

# CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

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## Visakhapatnam: Engage with Nature through Summer Camps



Visakhapatnam beckons nature lovers with exciting summer camps! Escape the classroom and explore the Eastern Ghats, becoming an animal friend, a budding zookeeper, or a protector of the wild. Indira Gandhi Zoological Park offers a magical kingdom teeming with animal encounters. Learn fascinating facts about playful dolphins and curious frogs through interactive workshops and competitions. Even future zookeepers can get their hands dirty with bird walks, butterfly rearing, and caring for animals in the zoo hospital.

Trade your classroom for the rustling leaves of Eco Hikes! Explore hidden caves near Borra, where waterfalls cascade and ancient rivers whisper secrets. Trek to the Jindhagada Summit, meeting the Kondh tribes who live in harmony with nature. Join their joyous Bricks Festival, a celebration of community and the changing seasons. Unleash your inner explorer with Wilded! Hike with a geologist and become a Rock Whisperer, unraveling the mysteries of Borra Caves. The Summer Explorer's Camp transforms you into a young naturalist, documenting marine life, creating nature journals, planting trees, and embarking on starlit walks.

Step into the Eastern Ghats Biodiversity Centre, where the dappled sunlight filtering through the leaves creates a living classroom. Every rustle of leaves, every chirp of a bird, and every gurgle of a stream holds a lesson waiting to be learned. Here, you can transform into a Young Eco-Warrior! Embark on epic field trips that unveil the secrets of the shoreline during inter-tidal walks. Discover the fascinating creatures that thrive between the tides, from delicate sea stars to elusive crabs. Dive deep into the world of the ocean's hidden creatures and understand the delicate balance of life within the Eastern Ghats. Through interactive activities and workshops, you'll not only gain knowledge about this incredible world, but also discover the power you hold to protect it. Become a champion for the environment,.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Dubai Floods: A Look at What Happened and Why



Discover The Healing Power of Hugs



The Moon Flip: A Cosmic Mystery Unravels



The Fragrance of Memories: Live Painters at an Indian Wedding



Echoes of Tibet: A Journey to Tawang



**& much more..**

DO NOT MISS THE AMAZING STORIES, VIDEOS AND ART FROM BUDDING WRITERS, SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS ON MY EXPRESSIONS, JOKESPOKE, WORD OF THE DAY, TONGUE TWISTER, QUOTES AND FUN FACTS. CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS

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## AVID NEWS READERS

### Dubai Floods: A Look at What Happened and Why



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Dubai's recent flooding was no ordinary downpour. It was a record-breaking deluge, the kind you'd never expect in the middle of the desert. Cars floated, homes were swamped... it was chaos! So, the question everyone's asking is: why did this happen?

This area is all about sunshine, not rain. When that much water falls in a single day, you know something unusual is going on. It turns out, a storm on steroids is to blame – and experts say climate change likely played a role in making it so intense. Some wondered if cloud seeding – a way to squeeze more rain out of clouds – caused this mess. Turns out, it wasn't the culprit this time.

The real story is how a normal weather system got supercharged. Warmer temperatures made for a thirstier atmosphere, ready to unleash a torrent. This isn't just a Dubai problem. Scientists warn extreme downpours like this are becoming the new normal as the planet heats up. The takeaway? Buckle up, because even the driest places might see some seriously soggy days ahead. And the rising temperatures bring a whole host of other problems, from droughts to wildfires.

### Discover The Healing Power of Hugs



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Sarah felt overwhelmed. Work pressure, old aches, and a nagging sense of worry piled up until even music couldn't chase the blues away. But then, she found an unexpected prescription: "Hugs Can Ease Pain, Anxiety, and Depression". Could something so simple really work? Apparently, science says yes!

Researchers found that hugs actually ease physical aches. Like soothing balm, touch signals safety, helping tension melt away. Sarah's knee throbbed a little less already. Even more amazing, hugs chase away worries, offering a haven of kindness in a stressful world. Sarah imagined it like sunshine breaking through clouds. That warmth, the feeling of being held, it builds strength over time, like a protective cloak. It gave her the courage to face her day.

