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# INDIA REPUBLIC NEWS



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**MANN KI BAAT:**  
PM pitches for launch of 'new mass movement' against single-use plastic from 2 October



**TRUMP 'ORDERS'**  
U.S. companies to pull out of China, jacks up tariffs and eviscerates Fed chairman in market-crashing tweets

## *Farewell, Arun Jaitley:*

*One of India's tallest leaders cremated with state honours*



Arun Jaitley, the BJP stalwart whose death sparked a massive outpouring of public grief in the country, was given a teary send-off with politicians across the spectrum attending his funeral held with state honours. Arun Jaitley's son Rohan lit the funeral pyre as a 21-gun salute went off on the banks of the river Yamuna in national capital Delhi.

His body wrapped in the tricolour, Arun Jaitley was brought to Nigambodh Ghat in a flower-decked gun carriage from the BJP headquarters where thousands of people, leaders and diplomats whose lives he had touched and influenced had queued up to pay their respects. Standing in front front of the television cameras, someone called him the shining star of Indian politics, another bright spark whose death is a big loss for the nation and legal community and the third, India's tallest leader and a dear friend.

Jaitley could build bridges over the widest ideological gaps and assimilate politically divergent views, yet come up with a win-win solution. Many of those who came for him were the BJP's political rivals, such as Telugu Desam Party's Chandrababu Naidu, Congress' Kapil Sibal and Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose return to the NDA was made possible due to Jaitley's influence, also attended the funeral along with other top ministers such as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Arun Jaitley, among the most prominent individuals in Indian public life, died at 66 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He had been admitted to hospital on August 9 after he complained of uneasiness. Jaitley breathed his last at 12:07 pm on Saturday, and returned home in a hearse soon after.

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Population Control Law must implement in India. Family of two children pay taxes while family of eight children get subsidies. This Must Stop. All Families, All Religions should get equal subsidies.

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN NYC AREA**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>25 Aug, 2019</b> 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM		<b>Summer Brunch &amp; Shop at the Bazaar</b> Grand Bazaar NYC, 100 West 77th Street, New York, NY 10024
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>27 Aug, 2019</b> 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM		<b>Jackrabbit FREE Weekly Runs</b> JackRabbit - Union Square, 42 West 14th Street, New York
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>28 Aug, 2019</b> 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM		<b>Healthy on the Hudson x lululemon</b> Pier 25 at Hudson River Park, West Street, New York, New York
<b>Saturday</b> <b>31 Aug, 2019</b> 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM		<b>Flower Crown Workshop</b> CraftJam SoHo Studio, 103 Sullivan Street, New York
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>03 Sep, 2019</b> Doors at 8:00 PM		<b>Habibi - The Sultan Room at The Turk's Inn</b> The Turk's Inn, 234 Starr Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237
<b>Thursday</b> <b>05 Sep, 2019</b> 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM		<b>Open House at the Banana Farm - Cookie Tasting</b> The Banana Farm (Our office. Be warned: there are no bananas.) 98 4th Street, #106 (Ground floor), Brooklyn, NY 11231
<b>Friday-Saturday</b> <b>06, 07 Sep, 2019</b> Doors at 8:00 PM		<b>Lauren Early + Beau + Rose Cologne</b> The Sultan Room at The Turk's Inn 234 Starr Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237
<b>Saturday-Sunday</b> <b>07, 08 Sep, 2019</b> 2:00 PM, 11:00 PM		<b>Bushwig NYC 2019</b> Knockdown Center, 52-19 Flushing Ave, Queens, NY 11378
<b>Sunday</b> <b>08 Sep, 2019</b> 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM		<b>Brooklyn Army Terminal Block Party 2019</b> Brooklyn Army Terminal, 140 58th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>11 Sep, 2019</b> 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM		<b>Kitchen Witchcraft 101</b> Catland, 987 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206
<b>Thursday</b> <b>12 Sep, 2019</b> 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM		<b>Jazz at Pier 84</b> Pier 84 at Hudson River Park, 555 12th Avenue, New York
<b>Friday</b> <b>13 Sep, 2019</b> 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM		<b>Paint in the Dark™: UV Body Painting Class</b> The 9 Studios, 317 Stagg st , Brooklyn, NY 11206
<b>Saturday</b> <b>14 Sep, 2019</b> 8:00 PM		<b>Diljit Dosanth Roar Tour 2019</b> Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale Li, New York

**To announce your Events here, Email event details at Editorial@IndiaRepublicNews.com**

# TRUMP insists he doesn't have 'Messiah complex' - despite dubbing himself 'the chosen one'

He's not the One you thought he was.

President Trump insisted he doesn't have a "Messiah complex" and says he was just joking when he called himself "the chosen one."



Trump said it should've been obvious to everyone that he wasn't serious when he gazed up at the sky and anointed himself the guy to take on China over trade.

"They knew I was kidding, being sarcastic," he wrote on Saturday, blaming the media for twisting his remarks during a break from talks at the G7 Summit in France.

Still, Trump did not do much to comfort critics who believe he has amassed far too much power for himself, especially given his mercurial personality.

He didn't address why he approvingly quoted a nutty right-wing conspiracy theorist on the same day who called Trump "the son of God" and "King of Israel" for his uncritical backing of the Jewish state.



And of course, Trump wasn't backing away one bit from his bizarre #IHerebyOrder edict that private American companies must wind down their operations in China because of his escalating trade war.

He even countered business leaders who say the president does not have the legal power to tell private companies where to do business by citing the Emergency Economic Powers Act, under which he could declare an emergency and impose sanctions on China.

Along with Trump's promise of a new round of tariffs, that threat seemed likely to send markets into a fresh tizzy after the Dow plunged by nearly 3% on Friday.

Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

## Prince Andrew insists he didn't 'see or suspect' Jeffrey Epstein sex crimes with young girls

Prince Andrew admits he royally screwed up by hanging out with late pervy multimillionaire Jeffrey Epstein.

But the brother of Britain's Prince Charles insisted on Saturday that he never saw anything criminal during his visits with Epstein, who was charged with trafficking young girls for sex.

"At no stage ... did I see, witness or suspect any behavior of the sort that subsequently led to his arrest and conviction," Andrew said in a statement released by Buckingham Palace.

Speaking out for the first time since Epstein's suicide, Andrew somewhat vaguely claimed he had no idea about his buddy's misdeeds and said he feels bad for Epstein's victims.

"His suicide has left many unanswered questions and I acknowledge and sympathize with everyone who has been affected," said Andrew, whose title is the Duke of York.

In a carefully worded statement, Andrew effectively denied having sex with any of the young women abused by Epstein. Photos have shown him with Virginia Giuffre, who accused Epstein of forcing her to have sex with the royal when she was a teenager.



"I am at a loss to understand or explain Mr. Epstein's lifestyle," Andrew said. "I deplore the exploitation of any human being and would not condone, participate in or encourage any such behavior."

Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

# Soulful India Independence Day Celebrations

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# TRUMP CRYPTICALLY TWEETS ABOUT PHANTOM PROGRESS ON SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

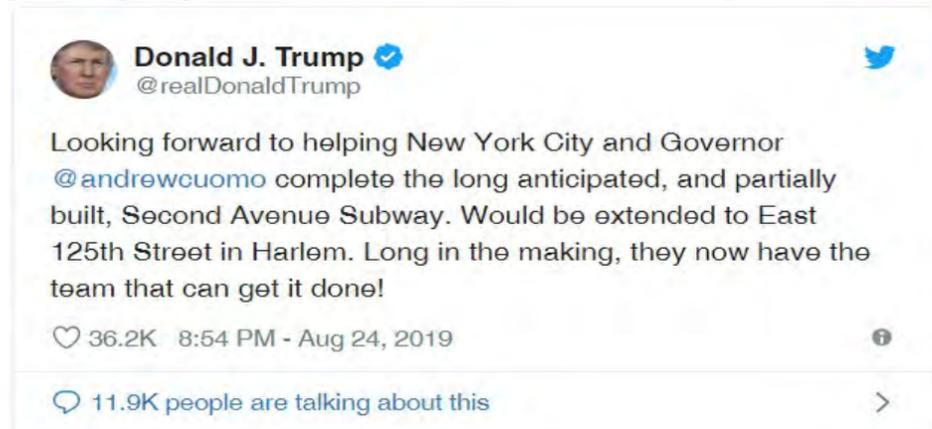
Sounds good, only problem is: New York says it has no idea what Trump is talking about.

“The president is right that if we get the federal funding, New York will deliver and get the Second Avenue Subway extension built,” said Dani Lever, a spokeswoman for Cuomo.

The state regularly interacts with federal officials about moving forward with infrastructure projects like the renovation of LaGuardia Airport and the proposed Gateway tunnel to New Jersey. But there has been no significant change on the Second Avenue subway.

“The president’s tweet suggests good news but we have no specific funding or approval,” said Dani Lever, a spokeswoman for Cuomo. “If an agreement actually materializes, we will provide an update.”

The Q line was extended to E. 96th St. and Second Ave. in 2017, with stations at 72nd and 86th sts. The MTA plans to eventually extend it further to 125th St. and Park Ave. but the project is still in the planning stage and there is no firm schedule for completion.



Source nydailynews.com

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## Ex-National Guard soldier who kicked drugs graduates from Manhattan Veterans Treatment Court



He was a junkie, a drunk, and an accused drug dealer who had done time in prison, so even Fernando Basby was convinced he would never turn his life around.

But three years after his arrest for allegedly hawking heroin on an East Harlem street corner, the former Army National Guard soldier is clean — and a recent graduate of Manhattan Veterans Treatment Court, which offers treatment in lieu of jail for former service members with addiction or mental health issues.

“It was a long road for me... a guy with prior felonies,” Basby, 52, said at his graduation ceremony this month in Manhattan Supreme Court, where he was handed a diploma for successfully completing the two-year program.

“I thought I wasn’t going to get this, to be honest with y’all.”

His case was formally dismissed, as promised, when he entered the program in June 2016 as one of its first participants. He spent about two years in treatment, submitting to regular drug tests.

But prosecutors took a gamble on the longtime heroin user, who would

have been ineligible for the program because one of his past convictions, an attempted burglary, is considered violent under the law.

“We typically only take people with certain backgrounds... You were one of the exceptions,” said Chief Assistant District Attorney Karen Friedman-Agnifilo at his last court appearance.

“You are absolutely an inspiration to us to take more chances on more people, because if you can accomplish all that you have, it really makes a big difference,” she added.

“You changed your life’s trajectory so much for the better,” said Justice A. Kirke Bartley, who presided over his case.

Both encouraged him to return to the program to mentor others.

Basby, who grew up in Manhattan, joined the National Guard and was honorably discharged in January 1986 after a two-year enlistment. But the then-20 year old soon fell in with the wrong crowd. He’s been busted at least 20 times on such charges as narcotics trafficking, drug sale and possession, and drunken driving, and did stints in federal and state prisons.

Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

# THE GREAT CRACKUP: TRUMP IS COMING EVEN MORE UNDONE



His, um, creative pronunciations of common words, mayfly attention to the most ephemeral ideas and high-tempo tweeting left people wondering if a heapin' helpin' of large-animal tranquilizer might be in order with the next round of KFC.

This week wasn't just the usual Trump performance art; it was a new, strange and somewhat frightening level of antic. Even his allies whispered to reporters that perhaps the stress brought on by the prospect of an economic downturn was getting to him. With no adult supervision in the White House left — and no, Ivanka doesn't count — this is a man on the edge, and there is absolutely nothing and no one to stop him.

When I pressed a senior congressional Republican this week on Trump's behavior, asking him to tell me anyone who could influence the man, he whispered, "Hannity?"

[More Opinion] An offense to the American spirit: What's wrong with Trump's new 'public charge' restrictions »

It was a question, not an answer, and because the answer is absolutely terrifying, no elected Republican wants to admit the truth. What we're seeing is the real Trump, the unfiltered maniac, not the man who is occasionally chained to a teleprompter and forced to read Kellyanne Conway's work product aloud.

His sweaty, heavy-breathing press sprays on the White House lawn left reporters in a state of stunned silence, the spittle-flecked rantings of a man determined to machine-gun out a hundred ideas in the time a rational person would discuss two.

We started off with Jewish disloyalty — which, of course, functional agnostic Donald Trump knows only because he "wants them counting his money" — and jumped to the grand plan to conquer Greenland and seize America North from the hands of the perfidious Danes.

The Greenland story would be an SNL skit if it wasn't so utterly real. Denmark, a close ally for decades, was having none of Trump's crazy on this one, which of course, set off another round of presidential rage. Calling millions of Jews disloyal to their county because of their political preference sounds...familiar, and not in a good way.

His manic anger at Jews, Denmark, the media (naturally) and the Federal Reserve was a bizarre prelude to the G7 conference this weekend, but remarkably, those didn't even represent the top of the spectrum of nuttiness.

Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

"Our great American companies are hereby ordered..."

The subtle meter in Americans' brains that tracks the degree to which the universe seems off its axis has been in a state of constant flux since Donald Trump's election in 2016, but this week the needle slammed hard into the peg on the right side of the gauge. Red warning lights are flashing across Washington as even the now-typical levels of uncertainty and political chaos reach epic proportions.

It's almost as if we need a recalibration of the insanity of the Trump era, a new set of definitions about what comprises normal presidential behavior.

Because what's happening now left normal five towns back, stopped for smokes and brown liquor, and tossed the GPS out the window. This week wasn't normal, and no amount of whistling past the graveyard will make it any different.

Donald Trump's affect, speech patterns and overall delivery this week have been alternately horrifying and hilarious. A combination of waking hallucinations, verbal tics, lies surpassing even his usual fabulist standard, aphasias and lunatic blurtings, each public utterance was a moment where the eye of his aides either popped or rolled, depending on their level of cynicism.

"Our great American companies are hereby ordered..."

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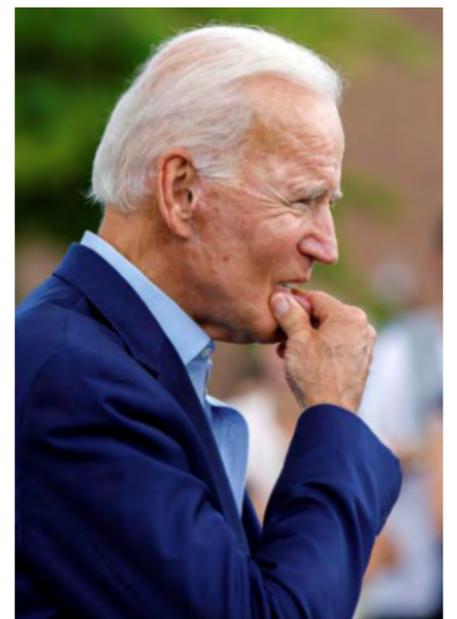
## Joe Biden mixes up New Hampshire with 'scenic beautiful' Vermont on campaign trail

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Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)



An increasingly unhinged President Trump “ordered” American companies on Friday to stop doing business with China and announced he would jack up existing tariffs on Chinese goods coming into the U.S., sending markets into a brutal tailspin.

Trump’s Twitter-delivered commands and threats came on the heels of his blasting Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell as an “enemy” for not caving to his demand for lower interest rates.

Even though he doesn’t have any authority to boss around American companies, Trump started off the wild Twitterstorm by telling them to pull the plug on engaging with China.

“Our Country has lost, stupidly, Trillions of Dollars with China over many years,” the president tweeted. “We don’t need China and, frankly, would be far better off without them. The vast amounts of money made and stolen by China from the United States, year after year, for decades, will and must STOP. Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China, include bringing our companies HOME and making your products in the USA.”

Trump can’t legally bar companies from doing business with China, but he followed up that tweet a few hours later with another one announcing he will increase his administration’s tariffs on China— a prospect that will likely hurt American companies and consumers.



## Trump ‘orders’ U.S. companies to pull out of China, jacks up tariffs and eviscerates Fed chairman in market-crashing tweets

“Starting on October 1st, the 250 BILLION DOLLARS of goods and products from China, currently being taxed at 25%, will be taxed at 30%,” Trump posted. “Additionally, the remaining 300 BILLION DOLLARS of goods and products from China, that was being taxed from September 1st at 10%, will now be taxed at 15%.”

The president added, “Thank you for your attention to this matter!”

Trump’s multi-tiered social media outburst came after China slapped levies on \$75 billion of American goods in retaliation for the president’s tariff-heavy trade war tactics.

The president’s shrill proclamations sent shivers through global markets with the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunging 623 points, or more than 2.4%.

Trump laughed off the stock market tumult by jokingly blaming the steep drop that wiped out billions in asset values on the withdrawal from the 2020 presidential race of little-known Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton.

“The Dow is down 573 points perhaps on the news that Representative Seth Moulton, whoever that may be, has dropped out of the 2020 Presidential Race!” the president

**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · Aug 23, 2019  
Our Country has lost, stupidly, Trillions of Dollars with China over many years. They have stolen our Intellectual Property at a rate of Hundreds of Billions of Dollars a year, & they want to continue. I won't let that happen! We don't need China and, frankly, would be far....

**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump  
....better off without them. The vast amounts of money made and stolen by China from the United States, year after year, for decades, will and must STOP. Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China, including bringing..

53.5K 8:29 PM - Aug 23, 2019

33K people are talking about this

Source nydailynews.com

# GRIDLOCK SAM: When getaway traffic and sports events’ congestion collide

Sunday, August 25 - Saturday, Aug. 31

ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING RULES ARE IN EFFECT ALL WEEK

On the eve of Labor Day weekend, record traffic volumes collide with getaway traffic and multiple sports events. Traffic congestion will peak on Thursday and Friday afternoons so if you can get away after work on Wednesday do so. Another good time to leave is Friday night after 8 p.m., better 9 p.m.

Thursday would be a “bear” without the escape from NYC traffic, the US Open being in action while the Mets play across the street, and without the Jets facing the Eagles at MetLife Stadium. Start time for all three events is 7 p.m.

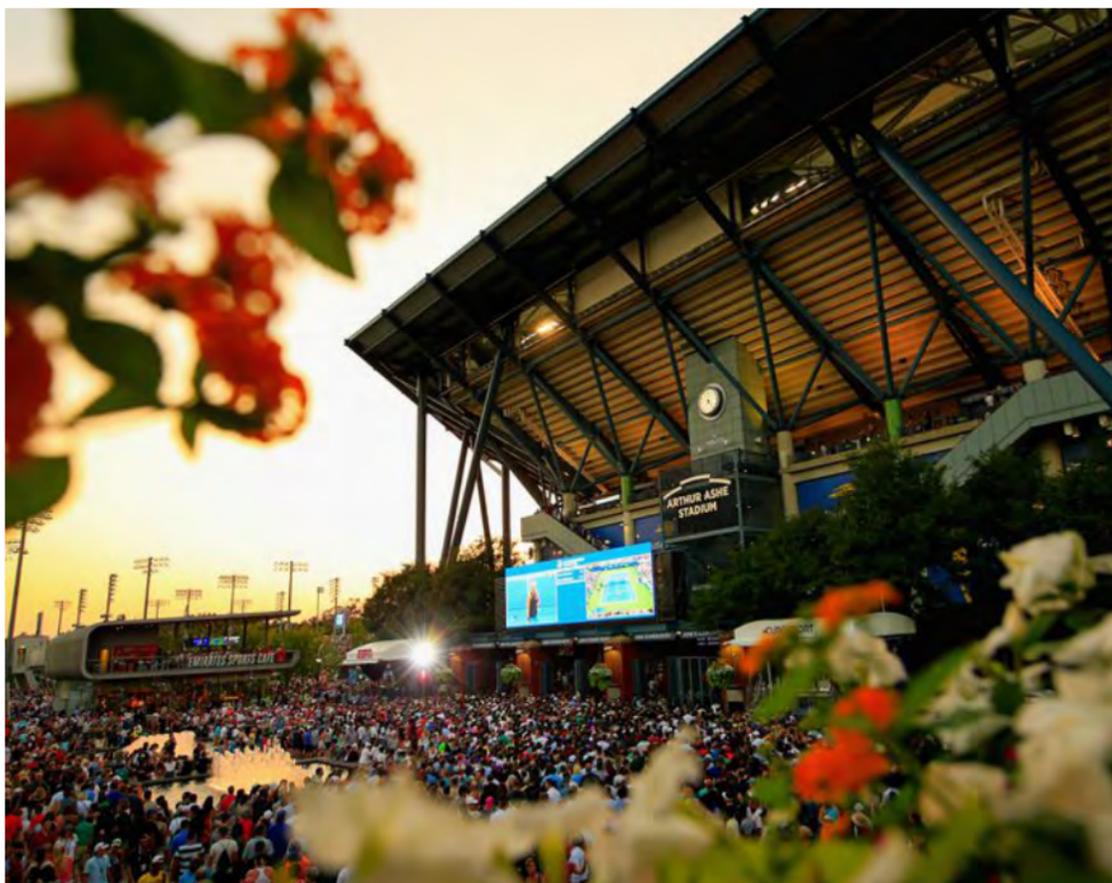
Around 6 p.m. Thursday, the Grand Central, Van Wyck, and L.I.E. will have traffic going to see the Mets and the Cubs, a Wild Card rival, or to the U.S. Open next door. Earlier in the week, The Amazins’ play the Braves 1 p.m. Sunday, and the Cubs 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. The Open starts Monday and has matches 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The 7 train or the L.I.R.R. to Mets-Willets Point are the only smart ways to go to Citi Field or Arthur Ashe Stadium.

New Jersey traffic home and to the Jersey Shore will be heavy on the GW Bridge, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, the NJ Turnpike, and Rte. 3 especially before the 7 p.m. Jets-Eagles game at MetLife Thursday.

Friday night, just in time for the rush hour, Yankee fans will be heading to The Stadium for a 7 p.m. game against the A’s.

Both Thursday and Friday afternoons will be bad on many bridges and tunnels including the Verrazano, Throgs Neck, Whitestone, and Queens Midtown.

Source nydailynews.com





## Biden's awkward question: What if Obama had been assassinated?

Ex-vice president and current presidential candidate Joe Biden posed an awkward what-if Friday about a man he's called a friend.

"Imagine what would have happened if, God forbid, Barack Obama had been assassinated after becoming the de facto nominee? What would have happened in America?"

Biden — Obama's vice president for two terms, and a senator from Delaware for 36

years — raised the question to an audience in Hanover, N.H. during a campaign stop.

He spoke in the context of recalling two of his political heroes, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, both of whom were assassinated in 1968.

Biden's gaffes are coming under scrutiny again during his third presidential campaign — he previously ran in 1988 and 2008.

During the same campaign swing on Friday, Biden said that if he didn't support teachers, "I'd be sleeping alone." His wife, Jill, has worked as a community college teacher.

Also Friday, Biden talked about the idea of taking tax breaks from wealthy people.

"I find most rich people are as patriotic as poor people," he said.

Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

## Colliding with cops: Singer Howie Day busted for domestic violence assault at lower Manhattan hotel room

Pop singer Howie Day had to do his crooning in a holding cell Saturday after he was busted for assaulting his girlfriend in a Manhattan hotel, officials said.

Day, 38, was taken into custody about 5:40 p.m. Friday after he attacked his girlfriend inside the Aloft Manhattan Downtown Hotel on Ann St. in the Financial District.

Day choked his girlfriend and threw her to the floor of the hotel room, a criminal complaint said. She suffered injuries to her face, neck and hands, said officials.

Cops found a bag of Xanax pills on Day's person.

When the Billboard star was taken to the First Precinct in Lower Manhattan, he admitted to using the drug, prosecutors said at his arraignment Saturday.

"I'm going through Xanax withdrawal, I think I'm going to

pass out," he told cops, prosecutors said.

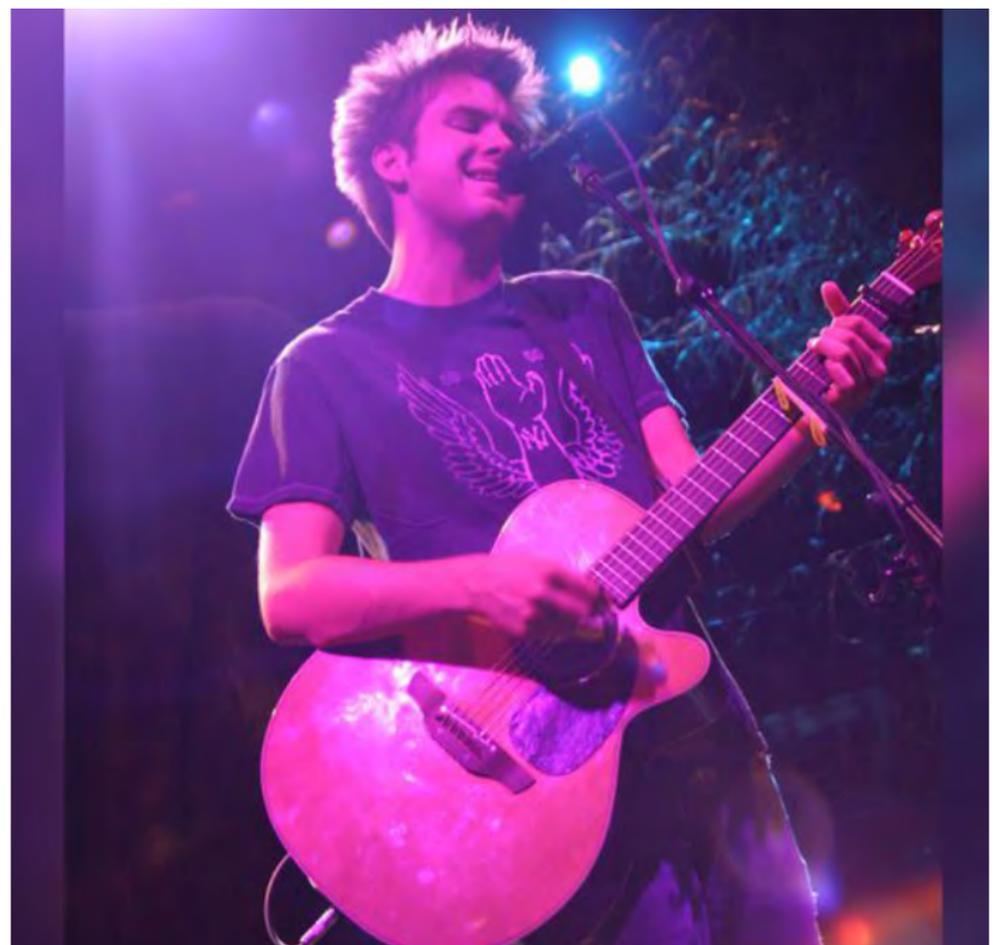
During his arraignment Saturday, his attorney told Judge Stephen Antignani that Day was eager to answer the charges in court since he travels across the country for work and wouldn't want an arrest warrant hanging over his head.

Antignani set his bail at \$500 bond.

This is the first arrest in New York City for Day, who is originally from Maine and currently lives in Seattle, Wash.

Day was charged with assaulting his then-girlfriend Carrie Pencek at Seattle's Sea-Tac airport in April 2018.

The singer is best known for the hit singles "She Says" in 2005 and "Collide" in 2004. His most recent album, "Lanterns" was released in 2015.



Source [nydailynews.com](http://nydailynews.com)

# दुःखद निधन



पूर्व वित्त मंत्री व भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता  
अरुण जेटली जी को

॥ भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि ॥

ईश्वर इनकी आत्मा को शांति दे



Raj Dhingra  
India Republic News



Minesh Patel  
President Gujarati Samaj

## Arun Jaitley once stumped me with the poser: 'Can you guess my age?' Now I want to tell him, 'Sir, you are 66 and its no age to go'

- Arun Jaitley passed away at the age of 66 at AIIMS, New Delhi on 24 August owing to issues relating to his health
- Arun Jaitley would borrow from the best traditions and debates in the British Parliament and elevate the discussion to a sublime level
- In the five years of Modi's regime, Jaitley put up a stout and most cogent defence for Modi

Some time in 1999, I took Arun Jaitley out for meal for the column "Lunch with Business Standard". As is his wont, he chose his own place for lunch. It was at the Chambers at the Taj Mansingh hotel, an exclusive domain of high and mighty Delhi.

As we sat down for the meal, it was the spritely Jaitley who surprised me with an unlikely question. "Can you guess my age?" he asked, obviously proud of the way he looked after his health and fitness. "You must be around 40," I stammered more because of the suddenness of the question than its complexity. "No, I am close to the 50s," he said with a glint in his eye. At 47, he hardly looked like the person who would be picked by providence to be subjected to multiple morbidities in later years.

It was a treat for journalists to talk to Jaitley. At the Taj Mansingh's exclusive club, he talked freely and with

passion about his politics, past and future. In the course of the conversation, he narrated many anecdotes, some personal and mostly political.

One anecdote that I still remember vividly was related to his incarceration during the Emergency when he was jailed. Luckily, his jail mate was his senior in the party KR Malkani, probably one of the few authentic Anglophiles in the Sangh Parivar then. Malkani liked Jaitley because they both liked good food and Jaitley could also cook well. This prompted Malkani to remark one day, "I have rarely seen in anybody a combination of a glutton and a gourmet. You are both." Recounting the days, Jaitley had told me how he got associated with the movement for civil liberties in the post-Emergency phase only to realise subsequently that they are the "overground face of the underground".

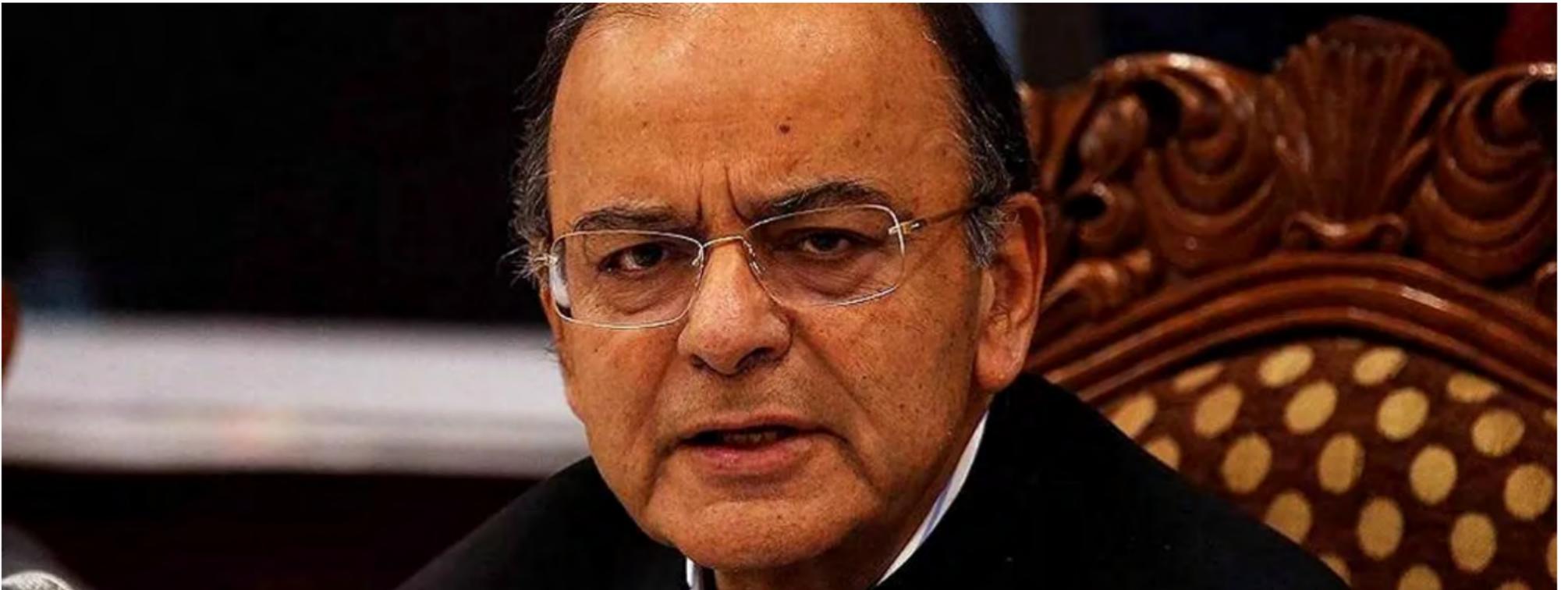
Jaitley had a unique gift of the gab. He would borrow from the best traditions and debates in the British Parliament and elevate the discussion to a sublime level where personal prejudices or rancour would give way to richness of content. In his role as the leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha during the UPA-2 years of Manmohan Singh, he would marshal facts and arguments that would make the treasury bench squirm in their seats. He

would take on Ram Jethmalani and Kapil Sibal with an ease and equanimity that used to be the envy of even his peers. Perhaps he drew strength from the transparent and honest public life he led. In a political career spanning about 40 years, Jaitley's name was never associated with any scam. Arvind Kejriwal, who mounted an offensive against Jaitley alleging corruption at the Delhi District Cricket Association (DDA), had to eat humble pie and apologise in court before Jaitley dropped the defamation case.

In both his conduct and conversations, Jaitley would make it clear that he was not into politics for the money. When his name was announced for being included in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led Cabinet, I went to his house for an interview when he remarked in a jest, "The amount of money people think they may earn by becoming a minister, I will be losing that much amount by being a minister." And that was absolutely correct. Jaitley had a roaring practice as a lawyer and it came to an end when he took over as the minister.

But unlike a professional lawyer who can argue according to the brief he holds, his politics was always consistent with his ideology and conscience.

Source [firstpost.com](http://firstpost.com)



## Arun Jaitley's demise a debilitating blow to India's body politic; the intellectual giant leaves behind a void difficult to fill

*The former Union minister was a Colossus among men, a towering intellectual, one of the first satyagrahis against Emergency, a scholar, legal luminary, philanthropist, a cricket enthusiast who took keen interest in the game's administration*

Among the staggering losses that the country in general and the BJP, in particular, have suffered one after another of late, Arun Jaitley's demise on Saturday after a prolonged battle with illness is probably the cruelest and most debilitating of all.

The former Union minister was a Colossus among men, a towering intellectual, one of the first satyagrahis against Emergency, a scholar, legal luminary, philanthropist, a cricket enthusiast who took keen interest in the game's administration, an efficient public servant who handled several Union ministry portfolios with élan, a riveting debater in Parliament, an orator par excellence, a politician for all seasons and the NDA-1's chief troubleshooter who enjoyed wide respectability across party divides.

He was a master of all that he surveyed. And he surveyed a lot, letting his wisdom and intellect shine through.

Jaitley was on life support and his condition steadily deteriorated since he was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi on 9 August due to breathlessness and restlessness. He was on life support since Tuesday. The AIIMS released a statement announcing Jaitley's demise at 12.07 pm on Saturday.

The former Union finance and defence minister had been keeping indifferent health since undergoing a renal transplant in May 2018 and his Cabinet colleague Piyush Goyal had to fill in for him in the finance ministry.

Jaitley returned to assume office in August but it



was evident that his health was posing a number of challenges in discharging his responsibilities.

Jaitley's chronic diabetic condition had caused multiple issues, also necessitating a weight-reducing bariatric surgery in 2014. Jaitley had refused to contest the 2019 elections ostensibly on health grounds and had requested the prime minister to relieve him of all responsibilities when Narendra Modi returned to power.

Even when he was indisposed and unable to carry out the demands of his job, Jaitley's intellect remained sharp as ever as he was often the tip of government's spear in battling political rivals and refuting Opposition's allegations of corruption through reasoned and logical commentaries in public domain.

