ARBiT it happens here...

राष्ट्रदूत
THURSDAY
07 August 2025
A-B

Honouring Tradition: National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day, observed annually on August 7, celebrates India's rich handloom heritage and the contributions of weavers to the country's cultural and economic fabric. The date commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, which promoted indigenous industries and self-reliance. This day recognizes the artistry, skill, and labor of millions of weavers who keep traditional weaving techniques alive across generations. It also highlights the importance of supporting sustainable and eco-friendly fashion. Events and exhibitions are organized nationwide to showcase diverse handloom products.

#CRICKET

Googly, Doosra, Yorker, Sticky Wicket, Sledging

How did cricket evolve with such a nuanced language?

Cricket is a sport famously rich in jargon: terms like googly, doosra, yorker, sticky wicket, sledging, and chinaman pepper conversations and broadcasts. But how did this colorful, often whimsical language evolve? And why did cricket develop such a nuanced vocabulary in the first place? The answer lies in cricket's social history, cultural shifts, and a sprinkle of folklore.

The Early Days: Cricket in 1600s England

The origins of cricket's terminology date back to the 16th and 17th centuries, when the game was gaining popularity in England's rural communities. Cricket was primarily played by men and boys in villages, with simple rules and limited codification. Language around the game was utilitarian and largely descriptive, 'bowled' meant the ball knocked over the stumps, 'caught' meant the batter was out by catch, and so forth. Folklore suggests, however, that cricket's language began to flourish as the game became a more organized and spectator-friendly pastime by the 18th century. At that time, cricket matches could last for days, and not everyone found watching the slow pace exciting. In particular, many ladies reportedly found the game 'too boring' and struggled to stay engaged during matches.

The Role of Folklore and Colorful Language

Legend has it that two cricketing personalities, one being the celebrated Indian prince and cricketer Kumar Ranjitsinhji (commonly known as 'Ranji'), played a key role in injecting vibrancy into cricket's language. Ranji, who starred for England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was renowned not only for his elegant batting style but also for his flair and charisma on and off the pitch.

Though the story of Ranji and another cricketing figure inventing terms to entertain ladies remains largely anecdotal, it symbolizes the broader social evolution cricket underwent. During the Victorian and Edwardian eras, cricket transformed from a rural pastime into a genteel social event. Matches attracted aristocracy and social elites, with women increasingly attending matches as spectators.

To keep the atmosphere lively, players, commentators, and writers began using vivid metaphors and colorful expressions. Words like 'googly' (a deceptive delivery by a leg-spinner), 'chinaman' (a type of left-arm spin), and 'yorker' (a ball aimed at the batter's feet) reflect creativity and playful exaggeration. The term 'sticky wicket,' meaning difficult or tricky conditions, originates from the unpredictable pitches caused by rain. The language became a kind of cricketing poetry, entertaining the crowd, capturing the drama, and adding an air of wit and sophistication to the game.

Cricket Language as Cultural Expression

Cricket's language absorbed influences from England's class system, colonial encounters, and evolving media. Newspapers and radio broadcasts popularized quirky terms that captured the imagination. Players from colonized countries like India, the West Indies, and Australia brought their own linguistic twists, further enriching the cricket lexicon.

Ranji himself symbolizes this cultural blending, an Indian prince playing English cricket with panache, inspiring a cross-cultural appreciation for both the game and its language.

More than Just a Game

The nuanced language of cricket is more than just jargon, it is a living narrative shaped by history, culture, and the human desire for storytelling. From rustic origins to glamorous stadiums, cricket's words invite fans into a world where sport meets poetry, strategy meets folklore, and every phrase tells a story.

Next time, you hear a commentator speak of a 'golden duck' or a 'nightwatchman,' remember that cricket's language is a rich tapestry woven by centuries of players, poets, and pranksters, all striving to keep the game lively, engaging, and above all, fun for everyone watching, including the ladies.

Jim Anzalone, president of Compliance Assurance, a Florida-based trade consultancy, said that he has seen delays in license approvals for sensors, radars, and sonar to Latin America and other parts of the world. "There's nothing official about what the policy is and when the backlog would be cleared," he said.

"LICENSING IS HOW THE U.S. DOES BUSINESS AND COMPETES GLOBALLY," SAID MEGHAN HARRIS, WHO SERVED ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE FIRST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

IMPORTANT STAFF VACANCIES SUCH AS CHINA-BASED EXPORT CONTROL OFFICERS HAVE NOT BEEN FILLED, AND HIGH-LEVEL CAREER EMPLOYEES HAVE RESIGNED.

