

#TARIFFS

Mercedes taps the brakes

The spokesperson said it cannot say when US order banks for EQ models will reopen 'for competitive reasons.'



Mercedes-Benz says it has paused orders of its electric vehicles in the US. Mercedes cited 'market conditions' for the decision. A Mercedes-Benz representative said he thinks demand for EVs will pick back up in the future. Mercedes-Benz paused orders for its electric vehicles as demand wanes among American drivers. A spokesperson for the German automotive company told Business Insider in July that the decision affects all variants of the EQS Sedan, EQS SUV, EQE Sedan, and the EQE SUV. Vehicles that were scheduled for production before September 1 will still be delivered. "As a company with global activities and more than 30 plants worldwide, including in Alabama and South Carolina, Mercedes-Benz con-

Here's why Uber's CEO believes China is winning the EV race

The company's decision to pause orders comes after President Donald Trump's spending bill, which he signed into law this month, eliminated the \$7,500 tax credit for new electric vehicles. Industry experts previously warned that axing the tax incentive could make EVs unaffordable, affecting companies like Tesla, Cadillac, and Chevrolet. The tax incentive will end on September 30. EV sales in North America rose just 5% in the first four months of 2024, compared to 25% in Europe and 35% in China, according to EV research firm Rhodium. During Wednesday's



earnings call, a Mercedes-Benz Group representative said he thinks American interest in electric vehicles will rebound over time. "In spite of the announcement that they would take the 7,500 credit away, we don't believe that the BEV demand in the United States goes to zero," he said. "We still think that the medium to long-term adoption rate of BEVs in the US will creep upward. Maybe, it will creep upward slower than if the previous regulatory trajectory had been kept in place, but nevertheless, we believe in the mid to long term, it will creep upward."

A Glittering Elephant 'Catwalk'

One male, 'Babu,' obviously the favourite, walked amid a cavalcade of females; 'Tammana,' the blue-eyed crowd-puller, drew loud laughter and appreciation. The 'Kanha' among the gopis had a field day. All goes to say, you satisfy her and she'll allow you in the inner sanctum. After the procession, fruit, bananas, papaya, watermelon, cane, was offered as 'Special Buffet.' Gulabo, Chanda, Gomti, Rangoli, Maina, Maruti, Chameli, Tara, Chanchal all joined the Feast.



'Babu' with the anklets and silver jewellery.



'Babu' with the peacock bands.



"BABU" led the catwalk with all the razzmatazz.



Bathing pond with fountain showers.



Pushpendra Bhargava

he pulsating drumbeats, and then the magic. On a Royal 'KALEEN' carpet at Hathi Gaon, twelve elephants sashayed past-foreheads marked with 'shree,' necks banded in silver, anklets chiming softly as mahouts enjoyed the 'dance of the muses.' Organisers called it an 'elephant fashion show,' a tribute to the city's long association with elephants and a plea for care. On the auspicious celebration, it was a unique and spectacular 'Fashion Show.'

The scene on the ground

These ladies are not to be trifled with, or short changed, their stuff



On the way to Hathi Gaon, Amer Fort.

was all there, and worn with a slight nod, don't confuse it with a thank you. Glitter of silver 'Mukut,' 'Kanha' necklaces, 'Paijeb' (anklets), intricate 'Dumchi' and 'Jhela' pieces caught the afternoon light, whoever spent, spent well, a lesson for all the kanjoos male folk. When you have it, show it, preferably on her. Jewellery sourced from Kerala, Mathura and Jaipur.

One male, 'Babu,' obviously the favourite, walked amid a cavalcade of females; 'Tammana,' the blue-eyed crowd-puller, drew loud laughter and appreciation. The 'Kanha' among the gopis had a field day. All goes to say, you satisfy her and she'll allow you in the inner sanctum. After the procession, fruit, bananas, papaya, watermelon, cane, was offered as 'Special Buffet.' Gulabo, Chanda, Gomti, Rangoli, Maina, Maruti, Chameli, Tara, Chanchal all joined the Feast.

"Appreciation, awareness, protection, that's the point," said Ballu Khan, President of the Elephant Village Development Society, who added that "tourism only works if



Bike ride to Hathi Gaon.

animal welfare is visible and verifiable." Abdul Rauf, the society's secretary, highlighted a grand cake-cutting for "Sonali's" birthday and pointed visitors to the bathing pond with fountain showers, popular with elephants and children alike.

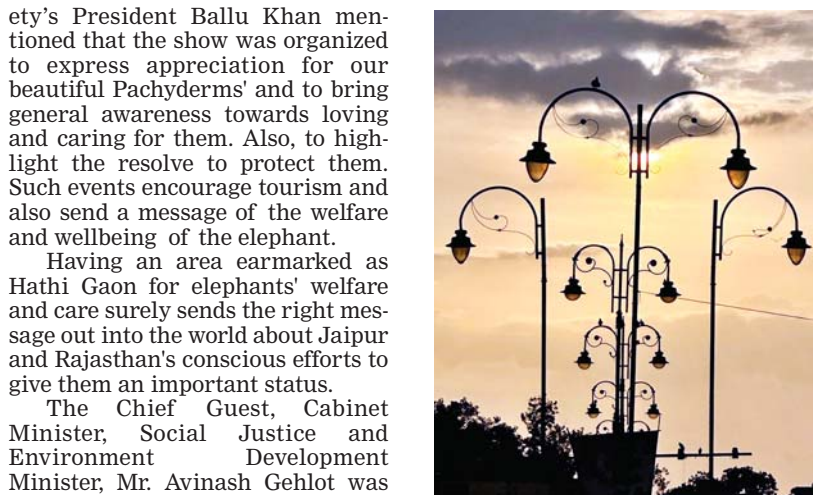
A global culture footnote

This year's cultural mood has tilted towards India: Louis Vuitton's Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Paris, led by Pharrell Williams-saluted Indian craft, with a runway turned into giant Snakes & Ladders board by architect Bijoy Jain and music touches from A. R. Rahman. Back in Jaipur, the effect felt trickled down of the 'AAN BAAN & SHAAN' of Elephants though with care, but almost the same love letter to Indian turmeric and cinnamon flavoured mystique charm with the catwalk.

Why this moment matters

Elephant village development soci-

#PACHY



Sunset, on the way back.

ety's President Ballu Khan mentioned that the show was organized to express appreciation for our beautiful Pachyderms' and to bring general awareness towards loving and caring for them. Also, to highlight the resolve to protect them. Such events encourage tourism and also send a message of the welfare and wellbeing of the elephant. Having an area earmarked as Hathi Gaon for elephants' welfare and care surely sends the right message out into the world about Jaipur and Rajasthan's conscious efforts to give them an important status.

The Chief Guest, Cabinet Minister, Social Justice and Environment Development Minister, Mr. Avinash Gehlot was present as a big encouragement for all the Mahouts, who are like an extension of the elephant.

This occasion was also a platform to honour the forest rangers and caregivers.

Dr. Arvind Mathur and Dr. Sunil Jain, dedicated specialists, were praised for their invaluable contributions towards the sustenance of wildlife, especially elephants.

Another important highlight of the day, Dr. Dharmendra Charang's book on 'Nutritional Insights For Elephant Health' was released with appreciation for his work.

The show must go on...

Tripti Pandey is a well-known name in the field of tourism, culture and travel writing. Her take on elephants being celebrated is quoted below:

"With this, we can certainly revive the Elephant Festival which was conceptualised by the creative director Himmat Singh and myself. It was a huge success involving all the elephants for their upkeep, mahouts to be aware

What is Hathi Gaon

Below is an excellent reference work by four prominent architects, out of which three are Jaipur based. *Hathigaon: A settlement of Elephants and Mahouts.*

By Sanjeev Vidyarthi, Megha Bhatnagar, Gaurav Bhatnagar and Rajan Bhatt, with a reflective essay by Rahul Mehrotra.

This monograph illustrates the processes of conception, planning, and building of Hathi gaon, a settlement for working elephants and the families that care for them in the Indian city of Jaipur. It highlights how the adoption of a strategic, design-centered approach can help create both contextually-appropriate habitation and an overall armature for all human and animal life to flourish in line with contemporary design sensibilities.

Where is Hathi Gaon

Hathi Gaon itself is not an improvised site. It is a designed landscape conceived by RMA Architects (Rahul Mehrotra) after a state competition: a former sand quarry



Buffet and birthday celebrations.

reshaped into rain-harvesting water bodies, with clustered housing and shaded spaces for mahouts and roughly a hundred elephants at the foothills of Amber. The facility situated near Kunda/Amer and now under the state Forest Department, was planned around three needs: water, shade, bathing. On a day of display, that original brief quietly framed the spectacle.

Why World Elephant Day matters

The parade was staged on World Elephant Day, created in 2012 to focus attention on the pressures facing Asian and African elephants and on the duties of those who keep or work with them. The Asian elephant is listed as Endangered; authoritative estimates place the wild population in the tens of thousands, declining under habitat loss and conflict. That context makes any celebration double as a welfare test.

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#HARRIET JACOBS

Slavery Exploitation

Seven Years in the Attic: The Hidden Resistance of Harriet Jacobs

In the long, painful history of American slavery, few stories capture the brutality, resilience, and raw humanity of the enslaved like that of Harriet Jacobs. Her tale is not one of dramatic escapes or battlefield heroism, but of stillness, silence, and endurance. For seven years, Jacobs hid in a tiny attic crawlspace, unable to stand, barely able to move or breathe, all to stay close to her children while evading her enslaver. Her story, chronicled in her 1861 autobiography *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, remains one of the most powerful acts of resistance in American history.

Born into slavery in 1813 in Edenton, North Carolina, Harriet Jacobs lived under the constant threat of exploitation. After the death of her relatively kind mistress, she became the property of Dr. James Norcom (fictionalized as Dr. Flint in her narrative), a man who subjected her to relentless sexual harassment and psychological abuse. Determined to resist his advances and assert some control over her life, Jacobs entered a consensual relationship with another white man, hoping to escape Norcom's grasp. She had two children from that union, Joseph and Louisa.

But her defiance enraged Norcom, who threatened to sell her children to punish her. To protect them and herself, Jacobs made a harrowing decision: she would disappear.

In 1835, at age 22, Harriet escaped, not to the North, but to



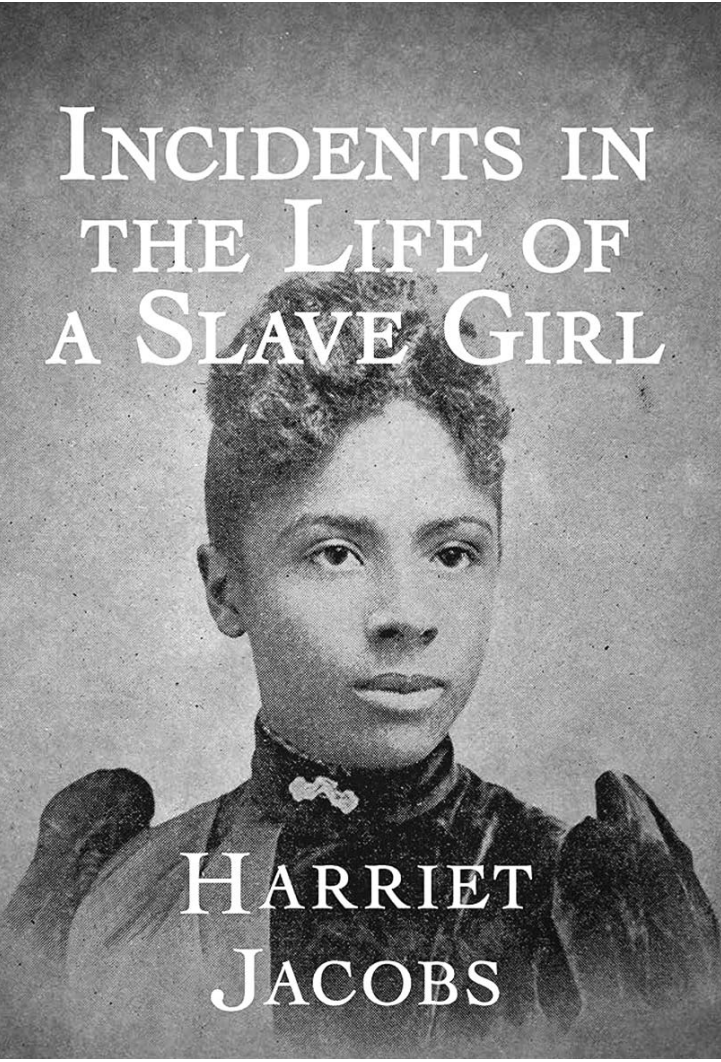
the attic of her grandmother's house, located near her children. The space was barely nine feet long and seven feet wide, with a ceiling so low that she

couldn't even sit up. The only light came from a small peephole through which she could occasionally watch her children play. There were no windows, no fresh air, and her body soon became wrecked with pain and illness. But she stayed hidden, for seven years.

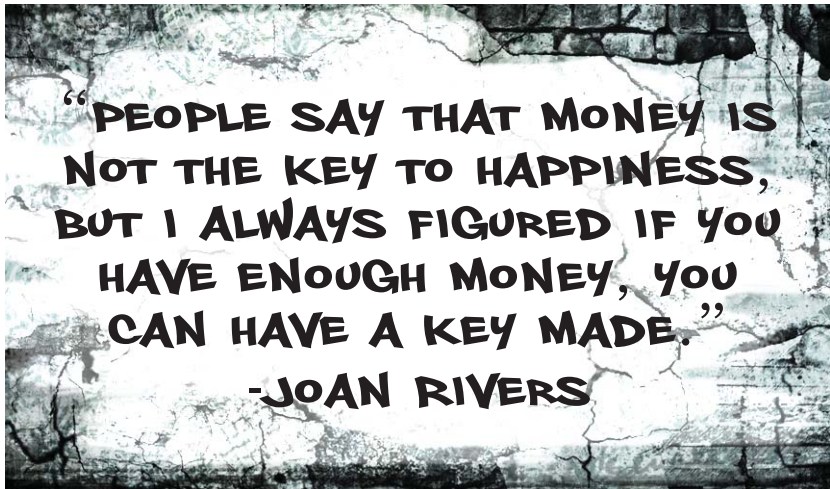
For Harriet Jacobs, that crawlspace became both a prison and a weapon of resistance. By refusing to be broken or forced into submission, she claimed her autonomy in the most constrained of circumstances. She endured the unthinkable not just for freedom, but for motherhood, for dignity, and for the hope that one day, she could reunite with her children as a free woman.

Eventually, in 1842, with the help of allies in the abolitionist movement, Jacobs escaped to the North. She later gained her freedom and began speaking out against slavery. Her autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, was one of the first published personal accounts by a formerly enslaved Black woman. It offered a rare and intimate look into the sexual violence and emotional trauma endured by enslaved women, stories often silenced in the larger abolitionist narrative.

Harriet Jacobs's story is more than history; it is legacy. It's about the strength of a mother's love, the quiet power of survival, and the courage to resist in the darkest of places. Her name belongs among the greatest truth-tellers and freedom fighters in American memory.



THE WALL

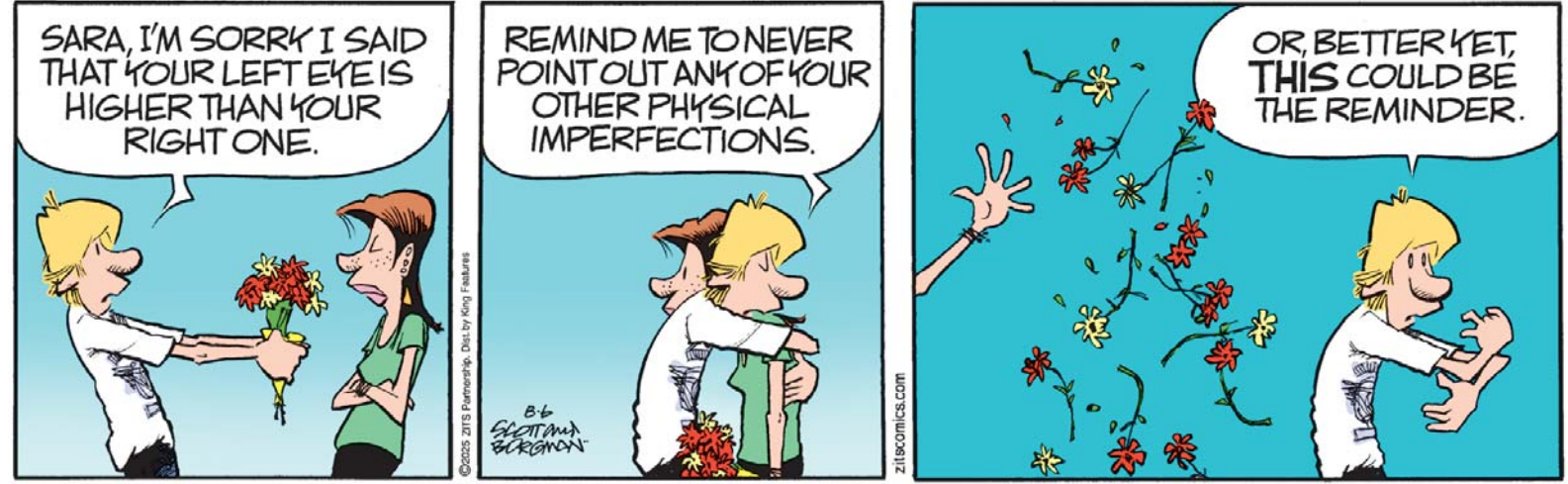


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman