



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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SW monsoon keeps it date-three days ahead



ONSET OF MONSOON

WHAT According to the IMD, the monsoon generally arrives at the southern tip of the Indian peninsula (Kerala) by the first week of June and then subsequently gets divided into two branches, namely the Arabian Sea branch and the Bay of Bengal branch. The onset of monsoon marks the beginning of the four-month – June-September – southwest monsoon season over India, which brings more than 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall.

WHY is it significant: The onset, according to the IMD, marks a significant day in India's economic calendar, as more than 70% of India's population is dependent on a good monsoon. Good rainfall is crucial for food grain production and recharge of reservoirs and aquifers. Timely and normal rains are set to

boost production outlook for monsoon-sown crops, such as rice, soybeans and pulses, and help in softening soaring inflation. Bountiful rains would also fill reservoirs, which in turn would brighten prospects for winter crops, usually planted during October and November.

HOW An onset of monsoon is declared: The onset of monsoon is declared by the IMD if at least 60 per cent of 14 designated meteorological stations (Minicoy, Amini, Thiruvananthapuram, Punalur, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Thalassery, Kannur, Kasaragod, and Mangaluru) in Kerala and Lakshadweep record at least 2.5 mm of rain for two consecutive days at any time after May 10. The IMD declares the onset over Kerala on the second day, if wind speed and temperature criteria set by it is fulfilled.

What causes an early monsoon?

According to weather experts, the early onset of southwest monsoon could be attributed to the influence of the remnants of cyclone Asani that triggered the cross-equatorial flow, a key factor for the seasonal rains.



Does early monsoon mean more rain?

Experts say early or delayed monsoon doesn't foretell good rainfall. The onset, according to them, is just an event, which happens during the progress of the monsoon over the Indian subcontinent. A delay of a few days, or early onset, has no bearing on the quality or amount of rainfall, or its regional distribution across the country. In fact, in recent years, the onset of the monsoon occurred two days in advance of the normal date, and it rained heavily for about 10 days after that, however, the season as a whole ended with 14% less rain than normal, weather experts say.

The term monsoon was first used in English in British India and neighbouring countries to refer to the big seasonal winds blowing from the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in the southwest, bringing heavy rainfall to the area.



Elon Musk is now highest-paid CEO, followed by Tim Cook

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has topped the list of the most highly-compensated CEOs on the Fortune 500 in 2021. After Musk, the 10 most highly-compensated Fortune 500 CEOs of 2021 are all tech and biotech CEOs, including the heads of Apple (Tim Cook), Netflix (Reed Hastings), and Microsoft (Satya Nadella). Tesla ranked 65 on this year's Fortune 500. The company had a blockbuster in 2021, bringing in \$53.8 billion in revenue, up 71 per cent from 2020. Meanwhile, the Apple CEO earned \$770.5 million in 2021 alone, mostly as a part of a 10-year grant of shares worth \$1.7 billion. The tech giant ranks 3 on the Fortune 500. Hang, the co-founder of NVIDIA, and Reed Hastings of Netflix bagged third and fourth spots, respectively.



Modi govt's popularity at highest since start of pandemic: Survey

Approval ratings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government have risen to the highest since the start of the pandemic though there's lingering concerns over the surging prices of essential items and unemployment, the latest survey showed on Monday. Modi's government has met or exceeded expectations in the second term, according to 67% of 64,000 people polled by LocalCircles. That's a jump from 51% last year when a brutal second wave of Covid-19 infections overwhelmed hospitals and crematoriums and 62% in 2020 when the pandemic started.

- The people surveyed said the government was better prepared to handle a third wave of Covid-19 infections and had effectively managed the economy. Yet there were concerns over unemployment staying around 7% since the start of the year, with 47% of those polled saying India hasn't been able to address the issue.
- There's also been an increase in confidence in the government's handling of joblessness, with 37% showing approval. That's a rise from 27% in 2021 and 29% in 2020 where there were drastic

- lockdowns that saw migrant workers lose their jobs in cities though a rural jobs guarantee program helped. The growing approval comes as India's retail inflation is tracking an eight-year high, a politically-sensitive issue that has seen Modi's government institute a series of measures to restrict exports of wheat and sugar and rein in any further price increases.
- 73% said they were optimistic about their future and that of their families in India. More than 50% said doing business in India has become easier.



US IS NOW INDIA'S BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER, CHINA DISLODGED

The US has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, according to the data of the commerce ministry. The India-US bilateral trade stood at \$119.42 billion, a sharp jump from \$80.51 billion in 2020-21. India's exports to the US grew from \$51.62 billion in 2020-21 to \$76.11 billion in 2021-22. Similarly, imports rose from about \$29 billion to \$43.31 billion over the same period.

WHY IT MATTERS

- China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and also in 2020-21. Before that the UAE was the country's largest trading partner. The UAE was the third largest trading partner of India in 2021-22 with \$72.9 billion of trade, followed by Saudi Arabia (\$42.85 billion), Iraq (\$34.33 billion) and Singapore (\$30 billion).
- With the ongoing geo-strategic churning that is witnessing economic and strategic realignment, Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing India-US bilateral trade will continue in the coming years. Several top global firms are reducing their overwhelming dependence on China for business.

LEADERSHIP 101

KEY COMPETENCIES

WHAT ARE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES?

Leadership competencies are skills and attributes that you can possess which make you a good leader. Your competency in – or ability to show – these skills will increase the trust and commitment that your team has in you. Effective leaders inspire, encourage and facilitate in order to improve the productivity of their team.

IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES TO TARGET

Here are areas to focus on if you want to become a more competent leader:

INTEGRITY

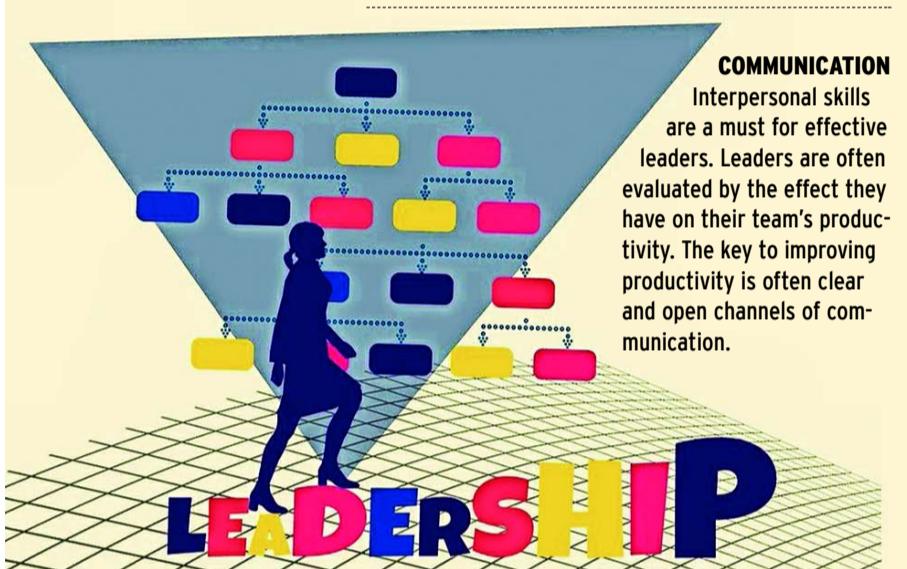
Leaders are often judged by their character. Integrity means doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Leaders with integrity prioritise the consistency of their character in both their personal and professional relationships. They show integrity, they are honest, humble and reliable.

SELF-DISCIPLINE

Many of these competencies require leaders to have the fundamental quality of self-discipline. Leaders act not out of their own interest but out of a concern for others. They carefully consider the possible consequences of their actions instead of making rash decisions. Self-discipline involves controlling any natural tendencies to act out of anger, greed or selfishness.

COMMUNICATION

Interpersonal skills are a must for effective leaders. Leaders are often evaluated by the effect they have on their team's productivity. The key to improving productivity is often clear and open channels of communication.



EDITORIAL

So rational, so boring

Editorial by Narayani Ganesh

We are advised to behave in a rational manner. Apply logic and science, say experts, so you do not fall into the pit of probabilities and irrational decision-making. That's because irrational thoughts enter our brains and affect our actions more often than we'd admit, say experts who point out that irrationality seems to carry plenty of drawbacks.

But this gives overworked brains some rest. Human beings are wired to prioritise safety and security. But the world has changed rapidly over millennia, while we haven't been paying attention to upgrading the brain's capacity to deal with new situations and challenges. Says Rankin, a clinical psychologist, 'We are basically still Nean-

derthal, focused on survival and safety and living in the present. Our brains haven't adapted to a much more complex world.' Moreover, the human brain takes up more than 20% of our energy, and Rankin says because critical thinking can be exhausting, we rely on simplistic shortcuts. When we resort to shortcuts, we come to accept probabilities as facts, and delude ourselves that we can multitask.

But scientists say that we cannot really multitask, we merely switch between tasks. Hence, act on impulse and do not behave rationally... always. While irrationality can trip us up, it can also fuel creativity and innovation, says Pareen Sehat, a registered clinical counsellor based in Vancouver, Canada. Which is why being too rational could be stultifying and boring.

SPEAKING TREE



TIPS ON BECOMING A GREAT SPEAKER

Leadership skills

Speaking clearly and concisely is not only important as a job skill but is equally important at our school and college. Someone said "To be able to ask a question clearly is two thirds of the way to getting it answered"

How to make an impactful speech? Begin with these three points...

- 1 **HOW TO SPEAK?** This is to do with control over your language, pronunciation and your speed. It is important to look at the audience and speak from your heart. Once you speak with emotions, you come across as convincing.
- 2 **WHAT SHOULD I SAY?** This is the content part and the most important. You need to research the topic that you are speaking on. Books, magazines and the internet are great sources. You have to prepare well for your speech.
- 3 **ARTICULATION** This simply means how to organise your content logically so that one idea flows to the next in a smooth way. Your ideas should be easily understood and not confuse the audience.

LEARN FROM GREAT ORATORS



Listen to the great orators like Barack Obama, Arun Jaitley, PM Narendra Modi, Oprah Winfrey, to observe how they speak, what their style is and how they put across their ideas so lucidly. They look into the eyes of the audience and speak from their heart.

Did you know that Oprah Winfrey, a host and creator of 'Oprah Winfrey Show' is worth \$2.9 billion and one of the richest Americans? She began her career as a radio newscaster while in school. She also worked for a local TV station as a reporter and an anchor while at college. She owes her success to her brilliant oratory and speaking skills. She worked very hard to achieve success.

Sir Winston Churchill, the former PM of Great Britain, a legend as far as his oratory skills were concerned, was so nervous that he could hardly mumble a couple of sentences in the British parliament when he spoke for the first time. He took this as a challenge and read extensively, wrote his speeches diligently and practised very hard to become the world's most impactful speakers.

5 TOPICS YOU CAN SPEAK ON AS OF NOW

1. The relevance of the National Education Policy in today's education landscape
2. The twin deficits that the Sri Lankan economy is currently facing and what can India learn from it
3. Russia-Ukraine war; was it really necessary?
4. WHO and India's fight over the total number of deaths reported from the country
5. Nepotism in Bollywood: Fact or myth?

WHERE CAN I LISTEN TO THESE SPEAKERS

On YouTube, you can find impactful speeches delivered by speakers on various topics as TedTalks. Listen to meaningful discussions on TV channels which will enrich your knowledge and help you become a better orator.

You would see that most great orators never use a power point. Try not to use any crutch initially for your speech.

SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

1 EXTEMPORE SPEAKING: Pick up a simple topic at random and with just five minutes preparation, try to speak on the topic for three minutes. You will appreciate that it is not easy to do this. Most people fumble and are unable to express their thoughts.

2 CREATIVITY IN SPEAKING: Pick up a short story and read it out. Time this narration with a watch. Let us say it took 100 seconds for this. Now try to tell the same story in 200 seconds. You can add details to characters, situations and places. Then attempt to expand it to 300 seconds. This will help you imagine and create an impactful narrative.

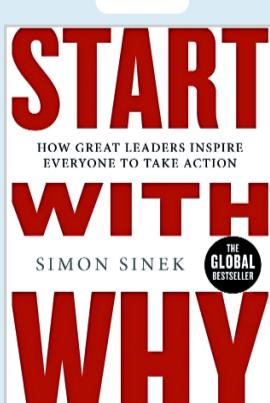
3 PRACTICE MAKES YOU PERFECT: You cannot learn swimming standing outside the pool watching an Olympic player swim. Similarly, to become a confident speaker, you have to get up and speak in front of people. The more you speak in public the better you will become. You can use your cell phone to record your speeches and replay to work on your shortcomings.

4 IMPROVE YOUR CONTENT: If you want to make a good impression, you must read books, articles and magazines to enhance your knowledge on varied subjects. This will help you speak intelligently. Remember, anyone can become a parrot, but you should strive to become an intelligent parrot!

TOP 5

5 CLASSIC LEADERSHIP BOOKS OF ALL TIME

#1



'START WITH WHY': How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action is a leadership book that answers why we do what we do. If you often wonder why people are loyal to some leaders but not others or why a successful leader can sustain their success over a period of time, this is the book for you.

IN 'START WITH WHY'... Simon Sinek draws parallels between great leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Steve Jobs and shares that although these leaders have nothing in common, they thought the same way.

'THE FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS OF A TEAM': A Leadership Fable is a book every team leader should/must read once in their lifetime.

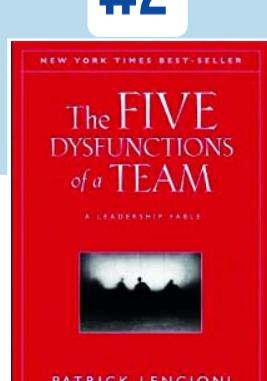
After writing on CEOs and great executives in his first two best-sellers, Patrick turns his eyes on team leaders in this book. In this book, a CEO by the name of Kathryn Peterson struggles to unite a team in circumstances that can lead to the shut down of her company. It is a courageous and insightful leadership book, tackling the five problems that every team, no matter how good, has to tackle.

In addition to elucidating the problems, the writer also outlines proactive steps that can be used to solve these issues to build an effective team.

AUTHOR: Simon Sinek
GOODREADS RATING: 4.08 / 5
AVAILABLE ON KINDLE: Yes

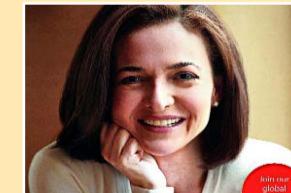
IDEAL READ FOR: Those who are aspiring leaders in C-level positions in businesses, NPO's or other industries, and aspiring candidates who wish to lead their student union elections in colleges.

#2



AUTHOR: Patrick Lencioni
GOODREADS RATING: 4.07 / 5
AVAILABLE ON KINDLE: Yes

IDEAL READ FOR: Team leaders in intense work environments like trekking, sports, marketing, product, and R&D.



#3 LEAN IN
WOMEN, WORK, AND THE WILL TO LEAD

SHERYL SANDBERG

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER

'LEAN IN: WOMEN, WORK AND THE WILL TO LEAD': A leadership book for anyone hesitant about women in leadership positions.

Now a fading cultural phenomenon, but when Sheryl Sandberg's book was published in 2013, she became a global icon who made appearances on major TV shows, opinion pages, on the cover of 'Time' magazine, and whatnot.

AUTHOR: Sheryl Sandberg
GOODREADS RATING: 3.94 / 5
AVAILABLE ON KINDLE: Yes

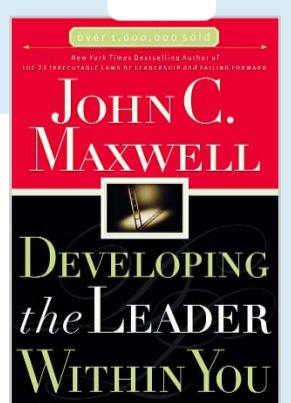
IDEAL READ FOR: women/men leaders in top positions, mid-level executives, and everyone hesitant about women leadership.

'DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN YOU': A leadership book that discusses differences between managers and leaders.

Having sold more than a million copies, this highly successful and popular leadership book, written by Dr. Maxwell, uses biblical foundations for defining leadership.

Using those foundations, Maxwell defines principles and practices for leaders from all walks of life: leaders of a church, family, business, or NPO. According to the writer, if these eternal positive principles are followed by any leader, they can achieve a lifetime of sustained success over the course of time.

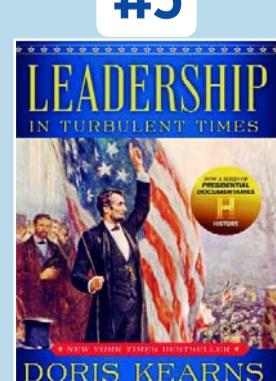
#4



AUTHOR: John C. Maxwell
GOODREADS RATING: 4.19 / 5
AVAILABLE ON KINDLE: Yes

IDEAL READ FOR: Leaders of a church congregation, family business, writers, editors and managers.

#5



'LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES': A book that says 'distinct moral purpose' make leaders.

This book addresses the most basic questions like 'are leaders born or made?', 'how does adversity affect leadership' and 'what makes a leader?'.

Drawing on the personal and professional lives of four American presidents - Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (during the Civil Rights Era), Goodwin portrays how resilience and fierce ambition make and define the success of anyone in leadership positions.