Frustrated U. S. Industry Faces Stalled export approvals

● Kshema Jatuhkarna

While the clock is ticking on license applications, Chinese companies are exploring and doing deals with suppliers in China and other countries. "The longer we have the delay, the more market share we're going to lose." Thousands of license applications by U.S. companies to export goods and technology around the globe, including to China, are in limbo because turmoil, at the agency in charge of approving them, has left it nearly paralyzed, two sources said.

While U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has become a familiar face touting President Donald Trump's tariff and trade deals, sources said that the export bureau under Lutnick's command has failed to issue expected new rules, stifled communications with industry representatives, pushed out experts, and lost staff through buyouts and resignations.

Shipments of artificial intelligence chips from Nvidia (NVDA.O), opens new tab to China are the most high-profile example of licenses not being swiftly approved. The company said on July 14 that the government assured its licenses would be granted for its H20 chip, and it hoped to start deliveries soon. Lutnick and other officials confirmed sales would be allowed. But sources said this week, no licenses have yet been issued, and billions of dollars of AI chip orders are at stake.

One U.S. official said that the backlog of license applications is the lengthiest in more than three decades.

A spokesperson for Nvidia declined to comment.

The Commerce Department defended its licensing practices, saying its Bureau of Industry and Security "will no longer rubber-stamp license applications that raise grave questions of national security," a spokesperson said.

"BIS is driving forward President Trump's agenda through strong rules and aggressive enforcement," the person added.

The turmoil and resulting inaction at an agency tasked with promoting overseas trade and safeguarding American technology are alarming, both those seeking tougher restrictions on exports to China and companies trying to sell their wares abroad.

"Licensing is how the U.S. does business and competes globally," said Meghan Harris, who served on the National Security Council in the first Trump administration and has worked at Commerce. "Delays and unpredictability put us at an unnecessary disadvantage."

BIS averaged 38 days per export license application in fiscal year 2023, the most recent data available, denying 2% of 37,943 applications. The license process enforces U.S. export restrictions in an effort to make sure sensitive goods and technology do not reach countries or entities whose use of the items could harm U.S. national security.

Some staff have criticized Jeffrey Kessler, who became BIS undersecretary in March, saying he has micromanaged the bureau and failed to communicate adequately.

At a staff meeting soon after he took office, Kessler urged BIS staff to limit communications with company representatives and industry officials, according to two additional sources, who said he later asked for all meetings to be entered on a spreadsheet.

Getting approval from Kessler's office to attend meetings with other government agencies has also been tricky, those sources said, speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The BIS spokesperson said that Kessler "is restoring integrity" to the bureau and enjoys Lutnick's "full confidence."

#BLIND MAN'S BLUFF

FRUSTRATION AMONG EXPORTERS

Frustration is growing within U.S. industry. "We're seeing whole sectors where there is no movement or indication if or when licenses will be issued, including license applications for semiconductor manufacturing equipment worth billions of dollars," said Sean Stein, president of the US-China Business Council.

Jim Anzalone, president of Compliance Assurance, a Florida-based trade consultancy, said that he has seen delays in license approvals for sensors, radars, and sonar to Latin America and other parts of the world. "There's nothing official about what the policy is and when the backlog would be cleared," he said. He has received denials sporadically after submitting some two dozen applications months ago to export semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, including four denials on Wednesday, he added.

Sources stressed that some licenses are getting approved, especially exports to allied countries, and they noted that some communication with companies continues, especially around license applications.

Commerce is also delaying regulatory changes. The agency said in May that it would rescind and replace a Biden administration rule before it went into effect that month, restricting where AI chips can be exported, but the agency has not done so yet. Other rules, which sources said have been drafted for months, have not been published, including one to expand export restrictions to subsidiaries of companies already banned from receiving controlled U.S. exports.

Meanwhile, important staff vacancies such as China-based export control officers have not been filled, and high-level career employees have resigned. A retirement party was held this week for Dan Clutch, acting director of the BIS Office of Export Enforcement, the latest experienced staff member to leave.

Deeper Issues Within The Department

The ongoing disruptions in export licensing signal deeper issues within the department. It remains uncertain how long this backlog will continue to affect US exports.

This news injects serious uncertainty into the tech sector for the coming weeks. We should expect implied volatility to rise, making options more expensive and also more potent. Traders should be preparing for sharp, headline-driven price swings rather than a smooth trend.

Nvidia is at the center of this storm, and we've already seen the stock dip 4% in the last two sessions of July 2025. Considering that international sales made up nearly half of its revenue last year, buying puts with September 2025 expirations looks like a reasonable hedge. This protects against further downside if these license delays drag on.

This isn't just an Nvidia problem; it's a sector-wide issue. The VanEck Semiconductor ETF (SOXX) has already fallen 3.5% from its July peak, showing that the market is beginning to price in this risk. This confirms that the negative sentiment is spreading beyond a single name.

Market Precedents And Strategy

We've seen this playbook before back in the 2018-2019 trade disputes. Back then, chip stocks saw rapid 10-15% corrections based on tariff announcements, even if the orders were just delayed, not cancelled. History suggests the market will sell first and ask questions later.

The 'whack-a-mole' nature of the problem means any positive headline could cause a sharp rebound. This makes shorting stocks directly very risky. Using defined-risk strategies like put spreads allows us to bet on a decline while capping our maximum loss.

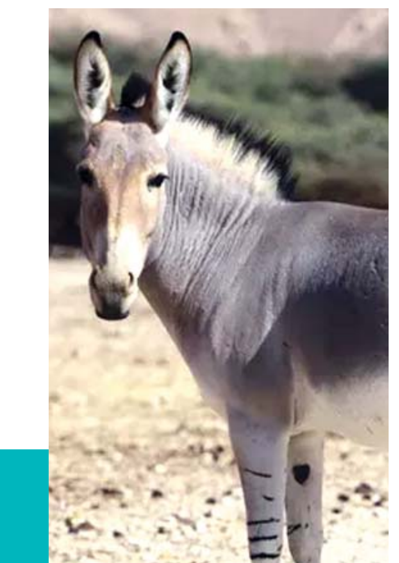
This backlog is a clear headwind for the Nasdaq 100, given its heavy weighting in tech. The VIX has already climbed from its summer lows near 14 to over 18 this week, signaling traders are actively buying protection. Look for potential weakness in the Nasdaq futures (NQ) as a broader play on this theme.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#DIFFERENCES

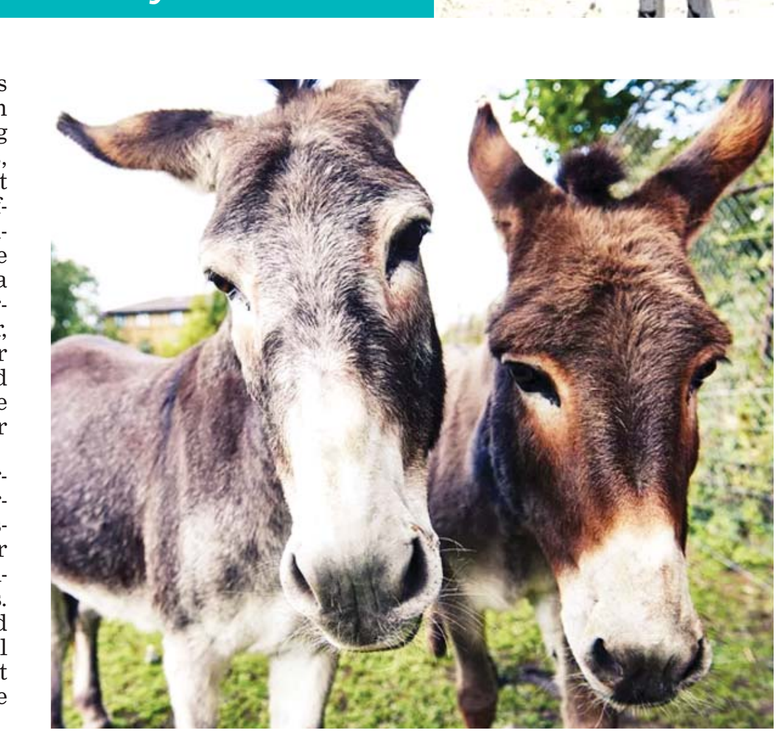
Donkeys Are Different From Mules

Mules often look more like horses than donkeys.



Donkeys and mules look a lot alike with their telltale long ears, broad heads, thin limbs, and short manes. Being the offspring of a male donkey (jack) and a female horse (mare), it's safe to say many of a mule's traits hail from the paternal side of its lineage. However, mules typically take after their mothers in body shape, size, and coat. They're more likely to be mistaken for horses than for donkeys.

Besides their physical characteristics, there are many differences between these two domestic equids, one is sterile, for example, and therefore technically not even considered a species. Learn more about mules and donkeys, including how to tell that the two are apart the next time you encounter one of these commonly confused animals.



Key Differences

Size: Mules are bigger than donkeys, standing about 60 inches at the withers versus 45 inches. **Body shape:** Mules have a slight curve in their backs, similar to horses, whereas donkeys' backs are flat. **Markings:** Donkeys have a primitive marking known as a dorsal line-shaped like a cross, stretching down their backs and across their shoulders and mules don't. **Ears:** Both have long ears, but donkeys' ears are dark at the tips and around the edges. Also, there are some key differences, wild burros are domestic donkeys that have returned to the wild.

There are other types of donkeys besides the domestic donkey, such as the African wild ass (Equus africanus somaliensis), a wild subspecies that inhabits deserts in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Though not technically a donkey, the Asiatic wild ass (Equus hemionus), found in Iran, India, Mongolia, and parts of northern China, is closely related and named after its asinus cousin.

Mules are bred from male donkeys (Equus asinus) and female horses (Equus caballus), a female donkey that breeds with a male horse, rather, produces a hinny. Hinnies are not as common. Mules, of course, belong to the same family and genus as donkeys and horses.

Donkeys vs. Mules

Donkeys and mules are tough to tell apart by looking at them, but they do have some distinguishing physical features, one of the most prominent being a primitive marking belonging to only one.

Mules and donkeys are known to have short, thick heads, but the donkey's head is slightly shorter and thicker than the mule's. Compared to a horse, a mule has long ears. But, the mule's ears resemble the shape of the horse's ears, whereas a donkey's ears are thicker and more wideset. The openings are larger and adapted for temperature regulation, a helpful trait in the hot desert where donkeys originated. Another subtle difference: Donkeys' ears, unlike mules' ears, darken at the tips and around the edges.

Donkeys have flat backs and mules have slightly curved backs, like a horse's but less exaggerated. Mules are bigger than donkeys, taking their size after horses. Mules and horses both reach about 60 inches or 15 hands from hoof to withers (shoulders) whereas donkeys stand only about 45 inches at the withers. Donkeys and mules both have thin limbs and narrow hooves.

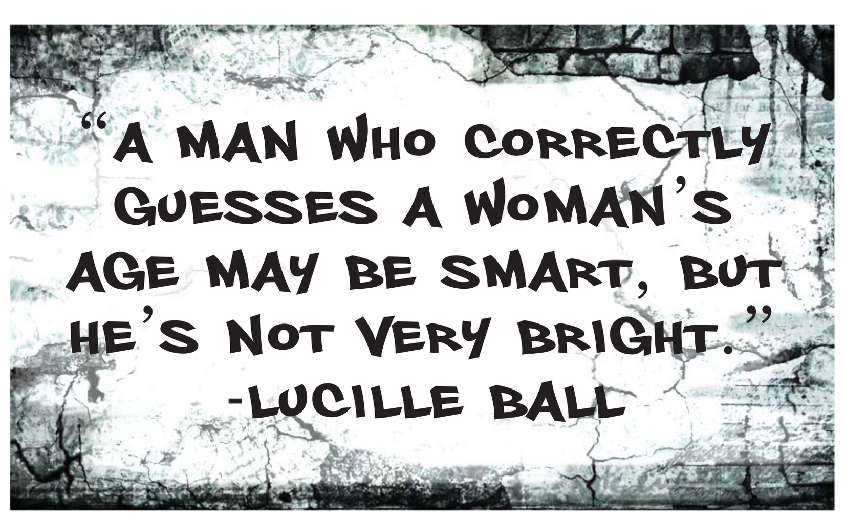
Mules have short manes like donkeys, not like horses. A mule's coat, however, is more like a horse's, meaning it has relatively fine hair that comes in various colors, including brown, reddish-brown ('bay'), black, gray, or even white, palomino, and dun. Donkeys have coarser coats and are usually gray, although some are black or brown. They have a distinguishing dorsal line, a primitive and crosslike marking that begins at the base of the mane, trails down the spine, and typically intersects with a stripe that connects the shoulders.

The African wild ass, a subspecies and suspected descendent of the donkey, still roams free but is rapidly disappearing across its native Horn of Africa range. The IUCN has listed it as 'Critically Endangered' since 1996. There are believed to be only 23 to 200 mature individuals left.

Hunting, for food and medicinal purposes, is the biggest threat to the African wild ass according to the IUCN. African locals source its bones and body parts to treat many maladies, from backaches to tuberculosis. Potential interbreeding with the domestic donkey is another threat, though there is no evidence that this is a common problem.

Most mules (and hinnies) are sterile because they're born with an odd number of chromosomes (63, between the horse's 64 and the donkey's 62). There are recorded occurrences, however, of mules reproducing. A male mule is called a 'john' and a female a 'molly.'

THE WALL



BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman