



65th Edition



Sahara Desert Is Turning Green Amid Unusual Rains in Parts of North Africa



The Sahara Desert is experiencing an unusual transformation due to heavy rains. An extratropical cyclone on September 7th and 8th drenched parts of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, leading to a significant greening of the desert¹. This rare event has caused vegetation to sprout in typically barren areas, and even long-dry lakes are filling up¹. The Intertropical Convergence Zone has also shifted north, contributing to the increased rainfall

Highlights

**Foreign Portfolio Investor-
Record High Investment**

**Google gets new
feature**

**First Spacewalk -
Private Citizen**

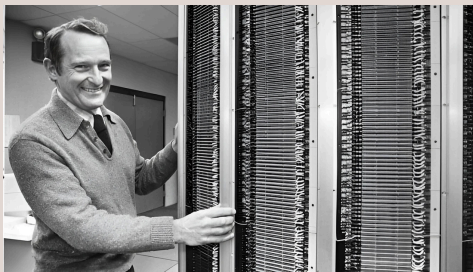
Mary barra



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Seymour Cray: The mind behind the fastest computers in the world



Seymour Cray, often hailed as the father of supercomputing, revolutionized high-performance computing through his groundbreaking designs. Born in 1925, Cray's passion for electronics emerged early, leading him to co-found Control Data Corporation (CDC) in 1957. There, he developed the first transistor-based computer, marking a major technological leap. However, Cray grew frustrated with CDC's increasing bureaucracy and decided to establish Cray Research Inc. in 1972. Four years later, he unveiled the Cray-1 supercomputer, which delivered unprecedented processing speeds and propelled advancements in scientific research.

Despite facing financial hurdles, Cray's pursuit of innovation continued, resulting in the Cray-2 supercomputer in 1985, which was ten times faster than its predecessor. His work also contributed to the development of Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) technology, further enhancing computing efficiency. Cray's visionary designs and relentless drive have left a lasting legacy in modern computing, cementing his role as a pioneer in the field.



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First Spacewalk Performed by Private Citizen Proves Smaller Flexible Spacesuit Is Winning Design for Polaris Dawn

The Polaris Dawn mission has successfully completed the world's first all-civilian spacewalk, showcasing a new, smaller, and more flexible spacesuit design¹. This mission, led by tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman and SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis, tested the latest iteration of SpaceX's extravehicular activity (EVA) suit¹. The suit is significantly more mobile and easier to manufacture compared to previous designs, making it a promising innovation for future space missions.



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What Is The Most Expensive Thing Ever Made By Humans? Hint It Costs Over \$100 Billion

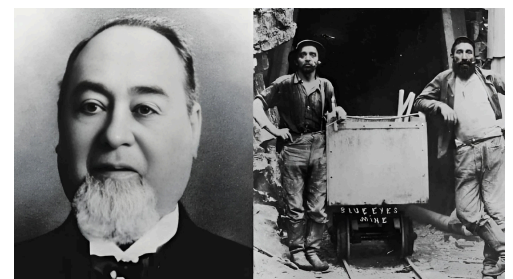
The most expensive thing ever made by humans is the International Space Station (ISS). It holds the Guinness World Record for the priciest creation, with a staggering cost of over \$100 billion¹. Some sources even estimate the total cost to be more than \$150 billion.



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How Levi Strauss turned miners' workwear into the classic blue jeans we love

Levi Strauss, a German immigrant, forever changed workwear during the California Gold Rush by inventing the first blue jeans. Originally, Strauss aimed to sell sturdy canvas to miners for tents and wagon covers. However, he soon recognized that miners needed durable trousers to withstand the tough conditions of their work. In response, Strauss crafted waist-high overalls from heavy-duty canvas, which, though rough, proved extremely resilient. A pivotal moment came when tailor Jacob Davis, who frequently bought fabric from Strauss, proposed reinforcing the trousers with metal rivets at key stress points to prevent tearing. In 1873, Strauss and Davis patented this design, marking the official creation of blue jeans. This innovative blend of durability and practicality made the jeans popular among miners and laborers, but their appeal quickly transcended workwear. Over time, Strauss's invention became a global fashion staple, with Levi's jeans remaining an enduring symbol of style, utility, and craftsmanship. Strauss's legacy continues through the timeless popularity of Levi's denim.



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Foreign investment hits record high with Rs 23,600 crore inflows this week

Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) investment in the Indian stock market has surged to an all-time high, with net investments reaching Rs 23,659.55 crore this week, according to National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data. The highest single-day investment was on Monday, with Rs 15,181 crore, and this trend continued throughout the week, culminating in a net investment of Rs 8,537 crore on Friday. As of September, total FPI investments have crossed Rs 57,300 crore. V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted that the total FPI investment for September so far is Rs 57,359 crore, with Rs 46,480 crore invested through the exchanges alone. The total FPI investment in 2024 has now reached Rs 100,245 crore, contributing to the stability of the Indian rupee (INR) this year. Alongside FPIs, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also showed strong investment activity, pumping Rs 15,961.71 crore into Indian stocks during the same period.



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Google gets 'School Time' feature to android phones and tablets

Google has introduced a new School Time feature for Android phones and tablets, aimed at helping parents manage their children's screen time during school hours¹. This feature allows parents to set specific times when only certain apps are accessible, reducing distractions and promoting a focused learning environment¹. Parents can also use the Family Link app to customize which apps are available and to allow calls or texts from specific contacts



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Inspired by Avatar and His Asthma, Indian Man Creates 'Biosphere' to Connect Adjacent Land to National Park

Jai Dhar Gupta, an environmentalist and clean air activist, has created India's first private biosphere, inspired by the movie "Avatar" and his own battle with asthma. This 32-acre forest haven, located between Rajaji National Park and the Raghati River, aims to restore the natural ecosystem by removing non-native eucalyptus trees and planting indigenous species¹. Gupta's vision is to create a lush, vibrant environment similar to the fictional planet Pandora from "Avatar".



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India and Uzbekistan sign Bilateral Investment Treaty in Tashkent

India and Uzbekistan signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) to protect investors, promote transparency, and ensure fair treatment. The treaty includes provisions for independent arbitration and balances investor rights with the ability of states to regulate. It aims to boost bilateral investments and economic cooperation. During her visit, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and met with students in Tashkent. An Indian business delegation attended the BIT signing. India is one of Uzbekistan's top 10 trade partners, with 2023 trade totaling \$756.60 million. Key Indian exports include pharmaceuticals and vehicle parts, while Uzbekistan exports fruits, vegetables, and fertilizers. Indian investments focus on pharmaceuticals and hospitality, with future opportunities in healthcare, textiles, and airport development.



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GENERAL MOTORS



MARY BARRA

Industrial Leader

Mary Barra, born on December 24, 1961, is the first female CEO of General Motors (GM), a position she has held since January 2014. Her remarkable journey began in 1980 when she joined GM as a co-op student while studying electrical engineering at Kettering University. She later earned an MBA from Stanford. Over the years, Barra held various leadership roles, including Vice President of Global Manufacturing Engineering and Executive Vice President of Global Product Development.

Upon becoming CEO, Barra faced significant challenges, including a major crisis involving faulty ignition switches linked to several deaths. Her transparent handling of the situation, including testifying before Congress, demonstrated her commitment to safety and accountability.

Barra has also been pivotal in steering GM toward a future focused on electric and autonomous vehicles. Under her leadership, the company committed to phasing out gasoline and diesel vehicles by 2035, launching models like the Chevrolet Bolt EV and developing Ultium battery technology.

Her vision includes transforming GM into a leader in electric mobility, allowing the company to compete with new entrants like Tesla while maintaining its legacy. Barra has also prioritized diversity and inclusion within the company, advocating for a workforce that reflects the global market. In 2021, she became the chair of GM's board of directors, solidifying her influence and ensuring GM's long-term success in the evolving automotive industry.



Mary Barra
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