THE COMSOC GAZETTE

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FINANCE AND INVESTMENT
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STARTUPS
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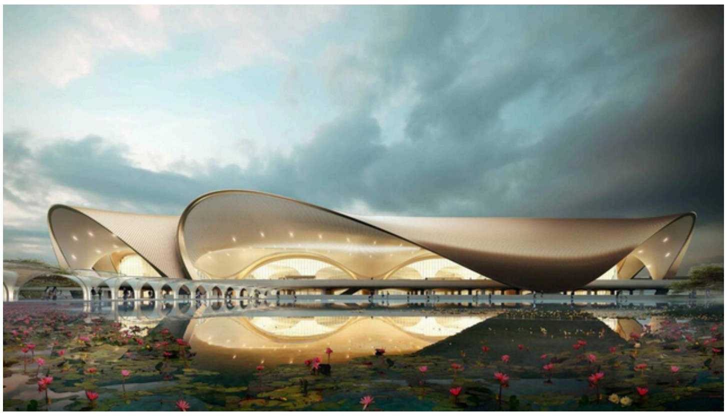
FINANCIAL FORESIGHTS

01 ADANI GROUP'S $2.2 BILLION NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT: INDIA'S NEXT AVIATION HUB

India's air travel industry is really growing, and a big reason for that is the new **Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA)**. The Adani Group's $2.2 billion project will be a gamechanger for the region.

Promptly, it will cater 20 million passengers a year, eventually scaling up to a phenomenal 90 million! Facilitating **multimodal connectivity** is its defining feature, seamlessly linking water taxis, metro, high-speed rail, and major highways. Travelling would be at the snap of a finger.



From a financial standpoint, this is a huge boost for Adani Airports. Their revenue is set to jump from ₹10,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore by 2027. The real spark lies in its human impact: it's expected to create around **1,00,000 jobs** over the next decade in aviation, retail, and infrastructure. Maharashtra just got its economic growth driver.

02 THE LG ELECTRONICS INDIA IPO

The big news in the Indian market right now is the **LG Electronics India IPO**. It's a huge deal, with the company's parent, LG Electronics Inc., selling off a big chunk of its stake. At a price band of ₹1,080 to ₹1,140 per share, the entire offering is worth a whopping ₹11,607 crore. Interestingly, LG's valuation seems quite reasonable, with a P/E ratio of about 35x its FY25 earnings—that's a lower multiple than many of its competitors. When you dig into the company's performance, it's easy to see why investors are interested. For the 2025 financial year, LG Electronics India reported impressive revenue of ₹24,367 crore and a net profit of ₹2,203 crore. What really stands out is the growth: a 14% jump in revenue and a massive 46% increase in profit compared to the previous year. And to top it all off, the company is completely debt-free and has a fantastic Return on Equity of 37%.

LG's dominance in the Indian market is also a huge plus. They hold the number one spot in a bunch of categories, like washing machines (with a 33.5% market share) and microwaves (an incredible 51.4%).

CORPORATE ODYSSEY

01 REVOLUT TO LAUNCH DIGITAL PAYMENTS PLATFORM IN INDIA

Revolut, a London based fintech, is set to make its mark in India. It will offer domestic and international payment services using ties with UPI and Visa, starting with 3,50,000 users on its waitlist.The user base could potentially spike to 20 million by 2030. It has received a nod from the RBI, even for its UPI functionality. Meeting India's data localisation rules, it has invested heavily in local infrastructure. Revolut will offer multi currency accounts and wallets, combining domestic and foreign currencies. Domestic and international transfers will be routed via UPI and Visa, respectively.

It provides e-KYC, forex services and uses Prepaid Payment Instrument for wallets or cards.
Investors are attracted as Revolut's entry in India spikes competition in payments, quality of service and pricing. It could accelerate innovation in fintech, especially for remittances and cross-border transfers. Execution, regulatory compliance and large-scale adoption drive success for this launch.

02 DUTCH SUPPORT STRENGTHENS TATA'S CLEAN STEEL AMBITIONS

Tata Steel has struck a non-binding agreement with the Dutch government to transition its IJmuiden plant in the Netherlands to low carbon steel production, with up to €2 billion in support, to help phase out emissions. The company's Dutch arm has also applied for €300 million from the EU's Innovation Fund to co-finance the transformation. This is a major move, as the IJmuiden facility is among Europe's most carbon intensive steel plants.

