

#DESTROYER

Hindu Who Destroyed Temples

The Untold Story of Raja Harsh Dev: The Man Who Destroyed Hindu Temples Was a Hindu



History often presents us with complex figures whose legacies defy simple categorization. One such intriguing personality is Raja

A Controversial Legacy

Raja Harsh Dev, once a powerful monarch in his region, is remembered for a reign marked by significant political and social upheaval. While many rulers sought to protect and promote their religious

Harsh Dev, a Hindu ruler whose name is often associated with the destruction of Hindu temples, a paradox that has sparked curiosity and debate among historians and enthusiasts alike.

institutions, Harsh Dev's story takes a surprising turn. Despite being a devout Hindu himself, he gained notoriety for ordering the demolition of several temples, a decision that has left historians puzzled.

What Led to the Temple Destruction?

So, what could have driven a Hindu king to destroy temples dedicated to his own faith? Experts suggest multiple factors that may have influenced his actions.

- **Political Strategy:** Some historians argue that Harsh Dev's temple destructions were motivated more by political expediency than religious zeal. Temples during his time were often centers of immense wealth and power. By targeting them, Harsh Dev could have been aiming to weaken rival factions or consolidate his authority.

The Untold Story

While temple destruction understandably evokes strong emotions, it is important to view Harsh Dev's legacy within the broader context of his era. His reign also saw advancements in art, literature and governance that contributed to the cultural fabric of his kingdom.

Lessons from History

The tale of Raja Harsh Dev is a potent reminder that history is rarely black and white. It encourages us to delve deeper, question surface-level interpretations, and understand the multifaceted motives behind

historical events. As scholars continue to research and debate his reign, Raja Harsh Dev remains a fascinating figure whose story offers valuable insights into the complexities of faith, power, and legacy.



No country can match China for its extensive and efficient factories, and Apple's roots there are deep. So, it is a point of pride for many in Indian government and business that Apple has shifted some of its iPhone assembly. The idea that Apple could redirect its manufacturing capacity from China straight to the United States, bypassing India, caused a collective double take.

What Trump's Apple Threat Means for India And Any Further Negotiations



Anjali Sharma Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

President Trump said on Wednesday that he will impose a 25% tariff on goods from India, plus an additional import tax because of India's purchasing of Russian oil, says Associated Press.

India 'is our friend,' Trump said. But its tariffs 'are far too high' on U.S. products.

The Republican president added that India buys military equipment and oil from Russia, which he said has enabled the war in Ukraine. As a result, he intends to charge an additional 'penalty' starting yesterday as part of the launch of his administration's revised tariffs on multiple countries.

The new tariffs could put India at a disadvantage in the U.S. market relative to Vietnam, Bangladesh and, possibly, China, said Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday in the aftermath of the trade framework

that Europe 'does not see itself sufficiently' as a global power, saying in a Cabinet meeting that negotiations with the U.S. will continue as the agreement gets formalized.

"To be free, you have to be feared," Macron said. "We have not been feared enough. There is a greater urgency than ever to accelerate the European agenda for sovereignty and competitiveness."

Apple and India have invested years and billions of dollars in teaming up against China. India sees it as a strength. To President Trump, it looks like leverage.

Even after President Trump hit it with a 26 per cent tariff, India had reason to be hopeful about trade negotiations with the United States.

China was facing even higher import taxes. So were smaller Asian countries whose exports compete with India, like Vietnam and Bangladesh. That positioned India to use the trade war to advance its goal of luring the business that was expected to flee its giant neighbour.

Plus, India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, had a cozy relationship with Mr. Trump.

While Trump has effectively wielded tariffs as a cudgel to reset the terms of trade, the economic impact is uncertain as most economists expect a slowdown in U.S. growth and greater inflationary pressures as some of the costs of the taxes are passed along to domestic businesses and consumers.

Things are looking tougher for India now, and for its American business partners. Mr. Trump has



The government in Tamil Nadu has helped construct dormitories for Foxconn workers.

#TRADESLEDGE



India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, met President Trump in February.



changed up his tactics with China, backing off his highest tariffs. The wrong-footed India, which now faces tariffs not much lower than China.

Even after President Trump hit it with a 26 per cent tariff, India had reason to be hopeful about trade negotiations with the United States.

Then, he threw a wrench into India's relationship with Apple, the single most striking example of an American company that reoriented its production away from Chinese suppliers.

A few years ago, nearly every iPhone was assembled in China. By the end of this year, an estimated 25 per cent or more will be made in India. Last week, Mr. Trump revealed that he does not see that as progress. He said Apple's production should skip India and move to the United States instead.

Officials in New Delhi are not entirely sure what to make of Mr. Trump's remarks about Apple. But

they have complicated an already complex negotiation.

Indian officials were in Washington this week, trying to hash out a deal. Piyush Goyal, the commerce minister, had already hopped back and forth from New Delhi twice since Mr. Trump was re-elected.

On Tuesday, after wrapping up a meeting with his American counterpart, Howard Lutnick, Mr. Goyal posted on social media that he was 'expediting the first tranche of India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement.'

With the word 'tranche,' he dropped a clue that India sees any agreement playing out as a series.

But there is no certainty about



Feel the Rhythm, Embrace the Blues

With a distinct melancholy and tone that is somber, Blues music offers a unique style with captivating rhythms and fascinating vocals. Its soulful lyrics often reflect some of the difficulties of life, which are identifiable to almost anyone. International Blues Music Day is here to show some affection and appreciation for this genre of music, in the hope of also sharing it with the world! Ideally, the best way to celebrate International Blues Music Day would be to check out some live Blues bands in concert in the area. You can also hop onto Apple Music, Spotify, or another online music platform and cue up a range of different artists in honour of the day.



Apple's Chief Executive, Tim Cook, with Mr. Modi in 2023.

"I told Tim Cook: 'We're not interested in you building in India. They can take care of themselves; you up your production' in the United States," he said, referring to Apple's chief executive.

The demand is a slap in the face for India, a close U.S. partner that for many American companies has been an increasingly viable location to lessen their dependence on China. Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic, global businesses that depend on China have been looking for ways to pare the risk of relying too much on one big country. India assured its American friends that it could take up the slack.

No country can match China for its extensive and efficient factories, and Apple's roots there are deep. So, it is a point of pride for many in Indian government and business that Apple has shifted some of its iPhone assembly. The idea that Apple could redirect its manufacturing capacity from China straight to the United States, bypassing India, caused a collective double take.

Apple did not respond to a request to comment.

"Everyone wants manufacturing at home," said Prachir Singh, an analyst in India for Counterpoint Research, which covers technology

iPhones, there are more than 1,000 components. It took almost a decade for Apple to set up such a supply chain in China," Mr. Singh said. "And it took more than five years to reach some capacity here."

Several factors went into making parts of India competitive with China's manufacturing marvel.

In the southern state of Tamil Nadu, at the heart of Apple's supply chain in India, the local government has helped companies like Foxconn, the Taiwanese giant that has made iPhones in China for years, by building workers' dormitories and providing other China-style infrastructure. India's national government has been subsidizing the manufacture of high-tech goods since 2020.

Labor costs are low across India. Local trade unions in Tamil Nadu estimate that the average monthly salary was equivalent to \$223. Wages, even for jobs that require engineering degrees, are competitive enough with costs in China.

Finally, companies like Foxconn have helped local businesses upgrade the value chain in India, by building more of iPhone's components in India. That creates what factory managers call an ecosystem: dense clusters of talent and supply that are starting to give India the kind of industrial edge that China showed more than 20 years ago.

Two people in contact with the Indian trade negotiators, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said that they did not believe that India was at risk of losing Apple's business. They added that it was unthinkable to them that the United States would be ready to compete with India's advantages in manufacturing. Instead, they said, it must be a bargaining tactic.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



The warning comes amid Apple's ongoing efforts to diversify its production base away from China.

#LAUGHTER

What Makes Some Words Funny?

"As schoolboys of a certain age rediscover repeatedly, there is a sense in which simply uttering the word 'fart' is a one-word joke," - Westbury and Geoff Hollis, professors at the University of Alberta in Canada

Don't laugh, but professor Chris Westbury's newest psychology study is about farts.

It's also about snorts, chortles, wienies, heinies and boozos; things that are wriggly, jiggly, flappy and slaphappy; things that waddle, things that slobber; things that puke, cluck, squawk and dingle.

That's because Westbury studies funny words, and, more specifically, what makes some words funny and others not.

"As schoolboys of a certain age rediscover repeatedly, there is a sense in which simply uttering the word 'fart' is a one-word joke," Westbury and Geoff Hollis, both professors at the University of Alberta in Canada, wrote in a new study published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.

But what, Westbury wondered, makes the word 'fart' so funny? He already knew from a 2016 study he co-authored that part of a word's funniness could be explained by the popular theory of humour, known as incongruity theory, the idea that



something becomes funnier the more it subverts your expectations. In that study, students rated the funniness of several thousand meaningless, computer-generated words, or 'non-words.' The nonwords with surprising letter combinations that looked least like known English words, such as 'snunkoope,' 'hablump' and 'junemo,' were consistently rated funniest. Dirty-sounding nonwords like

'whong,' 'dong!' and 'focky' also performed very well, suggesting that a word's perceived connotation played a role in humour, even for words that had no real meaning. In their new study, Westbury and Hollis delved further into the relationship between word sounds, meanings and humour, this time, working with tens of thousands of real English words.

The science of booty tinkles

They started with a list of 4,997 common words previously compiled by a team of psychologists at the University of Warwick in the UK, and scored with funniness ratings by a panel of 800 online participants. The Warwick psychologists found that words like 'booty,' 'tinkle' and 'nitwit' were consistently ranked as being very funny, while words like 'pain,' 'torture' and 'deathbed' were ranked as being decidedly humorless.

Westbury and Hollis looked at each one of the nearly 5,000 words under a humourist microscope, categorizing them based on 20 different factors, including how long the word itself was, how positive or negative the word's meaning was, how common each letter or combination of letters was in English, and whether the word contained a crude or profane-sounding string of characters within it (like 'pike' and 'bung-hole,' for example).

With these factors and the pre-existing humour scores for the words in the entire list, the researchers devised several different equations that could, theoretically, predict the humor-ousness of any given word. They tested two of their humour equations on a list of more than 45,000 words, then, ranked the results in their new paper. One algorithm decided the top five funniest words on the list were:

1. Upchuck
2. Bubby
3. Boff
4. Wriggys
5. Yaps

The second equation, which was written with the help of a special data-modelling programme that Hollis and Westbury co-created in 2006, predicted that the funniest words were:

1. Slobbering
2. Puking
3. Fuzz
4. Floozy

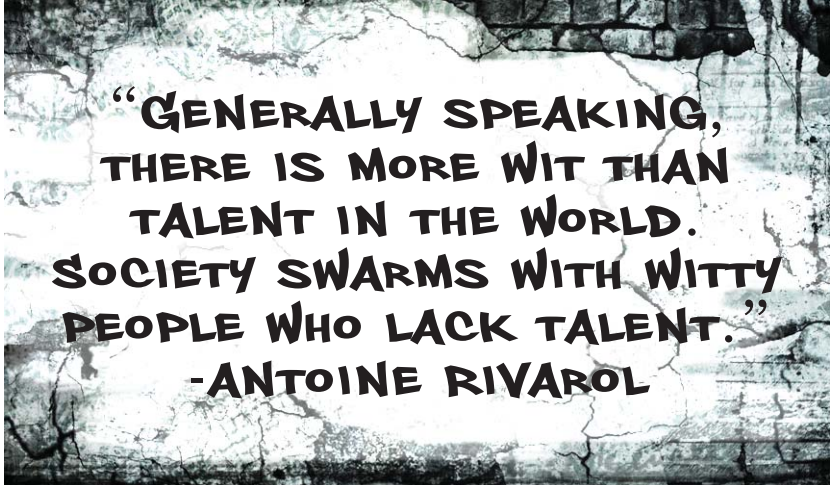


Word sounds (or 'phonemes') played a huge role, too. Echoing Westbury's 2016 nonword study, words with an emphasis on relatively uncommon letters, like k, j and y, consistently appeared funny. The single funniest phoneme in English turned out to be the vowel sound /u/, as in 'guffaw,' 'humph' and 'lummox.' This vowel sound appeared in nearly 20 per cent of the words judged most funny, the authors wrote.

The perfect funny word, the authors concluded, is 'a short, infrequent word composed of uncommon letters,' and has a meaning that is 'human and insulting, profane, diminutive and/or related to good times.'

With that much settled, Westbury and Hollis hope to extend their research into quantifying the humour values of word pairs, 'such as toothy weasel, muzzy muffin and fizzy turd,' they wrote, and eventually entire jokes. How funny is a chicken crossing a road, anyway? Evidently, that depends on whether it farts on the other side.

THE WALL

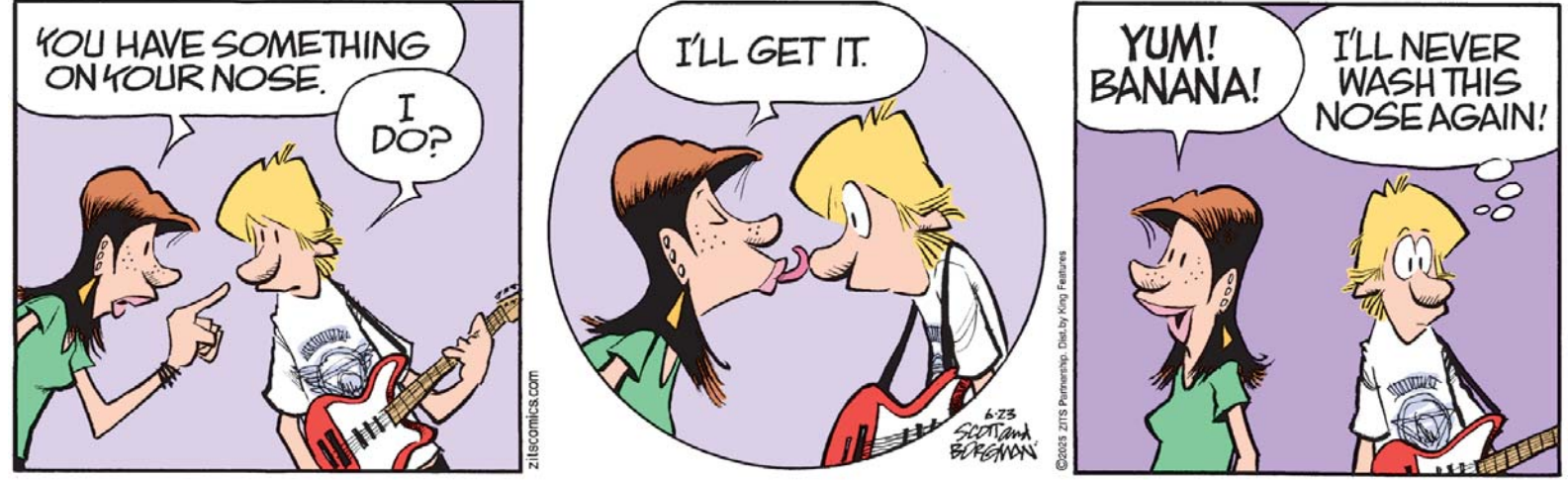


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman