

The Telegraph

# t2

Friday  
14 June 2024

## CHAMP SPEAK

KARTIK AARYAN AND KABIR  
KHAN WERE IN THE HOUSE  
FOR A t2 EXCLUSIVE  
ON *CHANDU  
CHAMPION* AND  
MORE **p10-13**



PICTURE: PABITRA DAS

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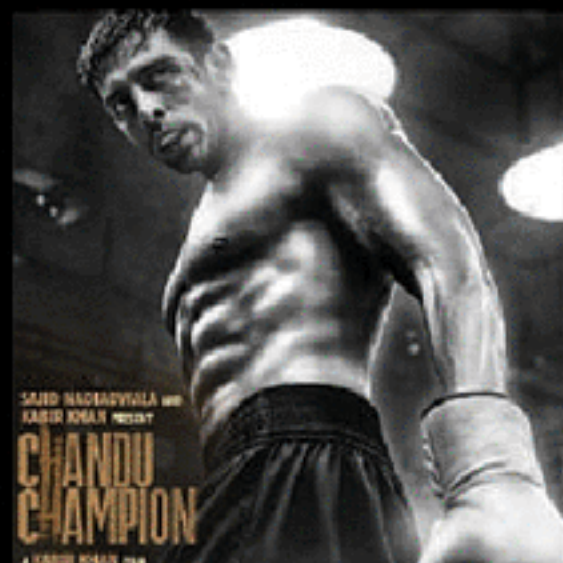
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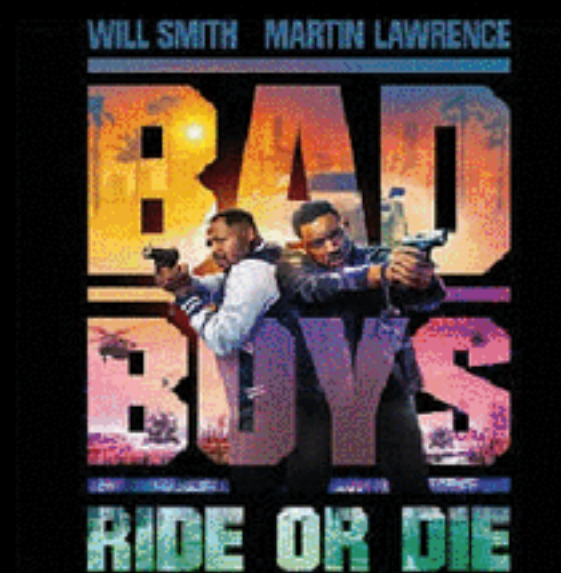
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This year, you should be feeling very ambitious and motivated. You will be overcoming financial obstacles. Finding the balance within you is the key. When you find your own balance, you learn to tune out all the outside interference and tune into your own wisdom. Your repressed emotions and blocked chakras are the cause of your health issues.

— Nita Chhotalal

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



## ARIES

**DO** show love and help between the generations  
**DON'T** get into disputes over money and property  
**EXPECT** inheritance or other capital that is due



## TAURUS

**DO** get organised and set firm boundaries in life  
**DON'T** be judgmental  
**EXPECT** protection and support in any venture



## GEMINI

**DO** focus on what you want and make it happen  
**DON'T** be afraid to explore new options  
**EXPECT** your efforts to be rewarded



## CANCER

**DO** give unconditionally to those around you  
**DON'T** be a miser  
**EXPECT** a karmic debt to be paid and bring personal peace



## LEO

**DO** ignore the gossip of others  
**DON'T** get tied to a commitment that is enslaving you  
**EXPECT** to follow your higher instincts



## VIRGO

**DO** allow your heart, not your head to guide you  
**DON'T** get stressed  
**EXPECT** existing conflicts to be resolved



## LIBRA

**DO** safeguard your possessions  
**DON'T** get discouraged  
**EXPECT** to fight hard for what belongs to you



## SCORPIO

**DO** find time to focus on yourself  
**DON'T** get frustrated by the delays  
**EXPECT** to find solutions to your problems



## SAGITTARIUS

**DO** what is practical and take a long-term view  
**DON'T** be laid-back  
**EXPECT** to take a decision that will benefit you in the coming months



## CAPRICORN

**DO** surrender rather than fight an old situation  
**DON'T** be impatient  
**EXPECT** sudden and unexpected change



## AQUARIUS

**DO** put your own interests first  
**DON'T** be too demanding  
**EXPECT** responsibility and leadership at work or at home



## PISCES

**DO** look at a situation in a completely different way  
**DON'T** waste precious time  
**EXPECT** to put aside old ways of thinking

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

## BAAZAR KOLKATA BRINGS THE MAGIC OF DISNEY AND THE ADVENTURE OF MARVEL TO YOUR WARDROBES



realms of fashion, to evoke nostalgia from carefree childhood days. From chic casualwear to exciting kidswear, the collection has something for every fashionista.

Umesh Sharma, head of marketing, Baazar Kolkata, said: "We think that fashion is a form of self-expression, and what better way to express yourself than through the magic of Disney. Each piece in

Leading fashion destination, Baazar Kolkata recently got into a partnership with global leaders in family entertainment Disney and Marvel. The brand launched the collection across its 173 outlets.

The collaboration is poised to integrate fashion with fantasy and create a unique shopping experience for patrons.

With this collection, Baazar Kolkata has invited shoppers to embark on an enchanting journey where Disney's favourite characters and Marvel superheroes blend into the

our collection is crafted with love and attention to detail, ensuring that our customers not only look fabulous but also feel a sense of wonder and nostalgia. This collection will spark creativity and help one find one's inner fashionista by bringing a whimsical touch to one's clothing, regardless of one's interest in fashion. The launch of the Disney and Marvel collection also acts as a testament to the brand's commitment to bringing joy and excitement to its customers."

Picture courtesy: Baazar Kolkata

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Dr. Jayaprakash Narayana



Swapan Dasgupta



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← Apple CEO Tim Cook pictured welcoming Craig Federighi (extreme right) and John Giannandrea (centre) to the Steve Jobs Theatre to speak about the announcements made during Apple's WWDC keynote. Picture: Reuters



**WE THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS FOR INTELLIGENCE TO BE REALLY USEFUL, IT HAS TO BE CENTRED ON YOU. THAT REQUIRES SOME REALLY DEEP THOUGHTS ABOUT PRIVACY**  
— Craig Federighi

## WITH APPLE INTELLIGENCE, THE COMPANY LEAPS FORWARD IN THE AI GAME WITH A FOCUS ON EMPOWERING USERS

Apple is 48 years old, which has put enough maturity on its side to come up with a roadmap for delivering artificial intelligence better than most companies, especially when one considers its deep-rooted commitment towards privacy. With Apple Intelligence, the Tim Cook-led company proves that so far talks about AI being a “new species” have been futile and there is a chance to make use of the technology in ways that can prove helpful to users.

“We want AI not to replace our users, but to empower them,” said senior vice-president of software engineering Craig Federighi when he took the stage with John Giannandrea, Apple’s senior vice-president of machine learning and AI strategy, at the Steve Jobs Theatre soon after WWDC’s keynote moment.

These are the two people who have been closely involved with Apple’s strategy to revamp Siri, bringing machine learning to devices and the Cloud and everything around AI that Apple announced.

### WHAT MAKES APPLE INTELLIGENCE DIFFERENT?

Apple Intelligence is something that all Apple users can put to use. Thanks to its silicon, the set of AI features is being favoured over what most Cloud-based competition is promising to offer.

Instead of looking AI from the perspective of a big model, think of it as a collection of smaller models that can efficiently run on Apple’s devices and chips themselves. There will, of course, be times when more power would be required. More of that later. The company hasn’t been stagnant around AI though it didn’t use the terminology vastly in the past. Your iPhone already has around 200 machine-learning models already to tackle everything, from

curating memories to detecting a car crash. And now it has become far more powerful.

Giannandrea said that the “right approach” “is to have a series of different models and different sizes for different use cases”. He said the company has worked to create a 3-billion parameter model as part of Apple Intelligence. More the parameters, more the memory and computing power is needed to run a model.

Apple’s strategy is faster than exclusive Cloud-based offerings besides, it has more privacy benefits. Using, say, the iPhone, AI can make sense of one’s appointments. For example, if AI could know that you need to keep an appointment and you are running late, why not help with a mail asking the meeting to be rescheduled. Usually, it’s a series of time-consuming processes but Apple Intelligence can make it happen like clockwork.

Federighi offered an example: His phone knows who his kid is. “We’re not sort of taking this teenager and telling him to go fly an airplane. ‘Here’s what you’re good at. You can flip burgers or something.’”

“We think about what it means for intelligence to be really useful, it

has to be centred on you,” Federighi said. “That requires some really deep thoughts about privacy.”

The strategy is allowing Apple to focus on reducing hallucinations in its models partly by using curated data. “We have put considerable energy into training these models very carefully. So we’re pretty confident that we’re applying this technology responsibly,” Giannandrea said.

For Apple, AI is a long-term strategy and the Apple Intelligence way of working will allow the company deliver big improvements and features over the years to ensure the iPhone remains relevant for a very long time. Also, the strategy ensures that Apple Intelligence will be less prone (if at all) to hallucinate.

Consider some of the new features Apple Intelligence can handle: Summarize and rewrite documents, generate small images, and translate conversations in real-time. Or consider a more complicated feature: Enable users to generate new emojis using AI without connecting to the Internet. All these features are coming your way this fall.

### PERSONAL CONTEXT

There is a gaping chasm between

what people expect from AI and what many tech companies are telling the world about AI. First, people do not care about a trillion-parameter neural network because that very term is meaningless. The AI users are looking for has to do with making things easy. Who wants to go through 2,723 photographs to stitch together a short video of a family holiday? Let the device do the heavy lifting. We want Siri to take care of multistep tasks and if AI is needed to generate original visuals, let those be emojis and not deepfakes.

Apple Intelligence is working around personal context. The years 2023 and 2024 proved to be years of AI hyperdrive but the technology needed Apple to move the conversation away from hyped AI models.

### NO ELON, YOU’RE WRONG

Elon Musk tried to drive the conversation his way with claims that the partnership between Apple and OpenAI will lead to “an unacceptable security violation”. There’s nothing like that. Google has Android devices to showcase its AI prowess, Microsoft has Windows while OpenAI now can handhold Apple to get better access to users who don’t mind AI tools. Elon Musk has Grok while X is a platform that continues to be controversial.

Users need to understand that there are basically two tiers of AI coming to newer iPhones, Macs and iPads. First is Apple’s Apple Intelligence. Second is OpenAI’s ChatGPT which can take on some tasks if users want. Further, users need to agree each time they want to use ChatGPT.

For example, ChatGPT will be useful if you permit it to write a custom bedtime story for a kid. The keyword here is “permit”.

Otherwise, Siri and Apple Intelligence can handle most of the tasks we have.

Around seven per cent of Americans are using ChatGPT daily, according to a recent survey conducted for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. So, OpenAI now has a chance to improve its standing.

And it’s not really about ChatGPT. Apple said it could offer different models in the future. Federighi pointed out that one day some of its customers may, for example, ask for a medical AI system or legal AI model built into Apple products. The future is wide open.

### PRIVATE CLOUD COMPUTE

One may wonder how will Apple handle tasks that are complicated. This is where Apple’s Private Cloud Compute comes in.

The models that process very complicated requests are servers “powered by Apple Silicon” and the company says it will never store or be able to access your data on its servers. Further, Apple has said that it will let independent experts inspect code running on its servers “to verify privacy”.

“We’re not going to take that data and go send it to some Cloud somewhere.... Because we want everything to be very private, whether it’s running locally or on a Cloud computing service, and that’s the way we want it so we can use your most personal data,” Giannandrea said.

Apple said these servers use Apple chips to prevent user data sent back to an AI server from being stored or re-used.

According to Federighi: “The cornerstone of the personal intelligence system is on-device processing. We have integrated it deep into your iPhone, iPad, and Mac, and throughout your apps, so it’s aware of your personal data without collecting your personal data.” There will be times when a huge amount of compute will be necessary and that’s when Private Cloud Compute comes in.

### YOUR DATA REMAINS YOURS

The *Washington Post* asked Apple CEO Tim Cook about how confident he is that Apple Intelligence will not hallucinate. He said: “I think we have done everything that we know to do, including thinking very deeply about the readiness of the technology in the areas that we’re using it in. So I am confident it will be very high quality. But I’d say in all honesty that’s short of 100 per cent. I would never claim that it’s 100 per cent.”

What’s certain for the moment is that Apple has suddenly jumped ahead with privacy-focussed Apple Intelligence. It can well be the first generative AI platform designed keeping privacy in mind. And now the company has an opportunity to deliver plenty of new AI-powered features year after year through its devices, ensuring the iPhone (besides the iPad and Mac) continues to age gracefully. Add to the mix, powerful Apple silicon driving the game.

Mathures Paul

(The reporter was in Cupertino, California on an invitation from Apple)

**APPLE INTELLIGENCE IS WORKING AROUND PERSONAL CONTEXT. THE YEARS 2023 AND 2024 PROVED TO BE YEARS OF AI HYPERDRIVE BUT THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDED APPLE TO MOVE THE CONVERSATION AWAY FROM HYPED AI MODELS**

Apple has announced new updates across its platforms that help empower users and keep them in control of their data. Picture: Apple







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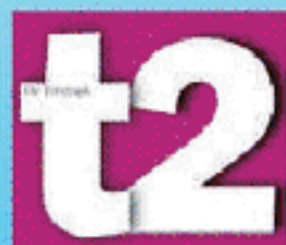
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## STARMARK'S FIRST-EVER PEN FEST BEGINS AT SOUTH CITY MALL TODAY. t2 GETS YOU A SNEAK PEEK

**I**n a new and exciting venture, Starmark, South City Mall, is set to host the brand's first-ever Pen Fest, which starts today and will continue until June 23. This unique event promises to be a haven for pen enthusiasts and collectors and will showcase over 25,000 pens, inks, and accessories from more than 50 international brands. Renowned brands like Cross, Parker, Lamy, Sheaffer, Fisher Space, Sailor, Waterman, Pelikan, and others will be available. This inaugural Starmark Pen Fest is a must-visit for anyone passionate about writing. Attendees can look forward to enlightening sessions, workshops, and a unique opportunity to explore the world of fine writing instruments.

t2 caught up for a chat with Minu Jatia, chief operating officer of Starmark, to know more.

**Tell us a little about the fest. What can guests expect?**

It starts on June 14 and will go on till June 23rd. Starmark is luckily in its 25th year, and we have always conducted a lot of book-related excursions. And we've had all sorts of brands for writing instruments right from our inception, too. So, we thought, why not do a fest this time, an exhibition of all the brands we can lay our hands on? We're hosting a robust collection of about 50-60 international brands who will be displaying their pens at the fest, and also brands that are made purely in India. And there'll be full-fledged bouquets of all these pens – whether they're fountain pens, roller balls, ball pens, pencils, inks of different varieties – we'll have about 20 different brands of inks – and we're also planning to launch ink stations, which will be inaugurated by (hand lettering and calligraphy expert) K.C. Janardhan and (author) Shirshenduda (Mukhopadhyay).

We've also sent letters to some schools in the city because I personally would like the younger generation to come and explore these pens. Back in my day, it was mandatory for us to write with fountain pens but I don't think kids these days do that anymore. So we're trying to reach out to the children to get them as involved as we can. And we've got some special offers for them. For example, if a student brings along their ID card, they'll be subject to a special price-point offer... because kids don't get too



Minu Jatia, chief operating officer, Starmark



- 1 The pen in the photo is a Lamy 2000 with a 14k solid gold hooded nib and piston-filling mechanism. The body is made of fibreglass polycarbonate.
- 2 This is a Fisher Space zero-gravity pen, which can also be used underwater as well as upside down, unlike other pens. It comes with an 80-year guarantee!
- 3 This beautiful calligraphy box comes with a bound journal, a faux-feather quill pen that allows interchangeable nibs, an ink pot, a wax seal kit with wax beads, and a Van Gogh-esque seal stamp.

pick up a pen regardless of what stage they're at.

**What was the process that went into choosing these particular brands?**  
We pulled up a list and categorised a premium brand range, a mid-market brand range, and an economical brand range. We wanted to make sure there was something that suited everyone. Every pocket and every taste, because the pen is a very personal accessory. And we're still reaching out to some brands, so it's been quite an exploratory journey for us as well. For example, I came across this young boy who made his first pen when he was 17, for a school project! Can you imagine? And that made me so happy because the interest is still there, people just don't know where to find it. So yeah, it's been quite a journey and my team and I are enjoying ourselves very much. But we've never done this before, so we're quite nervous!

**Would you say the experience of organising this fest has been one of personal growth for you?**

Definitely. I feel words have the power to change lives, and the written word more so than anything else. And the younger generation has now moved towards digitisation so much that they do not know of the power of the written word because the written word has to be thought of before you write. It is not easily erasable. When one writes on an iPad, it's so easy to erase something, but on paper, it's very different. And kids these days are more impulsive, and compulsive – they think after they have acted. So, I think if they begin to start writing with pens, somewhere psychologically there might be changes in the way they lead their lives, which is very important. The world is going too fast! We need to slow down. And slowing down means taking the time to think and then write, rather than writing and then regretting. And I really do think there is no better way than gifting these children a pen to make them explore and understand the world around them better. And, of course, since we are a bookstore, I wanted this first step to be through pens and writing because books and pens go hand-in-hand. There's a lot to be learned about the world, and about oneself, by the act of putting pen to paper, and I hope this fest will help a lot of people realise that.

**Subhalakshmi Dey**  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

*The Starmark Pen Fest will host an impressive variety of pens and accessories in the price range of ₹50 to ₹50,000, along with exclusive discounts, hands-on workshops, and the chance to discover the perfect writing instrument from a diverse range of international and Indian brands. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just beginning to explore the world of fine pens, this fest is one you wouldn't want to miss!*

much pocket money! So if they bring their card and pick up a pen they like, we could come up with ways to let them have it for a student-pocket-friendly budget.

We'll be hosting tons of other things, too, like interesting workshops with some brand-sponsored prizes. Another is a calligraphy workshop, and K.C. Janardhan will also be hosting a session, but that one's more for the veterans, I should think. Some brands like Cross will be organising loyalty schemes – if you bring your Cross pen to the fest and want to buy another Cross product, they will give you a free refill. Lamy will set up a service centre in the store, Sheaffer will exhibit some of their vintage pens... I could go on and on! But yeah, there's a lot to look forward to.

**What would you say was the main inspiration behind hosting this fest? It's the first of its kind for Starmark, we believe...**

Yes, that's right. Personally, I've always believed that Calcutta is a city of art and culture. So, it makes sense to host a pen fest here. I came to Calcutta when I got married 30 years ago, and one of the first things I noticed was that everyone carried a pen in their pocket. And even in today's digital world, I see a lot of people still writing with pens! So, it's definitely a Calcutta connect.

Another thing I wanted to do was to expose this vast world of writing instruments to people who may not have had access to them before. Not everyone travels or is able to, and some brands are specific to certain regions and unavailable in others. That was also one of the main thoughts that went into this; getting all these brands under one roof so everyone can come together – customers and collectors, kids and adults. And not just them. Anybody who is just starting on their pen journey, anyone who's interested... we're hoping the fest will inspire them to



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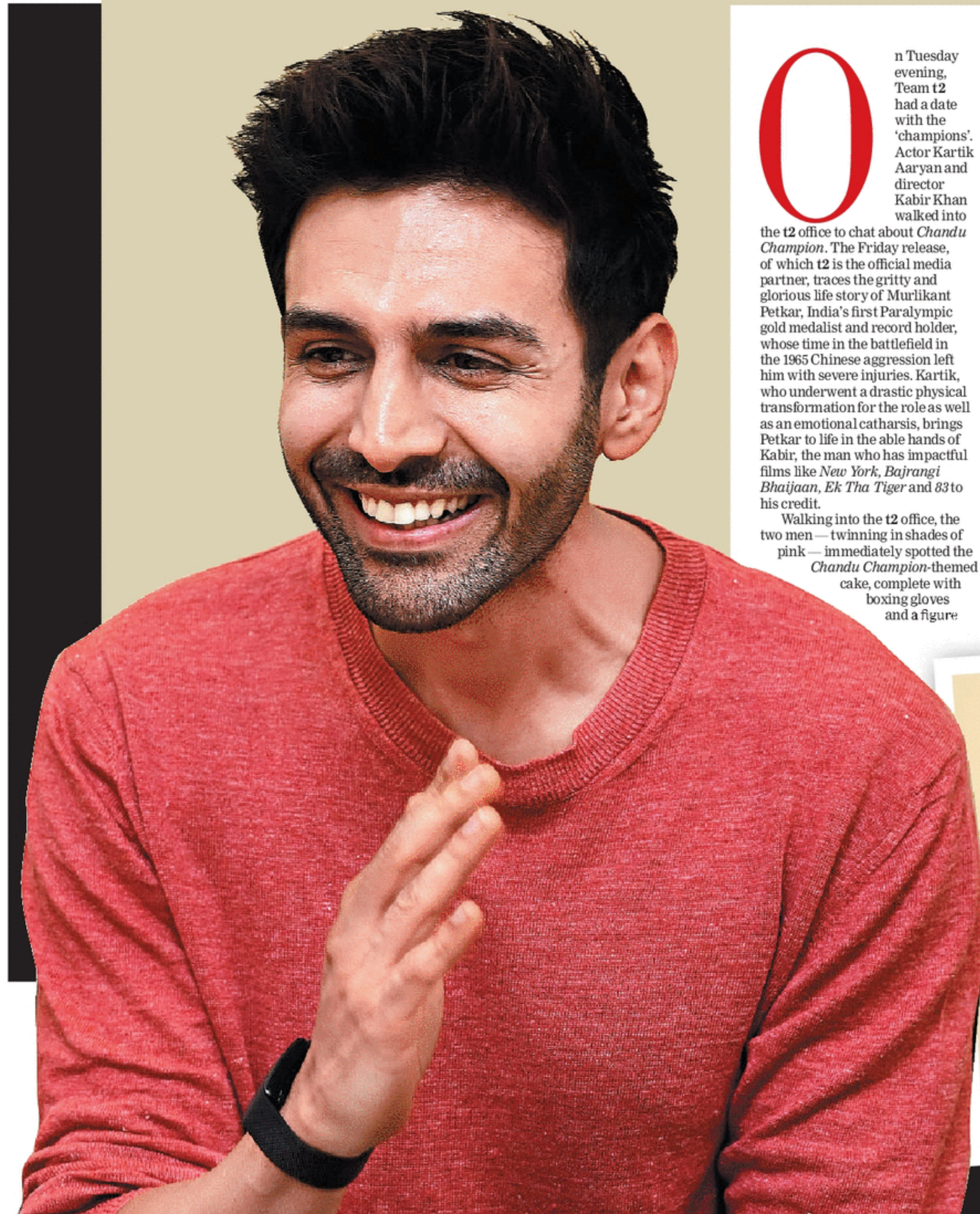
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## WHAT WENT DOWN WHEN SCREEN HEARTTHROB KARTIK AARYAN, ALONG WITH DIRECTOR KABIR KHAN, WALKED INTO THE t2 OFFICE? SOME CHATTER ON *CHANDU CHAMPION*, A WHOLE LOT OF LAUGHS AND MANY CUTE MOODS AND MOMENTS #EXCLUSIVE



**O**n Tuesday evening, Team t2 had a date with the 'champions'. Actor Kartik Aaryan and director Kabir Khan walked into the t2 office to chat about *Chandu Champion*. The Friday release, of which t2 is the official media partner, traces the gritty and glorious life story of Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medalist and record holder, whose time in the battlefield in the 1965 Chinese aggression left him with severe injuries. Kartik, who underwent a drastic physical transformation for the role as well as an emotional catharsis, brings Petkar to life in the able hands of Kabir, the man who has impactful films like *New York*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, *Ek Tha Tiger* and *83* to his credit.

Walking into the t2 office, the two men — twinning in shades of pink — immediately spotted the *Chandu Champion*-themed cake, complete with boxing gloves and a figure

representing Kartik's character. Instantly taken in by the cake, Kartik and Kabir also let out a couple of guffaws when they spotted the cupcakes accompanying it — one with a McLaren GT (Kartik's new luxe wheels), another with a couple of dumbbells (to symbolise the intense workout the actor went through for the film) and yet another with Kartik and Kabir's unanimous favourite — Kartik's lovable pet pooch Katori. Before we started chatting, Kartik and Kabir got down to the business of cutting the cake.

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But I am really enjoying it. I love this film! I love the character. I love that there is this story being told because Murlikant Petkarji is someone who should be celebrated. We should celebrate his struggles and his achievements, both of which are unbelievably inspiring.

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**Pramita Ghosh (Team t2):** Kartik, there is so much talk about the physical transformation that you have undergone for *Chandu Champion*. You have had to make a lot of sacrifices to achieve the body that you sport in the film.

What was the most difficult thing to give up? And how did you keep yourself motivated during this journey?

**Kartik:** I love food! So I can't just single out and say *ki maine yeh chhori ya woh chhori*. Food, in general, *miss karta tha* (smiles). At that time, I was only having food that didn't taste good! (Laughs) That was the worst part. I had to follow that diet to the T for close to two years. That impatience really killed me! It was a very long journey. I would work out, I would learn a lot of physical skill sets and then come back home and eat nothing! (Laughs)

