

**International Cello Day**

International Cello Day thrills music enthusiasts around the world! This special day commemorates the birth of Pablo Casals, a virtuoso whose skills reshaped cello music forever. Casals is famous for bringing the 'Bach Cello Suites' into the spotlight. Once underated pieces, they now enjoy profound reverence in classical music. The cello produces some of the most heart-stirring sounds known to the human ear. Because of its unique sound, the cello holds a cherished spot in both orchestral and solo music settings, enchanting audiences with its deep, resonant tones and versatility across music genres, including classical, jazz, and even rock.

#BEAT THE CLOCK

Tick Tock Day

Work through your to-do list and finish any odd jobs so that you can leave your worries behind, and focus on the future.



Tick... Tock... Tick... Tock... This is the sound of the year, and indeed your life, slowly slipping away. Every moment not spent living life to the fullest is another moment that is gone forever, impossible to reclaim. Tick Tock Day reminds you that the year is almost at an end, and there are things still left to be doing, and in fact, only two days left to do them in. Don't let the year end with regret! Get out there and beat the Tick Tock!

Tick Tock Day

Tick Tock Day was founded to remind everyone about the importance of completing any tasks that we have not yet finished. As we get closer to the end of the year, it gives us a good opportunity to wrap up any unfinished business that we have. This can include both personal goals and business goals.

For businesses, for example, you may need to make charitable donations and complete business purchases before the year-end so that you can include them within your tax return for the year. From a personal point of view, there may be a few things that you need to tick off your bucket

**How to Celebrate Tick Tock Day**

Wouldn't it be nice to start the next year with a clear head and a clean heart? We, all of us, have regrets of things that we wish we had done, which remained unfinished or that we consider to be opportunities past. So, as long as you still draw breath, there is still

time to accomplish the things you wish to do with your life, don't let the idea that it's 'too late' get into your head. Tick Tock Day reminds you that there is always time for another last minute. So, get out there and make sure that you don't leave a year behind you full of regrets!

● Live With No Regrets

One of the most important things to do on Tick Tock Day is to stop worrying about the time that has passed. A lot of us spend so much time worrying about what we haven't done, instead of focusing on what we can do.

● Make a Task List

A good activity to do on this date is to grab yourself a diary or a notebook and make a list of the tasks that you want to get ticked off before the year comes to a close. This will give you a sense of focus and it will make it a lot easier for you to start doing instead of simply wasting time.

Resetting the External Balance

PART:1

Fortunately, by then, the die had been cast. Manmohan Singh had called up the deputy governor in RBI, in-charge of foreign exchange, Dr C. Rangarajan, in the morning of June 3 to say that he should hold back the second devaluation. However, Dr. Rangarajan had informed Dr. Singh that the deed was done. He had already 'jumped,' Montek Singh Ahluwalia recalls most interestingly in his memoir. The effect of the combined devaluations would be that of a sledge-hammer blow in two directions. First, a deep devaluation could finish off the extensive *hawala* transactions in the Indian rupee, which was rampant. Secondly, as a corollary, it would be a body blow to gold smuggling. Along with these steps, the finance minister had liberalised gold import norms for incoming international passengers.



Anjan Roy
A renowned veteran journalist, having worked with Business Standard and the Telegraph.



Then RBI Governor, C. Rangarajan (far left) with Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia at a meeting with the Chief Executives of Banks in August 1995.

refused to budge from there. He suggested Dr. Manmohan Singh, who had by then occupied almost every possible position in economic policy administration of the government, from being RBI Governor to Member Secretary in the Planning Commission. He was also the Economic Adviser to ex-PM ... Chandra ... Shekhar Narasimha Rao contacted him through P.C. Alexander, who had dropped in his home, and woke him up from his sleep after a long flight from Geneva. He had just returned home after serving as Chairman of the South Commission in Geneva.

Referring to his choice as Finance Minister, Manmohan Singh had observed, in course of launching of a book of collection of his writings and speeches, that he was not only an 'accidental prime minister' as some people said, but an 'accidental finance minister' too.

Such was the fluid scenario then, when on July 24 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh presented his maiden budget. Manmohan Singh's 1991 budget had become

is history years are a life time. That's about when Dr. Manmohan Singh began his real-time national level public life well after his formal retirement from high government jobs. When he died yesterday at the age of 92, he was 23, to be more precise, thirty-three years, India's situation was precarious. India was going through a period of deep political and economic uncertainty. After a decade-long secessionist movement in Punjab, before politics could settle down to the new reality, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, by Tamil militants.

Ironically, he was then leading an election campaign in the south, after pulling down the Chandra Shekhar government, which was desperately trying to handle the worst economic crisis that India was in, then. In the election of 1991, Congress was elected to power and P.V. Narasimha Rao was pulled back from retirement and made prime minister.

A prime task Rao handled, as a top priority, was to find a competent finance minister. His first choice was Dr. I.G. Patel, once RBI governor and a world renowned economist. Patel had then just settled down in his hometown in Gujarat after a peripatetic life and

the stuff of folklore for economists, more so, for the ringing commendation lines of his budget speech, which we will refer to later.

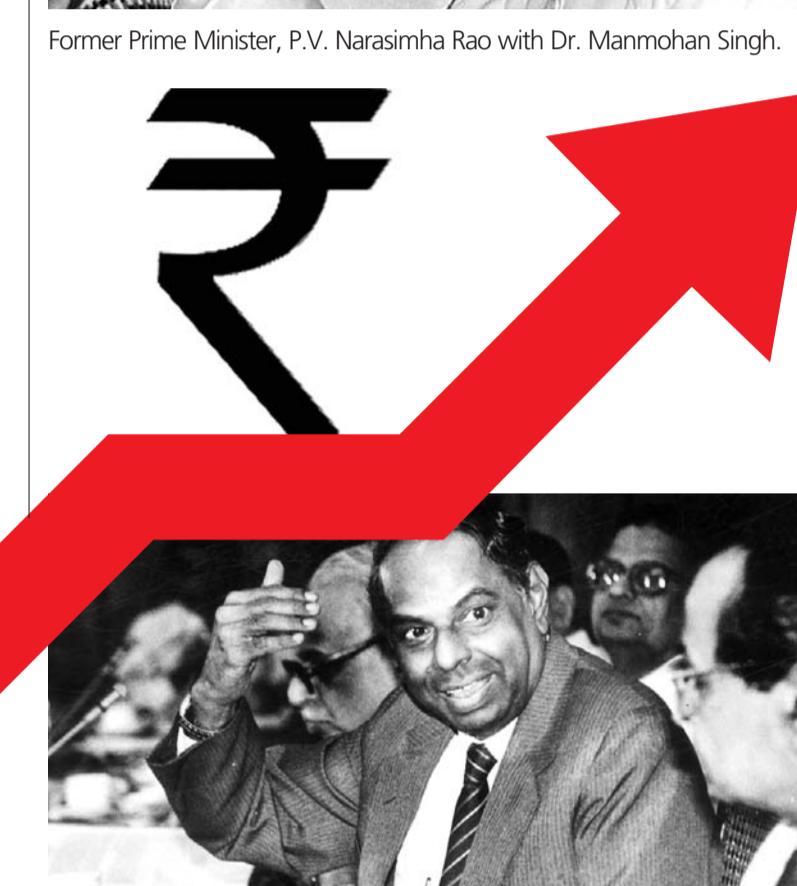
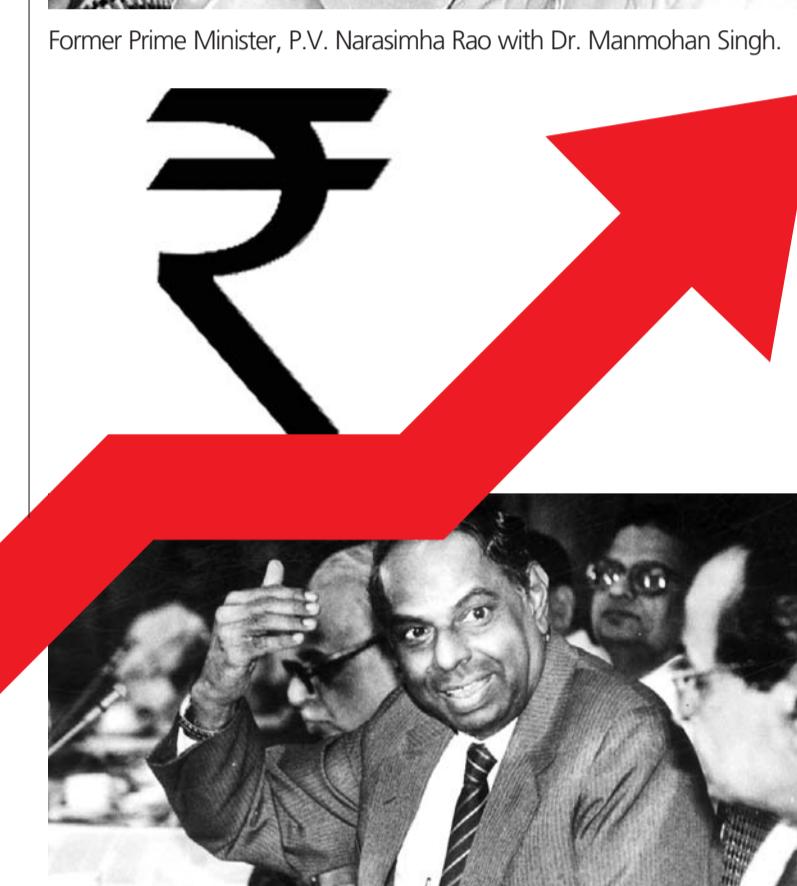
The Narasimha Rao government was sworn in on June 21. In the following month preceding the budget, some of the most seminal reforms were already introduced, which had guided the course of the Indian economy since.

Some of these were most critical steps for resetting the Indian economy. Devaluing the Indian rupee was not least of these. Devaluation of the rupee was a hyper sensitive matter. An earlier devaluation in 1966 had proved to be nothing short of a disaster.

Anticipating trouble, Manmohan Singh had thus cautioned his prime minister that the issue should not be referred to union cabinet, and rather be handled straightaway.

First, a deep devaluation could finish off the extensive *hawala* transactions in the Indian rupee, which was rampant. Secondly, as a corollary, it would be a body blow to gold smuggling. Along with these steps, the finance minister had liberalised gold import norms for incoming international passengers.

Later still, when the immediate crisis was over, the exchange rate of the rupee was made fully convertible on trade account, that



Former Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao with Dr. Manmohan Singh.
Former RBI Governor, C. Rangarajan.

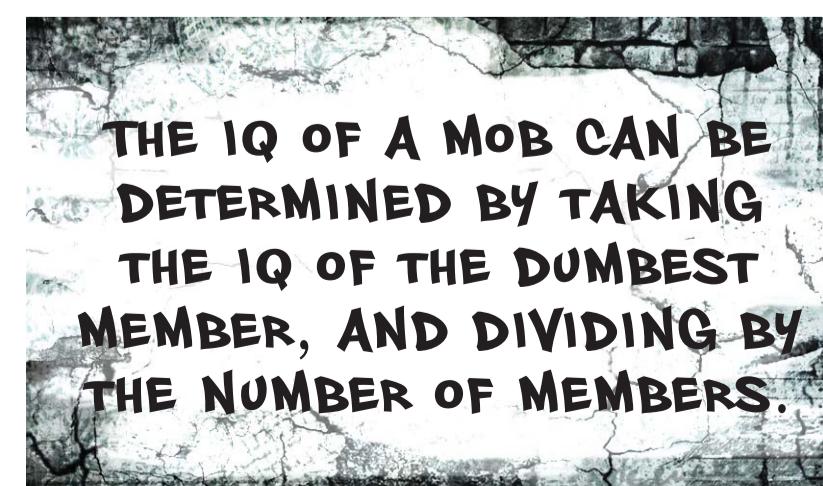
#MANMOHAN SINGH



Budget Session of 1991.



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THE WALL**BABY BLUES**

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#PHOTOGRAPHY

Tips for taking better photos

An expert has tips to help you take better photos during holidays, or any time of year.



Family gatherings during the holidays mean holiday snaps and sharing those photos online or in the mail, either made into or tucked into greeting cards, a process made merrier and brighter if the photos are good. Certainly, the better the photo, the more treasured the keepsake.

"When I see people posting holiday photos, I often wish the photographer would move around a bit more," says Michael Borowski, associate professor of Photography in the Virginia Tech School of Visual Arts. "The first instinct is to snap from our standing or sitting position, but a change in height, angle, or viewpoint can make a huge difference." Here, Borowski has some tips to improve your photography at any time of year.

Consider your Background

When taking photos, we tend to pay attention to the main subject. But spending some time thinking about the background will improve your photos a lot. A plain, solid-colored or textured background will not compete for attention with your subject. If you are at home, you can rearrange things to minimize a busy background. If you are outside, look for a brick wall or tall bushes. If possible, think about the lighting and the color as well. More and more we see architecture incorporating 'Instagram walls,' which are designed to be excellent backdrops for photographs.

**Get Closer**

The photographer Robert Capa says, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you are not close enough." It sounds simple, but you would be surprised by how many photographs have a lot of unused space at the edges, especially on the sides.

Cropping in too close on the top or the frame can make a photograph feel claustrophobic. But cropping on the sides will typically place more attention on the subject and remove clutter and distractions. Also, remember that you can turn the camera. Some compositions will work better horizontally and others will be better vertically.

Plan your Color Scheme

If you are planning a photo shoot, I spend a bit of time thinking about color relationships. Colors, that are similar warm or cool hues, like blue and green or yellow and orange, will make a photograph feel calm and harmonious. Combining opposite colors like red and green or

blue and orange will create pops of high contrast. Another idea is to use mostly white, but incorporate one bold color for contrast. Working with a limited color scheme of two or three colors can really help your photographs look more professional.

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