bones through x-ray photography and meticulous measurements. For insights into alternative theories regarding the resting places of St. Nicholas, check out the article: "Could the Remains of Santa Claus Be in This Turkish Church?"

Caroline Wilkinson, a facial anthropologist at the University of Manchester in England, utilised these data along with modern software simulations to craft a contemporary reconstruction of the long-deceased individual. Wilkinson brought to life the human side of Santa's original namesake, depicting a figure with a severely broken nose, likely a result of the persecution faced by Christians during the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Her work invites a range of interpretations. To understand the size and shape of the facial muscles that once adorned Nicholas's skull, researchers had to make educated guesses. They

meticulously reconstructed the shape of the skull itself using two-dimensional data as their foundation. Digital artists infused their work with details drawn from educated guesses, portraying olive-toned skin typical of Greek Mediterraneans such as Nicholas, along with brown eyes and the grey hair characteristic of a man in his 60s.



*Located in Bari, Italy, the Basilica of Saint Nicholas stands as a remarkable example of 11th-century architecture. It is widely thought that this place contains the mortal remains and sacred relics of St. Nicholas.*

Her work invites a range of interpretations. To understand the size and shape of the facial muscles that once adorned Nicholas's skull, researchers had to make educated guesses. They meticulously reconstructed the shape of the skull itself using two-dimensional data as their foundation. Digital artists infused their work with details drawn from educated guesses, portraying olive-toned skin typical of Greek Mediterraneans such as Nicholas, along with brown eyes and the grey hair characteristic of a man in his 60s.

"While we may have sacrificed some of the intricate details that photographs could provide, we truly believe this is the closest representation we will ever achieve of him," Wilkinson shared in the BBC Two feature film about the project titled *The Real Face of Santa*.

## Transitioning From A Bishop To A Gift Giver

Have you ever wondered how St. Nicholas transformed into the jolly figure we know today, residing at the North Pole and delivering Christmas gifts? It's a fascinating journey through history and culture that shaped this beloved character. The original saint hailed from Greece and was born in the late third century, approximately in 280 A.D. He took on the role of bishop in Myra, a quaint Roman town located in what is now Turkey. Nicholas wasn't your typical figure; he wasn't fat or jolly. Instead, he carved out a name for himself as a fiery, wiry, and defiant defender of church doctrine during the tumultuous times of the Great Persecution in 303. This was an era marked by the burning of Bibles and the harrowing choice for priests to renounce their faith or face execution.

Nicholas boldly challenged these decrees, enduring years of imprisonment until the Roman emperor Constantine put an end to the persecution of Christians in 313 with the Edict of

Milan. Nicholas's legacy endures well beyond his passing on December 6 in the mid-fourth century, around 343. His association with numerous miracles has kept his memory alive, and the reverence for him persists even today, independent of any Christmas ties. He serves as a guardian for a diverse array of individuals, including orphans, sailors, and prisoners.

**Saint Nicholas, who lived from 270 A.D. to 343 A.D., is a fascinating historical figure.**



*A captivating religious icon that beautifully depicts St. Nicholas.*

Nicholas gained recognition among the saints due to his role as the patron for numerous groups. According to historian Gerry Bowler from the University of Manitoba, who penned the book *Santa Claus: A Biography*, by around the year 1200, he had gained a reputation as a beloved figure for children and a magical gift-giver, thanks to two remarkable tales from his life.

In this well-known story, three young girls find hope as they are rescued from a grim fate. The young Bishop Nicholas, in a remarkable act of kindness, discreetly provides three bags of gold to their struggling father, ensuring that the girls can have dowries and a brighter future.

"The other story may not be as familiar today, but it was incredibly popular during the Middle Ages," Bowler remarked. Nicholas stepped into an inn, unaware that its keeper had just committed a heinous act, having taken the lives of three boys and preserved their dismembered bodies in barrels down in the basement. The bishop not only felt the weight of the crime but also brought the victims back to life. "This is one of the reasons he became known as the patron saint of children."

From around 1200 to 1500, St. Nicholas reigned supreme as the ultimate gift-giver, becoming the star of festivities that revolved around his feast





day on December 6. The strict saint embraced certain characteristics from earlier European deities, such as the Roman Saturn and the Norse Odin, both of whom were depicted as white-bearded figures with magical abilities, including the power of flight. He made sure that the kids stayed on track by encouraging them to say their prayers and practice good behaviour.



Imagine a whimsical scene from Christmas past, where Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas come together to spread joy and deliver presents to eager children. Picture an extraordinary illustration, a scrap picture that captures the essence of this festive spirit, hailing from Germany around 1910. It's a delightful glimpse into a time when the magic of the season was celebrated with such charm and creativity.

However, following the onset of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, figures such as Nicholas lost their popularity in many parts of northern Europe. "That was quite an issue," Bowler remarked. "You still have a deep love for your kids, but now the question arises: Who will be the one to bring them the gifts?"

Bowler mentioned that, in numerous instances, the responsibility shifted to baby Jesus, leading to the date being celebrated on Christmas instead of December 6. "However, the infant's ability to carry is quite restricted, and he doesn't come across as particularly intimidating," Bowler remarked. "It's interesting to note how the Christ child was frequently accompanied by a rather intimidating helper, tasked with carrying presents and keeping an eye on the kids in a way that feels a bit out of place for the baby Jesus."

Among the chilling figures from Germanic folklore, we find characters inspired by Nicholas, who has transformed from a saintly figure into a more menacing companion. These include Ru-klaus, known as Rough Nicholas, Aschenklas, or Ashy Nicholas, and Pelznickel, often referred to as Furry Nicholas. The expectation of good behaviour often led to harsh consequences for children, such as whippings or even kidnappings. Though they may appear quite different from the cheerful figure in red, these vibrant characters would eventually play a significant role in shaping the legend of Santa Claus.

#### Arriving in the United States

In the Netherlands, children and families have wholeheartedly embraced St. Nicholas as the beloved gift-bringer, showing unwavering dedication to this cherished tradition. Sinterklaas made his way to the New World colonies, intertwining with the enduring legends of the shaggy and eerie Germanic gift-bringers that had captured imaginations for generations.

In the early days of America, Christmas was quite different from the holiday we know today. In New England, the holiday was largely

overlooked, while in other regions, it had started to resemble the ancient pagan festival of Saturnalia that it had once replaced on the calendar. "According to Bowler, it was a lively event marked by outdoor festivities, plenty of drinks, and a spirited sense of community." "This is how things had evolved in England too." There wasn't a specific, enchanting figure who brought gifts. In the early decades of the 19th century, a transformation took place, driven by a group of poets and writers dedicated to reshaping Christmas into a cherished family celebration—reviving and reimagining the figure of St. Nicholas. In 1809, Washington Irving introduced us to a whimsical version of Santa Claus in his book, *Knickerbocker's History of New York*. This delightful tale featured a pipe-smoking Nicholas who soared above the rooftops in a flying waggon, bringing gifts to well-behaved children and switches to those who misbehaved.

Back in 1821, an anonymous illustrated poem called "The Children's Friend" played a significant role in shaping the modern image of Santa and linking him to the Christmas season. "At last, we get to see the arrival of a Santa Claus," Bowler remarked. "It seems that the enchanting tradition of St. Nicholas has been transformed over time. The essence of his religious roots has been removed, and now we see Santa adorned in the luxurious furs reminiscent of those ancient Germanic gift givers." That figure brought gifts to good girls and boys, but he also carried a birch rod, as the poem pointed out, that "guides a parent's hand to use when virtue's path his sons refuse." Santa's slender waggon was drawn by just one reindeer, but both the driver and the team were set for a significant transformation in the coming year.

Back in 1822, Clement Clarke Moore penned a delightful poem titled "A Visit From St. Nicholas," which many of us now recognise as "The Night Before Christmas." He crafted this charming piece for his six children, never dreaming it would contribute to the growing legend of Santa Claus. The following year, it made its debut without an author's name attached, and even now, the cheerful, rotund Santa depicted in those pages continues to soar through the skies in a sleigh pulled by eight well-known reindeer.

"It really took off," Bowler said. Even though the poem is well-known, it still sparks the imagination. Throughout the 19th century, Santa was depicted in an array of colourful outfits, ranging from tiny to enormous, and took on many different forms. "I have this amazing picture of him that totally resembles George Washington riding a broomstick," Bowler shared. It was only in the late 19th century that the iconic image of Santa took shape as a full-sized adult, clad in red with white fur trim. This jolly figure emerged from the North Pole, riding in a sleigh pulled by reindeer, all while keeping a watchful eye on the behaviour of children everywhere.

The cheerful, round, grandfatherly visage of this Santa was primarily shaped by Thomas Nast, the renowned political cartoonist from a time rich with many such figures. "Yet, Nast did leave him with a half-sized figure," Bowler remarked, "and I must say, the long johns he chose are quite indecent in my opinion." *Take a trip back to the 1880s with this charming illustration of Merry Old Santa Claus by the talented Thomas Nast. Captured beautifully, this artwork from North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy brings the spirit of the season to life.*

After becoming well-established, Santa in North America made a fascinating journey back to Europe, where he took the place of the more frightening gift givers and embraced local names such as Père Noël in France and Father Christmas in Great Britain. "What he's accomplished is essentially to soften these characters reminiscent of Grimm's Fairy Tales from the late mediaeval period," Bowler remarked.

#### The Santa dilemma

While he certainly has good intentions, Santa has undeniably sparked and continues to generate quite a bit of controversy. In Russia, Santa Claus found himself at odds with Josef Stalin. Prior to the Russian Revolution, Grandfather Frost, known as Ded Moroz, emerged as a beloved Christmas figure, embodying traits reminiscent of early Santa Claus figures such as the Dutch Sinterklaas. "According to Bowler, the establishment of the Soviet Union led to the communists putting an end to the celebration of Christmas and the tradition of gift-bringers." "In the 1930s, as Stalin sought to garner support, he permitted the return of Grandfather Frost, transforming him from a Christmas gift bringer into a New Year's gift bringer," Bowler noted. The efforts to replace Christmas in Russia didn't quite pan out, much like the Soviet attempts to introduce a secular version of Grandfather Frost, who donned a blue coat to steer clear of any Santa mix-ups, across Europe. "After World War II, the Soviets made it a point to replace the traditional gift-bringers in countries such as Poland and Bulgaria," Bowler explained. "Local people endured the situation, holding their noses until the Soviet Union finally collapsed in 1989, allowing them to return to their own cherished traditions."

Santa continues to be a figure of political debate across the globe. In the years right after World War II, American troops took it upon themselves to share their unique interpretation of the jolly man across the globe. According to Bowler, this figure was largely embraced as a representation of American generosity, especially in the context of helping to rebuild countries that had been devastated by the war.

In today's world, it seems that Santa has found himself on the naughty list in various countries. This shift often stems from the perception that he embodies the secular aspects of Christmas, overshadowing the holiday's religious significance. There are times when Santa faces rejection simply because he doesn't hail from the area. "In regions such as the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Austria, and Latin America, there exists a notable resistance to the figure of Santa Claus. This movement aims to safeguard their traditional Christmas gift-bringers and customs, ensuring they remain distinct from the North American version of Santa," he explained.

It appears that these efforts might not dampen the increasing fascination with Santa Claus. However, the organisers could potentially lighten his load a bit on that hectic Christmas Eve journey.



- WYNONA M





# THE LAST SENTINEL



- REMA PISHARODY

The last sentinel is the light that glows from within  
 The only truth is the one that conscience knows  
 Not necessary an outer golden frame to exalt  
 An ocean which cascades from within  
 Running parallelly is the rage of the mind  
 Of the unwise hasty moments  
 The wall of destiny pulls down the heartbeat  
 For a while to lift up in the next trice  
 To prove straightlines are as numb as death.  
 Thoughts not guarded hit the meridian of peace  
 Invades the unsuspecting terrains  
 Inviting imprudent massacres and bloodshed  
 Which break the heart in fragments  
 The lesions at times not get healed even in prayer rooms  
 What matters at the end is who guards the soul  
 When it is needed the most  
 It is an insight on a day that ended the \*apartheid  
 Surprisingly the last sentinel in support always  
 After the devastating storm  
 Is the light that glows from within,  
 Certainly the purest of purest light

(\*November 1, 1995 – The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system)





# The Invisible Shackles

Walking through the street of mansions  
 Where shining light of name boards splashes  
 Warning us there, "commoners are you "  
 As if our movements there cause sore view...  
 Huge gates clamouring like archrivals  
 Gauging cruise-like cars' arrival  
 Poshly clad lasses 'n lads descend  
 Closely saluting ostiaries bend

A Doberman comes wagging his tail  
 A doorman reporting that day's mail  
 An orderly comes with water and hails  
 As shadow of pomp leaves its trails  
 Not a single word uttered among  
 Hot meals served, at table along.,  
 Busy business talks steal the zeal  
 Hazy it makes the bonding at meal  
 I, me, mine thoughts prevail always  
 "Why should I?" passes the minds at sighs  
 Disowned souls, sleep under same roof...  
 Dilapidated is the mind-binding roof!!

Tied among selves with queer mind-tides  
 Vied and stressed by trivial hind-sights  
 Convinced of just dimes and nickels  
 Invisible, yet prevail the shackles

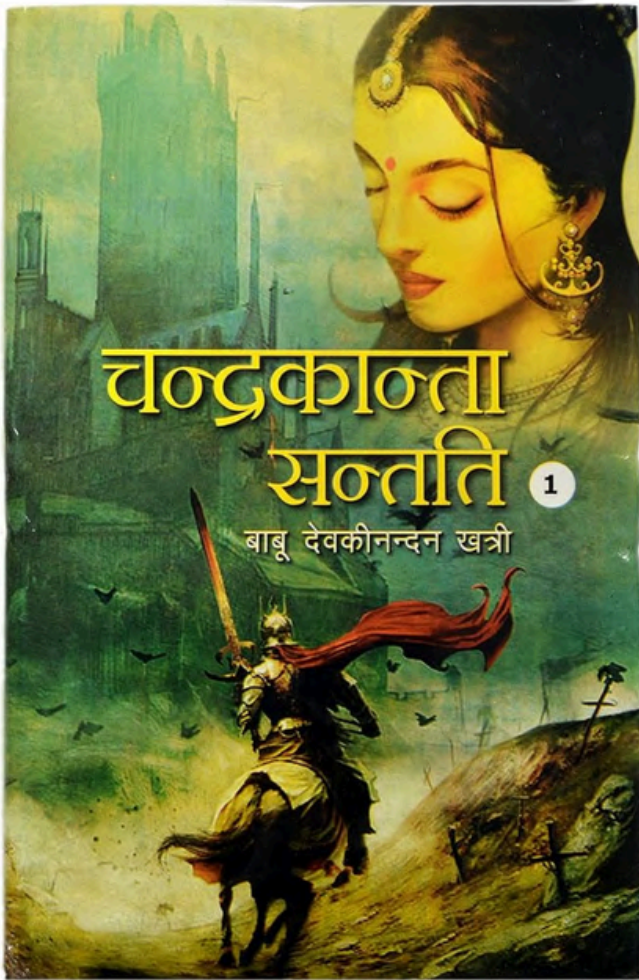
**-SUDHA K K**



By Sudha K K



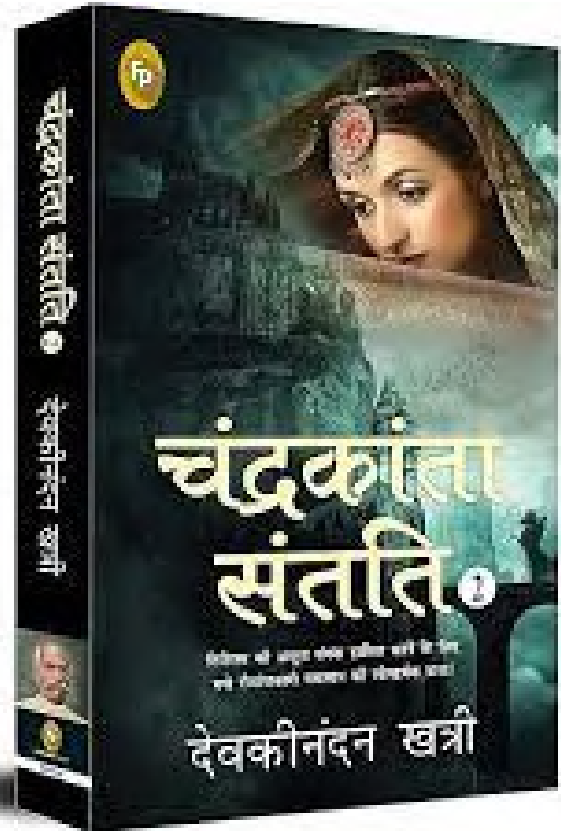




# Which Is The First Popular Modern Novel In Hindi?



By Kavya Patel



**C**handrakanta: Hindi's first contemporary novel

Chandrakanta, penned by Babu Devaki Nandan Khatri and published in 1888, holds the esteemed title of being the first popular novel in modern everyday Hindi. It's a fascinating piece of literature that has left a lasting impact on readers and the literary landscape. This story unfolds in a captivating fantasy world, featuring a stunning princess who finds herself in peril, a valiant prince who comes to her aid, rival kings who throw challenges in their path, and cunning aiyars skilled in the art of trickery and disguise. This book is an absolute page-turner, filled with intricate mazes, thrilling battles, enchanting magic, and a cast of beautifully written, diverse characters, all engaged in a clever game of outwitting one another.

Devaki Nandan spent a period of time working as a forest contractor for the Raja of Benares. His work took him on adventures through lush forests, where he explored ancient monuments and crumbling ruins. After losing his job, he channelled his experiences into writing books. He drew extensively from the rich Persian-Arabic tradition of dastan storytelling, seamlessly weaving it into the fabric of Indian culture and making it feel right at home.

Take, for instance, his use of tilism— a magical maze filled with traps at every turn, solvable only by the most skilled individuals. His mazes are intricate mechanical contraptions, rather than enchanting magical creations. In a fascinating twist, the aiyars possess the remarkable ability to transform their appearance at will, a skill often linked to the art of disguise and make-up.

Devaki Nandan didn't complete the book in one go. He crafted it in a serial format, releasing one chapter— referred to as a bayaan—at a time. During that period, the majority of reading and writing activities were conducted in Urdu, Sanskritized Hindi, or English. The everyday Hindi spoken by the common people was often deemed unfit for literary purposes. Devakinandan was resolute in his decision to write exclusively in modern Hindi. Despite this insistence, his books never quite reached the upper echelons of Hindi literature. However, when it comes to popularity, they outshone nearly every other title. Chandrakanta gained immense popularity, with fans eagerly anticipating each new bayaan. In the heart of village squares, a gathering of eager listeners would form around a literate individual, captivated by the words being read aloud. A lot of people who don't speak Hindi have taken the time to learn the language just so they can read it. Following the success of Chandrakanta, Devaki Nandan was inspired to pen its sequel, 'Chandrakanta Santati,' which spans six volumes. There have been four TV serials adapted from the books, and a movie featuring the legendary Amitabh Bachchan was nearly brought to life.

There are definitely some issues with the book. While drawing from the rich tapestry of Arabic-Persian storytelling and incorporating a variety of Urdu vocabulary, these books present a narrative that leans towards an anti-Islamic perspective. Muslim characters often find themselves portrayed in a negative light and face severe consequences throughout the stories. The characters also exhibit casteist beliefs. One can definitely recognise these issues while still revelling in the book, as it offers a wildly entertaining story. Now that the book is in the public domain, finding a copy should be quite easy!

**Snag yours today and dive into the enchanting realm of Chandrakanta.**

- KAVYA PATEL





# Speaking Art Fest: The Best And Better Hues Of Creativity

By WFY Bureau

**T**he Speaking Art Fest: A Triumph in Art and Culture

The Speaking Art Fest returned with its much-anticipated second edition, firmly establishing itself as a beacon for artistic excellence and cultural dialogue in the capital. Organized by the **SPEAKING ART FOUNDATION** in collaboration with the Lalit Kala Akademi, this four-day extravaganza, held at Rabindra Bhawan Grounds, Mandi House, New Delhi, from November 24th to 27th, 2024, set new benchmarks for creativity and artistic engagement.



## A Showcase of India's Diverse Artistry

Featuring the works of over 100 talented artists from across the nation, the fest was a vibrant celebration of India's diverse artistic heritage. From thought-provoking abstract paintings to intricately detailed sculptures, the exhibitions reflected a medley of styles, themes, and mediums, leaving visitors spellbound.



The highlight was undoubtedly the Master Artists' National Art Camp, where luminaries such as Roop Chand, Naval Kishore, Dr. Suryasnata Mohanty, Gurmeet Goldie, and Ranjit Sarkar created live masterpieces. Their creations were a testament to the boundless imagination and technical brilliance that define Indian art.

## Inspiring Dialogues and Events

The inaugural ceremony was graced by veteran painter Sh. Roop Chand, Padma Shri Prof. Biman Bihari Das, and Prof. Prem Singh, setting a celebratory tone for the fest. A standout moment on the first day was a storytelling session by

Bharti Dixit, who vividly narrated the life journey of iconic artist Amrita Shergil. The session captured the imagination of the audience, blending history with art.



Another notable event was a dialogue celebrating the 50-year artistic journey of senior artist and writer Ashok Bhowmik. Esteemed speakers Johny ML, Saswati Choudhary, Akshat Sinha, and Jai Prakash Tripathi shared their perspectives, while artist Shakti Singh Ahlawat painted a live portrait of Bhowmik, turning the session into a living artwork itself.

## Honoring Artistic Visionaries



A moment of pride during the inauguration was the felicitation of Mr. Neeraj Sharma, Founder of the Speaking Art Foundation, by the Bahumukhi Kalakaar Sangam, an organization devoted to artist welfare. Mr. Sharma, a Senior Fellowship awardee in photography, was honored by the Chairman and Founder of BKS for his unwavering dedication to fostering art and culture. The gesture underscored the recognition of his efforts in elevating the art community and creating platforms like the Speaking Art Fest.

## Empowering Artists

The fest also addressed practical aspects of the art world. Legal experts Rahul Goel and Anu Monga conducted a dialogue on art and law, enlightening attendees on critical topics such as copyright and gallery contracts. On the final day, a discussion delved into the economic aspects of art, offering insights into navigating the commercial dimensions of artistic pursuits.

## A Grand Success

The Speaking Art Fest emerged as a platform for creative expression, cultural exchange, and meaningful dialogue, drawing art enthusiasts, critics, and collectors alike. Its success not only



underscores the vibrancy of India's contemporary art scene but also highlights the power of collaborative efforts in promoting cultural heritage.




As the curtain falls on this landmark event, it leaves behind a legacy of inspiration, innovation, and inclusivity, promising a brighter future for art and artists in India and beyond.

- WFY BUREAU







**3BHK / 4BHK / Duplex**  
Ultra Luxurious Apartments

Rera : UPRERAPRJ274689  
Starts ₹ 1.50 CR. ONWARDS

GH-03B, Sector-12, Greater Noida West ( Noida Extn.), Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.



**NEW LAUNCH**  
PALATIAL 3 & 4 BHK RESIDENCES  
AT SECTOR 12, GREATER NOIDA WEST

LAUNCH PRICE ~~₹ 12,500~~  
PRE-LAUNCH PRICE **₹ 10,999**

RELAXED PAMENT PLAN\*  
10% @ ALLOTMENT  
15% x 6 MILSTONES

3.5 BHK 2290	4.5 BHK + Servant 3200	4.5 XL BHK + Servant 4190
-----------------	---------------------------	------------------------------

8.5 Acre Land Parcel | 5 Towers | 31 Floors | Swimming Pool | Club House & More.

Starts 2.51 CR. ONWARDS

INAUGURAL DISCOUNT OF UP TO **₹ 62.58 LAKHS\***



Starts ₹ 2.50 CR. ONWARDS

**NEW LAUNCH**

MIVAN Technology

Ultra Luxury  
3/4 BHK Apartments

Sec 1 Noida Extension




Phase I: UPRERAPRJ3479658  
Phase II: UPRERAPRJ229234  
up-rera.in

Quality Meets Excellence



2/3/4 BHK LUXURY APARTMENTS

STARTS ₹ 1.35 CR. ONWARDS

GR. NOIDA WEST

# OMEGA HOMES

CALL US @ BEST DEALS IN DELHI / NCR

Complete Real Estate Solutions

+91 - 9818093222, +91 - 7838493222

Email: omegabuildcon.realtors@gmail.com



# Trump's America First 2.0: A Turning Point for Indian Trade and Canadian Opportunities



By Tushar Unadkat

**O**n November 6th, the United States elected Donald J. Trump as its 47th president, marking his return to office after serving as the 45th president. Trump is now the second U.S. president in modern history, after Grover Cleveland, to serve two non-consecutive terms. This unprecedented victory brings a familiar yet renewed “America First” approach, with anticipated shifts in trade and immigration policies that could impact global markets, especially India’s business sector.

India and the U.S., as two of the world’s largest democracies and trading partners, will likely see this leadership change impact several critical areas for India. Trump’s trade policies have historically aimed at reducing the U.S. trade deficit, often criticizing India’s high tariffs and protectionist measures on American goods. His return may mean higher tariffs and more rigid trade terms, which could create challenges for Indian industries heavily reliant on exports to the U.S., including technology, pharmaceuticals, and textiles. However, the possibility of more restrictive U.S. immigration policies under Trump may divert skilled Indian professionals to Canada, shifting talent flows and potentially strengthening Canada’s position as a tech hub. This could also open up new opportunities for India-Canada trade relations, offering a silver lining amidst the challenges.

These developments could redefine North America’s economic landscape, creating challenges and opportunities for Indian businesses, professionals, and the broader Indian diaspora.

The re-election of Donald Trump signals a likely shift in U.S. trade and immigration policies that could significantly impact India-U.S. trade relations, Indian professionals in the U.S., and even Indian Canadians. Trump’s ‘America First’ approach may involve revisiting high tariffs on Indian goods, affecting industries like technology, pharmaceuticals, and textiles—key Indian exports to the U.S. If the Trump administration



implements stringent tariffs, Indian exporters could face new barriers, leading to potential losses in revenue and competitive disadvantages in the U.S. market. These stringent tariffs may also press Indian companies to seek alternative markets, possibly strengthening trade with Canada, the EU, and other Asian markets. For Indian professionals in the U.S., tightening immigration policies could mean increased competition and potential job insecurity, leading some to consider moving to Canada for better opportunities.

Trump’s stance on immigration, especially regarding H-1B visas, is another crucial aspect with global implications. During his first term, Trump initiated restrictive measures on H-1B visas, limiting the entry of skilled foreign professionals into the U.S. Should he take a similar approach now, skilled Indian professionals may increasingly look to Canada, where immigration policies remain welcoming and supportive. Canada’s Global Talent Stream, a fast-track immigration pathway for tech and engineering professionals, is already attractive to Indian talent. Tighter U.S. immigration policies could accelerate the shift of skilled professionals from the U.S. to Canada, helping Canada establish itself as a highly attractive destination for highly skilled technology, healthcare, and academia workers, potentially becoming a global tech hub.

For Indian Canadians, this trend could strengthen the community and its economic influence in Canada. As more Indian professionals choose Canada over the U.S., Canada’s tech and healthcare sectors stand to benefit, potentially creating a ‘brain gain’ effect. Moreover, if Trump revisits parts of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), cross-border business dealings for Indian Canadian entrepreneurs might require trade policies or tariff adjustments. While new policies could present hurdles, Canada’s robust trade frameworks and trade agreements with both the U.S. and India could provide a buffer, allowing Indian businesses in Canada to remain competitive and contribute to the growth of Canada’s economy.

In addition to trade and immigration, these geopolitical changes may influence cross-border family networks as travel or work in the U.S. becomes more complex for those facing tightened immigration policies. Canada’s growing appeal as a stable, immigrant-friendly destination could further position it as a hub for skilled Indian professionals, enhancing its reputation globally.

As North America rebalances its trade and immigration landscape, Canada may emerge as a preferred destination, providing stability and opportunity for Indian professionals and investors looking for growth in a changing global economy.

- TUSHAR UNADKAT





# Know The Gift Tax Implications For NRIs:

## Useful



By Kamal Arora

## **N**RI Taxation: Understanding the Tax Implications of Gifts from Cousins

A couple resides and is employed in France. After hosting her cousin's family during their recent trip to France, my wife's cousin expressed a desire to show appreciation by sending her money through a wire transfer. Could this situation potentially affect my wife's tax obligations in India?

The identity of the individual has been kept confidential at their request.

According to foreign exchange regulations, it is permissible for your wife's cousin to transfer funds as a gift directly to your wife's bank account located in France.

According to Indian tax law, there are specific relatives designated who are permitted to give or receive gifts without incurring any tax consequences. According to the established guidelines, a relative in connection to an individual encompasses a husband, wife, brother, sister, or any direct ancestor or descendant of that person.

It is important to highlight that, according to Indian tax law, the term 'cousin' does not qualify as a relative.

In a significant financial consideration, it is important to note that any gift surpassing ₹50,000 within a single financial year will incur tax liabilities under your wife's name for the entire value of the gift. The income will fall under the category of Other Sources for taxation purposes. Furthermore, the agreement between India and France aimed at avoiding double taxation does not offer an exemption from this tax.

A tax consultant has mistakenly classified an individual as a resident in the filing of their tax return for the 2023-24 period. What course of action is available at this moment?

The individual has chosen to remain anonymous at their request.

It is essential to rectify your residential status in your income tax return. This adjustment is crucial for ensuring precise tax calculations and for safeguarding the tax benefits that non-residents are entitled to receive.

Residents looking to update their status can do so by submitting a revised return prior to the deadline of 31 December 2024.

For those who find themselves unable to submit the revised return by the specified deadline, there remain several options to address the situation effectively. In the event that an individual receives an intimation under Section 143(1), there are several options available for consideration. These include the possibility of submitting a rectification application, filing an appeal against the intimation, or making a request to the Central Board of Direct Taxes to submit a revised return, even if it is delayed, contingent upon the specific circumstances at hand.

In the event that adjusting your residential status leads to an increase in tax obligations, it is possible to submit a revised tax return following the payment of any additional taxes owed.

- KAMAL ARORA







# Which Is The First One To Come? Egg Or Chicken?



By Selvan Durairaj

**T**he age-old question: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Let's dive into what the research reveals.

The age-old question—"Which came first: the chicken or the egg?"—has intrigued people for generations. Thanks to the fascinating field of evolutionary biology, science provides a compelling answer: **the egg.**

The debate delves into the intriguing relationship between cause and effect, yet when we consider it from an evolutionary perspective, the answer becomes much clearer. Long before chickens roamed the earth, eggs existed as the simplest form of female reproductive cells. It was around 325 million years ago that a significant breakthrough occurred with the emergence of hard-shelled amniotic eggs, as noted by the Biodiversity Centre at the University of Texas at Austin. The advent of these eggs marked a significant turning point for vertebrates, enabling them to break free from the constraints of water-based reproduction and thrive on land.

Chickens and their feathered relatives, the birds, came onto the scene much later in the grand timeline of evolution. It is believed that true birds made their debut in the fossil record around 150 million years ago, during the fascinating Jurassic period. Long before the era of chickens, dinosaurs and various land-dwelling vertebrates were already laying eggs that featured hardened shells.

Yet, when we turn our attention to the "chicken egg," the situation becomes a bit more intricate. Chickens, known scientifically as *Gallus gallus domesticus*, are thought to have originated from a subspecies of red jungle fowl, *Gallus gallus*, around 50 million years ago. It's fascinating to think about how these birds have transformed over such a long period! Domestication kicked off in Southeast Asia sometime between 1650 B.C. and 1250 B.C., marked by selective breeding and notable genetic changes. At a certain moment in time, a proto-chicken laid an egg that housed a genetically unique embryo, signalling the arrival of the very first true chicken.

In a fascinating twist of evolution, the egg, in its broader sense, has been around for millions of years before the chicken even came into the picture. Interestingly, the concept of the "chicken egg," which refers to an egg laid by a chicken, actually emerged after the very first chicken came into existence.

**-SELVAN DURAIRAJ**







By Kavya Patel

# ChatGPT Picks A Better James Bond To Be For You



In the realm of ChatGPT's artificial intelligence, the standout pick for the iconic role of James Bond is none other than Henry Cavill, known for his performances in Superman and The Witcher. He possesses the looks, charm, and physicality that are essential for the role of Bond. He auditioned for the role before Daniel Craig was cast and has become a fan favourite, as noted by ChatGPT. Cavill has previously taken on the role of a charming spy in The Man From Uncle, which could be an advantage for him. Tom Hardy, who gained fame from his roles in Mad Max: Fury Road and Venom, emerged as the next top pick. "Hardy exudes a rugged intensity and charisma that has the potential to redefine Bond into a darker, more brooding character," noted ChatGPT.



Richard Madden, known for his captivating performance as a sexy cop in Bodyguard, emerged as a top contender for the iconic role of Bond. The chatbot highlighted that his knack for portraying a suave yet tough operative positions him perfectly for the character.

Idris Elba and Richard Madden have each portrayed charming operatives in their film roles.

Next up on the list are two talented actors of colour, one of whom is the ever-popular Idris Elba. "While he may be a bit older than the usual choices, Elba's elegance, powerful presence, and impressive action background position him as a formidable candidate," notes ChatGPT. Coming in at number five is Rege-Jean Page, the star of Bridgerton. His suave and charismatic presence has certainly made waves, positioning him as a top contender for a fresh and modern interpretation of Bond, according to ChatGPT.

Some of the intriguing names floated for the role of 007 include Aaron Taylor-Johnson, James Norton, Cillian Murphy, Luke Evans, and Sam Heughan.

From Indian film industry the projected prospective one is Hrithik Roshan



-KAVYA PATEL

**I**n the quest for the next James Bond, ChatGPT has curated a list of top contenders to take over from Daniel Craig, and surprisingly, an Indian star has made the cut! Check out the complete list!

Since Daniel Craig revealed that he would not be returning to the iconic role of James Bond, the conversation around who might step into those legendary shoes has sparked intense debate. The character of 007 stands out as one of the most legendary figures in the world of film. Traditionally, the role of the superspy has been dominated by a white British actor. However, as times change, there's a growing possibility that this iconic character could be portrayed by a black actor or even a woman. As the Broccolis, the masterminds behind the iconic Bond films, embark on the quest for the next 007, we thought it would be fitting to turn to the ultimate expert in all things related – ChatGPT. In a recent discussion, Daniel Craig expressed his indifference regarding who will take on the iconic role of James Bond next. He also admitted that he doesn't keep track of how many times he has portrayed the character. Interesting insights from the actor, don't you think?

**Here are some of the best choices for portraying the iconic character of James Bond.**

We reached out to the AI language bot to gather its thoughts on who could step into the iconic role of James Bond after Daniel Craig. The search has certainly sparked a lot of speculation and debate among both fans and critics. In response, the chatbot shared a lineup of British stars who are in the running as contenders.

Henry Cavill stars in The Man From U.N.C.L.E., delivering a captivating performance that showcases his charm and charisma. This film is a delightful blend of action and humour, making it a must-watch for fans of the genre.







# The English-speaking Nations: The New Destination Of The Indian Students

**W**hat should India do to help protect students who want to migrate to other English-speaking countries?

**The English-speaking nations are the new destination for Indian students.**

In recent years, there has been a noticeable trend of Indian students migrating to English-speaking countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and various European nations. The primary drivers of this exodus are the pursuit of superior educational opportunities, renowned universities, broader exposure, and enhanced living conditions, rather than solely financial motivations.

While many of these students undoubtedly find success in their chosen paths, securing promising positions in business and other fields, there's a concerning flip side to this migration. Some students inadvertently end up in situations misaligned with their training or aspirations, potentially derailing their career trajectories.

As responsible citizens of India, we have a duty to guide and support our youth, ensuring they make informed decisions about their future. It's crucial to steer them toward opportunities that align with their skills, passions, and long-term goals rather than leaving them vulnerable to misguided choices or exploitation.

Unfortunately, individuals and organizations may take advantage of these ambitious young students. They might offer false promises or misleading information, leading students astray from their intended paths. It's our collective responsibility to be vigilant and provide accurate, helpful guidance to our next generation.

By fostering a supportive environment and offering reliable information about both domestic and international opportunities, we can help our youth make well-informed decisions. This approach not only benefits individual students but also contributes to the overall growth and development of our nation.

The future of our nation rests in the hands of our youth, and it's crucial that we provide them with the right guidance and support as they embark on their educational journeys. As the number of students seeking opportunities abroad continues to rise, it's becoming increasingly important to ensure they make informed decisions about their academic pursuits.

One of the most effective ways to support our young learners is through awareness programs and informative speeches targeted at the student community. These initiatives can offer valuable insights into choosing the right universities and countries for higher education, helping students gain a clearer perspective on their options and potential paths forward.

As mentors and educators, we have a moral responsibility to guide our youth toward the right opportunities. This doesn't mean making decisions for them, but rather equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to make well-informed choices. By providing this support, we can help ensure that our students find the best fit for their academic and personal growth.



**By Krishnakumar TN**

It's important to recognize that losing young talent to other countries represents a significant challenge for India. Our youth are the driving force behind our nation's progress, and their contributions are vital to our collective future. By helping them find the right educational opportunities, whether at home or abroad, we can nurture their potential and ultimately benefit our country.

To address this issue, we need to increase our efforts in conducting awareness programs and providing guidance to students. These initiatives should focus on helping young learners understand the various educational options available, the pros and cons of studying in different countries, and how to align their choices with their long-term goals and aspirations.

By taking on this responsibility and offering our support, we can help shape a brighter future for our youth and, in turn, for our nation. It's a collective effort that requires dedication from educators, mentors, and the community at large, but the rewards—in terms of a well-educated, globally competitive workforce—are well worth the investment.

**-KRISHNAKUMAR TN**







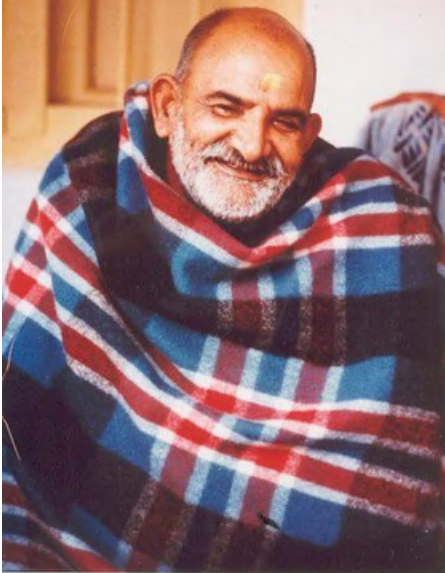
By  
Jaiprakash Bhande

# Interesting Facts About The World Of The Neem Karoli Baba





**K**ainchi Dham in Uttarakhand has garnered attention for its historical and spiritual significance. The ashram, associated with Neem Karoli Baba, attracts visitors from around the world. Many are drawn to its serene environment and the teachings of the revered spiritual leader. The site is known for its unique architecture and the tranquil atmosphere that fosters reflection and meditation. As more people seek spiritual experiences, Kainchi Dham continues to be a prominent destination for those interested in exploring its rich heritage.



Kainchi Dham, is known for its serene environment and religious significance. The site attracts numerous visitors seeking solace and spiritual enlightenment.

The Neem Karoli Baba Ashram, commonly referred to as Kainchi Dham, is situated in the scenic hills of Uttarakhand. This revered site draws devotees from various regions, highlighting its significance as a spiritual destination. The ashram, held in high regard, was founded by Neem Karoli Baba, a mystic saint known for his lifelong dedication to promoting love, compassion, and spirituality. Neem Karoli Baba, recognised by many as Neeb Karori Baba, was a highly respected spiritual leader whose teachings have motivated a vast number of devotees. The teachings highlighted the significance of love, service, and devotion, while the ashram remains a prominent source of spiritual guidance and comfort for visitors.

#### **A Serene Sanctuary in the Himalayas:**

Kainchi Dham Neem Karoli Baba Ashram, located in the scenic hills of Uttarakhand, provides stunning vistas of the majestic Himalayas. Located along the banks of the Kosi River, this peaceful retreat offers an atmosphere conducive to spiritual reflection and contemplation. Situated in a breathtaking locale, the ashram has emerged as a prime destination for individuals pursuing spiritual growth and enlightenment.

#### **Exploring the Life and Legacy of Neem Karoli Baba**

Neem Karoli Baba, recognised as the founder of Kainchi Dham, dedicated his life to the promotion of love, compassion, and spirituality as a mystic saint. Neem Karoli Baba, born in 1900, is renowned for his teachings that highlight the significance of love, service, and devotion. His life

exemplified simplicity, humility, and kindness, serving as an inspiration to numerous followers, including notable figures such as Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg.

Kainchi Dham's Neem Karoli Baba Ashram stands as a revered site for spiritual development, embodying principles of love and devotion in the picturesque region of Uttarakhand. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

#### **A Location of Religious Importance:**

Kainchi Dham Neem Karoli Baba Ashram has emerged as a significant spiritual destination, drawing devotees from across the globe. Several temples are located within the ashram, notably the Neem Karoli Baba Temple, the Hanuman Temple, and the Durga Temple. The ashram serves as a dynamic centre for spiritual engagement, hosting a range of events and festivals throughout the year that contribute to its lively atmosphere.

**Embracing a lifestyle characterised by minimalism and elevated thought processes** is gaining traction among individuals seeking fulfilment. This approach encourages a focus on essential values and intellectual growth, fostering a harmonious balance between material simplicity and profound contemplation.

Embracing a lifestyle characterised by minimalism and elevated thought processes is gaining traction among individuals seeking fulfilment. This approach encourages a focus on essential values and intellectual growth, fostering a harmonious balance between material simplicity and profound contemplation.

#### **A Location for Recuperation and Change:**

Kainchi Dham Neem Karoli Baba Ashram stands out as a notable site, recognised for its spiritual importance as well as its role in healing and personal transformation. A significant number of devotees have shared their experiences of deep healing and transformation following their visits to the ashram. The ashram offers a serene environment that, alongside the blessings of Neem Karoli Baba, fosters opportunities for personal development, healing, and spiritual advancement.

**Neem Karoli Baba shared ten sayings about the importance of tireless work.**

#### **Health and Work**

“To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.”

#### **Guidance and Service**

“Let no man in the world live in delusion. Without a Guru, none can cross over to the other shore.”

#### **Love in Action**

“Work is love made visible.”

#### **Work as Worship**

“The world is your home, and your work is your religion.”

#### **Active Devotion**

“True service of God is making the body work, not idle.”

#### **Working with Love**

“When you work for God, you don't do it for praise. You do it with love.”

#### **Excellence in Work**

“When you work, you should work in such a way that no one can find fault with it.”

#### **Overcoming Attachments**

“Attachment is the strongest block to realization. If you truly love God, you will overcome all attachments.”

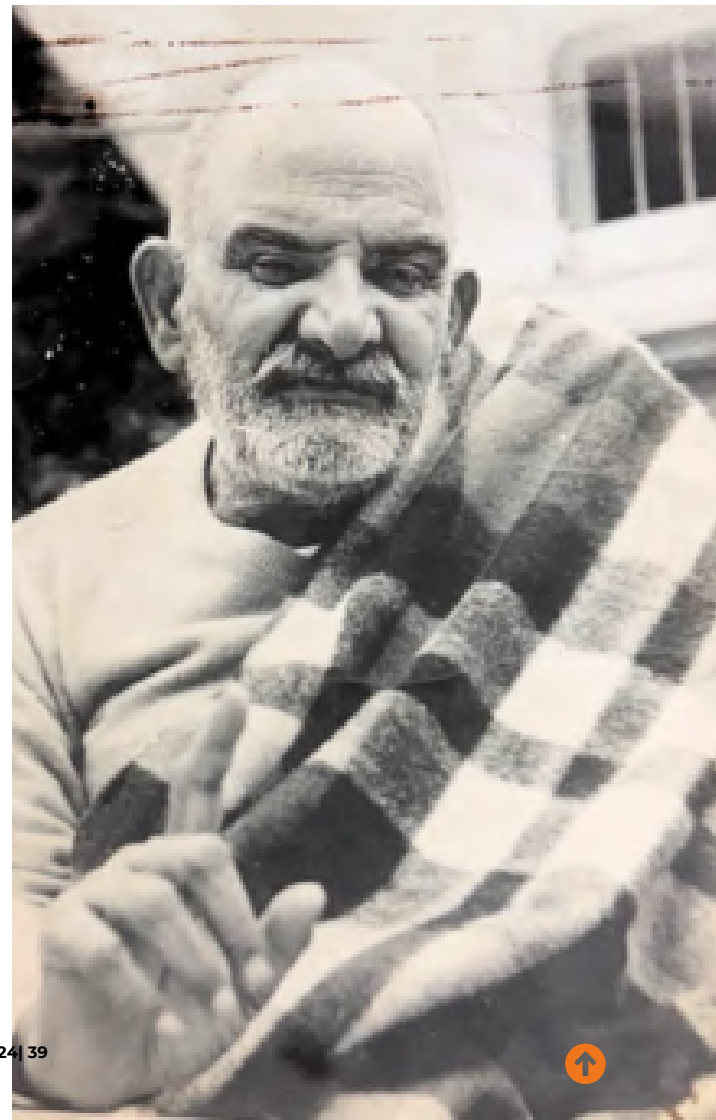
#### **Compassionate Service**

“Serve the poor and unfortunate; serve humanity.”

#### **Love and Service**

“Love all, serve all, feed all.”

**-JAIPRAKASH BHANDE**





# The Great Indian Maharaj Of The SA Cricket World



By Saji Chacko



**K**eshav Atmanand Maharaj is one of the leading slow bowlers in international cricket. The 34-year-old handsome player of Indian origin has been a permanent fixture of the South African team across the three formats. That itself says a big statement, especially in light of the fact that international cricket is so punishing and demanding.



Maharaj, as he is known in the cricketing circles, is also a big-time fan of Indian players, Virat Kohli, and likes Indian cuisine.



His favourite dish is butter chicken, and no matter which part of the world he is in, he makes it a point to savour it. "My affinity towards butter chicken is akin to that of a fish to water. I just cannot seem to have enough of that dish. So immaterial of where I am—in the Caribbean or in Australia... It's something that I clamour of," Maharaj says.

Maharaj is not just particular about his culinary tastes. He is much more bothered about his performances in the field against the rival teams. He feels that playing for South Africa is a big responsibility. "Of course, one enjoys representing one's country. But for me there is a bigger aspect to this. It's a responsibility, and one has to be more than a hundred percent committed. There is no scope to even lower one's guard a little bit. For me, every time I step out in SA colours, I have to ensure that there is no letup or lowering of my guard. It's something that I bear in my mind all the time," he said.

Maharaj's tryst with cricket began early. At the age of 8, he was inducted into the game. His initial schooling was at the Fosters School in Durban. He resorted to playing tennis and cricket and was a reasonably good player at both these games.



Thereafter, his father, Athmanand Maharaj, who himself aspired to be a cricket player for SA but could not realise his dreams, wanted his son to fulfil his burning desire. He motivated Keshav to toil harder and harder. "My father could be very pushy. He was consumed by a missionary zeal to turn me to play for South Africa. I think it was his fierce commitment that proved to be a catalyst for me to become a cricketer. There is no doubt about that," he said.



Slowly but surely, Maharaj began to showcase his talent and proved his mettle. He earned a place in the SA under 18 for Natal province, and thereafter his performances were on the upswing. When did he become convinced that he could play for SA at the Test level? "To be fair, I was not hundred percent sure, but when I took eight wickets in a domestic match against Orange Free State—which had some very good batsmen. It was at that juncture I felt like I had it in me to play for South Africa, he added,

Maharaj finally got the coveted moment he was waiting for when he was named in the South Africa squad to play against Australia in the first Test match in Perth in 2016. In fact, he became South Africa's first specialised spinner to play in a Test. He gave a very good account of himself by claiming three wickets in his debut match. That performance was to give him a world of confidence.

"I knew from then on that I could perform well against all the top teams in the world. It was important for me to keep my focus and work hard in order to improve. International cricket is quite demanding, and as a player, one has to keep on raising the bar. It's only then one can hope to play for one's country for a considerable time frame," said Maharaj.

His best bowling figures in a Test innings were 9 for 129 against Sri Lanka in 2018. These figures remain to date as the best for a South African bowler against Sri Lanka. Slowly and surely, Maharaj, with his good batting and fielding skills, made it to the South African 50-over and T20 squads.



His zenith moment came in the 2024 T20 World Cup held in the US and the West Indies, where South Africa made it all the way to the final. In the summit clash they narrowly lost to Rohit Sharma-led India team. But that experience was one of his most cherished moments of his life. "Playing the final match against India was a dream come true for me. I could not have asked for a better setup. It's unfortunate that we lost quite narrowly to India—by seven runs. Full marks to them for playing so well, but we were nearly there. It was a touch-and-go affair. I will soak up that experience for the rest of my life," he signed off.



- SAJI CHACKO









Connecting Dots

Connecting Roots



www.indiandiaspora.world



Facebook: @globalindiandiaspora  
Instagram: @IndianDiasporaG  
Twitter: @IndianDiasporaG



#### Our Mission

To empower the diaspora to be a force for good through a global platform to collaborate, build community engagement and catalyse social change.

#### Our Vision

Make this world a better place by spreading the spirit of Indianism.

#### Our Focus

Let's celebrate the spirit of Indianism and rediscover our roots by rekindling the relationships.

**To empower the diaspora to be a force for good through a global platform to collaborate, build community engagement and catalyse social change.**

**We are a group of Indian origin individuals from diverse backgrounds and professions who are committed to inspiring the diaspora to be a force for good by providing a platform to collaborate, build community engagement, and catalyse social change.**

#### Connecting Dots..... Connecting Roots

Let's make this World a better place by spreading the spirit of Indianism. Let the World take note of us as the true Human and lead by our example.

Our Team, our members shall be committed to building stronger communities with a culture of giving and inspiring social change. We endeavor to engage culturally with the help of Indian wisdom passed on to us by our ancestors.

By sharing insight, hosting events and connecting people, Indian Diaspora aims to bring together the professionally, geographically and religiously diverse people of Indian origin toward collective action worldwide.

## INDIAN DIASPORA GLOBAL MOVEMENT

### OUR PRESENCE



**Africa Bahrain Canada Georgia Germany**  
**India Ireland Malaysia Oman Qatar**  
**Singapore Thailand**  
**United Kingdom United States Of America**

www.indiandiaspora.world



It's Time To Relax,  
when you

**ADVERTISE**

with us

**WFY Magazine, your gateway  
to the Indian Diaspora!**

Reach out to  
**18+**  
COUNTRIES



**Advertise with WFY Magazine:  
Unlock a World of Opportunities!**

WFY (World For You) is the ultimate online digital magazine and portal in English that brings the world of the Indian Diaspora right to your fingertips. Reach out to us on [wfy@gamil.com](mailto:wfy@gamil.com)



**WFY**  
WORLD FOR YOU  
@wfy@gamil.com  
[www.thewfy.com](http://www.thewfy.com)



# BE AWE SOME *and more!*



**BAHUMUKHI KALAKAAR SANGAM**  
**WORK TOGETHER WORK ANYWHERE**

BKS is an association of artists and technicians working in the cine, TV, web/digital, theatre, fashion, fine arts, classical, and folk industries. The aim is to safeguard the interests of the artists and technicians and work towards their welfare.

[www.bhartiyakalakaar.com](http://www.bhartiyakalakaar.com)



There is **POWER** in **UNITY!**  
We are more than capable, never forget that!