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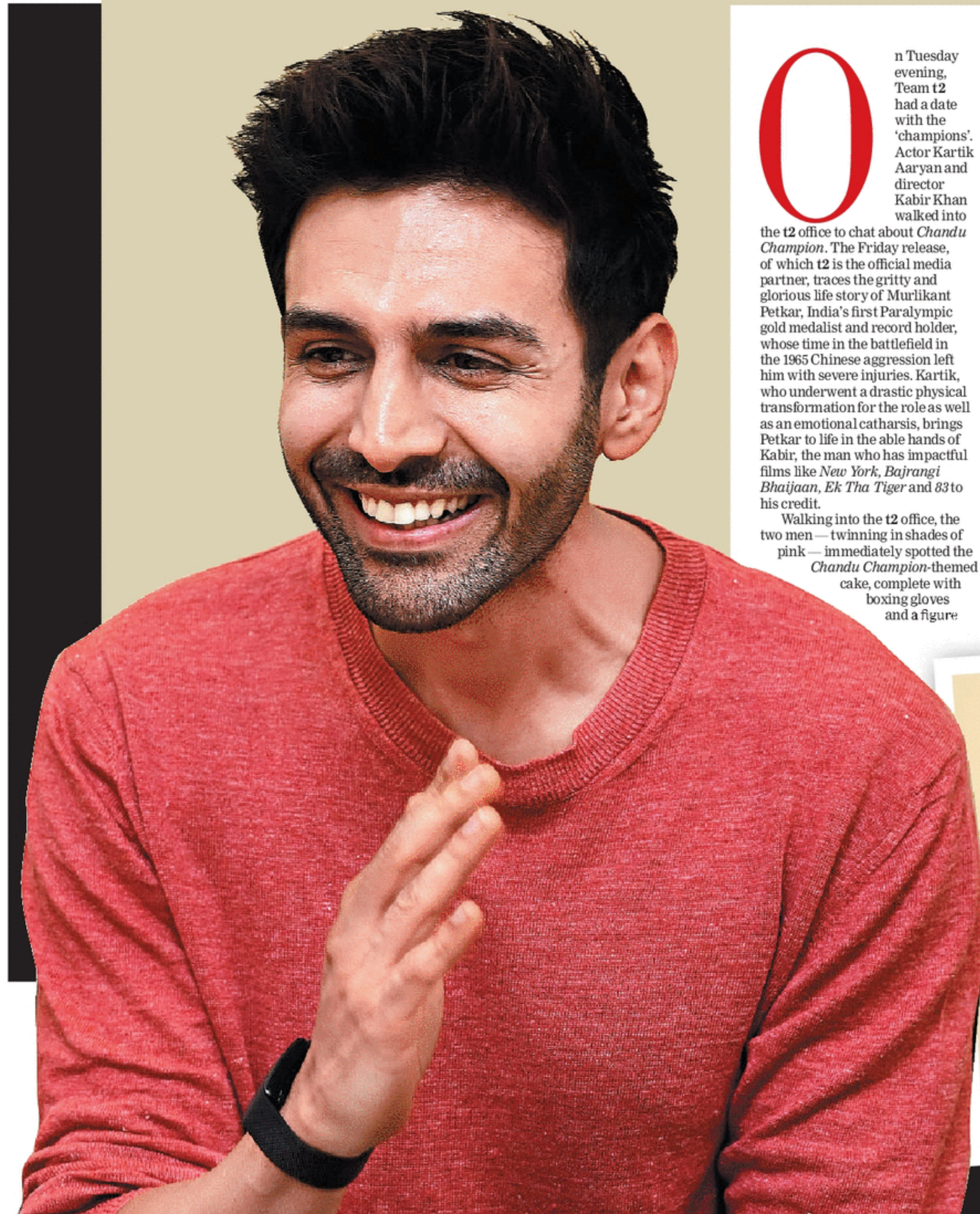
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## WHAT WENT DOWN WHEN SCREEN HEARTTHROB KARTIK AARYAN, ALONG WITH DIRECTOR KABIR KHAN, WALKED INTO THE t2 OFFICE? SOME CHATTER ON *CHANDU CHAMPION*, A WHOLE LOT OF LAUGHS AND MANY CUTE MOODS AND MOMENTS #EXCLUSIVE



**O**n Tuesday evening, Team t2 had a date with the 'champions'. Actor Kartik Aaryan and director Kabir Khan walked into the t2 office to chat about *Chandu Champion*. The Friday release, of which t2 is the official media partner, traces the gritty and glorious life story of Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medalist and record holder, whose time in the battlefield in the 1965 Chinese aggression left him with severe injuries. Kartik, who underwent a drastic physical transformation for the role as well as an emotional catharsis, brings Petkar to life in the able hands of Kabir, the man who has impactful films like *New York*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, *Ek Tha Tiger* and *83* to his credit.

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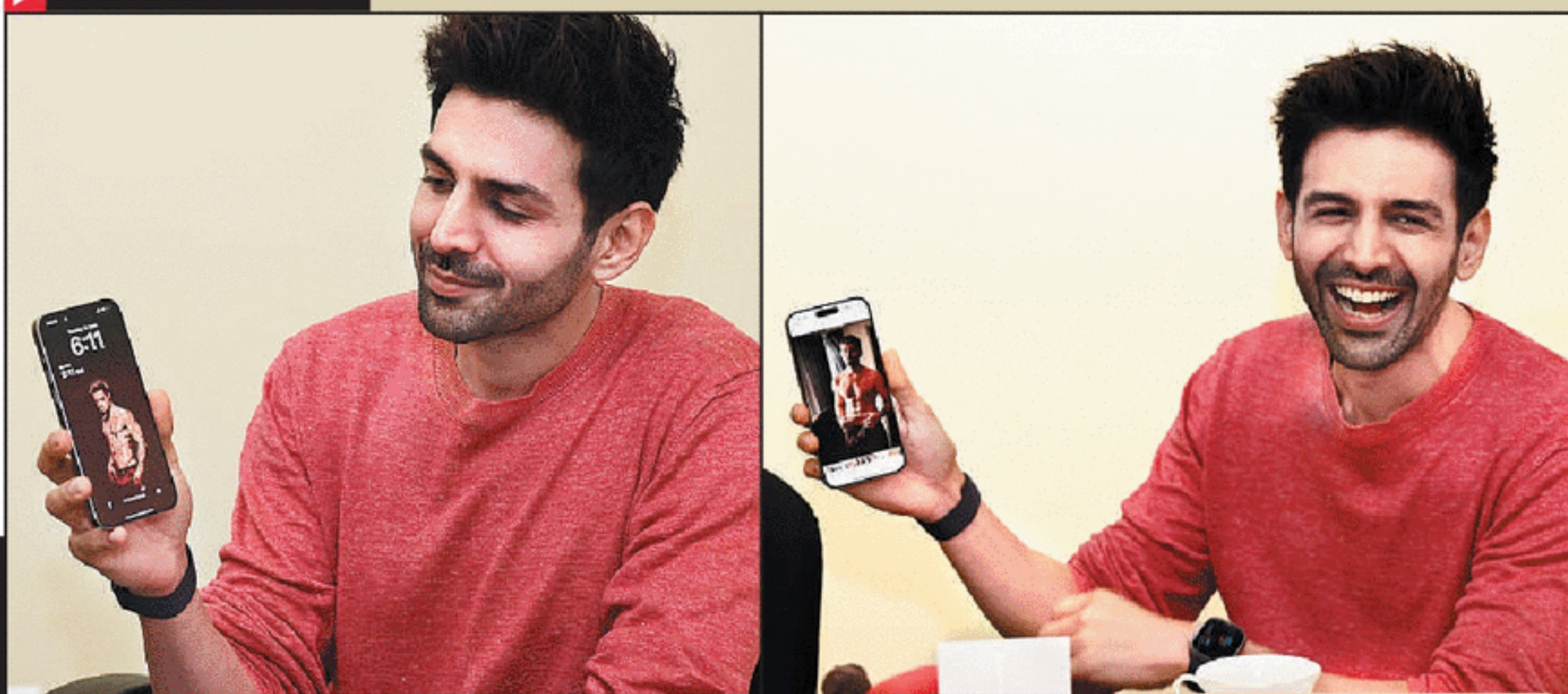
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▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





FROM PAGE 11



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Now I will feed you so much that you will get into your next film with the same body that you came in with! (Laughs). We were in Dubai a few days ago and he made sure I ate a lot of ice cream!

Kabir: That is because, along with him, I also went on a diet during the film....

Kartik: He actually took it to the next level! During this shoot, we all became healthy. Even if we would pack up shoot at 8 or 9pm, I would find him in the gym. So I had to show up too! (Laughs) It was a different kind of competition!

But I can't indulge in food the way I used to before. Before *Chandu Champion*, I acted in *Freddy* where I played a geek and that film required me to be in a certain shape. For that, my (lifestyle) habits got spoiled. Then, *Chandu Champion* came my way and it changed a lot of things. Now I eat in moderation and I try and burn all those calories.

Piya Roy (Team t2): How would you define a true champion? And who is the biggest champion in your life?

Kartik: My mom is my champion. I have seen her go through ups and downs and also overcome them.

For me, a champion is anyone who refuses to surrender. That is a

quality that all champions have. I read somewhere that every champion was once a contender who refused to surrender.

Kabir: That is what it is... somebody who refuses to give up. Every time you bring them down, they rise again and go for it. That is the attitude you need.

For my previous film *83*, when I was researching (the life) of Kapil Dev, I saw that. That is the commonality between Kapil Dev and Murlikant Petkar. It is their attitude of not giving up even when the whole world is looking at them and saying: 'Are you mad?!' Both these people are true champions who were initially ridiculed when they articulated their dreams.

Look at Murlikant Petkar's life! What he did is unimaginable. Sometimes you think that why would this man not just give up and say: 'Okay, enough is enough!' But I think that is what separates champions from the rest of us who

are mere mortals.

Priyanka: Kabir, you are definitely not a mere mortal. I know that if you see a mountain, you have to climb it! You definitely rank pretty high on the fitness scale...

Kartik: He even selects shoot locations that way! He will find a mountain and tell us that we will shoot there. So while making this film, we had to do some trekking as well!

In fact, we shot a single-shot war sequence in Kashmir's Aru Valley. The location for that shot was such that we had to trek 20 minutes every morning to reach it. The entire cast and crew would carry their bags and climb the slope of the mountain and after that we would prepare for shoot. For four-five days, we rehearsed and then on the last day, we had to shoot. So for all these days, 300 soldiers, light people, camera crew, everybody had to trek

### EASY EIGHT WITH KARTIK

UNWINDING ON A CHILL DAY...

Chilling with my dog Katori and running around in my house while she tries to catch me or I try to catch her

### GO-TO DISH

My go-to food is *rajma chawal*

### MOST COMFORTABLE IN

I love wearing hoodies and jumpsuits

### MUST-HAVES WHEN LEAVING HOME

My phone, my keys, my wallet and shades and my Whoop to check how many calories I have burnt

### FAVOURITE BENGALI DISH

*Mishti doi*

ACTRESS FROM THE '60s I WOULD LOVE TO SHARE SCREEN SPACE WITH Madhubala

### VACAY SPOTS

In India, it will be any hill station, maybe Manali or Kashmir. I would love to visit Iceland.

### GUILTY PLEASURE

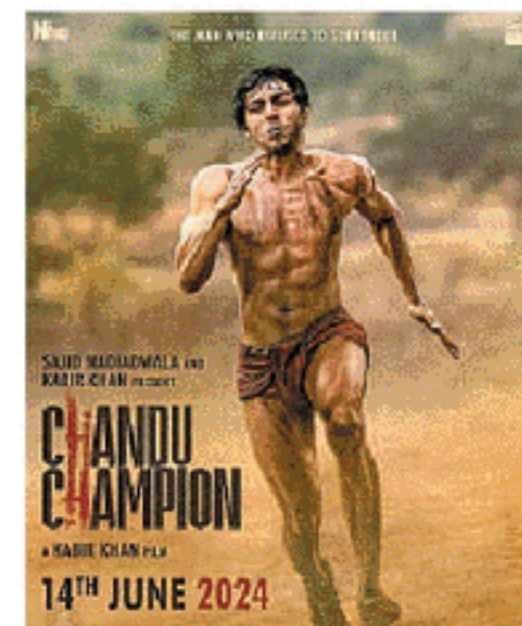
Having *rasmalai* when I'm not supposed to

### CELEB CRUSH

Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kartik offered us a peek into his phone screen wallpaper (extreme left) — that of a ripped Brad Pitt in *Fight Club*. "I had sent him this picture as an inspiration before his body transformation journey," said Kabir.

Cue for Kartik to reveal a picture (left) of himself, ripped like Pitt, in his phone gallery. "I changed my body and sent Kabir sir this picture a few months later," he laughed.



Kartik plays real-life hero Murlikant Petkar in *Chandu Champion*, releasing in cinemas today

to that location. But that is the beauty of the scene. It is unlike anything you would have seen before on screen.

Kabir: Since it is a single-shot war sequence, the camera never leaves him. The whole battle plays out in the background, with the camera completely resting on his face. It shows the kind of impact the war has on him... it shows up on his face and the camera captures that.

Pramita: Kartik, you play an army person, a boxer and a swimmer in the film. Which was the most difficult bit to bring to life on screen?

Kartik: For me, every portion was difficult. Everything that I did in this movie was unique and something that I had never done before. The boxing bit, this war sequence that we were just talking about or the swimming portions, the scenes in the *dangal*... they all had their share of difficulties.

And somehow, the environment was never friendly. *Pata nahin hamari luck kaise thi lekin har cheez mein kuch naa kuch ajeeb situations aate the*. In the swimming sequences, I had viral fever and I had to shoot in very cold water. When I was doing the *dangal* bit, it was so sunny that the ground I was standing on became boiling hot. In the boxing scenes, I had to face off against real boxers, *toh do-teen mukke padey mujhko* (laughs). I also had a shoulder injury. So every time, there was something or the other. *Toh sab cheez mein mera equal torture hua hain!* (Laughs)

Priyanka: Maybe Kabir has actually made something like *The Truman Show*. Kartik, *Chandu Champion* could well be your rehearsal for the Iron Man Triathlon...

The cool cake and even cooler cupcakes were courtesy Frosted Delight (@frosteddelight on Instagram).

The cake featured the poster of *Chandu Champion* with a pair of red boxing gloves forming the centrepiece, along with a cute figure resembling Kartik Aaryan's character in the film.

The cupcakes were all about Kartik's favourites — the soccer team Bayern Munich, a pair of hands gesturing like his famous character Rooh Baba does in the *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* films, his new car McLaren GT and, of course, the 'love of his life'... his pet pooch Katori!



Kareena Kapoor Khan



## t2 SPECIAL

**Kartik:** Yes, I think it was like *The Truman Show*... he recorded real situations and *wohi ho raha tha!*

**Pramita:** What was the most creatively fulfilling part?

**Kartik:** All the scenes were so beautifully written. I connected to them on some level or the other. Everyone can relate to this film in some way.

While working in this film, I felt immensely creatively satisfied. Kabir sir has the knack of shooting in a very real way. That closeness to reality even while being in the cinematic world is what we actors crave. I had fun doing those scenes where it was not about doing dialogue *baazi*, but was more about expressing one's internal feelings.

**Zeba:** Kabir, did you experience anything with Kartik as an actor that you haven't with anyone else before?

**Kabir:** It was a process of discovery for both of us because we had never worked together. We only knew each other socially and that too on a superficial level. When I wrote the film, I imagined Kartik in the role. A director has a strong gut instinct about the energy that you see in an actor.

I have never based my casting decisions on the kind of roles an actor has played before. I like to take actors and push them into a zone that they have not been in before. In my career, that has always worked... whether it has been John (Abraham) and Katrina (Kaif) in *New York* or Salman (Khan) in *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* or Ranveer



Kabir Khan during the t2 chat

**Kartik has always been known more for his youngish roles in romantic films and in comedies. In *Chandu Champion*, we took him into a very intense space. Yes, this film has entertainment and humour, but also some very dark spaces. That whole discovery, I think, was fabulous and something that I have not had with another actor — KABIR KHAN**

(Singh) in 83.

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**Priyanka:** Kartik, how did it feel

snipping off your hair? As Kabir said, that is an asset you are known for...

**Kartik:** Nothing (smiles). When I heard the narration from Kabir sir and the word 'army' popped up, I knew I would have to cut my hair (laughs). *Jaisi inhone 'army' bola, mujhe awaaz aane lagi scissors ki!*

**Kabir:** Now we are sitting back and talking a lot about his body transformation, but believe me, it was not easy. It was something that he had undertaken for the first time in his life. What we were asking from him meant a huge effort.

The whole process had to be calculated. There are various stages of his body in the film. There is a plump-ish Kartik, there is a leaner Kartik, there is a seven per cent

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body fat Kartik and there is an older Kartik. To hit those goals on time was not an easy task.

I would have many periods of doubt where I would ask: 'Kartik, *chaalis din bache hain*, are you going to make it or not?' And he would be like: 'Hoga, hoga'. And remember, this transformation has been done without steroids. But if he did use steroids, it wouldn't have worked for us because the kind of body he would have got would have been different. He is playing a real sportsman in the film and that kind of athleticism goes away with the use of steroids. One tends to develop an over-muscularity which we didn't want. But sometimes, I would tell him: 'Ek cycle (of steroids) *le le yaar*', but he refused. He said: 'Trust me sir, *ho jayega*.'

A lot of times we see these action films with these overly muscled heroes and you meet them six months later and ask: 'Where did it go?!' With this process (looks at a smiling Kartik), it is not going anywhere. Where he starts chomping down these cakes!

When you go through one-and-a-half years of that kind of workout, your mind changes. He is now addicted to the gym. Even if you pull him away, he is not going to come out!

**Priyanka:** Kartik, what was the least tasty food that you had to have at that point of time?

**Kartik:** It would have to be cauliflower because it is basically cauliflower and not rice! *Jab bolte hain toh lagta hain rice aaya hain*, but it is cauliflower with (protein) powder. It is mental cheating! (Laughs) But after a while I had to get used to it because either you eat that or you eat nothing!

**Piya:** Kartik, you recently shot in Calcutta for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. There were very few people who didn't see you biking around the city as Rooh Baba!

**Kartik:** Yes, we shot extensively on Howrah Bridge although a huge crowd had gathered there. I have always felt a certain love from Calcutta especially. The people here have always supported my films. Even in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, we had a Bengali connection, including the song *Aami je tomar: Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* is kind of based in Calcutta and hopefully, you will figure more and more things out as the months go by. It is a Diwali release so once again I will be back in Calcutta to tell everyone here: 'Please watch my film!' (Laughs)

**Priyanka:** Kartik, we can't let you go without asking you about your adorable pet Katori. How has having her changed your life? And it is such a cute name!

**Kartik:** I named her such because she was actually as small as a bowl, a *katori* when she came in. Katori has really changed my life. The whole atmosphere at home changes when a species like this arrives.

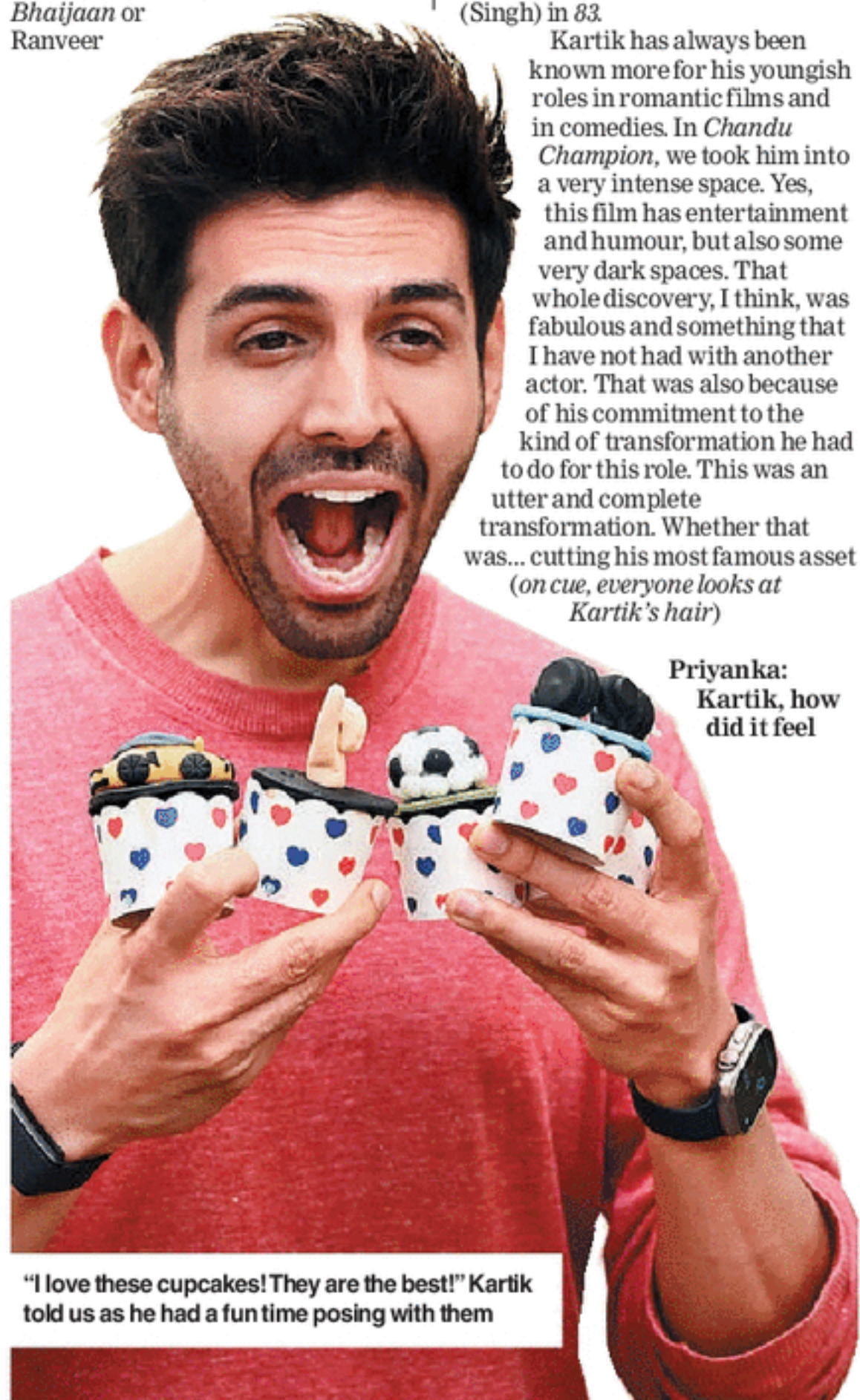
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(Laughs) She gets so excited when I get home. I was telling my mom the other day that I am scared that no one will ever love me as much as Katori does! (Laughs)

**Kabir:** Katori is obsessed with Kartik! We were shooting one day and he brought her to the studio. There was a scene where he had to climb high and shoot. Out of concern, she just kept barking and barking and barking!

**Kartik:** She understands when my car reaches home. Even if I am not in the car, she makes sure she goes to the door and waits for me.

*I am a Kartik Aaryan fan because... Tell t2@abp.in*  
Pictures: Pabitra Das



"I love these cupcakes! They are the best!" Kartik told us as he had a fun time posing with them



Kartik with Katori

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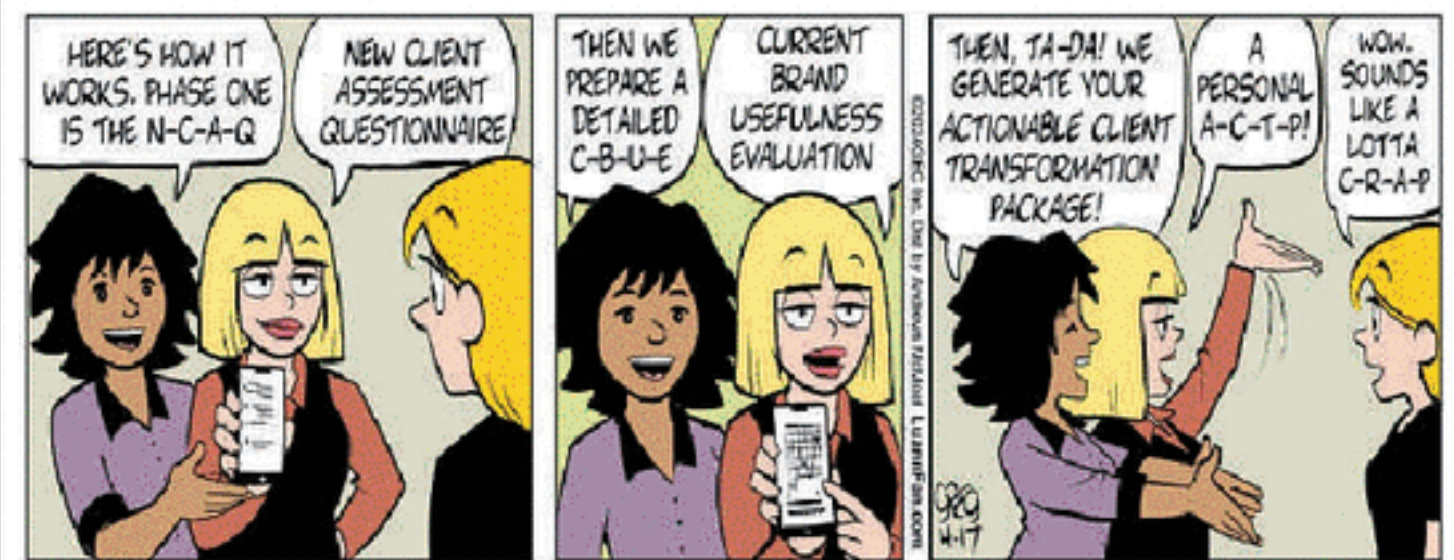
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## B.C. by Johny Hart



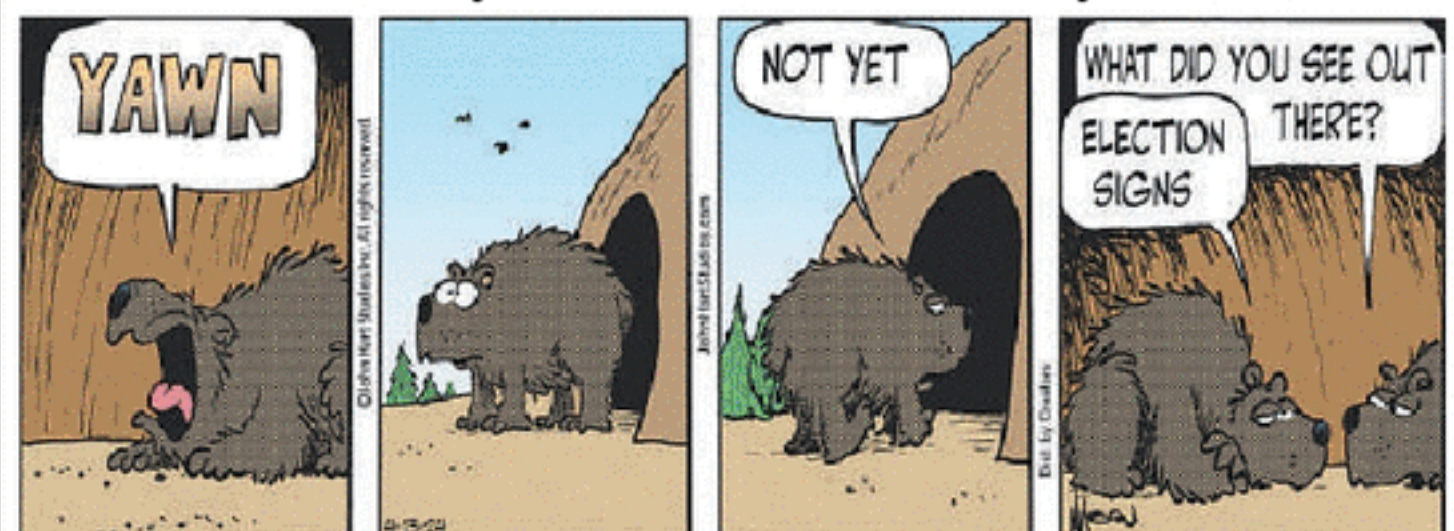
## Luann by Greg Evans



## Peanuts by Charles Schulz



## The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



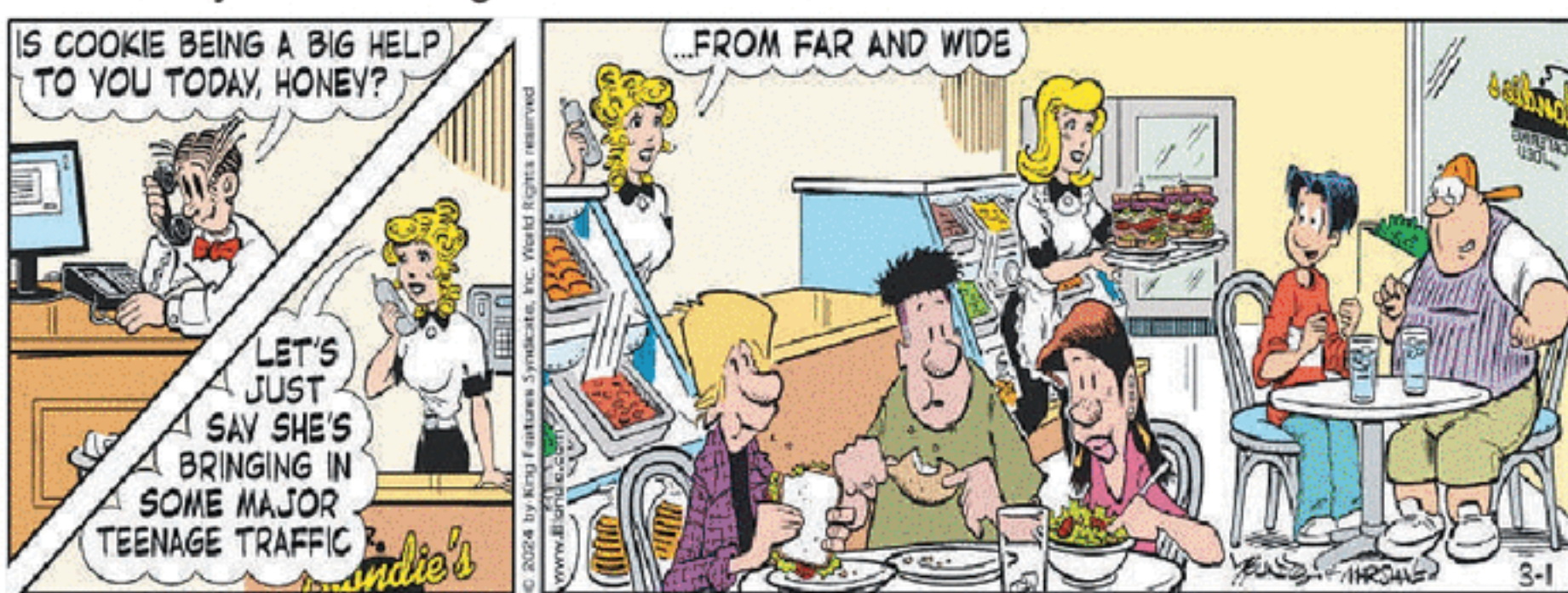
## Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



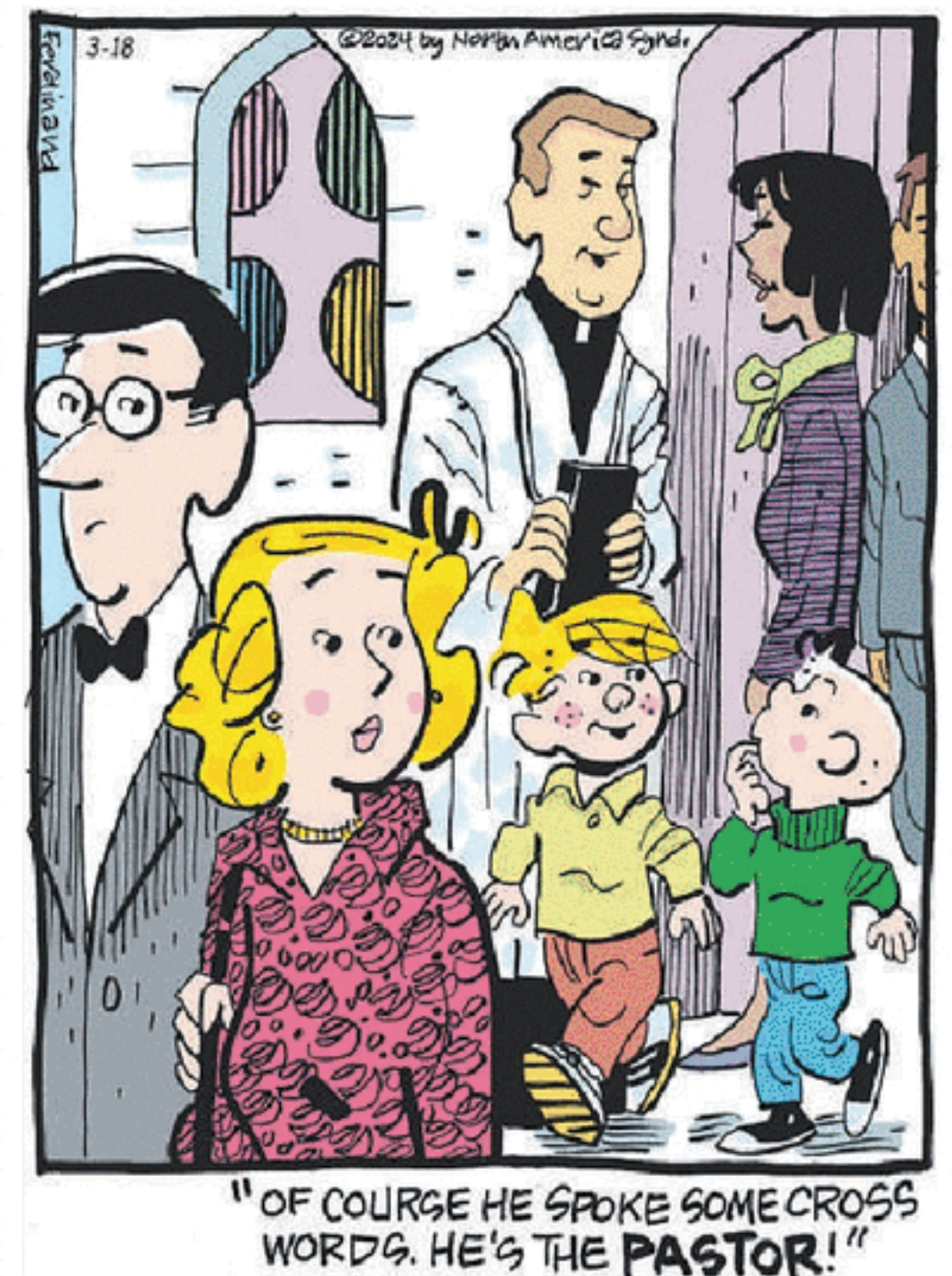
## Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



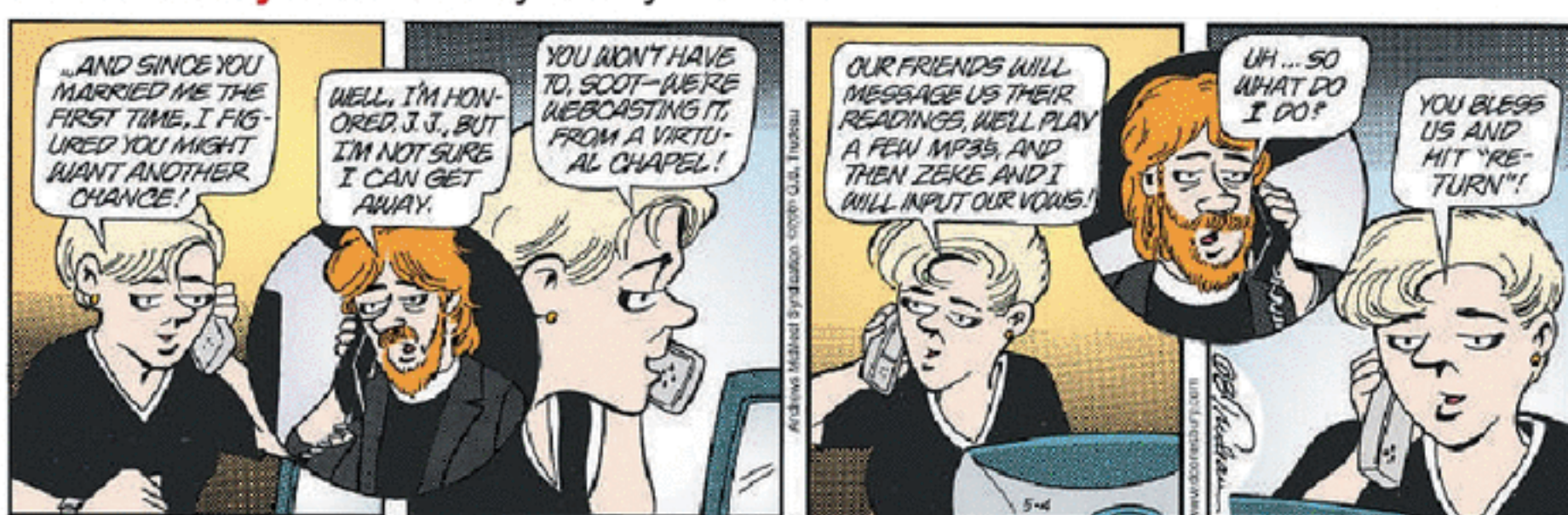
## Blondie by Dean Young



## Dennis the Menace



## Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau





11004

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

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 11002 is on the right

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

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11005

## SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

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

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 11003 is on the right

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

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14359

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10				11				
		12								13				
14														
15								16				17		
18						19		20						
21		22				23								
25										26				
27						28								

