

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## ASEAN colours add to India's celebration of diversity

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes ASEAN leaders to Republic Day fete; military prowess, cultural diversity and exhibits by the States raise cheers*



***Military might:(clockwise from above) The BSF's women motorcycle team, the T-90 tank, and the BSF's camel contingent move down Rajpath, while Sukhoi fighter jets carry out a flypast.Sandeep Saxena & R.V. Moorthy***

The nation on Friday celebrated its 69th Republic Day, hosting 10 leaders of Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) countries as chief guests, marking 25 years of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership.

On Rajpath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed each of the guests — Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi; Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc; Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte; Thai Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha; Singaporean Premier Lee Hsien Loong; Brunei's Sultan

Haji Hassanal Bolkiah; Indonesian President Joko Widodo; Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak; Prime Minister of Laos Thongloun Sisoulith; and Cambodian Premier Hun Sen.

As the President unfurled the national flag, the national anthem was played. A 21-gun salute followed.

### **Emotional Kovind**

The parade showcasing India's military prowess and cultural diversity was preceded by the President's award of the Ashok Chakra, the highest peacetime military award, posthumously to Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala, an Air Force Garud commando.

Corporal Nirala was part of the Garud Special Forces Unit, a detachment of which was attached to a Rashtriya Rifles battalion under the aegis of Operation Rakshak. He was killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

President Ram Nath Kovind appeared emotional and was seen wiping his face and eyes after handing over the award to Corporal Nirala's wife, Sushma, and mother, Malti Devi.

The first contingent of the Army at the march-past carried the ASEAN flag along with the flags of the 10 nations of the Southeast Asian grouping. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-General Asit Mistry, General Officer Commanding, Headquarters Delhi Area.

For the first time, the 23 tableaux representing various States and Ministries included All India Radio's float, which featured Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly address Mann Ki Baat, and an Income Tax Department tableau about the special anti-black money drive launched post- demonetisation.

The parade also showcased an ASEAN tableau portraying educational and historical links binding India to those countries. In a first, an all women's bikers contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) rode down the Rajpath. Led by sub-inspector Stanzin Noryang, the motorcycle contingent, with 106 riders on 26 motorcycles, performed multiple stunts.

The grand finale of the parade was a spectacular flypast by MI-17 and RUDRA armed helicopters along with a number of IAF aircraft. The flypast commenced with the RUDRA formation comprising three ALH Mk IV WSI helicopters in "Vic" formation, followed by the 'Hercules' formation comprising three C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. Trailing them was the 'Netra', an Airborne Early Warning and Control System Aircraft, also known as the "eye in the sky".

The ceremony ended with the playing of the national anthem and the release of thousands of balloons.



*Sat, 27 Jan, 2018*

## **Visiting leaders get glimpse of India's military prowess**

*By Dinakar Peri*

The leaders of 10 ASEAN countries got a glimpse of India's indigenous military technologies that were displayed at the Republic Day Parade here on Friday.

At the head of the marching contingents were soldiers from Rajputana Rifles, bearing the ASEAN flag as well as those of the 10 nations whose leaders were the chief guests this year.

Then came a series of weapon systems and critical technologies developed indigenously.

These include the under-development Nirbhay, a long-range subsonic cruise missile, which made its debut this year.

With a range of 1,000 km, it is equivalent to the U.S. Tomahawk cruise missile.

Another debutant was Rudra, the weaponised Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), which has already been inducted into service. The Akash Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SR-SAM) system and the BrahMos cruise missile developed with Russia were also on display. Several countries, including some ASEAN nations, have expressed interest in buying these systems, and discussions were under way.



Sat, 27 Jan, 2018

## Alpha wins Rs. 45 crore firing simulator order from Army

*57 units to be supplied over two years for training purposes*

Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. has signed a Rs. 45-crore deal with the Ministry of Defence to supply to the Army indigenous simulators for gunnery and missile firing from BMP II vehicles.

The BMP II is a Soviet-origin amphibious infantry fighting vehicle. The simulators will be used to train missile firing personnel.

As many as 57 simulators would be manufactured at the company's Bengaluru facility and supplied to the Army over two years, said Col. (retd.) H.S. Shankar, chairman and managing director, Alpha Design.

The mid-size company focussing on defence electronics products said the simulator bid was floated about five years back for Indian public and private enterprises and involved trials over two years.

Col. Shankar said Army firing personnel currently train fully on actual BMP vehicles and use of simulators would save vehicle wear and tear to a large extent.

Alpha viewed this contract as a "forerunner" to a few other simulator projects that it hoped to secure, Col. Shankar said.



Sat, 27 Jan, 2018

## Armed forces set to be reduced in northeast

*By Vijaita Singh*

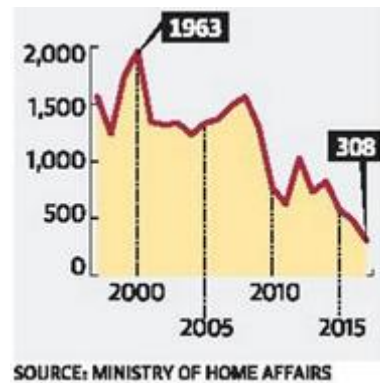
*State police to get more responsibility*

The Home Ministry will conduct a "security audit" in the Northeast and chalk out a plan to reduce the number of Central armed police force personnel deployed there.

In a recent meeting chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, it was decided that certain "tweaking" was required as far as the deployment of the Central forces was concerned. A senior government official said the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was discussed in the meeting held on January 16 but "no considered view" was taken.

An official said insurgency related incidents in the Northeast had come down to 308 in 2017, the lowest since 1997.

**Dip in insurgency**  
Years 2015 (574), 2016 (484) and 2017 (308) registered lowest number of insurgency incidents since 1997 in the Northeast



"Since the incidents have come down by 85%, it was felt that the number of boots on the ground should be reduced too. More responsibility would be given to the State police," said a senior government official.

Another official said there was no final decision to repeal AFSPA as of now but the Jeevan Reddy Committee report that recommended it was discussed from time to time. The Central government appointed a five member committee headed by Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy in November 2004 to review AFSPA.

## Report submitted

The committee submitted its report in 2005.

It said that besides repealing the Act, recommended that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 should be modified to clearly specify the powers of the armed forces and the Central forces.



Sat, 27 Jan, 2018

## 'DESPITE FEARS, FIRMS BELIEVE AI CAN CHANGE WORKPLACE FOR BETTER'

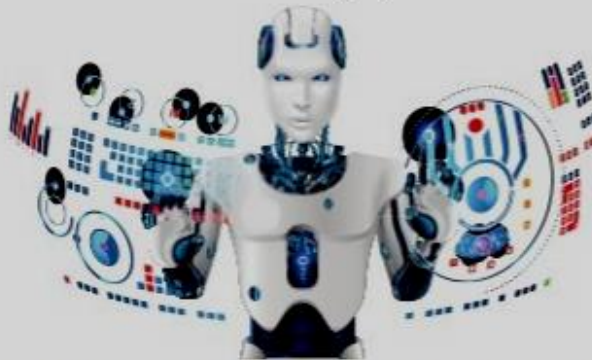
**The survey** reveals that there is a widespread belief that machine intelligence will work ubiquitously alongside humans over time.

**69%** of the respondents believe the term 'workforce' will evolve to contain both humans and machine intelligence over time

**Respondents believe** that AI-augmented employees will generate tangible business returns such as more efficiency (73%) and better customer service (62%). However, the effects may extend even deeper as AI transforms the way people work, are managed and rewarded

**Eight out of 10** respondents (78%) believe that AI and

Even as fears about artificial intelligence (AI) mount across the globe, organisations still believe that pairing humans alongside machine intelligence will create a more effective workforce, according to a survey by US-based software firm Pegasystems



robotic automation will allow staff to make more informed decisions and lead to a flattening of traditional management hierarchies

**Though 88%** are comfortable working together with machines,

they are less enthusiastic about being managed by them as 79% respondents are not comfortable with an AI-powered boss

**As organisations** increasingly come under scrutiny on equal pay for

equal work issues, the study finds that use of unbiased machine intelligence to analyse employee effectiveness can be the key to levelling the playing field

**Two-thirds believe** that widespread use of AI will give rise to a more transparent meritocracy in the workplace

**Almost 74%** think that within 10 years, AI will become standard practice for evaluating employee performance, while 72% predict it will be commonly used to set appropriate rewards and compensation

**84%** believe that it will be commonplace for AI to calculate the true value added by each worker within a decade

## A Few Crude Men

*Michael Wolff's fly-on-the-wall account depicts the White House in the hands of a bunch of B-grade stock characters. The implications for diplomacy can't be all that funny, though*

*By Nirupama Subramanian*

What is disappointing about Michael Wolff's *Fire and Fury*, a merciless takedown of the first eight months of the Trump presidency, is that it does not end in the way it should. It leads you into thinking that President Donald Trump is now "toast", to borrow a word from Steve Bannon, the now fired election adviser to Trump and his "chief strategist" — also apparently, the main source of the book. But, then comes the letdown: you snap the book shut at the end and realise that out there in the real world, President Trump is still in the White House, and has just referred to African nations as "\*\*\*\*\*h\*\*\*\*\*" countries.

The book ends with Bannon smilingly predicting: "It's going to be wild as \*\*\*\*\*". Even as a quote, that's a bit tame, compared to all that is really happening, and indeed all that Bannon, quoted extensively through the book — no redactions for expletives — has to say about Trump and the characters who walked in and out of the White House in the first eight months of Trump's presidency: Jarvanka, Bannon's blender nickname for "dumb as a brick" Ivanka Trump and her "c\*\*k" husband Jared Kushner; Reince Priebus, the chief of staff who wasn't, and was replaced by Trump through a tweet; Katie Walsh, Priebus's increasingly horrified deputy, who put in her papers within two months of Trump taking office; Sean Spicer, the Communications Director who wanted nothing more than to quit from Day One, when he had to spin the thin crowds at the Trump inaugural to "millions" and became target practice for the White House press corps; Anthony Scaramucci, who was appointed over Spicer, and who, in a drunken tweet, outed Bannon as the leaker-in-chief (and called Priebus a "drunken paranoid schizophrenic"), and not unexpectedly, was fired; Hope Hicks, whose job is to hide the bad stuff written about Trump; Kellyanne Conway, the trusted amplifier of Trump messages — to name just a few.

Much of the discussion about "explosive" revelations in the book has focused on a meeting at Trump Tower during the presidential campaign between key campaign managers including Kushner and Trump's son Don Jr. that Bannon described as "treasonous". Bannon also claimed that he had declined to attend the meeting. But the real revelation in the book is not a revelation at all — it is the open secret that Trump should never have been in the White House in the first place, and this is also what those closest to him believe.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called Trump a "\*\*\*\*\*ing moron", Priebus called him an "idiot", National Security Adviser HR McMaster said he was a "dope", Gary Cohn, ex-Goldman Sachs CEO, who was roped into the White House by Jarvanka, said Trump was "dumb as \*\*\*\*\*". In the history of the United States, there can be no other President of whom so many people in the White House thought so little. Why, even Jarvanka, whom Bannon sarcastically calls "the geniuses", don't think Trump has what it takes, and, according to the book, have already begun thinking of a successor to him — Nikki Haley.

The material, according to the author, is based on conversations with the President himself, with "most" members of his senior staff and others they spoke to. Right at the beginning, Wolff tells us that he was invited to be a fly on the wall in the White House by none other than Trump himself, in the belief that he would write a positive account of the first 100 days of the presidency. In the event, it is the first record, such as it is, of the first 200 or so days, and also reaches back to the presidential campaign. The book itself is badly written — I haven't seen em dashes used so liberally before, a parenthesis in every other sentence — and it is unclear with each nugget of information, or each juicy description right through the book, if Bannon, or Wolff's other sources, were speaking to him, to one another in his earshot, or to third parties who then relayed it to him. Some Washingtonwallahs have pointed out errors in the book, which Wolff has said he will correct in the next edition. But all that is in the public realm about Trump makes everything in the book appear more credible

than it would have been had the President been even a slightly better version of himself, instead of the manic pre-dawn tweeter threatening a nuclear strike against North Korea.

The book is as much about Bannon, former head of Breitbart — a far-right website that is known for publishing outright falsehoods — as it is about Trump. Bannon claims throughout the book, perhaps correctly, that he saved Trump from a “b\*\*ke\*\*ck” campaign and made him the President. He saw himself as Trump’s agenda-setter, and was shocked to see the ground cut under his feet by Jarvanka and others. The book documents the stormy lead-up to the mercurial alt-right adviser’s exit from the White House. Bannon is now threatening to come back as President. If America had to choose between Bannon and Haley as the possible inheritors of Trumpism, let’s hope it will be Haley. But after what happened in 2016, there’s no telling.

For Trump-lovers in India — by the sheer fact of population size, there may be more here than in the US — who hail him as the President who finally had the guts to nail Pakistan to its lies, this book should be compulsory reading. Earlier this month, I was at a public meeting in Chennai where I heard an RSS ideologue proclaim that Trump was the best thing that had happened to the world since the BJP victory in 2014. That, just as the “secular lobby” in India was trying to tarnish Prime Minister Modi’s image, the liberal lobby in the US was trying to destroy the Trump presidency, and that his continuance in the White House was essential to the well-being of the world.

Even if half of what is in this book is true, India should be treading very carefully with the US in these years of clear and present dysfunctionality inside the White House. Sure, the book reads like the plot of a B-grade TV thriller, but that is because the real life characters in it never transcend B-grade themselves. However, because the very same dramatis personae comprise the President of the United States, his daughter and son-in-law, other extended family, and a whole crew of others, all conspiring against one another, in ways that impact the rest of the world, this is an unputdownable book. Overlook the cover, which I learn from those who know about these things, is possibly the worst in the history of publishing and may not have taken even five minutes to put together.