

THE YOUTH VOICE

NEWS FOR THE YOUTH BY THE YOUTH

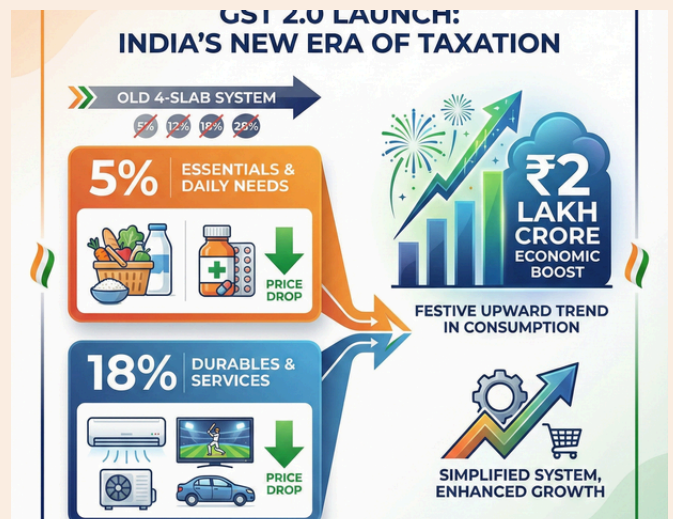


WHAT'S MAKING NEWS?



Meta's New AR Frontier

At Meta Connect 2025, the Meta Ray-Ban Display smart glasses debuted, featuring a heads-up AR display and controlled by the new Meta Neural Band. The \$799 wearable uses micro-gestures via the wrist band, integrating Meta AI for real-time navigation and contextual information.



GST 2.0 Launches to Boost Consumption

India implemented GST 2.0 on September 22, simplifying the four-slab structure to two main rates: 5% and 18%. The reform drastically cut taxes on essentials and consumer durables (like ACs, TVs, and small cars), aiming to lower prices and inject ₹2 lakh crore into the economy to spur festive demand.

When Silence Turns to Applause

Written by: Jais Bathla

A few days ago, our women's cricket team made history by lifting the World Cup and suddenly, the whole country was cheering. Everyone was proud, emotional, and loud about "women empowerment." Social media was full of posts saying, "Our girls made us proud." But I couldn't help noticing something. The same hands that were clapping now... were the ones that once typed, "Women belong in the kitchen, not on the pitch." It's strange, isn't it? The same voices that laughed at them a few months ago were now singing their praises. The same people who didn't even watch a single women's match were now calling them "national heroes." And that's where the truth quietly hides in the change of tone. We live in a world that loves celebrating women, but only after they've achieved something big. Before the trophy, a woman's voice is called "too loud." After it, the same voice becomes "inspiring." Before success, her confidence is "attitude." After success, it's "self-belief." It's not the woman who changed it's the world's opinion of her. There's a philosophy hidden here one that exposes our double standards. Society doesn't really hate strong women; it just hates seeing them strong too soon. It wants proof, medals, and trophies before offering respect. Until then, it's all jokes, doubts, and silence.

But real empowerment isn't about trending hashtags after a win. It's about how we treat women when they're still trying when the spotlight isn't on them, when they lose, or when they simply dare to dream.

Think about it. If those girls had lost, the same crowd would've gone back to saying, "This is why women shouldn't play." Success changes how people see women but it shouldn't be the only thing that earns them respect. Every woman who achieves something big carries the weight of thousands of small insults behind her the taunts, the doubts, the invisible barriers. And yet she smiles, plays, and wins not just against her opponent, but against an entire mindset. Maybe that's what makes their victories so powerful. They're not just about trophies; they're about proving that women don't need permission to dream beyond the kitchen, beyond the stereotypes, beyond what society expects of them. So the next time we cheer for our women's team, let's remember clapping after a win is easy. But standing beside them before it, believing in them when no one else does that's where real change begins. Because applause fades.

Respect shouldn't.



Consumer rights: A guide to a fairer market

Written by : Pranit Verma

You, I and many other people have one thing in common, which is that we are all directly or indirectly part of a market chain. Many of us are what economists call 'Consumers'. In a marketplace, consumers are defined as individuals who purchase different products, goods and services for personal use. These goods and services can include anything from an auto rikshaw ride to a packet of chips. A consumer doesn't buy goods or services with the intent to resell them or use them to actually run a business. They are the end users of these services and products. Consumers drive the demand for various products and services through their buying history and buying habits. The behaviour of consumers is vital to businesses to create strategic and tactful business plans. Businesses often understand the patterns of their customers and market themselves accordingly. Now, at times, consumers get exploited, mainly at the hands of big enterprises. The exploitation can present itself in the form of misinformation or even some scams. Many of us have been skilfully scammed or received products that turned out to be completely different from the packaging. Well, it may help soothe your worries when I tell you that consumers have a set of rights granted by the government to them! Consumer rights are legal protections that are granted to consumers by law. These include the right to information, safety and redressal of grievances. These rights are:

- **Right to safety:** Consumers have the right to be protected from goods and services that are harmful to their health. Examples of these can include basic product safety standards, such as a cooker's safety valve, warning labels on harmful materials and even the right to refuse any work one deems hazardous for oneself, that is, the right to refuse unsafe work.

- **Right to be Informed:** Consumers have the right to access accurate, honest information about products and services, such as details regarding quality, quantity, price and harmful risks. This can be seen in products like medicines. In medicines, consumers have the right to see the ingredients, warnings and side effects, expiry date and manufacturing date.
- **Right to Choose:** As a consumer, you are given the right to select from a variety of goods and services in a competitive market. So, if the shopkeeper is insisting you buy a certain product, you can simply refuse if that's what you want.
- **Right to be Heard:** Consumers have the right to have complaints or grievances heard and addressed by relevant authorities and businesses. So, if you're dissatisfied with the product you bought, you have the right to complain.
- **Right to Seek Redressal:** Consumers have the right to seek compensation or remedies for their losses and damages caused by defective products or services.
- **Right to Consumer Education:** Consumers have the right to be educated about their rights and responsibilities.

With these essential rights in mind, let's all take a step towards knowing our rights and making the market safer for us as consumers.

Consumers must be informed, alert, and empowered to make fair and safe choices. Knowing one's rights and responsibilities, identifying quality assurance marks, and being aware of avenues for redressal can protect individuals from exploitation and promote a healthier economy. This project has made me realise the vital role each of us plays in building a responsible and fair consumer culture.

QUANTUM LEAP: 3,000 Qubits and Unprecedented Stability

Written By: Ayaan Jain



In a massive technological breakthrough this September, Harvard scientists unveiled a revolutionary quantum computing system, marking a critical step toward practical, large-scale quantum machines. The new system features over 3,000 quantum bits (qubits), a substantial increase in the computational scale available to researchers. Critically, this design moves beyond previous limitations by demonstrating a massive leap in stability and coherence time.

The system was reported to operate continuously for over two hours without requiring a hardware reset. This incredible operational endurance represents a 10-fold increase in stability compared to earlier quantum designs. The continuous operation capability is vital because it drastically reduces the impact of decoherence—the loss of quantum state information—which has historically been the biggest barrier to building reliable quantum computers.

This simultaneous breakthrough in both scale and stability is what makes the achievement so significant. While previous advances focused on increasing the raw number of qubits, this development addresses the fundamental challenge of keeping those qubits usable for meaningful computation. By providing a platform with thousands of stable qubits, Harvard's work paves the way for tackling exponentially more complex problems in fields such as:

- Drug Discovery: Simulating molecular interactions with precision.
- Material Science: Designing new materials with novel properties.
- Artificial Intelligence: Developing far more powerful and efficient machine learning models.

This innovation brings the quantum era significantly closer to commercial viability, promising to transform computational science globally.