Tata Steel Netherlands will modernize operations, likely replacing or retrofitting processes, adopting clean power, and employing greener technologies.In parallel, Tata Steel is restructuring its European operations (especially in the Netherlands) with cost reduction, automation, and organizational changes.
This backing reduces the financial burden and risk of green transformation in Europe, while remaining globally competitive in steel. This highlights Tata Steel's serious push towards sustainability, aligning with global commitments. A successful execution unlocks better valuation multiples, lower carbon costs, and stronger positioning in green steel markets.

THE ECONOMIC LENS

01 RUPEE WEAKENS AMID EXTERNAL PRESSURES

The Indian rupee has recently touched record lows. Assuming that external pressure factors, like U.S. tariffs and weaker capital inflows are already “priced in”, experts are of the opinion that the depreciation is overdone. Goldman Sachs and BofA global research, project a potential rebound toward ₹86/US$ by year-end. Unresolved trade tensions, weak export momentum, and outflows could drive the rupee further toward ₹90.

The defensive buffers of the Indian economy such as foreign exchange reserves, a shrunk current account deficit and moderate inflation allows monetary flexibility. This shows that a perpetual devaluation isn’t inevitable.

Likewise, the U.S. tariffs on Indian goods, especially labor-intensive sectors like textiles, undermine export competitiveness. If external demand weakens, the rupee could come under renewed pressure. Capital flows might stay volatile given global uncertainty. The RBI must navigate this dynamic environment to ensure currency stability without stifling growth.

02 ROBUST CAPEX, INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH AND GROWTH RESILIENCE

Recent economic trends highlight the palpable momentum in India's infrastructure push . In the first half of fiscal 2025–26, the combined capital expenditure by the road transport and railway ministries crossed ₹3.1 lakh crore, achieving utilisation rates of 63% and 56.5%, respectively. This is a strong signal that the government is aggressively executing infra projects. Over time, this effort can lower logistics costs, improve connectivity, and catalyse corporate investment.

According to Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, the logistics cost in India could drop as low as 9% by December 2025. If achieved, this would materially boost the cost competitiveness of Indian goods, both domestically and internationally. High logistics costs have long been a structural drag on industry margins and trade competitiveness reducing which, the manufacturing sectors competing globally would gain considerable benefits.

Such capex-led growth offers a potent counterweight to external headwinds. India currently faces challenges from weaker global demand, U.S. tariffs, and currency volatility all of which could hamper export-led growth. The domestic push in infrastructure and productivity enhancement helps shift the growth base inward and with consumption still under strain in some urban pockets, capital-intensive growth may offer a steadier anchor.

SUSTAINABLE SYNERGIES

01 WATTS UP: SEMBCORP ACQUIRES SOLAR POWER GIANTS

Sembcorp Green Infra Pvt. Ltd., will be acquiring ReNew Sun Bright Pvt. Ltd., subsidiary of ReNew Energy Global. Sembcorp will gain 100% ownership over ReNew Sun Bright's 300 megawatt solar powerplant in Fatehgarh of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, against a purchase consideration of SGD 246 Million (₹1684 crores approx.)

Sembcorp Green Infra Pvt. Ltd. boasts a 3 gigawatt solar asset capacity and has a dominating presence in 18 states of India. It is to be noted that the Jaisalmer plant was set up in November 2021. It also has a 25 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company Ltd.

sembcorp

With this initiative, Sembcorp aims to expand and solidify its energy portfolio in India. The acquisition concludes in the initial months of 2026. As GST slabs on renewable energy equipment has come down to 5%, it helps in bringing down costs involved in renewable energy projects, making this deal more economically realizable and paving way for more investments in such energy projects.

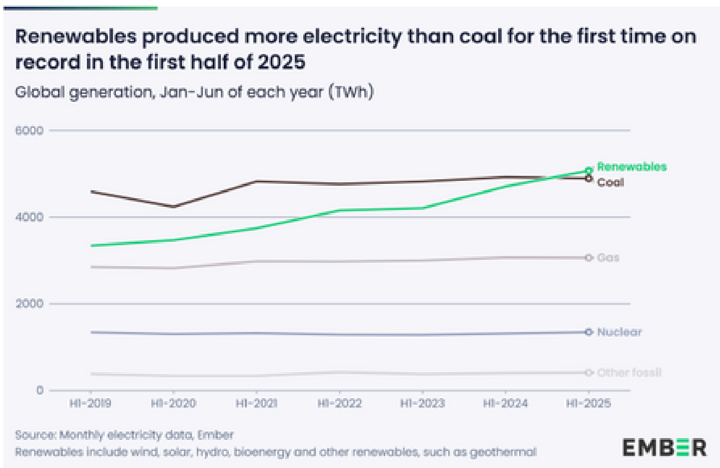
02 RENEWABLES NOW DOMINATE GLOBAL POWER SUPPLY

Global energy think tank, Ember, reported that wind and solar power have championed the global electricity consumption demands, surpassing fossil fuels by 7.7%.

Solar power sources alone met 83% of the electricity demand. 58% of which happens in lower-income countries.

China has the highest contribution in the global growth in low-carbon electricity. In India, clean energy grew 3 times more than the demand growth. Indian Coal use has reduced by 3.1% in 2025. Power generation from wind and solar energy rose to 29% and 31%, respectively.

The growth of renewables generates investment avenues in clean energy and infrastructure. Businesses in this segment can copiously benefit from global energy transitions.



THE GLOBAL CHESSBOARD

01 THE NEW SPACE RACE: A QUEST FOR SOVEREIGN SPACE CAPABILITIES.

The Sovereignty Race intensifies as the multipolar space race is pushing nations to secure sovereign space capabilities. Rising geopolitical tensions in Europe, the Middle East and Asia; fueling a “defense spending boom”. Companies operating in the Earth Observation (EO) satellite sector are rapidly transitioning from global customers to national governments that want domestic production over critical data assets with national control.

The USA is proactively aiming to create the world's most "friendly regulatory environment" for space commerce to cement its lead. Contrariwise, emerging powers like India are pursuing a policy of strategic autonomy, which emphasizes stronger alignment with the US on technology, while at the same time pursuing a liberalizing policy for their own domestic private space sector with an ambitious goal of a $44 billion space economy by 2033. The collapse of multilateral space governance creates more dependency on bilateral cooperation and national policy processes for all major players in order to navigate increased competition.

02 INDIA'S STRATEGIC PIVOT: BALANCING IPEF ALIGNMENT TO WIN THE 'CHINA+1' RACE

India executes a strategic economic pivot by using the ongoing geo-economic fragmentation to emerge as a manufacturing and technology hub globally. Elevating the "China + 1" corporate strategy, foreign investment flows into India's high technology sectors, especially electronics. Driving an upgraded GDP growth projection of 6.5% for fiscal year 2025-2026.

India’s foreign policy is highly selective. India signed the Supply Chain Resilience pillar of the U.S. led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). This alignment secures Western sourcing for India and reinforces relationship with QUAD partners.

India gains strategic autonomy by being an observer under IPEF’s Trade pillar. This status provides insulation from foreign competition in sensitive domestic sectors but allows India to maintain its "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" preferences. In adding multilateralism with regulatory protection, India desires to benefit from a potential economic uptick due to global tensions, all while remaining firmly in command of its digital and industrial economic future.

SCIENTIFIC SPECTRA

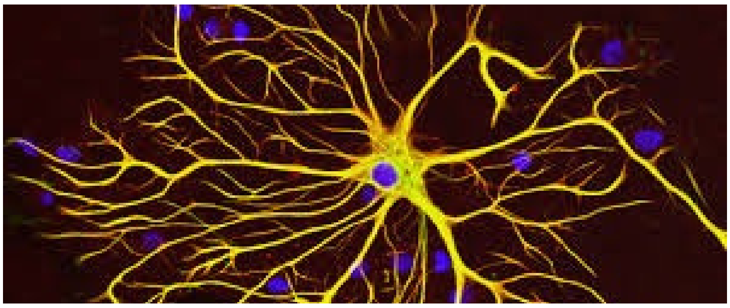
01 CBDC THE WAY FROM DECENTRALISED TO CENTRALIZED CRYPTO.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a digital form of fiat currency that holds no intrinsic value but is linked to the price of the national currency. Unlike cryptocurrencies, it is centralized and stabilized by the central bank. With the growing attraction toward a cashless economy and technological innovation, many countries are developing their own CBDCs. The Bahamas was the first to launch its CBDC, and several others are following. CBDCs offer benefits such as reduced transaction and cross-border costs, faster payments, offline functionality, financial inclusivity for those without bank accounts, and mitigation of concentration risk from dominant private payment platforms. However, they also pose challenges. The central bank's role will expand, requiring it to handle customer grievances and monitor illegal transactions. Privacy concerns may arise as all transactions can be tracked, and setting up the necessary infrastructure will involve significant capital costs. Overall, CBDC provides a new way to reduce dependency on cash and private players, while making digitalization more inclusive. It marks a major step toward reshaping the global financial system.

02 THE BRAIN'S HIDDEN HELPERS: A NEW DISCOVERY ABOUT LEARNING AND MEMORY

It was believed for a very long time that the nervous system comprises two families of cells: glial cells and neurons . Neurons cells were believed to be the ones which were processing the information through networks and Giall cells helped in physiological support.

Recently a team that includes researchers from the IRCCS Santa Lucia, and the University of Rome Tor Vergata has found a group of astrocytes, which are a subset of glial cells, that plays a role in synaptic transmission and is involved in information processing. These cells of the astrocytes family have characteristics of both glial cells and neurons placing them halfway between them.Researchers found that they release neurotransmitter glutamate which allows fast modulation of synaptic transmission.



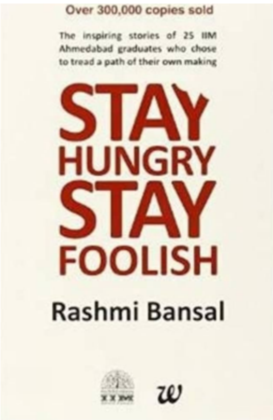
By looking at their interaction with neurons, the researchers were able to prove that these glutamatergic astrocytes influence the transmission of information between neurons and synaptic plasticity in brain circuits involved in memory processing and movement control.

Since glial cells are involved in several neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, these findings may bring advances in targeted therapeutic treatment that could correct malfunctions on a subset of cells, while leaving others unaffected."

MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

127 HOURS

This gripping true story follows Aron Ralston, a climber who becomes trapped in a remote canyon and must confront extreme adversity to survive. It's a powerful tale of courage, resilience, and human will, showing what people are capable of when pushed to their limits. The movie keeps you on the edge of your seat while inspiring reflection on determination, problem-solving, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of seemingly impossible odds.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

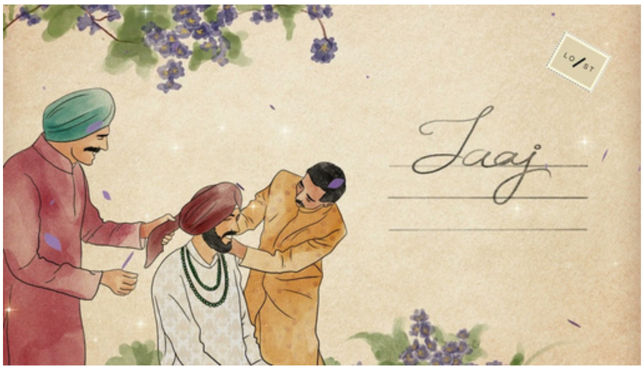
"STAY HUNGRY STAY FOOLISH"

This book tells the stories of 25 first-generation Indian entrepreneurs who built successful businesses from scratch. It's packed with real-life struggles, risks, failures, and victories, showing that passion, persistence, and thinking differently can lead to extraordinary success. Perfect for anyone curious about startups, innovation, or personal growth, it inspires readers to embrace challenges, take calculated risks, and pursue their dreams relentlessly, no matter the odds.

YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATION

I SPENT 48 HOURS ON THE DARK WEB

This Aevy TV video dives into the mysterious corners of the internet most of us only hear about, the dark web. Instead of glorifying it, the creators explore what actually happens there, how it works, and the risks involved. It's both intriguing and eye-opening, making you rethink how much you really know about online privacy and data security. What I love is how they balance storytelling with awareness, educational yet genuinely engaging.



MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Taaj – Lost Stories
2. Aye Khuda – Salim Merchant
3. Ek Pal Ka Jeena – Lucky Ali
4. Lose My Mind – Don Toliver ft. Doja Cat
5. Spaceship – AP Dhillon

GUESS THE PERSONALITY

- **Industrialist and Philanthropist:** An engineer-turned-business titan, he is celebrated for his ethical leadership and corporate philanthropy, setting a benchmark for a modern Indian industrial legacy.
- **The Compassionate Response**: After a devastating event impacted his employees, he personally ensured every affected individual received support and care, turning a corporate crisis into an example of empathy in leadership.
- **The Automotive Turnaround:** Under his guidance, an Indian company acquired and revitalized two iconic British automotive brands, successfully globalizing their presence.
- **The Steel Giant:** He oversaw the acquisition of a European steel manufacturer, marking the largest foreign takeover by an Indian firm at the time.
- **Post-Retirement** Influence: Even after stepping down, his calm demeanor and strategic vision continue to shape India's startup ecosystem through personal investments in innovative ventures.

GUESS THE COMPANY

- **The Skunk Works Legacy:** This American aerospace giant operates an ultra-secretive advanced development division, founded in 1943, responsible for creating some of the world's most revolutionary and stealthy aircraft designs [One of its jets was recently stranded in Kerala for over 30 days, talk about an extended layover! ;)]
- **Space Explorers**: Beyond fighter jets, one of its divisions built the external fuel tank for every Space Shuttle mission, acting as the backbone of human spaceflight.
- **The GPS Connection**: Satellite navigation relies heavily on technology developed by this firm, which is the prime contractor for the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation.
- **Global Presence:** While headquartered in the United States, the company's aircraft and systems are used by militaries and organizations worldwide.
- **A Century of Mergers:** Its modern name comes from a 1995 merger between two legendary American firms, one dating back to 1912 and the other to 1913, uniting two pioneering aerospace dynasties.

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT EDITION

JARGONS DECODED

Unicorn

A unicorn is a privately held startup valued at over $1 billion (roughly ₹850 crores) before going public. This term was coined by Aileen Lee, a venture capitalist who regarded such startups as an outlier. It’s a symbol of massive success, innovation, and market impact, showing that a small idea, when executed well, can scale to extraordinary heights. Indian examples include Zerodha, Zomato, and Flipkart, proving that strong vision and steady execution can turn startups into industry leaders.

Churn Rate

Churn rate measures the percentage of customers who stop using a product or service over a given period. Under this, the number of customers lost during a particular period are expressed as a percentage of the customers gained during that period. It’s crucial for startups to track because high churn signals dissatisfaction or inefficiency, while low churn indicates loyal users and sustainable growth.

MYTH BUSTERS

“Cryptocurrency Is Entirely Anonymous and Untraceable.”

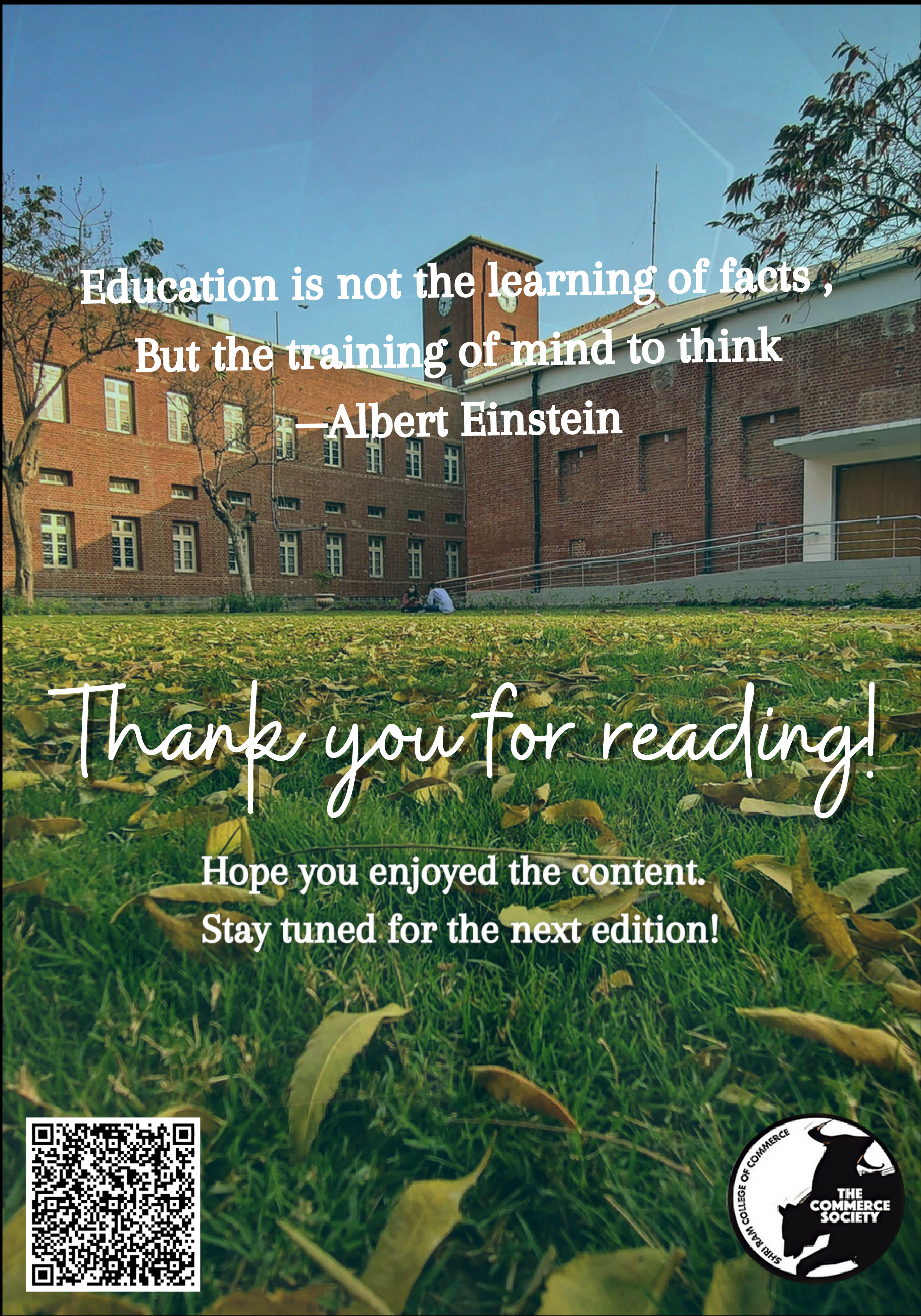
Busted. While highly private, most cryptocurrencies operate on a public ledger called the blockchain, where every transaction is permanently recorded and visible to anyone. With modern digital tracking tools and analytics, experts can often trace these transactions and connect them to real-world identities through wallets and exchanges. So, while crypto gives users a sense of privacy, it’s actually pseudonymous, not fully anonymous, and can still be tracked during investigations or suspicious activity checks.

“A Company’s Name Or Logo Must Perfectly Describe Its Business.”

Busted. Iconic brands like Apple, Amazon, and Nike prove that the best names don’t always define what a company does. In fact, abstract and simple branding makes them easier to trademark, more memorable, and timeless across generations. This flexibility also gives companies the freedom to expand into new markets or industries without needing costly rebranding. It’s not about literal meaning but about emotion and recognition, and that’s what helps brands stay relevant for decades.

FORTUNE'S FABLES

Founded in 2010 by brothers Nithin and Nikhil Kamath, Zerodha was born from a simple frustration: why was investing so expensive and complicated for the average person? Their goal was to make markets simple, transparent, and accessible for everyone. The name blends “Zero” and the Sanskrit word Rodha (barrier), perfectly symbolizing their commitment to removing financial obstacles. By pioneering the discount broking model, offering zero brokerage on equity investments and minimal flat charges for trades, they suddenly opened the stock market to millions of retail investors. What’s most inspiring? This massive growth was bootstrapped entirely without external funding, and today Zerodha stands as India’s largest stockbroker. Through its free education platform, “Varsity” Zerodha proved that patience, innovation, and unwavering integrity can profoundly redefine success in the modern startup world.


Education is not the learning of facts ,
But the training of mind to think
—Albert Einstein
Thank you for reading!
Hope you enjoyed the content.
Stay tuned for the next edition!
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