







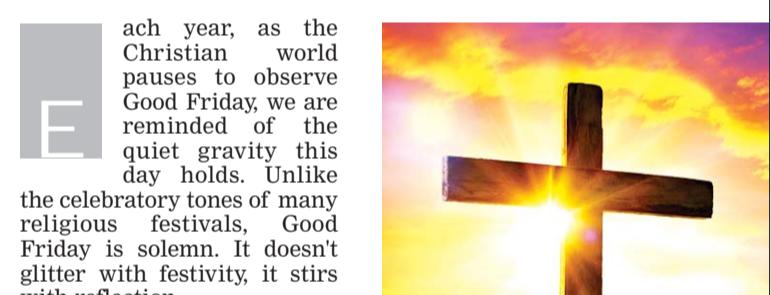




## #FAITH

## The Quiet Power of Good Friday

Reflecting on sacrifice, sorrow, and the enduring strength of the human spirit!



Each year, as the Christian world pauses to observe Good Friday, we are reminded of the quiet gravity this day holds. Unlike the celebratory tones of many religious festivals, Good Friday is solemn. It doesn't glitter with festivity; it stirs with reflection.

On the surface, the name itself feels contradictory. What could possibly be good about a day marked by betrayal, suffering, and crucifixion? For Christians, however, the 'good' in Good Friday speaks not to the agony of the moment, but to the hope it ultimately heralded. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the central event of this day, is seen not just as an ending, but as the beginning of salvation, of grace, of regeneration.

In churches around the globe, the observance is intentionally austere. Altars are stripped, bells remain silent, and hymns are sung in low, contemplative tones. In many parts of the world, the day is marked by long hours of prayer and scripture, including the Three Hours' Agony service between noon and 3 P.M., reflecting the final hours Jesus hung on the cross.

But this day isn't confined to the Christian experience alone. Good Friday offers something universal: a rare, collective moment to confront human suffering and mortality, not with fear, but with introspection. It prompts us to pause amid our relentless modern rhythms, to reflect on themes that often feel inconvenient in our curated, fast-forward lives: sacrifice, injustice, mercy, and endurance.

Across continents, the expression of this day varies, from torchlit processions in Spain to re-enacted crucifixions in the Philippines to



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before the Rajput force collapsed in familiar chaos. But what he found was a wall of discipline. Artillery pits had been dug. Rajput engineers had created Deccan fortifiers, had constructed five-petardant shield carts of wet jute and mud-packed timber to absorb cannon fire. Cavalry used the 'crescent retreat,' an Ottoman maneuver adapted by Viram Singh, luring Mughal riders into ambush zones where spiked barricades and camouflaged trenches awaited. The Rajputs had not only watched, they had learned.

The Battle of Sirhind raged for two days. On the third, Babur attempted a feigned retreat to draw the Rajputs forward. But Bhim Singh held the line. No impulse, no calculation.

By dusk, Babur's rear lines had crumbled. His soldiers, unfamiliar with such resistance, began to fall back. Sirhind held. Babur withdrew, stunned.

It was not a rout. But it was enough to shatter the myth that the Rajputs were never adept. That valor could not learn strategy. Back in Chittorgarh, a torn Mughal banner was laid at Sanga's feet. He did not smile. He only said,

"Now they will know, we are no longer fighting for kingdoms. We are fighting for time itself."

The news travelled like monsoon wind. In temples, priests lit lamps of ghee for the fallen. In bazaars, women wept and sang songs not of defeat, but of awakening. A bard in Udaipur composed the first lines of Veeram Sutra, a poem that would outlive even the kings:

"Where swords failed, minds rose. Where pride faltered, unity stood. And on the plains of Sirhind, fire learned to fight fire." Khanwa, in another time, would have been the grave of Rajputana. But in this one, it was the battle that never was, erased not by forgetting, but by rewriting fate at Sirhind.

Packed churches across India's southern states. Yet, in all its forms, the heart of Good Friday remains the same: to remember a sacrifice made in love, and the resilience that often grows in the shadow of despair.

In an age where suffering is either sanitized or sensationalized, Good Friday stands as an unflinching counterpoint. It does not offer quiet comfort. Instead, it offers a mirror. And perhaps, that's what makes it relevant beyond its religious context, it invites a broader reflection on empathy, community, and the quiet strength found in confronting uncomfortable truths.

As Easter Sunday approaches, with its promise of resurrection and renewal, Good Friday is a necessary precursor. It reminds us that light, when it returns, is most powerful after darkness.

So today, let us acknowledge the sorrow. Not to dwell in despair, but to emerge from it a little more aware, a little more humble, and perhaps, a little more human.



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## Celebrating Global Communication

Every year on April 18, International Amateur Radio Day honors the birth of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in 1925. This day celebrates the power of amateur radio in fostering global friendships and emergency communication. Often called 'ham radio,' this hobby connects people across borders without the internet or cell phones. From supporting disaster relief to encouraging STEM learning, amateur radio plays a vital role in society. Enthusiasts worldwide commemorate this day by hosting radio events, sharing stories, and tuning into frequencies that unite voices from every corner of the globe.

## The Battle that Never Was

## PART:2

Before Babur could redraw the map of Hindustan, the Rajputs did something no historian had predicted, they united. Not as heirs of pride, but as architects of resistance. This is not the story of a single battle. It is the moment strategy replaced chaos, and silence learned to speak in formation.

## #SIRHIND

## The Southern Accord - Allies Beyond the Vindhya

While the smoke of Sirhind bloomed in 1526 with blood, the spectre of a pan-Islamic Mughal invasion loomed over the North compelled him to listen. He agreed to send artillery master Muhammad ibn Yusuf, a seasoned gunner formerly employed by the Ottomans, to Rajputana for training exchange.

In Vijayanagar, Krishnadevaraya, though deep in campaigns against the Gajapatis of Odisha, paused with loyalty. His whispers dissolved in a land now echoing with one sound, the silence of division resisted.

Babur traded in coin. The Sabha countered with conviction. Frustrated but far from defeated, Babur shifted tactics. He returned to Delhi under the pretext of consolidating his hold over the recently acquired northern territories.

He also penned a Sanskrit verse in his own script.

"I am a swan, I tend to find a place to rest, but I am a swan, I fly through fire. Let us build not just walls, but wisdom. Let Deccan and Dilli rise not in

conflict, but in clarity."

The Southern Accord was thus born, not as a signed doctrine but as a shared awakening. Rajput cavalry patrolled the borders of Berar, Deccan gunners set up forge stations outside Ajmer. Vijayanagar's scribes documented Rajput battle formations for southern training manuals.

It wasn't just diplomacy; it was preparation for a united resistance. Seated in the fort of Agra, recently won through blood and diplomacy, Babur stood and watched the reports flow in.

"So they have finally learned to speak as one," he whispered. "Then I must find a way to divide the silence."

He began with the old art of espionage.

Babur sent envoys in secret to smaller Rajput chieftains, those who had not been invited into the core of the Rajput Sangh. Offers of land, mansabdar positions, and Persian silk flowed quietly into courts at Nagod, Orchha, and Bundelkhand. Some listened. In Gwalior, where the legacy of Man Singh Tomar still echoed in crumbling palaces, Babur promised the return of ancestral lands. In exchange, intelligence, sabotage, betrayal.

But the Sabha had anticipated this.

Maharana Sanga's spies intercepted messages. Rao Gangotri sent envoys under Maldeo's quiet supervision, grooming his son in the subtle arts of diplomacy and trust-building. "Do not sell your soil for silk," he told them. "For gold can only buy silence, not honor."

The Sabha offered them some...

## #SIRHIND



## Historical Interlude: The Road Not Taken

In truth, history did not unfold this way.

The Rajputs did not unite in time. Babur's victory at Panipat in 1526 was followed by another at Khanwa in 1527, where a fragmented Rajput confederacy, led by the valiant Maharanas Sanga, was defeated. The Mughals, armed with superior artillery and matchlock firearms, cemented their power in northern India. The Deccan Sultanates remained preoccupied with their own rivalries, and Vijayanagar, under Krishnadevaraya, never entered the northern theatre. The idea of a Rajput Sangh or a Southern Accord never materialized.

