Birthday Greetings

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Hillary mocks Trump at Grammys with 'Fire and Fury' recital

LOS ANGELES, JAN 29 /--/ Hillary Clinton was a surprise guest at the 2018 Grammy Awards as the Democrat leader read passages from the book "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" to mock US President Donald Trump. Blending comedy and politics at the 60th music gala, the former US presidential candidate was one of the personalities, who perused through Michael Wolff's best-seller poking fun at the POTUS. Others included Snoop Dogg, John Legend, Cher, Cardi B and DJ Khaled. Host James Corden, while introducing the sketch, wondered that at the next year's Grammys, Trump would probably be the subject of a nominated spoken-word album.

"One reason why he (Trump) liked to eat at McDonalds: Nobody knew he was coming and the food was safely premade," Clinton read. After Corden praised her for the performance, the politician replied, "You think so? The Grammy's in the bag?!" Legend read, "Trump won't read anything. He gets up halfway through meetings with world leaders because he is bored." Cardi B stopped reading the excerpt about a cheeseburger and asked "Why am I reading this s**t?" Snoop read, with violins playing in the background, "Trump did not enjoy his own inauguration. He started to get angry and hurt that stars were determined to embarrass him." The skit, however, received flak online by United States ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and Donald Trump Jr. "I have always loved the Grammys but to have artists read the Fire and Fury book killed it. Don't ruin great music with trash. Some of us love music without the politics thrown in it," Haley tweeted.

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Local cultural groups invited for 'Utsav'

PORT BLAIR, JAN 29 /--/ Kala Kendra Society under the Department of Art & Culture in collaboration with Department of Tourism, Education and Industries will jointly organise a programme titled 'UTSAV' - A Festival of Play, Dance, Music, Art & Craft on 3rd and 4th February 2018 from 5 pm onwards in the premises of SSS Girls. The main attraction of the programme will be a presentation of a play by 'Khela Natya Sansthan'- a renowned theatre group from Patiala besides performances by local cultural groups in the Girls School Auditorium, flea market and handicraft exhibitions. In this regard applications are invited from the local cultural organisations having folk and classical dances for presentation of programmes on 3rd and 4th February 2018 in the Girls School Auditorium on or before 2nd February 2018. Six cultural organisations would be finalised for the programme.

China rights lawyer charged with 'inciting subversion'

BEIJING, JAN 29 /--/ A prominent Chinese human rights attorney has been charged with "inciting subversion of state power" and will be held in isolation far from his home, his lawyer said today.

Yu Wensheng, 50, was initially charged with "disrupting a public service" after he was detained by a dozen police officers as he left his Beijing apartment to walk his son to school on January 19. But on Saturday police in the eastern city of Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, added the more serious subversion accusation, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 15 years, five times longer than the first charge, according to defence lawyer Huang Hanzhong. Police also told his family members that Yu will be held under "residential surveillance at a designated place", Huang told AFP.

Best known for suing the Beijing government over the city's once chronic pollution, Yu has been a persistent voice for reform despite an increasingly severe crackdown on activism under President Xi Jinping. Hours before his detention, he had circulated an open letter calling for five reforms to China's constitution, including the institution of multi-candidate presidential elections.

It is unclear why Xuzhou police became involved although in recent years, other rights lawyers' cases were handled by jurisdictions far from defendants' hometowns. Under "residential surveillance" rules in cases concerning national security, suspects can be held for up to six months incommunicado in unofficial jails without access to lawyers. The Xuzhou public security department could not be reached for comment on Monday.

"I don't know if Beijing police will remain involved. After Yu is transferred, I will go to Xuzhou to make a request with authorities to meet him," Huang said. Patrick Poon, China researcher at Amnesty International, said Yu faces a "high risk of torture and other ill- treatment". "The purpose of placing him under residential surveillance with the charge of 'inciting subversion' is to silence him for at least six months," Poon said, while noting that police often slap arbitrary charges on human rights defenders. Yu had said that in 2014 authorities imprisoned and tortured him for 99 days for allegedly "disturbing public order". Beijing has stepped up its crackdown on civil society since President Xi Jinping took power in 2012, tightening restrictions on freedom of speech and detaining hundreds of activists and lawyers. For several days beginning on July 9, 2015, more than 200 Chinese human rights lawyers and activists were detained or questioned in a police sweep that rights groups called "unprecedented."