## ACROSS

- 1 Close to four, old boy elected to prepare vestry (6,4)  
 6 Benefit of luxurious hotel overlooked (4)  
 9 Historical object held by derelict (5)  
 10 Welsh chieftain's scowl accepting death (9)  
 12 Campaigns of British PM almost succeeded (7)  
 13 Winning group's surprise result (5)  
 15 Tool – second one missing from saddlebag (7)  
 16 Copy includes the Spanish name and rank (7)  
 18 Detailed batting strength (2-5)  
 20 Sweet children with her, surrounded by cheeky young boys? (7)  
 21 Sailor away, here and there (5)  
 23 Picks up supporters by end of pier (7)

- 25 Tries his cooking before wife produces a traditional dish (5,4)  
 26 Monk after large pack animal (5)  
 27 Number taking part in Pygmalion, in earnest (4)  
 28 Helper swam out to see sea creature (5,5)

## DOWN

- 1 Excellent artist, extremely reasonable (4)  
 2 Invoice committee for hoarding (9)  
 3 Top technician prepared something for an addict? (8,5)  
 4 Normal uniform (7)  
 5 Supervise across diocese (7)  
 7 Left sheep in East Sussex location (5)  
 8 Closely examine small vessel during holiday at sea (10)  
 11 Relative's hurting a lad, we suspect (8-2-3)  
 14 Hope to have most of jelly with helping (10)  
 17 Girl touring island, an American state (9)  
 19 Type of car difficult to park, at first (7)  
 20 London initially in dispute with Reykjavik leads to an international conflict (4,3)  
 22 It may bring tears to your eyes about India (cricket side) (5)  
 24 Loud, a church clock (4)

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## Yesterday's solution

MOPE	NOMAD	FURY
A R U A R A E		
GEOFFREYBOYCOTT		
D S S P N S I		
APACHE OBEDIENT		
L I M L M U		
ESCAPADE SHINER		
N N I T L A		
ERRAND BRACELET		
A L A T E I		
SINGULAR INTOTO		
M E I O O T N		
PERSONANONGRATA		
N I E E E R L		
OTIC ROTOR EDGE		

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## 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.

LATVE



MIGER



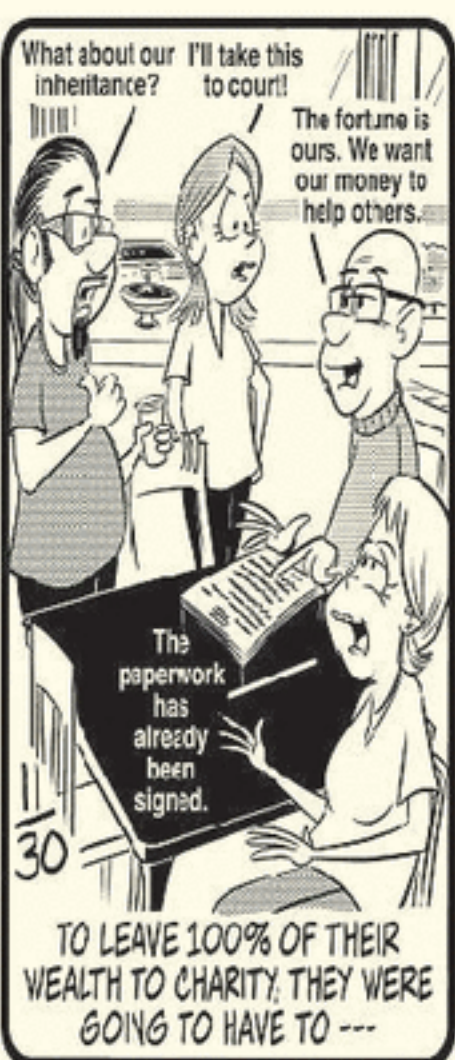
HLIRTL



GAUTOE



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TINGE EXILE PURITY JOSTLE  
 Answer: The owner of the small retail shop was worried about what was being built – NEXT "STORE"

14011

## 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												
26						27						28

## ACROSS

- 1 Needle's hole (3)  
 3 Biff; hosiery item (4)  
 5 Wharf (4)  
 8 Munitions (8)  
 10 Spoken (exam) (4)  
 11 Speak (3)  
 13 Item of property (5)  
 14 Shy (9)  
 16 Lyric poem (3)  
 17 Show agreement (3)

## DOWN

- 19 Bubbly (9)  
 21 Indian dish (5)  
 22 Edge, border (3)  
 24 Sound system (2-2)  
 25 Part (8)  
 26 Speed; step (4)  
 27 Oak, e.g. (4)  
 28 Female rabbit (3)

- 4 Chirping insect (6)  
 6 Violent revolt (8)  
 7 Christmas season (8)  
 9 Swift (5)  
 12 Control deviously (10)  
 14 Study group (8)  
 15 Marvellous (8)  
 18 Beginning (5)  
 20 Become visible (6)  
 22 Factory worker (4)  
 23 Lake; no more than (4)

## Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Simper; 4 Thighs; 7 Landowner; 9 Lion; 10 More; 11 Curio; 13 Madras; 14 Engine; 15 Crater; 17 Bishop; 19 Liver; 20 Boom; 22 Boil; 23 Recovered; 24 Esther; 25 Ladder.  
 Down: 1 Slalom; 2 Plan; 3 Radius; 4 Townie; 5 Item; 6 Serene; 7 Lord Mayor; 8 Robin Hood; 11 Camel; 12 On air; 15 Cobble; 16 Rigour; 17 Befell; 18 Pillar; 21 Mesh; 22 Bend.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph



## GLIMPSES FROM A STAR-STUDDED LUNCH AT GUCHHI, HYATT REGENCY KOLKATA

**I**t was an afternoon to remember. Firdausul Hasan and Hasnu Mukherjee hosted a lunch to foster deeper bonds between members of the executive committee of the Film Federation of India and people from the film industry of Bengal. The lunch at Guchhi, Hyatt Regency Kolkata, was a star-studded affair where guests mingled, shared stories, took a trip down memory lane and posed for the cameras, which captured their style and glamour. "Over my long years of association with films and having served in the main bodies related to this huge industry, in various positions, I realised that the business of movie making is largely about creativity and passion, so we cannot expect the people associated with it to function exactly like a corporate. Having served as the president and now the vice president of FFI, which is the apex body for films in our country, I felt that much is lost due to a lack of communication and interaction among all the people who are involved with this industry and are equally passionate about working for films. So when our executive committee meeting ended, I thought of spending some time doing fellowship activities over food and good music, which is so typical of us Bengalis! You see, not all official meetings happen in boardrooms! That is why I invited my friends from Tollywood, from the BFTCC and the executive committee of the Film Federation of India, so that they can get to know each other better and for a richer exchange of ideas. The result was a magical afternoon of making memories," said producer Firdausul Hasan, vice president, Film Federation of India. He was also the past president of Film Federation of India and the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce.

"Over the years that Hasan was the president of FFI, I got the opportunity of meeting the members of the executive committee quite often and I can't say exactly when they turned from acquaintances to friends. Soon we got to know one another better and started carrying our favourite food from our part of the country for our friends from the West or South or North. So just as our friends from the South brought Mysore Paak for us, we knew that our friends from the North liked Mishti Doi from Calcutta and soon it felt like one big family! We can say the same for our relationship with the members of BFTCC. We always met like a family. This time as the meetings got over and they were ready to return home, we wanted to treat them to an authentic *Robibar* Bangali lunch. Of course, we wanted them all to meet the stars of the Bengal film industry and were lucky to find most of them free that Sunday. And what is better than *adda* over *luchi-mangsho*. We are so happy that Bumbada was there with us. I feel that it is easy to take forward any work professionally once we get to interact with one another in a relaxed ambience... that was the thought behind hosting the little gathering and it went beautifully. May we continue to move forward together, make more and better films and continue to create such memories with our friends," said Hasnu.



Churni and Kaushik Ganguly



Hasnu Mukherjee and Firdausul Hasan



Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury



Rituparna Sengupta and Prosenjit



Shukla and Arindam Sil



Soham



Bratya Basu



Anik Datta





Gargee Roychowdhury  
and Srijit Mukherji



Arijit Dutta, Arindam Sil, Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, Bickram Ghosh and Firdausul Hasan

Arindam Chatterjee  
Pictures: Pabitra Das




Ravi Kottarakara, president,  
Film Federation of India



Anjan Bose



Tnusree C and Chaiti Ghoshal



IT FEELS SO GOOD IN ANY

mooD


Doughnut  
MOOD MATCH

7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024


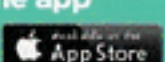
Cheerful. Sad. Naughty. Whatever is the mood, a bite of doughnut always brings a smile to your face, isn't it?

This World Doughnut Day, visit [t2ONLINE.in](http://t2ONLINE.in) and play a fun game based on doughnuts. Winners' names will be featured in t2.

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For your music-loving dad, nothing would be a better gift than this pair of earbuds. Active noise cancellation and up to 70 hours play time make these a great choice any day. Rs1,299 @gonoise.com



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Debanjoli Nandi

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