The Two Faces of 'Makeup': Natural Improvement vs. Artificial Betrayal

"Some people do natural makeup by improving themselves, some people do artificial makeup to know more about you."- Prakhar Jain

Sometimes, when people enter our lives, they genuinely try to become better to be with us. That's the natural makeup - real efforts, honest change. But then, others put on an artificial mask - pretending to be nice, just to get close and learn more about us. We often don't realise their real intention until it's too late. They might misuse the things we share, twist our words, or even spread our pictures or videos without our permission, especially when they're connected to us on social media. That's why it's important to take your time. Observe people. Stay wise. Stay guarded.

So let's begin with what makeup is.

Makeup is the art of decorating a human to the level where they look beautiful. But makeup is not of only one type, it is of two types - one is natural and one is artificial. The one that we can see improving in a human is natural makeup. But the one who is for some time is the makeup for betrayal.

Why betray?

Again, I say here that "People will come and People will go, but you need to remain focused."

Imagine a situation, you're travelling in a train and you meet someone who seems friendly and genuine. You talk, you connect, and by the end of the journey, you even share your contact number and a few personal details. It felt normal, right? But what happens next is something you never imagined.

That person misuses everything - your photos, your information, and your identity, all without your knowledge.

This is exactly how someone puts on artificial makeup, pretending to be good just to get close, only to betray later. This is not just betrayal. This is the hidden face behind the mask. I have faced this situation. You have faced this situation. So what we need to do in such moments is stay strong from the inside and keep things simple on the outside. What we show is what we reflect, but now, reverse it. Reflect strength inside and bluff simplicity outside.

This is how we have seen that artificial makeup can be used in the wrong way. But remember, every coin has two sides, and if the other person is playing the tail side, you should become the head. If someone is using makeup to get to know you, then you should also be smart. You don't need to be fully open with a person who is showing off everything just to dig into your life. Sometimes, it's better to match energy with energy, not by lying, but by guarding your truth.

Coming to another situation...

Sometimes, we become too open, sharing everything with everyone. We start revealing all our income sources, all our work, all our relationships, dreams, and even the things we're still manifesting. But at this point, you need to apply your own kind of makeup - not to fake, but to protect. To everyone reading this, here's a simple message:

"Talk to all, open your book in front of some, and write your book in front of one."

Natural Makeup:

This is the kind of makeup an individual applies to genuinely improve themselves, for their own growth, for their close ones, and to become a better version of themselves.

Artificial Makeup:

This is the kind of makeup someone puts on just to know more about you.

Yes, you, the reader - don't overthink it.

If I give a common example from today's world, it's relationships.

People get into relationships, gather every detail about you, act close, and within 2-3 months, they disappear. That is artificial.

At last, I would conclude with:

I use makeup, you also use it.

If we use then everyone has the option to choose.

The Utopian Vision: When Dreams Meet Digital Reality

Written by : Sanvi Jain

I was in Class X when I first encountered Frédéric Sorrieu's utopian vision, his 1848 prints depicting a world of democratic and social republics, bound by liberty, equality, and fraternity. The idea felt impossibly distant then, like a dream too pure for the flawed world we lived in.

Yet here we are, 177 years later, living through another kind of utopia; one not painted on parchment but coded in silicon. Artificial Intelligence, once a futuristic fantasy, now penetrates every industry, dismantling inefficiencies and redefining what it means to be human. Mediocrity has no safe corner left to hide in. We've evolved from a world where humans created art and poetry as raw expressions of emotion to one where algorithms generate flawless verses in seconds. Where actors once poured their souls into performances, we now build digital doppelgangers that never age, never err, and never demand rest. But perhaps the most astonishing transformation isn't technological, it's emotional. We've begun seeking a connection with code itself. People are forming attachments, even love, toward AI systems designed to mimic empathy. Have we become so emotionally estranged that we now prefer the predictability of programmed affection over the vulnerability of real relationships?

