



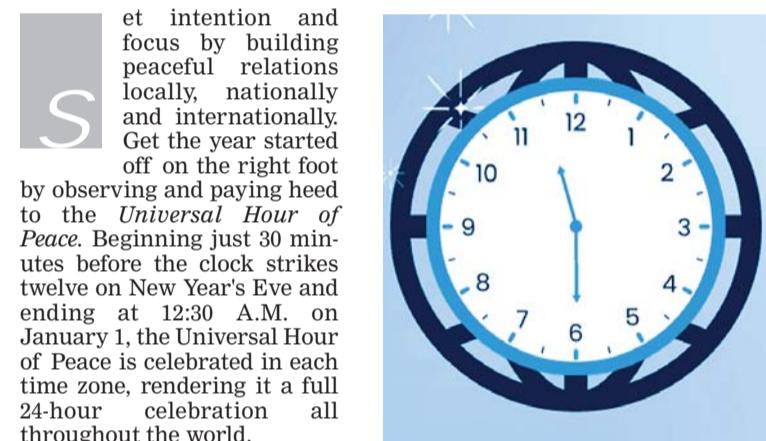
Kwanzaa

The roots of Kwanzaa have a long history, even tracing as far back as the 'first harvest' celebrations in Africa. Historical records show how these first harvest celebrations have ancient origins. Much evidence suggests that it originated in regions like Nubia and Egypt. Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration. It's more of a marathon of a holiday, not a one-day sprint. The annual holiday is observed in nations with populations of African descendants. This event celebrates the indelible mark left by their rich contributions to culture throughout the entire African diaspora.

#HARMONY

Universal Hour of Peace

Every year on December 31st, thirty minutes before midnight, is Universal Hour of Peace.



History of Universal Hour of Peace

For more than two decades, individuals and groups of people around the globe have been joining together to celebrate peace and, at the same time, calling the people of the world to live at peace. Conceived of by Dr. Barbara Condron from the School of Metaphysics, the first

Significance

Mid wars and conflicts all around the world, wouldn't it be nice if just one hour could be spent peacefully each year? This idea is what propels the Universal Hour of Peace, a global celebration of cooperation and love. The motto of the hour is to spend the hour from 11:30 PM of

How is it observed?

Various organisations around the world hold events supporting an hour of peace. These events include prayer, music, poetry, or speeches. The efforts, whether the gatherings are small or large, are focused on spreading

HERE ARE SOME QUOTES TO CONSIDER FOR THE UNIVERSAL HOUR OF PEACE.

- Mahatma Gandhi** "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds."
- The Dalai Lama** "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."
- Eleanor Roosevelt** "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work for it."
- Albert Einstein** "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.** "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."
- Nelson Mandela** "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."

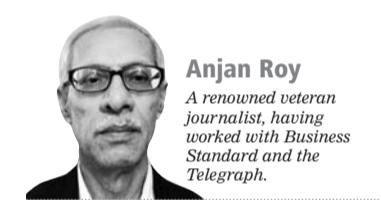


Two Old Men Looking For The Dawn

PART:2



In course of a heated debate in the Lok Sabha, barbs of criticisms from the Opposition were directed at Dr Singh. It had become acerbic and bitter when Dr Singh had taken the opposition attacks somewhat emotionally, and as far as I remember, offered to step down. Fast came the denouement. The hardcore politicians were a little flabbergasted at the turn of events. Strode into this scene, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, then in the Opposition benches. He said Dr Singh should not take any of the fierce criticisms of his government policies from the Opposition members "personally". Nothing is meant. This was part of the whole show. And then came the best part of his advice to Singh: develop a thick skin as a politician. He had grown old listening to insults and abuses, Vajpayee had thrown in. Unfortunately, Dr Singh had not apparently imbibed Vajpayee's advice. Dr Singh had offered to resign on several occasions during his tenure as finance minister and as prime minister.



Anjan Roy

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

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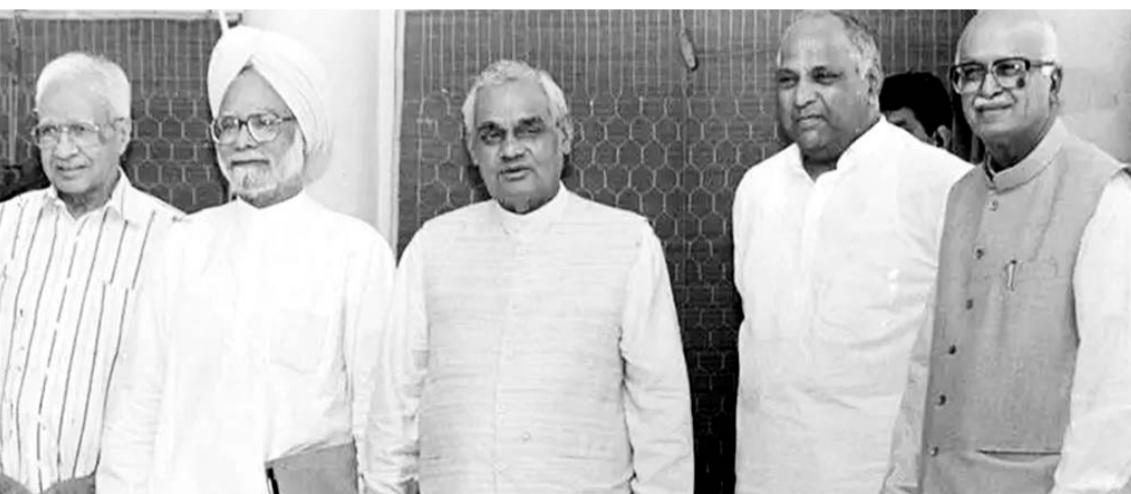
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Unfortunately, Dr Singh had not apparently imbibed Vajpayee's advice. Dr Singh had offered to resign on several occasions during his tenure as finance minister and as prime minister.

This awkward lack of understanding had manifested itself time and again. This had given rise to politicians often insulting him when he was holding the highest political office in the country. I suppose there was mutual lack of understanding. This is vindicated in Pranab Mukherjee's comments on Mammotha Singh in his memoirs, although these were laced by his personal animosity as well.

The differences in their wave-lengths had come out in so many ways in course of his interactions in parliament and other fora. In course of a heated debate in the Lok Sabha, barbs of criticisms from the Opposition were

#MANMOHAN SINGH



The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, is seen with the former Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Congress leader Mr. Sharad Pawar, and Home Minister Mr. L.K. Advani during a meeting in New Delhi on May 14, 1998.

message condoning his sudden demise, prompted I suppose by the "daktoor sab". Handling the deep economic reforms for a large country like India was no child's play. The risks involved were tremendous. I remember meeting "daktoor sab" during an interview in his chamber in the North Block. The finance minister's room is a cavernous, some what oblong space, and the finance ministerial table was at one end. A visitor had to traverse the whole length to reach FM's desk.

The interview was at the end of the Narasimha Rao government's tenure when election had already been announced. There was surely an air of uncertainty and Dr. Singh looked somewhat detached by then. As I was leaving, it was his usual civility to walk his guest upto the door.

There, I was standing outside, and he at the threshold; I thought I would take my final shot. I threw in: "What was his greatest worry while launching the various reforms he did?"

Came his answer in a ruminating tone: "Not to disrupt the Indian economy and upset the whole country like it had happened in the last days of Soviet Russia. The Russian reforms had suddenly destroyed the Soviet economic structure and that resulted in immense suffering of the peo-

ple. There had been rampant unemployment and incomes dropped for all Russians. Industries had come to a standstill. My fundamental concern was to sequence the reforms so that none of that kind of disruption happened in India."

I had some personal experience of that disruption in course of several visits to that country.

The Russian experience was all too stark those days when Soviet Union had virtually collapsed and the result continued for years. I recalled my own memories of the Soviet Union in its failing days, where I happened to visit during the "Perestroika and glasnost" period. Even the bread in the eateries were stale and rock hard. But those, inedible bread crumbs were in short supply and people scrambled for these. We were fortunate in India, that the unavoidable reforms were handled with empathy for the general public's discomforts and measures were timed so that we avoided the disruptions that many countries had gone through.

The reason that Manmohan Singh could nuance his reforms to limit disruption was because he was never an effusive man. He was always measured. Even though he was an enthusiastic reformer, he was yet measured in his structuring and introduction of reforms. He was against gung-ho reforms as some others in those days urged. Of all the reform measures launched from 1991, the single-most scary move was to scrap the fixed exchange rate regime and let the Indian rupee float in a free exchange market. Manmohan Singh himself had guided this entire process of exchange rate reforms with his personal commitment because he felt this piece of reform was critical.

One had only to remember the days of controlled exchange rates and the Draconian FERA law, despite which a "hawala" market in rupee was flamboyantly operating.

Concluded.

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Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh being ushered to the 2019 Change Maker Awards by K. Venugopal, founder editor of business line.

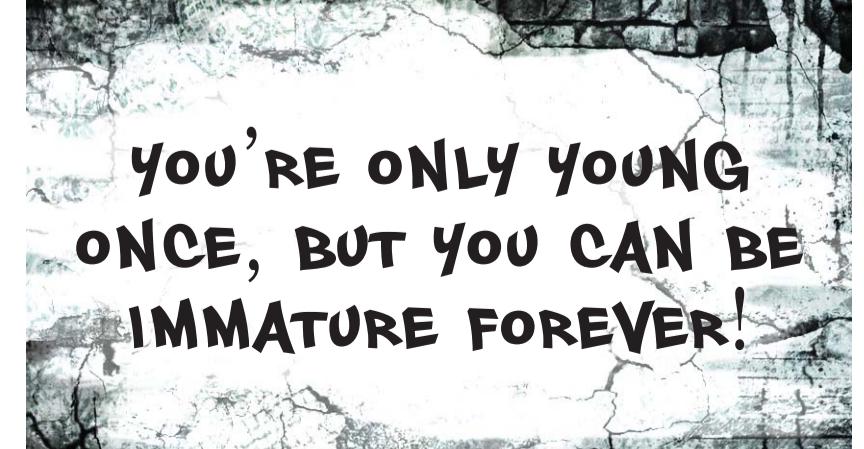
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL

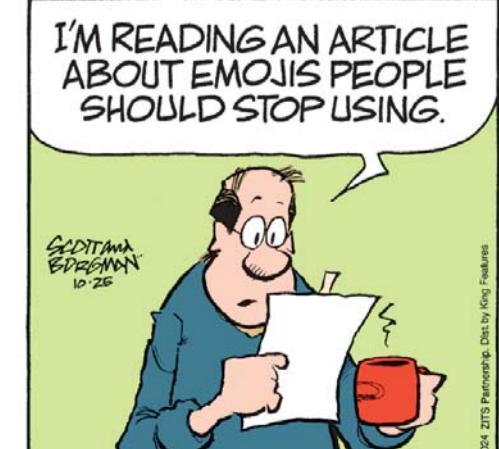


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

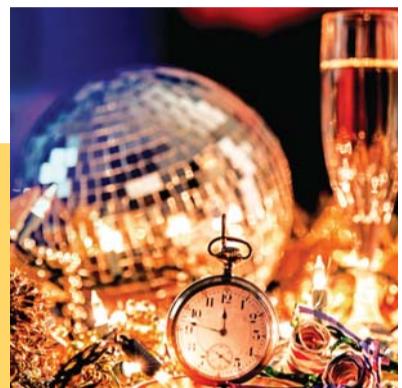


By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#TRENDING

Instagram Captions to Welcome 2025 with a Bang

Funny puns, sweet sentiments and more to pair perfectly with your fun end-of-the-year pics.



If there's one holiday we're primed to take photos for, it's New Year's Eve. Something about celebrating the beginning of a new year makes it easy to dress up in glitz outfits, grab a glass (or two) of champagne and spend the countdown to midnight, taking endless photos with our friends and family. And the only thing more fun than snapping pics is sharing them on social media along with some well-wishes and cute messages. And our list of punny, sweet and inspirational New Year's captions will make it easier to quickly pick your favourite snapshot and post to Instagram.



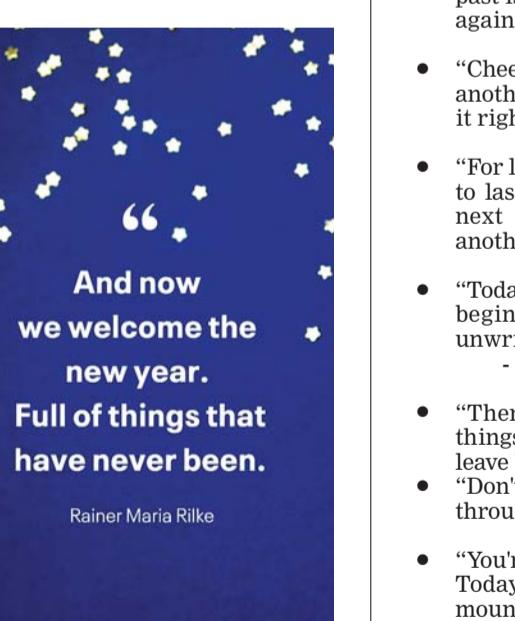
Funny New Year's Instagram Captions

- Glitter is the only option.
- New year. Overdue.
- Snow much fun.
- But first, we toast.
- 2024? I don't know her.
- "Thank U, Next." — Me to 2024
- Expecting a clever caption? That was so last year.
- 365 new days. 365 new excuses.
- May all your troubles last as long as your resolutions.
- I can't believe it's been a year since I didn't become a better person.
- "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars."
- Kourtney Kardashian
- Dom Perignon



Cute New Year's Instagram Captions

- Raise your glass!
- Tootles 2024!
- I'm ready for you, 2025.
- Walking in a confetti wonderland.
- Any excuse to wear sequins!
- All that glitters is ... on my dress.
- The best endings always have confetti.
- Less bitter, more glitter.
- Sparkling into the new year like ...
- Pop, fizz, clink.
- Glitter is my signature color.
- Out with the old, in with the new.
- Bring on the bubbly!
- Walking into 2025 like ...
- Jack P. Kornfield
- Oprah Winfrey
- T.S. Eliot
- Natasha Bedingfield
- Eric Butterworth
- Dr. Seuss



"You can get excited about the future. The past won't mind." — HILLARY DEPIANO

Rainer Maria Rilke

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."

-Dr. Seuss

INTERESTINGLY, IT WAS TAPED TO MY PHONE. CONSIDER THAT A PUBLIC SERVICE.