The "709 crackdown," as it was later dubbed, marked the largest clampdown on the legal profession in recent history. Yu was not arrested during the sweep and had continued to express his opinions on legal issues. (AFP)

Lanka still using draconian anti-terror laws: HRW

COLOMBO, JAN 29 /--/ Sri Lanka's government is still using draconian anti-terror laws that give police sweeping powers to arrest and detain suspects despite promising to abolish them, Human Rights Watch said today. The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) allows the detention of suspects for long periods without trial and was widely used during the decades-long civil war that ended in 2009. The government of President Maithripala Sirisena promised to abolish the act after it was elected in 2015, but has so far failed to do so. "The Sri Lankan government has been all talk and no action on

repealing the reviled PTA," said HRW's Asia director Brad Adams as the rights group released a new report detailing alleged abuses under the act.

"Replacing this draconian counterterrorism law with one that meets international standards should be an urgent priority if the government is serious about protecting human rights." Sri Lanka says more than 80 detainees are still being held under the act, although local rights activists believe the true number could be in the hundreds. HRW said it found the PTA was a "significant contributing factor" toward the persistence of torture in Sri Lanka nearly a decade after the end of the civil war. Its 46-page report documents abuses allegedly committed under the PTA, including torture and sexual abuse, forced confessions and systematic denials of due process. (AFP)

It is my only defence: Trump on his Twitter habit

LONDON, JAN 29 /--/ US President Donald Trump, who has garnered a large following on social media with rambunctious postings, said he sometimes tweets from bed, though he occasionally allows others to post his words. Trump frequently uses Twitter to announce policy, assail his adversaries and to tangle with countries, including North Korea, over world affairs. The @realDonaldTrump account had 47.2 million users as of Sunday. In an interview with Britain`s ITV channel, he appeared to appreciate the wide impact of his postings in Twitter and said that he needed social media to communicate with voters in the era of what he termed fake news. "If I don`t have that form of communication I can`t defend myself," Trump said in an interview broadcast on Sunday. "I get a lot of fake news, a lot of news that is very false or made up."

It was a crazy situation, he said, that many people in the world waited for his tweets. He usually tweets himself, sometimes from bed. When asked about whether he was lying in bed with his phone thinking of how to wind people up, Trump said: "Well, perhaps sometimes in bed, perhaps sometimes at breakfast or lunch or whatever, but generally speaking during the early morning, or during the evening I can do whatever, but I am very busy during the day, very long hours. I am busy." "I will sometimes just dictate out something really quickly and give it to one of my people to put it on," he said. Asked about eating burgers and drinking Coke, Trump, 71, said: "I eat fine food, really from some of the finest chefs in the world, I eat healthy food, I also have some of that food on occasion... I think I eat actually quite well."

Trump said that he was very popular in the United Kingdom. Some British politicians have called for Trump not to visit and 1.86 million people have signed a petition asking for him to be banned from entering the United Kingdom. "I get so much fan mail from people in your country - they love my sense of security, they love what I am saying about many different things," Trump said. Trump would take a "tougher" approach to Brexit negotiations than British Prime Minister Theresa May.

When asked if May was in a "good position" regarding the ongoing Brexit talks, Trump replied: "Would it be the way I negotiate? No, I wouldn`t negotiate it the way it`s [being] negotiated .... I would have had a different attitude."

Pressed on how his approach would be different, he said: "I would have said the European Union is not cracked up to what it`s supposed to be. I would have taken a tougher stand in getting out." He said the United States would do a post-Brexit trade deal with the United Kingdom. He was pressed on how some women opposed him and he said he supported women and that many women understood that. Trump said women in particular liked his support for a strong military as they often wanted to feel safe at home. "There`s nobody better than me on the military... I think women really like that. I think they want to be safe at home," Trump said. "I have tremendous respect for women." "No, I wouldn`t say I am a feminist. I mean, I think that would be maybe going too far: I am for women, I am for men, I am for everyone." He said French President Emmanuel Macron was a friend and that he liked him a lot.

GOOD LUCK

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ARIES

The stars today may play some tricks, which may land you in some sort of problem. But by mid-day, things will calm down and you will forget it. Ganesha says that in the evening, you will be calm and pensive which is an excellent thing.

TAURUS

A good day for money and love (you need more?). Aquality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win your self hearts, smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leader in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

The first half of the day should see you fresh and rosy with enthusiasm. You will be able to channel your energies in the right direction today. You will be able to pursue projects which really interest you. You will likely spend your lunch time in the company of friends and family. Overall, a productive and satisfying day awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you will feel blessed. And blessed you are, indeed. You will have the proverbial Midas touch, albeit with a slight difference: you will not touch the people you love and turn them to gold. You will just touch their heart and make them happier.

LEO

The last you remember your soul mate was not a cross between Marquis de Sade and a Chinese politician, so it might be a little unnerving for you to come to terms with the authoritarian and dominating side of your partner, says Ganesha. Just remember that feeling offended is not the solution; what is really required is that you thrash out your individual differences for the sake of the larger interests of your family. Also, workplace pressure takes its toll on you and puts you at your wits' end. Time to call in for some reinforcements, suggests Ganesha.

VIRGO

Share thoughts, concepts and ideas with people. You may get new perspectives, says Ganesha. Don't let any opportunity pass to make your loved one feel special. Ganesha predicts you might seek the counsel of friends on professional and ethical issues.

LIBRA

Ganesha's got a feeling that today is going to be a good day for you, as you go ahead and indulge yourself and the ones around you. Chances are that you may shop till you drop, and spend a sizeable amount buying goodies for your loved ones later in the evening. In matters of business, Ganesha foresees you displaying your maturity, and setting an example for others in the team.

SCORPIO

Self-improvement is on your mind today. Self-employed people should expect good profits in business. Expenditure may be more at work today. At the end of the day, the cocktail of work and family will be a heady, pleasing mixture, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees a gradual weakening in your position. You are most likely to bring troubles upon yourself as the day progresses. Good economic gains are expected if you change the hub of your activities.

CAPRICORN

Various issues may perturb you, making you feel like it may not be a very fulfilling day. But at work, fortune will be biased towards you and will bring all the luck you need to excel in the work you may have undertaken, says Ganesha. Incidentally, sentiments may hamper your ability to take rational decisions, while high expectations of the loved ones will burden you with tremendous pressure.

AQUARIUS

Hurry, splash on some Giorgio or curl your tresses! The spotlight is on you today, and you don't want a drab work jacket to take away the shine. You remain brilliant, both on the personal and professional fronts. Your rivals will envy your easy charm, says Ganesha.

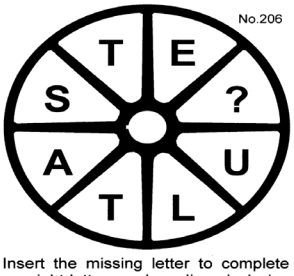
PISCES

An important day awaits you. Your spirits will be high, and your intuition uncanny. Guided by these, it is likely that you will make several significant decisions today in matters of finance and relationships. Your energy levels will be unflagging and you will find yourself at the peak of your abilities, says Ganesha.

KIDS CORNER

WordWheel

No.206



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise.

Solution 205: **CALORIES**

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No.105

S	M	A	R	T
C	O	D	E	R
A	L	O	N	E
L	A	R	D	S
D	R	E	S	S

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No.104 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

A		H		N
	T		R	
T		P		S
	L		C	
R		S		S

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

WORD BUILDER

105

	N	
G		A
	R	
	E	

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How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:
Good - **7** Excellent - **11** Amazing - **15**
SOLUTION 104: last, lay, lays, sal, salt, salty, sat, say, slat, slaty, slay, sly, stay, sty