



Expressing through Emojis

emojis have been used since the beginning of the internet to transmit emotion in the written medium. As internet technology advanced, so did the use of the emoji, with previously pure text bits of ASCII Art turning into full-fledged animated faces and symbols. We've all used them, and we're excited for the future of them! World Emoji Day celebrates the history of these emotional expressions, and encourages you to be exceptionally emotive! After all, it's always nice to let someone know how you're feeling when you write, isn't it? Emojis are just one more way!

#SNAKE BUSTERS

Tears For Life

National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner finds that antibodies derived from camel tears may help neutralize snake venom.



A new study reveals that a single drop of camel's tear can counteract snake venom. Learn how this desert miracle could revolutionize snakebite treatment and medicine. In a groundbreaking development from the arid lands of Rajasthan, the camel, long revered as the 'ship of the desert,' is now proving to

be more than just a mode of transport for farmers. A pioneering study by the National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC) in Bikaner has revealed that antibodies derived from camel tears and immune systems may help neutralize snake venom, opening a new path to treat snakebites and boosting the incomes of camel-rearing farmers.

Scientific Breakthrough with Global Implications

The NRCC researchers conducted experiments by immunizing camels (Camelus dromedarius) with venom from the saw-scaled viper (Echis carinatus sokruensis), a highly venomous snake species. Antibodies extracted from the animals' tears and blood were found to effectively counteract the lethal effects of venom, particularly hemorrhage and coagulopathy. Notably, these camel-derived antibodies triggered fewer allergic reactions and were more potent compared to tra-

ditional antivenoms derived from horse immunoglobulin (IgG), which are expensive and complex to produce. India witnesses nearly 58,000 snakebite deaths annually, with another 140,000 cases of disability, the highest globally. The NRCC's findings could pave the way for more affordable, safer, and scalable treatment options, especially in rural areas where snakebite incidents are common and medical intervention is often delayed.

A Lifeline for Rajasthan's Camel Herders

This research is also proving economically transformative for camel-rearing communities in regions like Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur. The NRCC has encouraged local farmers to provide their camels for the controlled and safe extraction of tears and blood samples. In return, they are paid handsomely. Pharmaceutical

companies, including the Serum Institute of India and other private drug manufacturers, are now actively seeking camel-derived antibodies. As per estimates, farmers earn an additional 5,000 to 10,000 per camel per month, creating a new revenue stream that is both sustainable and scientifically valuable.

From Beasts of Burden to Bio-Miracles

With their unique immune resilience and adaptability to extreme climates, camels are now being seen in a new light, not just as beasts of burden but as biological allies in the fight

against one of India's deadliest health hazards. The NRCC's research underlines the untapped potential of indigenous species in medical innovation and rural development.



The Mughal Women Ruled

In 1631, their mother, Mumtaz, died while delivering baby Gauhar Ara. Shah Jahan went into deep depression. The new-born Gauhar needed immediate attention, and somebody had to hold the family together. Jahanara, inexperienced and just 17, took charge. She nursed Shah Jahan back to health, and became a maternal guardian to the younger siblings. Even Aurangzeb would confide in her (he was often an 'injured' party because Shah Jahan never openly showed him affection). Jahanara was the tolerant, conciliatory, mother figure of the family.



Roshnara Begum.



Gauhar Ara Begum.



Princess Jahanara.



Anjali Sharma  
Senior Journalist &  
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In the neighbourhood? (On the contrary, Mughal men could, and did, marry princesses of lesser kingdoms and filled their harems!)

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The women of the Mughal Empire were not mere ornaments in the imperial court. They were educated, artistic and commercially and politically savvy, and significantly influenced government decisions even during Aurangzeb's dictatorial reign. Read on for the remarkable story of Aurangzeb's sisters.

The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had three brothers and three sisters (Shah Jahan and Mumtaz had fourteen children in all, but seven of them died during infancy). His equation with his brothers was simple: they were rivals who had to be eliminated. His eldest brother, Dara Shikoh, was beheaded and another brother, Shah Shuja, mysteriously vanished at the Burmese border while fleeing Aurangzeb's army. And his younger brother, Murad Baksh, was quietly executed in Aurangzeb's prison.

His relationship with his sisters, however, was complex. Instead of marrying and migrating, they remained spinsters in the capital. They were, however, not necessarily celibate, they had affairs and that had some consequences. While Mughal records were silent about these, contemporary European travelers recount tales of their romantic escapades.

The sisters played a significant role in Aurangzeb's life. In fact, the system was loaded against their getting married. Tradition required them to marry a royal who was equal or above their status. By the mid-17th century, the Mughal empire included large parts of Hindustan, Pakistan and Afghanistan, covering over 3 million square kilometres. Where would they find a compatible groom

even earning good profits through a ship she owned in Surat. She spent her fortune usefully, supporting famine relief, pilgrimages and almsgiving, sponsoring mosques and overseeing the development of Chandni Chowk. Jahanara also wrote many books, including a respected biography of the Sufi saint Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti.

One person was bitter about Jahanara's huge popularity: Aurangzeb's other sister, Roshanara. She was the antithesis of Jahanara: feisty and fun-loving,

but resentful of the fact that she had to live in Jahanara's shadow. She too loved poetry and was a clever businesswoman. She found a natural ally in Aurangzeb who shared a similar grudge: Dara got all the cushy assignments in the government, while Aurangzeb got all the complex tasks, with no appreciation. Shah Jahan's favourite was clearly Dara, not Aurangzeb.

Dara was very different from Aurangzeb. He loved poetry, and dabbled in Sufism and other religious philosophies. He lacked

#BEHIND CURTAINS



Mughal princess Roshnara Begum.



Aurangzeb's military and governance skills, but was not above manipulating his father's sympathy to his advantage. At one point, he and Shah Jahan plotted to eliminate

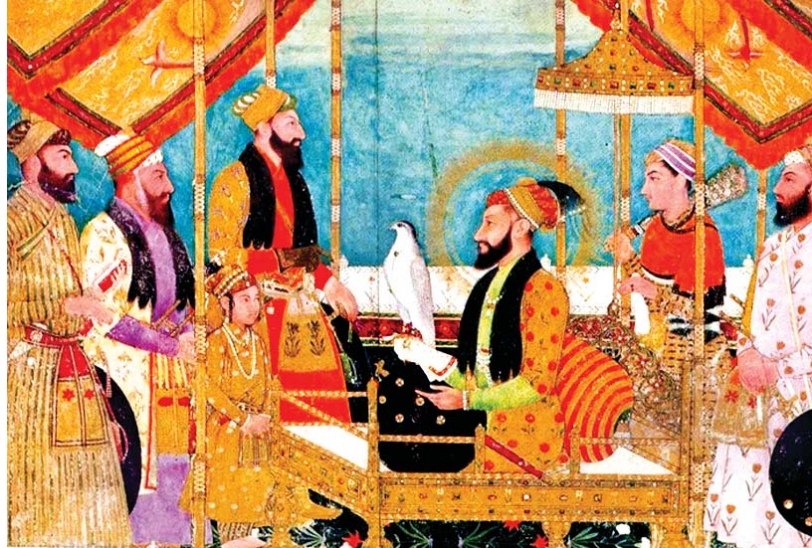
Aurangzeb arrived with a powerful army to fight Dara and Shah Jahan. Jahanara appealed to Aurangzeb not to fight his own father, she proposed a partition of the land among the four sons (like their ancestral Timurids would have done).

Aurangzeb from the imperial race. Roshanara got wind of the conspiracy and warned Aurangzeb. She also turned the Muslim clergy against Dara by pointing out that his secular activities were anti-Islam.

The casualty in this whole affair was Jahanara. It was unlikely that she was involved in any conspiracy. But she was perceived as 'pro-Dara,' which in Aurangzeb's books read as 'anti-Aurangzeb.' Born within a year of each other, Jahanara and Dara had not only grown up together, but they also shared a common



Shah Jahan receiving Dara Shikoh.



Emperor Aurangzeb seated on a golden throne in his durbar.

love for poetry and Sufism.

In 1657, the brothers started fighting for the throne, even when Shah Jahan was alive. Jahanara, although close to Dara, tried to stop the fratricidal wars. She appealed to Murad and Shah Shuja, quite unsuccessfully, to stop fighting. Aurangzeb arrived with a powerful army to fight Dara and Shah Jahan. Jahanara appealed to Aurangzeb not to fight his own father; she proposed a partition of the land among the four sons (like their ancestral Timurids would have done). She received a cold reception from Aurangzeb, he now perceived her as part of the enemy camp. He denounced Dara as an infidel (Roshanara's smear campaign had worked). Aurangzeb would settle for nothing less than the whole empire. In the battles that ensued, Aurangzeb captured Dara. Some scholars believe that Roshanara egged Aurangzeb to behead Dara (in all probability, Aurangzeb needed no prompting, though). Shah Jahan was placed under house-arrest in Agra, and Jahanara voluntarily accompanied him to look after him. In any case, Aurangzeb dismissed Jahanara from the Padshah Begum post and appointed Roshanara instead.

Now about Gauhar Ara, Aurangzeb's little sister. Because she was little, she missed all the action in the early part of our story. When she grew up, she took a leaf out of Jahanara's book, working for family unity. In 1673, she played the lead role in conducting the marriage of Prince Siphir Shikoh (son of Dara Shikoh) and Princess Zubdat-un-nissa (Aurangzeb's daughter). Strangely, it did not matter that Siphir had witnessed his father-in-law beheading his father. What mattered was that Zubdat-un-nissa had married a royal of equal status! Gauhar adopted and raised Dara's granddaughter Salima Banu, and conducted her wedding with Aurangzeb's fourth son, Muhammad Akbar. Aurangzeb's relationship with Gauhar was not as intense as with the other two sisters. Yet, when she died in 1708, he lamented, "Of all the children of Shah Jahan, she and I alone were left." Aurangzeb was a man of contradictions: ruthless and greedy for power, he did not care for money, but lived frugally as a pious Muslim. He killed his brothers and did not know how to love his sisters, but rued his loneliness after his last sister died. He died within a year and was buried in a simple grave.

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#CHILDCARE

We Give Medicines To Our Children Too Soon

Medicating low-grade fevers isn't recommended!

While most parents recognize that a low-grade fever helps a child's body fight off infection, one in three would give fever-reducing medication for spiked temperatures below 100.4, a poll finds. However, medicating low-grade fevers isn't recommended.

Half of parents would also use medicine if the fever was between 100.4 and 101.9 degrees, and a quarter of parents would likely give another dose to prevent the fever from returning.

"Often parents worry about their child having a fever and want to do all they can to reduce their temperature. However, they may not be aware that in general, the main reason to treat a fever is just to keep their child comfortable," says pediatrician Susan Woolford, co-director of the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at University of Michigan Health.

"Some parents may immediately rush to give their kids medicine but it's often better to let the fever runs its course. Lowering a child's temperature doesn't typically help cure their illness any faster. In fact, a low-grade fever helps fight off infection. There's also the risk of giving too much medication when it's not needed, which can have side effects."

The method used to take a child's temperature matters and can affect the accuracy of measurement, Woolford notes.



Parents polled, most commonly, take their child's temperature by forehead scan or mouth while less than a sixth use ear, underarm, or rectal methods. Remote thermometers at the forehead or inside the ear canal can be accurate if used correctly. But forehead readings may be inaccurate, Woolford says, if the scanner is held too far away or if the child's forehead is sweaty. With ear thermometers, which aren't recommended for newborns, earwax can also interfere with the reading.

For infants and young children, rectal temperatures are most accurate. Once children are able to hold a thermometer in their closed mouth, oral temperatures also are accurate while armpit temperatures are the least accurate method.

"Regardless of the device used, it's important that parents review the directions to ensure

the method is appropriate for the child's age and that the device is placed correctly when measuring temperature." Three in four parents say they take their child's temperature as soon as they notice a possible problem, while a little less than a fourth wait to see if the problem continues or worsens before taking the temperature.

"A quarter of parents would give their child more medicine to prevent a fever from returning even though it doesn't help them get better," Woolford says. "If a child is otherwise doing well, parents may consider monitoring them and using alternative interventions to help keep them comfortable." However, if a newborn or infant less than three months old has a fever, they should immediately see a health professional, Woolford adds. She shares more tips on how to handle fevers in kids!

LET THE FEVER DO ITS JOB

A fever can be beneficial, and there are several reasons to let a low-grade fever run its course in older children, mainly because it's working as a weapon to kill the virus or bacteria causing

sickness, Woolford says. Evidence shows that fevers are part of the immune response to prevent viruses and bacteria from replicating and also produce more white blood cells and antibodies.

Fever-reducing medications also mask symptoms

"Medications used to treat pain, but pain is often a sign that helps to locate the source of an infection,"

DON'T OVERDO IT

When parents choose to give a fever-reducing medication, it's helpful to keep a log of temperature readings and when they gave the child medicine. This will provide an accurate record in the event that the child's fever

continues for an extended period of time. Parents of young children, in particular, should also avoid using combination cold medications along with fever-reducing medications due to the risk of over dosage.



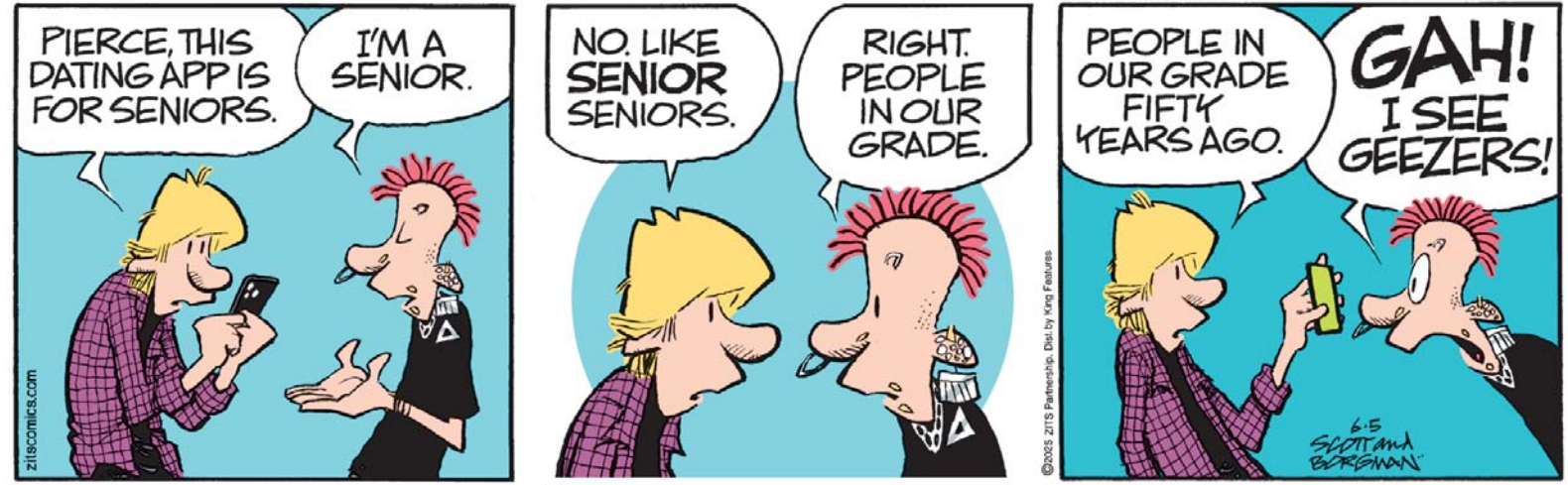
KNOW WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

For infants and newborns three months and younger, any sign of a fever should prompt a call to the provider. For children 4-12 months old, parents should consult with a doctor if a fever is accompanied by signs such as decreased activity, increased fussiness, or decreased urine output. Parents should also call if their child has signs of pain or if they are not acting themselves even when their temperature comes down. Fevers that reach 104 degrees or fevers that remain for an extended period (more than 24 hours for children under two, or more than three days for children ages two and older) should prompt contact with the provider.



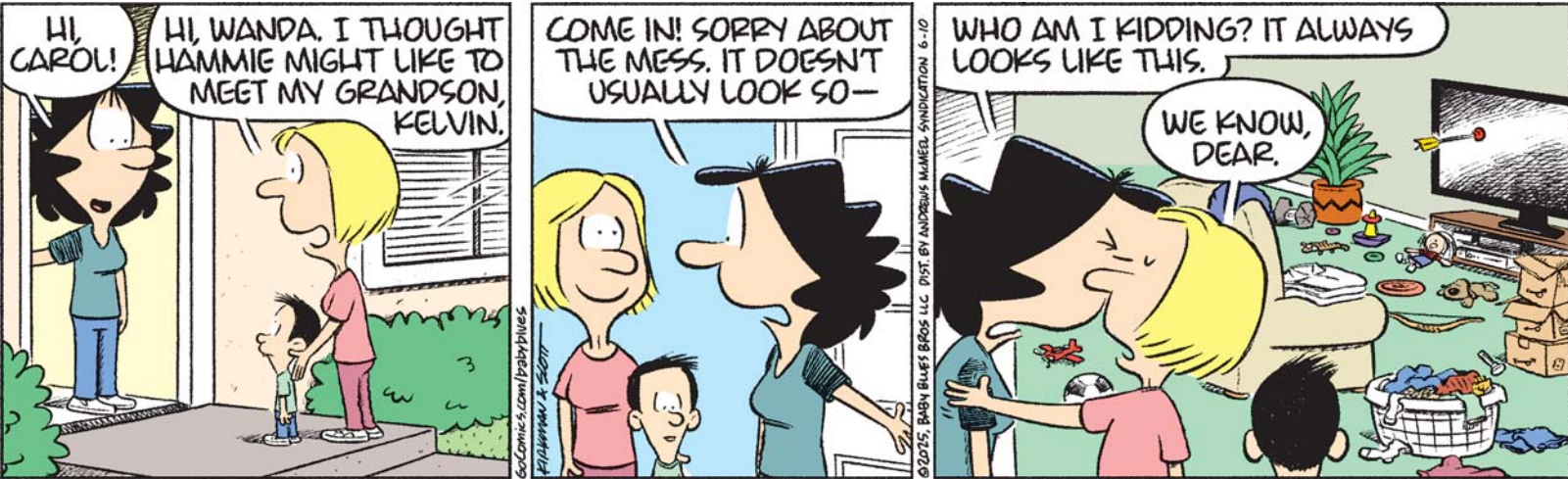
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ZITS



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BABY BLUES



THE WALL

