

Observed every year on September 9, International Sudoku Day celebrates the world's most loved number puzzle that blends fun with brainpower. Sudoku, originating from Japan, challenges players to fill a 9x9 grid using logic and reasoning, making it a global symbol of mental agility. Beyond being a pastime, it sharpens memory, improves concentration, and reduces stress, appealing to all age groups. On this day, puzzle enthusiasts gather online and offline to take part in contests, share solving strategies, and enjoy the thrill of cracking patterns. International Sudoku Day honours logic, patience, and the joy of problem-solving.

#GENUINE JAMDANI

Nita Ambani's Red Jamdani Saree

The question everyone seemed to ask was simple: Was it a genuine handwoven Jamdani or just a powerloom imitation?



When Nita Ambani stepped out in a striking red saree during the Ambani family's Akshaya Tritiya celebrations in late April 2026, the internet took notice. From morning rituals and a sacred fire sacrifice (havan) to serving meals to children and, later in the evening, visiting Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple with family members, the elegant red drape remained a constant throughout the day. While the celebrations themselves drew attention, it was the saree that sparked an unexpected debate across social media, particularly in Bangladesh.

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The Debate

Soon after photographs of Nita Ambani surfaced, social media platforms were flooded with opinions. Many admired the timeless elegance of the saree, while others questioned its authenticity. Some believed that it was a powerloom replica inspired by traditional Jamdani weaving.

The discussion quickly grew beyond fashion, touching on craftsmanship, heritage, and the identity of one of South Asia's most celebrated textile traditions.

The Story Behind the Saree

According to information shared within the handloom community, the saree was purchased from Meera Basu Sarees, a Kolkata-based boutique known for sourcing authentic handcrafted textiles. Although sold through the Kolkata store, the saree itself was reportedly procured from Dhaka, Bangladesh, the historic heartland of authentic Jamdani weaving.

It is also understood that the saree was purchased by Radhika Ambani during a visit to Kolkata in April 2026 before becoming part of Nita Ambani's festive wardrobe.

Why It Is Considered a Genuine Jamdani

The saree is understood to be an authentic Bangladeshi handloom Jamdani rather than a powerloom reproduction. Jamdani weaving is among the most intricate textile traditions in the world. Every motif is woven by hand, with artisans painstakingly inserting extra, swift threads one by one instead of relying on printed or mechanically produced designs. This labour-intensive process can

take weeks or even months, depending on the complexity of the pattern.

Interestingly, the saree worn by Nita Ambani was not an ultra-exclusive collector's piece laden with elaborate motifs. Instead, it represented what many weavers describe as a basic or entry-level Jamdani, showcasing understated elegance rather than excessive ornamentation. That choice is perhaps what made it remarkable.

Simplicity Over Luxury

Nita Ambani has access to some of the world's finest couture and the most exclusive handwoven textiles. Yet, for an important religious occasion, she reportedly chose a relatively simple Jamdani instead of an extravagant masterpiece.

The selection highlights an important aspect of authentic handloom appreciation: the beauty of Jamdani does not always lie in its price tag or density of motifs. Sometimes, the finest statement is made through simplicity, craftsmanship, and cultural authenticity.

Handloom vs. Powerloom: How to Tell the Difference

The debate surrounding this saree also reflects a larger issue facing traditional textiles today.

An authentic handloom Jamdani typically features:

- Hand-inserted motifs woven individually into the fabric.
- Slight natural variations that reflect handmade craftsmanship.
- A softer, more organic drape.
- Fine detailing that often appears identical on both sides because the motifs are woven, not printed.

Powerloom versions, while visually similar from a distance, are mechanically produced. They are faster and cheaper to manufacture but lack the painstaking artistry and individuality of genuine handwoven Jamdani.

More Than Just a Saree

Whether intentionally or not, Nita Ambani's appearance brought international attention to Bangladeshi Jamdani weaving. The online conversations that followed reflected not only admiration for her style but also renewed interest in living weaving traditions.

For artisans in Dhaka and the wider Bangladeshi handloom community, such visibility can be significant. Every conversation about authentic Jamdani helps draw attention to the generations of skilled weavers who continue to preserve this extraordinary craft.



Surveys suggest a majority of Indian smartphone users now believe, rightly or not, that they are being listened to. When that many citizens have lost faith in the boundary between their public and private lives, the law's job is not to explain away the discomfort but to close the gap that is causing it, whether that gap concerns cross-border data transfers, which remain unregulated, or the "significant data fiduciaries" whom the DPDP Act still has not identified more than three years after being passed.