Of course, hugs aren't magic, they can't fix everything. But they remind us of the power of human connection. Thinking of her loved ones, ready with those "band-aids for the soul", Sarah felt warmth in her chest – a little stronger, a little more hopeful. Sometimes, that's the best medicine in a complicated world.

### Hakki Pikkis: Birds to Medicine Magic!



Image Credit : Canva

The Hakki Pikki, once known as bird catchers, now make healing medicines. Their journey wasn't easy, but it led to success! For generations, they traveled India, selling remedies made from plants and herbs. Now, some even sell their products online. Prerana and Moksha, a mother-daughter team, use social media to find customers for their magical hair growth oil.

This business is important to the community. Instead of government jobs, many young people choose the path of traditional medicine. It's risky, though – sometimes loans are needed to get started. Sadly, some Hakki Pikki recently got stuck in a war-torn country while trying to sell their medicine. They were scared and worried about repaying their loans.

Luckily, the Indian government brought them back home. Despite hardships, the Hakki Pikki are resilient. Their ancient knowledge, turned into modern business, brought them better lives. They are a proud example of how tradition and change can work together, creating success and a brighter future for their community.

### Feeling Alone: India's Shadow of One



Image Credit : Canva

India, a nation of vibrant life, hides a silent epidemic: loneliness. It gnaws at Meera on the crowded Delhi metro, and echoes in Anupam's empty Kolkata apartment, where he clutches a faded photograph. A young tech worker craves connection in Bangalore, while a housewife's immaculate home feels hollow without family.

Nights bring uneasy dreams – Meera's metro fades into darkness, Anupam's classroom melts away, the tech worker's algorithms offer no solace. They wake, bound by the same loneliness, despite their bustling surroundings. Yet, an unexpected downpour forces Meera, Anupam, and the tech worker together.

A community potluck offers hesitant connection. The housewife finds purpose volunteering with children, Anupam offers language classes, fueling a spark. Meera's café dream whispers over shared samosas. India's epidemic won't vanish overnight. But in fleeting smiles and shared moments, a change flickers. Loneliness remains, but a new rhythm of hope emerges – proof that even amidst the crowd, simple connections break the silence.

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## SCIENCE & SPACE ENTHUSIASTS

### The Symphony of Snoring



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Imagine the perfect dream – you're winning at life, the food is amazing... then BOOM! Your partner's snoring transforms your paradise into a nightmare. You're the unwilling audience, they're the oblivious star of the show.

Ever wonder if snorers hear themselves? Some actually wake themselves up! Others could sleep through an earthquake. It's all about their "arousal threshold" – how easily noise bugs them. But here's the kicker: snoring gets worse during REM sleep. That's dreamland, when your brain gets creative. Suddenly, those snores turn into a full-blown concert!

If your partner denies ever hearing their own performance, they might be right. You're more likely to wake up during your own REM symphony. Of course, snoring's no joke if it's super loud or constant. That could be sleep apnea, which is serious stuff. So, while a little teasing is fine, a doctor's visit might be the answer for sleep sanity.

### Cybersecurity: The Dance of Privacy and Peril

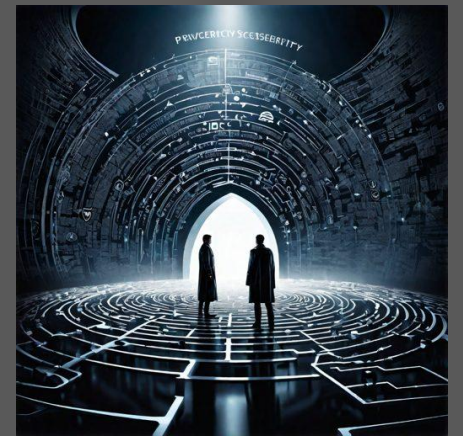


Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

In the digital world, privacy hangs by a thread. Doxxing is the weapon that cuts it – a cruel twist of modern technology that turns personal details into tools of shame and fear. A woman's joyful dance video, shared without consent. A blue-ticked social media user defends their actions with chilling impunity.

Doxxing is a hunter, digging up home addresses, phone numbers, any scrap of information to exploit. Victims are thrust into chaos, their lives upended. Victims gather evidence, push for legal action, and demand platforms take a stand. It's about more than just privacy; it's about basic safety.

Prevention is our armor: strong passwords, vigilant privacy. But when doxxing strikes, community becomes the lifeline, a force for healing and defiance. With every step towards recovery, we build a stronger, safer digital world. Privacy is our right – let's fight to protect it in this age of connection and consequence.

### The Mystery of the Stretchy Universe



Image Credit : ESA

Imagine the universe as a giant, ever-expanding balloon covered in dots (stars and galaxies!). Scientists are obsessed with measuring how fast it's growing, but they've got a problem: their measurements don't match! This is the "Hubble tension," and it's got everyone puzzled.

Scientists have a trusty guidebook for the universe, but this mystery makes them think it needs an update. One way they measure is by studying ancient light – like a baby photo of the universe! This tells them it's flat, kind of like train tracks that never cross. But they also use special blinking stars, like lighthouses, to measure cosmic distances. And here's the weird part: these two methods give different speeds for how fast the universe is stretching. It's like having two clocks that never agree!

The powerful James Webb Space Telescope is on the case, but even it hasn't solved the puzzle yet. The Hubble tension is a thrilling cosmic mystery. Solving it might unlock incredible secrets about how the universe works and even shed light on our own solar system!

### The Moon Flip: A Cosmic Mystery Unravels



Image Credit : Canva

Long ago, in a fiery cosmic ballet, Earth collided with another world. From the debris, our Moon was born. But how did it become the mottled companion we know today? Scientists studied moon rocks brought back by Apollo missions, finding evidence of an incredible event: the Moon may have literally flipped inside out!

This "Lunar Flip" theory helps explain a lunar mystery: why does the Moon have lighter highlands and dark, lava-filled basins called 'maria'? Imagine the young Moon, a fiery world cooling. Heavier minerals sink deep, lighter ones float to the top. Then – BOOM! A cosmic impact flips the Moon!

Hidden minerals erupt, painting the young Moon with dark patches. Each lunar rock holds a piece of this story. Scientists analyze precious Apollo samples, searching for proof of the dramatic flip that shaped our lunar companion. Is this the whole answer? Maybe not, but this theory is a reminder that the Moon hides untold secrets.

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## WILDLIFE WONDERS

### Paleontology on the Somerset Shore: A Giant Discovery



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Giants once ruled the sea – monstrous reptiles with eyes like dinner plates and jaws longer than your living room! And in England, paleontologists have unearthed a titan that might be the largest ever found.

It began with an ordinary beach stroll, but hidden among the pebbles lay whispers of an extraordinary past. Weathered fossil fragments hinted at a behemoth. Enter the paleontologists – within those shattered bones, they saw a record-breaking creature. Scientists named this giant Ichthyotitan severnensis – the lizard-fish of the Severn.

Picture the length of a bowling lane, now imagine it as a living predator! This discovery could dethrone all known marine reptiles in size. Why they vanished, remains a mystery. The Ichthyotitan shows us giants once swam where we now walk. The next time you're on the beach, imagine the secrets the pebbles might hold!

### The Secret Language of the Tiny Frog



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Deep in the Brazilian rainforest, the tiny leaf litter frog hides a surprising secret. It's brown, speckled, and easily overlooked – a master of camouflage. But when danger strikes, this little frog lets loose a scream. It's a scream no human can hear, a high-pitched cry that startles predators, maybe even calling for help.

Scientists marvel at this hidden defense, a weapon wielded by a creature seemingly so defenseless. It reminds us of the skunk's smelly tactics or the bombardier beetle's chemical spray. The frog's scream is a full-on performance. Back arched, mouth wide, it unleashes a sonic blast across a range of frequencies.

This discovery makes us wonder...how many other frogs have secret calls? Could there be a whole hidden language of distress, of warning, echoing through the undergrowth? The rainforest whispers with more stories than we know, tales of unseen battles and a fierce will to live.

### Butterfly Buzz: Meghamalai's Latest Sky Gem!



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

A team of passionate lepidopterists exploring the Meghamalai region within India's Western Ghats uncovered a new butterfly species, named *Cigaritis meghamalaiensis*. Remarkably, it was the first butterfly species described from the Western Ghats in over three decades, since 1989.

*Cigaritis meghamalaiensis* stands out with its distinctive conjoined discal and post-discal bands on the forewing's underside, setting it apart from its counterparts in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. With this addition, the Western Ghats now boast 337 butterfly species, with 40 being exclusive to the region, showcasing its ecological richness.

This discovery underscores the importance of biodiversity conservation, emphasizing the need to protect these unique species, akin to safeguarding priceless artifacts in a museum. It serves as a call to preserve nature's beautiful tapestry for future generations.

### Rothschild's Slipper Orchid: Nature's Rarity



Image Credit : International Floriculture

The Rothschild's slipper orchid, or *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, is a rare and captivating treasure of nature. With its distinct appearance, outstretched petals, and up to six exquisite flowers during its peak bloom from April to May, it commands attention in the floral world. Its history reads like a suspenseful story, discovered in the 19th century but concealed in secrecy until its rediscovery in the 1950s at the base of Mount Kinabalu.

Today, it faces endangerment due to illegal poaching driven by high market demand, with prices soaring up to \$5,000 for a single plant. Conservation efforts have emerged, like protecting its habitat and raising awareness. The orchid thrives in Mount Kinabalu's unique rainforest environment, adapting to ultramafic soil.

In essence, the Rothschild's slipper orchid symbolizes the delicate balance between humanity and nature, serving as a reminder of the importance of conservation and the preservation of nature's beauty.

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## CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

### The Fragrance of Memories



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

The scent of marigolds hangs in the air, whispers of laughter mingling with the vibrant hues of a wedding celebration. Sai Ram and Narsimha await their vows, and another treasure – a timeless work of art.

An artist stands ready, a blank canvas shimmering before her. Her paints glow with reds and yellows, promising to capture not just the scene, but the very soul of this day. A stolen glance, the swirl of silk, an aunt's joyous laughter – these are the threads of her story, woven in vibrant strokes.

Live wedding painting, a growing trend even in smaller towns, is a labor of love amidst the joyful chaos of the day. This art transcends time – an extravagant indulgence, a heartfelt wish. Beyond the music and flowers, an artist crafts a lasting treasure. Years from now, a painting will echo this day, carrying the scent of sandalwood and marigolds.

### Motu Patlu Cartoon: Kids Fiesta!



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Meet Motu and Patlu, an endearing duo that have taken Indian animation by storm since their TV debut in 2012. Originating from a comic strip in the popular Indian magazine "Lotpot," these characters have leapt from the pages into living rooms. They reside in the whimsical town of Furfuri Nagar!

Motu, the food-loving chubster with a soft spot for samosas, is balanced out by Patlu, a skinny intellectual who loves reading and problem-solving. Together, they're as complementary as peanut butter and jelly. But it's not just about them; supporting characters like Dr. Jhatka, the eccentric scientist; Ghasitaram, the all-experienced mystery man; and Chingum, the sometimes comically inept police officer, make it a well-rounded cast.

The show is lauded for its inclusivity, teaching that it's OK to be different and friends can help each other in unique ways. It's packed with humor and heart, appealing to both children and adults.

### Mango Fruit Mania: A Taste of Indian Summers



Image Credit : Canva

Summer in India is a symphony of mango mania! Markets overflow with sweet scents, each vibrant fruit a promise of delicious indulgence. But among the countless varieties, a battle of the titans rages: which mango is the absolute best?

Meet the royals! There's the Alphonso, the undisputed king. Its golden skin hides a treasure of buttery-soft flesh, bursting with tropical sweetness. One bite, and you'll understand its fame. Then, hailing from Goa, the Mankurado offers a different kind of magic. Less intensely sweet, its juicy flavor hides a subtle hint of spice, making it an unforgettable experience. Finally, the Bengali favorite, the Langra, smaller but mighty. Its thin skin gives way to a world of sweet, fibrous flesh with a delicate floral aroma.

Picking a favorite is impossible – each mango is a unique celebration of summer. These three are just a taste of the incredible mango adventures India has to offer!

### Shinchan – The funny and naughty boy!

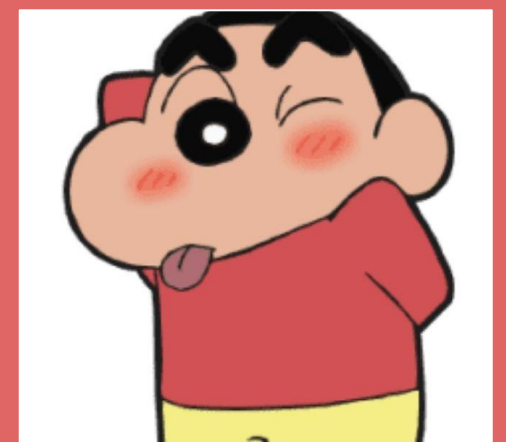


Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons

Meet Shinchan, the five-year-old who thinks he's all grown up! He's a whirlwind of mischief, always chasing girls, driving his mom crazy, and making everyone laugh with his goofy antics. This little guy loves chocolate, hates green peppers, and dreams of being just like his superhero, Action Mask.

One crazy Monday, Shinchan found a sparkly Chocobi. Down it went, and suddenly – whoosh! – he was flying! But wait... everything was topsy-turvy! Dogs meowed, birds barked... it was Opposite Day!

Soaring over the city, Shinchan spotted a giant purple elephant in the park. His imaginary friend came to life! Shinchan's day just went from wacky to WILD. What adventures await this crazy duo? Shinchan's world is full of wacky surprises and silly fun. He's a reminder that being a kid is all about imagination, laughter, and maybe a little bit of trouble!

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## FEATURE CONTENT

### Taste the Flavors of Punjab

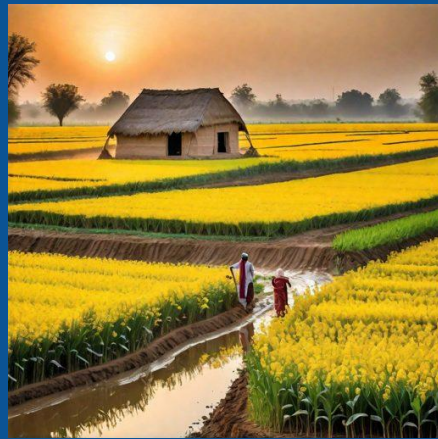


Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

Punjab, India's bountiful breadbasket, is a culinary adventure waiting to be tasted. From tranquil farm stays to Amritsar's vibrant bazaars, immerse yourself in authentic flavors and experiences. On a farm, earthy scents mingle with the promise of golden parathas – simple, satisfying, and the heart of Punjab.

Amritsar awaits, a vibrant contrast. Incense and spices fill the air, a prelude to the iconic Amritsari Kulcha. Seek out the legendary Bhai Kulwant Singh Kulchian Wale for a taste of tradition. His crispy Mattha Kulcha, infused with family history, is a revelation.

But Amritsar has more! Lawrence Road tempts with mango papad, where sweet, sour, and spice dance across your tongue. From Lubhaya Ram Aam Papad Wale, this simple treat becomes a complex delight. Punjab is a journey of contrasts. Tranquil farms, bustling cities, and flavors that linger long after. It's a testament to the delicious spirit of India.

### Echoes of Tibet: A Journey to Tawang



Image Credit : Canva

Tawang, a whisper among the Himalayan peaks, is a place where time stretches into centuries. Faith beats strongest here. The Tawang Monastery holds centuries of Buddhist devotion. Monks in crimson robes chant timeless prayers.

Tawang's warmth lies in its people. Weathered faces offer smiles, the scent of yak butter tea mixes with incense. In the glow of street stalls, locals and travelers break paratha bread and share stories under the stars. Their laughter and warmth defy the mountain chill. Beyond the town, Madhuri Lake shimmers with legend, Pangateng Tso reflects the vast sky.

Sela Pass truly tests the spirit, at 14,000 feet, prayer flags whip in the wind, whispering alongside somber war memorials. Tawang is a journey for both body and soul. It's the taste of warming zan stew, the challenge of snowy peaks, and the enduring spirit of a people who hold tradition close in a world that seems to constantly change.

### Cloudberry – Healthify!



Image Credit : Hotpot.AI

In a land of fluffy clouds, there grows a magical berry called the Cloudberry. It was once the secret of Oliver, the wisest owl in the forest. He knew these berries made him strong and healthy, and soon all the animals wanted a taste! Young adventurer,

Cloudberry are tiny treasures! They're packed with Vitamin C to shield you from sickness, Vitamin E to make your skin glow, and fiber to keep your tummy happy. Think of Cloudberry as magic for your whole body. They help your heart, your eyes, even your muscles, so you can run and play all day! And just like Oliver the owl, they might even make you wiser!

Here's the best part: they're delicious! Blend them into smoothies, sprinkle them on pancakes, or pop them just as they are. So, the next time you see a cloud, remember the Cloudberry! This tiny fruit is your secret weapon for a strong, healthy, and super fun life.

### Monkey Face Orchid – Unique Flowers!



Image Credit : Universo das Plantas

Deep in the rainforest, where sunlight plays hide-and-seek, there's a flower so silly, it'll make you giggle! It's the Monkey Face Orchid, with petals that look just like a troop of grinning monkeys. Imagine their beady eyes and playful smiles!

These funny flowers weren't discovered until 1978, hidden away like a secret treasure. They're part of a huge family called Orchidaceae (say it like a magic spell!). But they don't just look cool – they smell like oranges, attracting tiny insect helpers for a special dance. Monkey Face Orchids are rainforest royalty – a bit fussy, needing special care.

If you want to grow one, be patient! It takes years for those monkey faces to appear. But they're worth the wait! Sadly, these precious flowers are endangered. That's why we need to learn about them and help them survive. You can be a Monkey Face Orchid guardian, making sure their smiles last forever.

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## MY EXPRESSIONS



**Ram Navami:  
Happy Birthday RAM JI**

Ahamteertwaa Maity  
Techno India Group Public School  
Garia, Kolkata, West Bengal

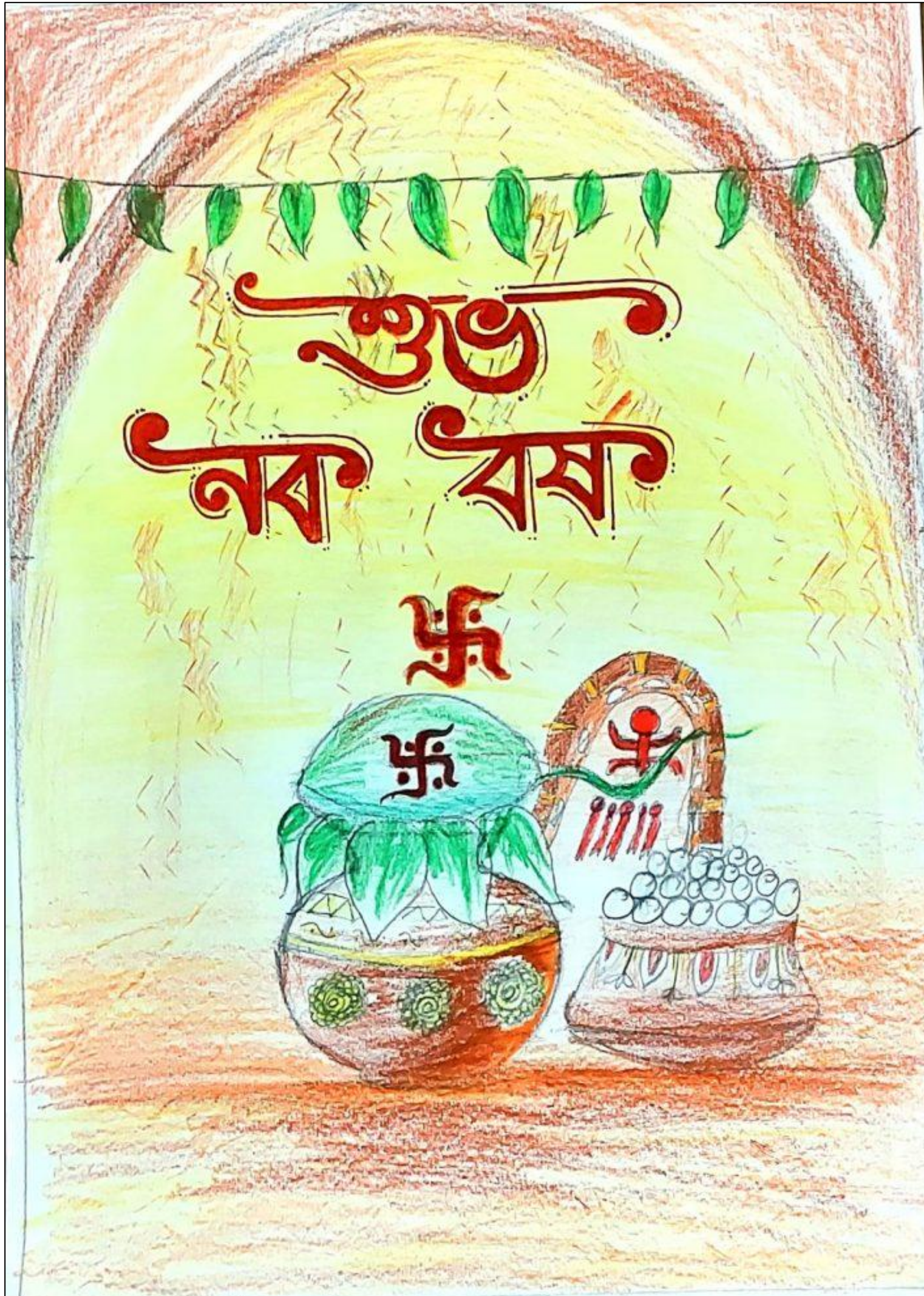
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### Suvo Nabo Barsho

Prateek Maity  
Techno India Group Public School, Garia,  
Kolkata, Kolkata, West Bengal



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### Ambedkar Jayanti

Ahamteertwaa Maity  
Techno India Group Public School  
Garia, Kolkata, West Bengal

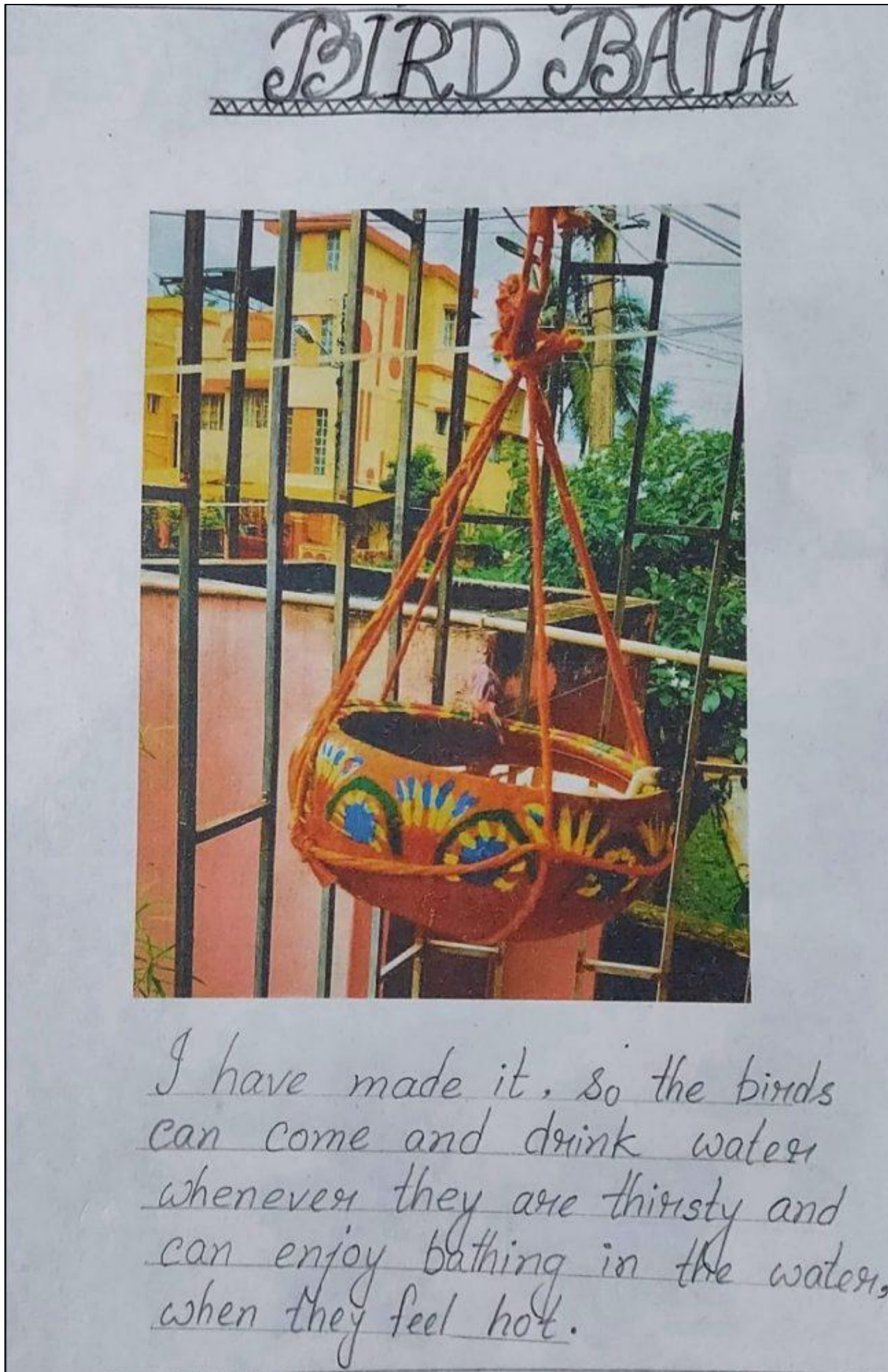
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### Prateek Maity's The Great Tweet Retreat

Prateek Maity  
Techno India Group Public School, Garia,  
Kolkata, Kolkata, West Bengal

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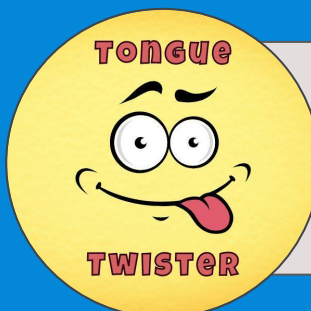
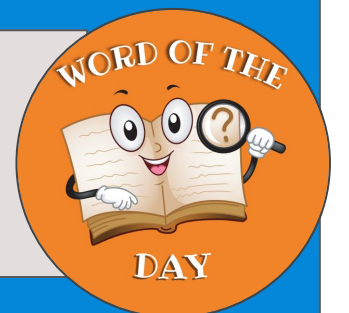
## FUNTASTIC



**Q: Are turkey leftovers good for your health?**

**A: Not if you're the turkey!**

**Onset**  
Noun | on-set  
the beginning or early stages



No need to light a night-light on a light night like tonight.  
Top chopstick shops stock top chopsticks.  
If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?

Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom.  
—George Washington Carver



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BHOGI, PONGAL, SANKRANTI  
TOGETHER!**

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Bringing lots of joy and happiness!

~~~~~

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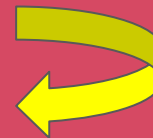
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