A prolific columnist, Jaitley's widely followed blog and Facebook page carries the imprint of an intellectual who held forth on wide variety of topics including articulating the government's positions on crucial issues such as triple talaq, abrogation of Article 370, GST as well as spirited defence of the Rafale deal against Opposition's charges of graft.

But to reduce Jaitley to the sum total of his intellectual contribution would be misleading. He was, in true sense of the word, an allrounder.

Jaitley's political career started early, and it was a trial by fire. As a leader with ABVP, BJP's student wing, and an alumna of Delhi's St Xavier's School and SRCC college, Jaitley became the president of the Students Union of Delhi University (DUSU) in 1974 and spent 19 months in jail during the Emergency. In his own words, he was the "first satyagrahi" against Emergency imposed by former PM Indira Gandhi on 25 June, 1975, when "constitutional provisions were used to turn democracy into a constitutional dictatorship," wrote Jaitley in a blog.

Jaitley has written extensively about the darkest period of India's democracy and his involvement in the period — when all democratic institutions in India were either under assault or had "collapsed on their own" — and it evidently shaped his own political future. Jaitley has termed the proclamation of Emergency by Indira Gandhi as "phoney" and pointed out that the former prime minister's dictatorial ways left a gangrenous wound on India's body politic where one person's lust for power "created an environment of tyranny and fear in the society." The fact that Jaitley's own political career was coincidentally just taking off may have left a lasting impression.

In his three-part blog recounting the early days of Emergency, Jaitley writes how he escaped from his house on 26 June, 1975, when cops came to arrest him as part of a maneuver to detain all political leaders opposed to Indira. The electricity connection was snapped at Bahadurshah Zafar Marg – Delhi's Press Street — to "ensure that no newspapers were published" and an official installed in every newspaper's office to ensure media's compliance with Indira's orders.

Source firstpost.com

# Narendra Modi, Abu Dhabi's crown prince jointly release commemorative stamp ahead of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi crown prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday jointly released a commemorative stamp of Mahatma Gandhi
- The Prime Minister's Office tweeted that a commemorative stamp had been released to remember Mahatma Gandhi and his timeless message
- Earlier in the day, the crown prince conferred the UAE's highest civilian award — Order of Zayed — on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

released to remember Mahatma Gandhi and his timeless message.

Earlier in the day, the crown prince conferred the UAE's highest civilian award — Order of Zayed — on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The award, which is named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it is being awarded to Modi in the birth centenary year of Sheikh Zayed.

Modi, who was on a two-day visit to the UAE, held 'fruitful talks' with the crown prince and discussed the full spectrum of bilateral relations.

The crown prince warmly welcomed the prime minister calling him his brother, who was coming to his "second home". Earlier in the day, Modi also launched the RuPay card, making the UAE only the second country after Bhutan to have the service launched.

Abu Dhabi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi crown prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Saturday jointly released a commemorative stamp of Mahatma Gandhi ahead of his 150th birth anniversary.

The Prime Minister's Office tweeted that a commemorative stamp had been



Remembering Bapu and his timeless message.

To mark Gandhi Ji's 150th Jayanti, a commemorative stamp was released by PM @narendramodi and His Highness Crown Prince @MohamedBinZayed in Abu Dhabi.



6,630 4:32 PM - Aug 24, 2019

1,086 people are talking about this

The prime minister reached Abu Dhabi on Friday after completing his first leg of a visit to France.

He then travelled to Bahrain where he will meet Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. He will also call upon King of Bahrain Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and other leaders.

Source firstpost.com

## 'Strong, decisive' leadership seen as desirable, but Sitharaman's reversals to boost economy display its limitations

The prime minister reached Abu Dhabi on Friday after completing his first leg of a visit to France.

He then travelled to Bahrain where he will meet Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. He will also call upon King of Bahrain Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and other leaders.



India's GDP growth has fallen to below six percent in the first quarter and expected to fall further in the second. The finance minister then announced measures rolling back or reversing decisions taken just months earlier.

For example, a tax on investors introduced in this Budget was withdrawn, a new law punishing companies for not being socially responsible was removed, a recent tax on start-up companies (which was previously softened through procedure) was scrapped. Further, business leaders were assured that the firm action from tax authorities would be softened and they would not be face undue harassment. These are, of course, words and we can add them to other words that all governments speak and have spoken.

It appears that these initial decisions have been mistakenly taken and caused damage; it remains to be seen if the withdrawing of them contributes to ending the crisis.

My point in mentioning this is the following: We think of strong and decisive leadership as a good and desirable thing. The political leadership in India claims it is strong and decisive and this claim is accepted by its supporters. We can see such leadership in actions such as the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, military actions across the border, demonetisation, among others.

Source firstpost.com



## Siddaramaiah refuses blame for collapse of Karnataka coalition, accuses Deve Gowda of not allowing anyone else from JD(S) to grow

**Bengaluru:** Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday refuted the charges of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda in which he had allegedly blamed him for his and his grandson's defeat in the 17th Lok Sabha Elections.

Siddaramaiah also accused former prime minister Deve Gowda of not allowing anyone else to grow.

"Me and Deve Gowda campaigned in many constituencies. If he blames me for his and his grandson's debacle in the elections, then he should tell me why our candidates lost," Siddaramaiah said in a press conference here.

Cornering JDS patriarch Gowda, Siddaramaiah asked him to explain the reasons behind the defeat of his candidates in the elections and said, "Gowda never allowed someone else to grow. They (JDS) do not even let people from their

own caste grow. I have friends in all castes and in all parties".

Gowda had held Siddaramaiah responsible for the collapse of the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government in the state.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, Gowda was defeated from Tumkur while his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy lost from Mandya.

Reportedly, Gowda had alleged that Siddaramaiah wanted to make BJP leader BS Yediyurappa the chief minister instead of his son HD Kumaraswamy, adding that the two had worked together in the past.

Giving a jolt to Congress in Karnataka, former Chief Minister Kumaraswamy had recently announced that JD(S) will fight the upcoming elections in the state on its own.

Source firstpost.com

# Mann ki Baat: PM pitches for launch of 'new mass movement' against single-use plastic from 2 October

- Narendra Modi pitched for launching of a 'new mass movement' during 'Mann ki Baat', against single-use plastic from birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- His push against single-use plastic is being seen as an effort to prevent environmental degradation
- During his radio address he also emphasised on the life and teachings of Lord Krishna



**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for launching a "new mass movement" against single-use plastic from 2 October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', the Prime Minister said when the country observes the 150 birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, "we will launch a new mass movement against use of plastic".

He also called for efforts to ensure proper collection and storage of plastic to save the

environment. In his Independence Day address also, Modi had urged citizens to eliminate single-use plastic and suggested that shopkeepers provide eco-friendly bags to customers. His push against single-use plastic is being seen as an effort to prevent environmental degradation.

During his radio address he also emphasised on the life and teachings of Lord Krishna, and said that everyone can find solutions to present-day problems

from the Supreme Being's life. Modi said, "Everyone can find solutions to present-day problems from Shri Krishna's life. And the noble being that he was, although a millennia ago, yet it is as relevant as ever in providing solutions to problems as well as inspiration today."

On the occasion of Janmashtami, the Prime Minister said that the festival comes along providing renewed inspiration and energy. "Can anyone even imagine the greatness of his personality, that even after thousands of years, the festival comes along with renewed novelty, a new inspiration, with fresh energy."

Recalling the famous tale of friendship between Lord Krishna and Sudama, Modi said, "What qualities should the virtue of friendship possess? Who can forget the story of Sudama? And on the battlefield, despite possessing such greatness, accepting the role of a charioteer. One feels a sense of newness in whatever he does."

Source firstpost.com

## Technology helped Bear Grylls understand Hindi in 'Man vs Wild', says PM Narendra Modi

How did Bear Grylls converse with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the special episode of 'Man Vs Wild' when the famed adventurer and survivalist does not understand Hindi? -- This was the question several people have been pondering about after watching the show. Modi gave out the "secret" on Sunday in his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann ki Baat'. He said technology was used extensively in the conversation between the two in the Jim Corbett National Park.

"Whenever I spoke, it was instantly translated into English. Bear Grylls had a small cordless instrument in his ear. So I used to speak in Hindi and he heard it in English... the communication became very easy. This is an amazing aspect about technology," the prime minister

explained. He said, with some hesitation, people do ask him as to how could Grylls understand Hindi.

"Was the episode edited later? How many times did the shooting happen for this episode and how it happened? They ask with great curiosity...There is no secret in this. Many people have this question in their minds, so I will unravel this secret. In a way it is no secret at all the reality is that technology was used extensively in my conversation with Bear Grylls," Modi said.

After the show's broadcast, a large number of people have been discussing about the Jim Corbett National Park, he said. "You must also visit sites associated with nature and wildlife and animals. As



'Man vs Wild' host of the wildlife show Bear Grylls takes a selfie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jim Corbett National Park.

I have said before, and I emphasise, that you must visit the northeast in your lifetime," he said.

Walking through the wild and taking a ride on a cold river in a makeshift boat were some of the things that Modi put up with as he teamed up with Grylls to promote causes close to his heart -- conservation of nature and cleanliness. He also called for efforts to ensure proper collection and storage of plastic to save the

Source hindustantimes.com

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# U.S. Home Sales Uptick in July

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing-home sales in the U.S. strengthened in July 2019, a positive reversal after total sales were down slightly in the previous month. Although Northeast transactions declined, the other three major U.S. regions recorded sales increases, including vast growth in the West last month.

Total existing-home sales, completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, rose 2.5% from June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.42 million in July. Overall sales are up 0.6% from a year ago (5.39 million in July 2018).

"Falling mortgage rates are improving housing affordability and nudging buyers into the market," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. However, he added that the supply of affordable housing is severely low. "The shortage of lower-priced homes have markedly pushed up home prices."

Home price appreciation has been much stronger in the lower-price tier compared to homes sold in the upper-price tier, based on the analysis of proprietary deed records data from Black Knight, Inc.

Of the same homes that were sold in 2018 that were purchased in 2012 in 13 large

metro areas (repeat sales transactions), the lower half of the market had increased by more than 100% in 2018 in metro areas like Atlanta-Sandy-Springs-Roswell, Ga. (165%), Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, Colo. (103%), Miami-Fort-Lauderdale, Fla. (119%) and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla. (125%). The median home price for homes purchased in the upper half of the market in these same metro areas in 2012 increased at a much slower pace when sold in 2018.

"Clearly, the inventory of moderately-priced homes is inadequate and more home building is needed," said Yun. "Some new apartments could be converted into condominiums thereby helping with the supply, especially in light of new federal rules permitting a wider use of Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgages to buy condo properties."



Source worldpropertyjournal.com

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# Economic Momentum, Monetary Policy Sustain Commercial Real Estate Pricing in U.S. Cap Rates for Commercial Real Estate Assets Stable in H1 2019

According to global property advisor CBRE, an advantageous balance of moderate growth, low inflation, and falling long-term interest rates in the U.S. kept capitalization rates for commercial real estate assets broadly stable in the first half of 2019.

The CBRE North America Cap Rate Survey found that multifamily and industrial cap rates tightened the most in H1 2019, while office, retail and hotel cap rate movements were more modest. Continued cap rate stability is expected in the remainder of 2019, with the hotel sector experiencing the most mixed sentiment.

"While the fortunes of the global economy should be watched closely due to increased tensions over trade with China, Persian Gulf hostilities, and the prospect of a hard Brexit, there seems to be sufficient economic momentum and monetary policy flexibility in the U.S. to sustain real estate prices. While concerns are heightened, we have seen no evidence of investors 'hitting the pause

button'; indeed, the appetite for real estate from debt and equity capital remains very strong," said Richard Barkham, Global Chief Economist, CBRE.

Office cap rates for stabilized CBD properties decreased slightly to 6.67% in H1 2019, with Class AA properties in Tier II markets registering the largest decrease (-12 bps), likely reflecting a shift by investors into high-quality properties in secondary markets. Stabilized suburban office cap rates remained at 7.91%, supported by improving market fundamentals, but spreads to CBD cap rates are near their highest levels this cycle.

"Office cap rates should remain stable for both CBD and suburban properties over the next six months, supported by strong tenant demand for space, favorable investment sentiment, and expectations for stable or decreasing interest rates," said Chris Ludeman, CBRE's Global President of Capital Markets.

Industrial and logistics cap rates and returns on

cost remained at historically low levels in H1 2019. The average rate for acquisitions of stabilized industrial assets for all tiers and classes fell by 5 bps to 6.27%. Class A cap rates declined 5 bps to 5.00%, the lowest level since CBRE's Cap Rate Survey began in 2009. Although cap rate decreases by class were modest on average, they confirm investor preferences for Class B assets in Tier II and Tier III markets where the largest cap rate compression occurred.

"Strong market fundamentals--low vacancy, robust e-commerce driven tenant demand and rent growth--continue to attract investors to industrial assets, increasing values and leading to sustained cap rate compression. Due to high competition for core properties, investors remain interested in assets with a higher risk profile. Investors are looking beyond year-one cap rates and to the increasing returns provided by predictable rental rate growth throughout the life of the deal," said Jack Fraker, CBRE's Global Head of Industrial & Logistics.

Source worldpropertyjournal.com



# VISHWAKARMA PUJA

## The History, Significance and Celebration in India

**Vishwakarma Puja** is one of the famous festivals in India that is dedicated to Lord Vishwakarma. This Puja is synonymously known as Vishwakarma Jayanti, Vishwakarma Diwas or Vishwakarma day. Vishwakarma is a Hindu God and a divine architect who created this universe.

The Vishwakarma festival is celebrated every year on 17th September. This festival is also observed according to solar calendar instead of lunar calendar. The festival is celebrated on the Kanya Sankranti i.e. when the Lord Surya leaves Leo zodiac sign and enters Virgo sign.

The people also do celebrate the Vishwakarma puja a day after the Diwali festival which is called Govardhan puja.

The puja time might differ little from place to place according to different Hindu Panchangs. You can follow your local Panchang to know the timing or you may ask your local astrologer who can guide you regarding the Puja Muhurt.

### History of the Vishwakarma Puja

According to the Hindu mythology, scripture and ancient astrology books, Lord Vishwakarma is the divine architect of the world. He engineered the creation of the whole world.

He is said to have constructed the Holy city of Dwaraka which was ruled by Lord

Krishna. Lord Vishwakarma also engineered very powerful and unique weapons for the God. He also developed the Mahasabha of Pandavas.

As per the opinion available in the Rig Veda, Vishwakarma is known as divine carpenter. He is the creator of the Sthaptya Veda, the science of architecture and mechanics.

The Vishwakarma Puja is celebrated across different states in India such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Tripura.

The festival is most importantly celebrated in the industrial topography and among the factories especially on the floor of the Shop or manufacturing head office.

The engineering and architectural community do pray and worship as a mark of reverence on the occasion of the Vishwakarma Jayanti. All the craftsmen, carpenters, engineers, mechanics, smiths, welders, factory workers and industrial workers get united and pray the Lord Vishwakarma.

The Lord Vishwakarma is worshipped for the safety of the factory, manufacturing units, machineries and betterment of the people working over there.

A special statue or idol is installed nearby every factory or workplace. These days, some people do install Lord Vishwakarma in a place according to the Vedic Vastu Shastra.

### How to celebrate Vishwakarma Jayanti

Generally, the factories and manufacturing units are closed on the days of Vishwakarma. All the family members of the factories get united. The people install the colourful pandals for the Puja performance.

The well decorated idols of Lord Vishwakarma is installed in the Pandal according to the rituals in the Hindu scripture. The important tools are worshiped in the name of Vishwakarma. Even the profession of every individual of the factories are worshiped in the name of God of the architecture. The tools are not used until next day.

The offering or Prasad is distributed among the people. The people go for the lunch once the Puja performance is over.

Nowadays, most of the companies are equipped with IT. Hence the electronic machineries, computers and servers are worshipped in the name Lord Vishwakarma.

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## Taapsee Pannu: 'Producers were not casting me because I'm sheer bad luck, that was really hurtful and scary'

With *Pink* (2016), *Mulk*, *Manmarziyaan*, (both 2018) and this year's *Badla*, Taapsee Pannu has proved herself as a bankable name. There have been a few misses, too, with *Running Shaadi* (2017), *Dil Juungle* (2018) and this year's *Game Over*, but the actor does not see failure as a roadblock.

"The films that didn't do well are battle scars, which one should be proud of. I've had a few of them but I always believe what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger," says Taapsee, currently basking in the success of *Mission Mangal*.

Also read: Shilpa Shinde on supporting Mika Singh: I'll perform in Pakistan if I get an invite

And she continues to thrive with a line-up of films that includes *Saand Ki Aankh*, *Tadka*, and *Thappad*. But the *Soorma* (2018) actor does point out that being an outsider, the struggle has been real.

"When you're not from a film background, and work to carve a niche, people try and paint a different image about the film industry. I was told, 'Everyone will pounce upon you or take

advantage of you'. And if you enter the industry, you'd have to bend backwards or do things against your morals. It was a scary image for a girl who was sitting in Delhi having a middle-class life," she recalls. Thankfully, the image didn't turn out to be true and Taapsee feels glad that she "didn't compromise on her ethics, or bend rules to fit in."

The 31-year-old further adds, "Everything has a good and a bad side [to it], but I only saw the bad side being portrayed very gloriously, everywhere. When I entered the film industry, there were experiences that weren't great but I had some people who were genuine, and they're still with me on my journey."

Before coming to Bollywood, while aspiring for an acting career, Taapsee moved from Delhi to Hyderabad in 2009. There, she learned a new language and the craft from scratch. Despite all the hard work, when her films down south didn't do well, she was "openly written off as bad luck for the industry."

"The producers were not casting me because they thought my five scenes and two songs in the film made a h\*\*l lot of difference to the



film's result because I'm sheer bad luck. That was really hurtful and scary because it questioned my credibility and existence at a point. But thank God, that part didn't take over me and I survived," she shares

Source hindustantimes.com

## Hrithik Roshan: 'My failures have made me who I am today'



Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan made a blockbuster Bollywood debut 19 years ago with *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai*, and since then he has featured in several films from various genres including love story and patriotic ones. In the journey, he has encountered success and failures and the actor believes the failures have taught him important lessons. "Today, when I look back, it feels like I have come a long way. There have been successes and there have been failures but most important are the lessons I learnt from my failures. My failures have made me who I am today and

now my choices come from a place of having learnt from those failures," Hrithik says.

His movies *Fiza*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Koi Mil Gaya*, *Dhoom 2* and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* turned out to be hits though he failed to impress with a string of projects such as *Yaadien*, *Na Tum Jaano Na Hum*, *Lakshaya*, *Kites* and *Mohenjo Daro*. Time and again, however, Hrithik has tried to prove his versatility as an artiste and, according to him, it was "failure" which helped him scale greater heights.

Talking about his film choices, the 45-year-old star, who is currently being lauded for his performance in his latest release *Super 30*, says he looks for "entertaining scripts" while signing the projects irrespective of genre. "Honestly, I did not come on board for *Super 30* because of the social message. I did it because it's a great script. My father always says that if you want to give a message to the society, you make a documentary, don't make films. If you make a film, it has to be entertaining. I am not going to do a film only because it is a biopic on a great man. I am going to do a film if it's an entertaining script, that's it! Those are the kind of stories I am

looking forward to," he said.

With *Super 30*, Hrithik continues maintaining his charm at the box-office. The film raked in over Rs 146 cr in India. Bollywood's *Greek God*, however, claims that does not give much heed to box-office numbers. "Box office numbers do hold some level of importance as it is a direct indication of people watching your film, but I don't choose my scripts keeping in mind whether or not it will cross Rs 100 crore or not. It is important that the film connects with the masses and entertains them. Crossing the 100 crore-mark is only the cherry on top of the cake."

For Hrithik, it is experimentation that matters the most. "I have always tried experimenting with characters I play. Whether it is Rohit in *Koi Mil Gaya*, Rohan in *Kaabil*, Ethan in *Guzaarish* or Anand Kumar in *Super 30*. I have been drawn to different characters. I feel more encouraged and empowered as an actor now. I am thoroughly enjoying the process. I have to work hard to achieve what I want to, even today. There is a constant effort from my side to become better at what I do and to deliver what is expected out of me," he added.

Source hindustantimes.com

# Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Kapoor trolled for holding book upside down at book launch event, internet calls her 'nadan ladki'



Janhvi Kapoor held a book upside down at a book launch event in New Delhi. The picture was criticised by people online.

Janhvi Kapoor was trolled for holding a book upside down at a book launch event in Delhi. Janhvi was in the capital for the launch of the Hindi edition of author Harinder Sikka's book, Calling Sehmat.

As soon as the photographs from the event made way to the internet, the actor became a target of massive trolling. The trolls even termed her as 'nadan ladki'.

"Is she holding the book upside down," asked one. "Holding the book upside down at launch. That's beauty with no brains people," wrote another. "she's holding the book upside down.. Does

she even know the title of the book," read a comment. Janhvi was seen in a white saree at event. She shared pictures of her look on Instagram as well.

Also read: Prabhas on Baahubali 3: 'I know Rajamouli had the script in mind for 5 years, don't know if it will happen'

On the film front, Janhvi will next be seen in Kargil Girl, RoohiAfza and Karan Johar's multi-starrer Takht.

She has also been roped in for Netflix's upcoming film titled Ghost Stories, an anthology of four short films directed by Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, Karan Johar and Dibakar Banerjee. They had previously collaborated for the 2018 Netflix movie Lust Stories, and the 2013 feature film Bombay Talkies.

Source hindustantimes.com

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