

## India 'checkmates' the world: The new king of chess has arrived

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**"Jung ka maidan ho ya shatranj ki chaal, jeet usi ki hoti hai jo soch samajh kar chalta hai."**

**- Shatranj Ke Khiladi**

India, the birthplace of Chaturanga- the ancient precursor to modern chess has witnessed a remarkable transformation in recent years, emerging as one of the world's foremost chess powerhouses. Once considered a niche pursuit, chess in India is now a symbol of intellectual excellence, discipline, and strategic brilliance, led by a dynamic generation of young prodigies who are redefining the sport on the global stage.

In 2024, Dommaraju Gukesh captured international attention by defeating five-time World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the Candidates Tournament, making him the youngest player in history to win the event. This extraordinary achievement marked a turning point

for Indian chess and positioned Gukesh as a legitimate contender for the World Chess Championship title. His victory was not just a personal milestone but a representation of India's rising influence in the global chess landscape.

Gukesh is part of a larger wave of talented young Indian players who have emerged over the past decade. R. Praggnanandhaa, who famously defeated Carlsen at the age of 16, along with Nihal Sarin, Vaishali Rameshbabu, and Leon Luke Mendonca, exemplify a generation of players whose skill, maturity, and tactical depth have impressed chess enthusiasts and experts worldwide. These players have benefitted from enhanced access to digital platforms, professional coaching, and the support of organisations such as the All-India Chess Federation, which has played a critical role in nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

What distinguishes India's chess movement is not only the abundance of talent but also the cultural affinity for the game. Chess

embodies qualities highly valued in Indian society- concentration, patience, and strategic foresight. Its increasing popularity among students and youth reflects a broader shift in how intellectual sports are perceived. No longer confined to a niche community, chess has become a mainstream pursuit that receives national attention and parental encouragement.

The digital era has played a significant role in democratizing the game. Online platforms such as Chess.com and Lichess, alongside YouTube content, have made chess accessible to individuals across all socioeconomic backgrounds. Players from small towns now regularly compete in global tournaments, breaking barriers that once limited opportunities to urban centers.

The relevance of chess in Indian culture is also reflected in its artistic expressions. In Satyajit Ray's classic film *Shatranj Ke Khiladi*, a poignant line encapsulates the philosophical depth of the game: "Shatranj ki bisi

hui chaalein kabhi kabhi zindagi ke faisla tay karti hain". This sentiment resonates deeply today, as young Indian players utilize their skills and strategies not only to win games but also to shape their futures. One can easily observe a set of players from all age groups sitting huddled up playing chess below any bridge, or in different pockets of the city of different classes, creeds, and genders, just enjoying the beautiful game.

India's rapid ascent in the world of chess is both inspiring and significant. It is a testament to the country's intellectual potential and the changing dynamics of sports in the digital age. As Gukesh and his peers continue to compete at the highest levels, India is no longer seen as the birthplace of chess alone; it is now recognized as its future.

And as the global chess community watches closely, one thing is certain: India is not merely making moves. India is setting the pace, and it's only the beginning of the game.

## Bright future: India crosses 50% renewable mark ahead of schedule

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Source: JMK Research

In a remarkable milestone that underscores the country's growing commitment to sustainability, India has officially surpassed the 50% mark in total installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its 2030 deadline. This achievement isn't just a victory in megawatts and percentages; it's a story of innovation, grassroots change, and the tireless work of millions across the nation. Just over a decade ago, India's energy story was largely dominated by coal-fired power plants. Today, solar panels gleam across village rooftops, wind turbines spin in the coastal states, and hydropower projects hum along the Himalayan rivers. With over 250 gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity now coming from non fossil fuel sources- solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, and biomass- the country has made one of the most significant transitions in the global

energy landscape. This shift didn't happen overnight. It was fueled by a series of determined policy pushes, international commitments, and an unmistakable urgency to combat climate change while ensuring energy access for all. The National Solar Mission, launched in 2010, laid the foundation of the dynamic vision. The International Solar Alliance, co-founded by India, expanded that vision globally. With the 2021 update of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India pledged to reach 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. That goal has now been realized years in advance. But behind the statistics are human faces that make this achievement come alive. A quiet revolution is unfolding in rural India as decentralized renewable energy transforms lives. In off-grid villages, homes once lit by smoky kerosene lamps now glow with clean, reliable solar power. With access to electricity, families can use fans, charge mobile phones, and extend productive hours after sunset. Children study in well lit rooms, and households enjoy improved air quality and safety.

In several communities, local groups- especially women are taking

charge of small scale wind and solar projects. These initiatives not only supply power but also offer new livelihoods and leadership roles. Residents are no longer passive consumers; they're becoming active participants in the energy transition. This shift is creating a ripple effect- boosting local economies, strengthening social equity, and driving sustainable development from the ground up. Decentralized renewable energy isn't just providing light- it's illuminating new paths for empowerment, independence, and opportunity across India's most underserved regions. At a national scale, this transformation has meant economic growth alongside environmental responsibility. India's renewable energy sector has become a major employment generator, with over 100,000 new jobs created annually in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance. International investors have taken notice, too. India ranks among the top three destinations globally for renewable energy investment, with policies offering stability and incentives for long-term growth. Equally notable is the innovation from India's young technologists and entrepreneurs. Startups are designing solar-

powered cold storage systems for farmers, smart microgrids for remote villages, and AI systems that optimize wind power generation. Cities like Pune and Bengaluru are integrating electric buses into public transport, reducing air pollution while using power from clean grids. Challenges remain, of course. The transmission infrastructure needs to be upgraded to handle variable renewable energy. Storage technologies must become more affordable. And coal, which still constitutes a significant portion of actual electricity generation, must be phased down responsibly to ensure a just transition for workers and communities dependent on it. But for now, India's achievement sends a strong signal to the world that development and sustainability can go hand-in-hand, and that a developing nation can lead the way in climate action through conviction and collaboration. As the world prepares for the next United Nations climate summit, India will arrive not just as a negotiator but as a model of what's possible when policy vision meets grassroots participation. It's a reminder that the energy of a nation isn't just measured in watts it's measured in willpower. And India, at this moment, shines brightly.



## SXUK expands academic horizon with two new programmes

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St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) has recently announced the launch of two new academic programmes- Master of Laws (LL.M.) and B.Sc. (Hons) in Statistics and Data Science- further strengthening its commitment towards academic excellence and innovation.

The introduction of the two year LL.M. program marks a significant expansion of SXUK's law offerings. With B.A. LLB and B.Com LLB already witnessing immense success in terms of student performance and placements, the addition of LL.M. now brings the total number of law programs to three.

The introduction of a separate academic building dedicated to law

courses and facilities has supported this steady growth.

The second batch of law students has recently received their results, with many securing notable positions in reputed law firms and organisations, reflecting the programmes' rising prestige.

The newly launched four year B.Sc. (Hons) in Statistics and Data Science programme has also received a warm response from aspirants. Designed to meet the demands of a data-driven world, the programme offers hands-on practical labs, smart classrooms, and effective teaching methodologies, preparing students to excel in both academics and industry roles.

With enthusiastic applications pouring in and students showing keen interest, these new additions are set to take SXUK's academic reputation to new heights.

**St. Xavier's University, Kolkata**  
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Introduces  
**B.Sc. (Hons.) in Statistics and Data Science**

The four-year Honours programme equips graduates with the ability to acquire, manage, and interpret data, empowering them to drive meaningful change globally. St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) is committed to advancing knowledge dissemination through innovative teaching methods and fostering excellence in statistical research.

**Key Highlights:**

- The course integrates core statistics with modern data science applications.
- Programming languages like C++, Python, and R are included.
- Specialized modules cover areas like artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, large-scale inference and econometrics.
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**Source: Official website of SXUK**

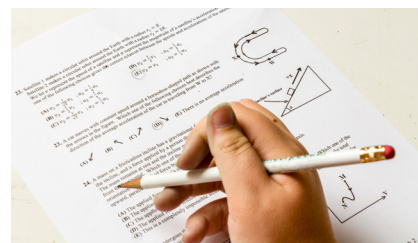
## St. Xavier's University concludes end semester examinations of 2025

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St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK), has successfully completed the end semester examinations for all intermediate batches, which commenced from the month of April and continued till the end of May 2025. The university campus buzzed with dedication and heightened tensions but the students carried it well. Despite a few isolated instances of malpractice, the examination process was largely smooth, well-coordinated, and conducted in a fair and disciplined environment. The efforts of the COE (Controller Of Examinations) cell, invigilators, faculty members and the non-teaching staff ensured that the integrity of the academic process remained untainted, scot-free and lucid.

This year, several departments also arranged practical examinations, where students demonstrated strong creative skills and hands-on insights in their respective fields such as in Mass Communication and Economics.

These practicals served as an essential component in evaluating real-world applications and industry-relevant knowledge by bridging the gap between theory and practical. Mass Communication practicals revolved around the demonstrations of half-yearly projects, ranging



**Source: Pixabay**

from designing newspapers, UI designing as well as graphic designing. The dynamism of the projects and the utility equipment provided in the Mac Labs made the process smoother and easier, as well challenged the expertise of the students.

Students dealt with the pressure in a robust manner which fulfilled the vision of the department. Students from B.A.

Semester 4 and M.A. Semester 2 are also involved in short-term internships after the completion of their examinations. Initial reviews from the faculty members suggest that students across most departments have delivered a reasonably decent performance. The official results of the end semester examinations have been published on the official website of the university on 14th June, 2025 (Saturday).

As SXUK maintains its commitment to preserving its streak of academic excellence and integrity, the successful conclusion to the semester marks yet another milestone in its journey of nurturing responsible and skilled individuals.

## Naive or subtle influence? The hidden psychology behind children's cartoons

Siddhita Ghosh  
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Cartoons are vibrant, whimsical, and endlessly imaginative. They have been a staple source of entertainment for all generations. From the mischievous antics of *Tom and Jerry* to the colourful worlds of *Doraemon* and *Chhota Bheem*, animated shows captivate young minds like few other forms of audio-visual media. But behind these bright colours and cheerful tunes lies a deeper question: What are these moving visuals truly doing to a child's mind? To decipher the aforementioned question, researchers have come forward with multifaceted opinions and theories which are stated below.

Dr Dimitri Christakis, a child development researcher, conducted an experiment in 2011, in which they evaluated 60 four-year-old children. They were shown

Sponge Bob Square Pants (a fast-paced cartoon), and just after nine minutes of watching, the children demonstrated symptoms of lower problem-solving ability, reduced attention control, and difficulty with working memory tasks. Christakis suggested that fast-paced cartoons filled with dynamic changes, bright colors, exaggerated movements and constant action can overstimulate a child's brain.

Joanne Cantor's theory of how

fear and anxiety can be triggered by cartoons or fantasy content showcases the recall stimulation. Through surveys, Cantor found that 90% of college students could recall childhood media experiences that frightened them. This might be because children don't need an attribute to look 'real' to be emotionally affected by it. This is why a scary cartoon villain or a supernatural storyline can frighten a child just as much (or more) than

realistic violence in live-action shows. Fear-inducing media can cause real physical reactions in children like increased heart rate, palpitations, shocks etc. As per the aforementioned speculations, *Courage the Cowardly Dog* was banned.

L Rowell Huesmann's theory of media violence and long-term aggression in children partook in a 15-year-old longitudinal study where Huesmann tracked designated children into adulthood. He found out that early exposure to violent cartoons was a predictor of adult aggression, criminal behaviour, and antisocial tendencies. It implies that children learn aggressive behaviors by observing violent actions in the media.

When children see characters using violence to solve problems or win over disputes, they are more likely to imitate that, especially if the character is rewarded or admired.

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**Source: Prime Video**



## Portugal defeats neighbour Spain in the UEFA Nations League final

Anweshan Ghosh  
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Portugal edged past Spain in an absolute thriller at the Allianz Arena, Munich in the UEFA Nations League finals on 9th of June. The highly anticipated clash ended with a scoreline of 2-2 including extra time, after a frantic head to head football game between the two Iberian nations.



Source: Shutterstock

Cristiano Ronaldo's 138th international goal rallied Spain until the penalty shootout where skipper Alvaro Morata's miss proved to be costly for the Spaniards.

Spain took an early lead in the game as Martin Zubimendi tapped home from close range in the 21st minute. However, the player of the match, Nuno Mendes scored a stellar goal to equalise for the Portuguese.

Pedri, who was one of the most energetic players on the pitch, set up Mikel Oyarzabal for a magical goal, as the Real Sociedad forward scored yet another goal for Spain in final; becoming the first player in history to score in three different finals. The excitement built up around this match was all about, a clash between the old guard and the new generation – Cristiano Ronaldo vs Lamine Yamal.

The 40-year-old netted the second equaliser for Portugal as the game headed to extra time. He becomes the first Portuguese captain to win three UEFA trophies for the nation. Roberto Martinez tactically introduced Ruben Neves and Nelson Semedo which changed the tone of the game and

pushed it towards their favour. Mendes proved his calibre as a European champion as he locked Lamine Yamal defensively and contributed to both the goals.

The 23-year-old also completed the most dribbled in the match, posing as the biggest threat to Spain. Goalkeeper Diogo Costa emerged as Portugal's hero once again in the penalty shootout as he saved Morata's elusive penalty as Spain crashed out 5-4. Portugal, with this massive victory, become the first nation to win two UEFA Nations League titles– first in 2019 and now in 2025. Spain fell short in the end but can reflect on yet another stellar performance in an international tournament as they brace themselves to face Argentina in the Finalissima.

Portugal who had been criticised quite often have gained a major boost in momentum as they prepare themselves for the 2026 World Cup set to be held in the United States of America.

Roberto Martinez has acquired a team with a blend of talent, youth and experience which should be key in the biggest stage of international football next year.

## Healthy summer, one fruit at a time

Sneha Ghosh  
BA Sem 5

As the Calcuttan summer forays into the laid-back yet cacophonous city, bringing with it the familiar sultriness, humidity, and soaring temperatures, there's one delightful way to stay cool, hydrated, and energised: indulge in the season's bountiful harvest of fresh fruits! The relentless summer often presents challenges like dehydration, fatigue, and a dip in energy levels. Thankfully, nature has provided us with a delicious solution! For instance, the quintessential summer hero, the **watermelon**. Comprising a remarkable 92% water content, it's a hydration powerhouse, replenishing lost fluids and essential electrolytes. Watermelon is also rich in vitamins A, B6, and C, and powerful antioxidants like lycopene, which helps to alleviate inflammation. Then there's the "King of Fruits", the beloved **mango**. Bursting with sweetness and a distinctive aroma, mangoes are a fantastic source of Vitamin C, a renowned immune booster that helps fend off seasonal sniffles, even in summer. Other summer superstars to embrace

include:

**Muskmelon:** Widely available in local markets, this refreshing fruit is rich in Vitamins A and C, and potassium, helping manage blood sugar levels and supporting optical health.

**Papaya:** Known for its enzyme papain, papaya aids digestion and is a strong source of vitamins and minerals. It's a fantastic everyday fruit for good gut health.

**Pineapple:** This tropical delight contains bromelain, a natural anti-inflammatory enzyme, and helps replenish lost minerals, making it great for post-activity recovery.

**Guava:** Though often associated with cooler months, some varieties thrive in summer. Guavas are packed with Vitamin C and dietary fibre, excellent for digestive health.

So, this summer, make a conscious effort to embrace nature's sweet bounty. Whether enjoyed fresh on their own, blended into cooling smoothies, or tossed into a vibrant fruit salad, incorporating these delicious and nutritious summer fruits into your daily diet is a simple yet powerful way to stay hydrated, healthy, and happy, even when the heat is on!

## India on the F1 fast track

Deepakshee Ghosh  
MA Sem 3

Once a niche fascination limited to speed enthusiasts, Formula 1 has shifted gears in India, gaining mainstream traction and a steadily growing fanbase. A country that once hosted its own Grand Prix only to lose it due to bureaucratic hurdles and the categorisation of motorsport as mere "entertainment," is now witnessing a revival of interest- this time, from the ground up.

Much of this resurgence can be credited to the Netflix phenomenon *Drive to Survive*, which turned high-speed races into human dramas, offering Indian audiences an intimate look behind the helmets. What was once dismissed as a sport for the elite now feels accessible, emotional, and aspirational. The upcoming F1 movie starring Brad Pitt, produced by Lewis Hamilton, 7× F1 World Champion promises to build on this cultural momentum, widening the sport's appeal even further. Formula 1 is no longer just about machines on tracks- it's about personalities, rivalries, grit, and glory. At the heart of this growing passion are new Indian faces on

the global motorsport stage. Kush Maini, currently racing in Formula 2, recently made headlines with a win at Monaco and continues to carry the hopes of Indian motorsport fans, much like Jehan Daruvala before him. Their international presence adds a sense of national pride and possibility that had long been absent. Their stories also reflect the slow but steady rise in grassroots support for racing academies across India, especially in cities like Coimbatore and Chennai, where local circuits and training schools are thriving.

What's changed is not just the viewership, but the mindset. Indian audiences now see motorsport as a test of skill, endurance, and strategy- qualities that define any true sport. With influencers, brands, and broadcasters leaning in, the cultural momentum is undeniable. As stadiums fill and streaming numbers soar, it might be time for Indian policymakers to reconsider their stance. Motorsports deserves recognition- not as mere entertainment, but also as a legitimate sport. A return of the Grand Prix may still be a few laps away, but the engines are certainly revving. India, it seems, is finally ready to race.

## More than entertainment leading to lesser cognition

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Cartoons significantly influence children's psychology, shaping behaviors, emotions and expectations.

Repeated exposure can affect attention and aggression, highlighting the need for mindful, age-appropriate media

consumption. Inferences drawn from the theories depict that pessimistic and violent cartoons can evoke cognitive disequilibrium and desensitize children to take up violence.

Unrealistic expectations and negative stereotypes creep in, reinforcing harmful biases and

prejudices among children leading to social anxiety and lack of emotional quotient.

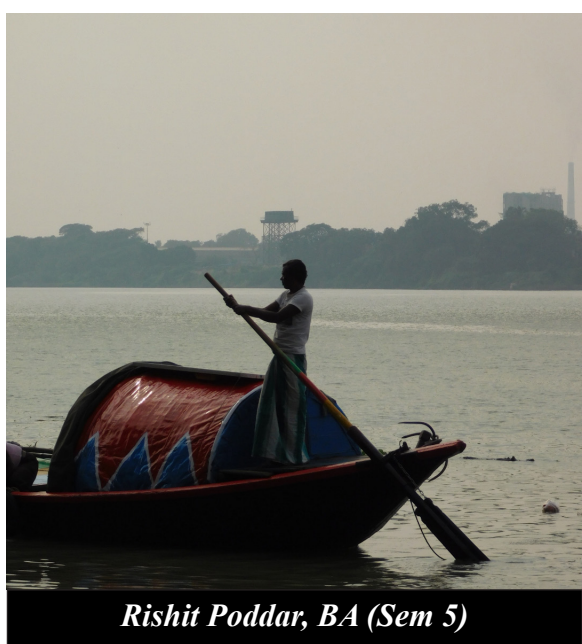
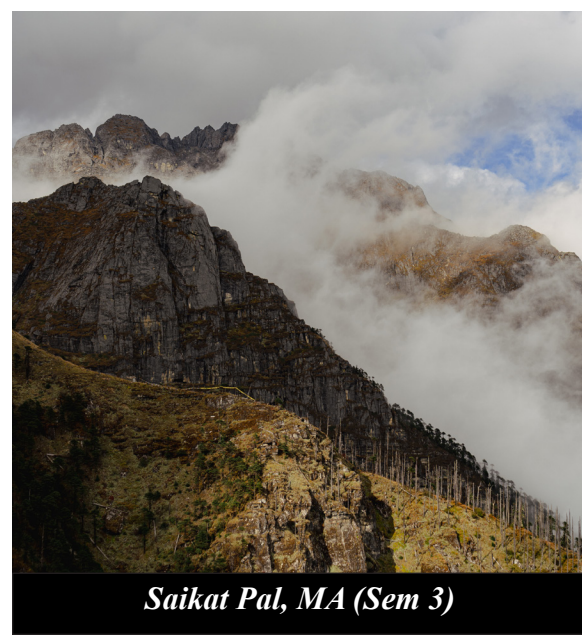
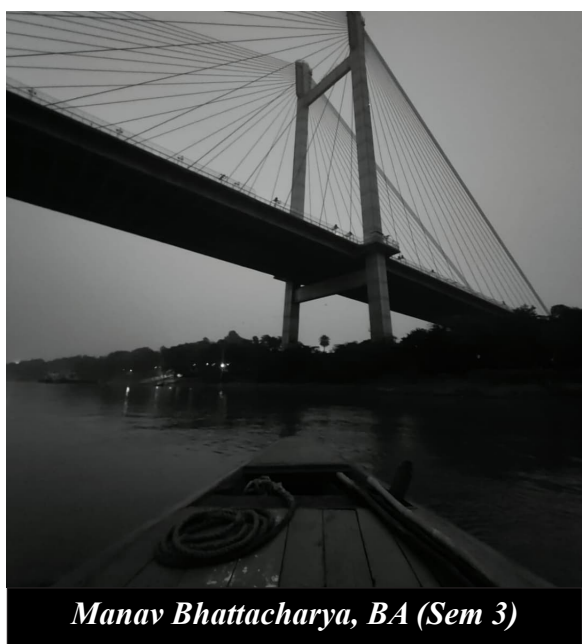
Parents and caregivers should be aware of the content and ensure that children are exposed to positive and educational programmes which might later induce optimism among their children.



Source: Reddit



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