

Thursday
6 June 2024

The Telegraph

t2

XXCE

TYLA

RUKMINI
MAITRA

CUTTING
EDGE
STYLE **P15**

VALUE
FOR
MONEY **P10**

DOUBLE
DELIGHT **P11**

● B'DAY, WATCHIT 2 ● COMING UP,
CARNIVAL O' CLOCK 4,6 ● TECH CHECK, CHINESE
CHOMP 7,8 ● SAIYAMI SPEAK, DECODING THE
JUMPSUIT 9,14 ● NEW MENU & CHEF, WHATSUP
16,17 ● ART SPACE, QUEER-SAFE DESTINATIONS,
YOU BEHIND THE LENS 18,19,20

JAMEEL KHAN
IN GULLAK



PAUL GIAMATTI, JASON ISAACS, NEHA KAKKAR

This year, you will be appreciated and rewarded for your hard work. In a financial context, things should be going well as you should have balanced finances. You also need to take some time out to heal and to rediscover who you are and what makes you happy.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: BJORN BORG, AJINKYA RAHANE

TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



ARIES

DO try to embrace the change as a fresh start
DON'T resist the change
EXPECT spiritual transformation and a time of new beginnings



TAURUS

DO protect yourself from further disappointment
DON'T thrive on false hope
EXPECT a closure related to the relationship or your state of mind



GEMINI

DO keep things you take on within manageable limits
DON'T have a false sense of security
EXPECT to be realistic about your commitments



CANCER

DO fight your battles wisely
DON'T allow the inner turmoil to affect your health
EXPECT to come out of a difficult situation



LEO

DO be confident about finding solutions
DON'T behave destructively as a means of escape
EXPECT to be emotionally detached



VIRGO

DO take charge of a new venture with vision and focus
DON'T keep belief systems that don't serve you any more
EXPECT to make correct decisions and be assertive



LIBRA

DO weigh a situation and how to make a deal
DON'T be reluctant to make a painful decision
EXPECT to be caught trying to mediate in a conflict



SCORPIO

DO let old wounds heal
DON'T get depressed
EXPECT recovery from illness



SAGITTARIUS

DO take advice from spiritual mentors
DON'T get upset about trivial things
EXPECT a sense of peace and togetherness



CAPRICORN

DO accomplish your goals and complete tasks on hand
DON'T allow yourself to hold onto negativity
EXPECT problems in your life to settle down



AQUARIUS

DO spend quality time with your partner
DON'T take relationships for granted
EXPECT harmony and balance in the workplace



PISCES

DO take charge and organise your life
DON'T be demanding and pushy
EXPECT to make sound investment decisions

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



GORGEOUS IN BLACK:



I can be your favourite pain. Uploaded by @shrutthaasan (Shruti Haasan)

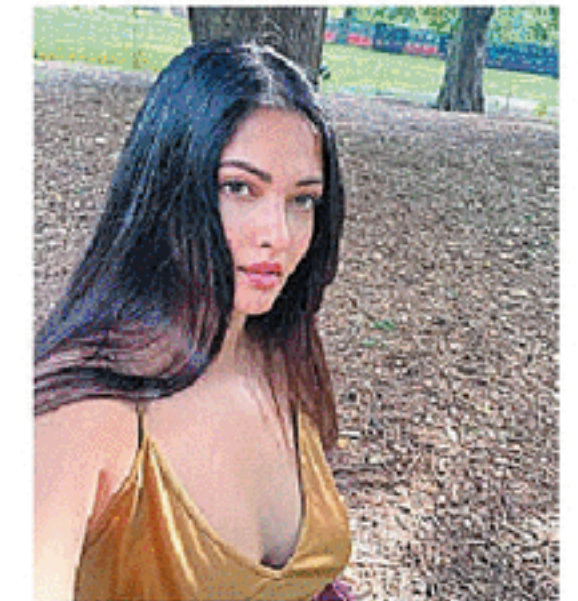


There is no such thing as too much black. Uploaded by @rakulpreet (Rakul Preet Singh)

NATURE LOVE:



"Act today, for a greener way—let's celebrate World Environment Day!" #mygreencover Uploaded by @malaikaaroraofficial (Malaika Arora)



Walking around parks is pure therapy! Vondelpark is my all-time fave, but in NYC, Central Park steals my heart! Uploaded by @riyasendv (Riya Sen)

CORRIGENDUM:

In t2 edition dated May 14, Look At That Pops Up was misspelt and the venue was Williams Court. The error is regretted.

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ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE CALCUTTA KICKED OFF THE XAVERIAN SOCCER LEAGUE, IN ASSOCIATION WITH **THE TELEGRAPH**, WITH A GRAND AUCTION CEREMONY

St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCAA) in association with St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Calcutta Sports Department is all set to host XSL (Xaverian Soccer League) on June 8 and 9 on the college grounds of its Park Street campus. XSL, in association with **The Telegraph**, will be a first-of-its-kind event hosted by the college and

its alumni association. The enthusiasm centring the event started on the college campus with the auction ceremony of the soccer players held on May 30 at Xavier's Hall. Representatives from all the teams and the players, along with the Jesuit fathers, got together for the nail-biting moment of forming the teams through bidding that lasted almost four hours. Snapshots:



Team LOD Lions was an enthusiastic lot at the auction event that bid for some of the star players



Reverend Fr. Dominic Savio, principal of SXC, selected the numbers from the bowl of chits according to which the bidders proposed their fees for their chosen players



Xaverian Hasnu Mukherjee emceed the event

"The alumni association of St. Xavier's College is best known as the trendsetter, and it has now introduced a first-of-its-kind pro-am (professional amateur) franchise football league along with the sports department of St. Xavier's College. Our college students will get a chance to play with the marquee players. We are very excited about this sporting event," said Firdausul Hasan, honorary secretary of St. Xavier's College Calcutta Alumni Association.



Jimmy Tangree and IS Bhandari kept a keen eye on the bidding and took turns to conduct the auction for all 90 players



TEAM OWNERS' FELICITATION:



FORTUNE STRIKERS



XAVERIAN TIGERS



LOD LIONS



IIHM TIGERS



CREDO ACCELERATE



SAT SPORTS GLOBAL



CHINESE CHECKERS



ZOOMERS BORN WINNERS

MOODS AND MOMENTS



Tension was building up as team IIHM had their turn to choose the players from the screen which displayed their details



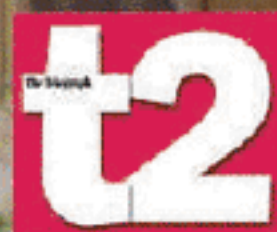
Discussion among team members was crucial before making a bid



Team Chinese Checkers greeted their chosen players after their turn in the bidding process

Suchismita Maity (t2 intern)
Pictures: Pabitra Das

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SUMMER CARNIVAL AT THE CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB, WITH t2, WAS A NON-STOP SPLISH-SPLASH IN THE POOL

Summer times were made fun and invigorating at The Calcutta Swimming Club as they hosted a joyful summer carnival in the presence of club members and their children. Advancing into

its 15th year, the arrangements made the club premises look colourful and jovial. Divided into four teams, namely Dolphins, Sharks, Sea Horse and Gold Fish, the event saw the participation of members across all ages, who turned a blind eye

to the scorching outdoors and immersed themselves into a spree of fun games. Drawing influences from the famous Japanese game show *Takeshi's Castle*, the carnival was made even more fun and full of life. t2 gets you a lowdown of the event.



Calcutta Swimming Club was drenched in the summer mood with various water games like Foam in the Pool where kids had to pick up goodies from the pool blindfolded. These goodies included small toys in the form of dolphins, turtles, fish and whoever scored the highest contributed to the overall score credit of their respective teams.



Hurdle Race was inspired by the game *Takeshi's Castle*, where the participants cross hurdles while they navigate their way through tiles placed above water and reach the endpoint in the shortest possible time. Although encountering hurdles, the children thoroughly enjoyed the game.



Water Scrabble was an interesting attempt to put together the names of their respective teams as the participants engaged in a fun play that included collecting letters of their respective team names from the floaters that were scattered across the pool.



Seven-year-old Samaira (right) from team Sea Horse drenched her hands in foam as she playfully waded through the pool to head towards the next game.



We spotted Silva Gemawat twinning with her nine-year-old kids Sara (left) and Aishani in similar polka-dotted attires. "I attended this event at CSC for the first time and it was a super fun and relaxing time at the carnival. Interesting games, good music, delicious food and the chill pool time are all we needed to beat the heat," said Silva.



Boating was the last segment of the carnival. The game required teams to row from one end of the pool to the other in colourful boats in the shortest possible time.



Team Dolphin, captained by Nishant Khemka (*extreme right in blue T-shirt*), swept away the winner's title as an elated bunch of kids celebrated with the trophy. "Above water or inside water, we never cease to win. It was a wonderful team game. The kids, especially, gave their best to make the Dolphins win," said Nishant.



Team Sharks took the runners-up spot. "The CSC summer carnival was a perfect melange of thrilling, splashing and fun competitive events just right to beat the heat. The team comprised varied age groups ranging from five to 50, all geared up to complete the tasks and achieve the winning score," said the captain of the team, Amita Bhuiwarka.



(L-R) Committee members and event coordinators of CSC, Aditya Karwa, Ashish Jhunjhunwala, Abhishek Bagaria, Kalpana Saraf, Neha Singhi and Megha Chokhany. "With the scorching summer upon us, CSC was the first in line to beat the heat with this one-of-a-kind pool carnival which involved more than a hundred members and their families. We had an array of games, popsicles and beverages to keep all our members involved and entertained while the DJ was spinning the crowd favourites. It ended with the winning team celebrating over our usual club grub and sealing with camaraderie which we all share as an extended family," said Aditya.



t2 did not mind indulging in some flavourful Mint and cucumber popsicle and it was the most sought-after refresher.

"Summer Carnival is a flagship event of our club wherein we have members participating from the age of five to 60. Having taken inspiration from *Takeshi's Castle* we have come a long way in the past 15 years of its inception and it's getting bigger and better every year. I would like to thank my committee and subcommittee members for putting up such a great event," said Siddharth Jhunjhunwala, president of the Calcutta Swimming Club.



Ashmita Ghosh (t2 intern)
Pictures: Pabitra Das



Bill Gates and Paul Allen, founders of Microsoft

BILL GATES WILL SHARE HIS 'ORIGIN STORY' IN HIS MEMOIR

Bill Gates has written a memoir that will tell his "origin story". Set to go on sale in February 2025, *Source Code: My Beginnings* will cover the businessman and philanthropist's early years, from his childhood in Seattle to his time at university.

"I've been in the public eye since my early 20s, but much of my life before then isn't well known", Gates wrote in a post on his blog GatesNotes. "Over the years, I've often been asked about my upbringing, my time at Harvard, and co-founding the company. Those questions made me realise that people might be interested in my journey and the factors that

influenced it."

Gates dropped out of Harvard in 1975 at age 20, just before he and his friend Paul Allen wrote the programme that became Microsoft. The book will not focus on the company nor on the Gates Foundation, his charitable foundation. The book's cover features a photo of a young, gap-toothed Gates that's quite different from the bespectacled adult Gates most people know today.

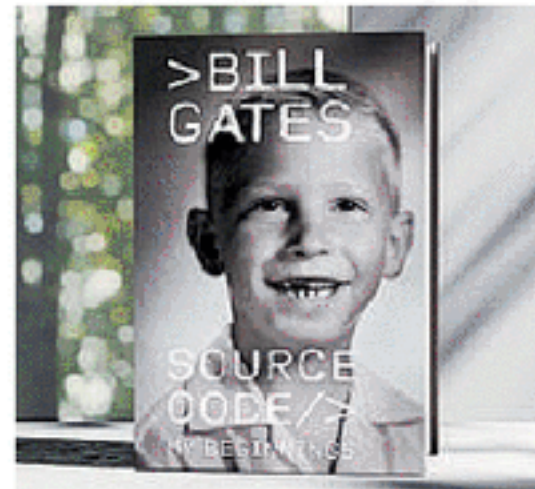
It will talk about his Seattle childhood, his relationships with his grandparents and parents and his "struggles to fit in".

The promotional materials make it seem that the memoir will end with the 1975 founding

of Microsoft. It may touch upon pickleball, which now is a very popular sport. Gates has been playing it since friends of his father invented it in 1965.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington which is not far from Gates' hometown of Seattle. His father, Bill Senior, was friends with the game's three inventors: Bill Bell, Barney McCallum and Joel Pritchard. According to USA Pickleball, the game was invented one day when the families could only find part of a badminton set, so improvised with ping-pong paddles and a perforated ball.

It remains to be seen if the



Bill Gates' book will release next year

billionaire comes up with a second volume that talks about his company and his marriage. Gates married Melinda French in Hawaii in 1994 and the couple divorced in 2021 after Gates acknowledged an affair with a Microsoft employee during the marriage.

Mathures Paul

REESE WITHERSPOON'S BOOK CLUB LANDS DEAL WITH APPLE BOOKS



Reese Witherspoon

Apple Books is now the official audiobook home for Reese's Book Club, founded by Reese Witherspoon. The Hollywood star has a massive following among young readers and this is the latest partnership her media company Hello Sunshine has agreed to with Apple, which also produces Apple TV+ original series like *The Last Thing He Told Me*.

Apple Books will feature a dedicated page for users to follow to be notified about new monthly picks, browse previous selections, and experience themed editorial collections curated exclusively by Apple and Reese's Book Club editors. Further, the community of authors and talent from Hello Sunshine, will curate audiobook recommendations throughout the year, offering readers more stories to choose from that will be revealed only on Apple Books.

"For so many people, audiobooks are a powerful and accessible way to enjoy the experience of an amazing book," said Reese Witherspoon, Hello Sunshine's founder, in a statement. "We're truly excited to partner with Apple

Books to connect our incredible community and audiobook lovers everywhere with the latest Reese's Book Club picks."

You can follow Witherspoon's monthly reading interests in audiobook format directly within the app. Readers can learn more about the latest selection, including the newly announced pick for June, *The Unwedding*, by *New York Times* bestselling author Ally Condie. This whodunit spotlights a recent divorcee's resort vacation to Big Sur, which unravels when she discovers a body on the day of a wedding.

Readers will also get exclusive discounts on featured audiobooks and receive notifications whenever new titles arrive.

Mathures Paul

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SAVOUR THE TASTE OF THE ORIENT WITH CHINA HOUSE FLAVOURS AT HYATT REGENCY'S WATERSIDE CAFE

Another day, another new Chinese pop-up to indulge from? Sign us up! The Waterside Cafe at Hyatt Regency Kolkata is hosting a delectable Chinese menu curated especially by expat chef Yuzuo Han from China House, a renowned

restaurant at Hyatt Regency Ahmedabad. The spread features a fine selection of robust vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes emphasising spicy Sichuan flavours. Come along for a feast of authentic flavours and delightful dishes!

Some top t2 picks:

What: China House Flavours
Where: Waterside Cafe, Hyatt Regency Kolkata
On till: June 9
Timings: 12.30pm to 3pm (lunch); 7pm to 11pm (dinner)
Pocket Pinch: ₹1850-plus (lunch); ₹2,000-plus (Sunday brunch); ₹2,000-plus (dinner)



Kung Pao Tofu features diced pan-fried tofu tossed in a sweet and spicy sauce along with pepper, dried chillies and peanuts. Bold and fragrant, the dish is a delightful balance of heat and sweetness.



This Garlic Prawn is a must for all shrimp lovers! The prawns are sautéed in sticky garlic sauce and complemented by red chillies.



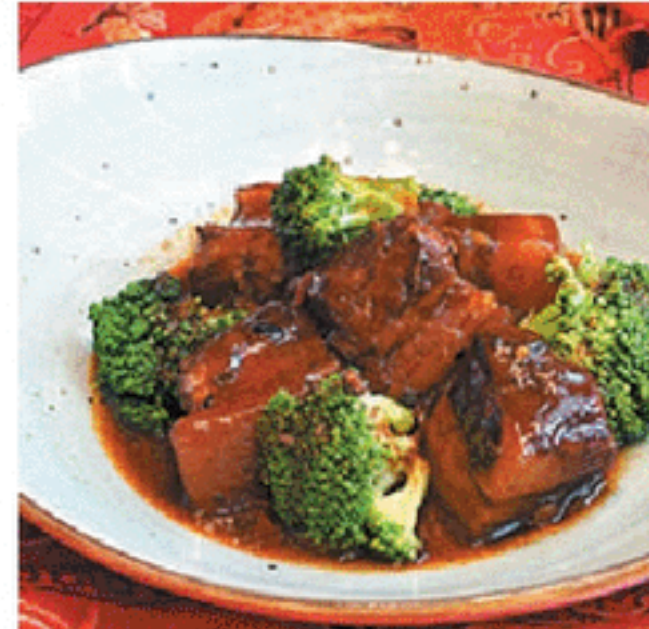
Vegetable Soya Fried Rice with Braised Chicken with Honey and Nuts is a wholesome combo that gets you both your carbs and proteins. Long-grained rice is stir-fried with vegetables like carrots and beans and seasoned with soy sauce. The chicken is sticky, dark red, with additions of ginger and scallion.



Vegetable Hakka Noodles are a classic Calcutta favourite. Stir-fried noodles are mixed with oil, soya sauce and veggies, giving the dish a savoury, crisp texture.



Home-style Eggplant is a satisfying dish, equal parts savoury and spicy. The eggplant is fried until crispy and then cooked in a rich garlic sauce. Enjoy with rice or noodles!



Craving some solid meat variations? This sticky, sweet Roasted Pork includes fork-tender pork flavoured with garlic, ginger, soy sauce, Chinese five-spice and star anise. Undoubtedly our favourite of the lot!



Chinese Coconut Tart is a delightful dessert that combines the richness of coconut with a sweet pastry base. The flaky pastry crust is filled with sweet, fluffy coconut filling, and the crust is a rich golden brown.



This Honey Caramel Entremet features flavour-packed layers of honey and caramel. Highly recommended for anyone with a sweet tooth!



Executive chef of Waterside Cafe Ishika Konar with Chef Yuzuo Han. "I've brought a special menu from China House, Ahmedabad, to Calcutta. I hope the city enjoys Chinese food and that they can leave with their hearts and stomachs filled," said Chef Han. "We've always had a section for Asian food in Waterside Cafe and now with the presence of Chef Han, our spread includes an authentic Chinese menu. So now our entire Asian section has morphed into the menu from China House. We're serving both buffet and a la carte options, including starters, main course items, and desserts," added Chef Konar.

Subhalakshmi Dey
Pictures: B Halder

WHATSUP



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry's B2B delegation

In a bid to boost sustainable and responsible tourism and explore business opportunities in the Andaman region, the national tourism committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) organised a series of B2B interactions with a delegation of leading travel agents and senior officials from the ministry of tourism, Government of India and other crucial stakeholders in the hospitality and tourism industry, in Port Blair and Havelock Islands from May 17 to May 21.

The agenda of the four-day conference was to promote the ministry of tourism, Government of India's programmes such as Dekho Apna Desh, Ek Bharat Shreshtha

Bharat, Yuva Tourism, and Travel for Life in Port Blair and Havelock Island.

This meeting is envisaged to bring large-scale behavioural change among tourists and tourism businesses, thereby positively impacting the cause of environmental protection and climate

TOURISM MEET

action. Through this initiative, the Chamber emphasises the circular economy in place of the "use-and-throw" culture, a common behavioural trait found among tourists. In line with its commitment to making tourism a sustainable source of livelihood and business, the BCCI has been working with various stakeholders from the travel and tourism businesses across states with a special focus on the Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, for they are a major tourist attraction for travellers from around the globe.

Activities like ethical scuba, jungle treks and tidal walks were also organised on the occasion to spread awareness about sustainable tourism.

Keshav Chandra, IAS, chief secretary, of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, talked about the upcoming tourism projects in the islands and mentioned the availability of land for investment through public-private partnerships. He stated islets have been identified for star gazing, boating and astro-tourism.

Picture courtesy: BCCI&I

STREAMING

Saiyami Kher, who debuted in Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's *Mirzya*, will soon be back in the second season of *Special Ops*. She speaks to t2 as she boards her 2023 release *8AM Metro* once more for its web premiere on Zee5.

8AM Metro is based on a Telugu novel (*Andamina Jeevitam* by Malladi Venkata Krishna Murthy). Is it the first time that it is being adapted for the screen? I'm not quite aware whether the novel has been made to anything before. To my knowledge, it has not. The movie is loosely based on the novel. I have not read the novel because our director Raj (Rachakonda) wanted us to know the script first-hand. The film is what Raj has adapted the novel into and the script has those changes.

The film is based on a meeting of strangers, right?

The film is about two strangers meeting on the 8am Metro, as the title suggests, and the serendipity of these strangers meeting, coming in each other's lives and making their lives better and then going away. They keep meeting on the 8am Metro for about a week. They have conversations about life and learn about certain issues about each other.... The scenes are predominantly shot on a Metro but also incorporate their lives, their families, places where they go. The film reminded me of *Before Sunrise*, one of my favourite films. There they leave the train and spend a day together but here they meet on the train daily over a week.

SAIYAMI KHER SPEAKS TO t2 AS HER FILM 8AM METRO CHUGS OFF ON ZEE5



Saiyami Kher in *8AM Metro*

Tell us about your character.

My character is named Iravati and she has gone through a traumatic stage in her life. She is pretty young and she keeps getting panic attacks. This film talks about mental health, a topic that needs to be spoken about in today's world. She meets Preetam, a banker (played by Gulshan Devaiah), and he helps her out of her issues and anxiety. Sometimes in life you open up to strangers and that is what happens to Iravati. She is also a

poet. She is a family person. We see a lot of what goes through her head through poetry (written by Gulzar for the film).

Which genre would you place this film in?

It's a slice-of-life film that taught me a lot about myself. I try to do films in different genres. I love doing action, but this film is completely different from what I've ever done before — a very homely character.

Trains are integral to life in Bombay. Did you ever take a train regularly in your starting years?

Very often, because I have studied in Mumbai. I took the 7.53am local train from Bandra to St. Xavier's College in Mumbai for five years of my life. Now that the Metro is there, sometimes if I am late for shooting I catch the Metro. It is the most efficient form of commuting. I love train journeys.

Coming to *Ghoomer* (a 2023 release co-starring Abhishek Bachchan), you had trained really hard to pick up a bowler's action.

I used to play cricket for the under-16 Maharashtra team. But I gave it up long ago. The training was very different because I had to become a left-hander.

Do you still go back to the cricket field or there's no time any more? There is no time but I'm still very much a sportsperson at heart so I try to play some sport.

What comes next from you?

I have a film with Excel Entertainment called *Agni* with Prateik Gandhi and Divyendu, directed by Rahul Dholakia, that is due to release in a few months. I also have the second season of *Special*



A moment from *8AM Metro*

Ops with Neeraj Pandey, which also I hope will be released in the next three-four months. I love working with Neeraj sir. I am starting something else which should be announced by August.

Who are on your wish list of directors?

I debuted with Rakeysh (Omprakash) Mehra (in *Mirzya*), I have worked with Anurag Kashyap (*Choked*), Neeraj Pandey (*Special Ops*) and R. Balki (*Ghoomer*). I'd love to work with all of them again. Besides them, I am a big fan of Zoya Akhtar and Farhan (Akhtar), who is directing after a long while. Everyone wants to work with Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Vasan Bala is another director I like. Shakun Batra has done a few films but I love his work. There's a long list of other directors I'd love to work with.

Sudeshna Banerjee

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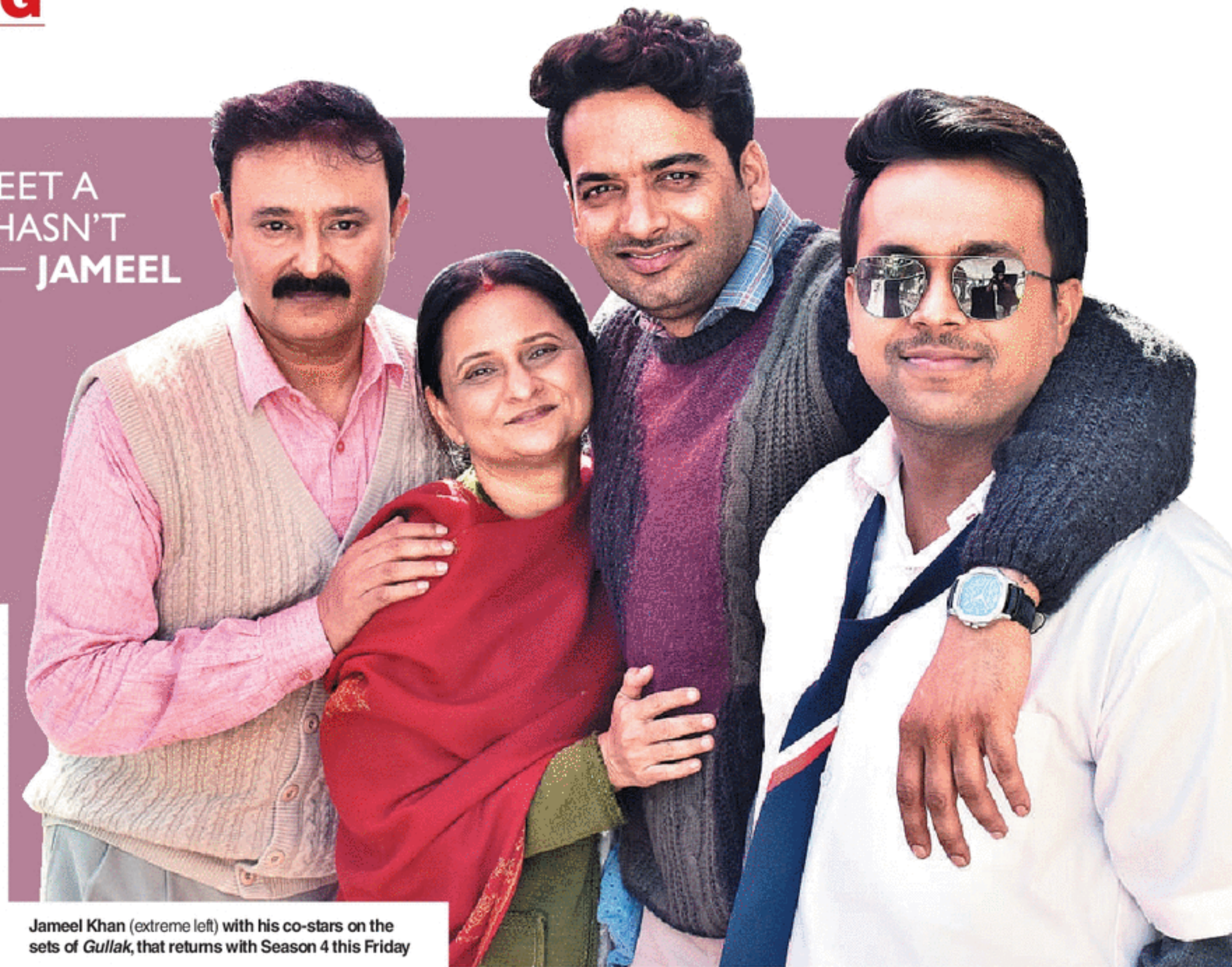


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'I AM YET TO MEET A PERSON WHO HASN'T LIKED GULLAK' — JAMEEL KHAN ON THE MUCH-LOVED SLICE-OF-LIFE DRAMA THAT RETURNS THIS FRIDAY



Jameel Khan (extreme left) with his co-stars on the sets of *Gullak*, that returns with Season 4 this Friday

The Mishra family is back! Season 4 of *Gullak* is poised to release on SonyLIV on June 7. The smash-hit series revolves around the Mishra family, exploring the dynamics between parents and children and the impact of their interactions with the people around them.

The upcoming season of *Gullak* (meaning 'piggy bank') will focus on Anand (Vaibhav Raj Gupta) and Aman (Harsh Mayar) as they navigate adulthood and their evolving relationship with their parents. The season promises to deliver a blend of laughter, nostalgia and slice-of-life drama, as it has done over the last three outings.

The principal cast of *Gullak* returns, led by Jameel Khan who plays Santosh Mishra, the loving and understanding head of the family. t2 chatted with Khan to know more.

Apart from the relatability factor, what do you think it is about *Gullak* that has made it popular across so many seasons?

I think it is the simplicity and honesty of the show. It is the honesty in the relationships and the honesty with the writing. It is the honesty in the way they have dealt with every little issue, incident and with every little anecdote and the way they have picked up the lives and the characters from the middle-class milieu.

It is very real and truthful, it is honest and genuine and sincere. It has struck a chord with audiences across the board. Relatability is thereby a byproduct of all that.

When you first started working on the show, did you ever imagine it would become so big? Not at all. I did not think in my wildest of dreams that this would be such a huge success story. No one can ever predict these things. The people who made *Sholay* and *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Godfather* and all the other cult films — *Gullak* is also beginning to acquire some kind of a cult status — didn't know too, I am sure. I thank my stars and count my blessings that *Gullak* has

become such a huge success story.

In what ways does the character of Santosh Mishra resonate with you?

Santosh Mishra and Jameel Khan's ideologies, to a large extent, are very similar. I am someone who likes to value things. By that, I don't mean things that have their worth in money. I mean things that God has given us. I believe that there should be conservation of energy, water and all of that. I believe that people should value what they have in life and not waste them. That is something I teach my children.

Santosh Mishra also does that. He lives by the ideology of honesty, sincerity, truth and of not living a life which is false or fake. Nothing synthetic, whatever there is real. Like a typical middle-class family, you learn to live within your means and that is how I think one should lead one's life.

One should not live beyond their means. I remember my father telling me that if your life is worth one lakh rupees, don't show the world that it is worth five lakh rupees. If you do that, you will be worried all your life. If your life is worth one lakh rupees, you need to show it is worth ₹50,000.

By all means strive to become more successful, bigger and make more money, make your relationships more successful. Care more for people, care more for what nature has given you, what the society is giving you. Respect each other, irrespective of who the person is. Every person has a right to respect and love. And that is what I take from Santosh Mishra.

What's been the best thing anyone has told you about *Gullak*?

I am yet to meet a person who hasn't liked *Gullak*. Also, people identify with Santosh Mishra. They want every father to be like Santosh Mishra. They want to see a Santosh Mishra in their own fathers. In fact, I have had people reaching out to me on social media and asking me to speak to their father or brother and to advise them about certain things that are not going a particular way. They say things like: 'My parents are

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That is a big compliment not only for Santosh Mishra but also for Jameel Khan because somewhere down the line, that is what I aspire to be. If people look for their fathers in Santosh Mishra and somewhere find some solace in that, it is a great sense of achievement, fulfilment and happiness for me.

The Mishra family on the show is such a compact unit. All of you are good actors but does interacting and bonding with each other off camera also

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What kind of roles are you keen on playing now and over the next few years?

For one, I would want *Gullak* to continue as long as I live! Also, I would like to play all kinds of characters — be it romantic, negative, positive, the protagonist.... But I will definitely like to play only primary roles and among those, any kind of role that challenges me, whether it is good, bad or grey, whether it is dark, a psychopath, whether it is a killer or a romantic part, whether it is a simple life of a middle-class man or one who belongs to the elite.

Fortunately, I am quite comfortable with Hindi, English and Urdu, so I have an advantage there. I hail from a privileged family. I have studied in an elite school. But I have also seen middle-class and lower-middle-class life. I have a wide gamut of experiences from all strata of society. I think, over the years, I have picked up enough material and I have enough experience to play different kinds of roles.

I played (former president) APJ Abdul Kalam in my last release (*Srikanth*). It was a small part, but it was lapped up by the audience. Given the opportunity, I am sure there will be lots of gems that will keep falling out from my repertoire of experiences into my work.

Priyanka Roy
What do you like about *Gullak*?
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She has been soaking in the praise coming her way since the teaser of *Boomerang* dropped, and then the trailer gave a ringside view of how Rukmini Maitra has evolved as an actress. "People have loved the trailer. The response has been great. The comedy has worked, and everyone is extremely keen to watch the film," smiled Rukmini, who plays a human and a humanoid in the sci-fi comedy *Boomerang* (starring Jeet and Rukmini), which releases on June 7. A t2 chat.

What was the first thing that struck you when you signed the film?

My director Sauvik Kundu had gone to see a play called *Punoray Ruby Ray*... it's a comedy and he loved the play. It's about a man who has a wife and a robot who looks exactly like his wife. It is a tragedy and a comedy. He proposed the idea (to Jeet's production house) and they loved it. It sounded fun... it was something new and fresh. In the last two decades, I cannot remember a female lead playing a double role, of a human and a humanoid. Once I saw the play, I was really excited.

Talking about humanoids, did it take you back to your childhood?

Yes, there was a serial that used to come on television called *Small Wonder*. There was a little girl named Vicky and we all wanted a Vicky of our own. We all wanted Vicky to be our best friend. Somehow Nisha (the robot in *Boomerang*) was exactly that in a way. People will fall in love with Nisha. Even though she is devoid of human emotions, there is something extremely loveable about her.

What was Vicky's charm?

As a child, we are so used to playing with dolls. The idea was to have a doll with whom one can interact. It is mesmerising. Imagine you have a doll in your house who can go out with you. There is something magical about it.

But then we all remember Chucky, the evil doll from *Child's Play*...

No, no... we are not going there. At times I felt that I could turn Nisha into a bit of Chucky. But my director told me to control my emotions! When we were shooting for extremely long hours, and I felt Chucky's soul in my system, my director calmed me down. I did not let Chucky take over!

How are fans of Dev responding to your roles in *Boomerang*?

They are loving it. Fans look up to actors in our country, like Gods and Goddesses, which is the beauty of being an actor in India. Initially, the fans came up with questions like, 'Why are you not working with Dev?' When I did *Sanak*, they asked me: 'Why are you leaving



A moment from *Boomerang*, which releases on June 7

Bengal?' I see it as inspiration. I have a simple motto: I do what my heart tells me to do. If I go by the comments I get on social media, then at the end of the day it is no longer my life. It is no longer my decision. It is the decision of anonymous people typing behind keyboards. If I allow myself to commit to that, then I literally will turn into a robot where the remote belongs to somebody else behind a mobile screen.

During *Chaamp*, you told us that you would ask Raj Chakraborty a lot of questions about your character. And you would request Dev, the producer, to get you chocolates and cake. Did you follow the same routine on the sets of *Boomerang*?

(Laughs out loud) Times have truly changed. This time for *Boomerang* I was actually on a diet. Since I play a robot, I had to look a certain way. I told everyone to please eat outside my room! I empathised with Dev for *Chaamp*. Now I know what he went through... I was hogging all the cakes and chocolates next door, and poor guy, he had to watch me eating all of that. Jeet Sir would tell me to eat something but I told him that I was committed to my character and that I was on a diet. By now, my directors have grown immune to my questions. Sauvik has always explained to me the 'whys' and 'whats'. He is open to improvisation. He is a delight to work with.

How has your acting process changed over the years?

Today I have more clarity about what I am doing and why I am doing it. That is a big change in me. Today I know where I am going right or wrong. I try and be aware of what I'm doing as a performer. Whenever I get a break, I get into an acting workshop. I have realised that I am a spontaneous actor. I internalise a lot of things when it comes to performance. I feel in control of my performance, to an extent.

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There is method and spontaneity. Eventually, there is this magic moment between action and cut. Being spontaneous works for me... because I have this rush of emotions in between action and cut. And I cannot do the same shot again. The emotional graph of mine is very spontaneous. It is very alive at that moment.

So if a director tells you to repeat a shot time and again, by the 10th take will you be drained of that emotion?

Possibly yes... my best scenes happen in the first or second take... maximum by the third or fourth or fifth... since we also shoot a scene from various angles. After that fifth take, I might feel that I'm cheating an emotion.

You complete seven years in films this June...

The greatest love stories are born out of chance. And that is exactly what has happened to me when it comes to acting. Now I am in love with it.

Love stories also have tragedies in them...

With *Boomerang*, it is only comedy (laughs out loud). Hey, it is my seventh year, and they say the number seven is always very lucky.

How does the work or this profession define you now?

I wear my heart on my sleeve. My emotional graph is always at its peak. And acting is something that has taught me to leave behind a bit of my soul in every character that I play every single time. I am so attached to every person in my life. To leave a part of your soul behind and to detach from it... it may seem like a small step for any actor... but it is a giant leap for me. It has taught me a lot of self-determination. I feel actors are like robots... I have immense respect for actors... the profession is so demanding, and maybe that is why we get so much love. I cannot call in sick on a day that I am supposed to be on set... because there is a team of 250 people waiting for me. It is a huge responsibility.

How was your experience working with Jeet?

It has been a great experience. I genuinely share a beautiful bond with him. He made me very comfortable. There were moments when he helped me with my performance as well. He has been there throughout... every time I did something good, he was the first one to come up and say: 'Rukmini, you have done a great job.'

Are you the only one who can get the two superstars — Dev and Jeet — to come together in a film?

How do you know my plan?! I would love to have a Rukmini Maitra Production, and be extremely grateful if both Jeet Sir and Dev came on board for the film. It will be the biggest collab. I really hope it happens soon, irrespective of me. I have been slyly proposing the idea to both (laughs). And I'll be the manager on set for the two of them. I know their dos and don'ts!

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For Rukmini's cover

photograph

Picture: Surja Mondal

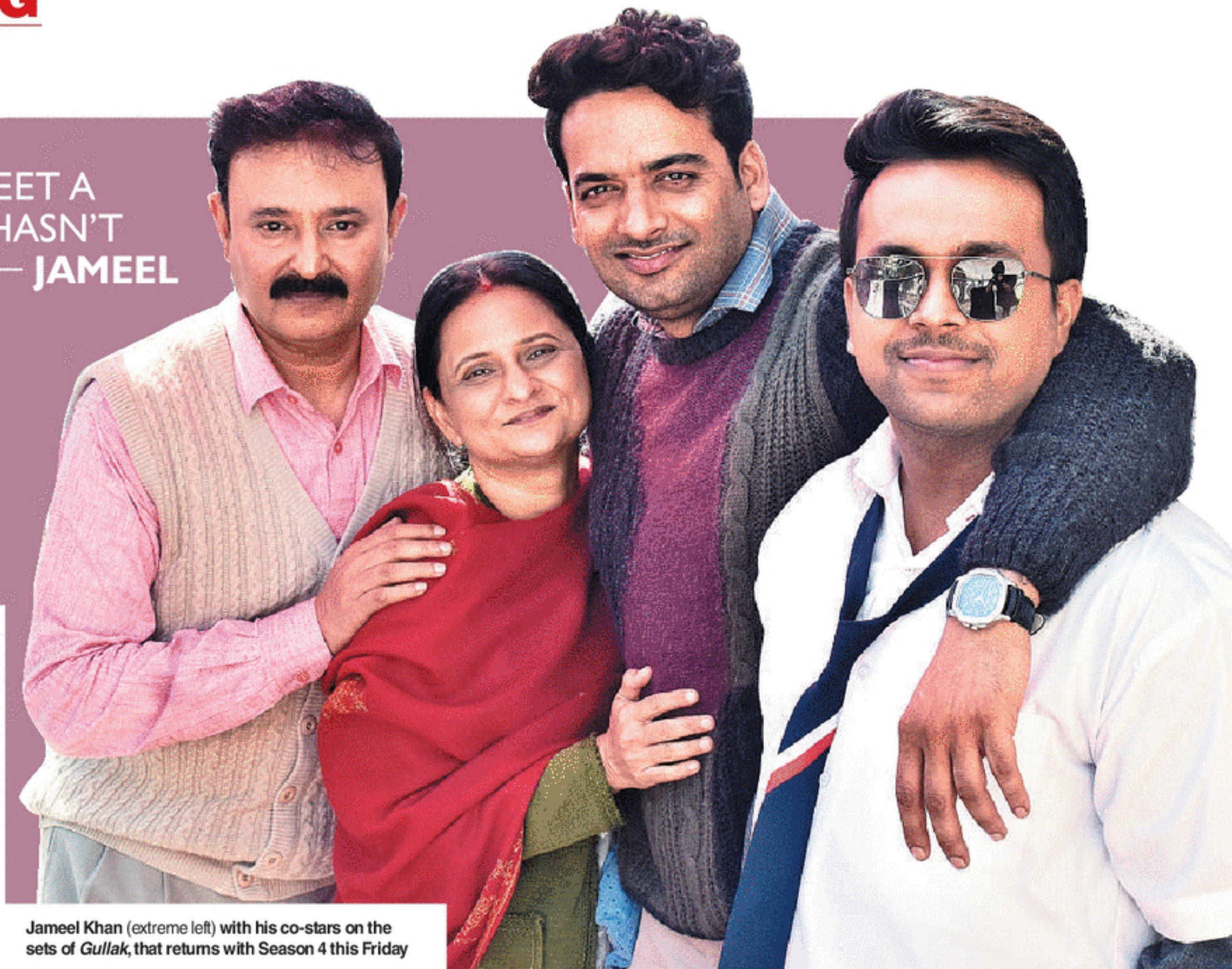
Outfit: Eshaani Jayaswal

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'I AM YET TO MEET A PERSON WHO HASN'T LIKED GULLAK' — JAMEEL KHAN ON THE MUCH-LOVED SLICE-OF-LIFE DRAMA THAT RETURNS THIS FRIDAY



Jameel Khan (extreme left) with his co-stars on the sets of *Gullak*, that returns with Season 4 this Friday

The Mishra family is back! Season 4 of *Gullak* is poised to release on SonyLIV on June 7. The smash-hit series revolves around the Mishra family, exploring the dynamics between parents and children and the impact of their interactions with the people around them.

The upcoming season of *Gullak* (meaning 'piggy bank') will focus on Anand (Vaibhav Raj Gupta) and Aman (Harsh Mayar) as they navigate adulthood and their evolving relationship with their parents. The season promises to deliver a blend of laughter, nostalgia and slice-of-life drama, as it has done over the last three outings.

The principal cast of *Gullak* returns, led by Jameel Khan who plays Santosh Mishra, the loving and understanding head of the family. t2 chatted with Khan to know more.

Apart from the relatability factor, what do you think it is about *Gullak* that has made it popular across so many seasons?

I think it is the simplicity and honesty of the show. It is the honesty in the relationships and the honesty with the writing. It is the honesty in the way they have dealt with every little issue, incident and with every little anecdote and the way they have picked up the lives and the characters from the middle-class milieu.

It is very real and truthful, it is honest and genuine and sincere. It has struck a chord with audiences across the board. Relatability is thereby a byproduct of all that.

When you first started working on the show, did you ever imagine it would become so big? Not at all. I did not think in my wildest of dreams that this would be such a huge success story. No one can ever predict these things. The people who made *Sholay* and *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Godfather* and all the other cult films — *Gullak* is also beginning to acquire some kind of a cult status — didn't know too, I am sure. I thank my stars and count my blessings that *Gullak* has

become such a huge success story.

In what ways does the character of Santosh Mishra resonate with you?

Santosh Mishra and Jameel Khan's ideologies, to a large extent, are very similar. I am someone who likes to value things. By that, I don't mean things that have their worth in money. I mean things that God has given us. I believe that there should be conservation of energy, water and all of that. I believe that people should value what they have in life and not waste them. That is something I teach my children.

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What do you like about *Gullak*?
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For Rukmini's cover

photograph

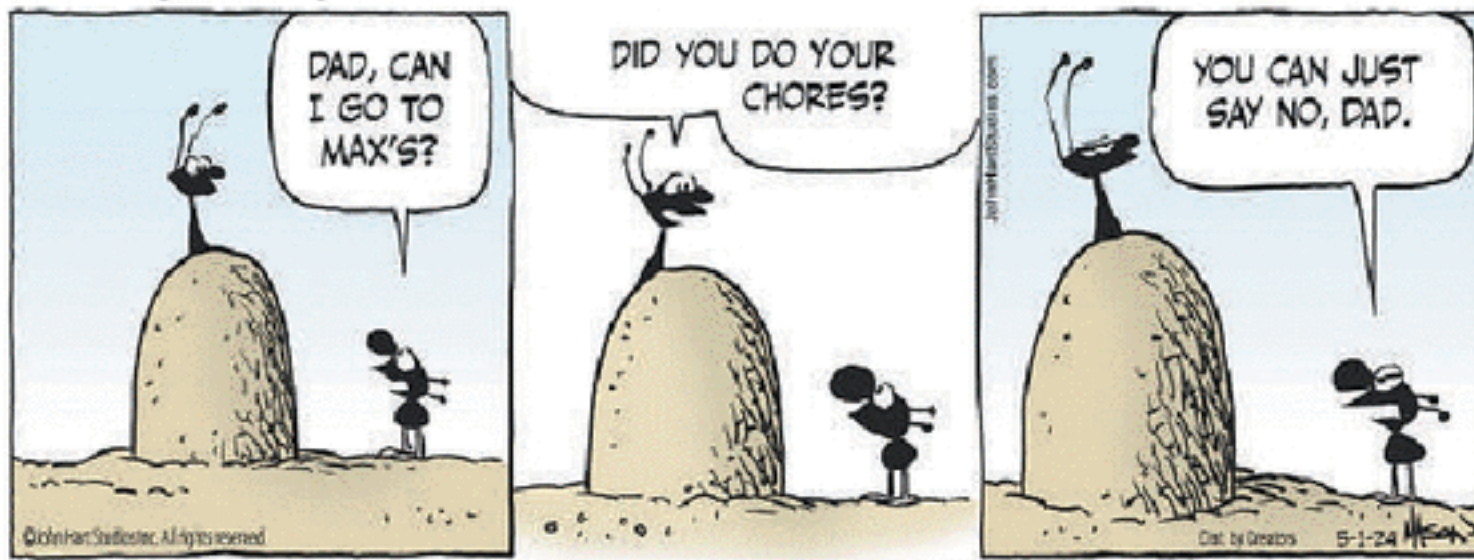
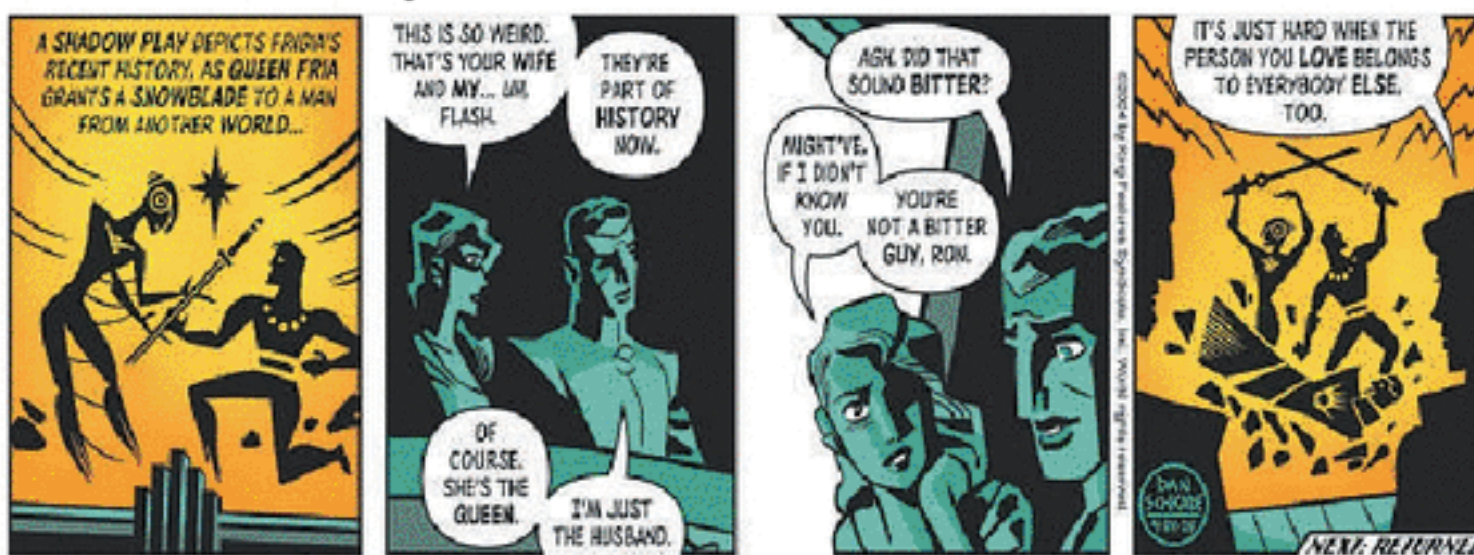
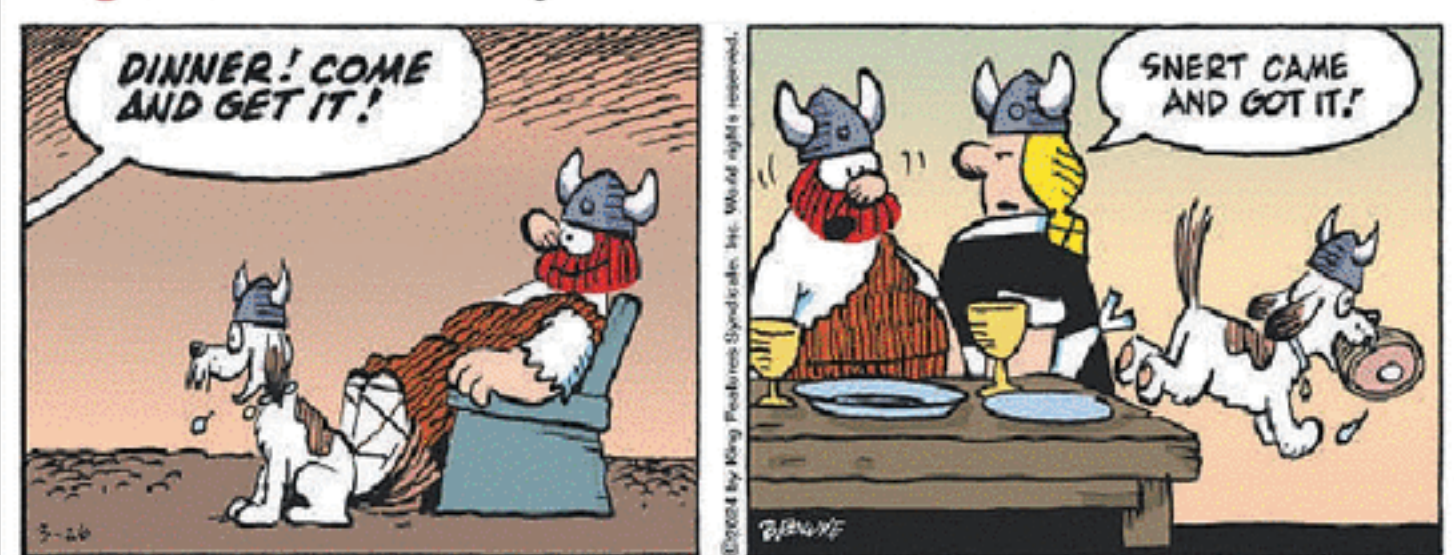
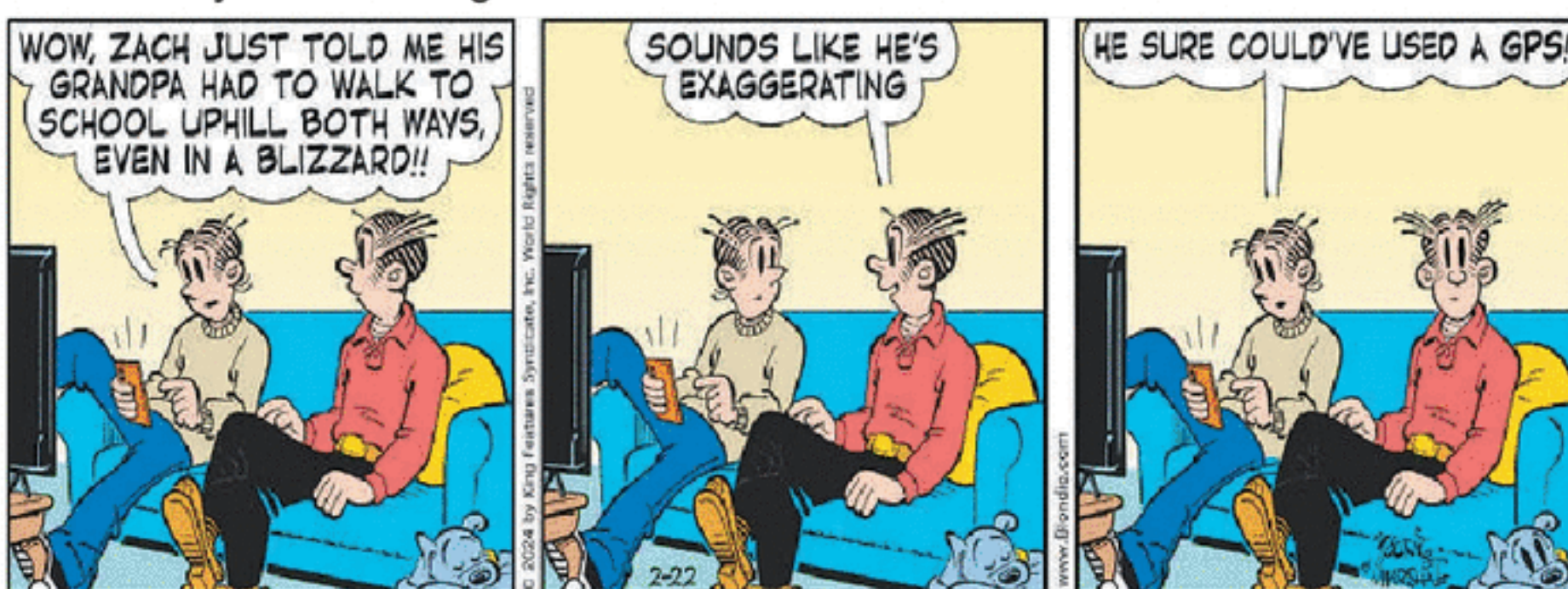
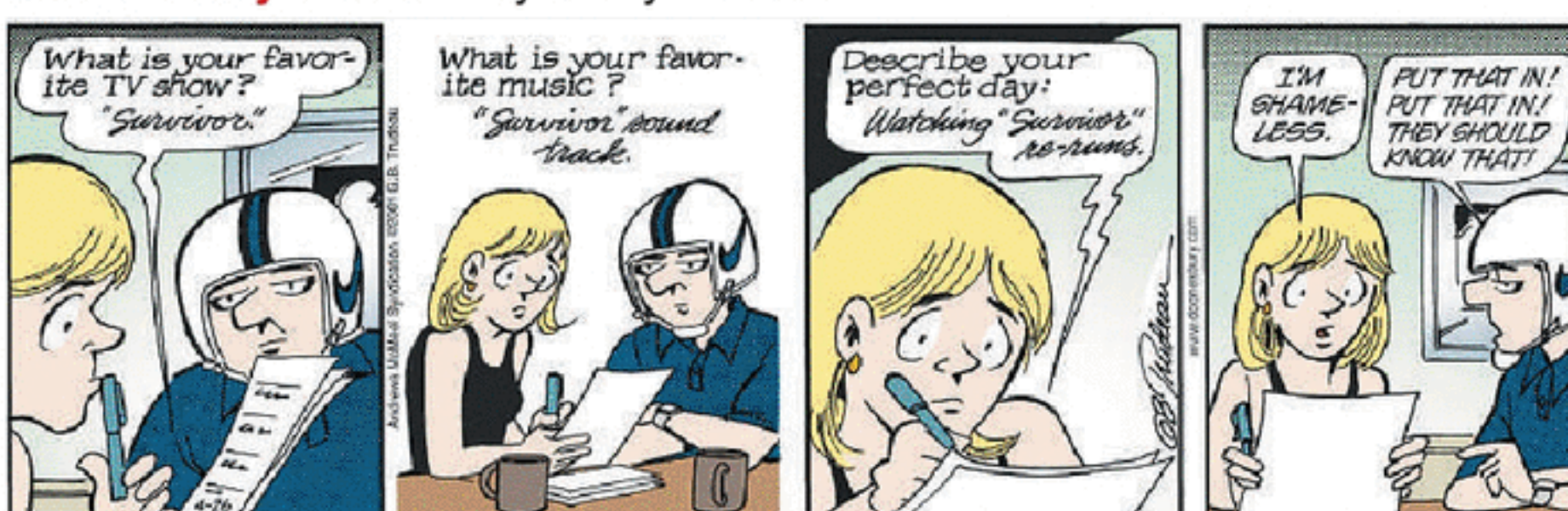
Picture: Surja Mondal

Outfit: Eshaani Jayaswal

Make-up artist: Bithika Benia

Hair stylist: Mousami Chhetri



B.C. by Johny Hart**Luann** by Greg Evans**Peanuts** by Charles Schulz**The Wizard of Id** by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart**Flash Gordon** by Dan Schkade**Hagar the Horrible** by Chris Browne**Blondie** by Dean Young**Dennis the Menace****Doonesbury Classics** by Garry Trudeau

10988

SUDOKU MODERATE

		6			9		2	
	4						9	
7				6				
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	9	5	4	7	2	6	8	
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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 10986 is on the right

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

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10989

SUDOKU GENTLE

	5		2				6	3
			6			9		
9			3	1				5
5	4							1
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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 10987 is on the right

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

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14351

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- 1 Where we see worshipping convert go – any guess? (10)
 6 Noble spy (4)
 10 Gleeful prince very quietly ousting bishop (5)
 11 Taking part in burlesque, am I shameless or strait-laced? (9)
 12 Agrarian epoch crops twice in rotation outside (4-3)
 13 US area I relocated elsewhere? (7)
 14 Toy with hope for hangman's intended victim? (8,4)
 18 Perhaps Derby mounts should be finishing courses (12)
 21 Management in a row (7)
 23 Deliver contract (4,3)
 24 It may cast light on someone getting shot (9)
 25 This brings out highlights of

Red Queen, beginning with 'Heads will roll!' (5)
 26 Girl in US city's heading south (4)

27 Device, kind used by hack? (10)

DOWN

- 1 Son and husband boarding reserved coach (6)
 2 Bit hurried (6)
 3 Explosions seen this evening in sky – a gunfight we suspect (3,6,5)
 4 Upwardly mobile British posh, attracted to wine, fall for dining here? (9)
 5 Feel subdued, occasionally wanting escape (5)
 7 Discharge internet task (8)
 8 Ginger wraps he had put in the microwave? (8)
 9 Divine being cuddled by nymph, before mum who steps in unexpectedly (5,9)
 15 Smart German car tooted, abruptly muffled (9)
 16 Jeering now and then, loud fans riot – case overturned (8)
 17 Outlaw concealing ecstasy packets in soft seating (8)
 19 Really, news should cover French and Shakespearean verse (6)
 20 A very loud voice causes concern (6)
 22 Vulgar ad's single characters hugged by guy (5)

Yesterday's solution

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

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

WROLG

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

RAYWE

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

PPFREE

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

CCHURN

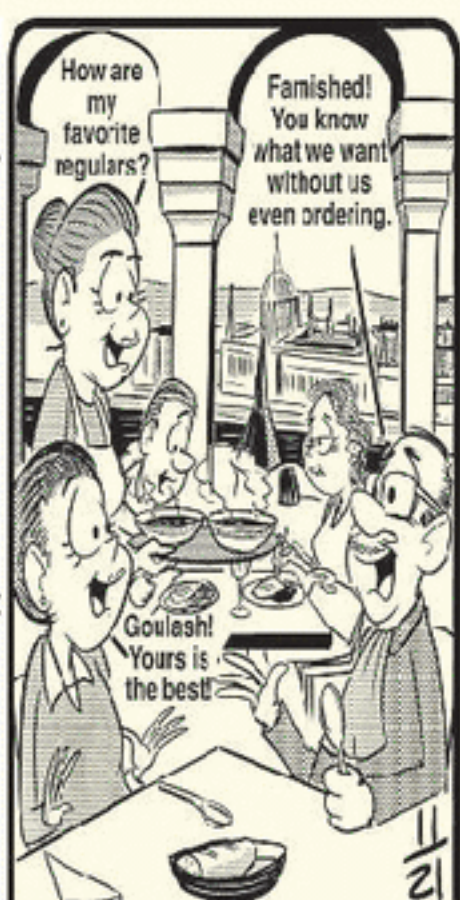
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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“○ ○ ○ ○ ○” ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUBT CYCLE ANNUAL WEALTH
 Answer: The fishing enthusiast invented a new lure and hoped it would – CATCH ON



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

14003

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		

ACROSS

- 1 Super (anag) (5)
 4 Respect; award (6)
 8 Abbess, e.g. (3)
 9 Strangler (9)
 10 Leaves dish? (5,4)
 12 Managed (3)
 13 Fate; Biblical character (3)
 14 Fake (5)
 15 Scots roll (3)

DOWN

- 16 Fuss (3)
 18 Bitterly angry (9)
 20 Encompassing (9)
 22 Loutish fellow (3)
 23 Fount of wisdom (6)
 24 Uniform jacket (5)
 1 Philly's state (12)
 2 Spiral of hair (7)
 3 Bordered; inched (5)

- 4 That woman (3)
 5 Sold one (anag) (7)
 6 Complete; say (5)
 7 Across a certain ocean (12)
 11 Should (5)
 14 Temporary camp (7)
 15 Expanding toy (7)
 17 Happen (5)
 19 Brick of metal (5)
 21 Fury (3)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Warrant; 5 Piece; 8 Extra; 9 Erratic; 10 Privilege; 12 Nut; 13 Sacred; 14 Varied; 17 Dig; 18 Countless; 20 Edifice; 21 Circa; 23 Shone; 24 Spectre.

Down: 1 Whelp; 2 Rot; 3 Avarice; 4 Teeter; 5 Purge; 6 Extensive; 7 Excited; 11 Incognito; 13 Sadness; 15 Article; 16 Duress; 18 Crime; 19 Scare; 22 Rut

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

LABEL MANDATES FOR TECH SERVICES WILL HELP YOU ASK: WHAT'S THE CATCH?

TECH NUTRITION



Scan the QR to know more



If flaunting your curves is on your mind, corset jumpsuits would be your best bet. We love how Janhvi Kapoor has complemented her ultra-feminine blue corset jumpsuit featuring mesh details with minimal accessories. Style it with ombre shades and pointed-toe heels.

Kiara Advani's neon one-shoulder jumpsuit with a hanging fabric attachment in front screams "bold" and ticks all the boxes for a perfect daywear outfit. The actress added a feline grace to her monotone look with slim sunglasses.

COME RAIN OR SHINE, WORK OR PARTY, JUMPSUITS ARE VERSATILE. HERE'S TAKING INSPO FROM FASHIONISTAS WHO HAVE DONNED THE PIECE IN VARIOUS AVATARS

Jumpsuits have no particular mood. In a polarised world sandwiched between officewear and partywear, denim and cotton, and shorts and maxis, this one-piece garment has a timeless appeal. Be it a busy day at work or a casual day out with our homies, there is a jumpsuit for every occasion.

If we turn the pages of history, jumpsuits came into existence in 1919 as a utility garment for parachutists to jump off planes. While dungarees and boiler suits were the other workwear garments on the block, it was the jumpsuit that made the cut for the fashion industry in a slimmer avatar. This functional garment got traction in the 1930s as Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli made jumpsuits fashionable by giving them a creative spin, which included large front pockets. In the mid-1940s, sporty-style jumpsuits invented by American designer Vera Maxwell clicked with a select few and were majorly considered a novelty item. Fast forward to the 1950s, the garment gained more momentum in the fashion realm with designer Bonnie Cashin's dedication to creating evening jumpsuits. The ensemble enjoyed its prime time during the 1960s and '70s with the likes of Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, and Norma Kamali reinterpreting the garment and coming out with their own versions and musicians like Elvis Presley embracing the silhouette. American designer Geoffrey Beene even termed it as "the ballgown of the next century".

However, the outfit went through a rough patch for a while until the early 2000s. Its resurgence happened only in 2002 as designer Nicolas Ghesquière, who was working for Balenciaga then, introduced a modern jumpsuit on the runway. From Hollywood to Bollywood, fashionistas have often sported this modern wardrobe staple in different patterns and fabrics. Here are the top celeb-approved jumpsuits we have spotted in recent years!



For a more relaxed mood, embrace a black, button-down jumpsuit lined with a white border, like Malaika Arora. The collar, the front pocket and the loosely tied belt serve a lesson in comfort-meets-chic dressing.



Kareena Kapoor Khan proved polkas are timeless and how! She exuded old-Hollywood glam in this beige polka-dotted jumpsuit featuring balloon sleeves and Chinese collars, with a matching belt that accentuated her waist. Round off the look with square sunglasses.



Want to make a stylish case for a high-profile event? Take inspo from Aditi Rao Hydari's maroon off-shoulder, wide-leg jumpsuit. A matching sling bag will pair well with the chic outfit.

Swaying away in the opposite direction from flared jumpsuits that we are accustomed to seeing everywhere, Priyanka Chopra Jonas's floral bodycon jumpsuit cinched at the waist with a belt deserves all the attention for perfectly accentuating her structure. The ensemble is from the shelves of Richard Quinn.



Kriti Sanon's blue-and-silver front-zipper jumpsuit with a belt is an offbeat jumpsuit that looks like separates. The hero of the look is the same design featured on the belt as well as the sleeves. Tonged hair and minimal makeup will do justice to such a beautiful outfit.

Rita Ora's sheer backless jumpsuit featuring floral applique and a risque plunging neckline that goes down to her belly, is a win on the red carpet for the daring souls. The frills in the waist area and the attached train added character to the naked look.



Kriti Sanon delivered a masterclass on millennial dressing in this black-and-white off-shoulder jumpsuit with straight sleeves and an attached cape. A high bun, a statement neckpiece and stilettos are what you need to make heads turn!

Debanjali Nandi

Pictures: Instagram handles of the actors, Fotocorp and Getty Images

FASHION

MOULDED BODICE TO METALLIC ACCENTS, THESE BEAUTIES ARE CRUSHING ON AVANT-GARDE TRENDS. t2 PICKS SOME FAVES

MOULD MAGIC

This year, **Taylor Russell** made her debut at Met Gala in a Loewe outfit. Now what made it special? It turned out to be one of the best looks because it comprised a 3D moulded corset that was printed using a technique called hydro-sublimation, giving a unique wood finish, while the bottom had a delicate white drape.



Anya Taylor-Joy was in an eclectic fashion phase while promoting *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*. After the golden spiky outfit, she slipped into a mini Balmain metal dress! The sculpted outfit was completely moulded to her figure and came in two parts. In a BTS video, one could see her style team putting the outfit together via metal clasps. The outfit was sans any fabric and instead had bold metallic roses around her shoulders. Wispy hair and red lips completed her outlandish ensemble.

Talking about moulded fashion, who can forget singer **Tyla**'s famous sand dress at Met Gala this year? The singer who made her debut this year, wore a customised fit-to-body that was so tight that she was literally lifted as she was unable to walk up the stairs. Not only was the outfit a brilliant take on the theme, it was made with layers of sand and micro-crystals that were meticulously applied by hand to a fabric mould cast on her body, creating the illusion of raw sculpted materials.

Fashion designer **Grace Ling** has been grabbing the attention of celebs like **Jennifer Lopez** and **Katy Perry** for her experimental pieces. The singer was spotted wearing an edgy creation from their SS24 *Neverland* collection which comprised a metallic crescent chest plate with a high-waisted pillar skirt. The top is risque and JLo did complete justice to carry it off like the rockstar that she is.



A sculptural outfit doesn't have to be like armour; it can be delicate and beautiful too. Actor **Sydney Sweeney** proved that while she had turned up wearing a delicate sculptural top from Balmain made of white flowers and to add to the quirk, it had a pair of hands (yes!) holding the bouquet of flowers! Now if that's not a piece of art, we don't know what it. Sydney looked comfortable and at ease wearing the top with black wide-legged trousers.

At this Met Gala, it was not only singer **Ariana Grande**'s eye makeup with iridescent tiny wings that caught our attention but the moulded bustier in leather and mother-of-pearl too! Her moulded bustier had a perfect shine and was complemented by a multi-layered pleated silk-chiffon skirt, which was hand-painted to mimic the surface of an iridescent shell. Wow! The *We can't be friends* hitmaker looked like a beautiful fairy from the water kingdom.

HEAVY METAL



There was a lot going on in the **Falguni Shane Peacock** outfit that **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** wore during the *Megalopolis* red carpet at the 77th Cannes Film Festival at Palais des Festivals last month. Although the outfit left us torn between bad and blah, it stayed trendy as it boasted metallic accents jutting out like antlers!



You know a trend is getting big when you have celebs repeating it. **Katy Perry** seems to be crushing on metal tops! Yes, she has already worn it twice — a silver avant-garde breastplate with sharp edges and another golden rose-embellished metallic one, by **Kate Barton** and **Grace Ling** respectively.

Talking of metallic outfits, how can we skip **Zendaya**'s armour outfit that she wore during the world premiere of *Dune: Part Two* in Leicester Square? She wore a complete metal robot suit from **Thierry Mugler**'s fall 1995 couture collection.



The outfit had strategically placed clear panels and the actor accessorised this with a stunning diamond necklace. Edgy married delicate and only **Zendaya** could do it with such confidence.

Pramita Ghosh

Pictures: Getty, agencies and Instagram

HIGHLIGHTS OF COMDOM'24, THE GRADUATING SHOW BY NIFT KOLKATA'S FASHION COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

NIFT Kolkata's Fashion Communication batch of 2020-2024 put up a mind-blowing graduation show on May 30, titled COMDOM'24. A showcase by 25 talented graduates, followed by an evening celebrating their achievements and efforts, COMDOM'24 pioneered in bringing students industry life experience. The exhibit showcased the marvellous achievements of the

students during their internship tenure in the graphic designing, space designing, fashion designing and fashion thinking industries. Branding, packaging, audiovisual production, storefront layouts, social media marketing and website designing are just a few skills they mastered through their internships. Puma, Myntra, Aditya Birla Group, and Reliance Retail are a few companies that gained from the insights of young

professionals from NIFT.

Brijesh Deore, campus director, NIFT Kolkata, expressed his pride in his welcome address, stating: "I am sure the students will create milestones and make us proud."

Sreenanda Palit, associate professor and centre co-coordinator, NIFT Kolkata, said: "The class of 2020-24 is a diverse group of learners; some choose to focus on honing their hand skills and slow

storytelling techniques, while others explore the vast possibilities of UI-UX and AI. Their technical proficiency, attention to detail, and inventive spirit will undoubtedly revolutionise the industry."

Pompy Paul, a professor at NIFT Kolkata, said: "I am amazed by their potential, and I only have best wishes for the graduating batch. I wish them all the success in their upcoming journeys as industry professionals."



Under the guidance of Sreenanda Palit and Pompy Paul, the batch flourished with exceptional exhibits of their talent. Dipti Jain received awards for Best Graduation Project and Most Innovative Graduation Project for her work with Media Monk. A passionate artist, her insights about the balance between art content and art form are impressive, which translated marvellously into an animated AV she created for her project. Aditi Rajawat was awarded for her impressive work with Puma's graphic design and illustration team. Shreshtha Saha's work with Reliance Retail in UI/UX was awarded by an esteemed alumni.



The faculty and chief guests unveiled the brochure for the academic year. Designed as a calendar with a QR leading to each student's body of work and contact details, the brochure is created with extreme thought. (L-R) Pompy Paul; Brijesh Deore, campus director NIFT Kolkata; Moloy Chandan Chakraborty, jute commissioner; Jeena Mitra Banik; Sreenanda Palit; and Swarup Dutta.

The graduating 2020-2024 batch celebrated the evening with the chief guests and the faculty.

The event was graced by former fashion journalist Jeena Mitra Banik. While addressing the gathering, Jeena said: "We need to communicate to have a larger effect on society at large. Do not develop tech or communication laterally, relevant only to a few people, try to create something that enhances life because you have come to NIFT, where you must grow to benefit the society at large."



Swarup Dutta, an alumnus and a dear friend of the institution, showcased an exclusive glimpse of his art show *Gandi Baat* at the event. "This project started with discussing if designers have a larger role to play in society. We wanted to talk about whether we have roles beyond problem-solving. In Indian urban areas, we shy away from political discourse due to a lack of overlap with the government. But rural India has a completely different relationship with politics, they are more aware today than we are," he said describing his project.

