



## Global Work From Home Day

Observed annually on April 10, Global Work From Home Day celebrates the rise of remote work and the flexibility it offers. What began as a necessity during the pandemic has now reshaped work culture worldwide. This day highlights the benefits of working remotely—better work-life balance, reduced commuting stress, and increased productivity. It also encourages companies to support hybrid models and invest in digital tools. As more professionals choose flexible work setups, Global Work From Home Day serves as a reminder of how adaptability and technology are redefining the modern workplace.

## #MAHAVIR JAYANTI

# Echoes of Enlightenment

A Time to Unclutter the Soul!



Shruti Kothari

"Miccham i Dukkadam," I seek forgiveness for all the faults committed knowingly or unknowingly. "Ahimsa" is the highest religion. Dharma, "Non-violence is the highest religion. As chants of peace and purity echo through Jain temples, Mahavir Jayanti arrives as more than a celebration, it is a spiritual reset. It reminds us of a path less taken in today's fast-paced world. Lord Mahavir, the enlightened Tirthankara, showed us that living lightly, on the earth, on

others, and on ourselves, is not just possible, but profoundly powerful. In honoring his legacy, we don't just remember history, we rediscover a way of being. Mahavir Jayanti isn't just a festival, it's a gentle call to pause and realign, to strip away the noise of modern life and reconnect with the wisdom of Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. Born in 599 BCE in the kingdom of Kundagrama, Mahavir was no ordinary prince. At 30, he walked away from the trappings of royalty in search of deeper truths. What followed was a life of intense meditation, discipline, and deep compassion. After 12 years of silence and self-discovery, he attained *Kevala Jnana*, complete knowledge, and spent the rest of his life illuminating the path for others.



## A Spiritual Compass for Modern Chaos

What makes Lord Mahavir timeless is not just what he said, but how he lived. His principles, *ahimsa* (non-violence), *satya* (truth), *asteya* (non-stealing), *brahmacharya* (moderation), and *aparigraha* (non-attachment), are not abstract ideals. They are everyday choices. They are the pause before reacting in anger, the courage to speak

truth with kindness, the decision to live simply when consumerism calls loudly. Imagine if we embraced even one of these teachings in our daily routine! Choosing compassion in a heated moment. Saying no to things we don't need. Speaking honestly, but gently. It's not about renouncing the world, it's about renouncing in anger, the courage to speak

## The Discipline of a Gentle Warrior

Lord Mahavir's life was one of fierce discipline, yet it was never rigid. His strength lay in softness, refusing harm, even to the smallest insect, refusing excess, even when surrounded by plenty. Today, that spirit can live on in small, personal acts of mindfulness, waking with

intention, practicing gratitude, eating with awareness, being slow to judge and quick to forgive.

In an age of digital overload and endless striving, this kind of inner discipline feels radical. But it's exactly what our souls crave, space, stillness, and sincerity.

## A Timeless Invitation

Lord Mahavir didn't ask the world to follow him, he simply walked his path with clarity and compassion. Centuries later, his footsteps still echo, offering an invitation, live lightly, speak truthfully, harm no one, hold on to nothing. In a world weighed

down by chaos and noise, his message is not just relevant, it's revolutionary. This Mahavir Jayanti, may we not only honour his legacy, but carry it forward, in thought, in word, in action. Because living lightly isn't just a choice. It's freedom.



# Do WE Really Have Dire Wolves Now?

According to Arctic Focus, many of the scientists agree that dire wolves primarily hunted large plant-eating animals, like horses, bison, and camels. However, many of these animals went extinct or drastically decreased in numbers in North America, this was nearly 13,000 years ago. This loss of prey likely led to the extinction of the dire wolf. Species like the gray wolves survived, probably because they are more adaptable as they can survive by eating a wider range of foods.



Anjali Sharma  
Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

There is a magnificent, snow-white wolf on the cover of *Time Magazine* today, accompanied by a headline announcing the return of the dire wolf. This now extinct species is possibly most famous for its fictional role in *Game of Thrones*, but it did exist, more than 10,000 years ago, when it roamed across the Americas. The company Colossal Biosciences is behind the headlines. It announced that it used 'deft genetic engineering and ancient DNA' to breed three dire wolf puppies and to 'de-extinct' the species.

After vanishing from the face of the earth over 12,000 years ago, the dire wolves are now living, breathing, and howling amongst us. The scientists at a company called Colossal Biosciences have performed a miracle, or in other words, de-extinction, a process which revives an extinct species. What 'Game of Thrones' made popular with 'Lady' and 'Ghost,'

they have now managed to turn it into a 'reality' with 3 healthy dire wolves named Romulus, Remus and Khaleesi. While Romulus and Remus are two six-months old wolf pups, Khaleesi is a 2-month old female pup.

## What are Dire Wolves? What do they look like?

If we talk about their appearance, Dire Wolves are large-sized and have a dense coat of fur. A study by Colossal Laboratories and Biosciences had found that the genes of dire wolves led them to have a strong build, with possibly light or nearly-white fur, and unique features that made it a true 'super-wolf' of America. In fact, they are said to have been similar looking with today's grey wolves and jackals. The dire wolf are said to have lived during the Pleistocene Epoch, which lasted from 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago, as per Britannica. It might be the most commonly found mammal preserved in the La Brea Tar Pits in southern California. They are said to have first appeared in the Americas. There's no evidence they ever mixed with gray wolves, which came from Eurasia and later spread to North America.



## #EXTINCT!

### How did Colossal create the dire wolves?



Scientists at Colossal were able to study the genetic makeup of the dire wolves from their DNA, using advanced genetic techniques. A report in *Time*.com explains that the scientists then rewrote the genetic code of the regular gray wolf to match the dire wolf's DNA. To bring these animals to life, they used domestic dogs as surrogate mothers. This led to the birth of the three dire wolves. This is the first time in history that an extinct species has been 'brought back' to life.

The founders of Colossal, made up of entrepreneurs and scientists, began the company in 2021. They studied ancient DNA to find the important genetic changes that made this extinct species different from its living relatives. *TIME* reported that making the new dire wolves involved 20 edits in 14 genes of the regular gray wolf. These changes caused the wolves to look and behave differently. For example, Romulus and Remus got white fur, grew larger, developed stronger shoulders, had wider heads, bigger teeth and jaws, more muscular legs, and made sounds like howling and whining.

But while the young wolves, Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi, represent an impressive technological breakthrough, independent experts say they are not actually dire wolves.

Zoologist Philip Seddon from the University of Otago in New Zealand explained the animals are 'genetically modified grey wolves.' Colossal publicised its efforts to use similar cutting edge genetic techniques to bring back extinct animals including the woolly mammoth and the Tasmanian tiger. Meanwhile, experts have pointed to important biological differences between the wolf on the cover of *Time* and the dire wolf that roamed and hunted during the last ice age.

### Two of the puppies at one month of age



Paleogeneticist Dr. Nic Rawlence, also from Otago University explained how ancient dire wolf DNA, extracted from fossilised remains, is too degraded and damaged to biologically copy or clone. "Ancient DNA is like if you put fresh DNA in a 500 degree oven overnight," Dr. Rawlence told BBC News. "It comes out fragmented like shards and dust."

"You can reconstruct (it), but it's not good enough to do anything else with."

Instead, he added, the de-extinction team used new synthetic biology technology, snipping out pieces of DNA and inserting them into the genetic code of a living animal, that has its entire biological blueprint intact, in this case, a grey wolf. "So, what Colossal has produced is a grey wolf, but it has some dire wolf-like characteristics, like a larger skull and white fur," said Dr. Rawlence. "It's a hybrid."

Dr. Beth Shapiro, a biologist from Colossal Biosciences, said that this feat does represent de-extinction, which she described as recreating animals with the same characteristics.

"A grey wolf is the closest living relative of a dire wolf, they're genetically really similar, so, we targeted DNA sequences that lead to dire wolf traits and then edited grey wolf cells, then we cloned those cells and created our dire wolves."

According to Dr. Rawlence, though, dire wolves diverged from grey wolves anywhere between 2.5 to six million years ago.

"It's in a completely different genus to grey wolves," he said. "Colossal compared the genomes of the dire wolf and the grey wolf, and from about 19,000 genes, they determined that 20 changes in 14 genes gave them a dire wolf."

## Why did Dire Wolves go extinct?

According to Arctic Focus, many of the scientists agree that dire wolves primarily hunted large plant-eating animals, like horses, bison, and camels. However, many of these animals went extinct or drastically decreased in numbers in North America, this was nearly 13,000 years ago. This loss of prey likely led to the extinction of the dire wolf. Species like the gray wolves survived, probably because they are more adaptable as they can survive by eating a wider range of foods.



## Colossal says the grey wolf is the closest living relative to the extinct dire wolf

The edited embryos were implanted in surrogate domestic dog mothers. According to the article in *Time*, all three wolves were born by planned caesarean section to minimise the risk of complications.

Colossal, which was valued at \$10bn (£7.8bn) in January, is keeping the wolves on a private 2,000-acre facility at an undisclosed location in the northern US.

The pups certainly look like many people's vision of a dire wolf

and the story has gathered global attention. So, why is this scientific distinction important?

"Because extinction is still forever," Dr. Rawlence told BBC News. "If we don't have extinction, how are we going to learn from our mistakes? Is the message now that we can go and destroy the environment and that animals can go extinct, but we can bring them back?"

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## #INSIGHT

# Pani Puri, Puchka, Gol Gappa : One Snack, A Thousand Stories

The Little Bombshell That Rules India's Street Food Scene!

Imagine this: a crispy, hollow sphere filled with spicy tang, a whisper of sweetness, a hint of mystery, and a whole lot of *chaat-pati* joy. You pop it into your mouth, and bam!, your taste buds do a little dance, your eyes water just a little, and your heart? Well, it says, "One more, please!"

Ladies and gentlemen, let's talk about the undisputed queen of Indian street food, the mighty gol-gappa. Or wait, should we call it puchka? Or pani puri? Or maybe, even gupchup? Call it what you want, but there's no denying that this tiny titan of taste has a fanbase that spans generations and geographies. And today, we're diving head-first into its spicy depths, names, nibbles, and nostalgia included.



## What's in a Name? Everything!

Depending on where you're standing in India, the name changes, but the obsession stays strong.

1. In Delhi and North India, it's gol-gappa, 'gol' for round, 'gappa' for the sound you make while devouring it whole.
2. Head to Mumbai or Gujarat, and you'll find loyalists lining up for pani puri, literally 'water bread,' which might sound modest until

3. In Kolkata and eastern India, it's puchka, perhaps, the most dramatic version of them all, spicier, tangier, and with a stuffing that hits different.
4. Meanwhile, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand call it gupchup, as addictive as its name and is fun to say. Same snack. Different names. United by flavour.



## The Great Divide: Potato or Chickpea?

Let's talk filling. Because here's where loyalties truly split. In the North, you're looking at a mashed potato mix, maybe with some chana (chickpeas), spiked with spices and a dash of tamarind. In the East, puchkas are all about the tangy tamarind pulp, boiled white peas, and a potent spice blend. Down West, Mumbai's pani puri brings in sprouts, boondi, and even ragda on occasion. Every version claims to be the best. And honestly? They're all right.

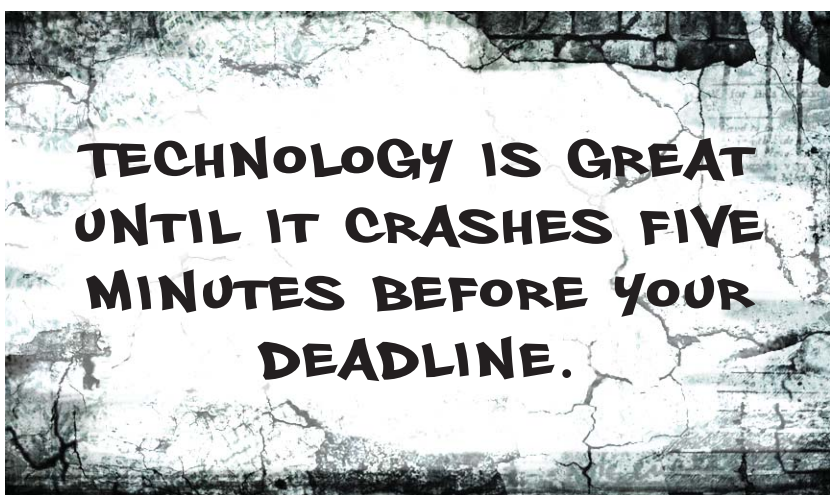
## A Flavour That Unites Us

In a country as diverse as India, where languages, customs, and cuisines shift every few hundred kilometers, the golgappa stands as a glorious reminder of what binds us, a shared love for spice, crunch, and culinary drama.

Whether you're a puchka purist from Kolkata or a pani puri pro from Pune, this snack doesn't just fill our bellies, it fills our hearts with memories, laughter, and a little spice-induced snuffle. So, next time you spot that roadside stall or hear the clink of those little bowls, follow the scent, join the crowd, and surrender to the magic of the golgappa. Because honesty, in the world of street food, nothing pops quite like it.



## THE WALL

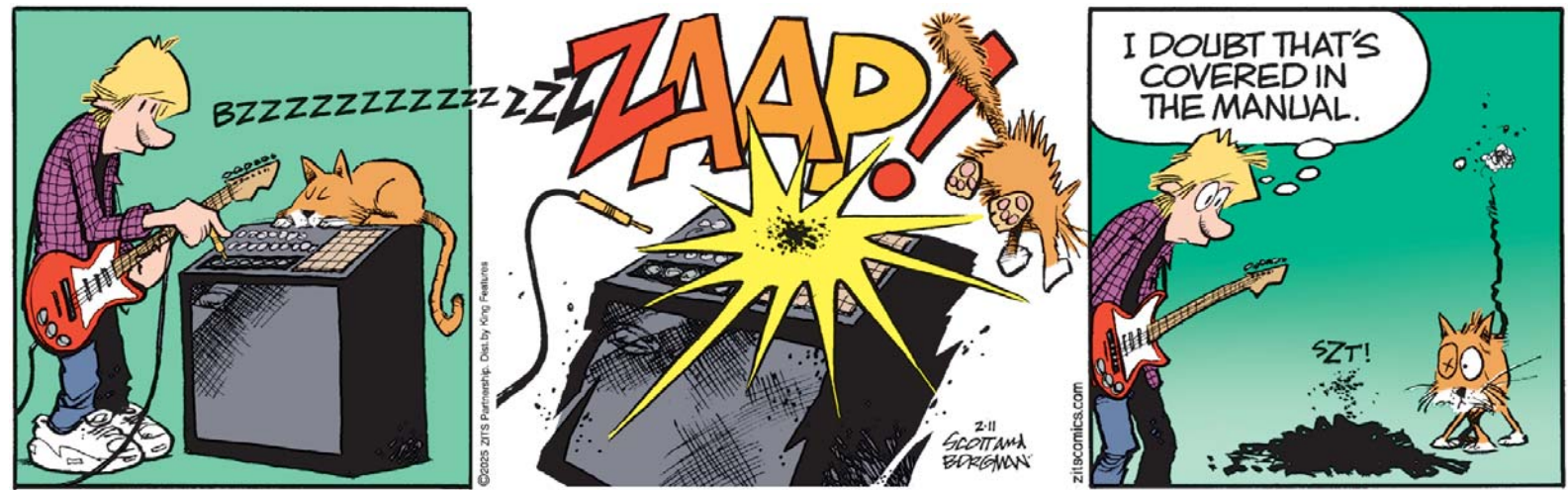


## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman