

XXCE



AAMIR KHAN & KAPIL SHARMA ON THE GREAT INDIAN KAPIL SHOW

**P13**



ISHAA SAHA

# HAHA HOUR!

## FELICITATING A LEGEND



USHA UTHUP

**P18**

**P10-11**

# WEDDING WOW

- B'DAY, WATCHIT, COMING UP 2 ● MUSIC, BEAUTY, ART 5,6,7 ● WHATSUP 8,9
- TOLLY, MUNCH MENU, BAR TAKEOVER, YOUR CLICKS 12,16,17



ROBERT PATTINSON, SUNNY LEONE, STEVIE WONDER

This year, if you are in business, you may be considering taking your company global. Your finances will be expanding. If you are single, there are good chances of tying the knot. Balance your work and personal life with your health needs. Be sure to take time out to eat healthy and exercise.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: PUNIT MALHOTRA, HARVEY KEITEL, LENA DUNHAM

**TODAY'S TIPS** by Nita Chhotalal

<p><b>ARIES</b>  <b>DO</b> what you value in life  <b>DONT</b> take unnecessary risks  <b>EXPECT</b> to make the right decision</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b>  <b>DO</b> be receptive to healing yourself  <b>DONT</b> continue doubting  <b>EXPECT</b> to feel motivated and free</p>	<p><b>LIBRA</b>  <b>DO</b> enjoy family gatherings and reunions  <b>DONT</b> stay isolated  <b>EXPECT</b> to feel truly blessed</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b>  <b>DO</b> be patient and allow situations to play out  <b>DONT</b> jump into things without researching them  <b>EXPECT</b> to come out of a nagging health issue</p>
<p><b>TAURUS</b>  <b>DO</b> find your financial balance  <b>DONT</b> be afraid to take the plunge  <b>EXPECT</b> to choose between two options</p>	<p><b>LEO</b>  <b>DO</b> stand up for yourself and fight back  <b>DONT</b> be challenged by others  <b>EXPECT</b> to feel neglected</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b>  <b>DO</b> make new and exciting plans  <b>DONT</b> rush into things  <b>EXPECT</b> to find your passion</p>	<p><b>AQUARIUS</b>  <b>DO</b> stay away from arguments  <b>DONT</b> be judgmental  <b>EXPECT</b> to face healthy competition</p>
<p><b>GEMINI</b>  <b>DO</b> have faith in your spirit guides  <b>DONT</b> hold onto negativity  <b>EXPECT</b> calm after a storm</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b>  <b>DO</b> expand your horizons  <b>DONT</b> have a laid-back attitude  <b>EXPECT</b> to complete your work on time</p>	<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b>  <b>DO</b> follow your heart and go with it  <b>DONT</b> neglect important deals  <b>EXPECT</b> good news and invitations</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b>  <b>DO</b> maintain a balance of give and take  <b>DONT</b> be dependent on others  <b>EXPECT</b> kindness and generosity</p>

Nita Chhotalal is on [f @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal](#) [@mysticalguidancebynita](#)



My angels.. @maltimarie @nickjonas  
 Uploaded by @priyankachopra (Priyanka Chopra) →



**PURRFECT:**  
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**BEJEWELLED:**  
 A wonderful evening at the launch of @tiffanyandco at @jioworldplaza  
 Uploaded by @therealkarismakapoor (Karisma Kapoor)



**RIBBON TALES:**  
 Uploaded by @sonamkapoor (Sonam A Kapoor)



**WORK IT OUT:**  
 This Barbie got her workout in  
 Uploaded by @nusratchirps (Nussrat Jahan)

**PREVIEW**

**What:** British Council Summer School 2024  
**Where:** British Council, 16 Camac Street  
**When:** 13-24 May, 27 May to 7 June  
**What to Expect:** British Council has announced the launch of its Summer School 2024. The programme offers a two-week theme-based short course for children aged 6-17 years. With two themes, Learning with Creativity! and Engaging with Confidence!, the programme promises to be a journey of development, learning, and fun. Classes are scheduled for two hours a day, five days a week, and participants are expected to immerse themselves in engaging activities that stimulate creativity, boost confidence, and enhance communication skills.  
**Details:**  
**Age group:** 6-17 years (separate curriculum for different age groups)  
**Duration:** 20 hours (2 hours a day) for 10 days  
**Course delivery:** Face-to-face classroom learning  
**Organiser Speak:** "The long summer holidays can offer wonderful opportunities to rekindle the curiosity and ignite the creativity in our children. At British Council, we design our Summer School to do exactly that: create a joyful environment for the young to explore aspects of their personalities that are left out of the traditional school curriculum. Through interactive sessions and hands-on activities, we aim to nurture not just English language and social skills, but also confidence and creativity in every child. With our expert instructors and carefully curated curriculum, we provide lessons that spark a love for learning and extend this passion beyond the classroom. We invite families to enrol their children and join us in shaping a summer filled with joy," said Debanjan Chakrabarti, director East and Northeast India, British Council.

**WATCHIT!**



On the verge of bankruptcy, mixed-martial-arts instructor Mike Terry (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is faced with the moral dilemma of whether or not to fight for the cash reward in a competition that could solve his money problems. **Redbelt; &flix, 10.45pm**

ENGLISH	BENGALI
<b>MOVIES OF THE DAY</b>	<b>MOVIES OF THE DAY</b>
<b>Mad Max, Fury Road:</b> Sony Pix, 1.15pm	<b>Raavan:</b> Jalsha Movies, noon
<b>Cosmopolis:</b> STAR Movies Select HD, 1.45pm	<b>Putra Badhu:</b> Zee Bangla Cinema, noon
<b>Patient Zero:</b> &flix, 2.05pm	<b>Minister Phatakesho:</b> Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm
<b>The Expendables 2:</b> STAR Movies Select HD, 3.45pm	<b>Loafer:</b> Zee Bangla Cinema, 2.30pm
<b>Percy Jackson, Sea Of Monsters:</b> STAR Movies, 4pm	<b>Mon Mane Na:</b> Jalsha Movies, 2.55pm
<b>The Unholy:</b> Sony Pix, 5.15pm	<b>Dui Prithibi:</b> Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm
<b>Snow Monster:</b> STAR Movies Select HD, 5.30pm	<b>Bourani:</b> Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.35pm
<b>Planes, Fire &amp; Rescue:</b> STAR Movies, 5.45pm	<b>Dev:</b> Jalsha Movies, 6pm
<b>The Captain:</b> STAR Movies Select HD, 7pm	<b>Kurukshetra:</b> Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm
<b>The Angry Birds Movie:</b> &flix, 7.05pm	<b>Takkar:</b> Zee Bangla Cinema, 8.35pm
<b>The Predator:</b> STAR Movies, 9pm	<b>Agnishapath:</b> Jalsha Movies, 9.30pm
<b>Emergency Declaration:</b> STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm	<b>Sakhi Tumi Kar:</b> Colors Bangla Cinema, 10pm
<b>Free Guy:</b> STAR Movies, 10.45pm	<b>Kishore Kumar Junior:</b> Zee Bangla Cinema, 11.30pm

**BIG SCREEN**

ENGLISH	BENGALI
<b>BOONE BEARS GUARDIAN CODE (U):</b> Inox Quest (5pm), Inox South City (1.50), Inox Rajarhat (noon), InoxSwabhumi (11, 4), PVR Mani Square (2.20)	<b>ALAAP (U/A):</b> Inox South City (2pm), InoxRajarhat (1pm), InoxHiland (11.20am), PVR Diamond Plaza (6.20), Nazrulitirha (1pm)
<b>THE FALL GUY (U/A):</b> InoxQuest (11.45am), Inox South City (11am), PVR Mani Square (9.10am)	<b>DABARU (U):</b> Inox Quest (7.20pm), Inox South City (2.20, 6.50), Inox Salt Lake (2.05, 5.40), InoxRajarhat (2.15, 5.55), Inox Hiland (2.15, 5.10), Inox Hind (4.50), InoxSwabhumi (6.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.40, 7.30), PVR Mani Square (4.30), PVR Uniworld Downtown (3.20), RDB Cinemas (6.15), Nazrulitirha (2.30)
<b>GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE 3D (U/A):</b> InoxRajarhat (9.20am), InoxSwabhumi (1.20), PVR Avani (11am), PVR Uniworld Downtown (1pm)	<b>ETA AMADER GOLPO (U):</b> Inox South City (4.55, 7.40), Inox Salt Lake (2.55, 7.25), InoxRajarhat (3.10, 7.45), InoxHiland (4, 7.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (12.55, 4.45), RDB Cinemas (3pm), Nazrulitirha (7.15pm)
<b>KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (U/A):</b> InoxRajarhat (noon, 11.20), Inox Metro (3.25), InoxHiland (9.50, 7), Inox Hind (7.35pm), InoxSwabhumi (11.40, 6), PVR Avani (1.35, 10.30), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 3.40, 9.50, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (1.45), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10, 6.40, 10.20), RDB Cinemas (12.10, 3.20, 7.40)	<b>MIRZA (A):</b> InoxHiland (1pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.55)
<b>LAAPATAA LADIES (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (10.10*, 7.55), Inox South City (7.05*), Inox Forum (3.55, 10.30), Inox Salt Lake (5pm), PVR Avani (4.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (8.05pm), PVR Mani Square (7.55pm), PVR Uniworld Downtown (8.45pm)	<b>NAYAN RAHASYA (U):</b> Inox Quest (2.30), Inox South City (5.10, 7.50), Inox Salt Lake (4.45, 8.35), InoxRajarhat (5.05, 8.45), Inox Metro (4pm), InoxHiland (4.25, 8.05), InoxSwabhumi (4.10), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.10, 5.30, 9.15), PVR Mani Square (8.20pm), PVR Uniworld Downtown (6.10), RDB Cinemas (5.25), Nazrulitirha (5pm)
<b>MADGAON EXPRESS (U/A):</b> InoxSwabhumi (1pm)	<b>O ABHAGI (U/A):</b> Nazrulitirha (7.30pm)
<b>MAIDAAN (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (10*, 4.50*, 10.15), Inox South City (1*, 3.20*, 10.25), Inox Forum (6.45), Inox Salt Lake (1, 10.15), InoxRajarhat (3, 10.35), Inox Metro (6.30), InoxHiland (4.05, 10.10), Inox Hind (3.50), InoxSwabhumi (6.20, 9.45), PVR Diamond Plaza (10.30, 8.50), PVR Mani Square (4.35, 10.55), PVR Uniworld Downtown (11.35am)	<b>OTI UTTAM (U/A):</b> PVR Diamond Plaza (noon)
<b>TAROT (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (8.35pm*), Inox South City (9.45pm), Inox Salt Lake (11pm), PVR Mani Square (noon), RDB Cinemas (1.15, 9)	
<b>JAPANESE</b>	
<b>THE BOY AND THE HERON (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (9, 1*, 6.50*, 10.45*), Inox South City (9.45*, 11.35, 4.05, 10.30), Inox Forum (10.15am), PVR Mani Square (11, 1.40)	
<b>KOREAN</b>	
<b>EXHUMA (A):</b> Inox Quest (2pm*), Inox South City (11am)	
<b>HINDI</b>	
<b>BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN (U/A):</b> Inox Metro (12.05)	
<b>CREW (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (10.55pm*), Inox Forum (1.05), Inox Salt Lake (9.15am), InoxSwabhumi (10.05pm)	
<b>DO AUR DO PYAAR (U/A):</b> Inox Quest (1.45*)	
<b>GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE 3D (U/A):</b> InoxRajarhat (9.20am), InoxSwabhumi (1.20), PVR Avani (11am), PVR Uniworld Downtown (1pm)	
<b>KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (U/A):</b> InoxRajarhat (noon, 11.20), Inox Metro (3.25), InoxHiland (9.50, 7), Inox Hind (7.35pm), InoxSwabhumi (11.40, 6), PVR Avani (1.35, 10.30), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 3.40, 9.50, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (1.45), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10, 6.40, 10.20), RDB Cinemas (12.10, 3.20, 7.40)	

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## HERE'S WHAT MAKES BLENDJET 2 A SMOOTH OPERATOR IN THE KITCHEN OR ON THE GO

**Y**ou may have seen people in YouTube videos using a hand blender to prepare a smoothie before going for a run. They get the consistency correct with minimum fuss of cleaning up. The machine you may have seen is the BlendJet 2, which is now available in India.

The popular brand markets its portable blender as designed in California and it's being used to prepare smoothies, juices, dips, salad dressings, frozen lattes and milkshakes. If you think Stanley Cup is a craze in the US, try searching for BlendJet. We had a chance to review the product and here is what we think of it.

### EASY TO USE

If you have picked up an earlier version of the Blendjet (the company is HQ-ed in the San Francisco Bay Area) while travelling, you will notice that the container has been bounced up to 475ml, a substantial increase. To make things easy for those who want to measure out smoothies and drinks, there are measurements on the side of the jar.

For every hour of charge you

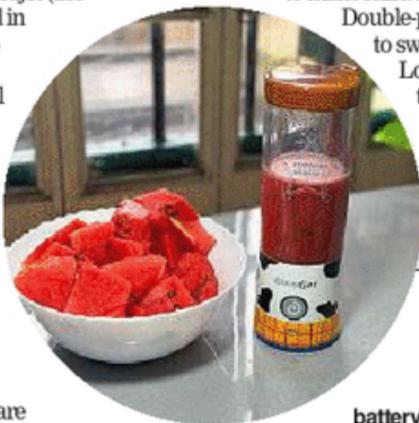


To make pineapple smoothie (right), we added 200g of yoghurt, pineapple pieces, a couple of ice cubes and 100ml of water into BlendJet 2. Picture: The Telegraph

get 15 blends. This is a feature that's interesting in case you like to take it on road trips. The machine doesn't need to be hooked to a power source for you to make a smoothie. There is a self-cleaning feature that involves adding water and soap and then hitting blend.

There are a few modes you need to be aware of. Blend mode involves a 20-second blend cycle (you can press the button once again to stop the churn midway). Pulse mode is perfect to make salsa dips and chutneys.

Double-press power button to switch to this mode. Lock mode stops the blender from activating while you are drinking from the container.



You can make smoothies, fruit juices, milkshakes and dips using the battery-operated BlendJet 2 without worrying about leaving behind a mess. Picture: The Telegraph

Second, there is a 5V electric motor that spins 275 times per second, which is very fast for a battery operated device. Be it carrot or watermelon juice or smoothie, it shouldn't take more than 20-40 seconds to prepare a drink. We tried to make a pineapple smoothie and watermelon juice, both came out fine. Later, we tried a salsa dip to be had with tacos and for this we used the pulse mode, which gave a chunky sauce. Did the fruit juice have chunks in it? There were some small pieces at the bottom of the jar but it's acceptable.

The machine is not very light for a reason: Some kind of weight ensures that the device doesn't

get is a nice slushy glass of fruit juice. At times you have to give fruit pieces a couple of spins to puree. Summer is obviously not the season you would go on a picnic but the hand blender will be handy during winter outings.

Here's another question: How does it stack up against traditional juicers? The juicer has more power and space, so you can easily make big portions and add a lot of fruits while making a smoothie. With the hand blender if two or three types of fruits need to be added, you need to add it in parts because the motor has to make the blade cut through fruits of varying texture.

### SHOULD YOU BUY IT?

A few things to remember. Before crushing ice, add some liquid. Look closely and you will notice that the blades are offset from the centre. It's a design element that helps blast ingredients in a spin cycle. In the few days we have used the blades didn't rattle. Most importantly, remember this is not a replacement for a traditional juicer.

What we didn't like about the packaging is the USB-A to USB-C cable for two reasons. First, the cable is quite short. Second, most of us have moved to USB-C to USB-C charging and so very few old power bricks are lying around the house that accommodate USB-A. You may have read about the recall of certain BlendJet 2 portable blenders in the US last year but we haven't had issues with the review unit. Models that are currently being sold are not affected by the recall.

What we think you may like: On the website, you can order the XL Jar which can handle up to 945ml juice. You can also buy an insulated sleeve to retain some of the coolness while you power through in the gym. Very importantly, replacement base gasket is available to ensure the machine remains relevant for a long time. What about long-term usage? You will have to wait a month or so to find out. Meanwhile, BlendJet 2 is turning out to be a smooth operator.

Mathures Paul



To make watermelon juice we needed to blend twice and then added a couple of ice cubes, after which we blended once again. Picture: The Telegraph

Also available on the official website is a larger jar and insulated sleeve. Picture: Telegraph

### AT A GLANCE

Device: BlendJet 2  
Price: ₹2,999 to ₹3,999 on Blendjet.in

### HIGH NOTES

- ▶ Blends fruit pieces smoothly
- ▶ There is a pulse option
- ▶ Accessories are easily available
- ▶ Easy to clean

### MUFFLED NOTES

- ▶ USB-A to USB-C wire is going out of fashion
- ▶ Not a replacement for a fruit juicer



### A FEW THINGS THAT MATTER

We want the blending to be not-so-loud. Instead of being a dentist's drill, it does offer some noise but not as much as most other smoothie makers.

topple over when it blends. You don't need to hold on to it while the motor spins. To make the juicing process challenging, we threw in a couple of ice cubes and the blades cut through it easily. What you

## ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO GOOGLE I/O ON MAY 14?

**T**he most exciting time of the year for Android enthusiasts is on May 14 as Google presents its I/O developer conference. What can you expect this time around?

### ANDROID 15

Needless to say, a big part of the conference will be dedicated to announcements around Android 15, the next version of the OS that will run millions of phones globally.

The first Android 15 betas are already out and among the new features are an updated Privacy Sandbox, partial screen sharing (you can record or share a certain app window instead of the entire screen) and system-level app archiving to free up space. Also available are improved satellite connectivity, additional in-app camera

File picture of Google I/O conference

controls and a new power efficiency mode.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg as most of the important features will be announced at the conference. We may hear plenty about lock screen widgets, a status bar redesign may be on the anvil and it may become easier for you to monitor battery health. Rumours suggest there could be a feature called Private Space to let you hide data and apps from prying eyes.

Google may talk about the future of Wear OS, which will include details on "advances

in the Watch Face Format". There will also be updates on Google TV and Android TV.

### AI ZONE

Google will have a lot to talk about and take the competition to OpenAI. Expect Google to talk about Gemini AI, which may end up replacing Assistant entirely. Google is working on an AI assistant called Pixie as an exclusive feature for Pixel devices and it may

debut in the Pixel 9 later this year. There will be updates for key Google products such as Search, Chrome, Maps and G Suite. AI-driven accessibility features and health projects may be in the offing too.

Google's AI announcements may offer a hint at whatever news Apple might have in store for its WWDC developer conference keynote, which will take place June 10.

### WHAT ABOUT DEVICES?

Google may offer a glimpse of some hardware coming in the future but mostly it will be about software. Google announced its first Pixel Fold at I/O last year but this year, we don't expect much. The company has also been keeping quiet about any new augmented reality tech it's working on.

### HOW TO WATCH IT?

Tune in on May 14 at 10.30 pm IST. You can watch it on Google's I/O website or on Google's YouTube channel.

Mathures Paul



MUSIC

THE INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM ODE TO MY BELOVED CELEBRATES RABINDRANATH TAGORE AND LOVE

**O**de to My Beloved, a new instrumental album, features five Rabindranath Tagore compositions and a traditional classical piece on Raga Tilak Kamod. Presented by Krishna Kayal (a Blooper House Production) and produced by Sayandeep Roy (who plays the mandola), Meghdut RoyChowdhury and Satrajit Sen, this musical experience, a tribute to the bard on his 163rd birth anniversary, explores themes of love, longing and desire. One can listen to the mandola playing in the album's first music video — a soulful take on Tagore's *Bhalobeshe sokhi*. You can stream it on Salim Sulaiman Music, the duo's YouTube channel and all audio platforms. *Bhalobeshe sokhi* features Richa Sharma and Satrajit Sen and brings forth themes of love, loss and longing.

Richa appears as an apparition. "When I heard I've to appear as a dead woman, I was a bit hesitant but Ritwik (Sinha), the director explained how it's not about death but about recreation of life, fulfilling wishes that you couldn't while you lived. He set a positive mindset for me to get into the character. It was my biggest challenge to play this role because I hadn't played such a role before. It is a beautiful song, so I readily



Moments from the making of the video for *Bhalobeshe sokhi*

agreed," said Richa. "I am glad Satrajit was there as my co-star in the music video and he supported me throughout; I had to appear floating in the pool and I'm not a swimmer, and I didn't look at myself in the mirror all day. After post-production, I am proud I did justice to the concept."

"I played the main character with Richa. I usually stay behind the camera but I was so comfortable working with her. We have loads of memories to look back on from the shoot," said Satrajit. It was Satrajit's (the co-producer of the music video and album) second work with Salim Merchant. "I



A moment from the album launch. (L-R) Satrajit Sen, Sayandeep, Salim Merchant and Richa Sharma



Meghdut RoyChowdhury, co-producer of the music video

love music and Indian classical music, and I planned on releasing a Rabindranath Tagore cover on his birthday. Sayandeep did a brilliant job and the response we got on the music video's release is overwhelming."

Sramana Ray



"Instrumental albums are rare these days. I am thankful to Satrajit *da* for having faith in me and believing that we can do this. In Tagore's songs we have always seen the boundary between love and devotion getting blurred. The album is based on that idea. It is an offering through Tagore's timeless tunes. I am immensely thankful to the team I have worked with. They are all excellent musicians and technicians. I'm greatly indebted to them for their active initiative and creative inputs," said Sayandeep, mandola player and co-producer of *Ode to My Beloved*.

"I am happy to have presented this exquisitely shot and enacted video and I am elated that Salim-Sulaiman's Merchant Records released it on their platform. When Richa and Satrajit explained the concept, I immediately agreed. Sayandeep has done a wonderful job with his mesmerising music," said Krishna Kayal, the presenter of the video.





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t2 SPOTLIGHTS TRENDY SUMMER HAIRSTYLES AND HAIR COLOURS

**E**yeCatchers, the hair and beauty salon chain, launched Redken, the hair colour, hair care and hair styling brand from New York's 5th Avenue, at their 2,600sq ft revamped Acropolis mall outlet, this month. "We are the first ones to launch this NYC 5th Avenue brand in the entire east of India. It is a delight for us to introduce Redken to the people of the City of Joy. We are jazzing up the summer heat with some cool hues and hot styling," said Julie Chung, art director, EyeCatchers. The look and feel is that of the signature Redken stores, done up in earthy hues and classic monochromes.

Julie highlighted the USP of the brand. "The entire range of products focuses on maintaining the natural pH level of the hair at 4.5-5.5, the colour mantra being working with the three zones of the hair, maximising colour results with minimum stress on the hair. They have alkaline colours in the form of colour gel oils, an ammonia-free monochromatic permanent hair colour for healthy hair and roots, and Shades EQ Gloss, an acidic range of demipermanent toners for pre-lightened and stressed lengths. Redken also has a miraculous acidic bonding concentrate range of pH-balancing hair treatments for stressed, dry and fragile hair. They have a wide variety of hair styling products that help style one's hair while conditioning one's tresses. It is a single product offering 25 solutions to cater to 25 kinds of hair woes," she said.

To showcase the latest summer colours and hair styling trends, Chung created four looks with Redken's range of colouring and styling products. "All these looks were created keeping in mind fun, movement and contrast. We chose easy-to-style and low-maintenance looks," said Chung.

EyeCatchers is also present in South City Mall, City Centre Salt Lake and New Town, and, Mani Square, along with standalone stops on Gurusaday Road and Wood Street. Ahmedabad and Bangalore too houses EyeCatchers salons.

**What:** Redken X EyeCatchers  
**Where:** Acropolis mall, Rajdanga Main Road  
**Timings:** 11am to 9pm



**Julie Chung,** art director, EyeCatchers



For a long hair length, Chung styled a look with the reddish copper hue on side fringes and flared-out volume waves

For a medium-length hair, Chung created a contrasting beach blonde look with curtain bangs and volume curls



For medium-length curly hair, Chung styled with gold mocha tones in Maggi curls, contrasted with a cropped fringe and honey gold highlights



For a short-hair look, Chung chose a cropped short asymmetric bob with soft beach waves in a cool platinum hue



The revamped EyeCatchers Hair and Beauty Salon in Acropolis mall

**Priyanka A. Roy**

Pictures: Pabitra Das

Models: Sania Prasad, Sushmita Roy, Diksha Jain and Tridhara Chatterjee

# ART

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOK CENTRE STAGE AT AiRT?, ORGANISED BY B-CAF

**B**ridging Culture and Arts Foundation (B-CAF) stepped out of the physical confines of its newly-opened address in Regent Estate in South Calcutta and started a dialogue that was needed. Artificial Intelligence is sneaking into the world of creativity and while much of the art community is wary of the latest technological advancement,

B-CAF organised an art exhibition, AiRT?, at the Academy of Fine Arts. From April 30 to May 5, the art community converged at the art hub and not only welcomed new ideas but engaged in intense discussions on topics like 'Trends in AI Art today', 'Digital Art in Movies' and 'Technique in Using AI in Art'. Around 30 artworks, invited through an open call, made for an interesting mix.

While a traditionalist might undermine the merit of the work, a knack for art and right prompts can lead to a connection between what an artist visualises and what transpires on the screen.

A lot of entries played with the elements of Calcutta and Bengal and the results were impressive. Saswati Barat's 'Artificial Intelligence Takes a Stroll in Kolkata' created a picture of robots walking the streets of

the city with Victoria Memorial as backdrop, prompted by keywords like 'water painting style' and 'cyborg and robot enjoying a day in spring in Kolkata'. Arnab Nandy's interpretation of a classic Vincent Van Gogh painting resulted in 'The Starry Night over the Howrah Bridge: A Symphony of Lights and Shadows', which is a striking image of the landmark bridge with a beautiful interplay of colours.

Abhiraj Das Ghosh prompted a Jamini Roy painting style and the result was silhouettes of women in signature Jamini Roy-style. There were also exhibits by professional artists creating spectacular pieces of art imagining scenes like Subhash Chandra Bose returning to Calcutta with his army, Leonardo da Vinci-inspired The Last Supper with Bengali statesmen in the frame, and more.



The inauguration was attended by a host of dignitaries, including consul generals, professors and art enthusiasts. (L-R) Prof Shabina Omar, British deputy high commissioner Andrew Fleming; actress Richa Sharma; Manoshi Roychowdhury, co-chairman Techno India Group; Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, CEO Bandhan Bank; Debasish Sen, advisor B-CAF, and B-CAF founder Reena Dewan.



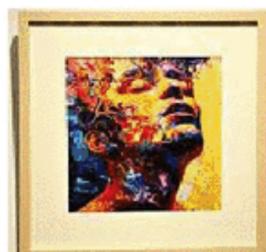
Richa Sharma dropped by to check out the exhibit



Consul general of Russia, Alexey Idamkin



British deputy high commissioner Andrew Fleming checks out an AI version of 'The Last Supper'



Glimpses of artwork on display at AiRT?

Debasish Sen, an AI enthusiast and advisor at B-CAF, who has tried his luck with the new technology using Copilot and generative AI, showcased three artworks. He said: "I was a little apprehensive that there would be protests but people from the main art world are absorbing it and there could be a great synergy."

He touched upon his experience: "I had failed in drawing once but I was very much interested in arts and I strongly believe that it's a great thing to have a tool for people who can't draw but have wonderful ideas. AI has to be taught, it cannot work on its own."

"World over, artists are delving into AI to create art, and in Calcutta, I felt we needed to open a discourse on the role of artificial intelligence in art. AI-generated art is distinctly different from digital art, and through my interactions with artists, I realised there was a lack of clarity on this distinction," said Reena Dewan, founder director of B-CAF.



Farah Khatoun

Pictures: Koushik Saha

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## THE ROTARY BENEVOLENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS HONOURED EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRED HOPE

The Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence hosted the prestigious Rotary Benevolence Excellence Awards at The Ballygunge Maidan by Erwin Bart, on Gurusaday Road. The April 21 event was a celebration that radiated with the inspirational tales of 16 exceptional women achievers from various fields. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests like Imran Zaki and past president of Rotary International, Shekhar Mehta. The guest of honour was Rotary district governor Hiralal Yadav. Their presence added grandeur and significance to the evening, inspiring those present with their leadership and commitment to service.

The event started with an address by the club president, followed by a presentation where attendees got a peek into the innumerable social initiatives undertaken by the Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence, like community health, blood donation drives and many more. The spotlight then fell on those remarkable women who have made an indelible mark in their respective spheres. From trailblazing entrepreneurs and visionary artists to compassionate activists and dedicated educators, each awardee embodied the spirit of determination, resilience and excellence. Their stories served as a testament to the role of women in shaping a better world.

Rotary Benevolence Excellence Awards also served a larger purpose — to support the noble initiative Sip of Hope. Aimed at providing access to safe drinking water in rural Bengal, the initiative resonates deeply with the ethos of Rotary's commitment to serving communities in need. As the evening unfolded, the camaraderie and spirit of service filled the air, binding together individuals from diverse backgrounds in a shared commitment to making a positive difference in the world. The evening served as a reminder of the transformative power of service and the profound impact that individuals can make when they come together for a common cause. Snapshots.



Dr. Parnali Dhar Chowdhury (right), a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University, serves as a consultant to multiple news and media outlets. She is renowned for her research on the repercussions of lockdowns in vulnerable communities of East Africa.

"It feels very special to be here today. The initiative taken by Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence for the cause of clean drinking water is something I connect with deeply," she said.



Major Apurba Mondal defied gender restrictions by joining the Army, breaking stereotypes with her exemplary service. "It is a great honour for me to be here and I thank the Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence. The Army has given me many opportunities. Moreover, the Army has allowed me to explore my adventurous side and I hope I can inspire more girls to pursue their passions," the Major said.



Commander Swati Bhatia, a trailblazer in the Indian Navy, was recognised for her exceptional contribution and outstanding service. "I am the only person in my family to be in the Navy, and I have always wanted to go from this side of the table to the other side and the Navy has allowed me to do just that. I want to thank all my seniors and mentors for guiding me on this journey," said the Navy officer.



Singer Jojo received her award from Shekhar Mehta, past president of Rotary International and Chandan Gupta, president, Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence.

Mamata Shankar was honoured for her outstanding achievements as a dancer and film actress.



Actress Richa Sharma accepted her award from Tarakjit Saha, member of Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence and Shekhar Mehta (right).



Jaya Seal Ghosh received an award for her captivating performances in dance and films. "It is great to be here and I think Rotary is doing a great job with their initiative Sip of Hope. The journey of an actress and dancer is not easy, but the journey goes on and as an artiste, the thirst goes on," the elegant dancer-actress said.

Cross-country rider, Rimita Mukherjee (right), accepted her award from Chandan Gupta and Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence member, Shewta Singh.



Jewellery designer Uzma Firoz received her award from Imran Zaki.



Sreelekha Mitra accepted her award from Shekhar Mehta, Chandan Gupta and charter president of Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence, Kaushik Sen (extreme left). "Thank you for this award. This is a great initiative taken by the Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence for the cause of clean drinking water. All of us need to come together to undertake more such initiatives," the actress said.



Founder of Easy Notes Stationery Shaleni Biswas accepted her award for her remarkable journey as an entrepreneur in the world of publishing.



Sanjukta Bose, director of International Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM), received her award from Shekhar Mehta (right) and Tarakjit Saha.

"The goal of Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence of supplying clean drinking water is something that we all resonate with at IIHM. It is very important that we are aware of the impact on the environment and leave a better future for the next generation," she said.



"The Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence organised the Rotary Benevolence Excellence Award for women achievers from different fields in support of the project Sip of Hope. Access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right for all children, as recognised by United Nations. Yet, over 3.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water worldwide. That is why we are endeavouring to install pure drinking water plants in remote villages of Bengal for children and the local community," said Chandan Gupta, president, Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence.

Film director Indira Dhar Mukherjee accepted her award from Imran Zaki and Yogita Kichlu, president-elect, Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence.

"We women have to learn to stand up for ourselves, and that is why I make films focused on stories of women," the filmmaker said.



## B-CAF'S EVENT IBADAT BLENDED POETRY AND MUSIC IN A FITTING TRIBUTE TO CALCUTTA'S CULTURE

In a debut performance event, Bridging Culture and Arts Foundation (B-CAF), the latest addition to Calcutta's art scene, hosted a *jugalbandi* of poetry and music titled Ibadat on April 28. While Ipsita Ganguli read her own poetry, there was vocal music by Indian classical musician Subhadrakalyan Rana, and a sarod recital by Subhrajyoti Sen.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of two anthologies, *Why I Write Poetry* by Ipsita and *Embers and Ashes* by Subhadrakalyan. Attendees were treated to an intimate poetry-musical duet, allowing for a close encounter with the performers' artistry.

"The idea behind this *jugalbandi* event was to recreate the multidisciplinary cultural *mahauls* that so many of us grew up with, which included music and poetry alike. We wanted to replicate that atmosphere of holistic wholesomeness that is so integral to our culture, and I'm very overwhelmed by the response we have had today," said Ipsita.

Subhadrakalyan, who sings classical vocal music and plays the tabla too, charmed the audience with his performance. "Poetry and music always go hand



(L-R) Ipsita Ganguli, Subhadrakalyan Rana and Subhrajyoti Sen at the B-CAF event Ibadat



Reena Dewan, founder-director, B-CAF

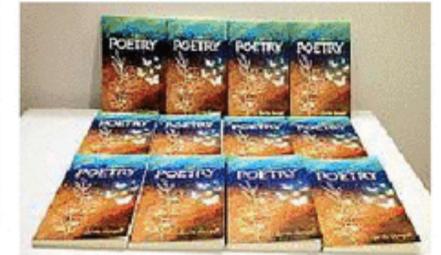
in hand. Being a part of a poetry-music duet helped me understand the points of their contact. I got to observe certain intricate things in both and that helped me gather some new viewpoints regarding how I should look at them," he said.

"As artistes, it is our job to evoke emotion in the audience. We are all storytellers, and it is through this storytelling that we are able to reach the people. The space tonight was very intimate, perfect for this kind of concert. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole process, be it the rehearsals or performing here," added Subhrajyoti.

Reena Dewan, the founder-director of B-CAF, was happy to host such an enjoyable event. "At B-CAF, it was my vision to create a space that would have the acoustics and soundproofing necessary to create an extraordinary experience for performers. Ibadat, the first formal performance after the opening of the space, was a test for me to discern whether I was able to successfully implement my intention or not. Both Ipsita and Subhadrakalyan elated the packed house with their



Subhadrakalyan Rana's book *Embers and Ashes* was launched at the event



Ipsita Ganguli's poems from her compilation *Why I Write Poetry* were read out at the session

performance. It was a delight to have them perform at B-CAF," she said.

Ibadat transcended conventional boundaries, weaving a magical tapestry where words and melodies intertwined seamlessly, creating an immersive experience for all attendees. The success of the event marked a significant milestone in B-CAF's dedication to fostering cultural exchange and artistic exploration.

Pictures: B-CAF

সাক্ষাতে:

■ চিরঞ্জিত

■ মিমি চক্রবর্তী ■ সোহা আলি খান

■ স্বাগতা মুখোপাধ্যায় ■ অন্তরা মিত্র

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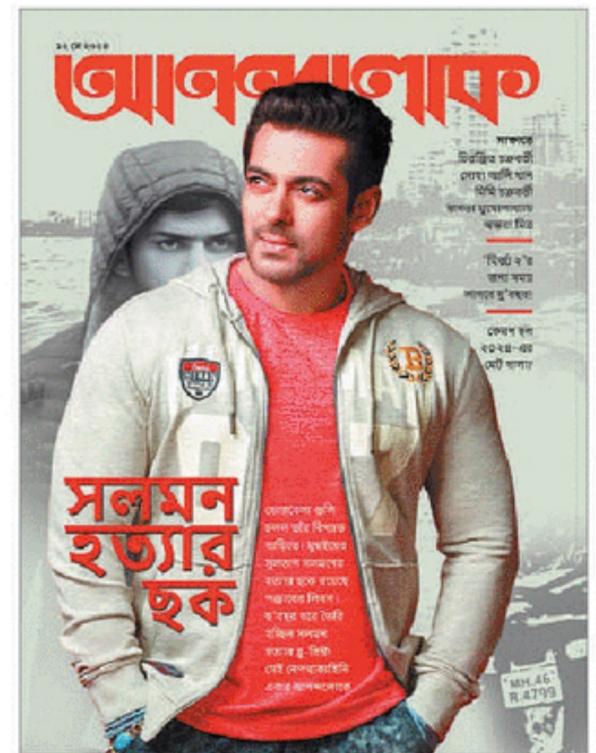
দিব্যা ভারতীর বর্ণময় জীবন

স্টাইলোমিটার:

শ্রুতি দাস-এর সামার ফ্যাশন

প্রকাশিত

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তাঁর বান্দ্রার বাড়িতে চলল  
গুলি। দায় স্বীকার করেছে  
পঞ্জাবের বিষ্ণোই গ্যাং।  
কেন জুড়ে যাচ্ছে মুম্বইয়ের  
সঙ্গে পঞ্জাবের তার? কী  
ছিল সলমনের বাড়িতে গুলি  
চালানোর নেপথ্যের কারণ?  
আনন্দলোক-এর অনুসন্ধান  
উঠে এল রোমহর্ষক কাহিনি



আনন্দলোক

১২ মে ২০২৪

## BOHURUPI SANTINIKETAN'S 'SAPTAPADI' IS A DREAM OF PRISTINE ROMANCE. t2 GETS YOU GLIMPSES OF THE LOVELY CAMPAIGN



"I attempted something like this for the first time and it was immensely fulfilling," smiled Abhisek.

Actors Isha Saha and Ggourab Roy Chowdhury made for a beautiful reel couple for Bohurupi Santiniketan's 'Saptapadi', a music video that marked the unveiling of the latest collection by the homegrown brand by Roy Abhisek. We loved the subtlety of the collection that had *alpona*-inspired embroidery. "These were more elaborate versions of the *alpona*," said Abhisek. Isha's white organza dupat added a certain fairy-tale feel. "For weddings we generally see very vibrant colours. Here the colour tone was muted with lots of beiges, browns, creams, pastels and whites. The overall look was matte but it looked rich," he said. The embroidery and its delicate unevenness was an ode to the feel of the hand-done.



**R**oy Abhisek, soaking wet in sweat, in his beautiful white *khadi* kurta, slumped down on a sofa at The Yellow Turtle, a little after 9pm, on Friday night. His 'film' had just hit the Instagram and Facebook screens after its official unveiling at the Hindustan Park restaurant and Abhisek was happily relieved to see the enthusiasm. There was loud cheering from his friends. The 'film' also, a labour of love, was made special by the coming together of several of Abhisek's friends, who joined hands to run the marathon till the finishing line to see 'Saptapadi' come to life. Bohurupi Santiniketan's latest collection was Abhisek's interpretation of a white wedding that had been captured cinematically in the format of a music video.

"Saptapadi" are the seven steps you take during the wedding, each signifying a vow. I had been working on the concept of the shoot since last year. When I go back to my roots in Santiniketan, they have a signature style of wedding which is neither typical Brahmo nor Hindu. It is a mixture of cultures. That is what is reflected in the music video," said Abhisek, who had studied textile design in Santiniketan.

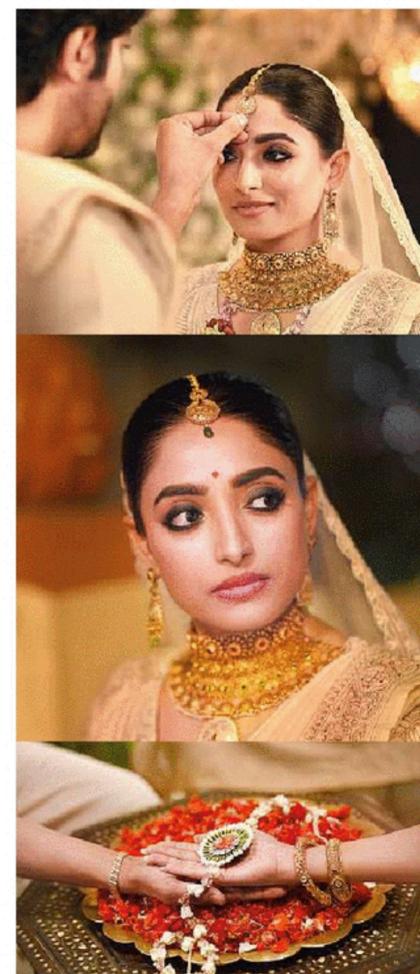
The video was shot in the span of a night and when Calcutta was in the grip of an excruciating heatwave. "Pulling it off in a few hours was challenging," recollected Abhisek.

Earthy tones made up palettes for both the clothes and decor. Serene, charming and with an element of fragrant purity. The embroidery was inspired by the *alpona* motifs of Santiniketan. "I had been working on the embroidery for the last three-four years, but wasn't getting it right," said Abhisek. Crafted from tussore, Abhisek had worked on three layers of embroidery. Thread and wool came together to create a 3D effect.

Abhisek had rolled out a limited edition of 'Saptapadi' comprising just 10-12 pieces for menswear and five-six saris.

He shared snapshots from the music video, starring Isha Saha and Ggourab Roy Chowdhury, directed by Ivy Chatterjee with cinematography by Soham Dey.

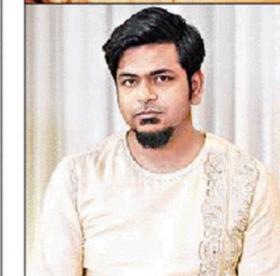
### MOMENTS FROM THE CAMPAIGN SHOOT...



Make-up pro Abhijith Chanda and Sayak Chakraborty of Jalshaghar Calcutta stood by Abhisek as supportive friends in the making of the unique campaign.



Srijan Chatterjee played the *acharya* and the classical singer also chanted the Sanskrit hymns and pitched in with the voiceover.



Singers Iman Chakraborty and Durnibar Saha were a part of the cast and lent their voices to songs like *Maharaj eki saje* and *Premero joyare*.

Senco Gold & Diamonds' jewellery complemented the looks. "The jewellery that we showcased is from our bridal collection which we have named *Rajwada* because it is about celebrating the queen that is in every woman. We have created an entire variety of designs to suit every bride's taste and needs in gold, antique gold, diamonds, *polki* and *kundan*. The antique gold necklace set, showcased in the video with coloured stones and intricate pastel-shade *meena* is a celebration of the modern bride who is the queen, not just in her life... she rules her world," said Joita Sen of Senco Gold & Diamonds.



The set was mounted in a South Calcutta house and designed by Abhisek and Utsab Ganguly. Tuberoses, white roses, gypsy flowers and carnations were rendered prettier in the lights of chandeliers and candles. "Though not apparent, we played with the theme of seven, in keeping with our theme of Saptapadi," said Abhisek. The stunning *alpona* was by Phalguni Samanta.

**Text: Saione Chakraborty**  
Music arranged by: Rathijit Bhattacharjee  
Make-up: Abhijith Chanda (for Isha and Iman); rest: Chayan  
Creative director: Debarshi Sarkar

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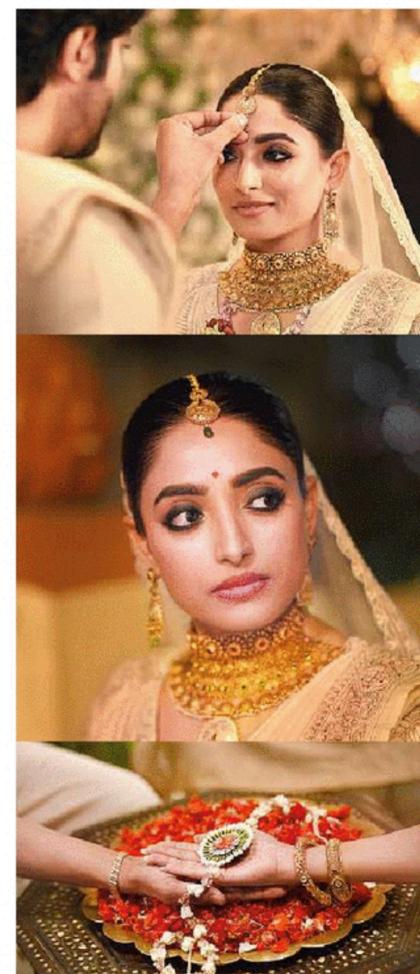
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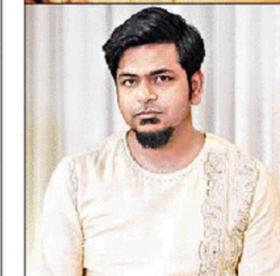
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'I FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GIVING THE CORRECT PICTURE OF THE CINE LANDSCAPE OF MY COUNTRY TO THE WORLD AUDIENCE,' WRITES PRODUCER **FIRDAUSUL HASAN** ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Charulata



Firdausul Hasan

**We may differ in our political ideologies, but an iconic scene from a Ray movie, or the signature steps of the *Naatu naatu* number, or the impassioned cheering for the Indian football team at the recently watched *Maidaan*, is where the real pulse of India beats**

Indian?" I nod, and the next moment I watch in delightful surprise as the shopkeeper in the souvenir and art market at Izmailovsky, tucked away in a corner of Moscow, dances to the signature steps and sings *Jimmy Jimmy aaja*, in perfect tune. Then he asks if I know Mithun Chakraborty. That is how far and deep Indian cinema casts its magic!

When I received the invitation to the BRICS and the Moscow International Film Festival 2024, as the official delegate from India and a state guest of Russia, I realised that it was my responsibility to help develop further cooperation among the filmmakers of the 10 BRICS nations. As a representative of the film-making community from India, I wished to focus on the shared humanity of the BRICS nations, in spite of our diverse tapestry, so that we could forge deeper bonds of understanding that would help us to create greater opportunities to carry our work forward.

The opening ceremony on the cold evening of April 19,

at the historical Rossiya Theatre with the red carpet laid out across the entire Pushkinskaya Square, with a huge international press in attendance, was royal in grandeur, to say the least.

The steady drizzle and icy gusts of wind could do nothing to dampen our spirits as the delegates from BRICS block converged for the formal opening ceremony with the state dignitaries.

The panel discussions, that I was supposed to deliver my talk at, were scheduled for April 20 and 22, in the Oktyabr Festival Centre. The topics being 'Specifics of film production and distribution in BRICS countries' and 'Perspectives of co-production and genre preferences of the audience of the BRICS countries'.

Both the sessions turned out to be much more engaging than I had expected and that was because of the interactive nature of the second half of the sessions. It was here that the exchanges with the audience comprising new-age

directors, film study students, actors and film journalists became engaging. It illuminated numerous aspects of filmmaking, technology, the role of AI as the filmmakers of the world so to say, grappled to understand the mind of the audience, the investors, the economic aspects of filmmaking and the post-pandemic challenges we are still battling.

At the outset, I was apprehensive about stumbling over language barriers, since most of the delegates spoke in their native tongues and the talk-back translators clipped to the ears of the panelists and the audience were all we had to understand one another. After a while, it became clear that language is really a small tool for communication and hardly comes in the way of communication between people who have similar fields of work and interests.

It was my privilege to talk about the depth and diversity of Indian cinema. India being a vast

country is among the top nations in terms of the number of films made per year. We stood out for more than 20 different languages that our films are made in. India also has the largest cine audience, in terms of sheer number and diversity. The audience looked a little taken aback as I convinced them that the film landscape of our country is not confined to Bollywood, nor to a particular industry towards the south.

India boasts of rich regional film industries, be it the poignant storytelling from Bengal or the authenticity of Marathi movies. The regional films offer a nuanced portrayal of local identities, and literature and all of this sums up to make Indian cinema a powerful pool of talent and possibilities.

I wanted to utilise my sessions to finally act as a bridge between the past and future of filmmaking and when the discussion spilt into the coffee break, I felt like I had been successful in giving the correct picture of the cine landscape of my country to the world audience.

On April 21, we were taken on a special tour around the film facilities and the newly-opened Moscow Film Park. The state-of-the-art mix studios, the one-window clearance film facilities, the futuristic technological aids offered at the Film Park would be a treasure trove for those who are in the business of filmmaking. I also consider it a privilege to have got the opportunity to watch a few of the films which had been selected for the festival from the 10 nations.

The crayon-blue skies, the intimidating arctic winds and the beauty of the huge city which is the economic and cultural hub of Russia, standing on the banks of the Moscow River, will hold a

special place in my heart for the place and people alike. Moscow seems to be poising gracefully, centuries of history and the vibrancy of revolutions in its architecture, streets, the iconic domes of St. Basil's Cathedral, the hundreds of museums, Russian art, opera, theatres, circuses, ballet, the Red Square, the Kremlin, the numerous libraries and book stores, theatres, parks, the people, the food, the music, the disciplined synchronisation of the economic heart of Russia, which also houses modern marvels like the Moscow International Business Centre. The busy city holds in perfect balance history and tradition with dynamism and life. The 'Moscow experience' was enriching but, I cannot stay away from Calcutta for too long and felt somewhat relieved as I boarded the flight back to where I belong.

The festival had indeed offered me the privilege of experiencing rich cultural exchange and will help us foster deeper bonds with the world cine community because cinema transcends borders and celebrates the power of storytelling.

We may differ in our political ideologies, but an iconic scene from a Ray movie, or the signature steps of the *Natu natu* number, the dialogue '*Kitne aadmi the*', from *Sholay*, or the impassioned cheering for the Indian football team at the recently watched *Maidaan*, is where the real pulse of India beats. I reaffirm that cinema is perhaps the most potent uniting factor of our nation, even as I hum *Jimmy Jimmy aaja!*

## STREAMING



(L-R) Kapil Sharma, Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol on *The Great Indian Kapil Show*

## KAPIL SHARMA CHATS WITH t2 ON WHAT MAKES THE GREAT INDIAN KAPIL SHOW TICK

**I**n the little over a month that it has been on air, *The Great Indian Kapil Show* — true to its pedigree — has hit it over the boundary with a straight bat. The viewership ratings for each episode have hovered around the one million-plus mark.

Streaming on Netflix, the comedy series — spearheaded by Kapil Sharma and comprising his core ha-ha team of Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur, with Archana Puran Singh laughing out loud from the audience — has retained almost all the elements that made its previous formats a hit on two television channels.

The USP of *The Great Indian Kapil Show* has undoubtedly been the return of comedian Sunil Grover to the Kapil Sharma fold. Grover is an indelible part of the show and many tune in just to watch him in sublime form week after week.

What works for *The Great Indian Kapil Show* is that all its players are popular. An outreach initiative carried out by Netflix saw Kapil, along with Krushna and Sunil, landing up at the doorsteps of people in a bid to surprise them. The emotions went from surprise and delight to “*Kya lenge aap?*” in a matter of seconds as the trio went knocking on people’s doors. From squeals of: “Oh my God, I can’t believe it!” to “*Agli baar bhabhi aur bacchon ko lekar aana*”, there was a whole lot of love and *apnapan* showered on Kapil and the team.

“I have always talked about the deepest gratitude and regard I hold for my fans and to be able to meet them in person, in their homes, and share a moment with them, is a priceless experience for me. It almost felt like meeting my extended family,” shared Kapil, while Sunil said: “I am touched by the amount of love people showered on us. This whole experience has engraved itself in my core

memory. I can’t stop smiling as I say this.”

The eclectic mix of guests has also worked well, with the show largely moving away from the format of inviting only those looking to promote their films on the popular platform, the only exceptions being the teams of *Amar Singh Chamkila* and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, both of which are Netflix projects.

Bollywood, of course, has dominated the guest list, but there have also been cricketers Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer in one episode, while future guests include tennis icon Sania Mirza and Grammy-winning international pop star Ed Sheeran. Brothers

Sunny and Bobby Deol and Vicky and Sunny Kaushal have also lent sparkle to the Kapil couch.

The show’s biggest ace? Getting the reticent and reclusive Aamir Khan to come in, for the first time ever. That episode, in which the Bollywood superstar revealed that he tuned in to Kapil’s jokes every time he felt out of sorts, has been one of the most watchable.

There have been rumours that *The Great Indian Kapil Show* is set to wrap up earlier than expected, but Netflix has clarified to t2 that the first season was always meant to comprise 13 episodes and that they are “gearing up” for Season 2.



**Kapil's universal appeal across masses and classes and his ability to make people laugh is undeniable. His style of comedy is popular across the world and that is the range of comedy that we have always been aiming for on our service. Kapil's signature style has made him a household name over the years. His knack for connecting with the masses through his humour and charm has made him an iconic figure in Indian entertainment and we wanted to bring the same joy to our audiences, in the same format when they watch him on Netflix. The success of *The Great Indian Kapil Show* is a testament to how loved Kapil is as a comedian — Tanya Bami, series head, Netflix India**

Kapil Sharma, whose brand value is on the rise now more than ever, chatted with t2 on the show and what makes it tick. Excerpts.

**Two years ago, you had done a special with Netflix called *I'm Not Done Yet*. How does aligning with Netflix for *The Great Indian Kapil Show* help both you and the show as a brand?**

Like you mentioned, I have done a special with Netflix before and I know the kind of value Netflix as a brand adds. Aligning with Netflix, therefore, for *The Great Indian Kapil Show* was a gradual progression from what I was doing on television. This collaboration allows us to connect with a diverse set of audiences, not just locally but across the globe. We always felt that there is a demand for the kind

**Sunil Grover and Kapil Sharma on the show**

of content we make in countries other than India and with the way OTT platforms are being consumed, one has access to content anytime and anywhere — the sky is the limit. Netflix bridges this gap beautifully. They are very collaborative and helped us understand the audience better. And post the launch of *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, we are the only Indian show to feature on the Netflix Global Top 10 Non English TV charts for four consecutive weeks. It reassures us that we are on the right track.

**The entry of Sunil Grover back to the Kapil Sharma fold is a huge win. But what made you not want to change the format of the show and go more or less with what you have done so far?**

The format is something that resonates with our audience. This is our brand of comedy. So when we collaborated with Netflix, it meant a whole lot more audiences could experience this format which has been quite popular in India. It is unique to us and we wanted everyone to experience that.

Sunil *paaji* (Grover) coming back meant the world to all of us. The bond that we have all nurtured for over so many years translates on screen.

**Does the fact that you are now catering to a Netflix audience made you change or rethink your material at any point?**

Given the kind of content we make, we are constantly evaluating our material. We base our comedy on observations through our daily life, the people we meet, our experiences, and so on. No two days are the same and the same goes for our material as well. Our only goal is that our material should resonate with our audience.

**From an objective point of view, why do you think the show has sustained its popularity and what do you think you can do better?**

We have always believed in keeping things relatable. Whether it is the character-led antics or the conversations around everyday squabbles at home, everyone, no matter where they are from, finds a piece of themselves in these moments. The guests who come on our show share their personal anecdotes that make them real and relatable. All this makes for a great experience for the viewers.

Like I mentioned before, the kind of content we make, we have to keep evolving. One is always learning and growing, hoping to only do better.

**What are your plans in the future with *The Great Indian Kapil Show*?**

I am looking forward to the audience reactions on the upcoming episodes. The current season is something we are all proud of. Amazing guests, many firsts and a whole lot of learning.

**Priyanka Roy**

*What do you like the most about The Great Indian Kapil Show?*  
Tell t2@abp.in

Pooch Cafe by Paul Gilligan



Thatababy by Paul Trap



Blondie by Dean Young



Stone Soup by Jan Eliot



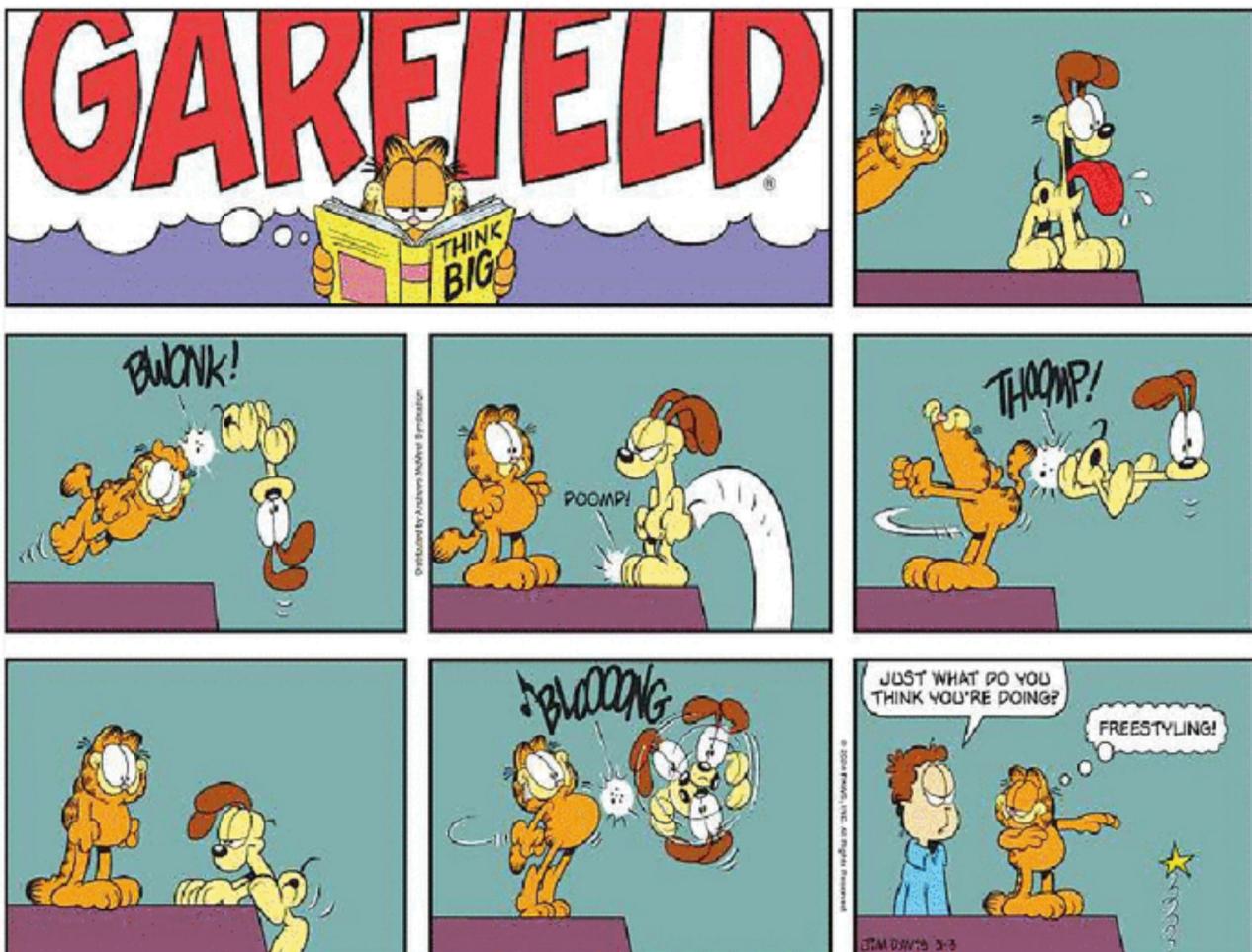
Peanuts by Charles Schulz



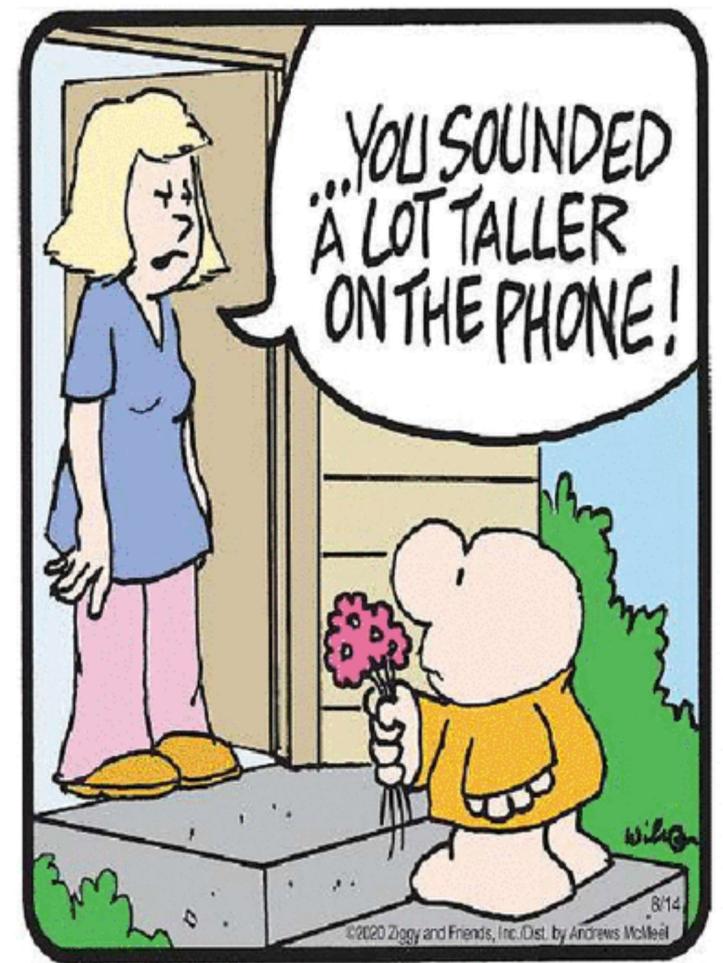
Lola by Todd Clark



Garfield by Jim Davis



Ziggy by Tom Wilson



# PUZZLE

**10940**

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 10938 is on the right

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

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**10941**

## SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 10939 is on the right

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

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**14327**

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9			
10				11			
					13		
12							
						15	
14							16
		17	18			19	
20							
21	22			23			
24						25	
26						27	

**ACROSS**

- Bash to the head, wise to get prescription (6)
- Very old boards I had detached (8)
- Energetic dance – twist maybe – means falling down regularly (5)
- Converted a Tesla with tin and lead on (9)
- Belief in science – i.e. maths – for rationalisation? (7)
- Portion of quail leg – a luxury that could be banned (7)
- Cold rental in resort – hotel dining room warmer (7,7)
- Start of play about Waterloo, maybe small prelude before battle (6,8)
- Deplore outspoken insult that's mumbled on stage (7)
- Listener's bottom pain returned – it's growing (7)
- Flash without showing rear

**DOWN**

- in favourite grass skirt (9)
- 100, old? Shut up! (5)
- Unfinished, a press kit showing new breaks for following sport (5-3)
- Time to face creature, semi-aquatic adder? (6)
- Dictaphone's missing one moving message (8)
- Chopin's bust inspires my uplifting description of Beethoven's Fifth? (9)
- Galway chic? Eire could offer alternatives – it's slowly going downhill (7)
- Transmitted current intelligence, sheer sloppiness! (14)
- Branch ending rent handout (7)
- Lean on Jag's boot, which gets bent (5)
- Welsh river ferry in a serious way (6)
- Son dropping plug causes obstruction (9-5)
- Long time left in darkness – this will brighten things up (4,5)
- One's alight, turning on Jamaican? (8)
- Characters with an inclination to head east (7)
- Taxi turns up, attending to company that's rolled up (7)
- Drink gallons with pop on tap? On the contrary (6)
- No parking in golf club, say (5)

**Yesterday's solution**

I	N	D	I	A	L	I	A	L	P	L	I	G	S	T	P	L	I	G
D	R	P	E	C	L	R												
E	R	A	S	E	E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A					
A	C	C	L	U	N	M	V											
O	R	I	G	I	N	S	C	E	A	S	E							
I	N	F	N	E	O	S												
M	A	I	M	I	N	G	D	E	N	T	I	S	T					
P	A	C					S	N	O									
L	I	N	K	A	G	E	W	H	I	T	S	U	N					
A	T	V	R	D	U	E												
C	O	R	G	I	A	M	A	T	E	U	R							
A	A	O	S	N	R	I	G	S										
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	A	D	E	P	T					
L	E	O	L	T	N	U												
E	D	D																

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IGDRI  
 ○○○○○

FERWA  
 ○○○○○

SLSEON  
 ○○○○○

TBIENT  
 ○○○○○

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE WOMEN WHO COMMITTED TO LOSING WEIGHT BY WALKING WERE MAKING ---

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUITE SHINY PUBLIC LAGOON  
 Answer: Acorns are oak tree seeds. That's the explanation – IN A NUT SHELL

**13979**

## QUICK 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

**ACROSS**

- Unclashed (4)
- Food shop (4)
- Animal dens (5)
- Danger signal (5,4)
- Snivel (5)
- Beatles' guru (9)
- Spiritualist session (6)
- Marzipan nut (6)
- Powerful ruler (9)
- One-pot curry (5)
- Trite name (anag) (9)
- Cricket-mad country (5)
- Staffs town; vegetable (4)
- Satirical routine (4)
- Nevertheless (4,2)
- Hostility (3-4)
- Flightless bird (4)
- Skye, e.g. (4)
- Muslim ruler (4)
- War axe (8)
- Disciple (8)
- Funds; letter (7)
- To hunger (6)
- Part of hand (4)
- Simmer (4)
- Outdoor pool (4)

**DOWN**

- Close shave (4,4)
- Tie (4,4)

**Yesterday's solution**

Across: 1 Knot; 4 Red; 6 Arm; 8 Interruption; 10 Asleep; 12 Strict; 13 Daily; 14 Lass; 15 Anon; 17 Pains; 19 Carton; 21 Gateau; 23 Occasionally; 24 Shy; 25 Nip; 26 Easy.  
 Down: 2 Nonplus; 3 Teemed; 4 Rare; 5 Deputy; 6 Alibi; 7 Monotonous; 9 Fallacious; 11 Pagan; 12 Slang; 16 Needles; 17 Poison; 18 Savage; 20 Rocky; 22 Coup.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

**CATCH THE BUZZ OF THE LATEST IN-HOUSE GAMES: NINJA COURSE AND MORE!**

Scan the QR to know more

**t2 WENT NOM NOM TASTING VENETO'S SUMMER MENU**

**V**eneto, the Italian restaurant on the fourth floor of South City Mall has rolled out a summer menu, Mamma Mia. There are both food and beverage options that is finger-licking good. "Our new menu is a

curation of our top sellers like pork items, pasta and pizza and the sip menu is available in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options with summer ingredients like mangoes and watermelons. The menu has a fine balance of appetisers and mains,"

said Vanita Bajoria, owner, Veneto. Pizza to arancini, on a rainy weekday, t2 explored the delicious spread and left satiated, just like the much-needed spell of rain that drenched Calcutta after what seemed like ages.

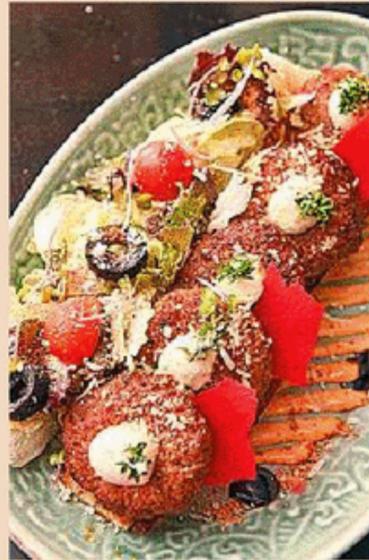
**What:** Mamma Mia Summer Special  
**Where:** Veneto Bar & Kitchen, South City Mall  
**When:** On till June 15  
**Timings:** Noon to 11.45pm  
**Meal for two:** ₹1,200-plus without alcohol  
₹2,400-plus with alcohol



Formaggio Croccante made for a great appetiser. Croccante, which means 'crunchy' in Italian is usually a sweet dish stuffed with dry fruits. These savoury versions came stuffed with mozzarella, American corn and parsley.



Fungi Gorgonzola, a Neapolitan-style pizza was one of the yummiest pizzas we had tasted. The main ingredients were fresh vegetables like broccoli, mushrooms and bell peppers. Also, this had delicious Gorgonzola instead of tomato sauce as the base for toppings.



The Wood Fire Lamb Fajita was made with minced lamb and mixed with chopped onions, garlic, fresh herbs, seasoning and olive oil among other ingredients. A portion of fresh and crunchy salad came with it.



My Sweet Craving was probably our favourites from the menu. This delicious creamy dessert made with mascarpone cheese and a berry compote inside came with a light biscotti on top that you must crack with a spoon to scoop out the goodness.

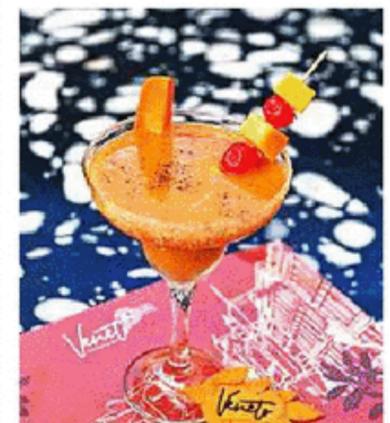
Gattafin was a fried ravioli dish with mozzarella, onion, spinach filling and was served on a bed of sun-dried tomato mayo.



What is summer without mangoes? Aam Sutra was a mango-shake textured drink with vodka in it. Yum!



Pomegranate Daiquiri was a fruity and summery cocktail made with fresh pomegranate juice and rum.



Fresh Mango Martini was a blend of mangoes with imported vodka and lime juice. This sweet cocktail was garnished with cheese and cherries.

*Pramita Ghosh*  
Pictures: B Halder

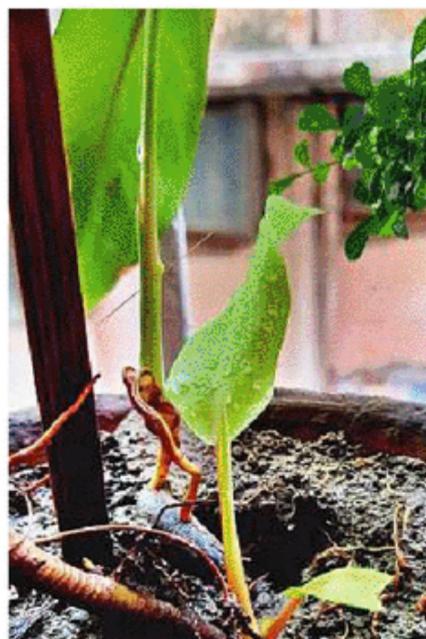
**t2 CLICK**



DEAR READERS, HERE ARE YOUR CLICKS FOR 'FRESH START'. SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES TO [t2click@abp.in](mailto:t2click@abp.in)



Mukut Tapadar



Lubna Yusuf



Sidhartha



Arpita Roy

**THE BHAWANIPUR HOUSE IS SERVING COOL DELIGHTS WITH THEIR SUMMER MENU. t2 CHECKS IT OUT**

**T**he Bhawanipur House in Bakul Bagan is bathed in an old-world charm, with a Bengal-meets-Victorian design aesthetics that makes it a great place to unwind over a lazy meal. This summer, they have introduced a range of coolers, appetisers, mains and desserts, made with summer-special ingredients. The simple dishes are easy on the palate. Here's what we liked.

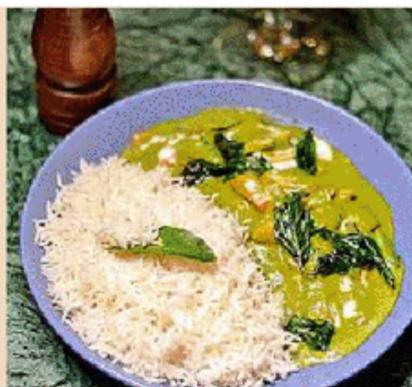
**What:** Summer menu  
**Where:** The Bhawanipur House, 13/1B, Priyanath Mallick Road  
**On till:** June  
**Timings:** 11am to 10.30pm  
**Meal for two:** ₹800-plus onwards



**Baby Corn Orly:** Crispy batter-fried baby corn served with cilantro and piri piri mayo is a vegetarian version of the famed Fish Orly and is a fun start to your meal.



**Baked Fish:** Here is a simple main course that brings together soft and fresh bekti fish with a lot of cheese and baked till it is covered in a layer of yumminess. This is served with garlic bread on the side.



**Vegetable Thai Green Curry with Rice:** An easy meal that will fill you up. Fresh assorted vegetables, basil, coconut milk, Thai green curry paste is served with jasmine rice and makes for a comforting bowl.



**Mango Mint Cooler:** Mango chunks with fresh mint leaves, a squeeze of lime juice, and sparkling water, served over ice, is a sip that celebrates the king of the season, the mango.



**Mango Panna Cotta:** Hands down a menu favourite, this had just the right amount of sweetness, along with fresh mango chunks for that added zing. We love!

**Grilled Prawn Skewers:** Garlic and lemon zest-marinated prawn skewers with caper butter sauce is a refreshing appetiser and a good option for seafood lovers.



**Aam Kasundi Makha:** Treat your tastebuds to the ultimate summer flavours with this dish that has diced raw mango cubes laced with mustard in a zesty blend. #backtoschool



**Zeba Akhtar Ali**

Pictures courtesy: The Bhawanipur House

**SIP**

**SLOW TIDE FROM GOA TOOK OVER THE BAR AT MEHICO. GLIMPSES**

**P**opular cantina and cocktail bar, Mehico on Camac Street saw a full house on May 5 as they hosted Slow Tide from Goa for a bar takeover, a Bacardi endeavour. Kalpesh Rane and Sujan Shetty, bartenders from

Slow Tide made four authentic signature cocktails. Slow Tide is a chill sundowner spot on Anjuna beach which is a perfect hangout for friends and family.

The cocktails were inspired by engaging Goan hippie stories that were all too palpable as one

sipped on the drinks. Sujan who is the beverage manager at Slow Tide said: "This is my first time in Calcutta and we are excited. All the cocktails we are making today pay homage to the Goan hippie culture or prominent cultural figures."

The night was a celebration of concoctions with historic roots. "Mehico is about experimenting. We're a high-energy bar and last weekend we proved it with one of the most exhilarating bar takeovers ever in the city. Slow Tide, one of the 30 Best

Bars in India took over the bar in Mehico and the concoctions made an impact on everyone. We love trying new things and we're looking forward to what we have in store for the future," said Saket Agarwal, co-founder of Manifest Hospitality.



**Acid Eric** was a refreshing drink with Patrón Reposado tequila which had a silky texture and tasted citrusy. Watermelon, basil, almonds and acid mix blended to make the perfect drink on a tiring day.



**Tropical, fluffy and fruity,** Amsterdam Dave embodied the holiday spirit with a sophisticated touch. Bombay Sapphire created the perfect base for the fusion of muskmelon and lemon balm to make the delicious drink which was topped with beet dust.



**Café Xavier** was one of the oldest fine-dining restaurants in Goa and Slow Tide paid homage to it with their drink, Don Xavier. Made with the Dewar's 12-year-old whisky, the drink was a spicy and herby one with a tangy aftertaste. The drink was infused with homemade chilli pickle and coriander.



**Sailor Fred** made from Patrón Reposado tequila and passionfruit soda paid homage to a sailor named Fred who was one of the few people to travel to Africa from Goa multiple times.



Kalpesh Rane and Sujan Shetty, bartenders from Slow Tide Goa

**Sanjali Brahma**

Pictures: Rashbehari Das

**USHA UTHUP WAS FELICITATED BY CC&FC, WITH t2. GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT**

**T**he Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (CC&FC) recently honoured Padma Shri awardee Usha Uthup at the club grounds in association with t2. The evening ended with her

delivering an electrifying performance. The Queen of Pop enthralled club members with her captivating voice and vibrant energy. By recognising Usha Uthup's contributions, CC&FC not only paid tribute to her remarkable career,

but also showcased the importance of honouring individuals who have made a significant impact in their fields.

Usha Uthup's performance after the felicitation was nothing short of mesmerising, leaving a lasting

impression on all those in attendance. Her ability to connect with the audience through her music brought the audience together on the dance floor to spend moments of pure joy and celebration.



Being one of the oldest and regular members of CC&FC, Usha Uthup donned a pure silk sari in the club colours from her favourite store, Kanishka's. On being felicitated by her favourite club, she said, "This is my home! As you can see my sari denotes the three colours of the club- red, black and white. I am deeply honoured to be felicitated by CC&FC, a club that holds a special place in my heart. As one of its oldest and most devoted members, I cherish every moment spent here. The warmth I experience at this club is unparalleled. It's not just a place for recreation, it's a home away from home. I am immensely grateful for the love and support I receive from the club members. Being here brings me immense joy, and I look forward to many more memorable moments at CC&FC."



Usha Uthup (centre) was felicitated by the CC&FC president Babul Das (right) and Oindrila Dutt. She also received a Lifetime Membership card of the club and a beautiful silk sari from Kanishka's as tokens of love and respect. "At CC&FC, we celebrate icons who transcend boundaries and, tonight, we are honoured to felicitate the legendary Usha Uthup. Her soulful voice has been the soundtrack of generations. She embodies resilience, grace, and the power of artistic expression. Her journey inspires us all to embrace our uniqueness and share our gifts with the world. I extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for gracing our club with her presence and may your legacy continue to resonate for generations to come," said Das.



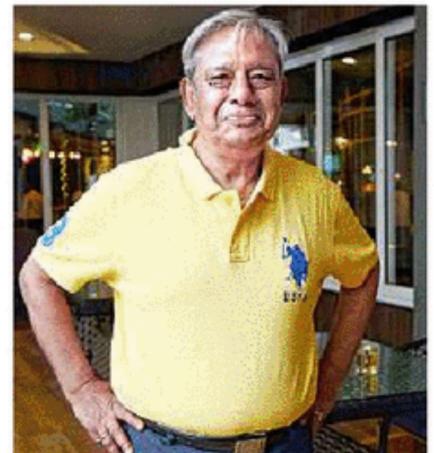
"It was an honour to host and felicitate the legendary Usha Uthup at our club. She is one of our oldest members. Her electrifying performance and infectious energy captivated the audience, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts. Usha Uthup's timeless talent and vibrant personality epitomise the essence of entertainment, inspiring generations with her music. We are privileged to have had her grace our stage and her presence continues to resonate with our members and guests," said HIRAK DASGUPTA, member of the entertainment committee of CC&FC.



Usha Uthup posed with her son Sunny before hitting the stage.



As a hot and humid evening turned into a breezy one, Usha Uthup belted out hit after hit in her charismatic voice. She started her performance with her cover of the *Skyfall* theme by Adele and continued with *Flowers* by Miley Cyrus, *Ramba Ho*, *Darling*, *Hari om Hari*, *Dum maaro dum* and many more.



Sumit Roy, also known as King of Calypso, attended the musical evening. He said, "Usha and I have been close friends for many years. I have performed by her side many times. It's a wonderful thing that CC&FC have organised today and I'm glad I'm here to see her getting felicitated."

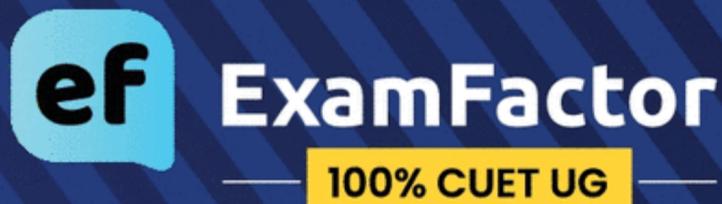
When the Queen of Pop performs, it's hard to resist getting on the floor and shaking a leg. The dance floor at CC&FC was packed by members of all ages as Usha Uthup did her magic.



Nandita Raja of Kanishka's.

Rohini Chakraborty  
Pictures: Rashbehari Das

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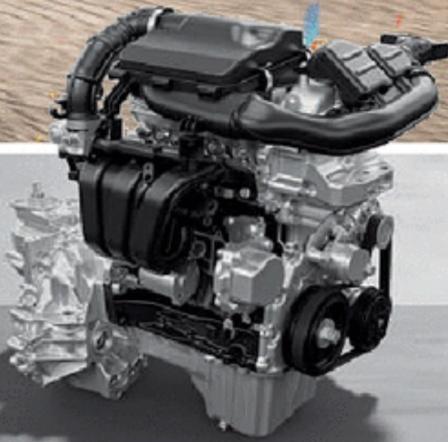


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