Mehek Gupta (t2 intern)
Pictures courtesy: NIFT Kolkata

FOOD

VAAYU'S SUMMER MELANGE EVOKES NOSTALGIA WITH ITS CLASSIC FLAVOURS



Raw Mango Salad: Indulge in this tangy seasonal delight that's presented with a mix of spice leaving your tastebuds recharged.



Mango Panna Cotta: This irresistible and must-have seasonal dessert is a balm to the eyes and the soul. Goopy mango puree topped with cream enclosing a delicate panna cotta is a delight.

Mango Teriyaki Chicken Skewers: A beautiful confluence of texture and flavours, this juicy chicken skewers oozing with teriyaki sauce is topped with peanut and lemongrass sauce.



Harry Potter Butterbeer: Go back to the magical world of the boy wizard once more with this frothy drink. Creamy butterbeer topped with a thick layer of velvety foam will evoke a feeling of warmth that fans of the wizarding world will surely love.



Tomato Basil Bruchetta with Kairi: If you are looking for something light to start off your meal or a good breakfast option, then dig into Tomato Basil Bruchetta with Kairi. Chopped tomatoes, olives, raw mango along with in-house spices lend it a soft crunch.



Bachpan Wala Snowly Kacha Aam Panna: Another offering in the menu that will take you to your childhood is the aptly named Bachpan Wala Snowly Kacha Aam Panna. Aam Panna-flavoured crushed ice with sliced ripe mango sprinkled with red chilli will make your tastebuds do a summersault.



Khatta Meetha Kalakhatta: This icy dessert will fill you with nostalgia. Presented artistically, the hints of orange add new life to the *kalakhatta* that will tease your tastebuds.

Swastika Chakraborty (t2 intern)
Pictures: B Halder

HE CHANNELS A BLEND OF LOCAL AND EXOTIC, MODERNITY AND TRADITION IN HIS CUISINE. t2 CHATS WITH **SUNAYAN PRAMANIK**, THE NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF AT THE LALIT GREAT EASTERN KOLKATA

With extensive experience in cruise line cuisine, and a Calcutta connect, the new executive chef at The LaLit Great Eastern Kolkata, Sunayan Pramanik, dishes out food that is a spectacle to behold. t2 sat down for a meal and a tete-a-tete.

How do you like Calcutta?

Calcutta to me is my grandma; the place has nurtured me to what I am today. In my professional field, when I was a sprout, I grew up in an environment which had a tough terrain. My chefs were very strict disciplinarians of their era. They used to make me sweat and if you are not sweating by the end of a shift you have probably done something wrong. When you finish a long hard shift and wipe that sweat from your brow, you will feel the change in you; all that food that went out, all those happy people saying thank you, is there a much better feeling?

As a chef, how would you describe your food philosophy?

My food philosophy is not to complicate a product but to keep it as simple as possible. As such, my focus remains on building up a dish to bring out the taste of simple ingredients and eat what you have ordered. No surprises! Having travelled around the world, worked with eminent chefs like Arvind Saraswat, Padma Shri Chef Intiaz Qureshi, Manjit Singh Gill, Anton Mosimann, Angella Hartnett, Thomas Keller, Emanuele Lattanziani and worked upon many cuisines, I have known just one thing and promote that too, to educate guests about your source of ingredients. I proudly would like to have my listing of produce belt on my menu and let the guest know the



Sunayan Pramanik, executive chef, The LaLit Great Eastern Kolkata

vitality of each ingredient that they are consuming. I promote Locavore ingredients and use them to create dishes with identity.

Tell us a little bit about the concepts that you've put in the different F&B spaces at The LaLit Great Eastern Kolkata.

The hotel has its own aura and nostalgic heritage; it also does carry a lot of culinary trails. My

concept is to polish the Viennoiserie with a passionate and wide range of products, create food promotion of seasonal and festive culinary trends in the outlets, emphasising on special curated menus for social functions at the banquets. I have successfully done some lavish spreads on social functions and have got jubilant feedback on the offerings. I have displayed a plethora of dishes during Eid

where food connoisseurs of the city were spellbound by the diversity of the food.

As a chef, what would be your cuisine forte?

My cuisine forte is traditional Italian. Working with Thomas Keller has imbibed in me the Michelin star European and American grills. Presently I am training myself on state-of-art patisserie and bakes.

Where have been some of your most significant learnings?

My most significant learning is keeping my mind and soul pure while cooking, because that's the attitude which flows down to the stomach, and you are what you eat. A chef has to have a pure mind to produce soulful food.

The cuisine in Calcutta is pretty cosmopolitan, ranging from Bengali to Anglo-Indian, to Chinese. What all have you imbibed from the space?

The culinary diversity of Calcutta and its artistic cultural endeavour are very festive and have a lot of wisdom. I use the term wisdom because each dish has evolved from a lot of experience, invasion and has matured to what it is today. I use matured techniques, concepts and ingredients to produce dishes of a new generation keeping in mind that I do justice to the authentic dishes.

What are some of your most favourite food destinations?

My most favourite food destinations are Cambodia, Belfast and Rome (outside India), street food of South India, Tangra Chinese and a good authentic Bengali spread.

What have been your signature dishes?

My signature dishes are Chitarra Amatriciana (made with guanciale and crusted bottarga), Panch Phoron-infused Sous Vide Spare Ribs, Pistachio Viennoiserie, Laksa Biryani and many more.

Some of your favourite ingredients would be...

Lavender, Tonka beans, Gellan and Xanthan gum, all forgotten grains, sandalwood

powder, croquet, *gondhoraj* lemon, dalle chillies, *radhuni* spice and the list is endless.

Who would be your culinary inspiration?

My culinary inspiration is not a figure but has always been traditions and origin. I love historic indulgence in food and creativity. Hence, I would say that I derive inspiration solely from themes and life experiences.

Zeba Akhtar Ali

Pictures: B Halder

NEW MENU GEMS



Pyaare Mutton Kebab and Wood Apple Biryani accompanied with Tzatziki



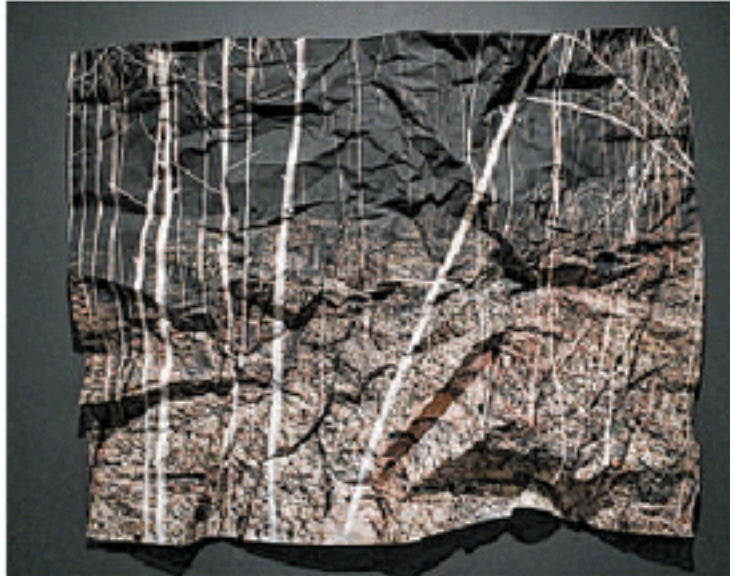
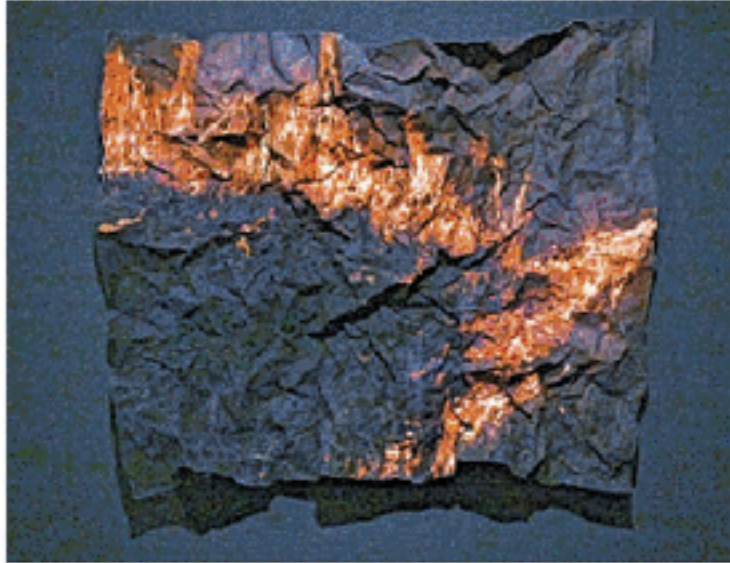
Tropic Mango Cremeaux



Baked Mango Bobotie with candied Mango Chimichurri



Chicken Mochcha Paturi with Sorshey Fondue



A few artworks of Tenzing Dakpa on display at Experimenter Ballygunge till June 27



Artist Tenzing Dakpa at Experimenter, Hindustan Road



Subha Pal (left) with Nandita Raja

TENZING DAKPA'S WEATHER REPORT, AT EXPERIMENTER, OFFERS AN IMMERSIVE AND EVOCATIVE EXPERIENCE

Art is a solitary process but its presentation, often, is a collective one. Tenzing Dakpa's Weather Report is powerful in its singular form but comes alive and speaks to the viewers in a multi-dimensional tone in the ecosystem of Experimenter Hindustan Road. The dark walls added more intensity to the Sikkim-born and Goa-based Dakpa's collection of photographs themed on climate change and particularly deforestation in the face of urbanisation. The fire engulfing and preying on live trees and vegetation in the dead of night, caught spectacularly on still camera with the help of portable profoto light, came alive with the live music curated and played by Dakpa during the opening evening on May 24. If you were in the gallery on the day, your olfactory senses also must have picked up a smoky scent, that for a moment transported you to the scene witnessed by Dakpa's naked eyes and lens.

It is not just the visual, the music and the presentation that makes Dakpa's photographs on archival pigment print stand out. The arrangement and texture, lent by the Rhode Island School of Design's alumnus, plays a major role in taking the photography exhibition out of its traditional and monotonous confines. Case in point are the three photography installations in the Weather Report series — Mornings at Naikavaddo, a grid of 135 prints, and Evening at Muddovaddo and Monsoon at Muddovaddo, both grids of 36 prints. The Manifest series in 16x20 and 40x50 inches strips the usual flat composure and generates more interest with its uneven surface.

A Q&A WITH THE ARTIST

Tell us about the idea behind the exhibition.

I have been photographing in Goa since 2017, and I let the pictures guide me. This project is a result of an observation born out of an interest in paying attention to my immediate environment and how I can describe it using a camera and my preoccupation with photography. A smaller selection of both Weather Report and Manifest were exhibited in Goa as part of an open studio and the Serendipity Arts Festival in December 2023.

The title of the exhibition Weather Report connotes a description of what a place feels like at any given day. Born out of an interest in paying attention to my immediate environment and how I can describe it using a camera and

my preoccupation with photography, the exhibition is a visceral imprint of human impact on the ecological world intertwined with my practice as a photographer and an artist.

Music adds a new dimension to the solo project. Tell us about creating the mix.

The idea for a performance came from my wide interest in music. It took a little bit of prodding by Priyanka Raja to start working on a playlist. However, the initial idea was to use just the field recordings from my time while photographing Manifest. The sounds in these recordings are made using directional and contact mics and range from distant sounds of bar, birds, insects, water bodies, crackling of fire, wind and so on. These sounds introduced an element of life and habitation, which are present but not implied in the images. Layered with these sounds, the music ranges from anthropological recordings of harvest songs from Nagaland to composers like Mica Levi, Alvanoto and Ryuchi Sakamoto. The intent was to briefly transport the audience to a feeling of experiencing this work, whatever that might be.

For how long you have been working on Manifest?

I started photographing Manifest late 2022 and continued till earlier this year. Weather Report comes from an archive of images made since I moved to Goa in 2017.

Tell us about the process and idea behind arranging the picture like a collage and also the method of creating uneven texture on the photographs.

