

**BACK BEAT**  
THIS IS A  
PINCH-ME  
MOMENT IN  
MY CAREER:  
ANOUSHKA  
P4



# Calcutta Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024  
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY  
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE | KOLKATA

OF INDIA

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## I will be a working mom, for sure: Yami Gautam



My mother and mother-in-law have been working women and have balanced it well. They have set an example for me

Yami Gautam opens up about growing up in a middle-class family with middle-class values; (inset) with husband, filmmaker Aditya Dhar

Onkar Kulkarni

Yami Gautam Dhar and her husband, filmmaker Aditya Dhar, are all set to welcome their first child. The actress, who is in the last trimester of her pregnancy, says that when it comes to motherhood, she draws inspiration from the women in her family – her mom, Anjali Gautam, and sister, Surilie Gautam. “My mother has been an incredible parent who raised us with patience and love. My sister, too, has done a great job with raising my nephew, who I am very close to,” she says.



CONTINUED ON 34

## ‘OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS ENDURED IN A GOOD WAY’



Rajkumar Hirani

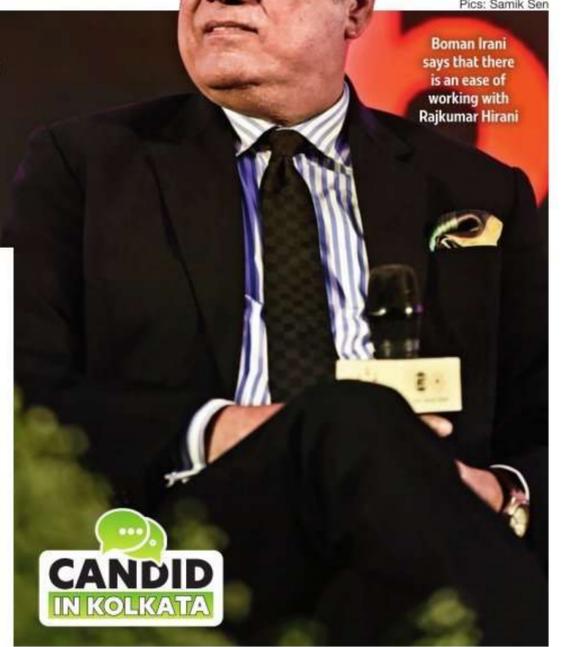
Sundas Jawed

You know the auditorium will echo with laughter and lessons when you have director Rajkumar Hirani and actor Boman Irani together. The duo who treated audiences to *Munna Bhai* franchise, and *3 Idiots*, were in town on Monday for a talk show. They spoke about their camaraderie, their hits and misses in showbiz and more. Excerpts...

CONTINUED ON 33

I make funny films but life at home is drama and action. My wife is a pilot. When people ask her to quit, she tells them that she'll quit the husband, not flying – Rajkumar Hirani

All of Raju's films are personal as they originate from his belief system. He takes years to write a movie. This man believes what he writes is the Bible – Boman Irani



Boman Irani says that there is an ease of working with Rajkumar Hirani

CANDID IN KOLKATA

## It's Ranbir-Alia in the house... err stadium



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt were spotted at the semi-final match of a sporting event on Monday. Post the game, the couple took a lap around the Mumbai Football Arena, enthusiastically waving at the crowd. Ranbir was also captured sharing heartfelt moments with the players as he went on to hug many of them. Now, Ranbir's love for football is well known; the couple had also revealed their daughter's name with a post featuring "Raha" on an FC Barcelona jersey!



শৌন্দর্য ও ভালোবাসার  
শোনালী বন্ধন  
অক্ষয় থাকুক চিরন্তন

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gold price

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EXCHANGE  
value on  
hallmarked old  
gold

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বহবাজার

১৯৪৯ তদনন্তর

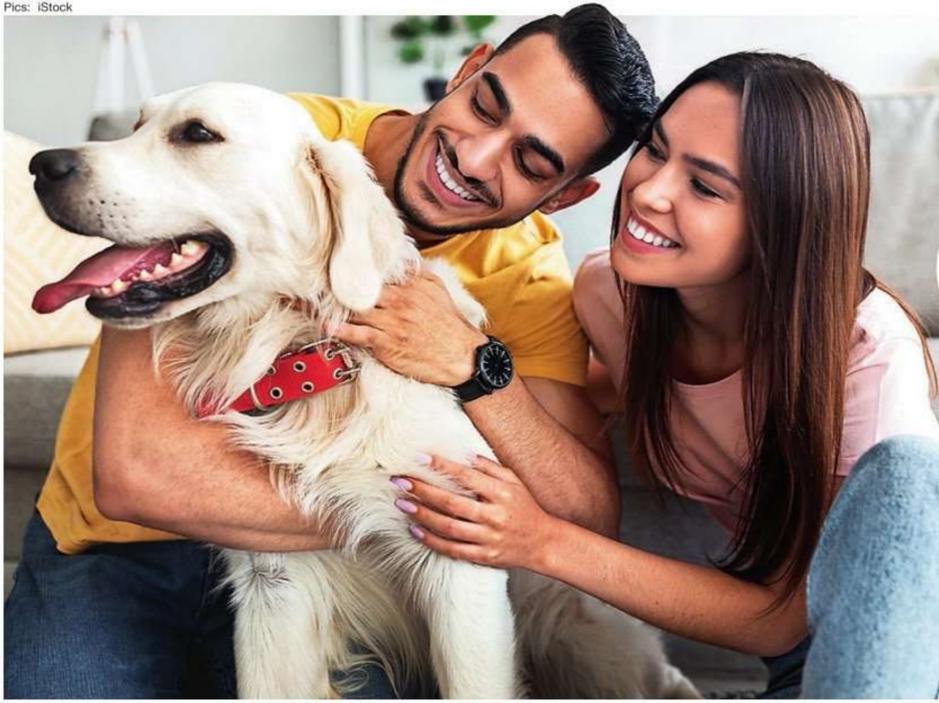
শুধু নয় অলংকার। একটু অহংকার। আর অনেকটা ভরসা।

আমাদের কোন শাখা নেই

91/4, বি.বি. গাঙ্গুলী স্ট্রীট, বউবাজার, কোলকাতা - 700012, মোবাইল - 9830333852 and 9830333952 FOLLOW US ON f i o x

# Thinking of becoming a pet parent? Here's everything you need to know

Pics: iStock



**B**ringing a pet home is an exciting decision, but one needs to understand that pets are a big responsibility and you need to be prepared before welcoming them into the family. Here's how:

## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU BRING YOUR PET HOME

### Understand your lifestyle

Do you have time for walks, playtime, and cleaning litter boxes? Some pets require more attention than others—research different breeds or species to find one that will go with your lifestyle, or be ready to make lifestyle changes.

### Think about expenses and healthcare

Food, vet care, toys, and other supplies can add up to your expenses. Factor in regular veterinary check-ups, vaccina-

tions, and potential emergency medical expenses. Also, research any breed-specific health concerns.

### Adopt, don't shop

Shelters and rescues are wonderful places to find companions. Prefer adopting a pet rather than buying one.



### Pet-proof your home

Chew toys, electrical cord covers and hidden cleaning supplies can keep your pet as well as your house safe. Scratching posts for cats and designated digging areas for rabbits are good ideas.

### Consider your future plans

Pets can live for many years, so be prepared for a long-term commitment. Consider your future plans and how they align with pet ownership.

— Compiled by Shourya Jha

## When your pet is home

- Stock up on food, water bowls, a collar and leash, a bed, and appropriate toys
- Get a vet check-up done before you get your pet home, and regularly afterwards, as your vet suggests. Discuss vaccinations, spaying/neutering, and parasite prevention
- Teaching basic commands takes time, be patient and reinforce positive behaviour. Consult a trainer for help



## Keep in mind

- Play, snuggle, and give your pet positive reinforcement
- Socialise your pet with people, animals
- Introduce them to environments to help prevent anxiety and behavioural problems
- Always use a leash in public
- Set regular feeding times, and bedtime rituals to help your pet feel adjusted



## The power of the folded hands



**A**mir Khan recently spoke of how he became aware of the power of the folded hands while shooting for *Dangal* in Punjab. He was not talking about the folded hand emoji which was introduced in 2015—first as a cultural nod to the Japanese and now, an essential part of our virtual communication. But the Namaste—the one gesture of greeting which we share with some of our neighbours and cousins in the continent.



The Namaste in fact goes beyond our religious identity. When the Maharaja of India's desi airline welcomed the world to the "palace in the sky", he did so with folded hands. When global pop stars come to India and greet their fans, they do so with a warm "Namaste!" When Diljit Dosanjh gets teary-eyed at a packed stadium in Mumbai or Vancouver, he expresses his gratitude with his signature Namaste.

But the power of the Namaste is truly felt every time we are faced with a pandemic, a global health crisis. During COVID, world leaders embraced the Namaste as the universal greeting, irrespective of their cultural backgrounds. It turned into a diplomatic ice breaker, even a way of saying: "I want you to be safe". The greeting made a smashing debut at the Oval office in 2020, when President Donald Trump met Ireland Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. Trump later said: "We didn't shake hands today and we looked at each other and said what are we going to do? Sort of a weird feeling. We did this (joined hands). I just got back from India and I didn't shake any hands there. It was easy." Even during the swine flu outbreak in 2015, health experts believed the de facto greeting of shaking hands may have triggered the spread of the disease, urging everyone to do the Namaste instead.

Amir spoke of how he may not have folded his hands as frequently as the others he has met in his professional life. But it is obvious, he could not remain immune to its infectious charm. Shall we say, this is one contagion we could have more of?

Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? Write to us at: [pov@timesgroup.com](mailto:pov@timesgroup.com)

## SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

				7		1		
1				8			2	6
8				1	7			
			4			2		
		6	8	7	2	5		
		9			3			
		8	2					4
4	1			6				5
	7	9						

### HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

## TIMES HITORI

4	6	1	7	2	5	4	8
1	2	1	6	1	4	7	9
4	3	6	1	9	8	7	2
3	4	1	9	2	7	6	5
1	1	9	4	3	2	1	7
2	7	2	3	2	6	4	8
4	5	2	8	4	9	3	6
9	8	1	5	2	3	2	1

8	5	5	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5	2
2	5	7	1	5	4	6	8
5	6	2	4	3	7	6	3
2	7	5	5	1	7	2	7
1	6	6	4	3	5	7	
7	8	4	6	2	3	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	5	7	1

Example

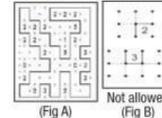
### HOW TO PLAY

1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

## LOOP THE LOOP

### RULES

- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



				2	2	2	
		3	1	2	2	1	2
	2		3		3	2	3
		1		2	0	3	
1		3				3	
				2		1	
						3	

### HOW TO BEGIN:

**Example (Fig A)** - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

**Hints:** Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

## THE DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14				15					16						
17				18					19						
20				21				22							
23				24				25			26	27	28		
29	30					31	32				33				
34	35					36					37				
38						39					40				
41						42	43			44	45				
46						47				48					
49						50				51			52	53	54
55						56	57			58					
59	60	61				62				63					
64						65				66					
67						68				69					

By Natalie Tran & Sean Ziebarth 01/05/2024

### ACROSS

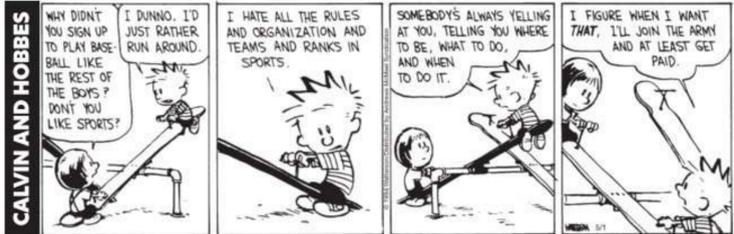
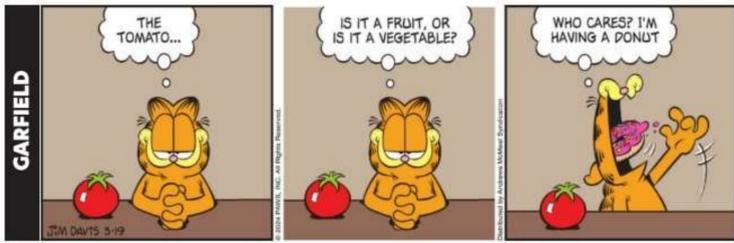
- 1 Glow of virtue
- 5 Fort Knox supply
- 9 Wet
- 14 \_\_\_ of March
- 15 57-Down for a diva
- 16 Run onstage?
- 17 Some inbox attachments
- 18 Change course suddenly
- 19 Puts together
- 20 Make a fool of
- 23 Decline, with "out"
- 24 Sounds of pain
- 25 Pencil topper
- 29 Air filter acronym
- 31 Christmas poem contraction
- 33 Smooching on the kiss cam, say
- 34 Hide-and-seek

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	E	D	R	E	S	T	S	C	A	F	E	
A	N	N	A	A	M	O	U	R	A	R	I	A	
B	A	E	Z	J	U	M	B	O	T	R	O	N	
M	R	E	S	M	E	S	A	M	A	E			
B	I	G	D	I	P	P	E	R	T	B	A	L	
A	N	Y	P	E	A	S	T	E					
T	U	T	U	T	I	P	N	O	N	P	C		
S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	P	O	O	L	E	
E	X	C	E	L	F	L	O	S	A	D	E		
A	L	S	A	K	A	T	A	N					
E	G	Y	P	T	M	I	N	I	S	K	I	R	T
L	E	O	A	L	A	N	P	I	T	T			
D	O	W	N	S	I	Z	I	N	G	L	U	R	E
E	D	I	E	S	E	N	O	R	O	D	E	S	
R	E	E	D	A	S	K	M	E	S	E	E	P	

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- 66 Shutter section
- 67 Fleming subjects
- 68 In someone's business
- 69 Loved ones blessed at the Feast of St. Francis
- 70 Kitchen appliance brand
- 11 Grossed-out reaction
- 12 Wedding page word
- 13 "Let's"
- 21 "Forget it"
- 22 Foster
- 26 Potential "destination" for a troubled relationship
- 27 Elicit
- 28 Gushes
- 30 Verbal stumbles
- 31 Tax: Intuit software package
- 32 City on the Brazos basin
- 34 Wood with pool or basin
- 35 Ruckus
- 36 Dinghy duo
- 40 Actor Kilmer
- 42 Projection places
- 43 Hardly a hop, skip, and a jump away
- 44 Time when shadows are shortest
- 45 Petered out
- 50 Optimist's words
- 51 Follows surreptitiously
- 53 Brilliance
- 54 Dean Martin's "Amore"
- 56 Baker
- 57 Insect for one
- 58 Insect that first appeared in the Jurassic era
- 59 Family docs
- 60 Sales agt.
- 61 Brand at a nail salon



### SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

Art evokes the \_\_\_ without which the world would not exist - René Magritte (7)

**HOW TO PLAY**  
Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

### FINOLEX FORTUNE

For appointments: ANUPAM V KAPIL  
9822042295 or [anupamvkapil@gmail.com](mailto:anupamvkapil@gmail.com)

See what the stars have in store for you - according to your moon sign.

**ARIES:** Friends are eager to help you along your way. Now is the time to review possible latent issues. You will notice an increase in your energy. You could make important decisions about future accomplishments.

**TAURUS:** You don't have the courage to reach your goals. One of your ongoing challenges is to fight inflexibility and figure out others' perspectives. Avoid capricious, disrespectful or out of place reactions, and try to amend this kind of conduct and extreme attitudes.

**GENIUS:** You have a way of behaving that grabs others' attention. Your charm magnetises those around you. You witness the results of your desirability. Pressure comes from a domestic or personal issue. Recognise your limitations.

**CANCER:** An increase of your personal energy level depends a great deal on your will. You will have to achieve simplicity in certain matters. This is a good time to establish a lasting and interesting relationship. Sometimes the only way to get anywhere is by taking a chance.

**LEO:** Financially gainful activities at your workplace will cheer you up. Financial gains and monetary transactions will bring fruitful results. Try to explore new avenues of life.

**VIRGO:** Professionals should focus on their goals. Sudden changes in professional life will make you insecure. Try to tackle issues with a positive approach. Do not let your heart rule your head. Get rid of your jealousies and possessive attitude towards loved ones.

**LIBRA:** Stay focused and you will instinctively know what is needed to win support for your views and projects. Your problem-solving abilities will be able to reach out and touch someone today. Seek out a little guidance or advice.

**SCORPIO:** Do not indulge in extramarital affairs. Your siblings could well be the cause of your worries today. Try not to get involved in controversies as it can damage your position.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You will recover from prolonged illness. Follow the dietary restrictions without failure. This may be the perfect time to organise your affairs or to rearrange your living situation. Put your head with someone to achieve genius and even better output.

**CAPRICORN:** Don't forget that a relationship is brought about simultaneously on the physical as well as the emotional and mental level. After the search of pleasure that is innate in human beings, in reality there is a natural tendency to expand your horizons.

**AQUARIUS:** Your calculative personality will create problems for your opponents. Stay away from debates as they may end up in arguments. Choose your friends carefully and you need to be more decisive today. Immediate family members will cooperate and their decision will bring cheers to your life.

**PISCES:** Monetary transactions should be dealt with very carefully. A very special person will walk into your life, so watch out and control your feelings. A very lucky day, as whatever you do will bring you good financial gains. Help from a distant relative will prove helpful to you. In love, you need to be more expressive.

### SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:  
04-average | 05-good | 06-outstanding

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

For events, email us at [calcuttatimes.events@gmail.com](mailto:calcuttatimes.events@gmail.com)

### DENNIS THE MENACE

"DAD, I'M HUNGRY. MAYBE WE COULD CATCH SOME FISH STICKS ON THE WAY HOME?"

## SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

**TIMES SUDOKU**

2	9	8	1	4	1	6	3	2	7	5	8
5	3	6	8	6	8	7	2	1	4	9	3
7	1	7	4	1	5	3	2	6	6	9	8
4	7	4	7	4	1	6	8	2	2	2	2
1	6	5	2	7	2	9	4	3	7	8	1
3	8	3	8	9	6	1	5	1	3	7	5
6	9	5	2	1	2	1	2	1	9	8	7
6	9	5	2	1	2	1	2	1	9	8	7
1	8	6	9	5	2	1	2	1	9	8	7
1	8	6	9	5	2	1	2	1	9	8	7

**LOOP THE LOOP**

**TIMES HITORI**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**SCRAMBLE**

Words: Hyper, dusty, gummy, furry  
Answer: Art evokes the mystery without which the world would not exist - René Magritte

Pics: Samik Sen



Boman Irani playing the guitar at the event

# ONES WHO WRITE WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN ARE RARE: BOMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## 'SOME SCENES FROM 3 IDIOTS ARE INSPIRED FROM MY LIFE'

At the event hosted by the Ladies Study Group, Hirani said he wanted to be an engineer and then went on to study chartered accountancy upon his uncle's advice. "The scene from 3 Idiots where R Madhavan tells his father he wants to be a wildlife photographer, that is one scene out of my life. I gathered the courage and told my father that CA was not my calling and he asked me to join him with his work. I can't tell you the joy and relief I felt. That's when I started working with my father in the morning and doing plays in the evening," Hirani exclaimed.

## FOUND CONFIDENCE ON STAGE, MY MOM SENSED IT: BOMAN

For Boman Irani, it was his mother who helped him find his

## A defining moment of Boman's life

When asked about the defining moment of his life, Boman shared an interesting incident. "When I was eight or nine years old, I met a wonderful artiste who was a family friend and whom I sang for. She told me that I'd performed reasonably well. She also advised me to be unique as there couldn't be anyone like me. This advice I took really seriously and honoured it. That artiste happens to be Usha Uthup."

## CANDID IN KOLKATA

passion and empowered him. "My mom really empowered me. I used to struggle with studies and rarely spoke because of a speech problem but I found confidence on stage and my mom sensed this," said Irani. "One day we had a customer at her shop and he wanted to know which movie was running in the nearest theatre. My mother asked me to take him to the theatre. This man was blind and my mum told me to narrate the story as the movie played. I can't express how empowered I felt as a child," said Boman.

## ON STUDENT LIFE

Hirani shared the kind of curriculum he believes in. "Education should be in a particular way, where we let children do what they like. They should be allowed to do things that they are not just passionate about but are also obsessed with."



Boman Irani and Usha Uthup performed the song All Izz Well at the event

## Youngsters today want to be famous yesterday: Boman Irani

Speaking about the need for tenacity, Irani said, "We should hang on to people who chose to do or write what they believe in because such people are rare." The actor went on to add, "Youngsters today want to be famous yesterday but they should learn not to compromise on their worth." He advised people to learn to hang on to the ones who believe in every word they write and portray a character the way they have written it, because they know what they are doing. "Latch onto them because the journey will be worth it and one that you will forever cherish," the actor concluded.

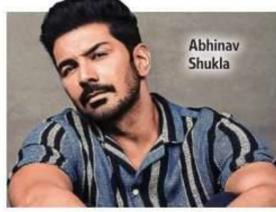


A still from Raghav Juyal's video

## Abhinav slams Raghav for viral video

Abhinav Shukla recently criticised choreographer-actor Raghav Juyal for his Instagram post in which he called out visitors for polluting Dehradun. With a plastic bottle in hand, Raghav said, "Ye sab yahan mila hai. Haath jod kar vinti hain aap se, ki yeh sab yaha mat phenkiye." The video that went viral had many people supporting Raghav. However, Abhinav had a dif-

ferent take on it and wrote, "He explores hidden places and then makes a fancy REEL revealing pristine locations to public. Once 3-4 companies get a whiff the place gets polluted which is inevitable (lack of self discipline of public). Once place gets polluted he gets to make another REEL angry and livid so that public can appreciate his concern! It's all about a REEL (sic)." TNN



Abhinav Shukla



Did You Know?  
Arjun Kapoor got his first movie by mimicking uncle Anil Kapoor

@arjunkapoor

Arjun Kapoor's debuted in Bollywood with Ishaqzaade was sealed through a unique audition where he mimicked his uncle, Anil Kapoor. Arjun caught Aditya's attention with his uncanny impression of his chachu.

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# I look up to my mom when it comes to raising kids: Yami



Yami Gautam feels that parenting has become a tad easy today because things are easily available at your doorstep

**When we were growing up, things weren't this easy. When it comes to raising a child, we depend on our family to help and guide us**



Yami with her mother

CONTINUED FROM **1**

## 'WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP, THINGS WEREN'T THIS EASY'

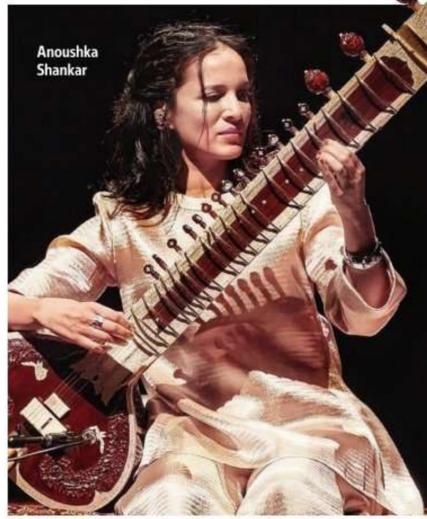
Yami feels that parenting has become a tad easy today because things are easily available at your doorstep. "With the advent of technology, you get everything at your doorstep. I come from a middle-class family and was raised with middle-class values. When we were growing up, things weren't this easy. There wasn't instant access to everything," she says.

## 'I WILL BE A WORKING MOTHER'

The actress has been busy with back-to-back releases in the last couple of years. While she wants to focus on her family now, she says that she won't take a long break and is, in fact, busy reading scripts. "I'll be a working mother. My mother and mother-in-law have been working women and have balanced it well. They have set an example for me. Also, I'm glad I have a supportive husband," she says.

## 'I DON'T TAKE NARRATIONS. I LIKE READING MY SCRIPTS'

After *Article 370*, which was headlined by Yami and produced by her husband, Aditya Dhar, the couple is collaborating on their new film, *Dhoom Dhaam*. She says that filmmakers now seem to have the confidence that she can shoulder a project. "It is your ability as an actor, and also, it's a business at the end of the day. So, it's important for them to have the confidence that you can have a solo (lead) theatrical release. Having said that, I believe the power lies in the script. I don't take narrations. I like reading my scripts," Yami adds.



Anoushka Shankar

# This is a pinch-me moment in my career: Anoushka

Sitarist Anoushka Shankar has been performing live for about 30 years now. The nine-time Grammy nominee recently received an Honorary Degree from the University of Oxford, which will be conferred on June 19 at the university's annual Encaenia academic ceremony.

Talking about the accomplishment, she said, "This is truly a pinch-me moment in my career; I never even dreamed I might receive an

honour such as this, let alone from one of the most prestigious universities in the world. I am deeply grateful to Oxford University for conferring me with an Honorary Degree."

Anoushka, who has studied exclusively under her father and guru, sitar maestro the late Pandit Ravi Shankar, since she was nine, said, "I was fortunate to have had the most precious education in music under the guidance of my father." TNN



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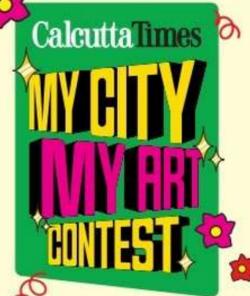
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