But this story dares to imagine.

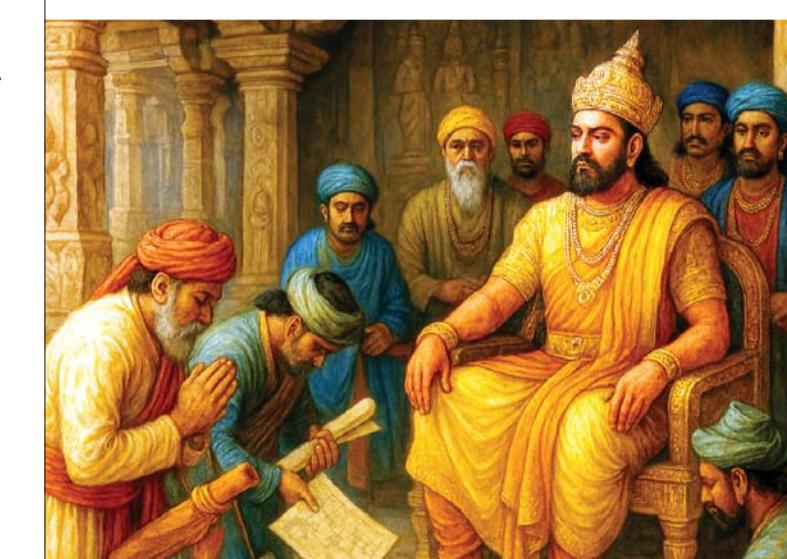
What if the wounds of pride had been soothed by foresight? What if diplomacy had arrived before desperation? What if the Rajput swords had been sharpened by unity, not ego?

This tale is not a denial of the past, but a tribute to the path untaken. A whisper from a parallel history, born not of fantasy, but of possibility.

To be continued...

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The images for the article have been sourced from the internet. All images are for representational purposes only and do not depict actual historical events or individuals.



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## #ANIMAL KINGDOM

## Nature's Odd Sleepers: Animals with Truly Bizarre Bedtime Habits

From sea otters holding hands in slumber to dolphins sleeping with half their brain awake, the animal kingdom redefines the meaning of 'beauty sleep.'



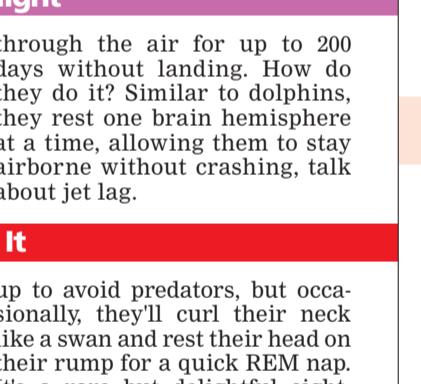
## Dolphins: Sleeping with One Eye Open, Literally

Dolphins are the insomniacs of the ocean, but by necessity, not choice. Because they need to surface for air even while resting, dolphins engage in unihemispheric slow-wave sleep, where one half of the brain rests while the other remains alert. This means they're technically never fully asleep, and yes, one eye stays open. It's the aquatic version of 'I'm watching you.'



## Sea Otters: Holding Paws While They Nap

Otters may just be the most romantic nappers in nature. To prevent drifting away while they sleep, sea otters often hold hands in their floating rafts, forming fuzzy clusters on the water's surface. Some even wrap themselves in their soft from nocturnal predators like eels. Think of it as a natural mosquito net meets invisibility cloak. Scientists believe this mucous layer may also protect them from parasites. Sleep tight, slime-style.



Giraffes: Blink and You'll Miss It

Despite their size and stately demeanor, giraffes are surprisingly light sleepers. In the wild, they average just 30 minutes of sleep a day, often taken in brief bursts. They doze standing



## Walruses: Sleep While Floating, Sitting or Even Hanging

Walruses are the couch potatoes of the sea, but adaptable ones. They can sleep in water, on land, or even while hanging by their tusks from ice ledges.



Thanks to an air sac in their throat, they can float effortlessly and snooze while bobbing along. Their bodies know no limits when it comes to comfort zones.

## Frigatebirds: Sleeping on the Wing

Frigatebirds, much like their relatives, can sleep mid-air during long oceanic flights. What's unique is that they manage to nap in ten-second bursts, totaling about 45 minutes of sleep a day less than any land animal of their size. Despite this sleep deprivation, they remain sharp hunters. Insomniacs of the skies, take note.



The Takeaway: No Rules in the Wild

Sleep, in the natural world, is not just rest, it's a balance of biology, behaviour, and badass survival skills. Whether it's avoiding predators, managing migration, or adapting to extreme habitats, animals have evolved sleep strategies that challenge our understanding of what it means to truly 'switch off.' So, the next time you groan about not getting eight hours, spare a thought for the sleepless swift or the wary dolphin. In nature, even sleep is wild.



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



## संक्षिप्त

## 200 परिदे बांधे

निवार्ड। शहीद देवालाल गुर्जर राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय जौला एवं शहीद स्मारक जौला में गो-गढ़ी पर्यावरण सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष लक्षण यादव का विद्यालय परिवर्तन व स्मारक समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा स्वतंत्र किया गया। इस अवसर पर पर्यावरण समिति के अध्यक्ष लक्षण यादव का विद्यालय परिवर्तन व स्मारक समिति के अध्यक्ष यादव ने बताया समिति के इस मिशन का लक्ष्य पशुओं के लिए करीब 2 हजार पानी की टंकियाँ एवं प्रक्षेत्रों के लिए 10 लाख रुपए लगाना है। इसी लक्ष्य के अंतर्गत विद्यालय जौला व शहीद स्मारक एवं जौला आश्रम में दाने व पानी के 200 परिदे बांधे गए।

## विद्या मन्दिर में हुआ वार्षिक परीक्षा यज्ञ का आयोजन

फुलेरा। कख्ते के शिवाजी नगर, बालाजी रोड पर स्थित माध्यमिक अदर्श विद्या मन्दिर में बृहदावर को वार्षिक परीक्षा पूर्व परीक्षा यज्ञ का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम के प्रारंभ में सभी सरस्वती के छायाचित्र के समस्त दीप प्रज्वलित करने वाले परिवार के प्रति अधिकारी, अधिकारी एवं शहीद बास। महिला सशक्तिकरण समानता व न्याय की बकालत के क्षेत्र में पिछले दिनों अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर भारतीय न्यायविद परिषद और अखिल भारतीय बार एसोसिएशन की ओर से सम्मानित हुई किशनगढ़ बास की बेटी सुमीम कोर्ट अधिवक्ता प्रज्ञा पालावत का गुलबार को किशनगढ़ बास घाटा बंबोरा हुनुमान मंदिर पर समारोह एवं भौज कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इस दौरान अधिवक्ता प्रज्ञा पालावत के प्रति अधिकारी शाह सहित पूर्ण परिवार उपस्थित रहा। सम्मान समारोह में प्रतिष्ठान ने टोकाराम जूली सहित किशनगढ़ बास घाटा बंबोरा हुनुमान मंदिर पर सुमीम कोर्ट अधिवक्ता प्रज्ञा पालावत को चांदी का मुकुट पहनाकर सम्मान करते प्रतिष्ठान ने टोकाराम जूली सहित नेता व परिवार के लोगों।

## इस दीप पर बेटी प्रज्ञा पालावत ने बुजुंगों का आशीर्वाद दिया और कहा मैं



किशनगढ़ बास घाटा बंबोरा हुनुमान मंदिर पर सुमीम कोर्ट अधिवक्ता प्रज्ञा पालावत को चांदी का मुकुट पहनाकर सम्मान करते प्रतिष्ठान ने टोकाराम जूली सहित नेता व परिवार के लोगों।