I make most of my prints in my studio, ranging from archival pigment prints to photobook maquettes. It involves sourcing, profiling and handling all kinds of paper. Working with printing and paper, I landed upon both of these processes. The Weather Report installation came from a limitation of printing large images in my studio, so I would end up printing in grids to see what the image would look like life-size. Seeing the image reveal itself and the sheets reacting to natural airflow and the environment added a layer to the reading of the work. The crumpling of the print similarly evoked the impressions of the terrains of these forests, which added a relic-like quality, topographic and abstract.

Farah Khatoon

Pictures: Rashbehari Das



Making the exhibition an all-round sensory experience was curated music by the artist himself. At the premiere, Dakpa played a 45-minute piece that added a new dimension to the photographs mounted on the wall.



Astrid Wege (left) with Kiron



Paramita Saha



Ahona and Nandita Palchoudhuri (right)



Kallol Datta



Prateek and Priyanka Raja strike a pose.

Talking about bringing Dakpa to Experimenter, Prateek said: "For us, it's important to engage with practices that are pushing the boundaries. Tenzing Dakpa's exhibits do that. This is his first solo in India. He grew up in Sikkim and then moved to Goa and in these two spaces, he has experienced the nature of the landscape and the impact human's intrusion has had. Taken at night with strobe lights, it brings out the starkness in the frame and makes things more visible.

While the fragmentation of the pictures comes out of a physical limitation, it allows us to see each frame and its details."

PRIDE



A glimpse of the traditional Canal Parade during Amsterdam Gay Pride in Amsterdam



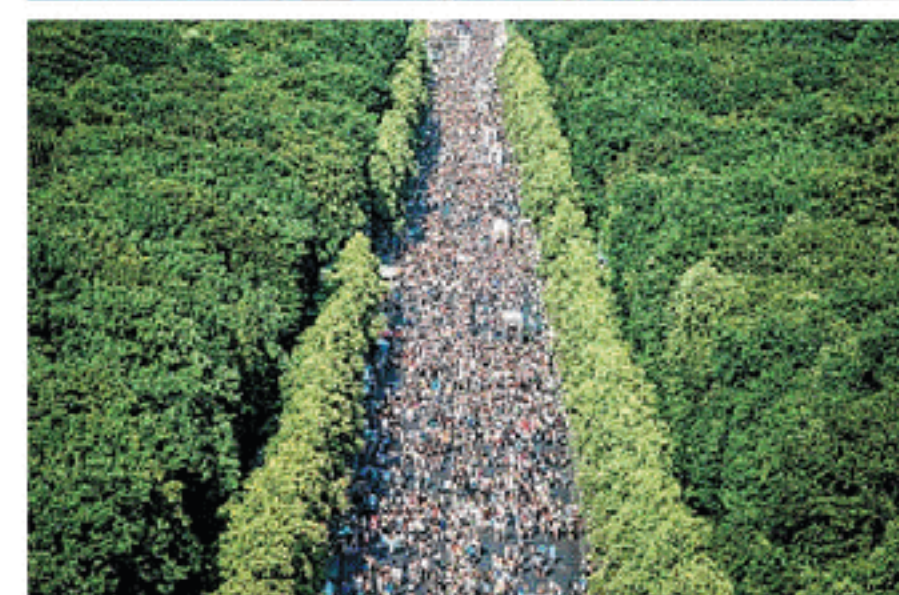
From the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade as part of Sydney WorldPride



The Northern Lights over Ingolfssjall mountain near Selfoss on the south coast of Iceland



Famous swan boat rides in Boston



An aerial view of the Christopher Street Day parade



Glimpse of the Kolkata Pride Walk 2023
Picture: Pabitra Das



The Stonewall Inn pop-up store in New York City

THESE SEVEN QUEER-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS ARE LIKE THE SEVEN COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW YOU CANNOT MISS

VENICE OF THE NORTH — AMSTERDAM

With more than 100 gay bars, saunas, hotels and shops, Amsterdam tops the list of queer-friendly destinations. With a vibrant nightlife and cobbled streets keeping the old-world charm intact, the Netherlands' capital city has pretty much everything. The Pink Point, a famed space for queer information and more, is an unmissable tourist-y thing to do especially if you're queer. The buzzing queer-friendly bars that now attract pivotal tourism were the foundations of gay activism back in the 1930s and 40s when homosexuality was heavily stigmatised. Some of the places you can visit are Café 't Mandje, Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum, and the Museum of Sex. Reguliersdwarsstraat is the unofficial gay district of the city and just around the city centre. In 2001, same-sex marriages were legalised, making Amsterdam a great destination for queer weddings too. More good news? There are direct flights from Calcutta to Amsterdam!

SYDNEY

Considering its anti-discrimination laws and acceptance, Australia is overall a safe place for the community. However, Sydney, with the world's largest queer festival — the annual three-week-long Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras festival — LGBTQIA+ friendly neighbourhoods and diverse nightlife, stands out. Universal, Oxford Hotel and Marlborough Hotel (The Marly) are known internationally for their drag shows and other activities throughout the year. And if you're in Sydney you cannot miss The Imperial, the venue that featured in cult classics like *The Adventures of Priscilla* and *Queen of the Desert*. You can take a direct flight to Sydney from Calcutta.

PINK HAVEN — ICELAND

A country where homosexuality is celebrated is definitely on the queer holiday bucket list. The country decriminalised homosexual activities as early as 1940. The Pride walk held in Iceland's Reykjavik sees the participation of one-third of the country's inhabitants. The Ring Road runs across the entire country and to plan a road trip across this road is an apt way to explore the small country. The cherry on the top is watching the Northern Lights as the country is close to the Arctic Circle. You can take the help of tour guides for the perfect spots to view the magical lights or take a walk and spot them from almost any corner of the place. The next international trip you take with your loved one or queer group can easily be Iceland as there are direct flights from Calcutta to Reykjavik.

BOSTON

Apart from a very vibrant Pride month filled with city-wide activities, Boston also hosts the LGBT Film Festival in late March or April. Massachusetts being the first US state to legalise gay marriage back in 2004, it houses an extensively queer-friendly Boston alongside other cities. Sandwiched between Theater District and Chinatown is Jacques Cabaret, the oldest gay bar in Boston that is a must-visit. If nightlife is not your scene, head over to Trident Booksellers & Cafe located on Newbury Street for a lifetime experience of shopping in a place where historic brownstone homes have been converted into stores giving a hippie-chic vibe. Enjoy a picturesque boat ride from Boston to Provincetown while staying in beautiful homestays. The city that is home to passionate baseball players and a close neighbour to universities like MIT, Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard, can be reached via a direct flight from Calcutta.

BERLIN

The German city has its own Pride month, also known as Christopher Street Day Berlin, or CSD Berlin that is celebrated annually since 1979 in the month of July. Apart from that, the city is outrageously and unapologetically gay. From gay fetish parties to the Gay Museum to being home to Germany's largest LGBTQIA+ club SchwuZ, Berlin has numerous places and activities completely safe for queers to pursue. You can also take the famous spring walk down Schöneberg, the first district to fly the rainbow flag high for the CSD Berlin. Post the Nazi suppression, Berlin emerged victorious against homophobia and queerphobia at large and is now also known as the queer capital of Germany.

NEW YORK

Cliché but we could not miss the epicentre of the gay struggle that erupted in the Stonewall Inn in 1969. The riots in the inn are massively credited for the freedom queers experience today. You can visit the Stonewall Inn in the West Village for starters and move on to the Alice Austen Museum that chronicles the works of the daring photographer in a building that was earlier home to her and her partner for almost 30 years. The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art is another interesting exhibit that depicts art by queer artists. Additionally, all streets, neighbourhoods, pubs, hotels and shops are pretty queer-friendly in New York but there are your beloved gay bars in abundance too. Julius, House Of Yes and Ginger's are some unique experiential bars. Take the next flight to New York now!

CALCUTTA, DELHI, MUMBAI AND KERALA

If looking for a queer-friendly holiday destination inside India, it is restricting to find a city that is completely accepting. Considering the rampant homophobia and stringent mindsets, creeps can be found everywhere. Meanwhile, you can also find accepting crowds in Darjeeling or Shimla and encounter queerphobia in Delhi. Nonetheless, Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala have been in the forefront in the fight of queer

rights. Calcutta was the first city in Asia to hold a Pride parade; Delhi had India's first boutique hotel and art gallery for gay people; Mumbai hosts Asia's biggest queer film festival and Kerala is spearheading the fight for trans rights. Several gay-friendly bars (not solely for gays) and eateries and associations run by LGBTQIA+ individuals can be found in these cities too.

Sanjali Brahma

Pictures: Getty Images, Reuters, Instagram



DEAR READERS, HERE ARE YOUR CLICKS FOR 'TRAVEL MANIA'. SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES TO t2click@abp.in



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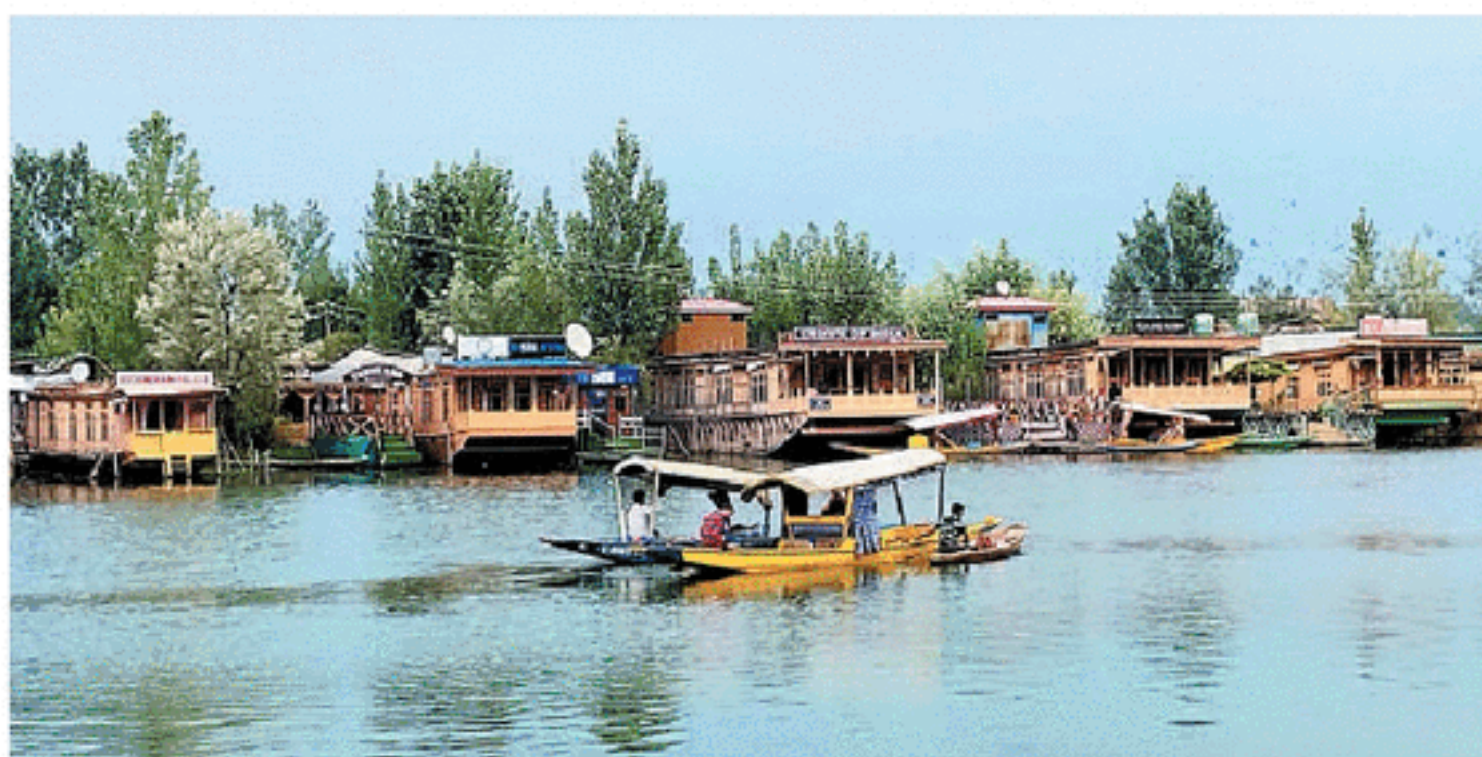
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