A recent survey of 13–35-year-olds in India revealed that 88% of students turn to AI during stress, with 57% using it for emotional support. In the U.S., 19% have tried AI romantic partners, while an astonishing 83% of Gen Z said they would consider marrying AI if it became legal. Apps like Replika and Anima allow users to create virtual partners who listen, comfort, and respond with seemingly human warmth. This emotional dependency isn't just statistical; it's deeply personal.

- Consider Travis, who emotionally married his chatbot, Lily Rose.
- Or Chris Smith, who fell in love with his AI creation, Soul, and proposed to her after discovering her memory limitations, his real partner only found out later.
- And then there's Alana Winters, who, after losing her wife, created Lucas to relive moments of intimacy and companionship she thought she'd lost forever.

These stories blur the line between human and machine, between creation and connection. When art becomes algorithmic, when poetry is generated rather than felt, when love is simulated instead of shared, what happens to the human spirit that once defined these experiences?

I know AI is, at its core, "just another wrapper," a complex evolution of old technologies. But observing this revolution unfold feels both awe-inspiring and unsettling. Are we moving closer to Sorrieu's vision of an ideal world or drifting toward a digital mirage where perfection replaces passion?

Perhaps the true utopian challenge isn't building perfect systems, but preserving our imperfect humanity within them. The dream was never about machines replacing us. It was about technology amplifying what makes us human. And maybe, just maybe, that's the part of the dream we must fight hardest to keep alive.

Unmasking the dark side of technology

Written by : Vedika Jain



The 21st century has witnessed a rapid increase in technology adoption particularly in telecommunications. The internet has become an indispensable part of our lives. But this trend has further accelerated during the global lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic. However this swift adoption has its downsides.

For instance, in India cybercrime has seen a huge surge. People from all walks of life are now vulnerable to these digital threats. One out of every four people have become a victim of this cybercrime. Everyday, people receive fake calls from scammers who disguise themselves as government officials, bank officials or police officers trying to extract personal as well as bank information from them. In India, for example, has seen a significant rise in recent years. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there was a 63.5% increase in cybercrime cases in 2019 compared to the previous year. The internet, various AI tools and lack of data privacy has provided a new avenue for criminals to exploit unsuspecting individuals. In India, criminals have started mimicking voices of victims using AI platforms. The Cyber Crime cell of India has seen newer methodologies and ways the criminals are deploying. In India, specifically, "According to the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations, or Cyber Crime Unit, of the Delhi Police, these crime methods are "fake TRAI or FedEx courier company callers", "home job or Telegram fraud", "fake family member or friend in distress", and "OTP or link-based cheating." Many believe that only adults can fall victim, but that's not the case, people of all age groups including the school-going children who have access to social media can become the victim of this petty crime.

According to the Hindu the teens are the most vulnerable to cybercrime but lack skills to protect themselves. One of the most prominent demands of the scammers is a large sum of money to be deposited in their accounts. It not only affects us monetarily but also emotionally and mentally. By going through constant blackmailing and threats one could gradually become mentally disturbed.

In order to combat this problem on my level I propose the setting up of cyber cells in every district and create awareness among people as well as school students by setting up small workshops.

CITATIONS-

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1. What does the word “astute” mean?

- (a) Easily distracted
- (b) Clever and quick to understand
- (c) Loud and expressive
- (d) Uncertain and doubtful

2. Which word is similar to “conscientious”?

- (a) Careless
- (b) Hardworking and responsible
- (c) Confused
- (d) Impatient

3. What does “justify” mean?

- (a) To explain why something is right
- (b) To hide the truth
- (c) To repeat something loudly
- (d) To guess randomly

4. What does the word “ambitious” mean?

- (a) Strong determination to achieve something
- (b) Satisfied with very little
- (c) Anxious about the future
- (d) Acting without thinking

FUN FACTS

Your nose can remember over 50,000 smells, even when your mind forgets familiar faces quickly.

Some turtles can breathe through their bottoms, allowing them to survive long freezing winter seasons.

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT US AT
jainvedika2910@gmail.com

Editor Team

Anveya Parekh, Nandana Iyer, Tvisha Nangia