Adv. Shashank Agarwal
(Ex Sr Vice President of the High Court Bar Association)

Times are changing. The question worth asking, especially from where I sit, is whether we, and the law meant to govern us, are changing at the same pace.

Consider what has happened within a single working lifetime. The headline gave way to the cordless phone, which gave way to the first generation of mobile phones, which gave way to the smartphone, which has now given way to phones with artificial intelligence built directly into them. Each of those transitions once felt like a generation apart. Now, they are not. You can see this most clearly across generations living under the same roof. Children of what is now

being called Generation Alpha have never dialled a rotary phone and would not recognise a dial-up internet tone if they heard one. Try explaining to a ten-year-old that a desktop computer once came with a few megabytes of memory, less than a single photograph takes up today, and you will be met with polite disbelief. Generation Z, meanwhile, has an opinion on everything, yet increasingly chooses the curated version of a life lived on a social media feed over the harder, slower commitments of marriage and family. Ask a classroom today what they want to become, and "doctor" or "civil servant" competes, and often loses, against "influencer" or "YouTuber."

What ought to concern us as a society is that this is not confined to any one class. It has spread across daily-wage earners, students, senior citizens and the elite alike, indifferent to income or education, the way very few social changes ever are. And before most of us even noticed, it had already reshaped something as basic as our attention span. Studies and everyday experience now converge on the same uncomfortable number: thirty seconds. That is roughly the length of an Instagram, Facebook or YouTube reel, and even within that short win-



Can Law Beat Time!



#SMART?



dow, the decision to keep watching or scroll away is made in the first three to five seconds. We have, in effect, outsourced the question of what is worth our attention to an algorithm that answers it faster than we can consciously think. Waking up to a screen and going to sleep by the light of one are no longer exceptions; they are the rule, and they are early symptoms of something we would do well to treat as seriously as any other addiction, precisely because we currently exercise so little control over it.

Children are being handed smartphones, tablets and smartwatches earlier than any generation before them, and while some of that may be unavoidable in a connected household, we should be honest about a simple truth of parenting: children do not learn from what we tell them; they learn from what they watch us do. If the adults in the room are reaching for a screen the moment there is a lull in conversation, no amount of lecturing about screen time will undo the example being set.

This is where the law enters the picture, and where, I would suggest, it is currently losing the race. India

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human beings, and it felt like pure fantasy. We are now watching it happen within our own lifetime, and India, notably, still has no dedicated law governing artificial intelligence. What exists is a set of non-binding government guidelines issued last November, and an amendment to the IT Rules earlier this year that requires large platforms to label AI-generated content and take down the most harmful synthetic media, such as non-consensual deepfakes. A proposed law on the ethics and accountability of artificial intelligence remains under discussion, not on the statute book. Compare this to the European Union, which has already enacted a comprehensive AI statute, grading systems by risk, and the distance we still have to travel becomes obvious.

Then, there is the unease so many of us have felt but struggled to name: the sense that our phones are listening to us, because an advertisement for something we merely spoke about aloud appears within the hour. As a matter of fact, most credible technical assessments suggest that our phones are usually, not literally, recording our conversations for this purpose they



do not need to. Between location data, browsing history, app permissions we clicked "allow" on without reading, and the online behaviour of the people in our social circle, data-driven systems can predict what we want without unsettling accuracy without ever switching on a microphone. But here is the point worth making as a lawyer rather than an engineer: whether the intrusion comes from a live microphone or from an algorithm quietly stitching together a hundred smaller permissions we never meaningfully consented to, the underlying harm to our privacy is the same. Surveys suggest a majority of Indian smartphone users now believe, rightly or not, that they are being listened to. When that many citizens have lost faith in the boundary between their public and private lives, the law's job is not to explain away the discomfort but to close the gap that is causing it, whether that gap concerns cross-border data transfers, which remain unregulated, or the "significant data fiduciaries" whom the DPDP Act still has not identified more than three years after being passed.

None of this is an argument that legislation is absent. It is an argument that legislation is late,

incomplete, and under-resourced at the very moment it is needed most, which amounts to much the same thing for the person whose data has already been misused or whose child has already spent a formative year of their life inside a feed engineered to be unputdownable. We did not ask to be part of this experiment, and no one currently governing it has asked our permission either.

The pace of technological change may genuinely be beyond any legislature's ability to fully anticipate. But there is a difference between a law that struggles to keep up and a law that has not yet turned up at all. India managed to pass a data protection statute and begin regulating deepfakes within the same decade that smartphones were now being used, and that is a conversation citizens, not just courts and companies, need to be having far more loudly than we currently are.

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#EMILY WARREN ROEBLING

The Woman Who Helped Build the Brooklyn Bridge

She studied engineering, construction methods and bridge design so that she could understand Washington's instructions and communicate them



In 1869, German-American engineer John A. Roebling began designing what would become one of the most ambitious engineering projects of the nineteenth century: the Brooklyn Bridge.

The plan was extraordinary. A massive suspension bridge would span the East River, connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn. At a time when many considered such a structure almost impossible, Roebling believed it could be done.

But he would never see his bridge completed. While surveying the project, Roebling suffered a terrible accident. His foot was crushed against a ferry dock. Despite treatment, the injury became infected with tetanus, and just three weeks later, Roebling died. The responsibility for the enormous project then passed to his son, Washington Roebling.

Washington inherited not only his father's plans but also the challenge of turning them into reality. The bridge required enormous stone towers and deep foundations beneath the East River. Workers descended into pressurized underwater chambers called caissons, excavating the riverbed so that the foundations could be built on solid ground.

The deeper they went, the more dangerous the work became. Workers faced darkness, flooding, explosions, fires and the deadly effects of working under compressed air. Many suffered from what was then poorly understood as "caisson disease," now known as decompression sickness.

Washington Roebling spent countless hours supervising the construction and inspecting the dangerous underwater work. Then, disaster struck again.



Roebling himself became seriously ill, apparently suffering from decompression sickness after spending time inside the caissons. His condition deteriorated so badly that he could no longer regularly visit the construction site.

For many men of the era, this might have meant the end of the project. But the Roebling family had another engineer. Emily Warren Roebling, Washington's wife, stepped forward. Emily was not formally trained as a civil engineer in the way her husband and father-in-law were. Yet, she began learning the technical details of the project herself.

She studied engineering, construction methods and bridge design so that she could understand Washington's instructions and communicate them to the men working on the bridge.

From Washington's sickroom, she became his connection to the construction site. She carried messages and instructions between her

bedridden husband, the engineers and the workers. She dealt with suppliers, contractors and officials, while helping coordinate the enormous undertaking. Over time, Emily became far more than a messenger. She developed a detailed understanding of suspension bridge construction and helped solve practical problems as they emerged. While Washington remained the project's chief engineer, Emily became an indispensable figure in its day-to-day progress.

The construction continued for years. Fourteen years after work began, the Brooklyn Bridge finally opened in 1883. It was an engineering marvel: enormous stone towers rising above the East River, connected by a web of steel cables and a roadway suspended high above the water. And when the bridge opened, Emily Roebling was the first person to cross it.

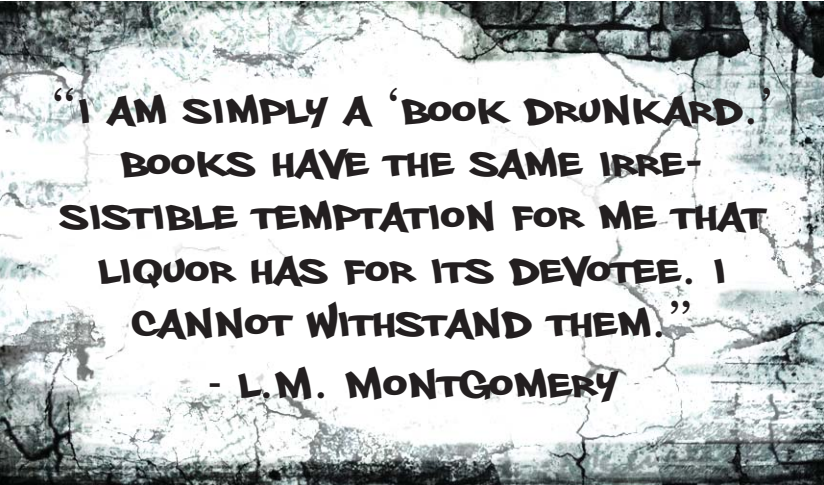
Her role was eventually recognized publicly, although history for many years focused primarily on the Roebling men.

The Brooklyn Bridge became a symbol of American engineering ambition. Its construction had survived the death of its original designer, a devastating accident, dangerous underwater work and the illness of its chief engineer.

But the bridge also carried another story across the East River. Behind one of America's greatest engineering achievements stood a woman who taught herself the technical language of the project, coordinated its people and helped keep it alive when its leaders could no longer do so themselves.

The Brooklyn Bridge was built from stone, steel and cable. But it was also held together by determination, ingenuity and the remarkable persistence of Emily Warren Roebling.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman