

Wednesday  
19 June 2024

The Telegraph

t2

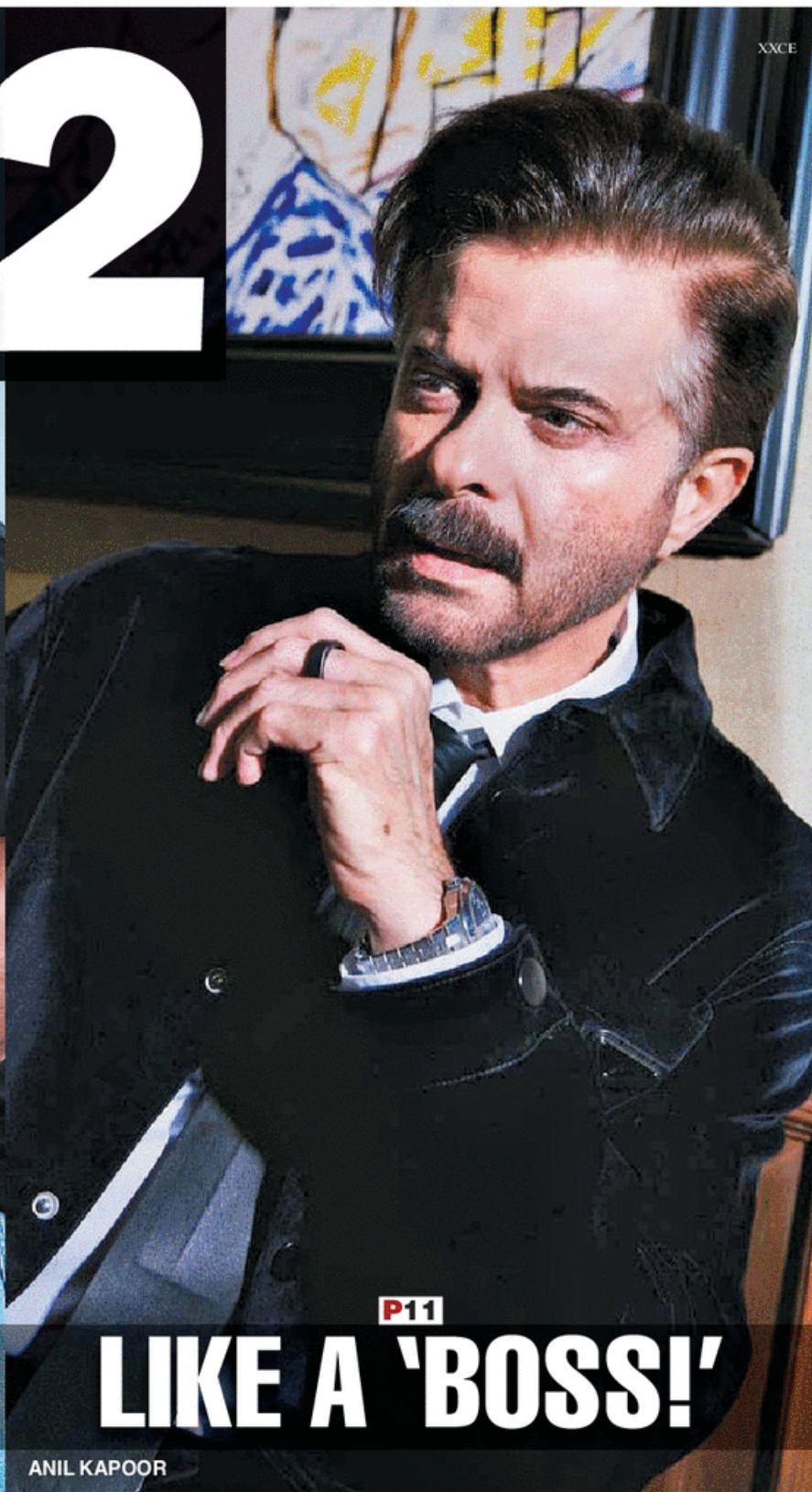
XXCE



P10

PAST CONTINUOUS

AJOGYO



P11

LIKE A 'BOSS!'

ANIL KAPOOR

● B'DAY, WATCHIT 2 ● TECH, WHATSUP, MUSIC 4,5,7,14,16 ● NEW LOOK, CELEBRATING DAD 6,12  
● FASHION TREND, YOUR FRAMES 13,15 ● TEAM t2'S WEEK, PRIDE SHOW 17 ● MANGO FEST, YOUR FAVES 18,19



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SALMAN RUSHDIE, PAULA ABDUL,  
DIVYENNDU SHARMA

This year, focus on yourself, find gratitude for what you already have and open yourself up to the opportunities all around you. You can receive an unexpected financial windfall such as an inheritance or lump sum of money. If you are single, a new love will come into your life this year.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: RAHUL GANDHI, MACKLEMORE, AIDAN TURNER, ZOE SALDANA, KAJAL AGGARWAL, BRIAN MCBRIDE, MATEUS GALIANO DA COSTA

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



### ARIES

**DO** be receptive to the wisdom and guidance you get  
**DON'T** have feelings of guilt and shame  
**EXPECT** a mentor to guide you to the right decision



### TAURUS

**DO** enjoy the finer things of life  
**DON'T** be stubborn  
**EXPECT** to see things through to the end and be proud of your achievements



### GEMINI

**DO** keep your temper under control  
**DON'T** get into an unnecessary argument  
**EXPECT** to hammer out new ideas with your team



### CANCER

**DO** take some time off and enjoy life's pleasures  
**DON'T** be a workaholic  
**EXPECT** an overseas trip to come up



### LEO

**DO** work methodically towards something you want  
**DON'T** procrastinate  
**EXPECT** rewards or the accomplishment of your goals



### VIRGO

**DO** weigh the pros and cons of the matter and how you can come to an agreement  
**DON'T** avoid a painful decision  
**EXPECT** to face your fears



### LIBRA

**DO** be methodical in your work  
**DON'T** be stern  
**EXPECT** to follow a fitness routine



### SCORPIO

**DO** learn your karmic lessons from your situation  
**DON'T** fight with circumstances  
**EXPECT** to value honesty and integrity in others



### SAGITTARIUS

**DO** begin new friendships and socialise  
**DON'T** get emotional  
**EXPECT** to feel happy, positive and good about yourself



### CAPRICORN

**DO** look forward to a happy event  
**DON'T** pay heed to rumours  
**EXPECT** someone from your past to come back into your life



### AQUARIUS

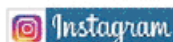
**DO** be patient, let situations play out before you act  
**DON'T** jump into things without researching them  
**EXPECT** to feel positive and energetic



### PISCES

**DO** be positive and move on  
**DON'T** dwell on negative aspects of life  
**EXPECT** to walk away from people or situations in your life

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



## SUMMER STORIES



Sunshine and love. Uploaded by @officialraveenatandon (Raveena Tandon)



Uploaded by @ranveersingh (Ranveer Singh)



It's 9pm .. the setting Sun .. how beautiful it is .. Uploaded by @souravganguly (Sourav Ganguly)



Summer heat has nothing on this. Uploaded by @nargisfakhri (Nargis Fakhri)

## WATCHIT!



Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin return as zombie slayers Columbus, Tallahassee, Wichita and Little Rock, who now face more evolved and virtually indestructible zombies in this sequel.

**Zombieland: Double Tap**; STAR Movies, 9pm

### ENGLISH

#### MOVIES OF THE DAY

**The Unholy**: Sony Pix, 1.05pm  
**Avatar, The Way of Water**: STAR Movies, 2pm  
**The Adventurers**: STAR Movies Select HD, 2pm  
**Meeting Evil**: &Prime HD, 2.25pm  
**Gran Turismo**: Sony Pix, 2.50pm  
**Train To Busan**: STAR Movies Select HD, 3.45pm  
**Shark Island**: STAR Movies Select HD, 5.45pm  
**Black Panther**: STAR Movies, 6.45pm  
**John Wick, Chapter 2**: Sony Pix, 6.50pm  
**Fall**: STAR Movies Select HD, 7pm  
**Zombieland, Double Tap**: STAR Movies, 9pm  
**Chinese Zodiac**: STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm  
**Monster Hunter**: Sony Pix, 9pm  
**JFK Revisited, Through the Looking Glass**: &Prime HD, 9pm  
**Kong, Skull Island**: STAR Movies,

10.30pm  
**Ready Player One**: Sony Pix, 10.45pm  
**Master Z, Ip Man Legacy**: STAR Movies Select HD, 11pm

#### SHOWSTOPPERS

**Battlebots**: Zee Cafe, 5pm  
**Transplant**: Colors Infinity, 7pm  
**Community**: Zee Cafe, 7pm  
**Shark Tank**: Colors Infinity, 8pm  
**Brooklyn Nine-Nine**: Comedy Central, 8pm  
**Fantasy Island**: Colors Infinity, 9pm  
**Young Rock**: Comedy Central, 9pm  
**Line of Duty**: Colors Infinity, 10pm  
**Nathan For You**: Comedy Central, 10pm  
**Dance With Me**: Zee Cafe, 10pm  
**Better Call Saul**: Colors Infinity, 11pm  
**The Drew Barrymore Show**: Zee Cafe, 11pm

### BENGALI

#### MOVIES OF THE DAY

**Mon Mane Na**: Jalsha Movies, noon

**Dev I Love You**: Zee Bangla Cinema, noon  
**Awara**: Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm  
**Pratisodh**: Zee Bangla Cinema, 2.25pm  
**S/O Satyamurthy**: Jalsha Movies, 3pm  
**Thikana Rajpath**: Aakash Aath, 3.05pm  
**Nayak - The Real Hero**: Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm  
**Sultan The Saviour**: Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.05pm  
**Anyay Abichar**: Jalsha Movies, 6pm  
**Khoka 420**: Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm  
**Chowdhury Paribar**: Zee Bangla Cinema, 7.55pm  
**Shudhu Tomari Jonyo**: Jalsha Movies, 9.10pm  
**Dada Thakur**: Colors Bangla Cinema, 9.30pm  
**Jai Kali Kalkattawali**: Zee Bangla Cinema, 11.25pm

### SPORT

**India Women vs South Africa Women, 2nd ODI** - live from Bengaluru: Sports18 1 & 1 HD, 1.20pm  
**ATP 500, Terra Wortmann Open** - live: EuroSport, 3.30pm  
**UEFA EURO, Croatia vs Albania** - live: Sony TEN 2, 6.30pm  
**ICC Men's T20 World Cup, USA vs South Africa** - live: STAR Sports 1, 1 HD, 2 HD, Hindi 1 & Hindi 1 HD, 7.50pm  
**ATP 500, Cinch Championships** - live: EuroSport, 8pm  
**UEFA EURO, Germany vs Hungary** - live: Sony TEN 2, 9.30pm  
**UEFA EURO, Scotland vs Switzerland** - live: Sony TEN 2, 12.30am  
**AEW Dynamite** - live: EuroSport, 5.30am  
**ICC Men's T20 World Cup, England vs West Indies** - live: STAR Sports 1, 1 HD, 2 HD, Hindi 1 & Hindi 1 HD, 5.50am

## BIG SCREEN

### ENGLISH

**BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (A)**: Inox Quest (noon\*), Inox South City (4.50\*)

**INSIDE OUT 2 (U)**: Inox Quest (10.10, 3.20, 6.20, 8.35, 10.50), Inox South City (9.10\*, noon\*, 2.30\*, 7.50\*, 10.10\*), Inox Forum (9.20, 2.30, 7.40), Inox Salt Lake (9, 11.10, 4.15, 9.05), Inox Rajarhat (11.45, 10.15), Inox Metro (9.40, 5.30), Inox Hind (11.45, 7.30), InoxHiland (10.40, 5.25, 10.15), InoxSwabhum (9, 2.10), PVR Avani (8pm), PVR Mani Square (9.45, 12.35, 3.10, 8.35), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.45, 8.35, 10.50), PVR Uniworld Downtown (3.10), RDB Cinemas (9.20pm)

**THE WATCHERS (A)**: Inox Quest (4.15\*, 9.40\*), Inox South City (1\*, 9.55), PVR Mani Square (3.45, 10.50)

### HINDI

**CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A)**: Inox Quest (10.05\*, 1.15\*, 3.05\*, 4.30\*, 6.15\*, 7.35\*, 9.25\*, 10.45\*), Inox South City (9, 10.05\*, 1.15\*, 3.30\*, 4.25\*, 7.35\*, 9.30\*, 10.45\*), Inox Forum (9.05\*, 12.15\*, 3.25\*, 6.35\*, 9.45\*), Inox Salt Lake (10.05, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 9.55, 10.45), InoxRajarhat (10.05, 11, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 10.45), Inox Metro (10.05, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 10.45), Inox Hind (9.05, 12.15, 3.25, 6.35, 9.45), J noxHiland (9, 10, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 9.50, 10.40), InoxSwabhum (9.05, 10.20, 12.15, 3.25, 4.25, 6.35, 9.45, 10.40), PVR Avani (9, 10.05, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 10.45), PVR Mani Square (10.05, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 10.45), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 10.55, 2, 5.05, 8.10, 9.45, 11.15), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10, 12.05, 1.40, 5.25, 7.35, 10.45), RDB Cinemas (9.30, 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30), Nazrulitirha (11.30, 2.15, 5, 7.45)



### CHANDU CHAMPION

**INSIDE OUT 2 (U)**: InoxRajarhat (9.30, 5.15), InoxHiland (noon), InoxSwabhum (noon, 7.45), PVR Avani (10.20, 12.35, 2.50), PVR Uniworld Downtown (9.50, 8.30), RDB Cinemas (9.45, 2.10)

**MR & MRS MAHI (U)**: Inox Quest (10.25\*, noon\*, 6.40\*), Inox South City (10.15, 4, 10.55), Inox Salt Lake (1.20, 11.15), InoxRajarhat (1pm), InoxHiland (1pm), InoxSwabhum (7.35, 10), PVR Avani (12.10, 10.15), PVR Mani Square (5.25), PVR Diamond Plaza (noon), PVR Uniworld Downtown (1.50, 10.40), RDB Cinemas (10.35am)

**MUNJYA (U/A)**: Inox Quest (9.15, 1.30\*, 2.40, 5.25, 8.10, 10.55), Inox South City (10\*, noon, 2.40, 6.40\*, 10.40), Inox Forum (10.45, 1.30, 4.15, 7, 9.45), Inox Salt Lake (9.15, 11.30, 5.25, 8.10, 10.55), InoxRajarhat (10.15, 4, 7.30, 9.55), Inox Metro (11.55, 2.40, 7.50, 10.40), Inox Hind (9, 2, 4.45, 9.45), InoxHiland (10.25, 1.10, 6.55, 10.15), Inox Swabhum (10.15, 1.05, 3.35, 6.45, 9.35), PVR Avani (9, 11.45, 2.30, 8, 10.45), PVR Mani Square (9, 11.45, 5.40, 8.25, 11.10), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.25, 12.10, 2.55, 5.40, 8.25, 11.10), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10.55, 4.45,

7.30, 10.15), RDB Cinemas (11.45, 4.10, 10), Nazrulitirha (6.45, 9)

**SRIKANTH (U)**: Inox Quest (12.30), Inox South City (10.20am), InoxSwabhum (1.25), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.30am)

### BENGALI

**AJOGYA (U/A)**: Inox South City (1.15, 5.20, 8), Inox Salt Lake (2.45, 6.25), InoxRajarhat (2, 7.30), InoxHiland (4, 7.35), PVR Avani (5.15), PVR Mani Square (1pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (3.45, 5.25), PVR Uniworld Downtown (4.50), RDB Cinemas (4.20), Nazrulitirha (6pm)

**ATHHOI (A)**: Inox Quest (7.25pm), Inox South City (1.10, 4.25, 7.40), Inox Salt Lake (3.15, 6.35), InoxRajarhat (2, 6.40, 10.15), InoxHiland (2.10, 6.50), InoxSwabhum (4.25), PVR Avani (3.10, 6.30, 9.50), PVR Mani Square (6.10), PVR Diamond Plaza (1.15, 4.30, 7.45), RDB Cinemas (1.20, 6.50), Nazrulitirha (noon, 3)

**BOOMERANG (U/A)**: Inox South City (7pm), InoxRajarhat (4.40), InoxHiland (4pm), PVR Avani (5.05), PVR Diamond Plaza (6.55), RDB Cinemas (6.40)

**ETA AMADER GOLPO (U)**: Nazrulitirha (8.20pm)





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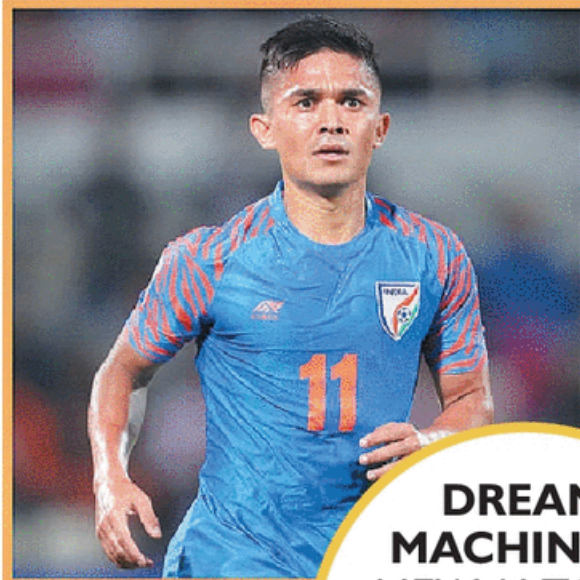
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Using Luma AI, you can make Sunil Chhetri run, the 'Success Kid' in the popular meme explore the beach and Winston Churchill go on a walk. All from still photographs

## DREAM MACHINE, A NEW AI TOOL, MAKES VIDEO GENERATION EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Remember the 'Success Kid' meme from 2007? Yes, the one with a baby clenching a fistful of sand. What about making the baby run? It is possible to make it happen using Dream Machine, a new AI system from Luma AI.

The tool is open to everyone but the output is limited to a few seconds for free users. For example, upload a photograph of Winston Churchill standing and then use keywords like: "Make the man walk with a gentle pace." The tool takes a few minutes to create a short video of Churchill taking a stroll.

There is an alternate way of coming up with videos: Enter a descriptive prompt, like: "Make a cat jump around the room while chasing a ball." The prompt is enough to generate a five-second video clip matching the scene. The rendition is more or less faithful to the prompt and there is some level of fluid motion. While creating the video for the 'Success Kid', we didn't mention that he should be seen around the sea but the AI bot understood the background and made sure there is storytelling involved.

### LUMA AI IS NOT THE ONLY ONE

There are a number of rivals to the generative chatbot from Luma AI, like OpenAI's Sora and Kuaishou's Kling.

Sora is not available to the general public but it is already being used by a select group of

**The problem with AI-generated video and photographs remains unsolved — IP-related lawsuits if the vendor trained on public data, including copyrighted data from the web**

filmmakers. In the latest edition of Tribeca Film Festival, five short films (by Bonnie Discepolo, Ellie Foubi, Nikyatu Jusu, Reza Sixo Safai and Michaela Ternasky-Holland) were screened that were made using Sora, a text-to-video artificial intelligence model.

Luma AI previously released an app that helps one shoot 3D photos with the iPhone. To activate the free tier of the company's latest tool, all that one needs to do is log in using a Google account. The clips it produces are five seconds long and in 1360x752 resolution. (We suggest you use an email ID that doesn't contain personal or official emails.)

The race to offer high-quality videos using text prompts is on, prompting concern. Earlier this week, Runway, a company building generative AI tools geared toward film and image content creators, unveiled Gen-3 Alpha.

Available soon for Runway subscribers, the company said in a blog post: "Gen-3 Alpha excels at generating expressive human characters with a wide range of actions, gestures and emotions. It was designed to interpret a wide range of styles

and cinematic terminology [and enable] imaginative transitions and precise key-framing of elements in the scene." The limitation of the chatbot at the moment is that its footage is limited to 10 seconds.

Recently, Google showcased its new tool, Veo, at its recent I/O developers conference. Filmmaker Donald Glover was present to showcase the tool. But the big name that many are looking forward to is

Sora, which needs to compete with Runway, Pika and Stability AI.

Also on the horizon is Adobe and its generative AI video model for its Firefly family that will bring new tools to its Premiere Pro video editing platform. The company enjoys an advantage over competitors — it is building its own Firefly models into its software ecosystem that is already used by professional content creators.

### CONTROVERSIES AND CONCERNS

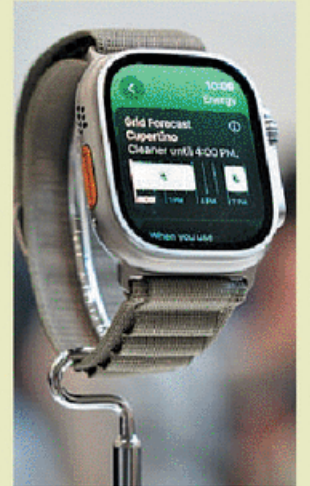
The problem with AI-generated video and photographs remains unsolved — IP-related lawsuits if the vendor trained on public data, including copyrighted data from the web. There are several lawsuits being filed across the globe around vendors' fair use training data defenses, arguing that generative AI tools replicate artists' styles without the artists' permission.

AI-generated videos can fuel disinformation. Last year, fake AI photos of former US president Donald Trump running from police went viral. Now, what if these photos are brought to life using video AI tools? It's not difficult to imagine lifelike fake videos turning up on social media to erode public trust in political leaders and the media.

Apple recently announced its AI plans with Apple Intelligence but the company wants to restrict itself to tools that help users rather than create fake videos or photos.

Mathures Paul

## TDK COMES UP WITH BATTERY BREAKTHROUGH FOR WEARABLE DEVICES



Japanese electronic parts maker TDK's battery technology breakthrough may help gadgets like the Apple Watch. Picture: Getty Images

Japanese electronic parts maker TDK has announced that it has made a breakthrough in materials used in its small solid-state batteries. The Apple supplier hopes there will be significant performance increases for devices from wireless headphones to smartwatches.

The Tokyo-based company said the material for its small solid-state batteries had an estimated energy density of 1,000 Watt hours per litre, which is around 100 times greater than the energy density of TDK's conventional mass-produced solid-state battery.

A lot of research is going into solid-state batteries as these can store more energy than lithium-ion batteries and charge faster. According to CNBC, the batteries are expected to be produced with an all-ceramic material, with oxide-based solid electrolyte and lithium alloy anodes. Further, solid-state batteries are safer, cheaper and offer longer performance and faster charging.

The company said its objective is to use its technology to replace existing coin cell batteries, a small stainless steel disc that offers power to portable devices, in compliance with European Union battery regulations.

TDK, which was founded in 1935, became a household name as a top cassette tape brand in the 1960s and 1970s. It has 50 to 60 per cent global market share in the small-capacity batteries that power smartphones. First, new battery prototypes will be shipped to its clients next year and, hopefully, mass production will begin soon after that.

Mathures Paul

## REMEMBERING REMO SARACENI, THE CREATOR OF THE 'WALKING PIANO' FROM BIG

What's your favourite scene from the Tom Hanks film *Big*? It probably involves Hanks and Robert Loggia dancing on a giant piano (called the Walking Piano), created by Remo Saraceni. The sculptor, toy inventor and technological fantasist passed away in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. He was 89.

At the time of its release in 1988, *Big* was the fourth film in eight months to have a plot around body-switching (following *Like Father Like Son*, *Vice Versa* and *18 Again!*) but the Penny Marshall-directed film ended up making over \$150 million worldwide and is now considered a classic.

In the film, a 12-year-old Josh Baskin (Hanks) wishes before a magical Zoltar fortunetelling machine to be transformed into an adult. The wish is fulfilled and he finds a job at a toy company whose owner, Mac (Robert Loggia), is



Robert Loggia and Tom Hanks dancing on the giant piano — created by Remo Saraceni — in the film *Big*. Picture: 20th Century Fox

pleasantly surprised by the fresh ideas Josh brings in. Ultimately, Josh impresses Mac dancing on the 16-foot-long Walking Piano, created by Saraceni. The two of them do a rendition of *Chopsticks*.

Born in Fossacesia, Italy, in 1935, the inventor spent his early years at a home with limited

Remo Saraceni called his inventions "interactive electronics". Picture: Remo Saraceni



cushion. But the relationship changed in 2016. Saraceni wanted to return to his native Italy but he was embroiled in a yearslong trademark infringement battle over his creation.

Mathures Paul



# WHATSUP

## DOCTOR DIVAS OF THE DNSK GROUP DONNED PHULIA TANGAIL TO CELEBRATE THE GI TAG OF THE BENGAL WEAVE



"The members of Doctors and Sarees Group Kolkata are deeply rooted in our roots apart from being passionate about the six yards of elegance. We are rightfully proud of the GI tag received by Phulia Tangail saris of Bengal, which are so much alluring in their intricate floral design than the more geometrical Bangladesh variants," said Dr Rupali Basu, chairperson of DNSK, as she flaunted her sari.

**D**octor divas immersed in their special love for saris, and for Bengal, to celebrate the GI tag bestowed on the Phulia Tangail of Nadia district earlier this year, by donning white and off-white variants of the yards at a meeting of the Doctor and Sarees Group Kolkata recently.

Christened Baisakhi Ushaa, the event was set in a homely environment at a city star address with natural jute covers on a *chauki* to seat the 40-odd participants and a jute photo backdrop with *kulo* around the DNS logo. The doctors sat around an artistic floral installation made of cork.

The event held just prior to Rabindra Jayanti, saw a lot of enthusiastic discourse among the participants on Bengali culture and literature. The doctors sang Tagore's songs, recited his poems and danced together to Rabindrasangeet. The divas also participated in a fashion walk. Glimpses.



The doctors danced to the tunes of Rabindrasangeet.



An *aatpoure* drape goes well with the rustic backdrop.

A free-flowing move by the doctor divas on the ramp during the fashion show.



The large group of doctors in white saris posed together for a groupie.

Pictures courtesy: DNSK Group



Two doctors strike a pose during the fashion show.



## MUSIC

### IP SINGH TALKS ABOUT EXPRESSING THE SPIRIT OF CHANDU CHAMPION IN THE TITLE SONG WITH ITS SIMPLE LYRICS



IP Singh

**F**resh from the success of *Crew*'s music that saw divas Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Kriti Sanon break into a shimmy, IP Singh delivers a power-packed punch to the title song of the recently-released Kartik Aaryan-headlined *Chandu Champion*. With simple lyrics, Singh makes the song impactful, resonating with the true spirit of the Paralympic gold medallist Murlikant Petkar essayed in the Kabir Khan-directed biographical drama. A t2 interview with the composer-musician.

While your last project was more about nostalgia and recreating old hits in *Crew*, *Chandu Champion* is a different film altogether. How does it feel being part of a biopic by Kabir Khan? When I came to Mumbai I realised that it's not the amount of work you do that matters rather the people that you

work with. In that sense I feel I am quite lucky that I have had the chance to work with one of the biggest directors like Rajkumar Hirani, in the past. *Chandu Champion* is equally important for being a Kabir Khan film. Also, Pritam *da* trusted me with the project. I got a lot of encouragement and trust from Kabir sir as well.

**What was the vision of Kabir Khan and Pritam for the song and how did you work on it?**

Pritam *da*'s brief was to make an energetic song that would define the tone of the film. From Kabir sir the brief was that although it will be a big song there needs to be simplicity in it. So he advised me to use simple words to convey feelings and emotions, with which people can quickly connect with. So through simple words, I have tried to convey big things and I think it has come out really well.

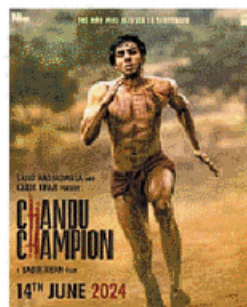
**Often creating something simple is a complex task. Tell us how you managed to work on this simple element for the song?** I always remain in that zone. When you sit and try to tell yourself that I want to make something special then there's a

lot of pressure that overpowers you. But when you want simple things, the work becomes a lot easier. Simple things come very naturally to me. I also enjoy that. Also, I personally

believe that it's important to say things in simple words, rather than making it complex. However, I think it was a challenge to make it suit the film and the tune so that everyone would like it including people who are part of the song.

**How did you channelise the energy and spirit of Murlikant Petkar in the song? Who was your inspiration?**

If you look at the story, it's an incredible one. Many people achieve one thing and then a film is made on that. However, here his success is not just restricted to one thing or event. He has made the country proud not once but twice and that itself gives one big inspiration to work hard. So lyrics like *Sher ki chaal chal raha, banke to aag jal raha...* came in very naturally to me. I loved Pritam *da*'s music and got inspiration from there as well. The entire process was like writing for Arjun, the character from the *Mahabharata*.



The poster of *Chandu Champion*

**Take us through your influences when it comes to writing lyrics.** There are many. I have been an ardent fan of Sahir Ludhianvi *sahab*. Among contemporary talents, I am a fanboy of Amitabh Bhattacharya. I have met him a few times but only as a fanboy. He has given a new direction to films by using contemporary words and simplifying orthodox language. I admire his writing style. I remember when his song *Emotional Atyachaar* was released it blew me to think how effortlessly he included an English word in the song and Indianised it so much so that it's part of our lingo. I have learnt a lot from him.

**What's next?**

In terms of writing lyrics, I take a project when people trust me with it. Otherwise, as Akshay and IP, we are working on a lot of projects for films and OTT platforms. Since we also work with fashion designers for their music, there are some exciting things coming up there as well, apart from our original numbers. Also, after the success of *Crew* people are showing more interest in working with us and that is keeping us more excited.

Farah Khatoun



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## CAFE ICANFLYY IS NOW ICANFLYY TEA KAFI AND t2 GETS YOU THE REVAMPED LOOK

**C**afe ICanFly, known for its bright interiors and service with happy smiles, has been reborn in a fresh new avatar, with a new name for itself — ICanFly Tea Kafi

Tea Kafi. With a stunning transformation under the guidance of founder Minu Budhia, this 50-seater cafe, with its indoor and outdoor seating, promises happy times ahead for its patrons. ICanFly Tea Kafi offers

new delights on its menu. Whether you're craving cool drinks to quench your thirst, delicious bites to satisfy your cravings, or a welcoming atmosphere to escape the heat, ICanFly Tea Kafi beckons.

**What:** ICanFly Tea Kafi  
**Where:** 4B, Valmikee Street, ground floor, near Maddox Square  
**Timings:** Tuesday-Sunday 12.30pm–9.30pm. Mondays closed  
**Pocket pinch:** ₹ 950 for two



The interiors of the cafe have an elegant European vibe with calming whites and splashes of soothing pastels. The red entrance door area retains the quirky decor and colourful aesthetics of the original look. This dual atmosphere with a harmonious contrast gives you the best of both worlds in one place. Depending on your mood or company, choose the vibrant colourful area for a lively *adda*, special occasion celebrations, or playtime with little ones and the soft and serene section for special date nights, afternoon me-time with a book, or a leisurely brunch with family.



Now you can bring your adorable pets and hang out with them in the outdoor area of the cafe. The cafe has also hosted pawsome workshops — Paint With Kittens and Paint with Puppies.



If you love to sing your heart out, solo or with your gang, check out the cool karaoke corner with quirky posters.



A beautiful and quaint cart sits pretty at the entrance of the cafe, filled with craft goodies handmade with love by the students of ICanFly International School. These goodies for sale include gift bags, bookmarks, envelopes, laptop covers, and more.



(L-R) Minu Budhia with daughters Prachi and Preeyam. Founder Minu and co-founder Preeyam said: "We are excited to unveil the refreshed new look and new menu. Our new ambience has been designed to whisk you away to a refreshing sanctuary, offering solace from the scorching summer heat. The moment you step in, you'll be transported into a world where the worries of the day melt away, replaced by the tantalising aromas of freshly brewed tea and coffee. In curating our menu, we drew inspiration from the vibrant tapestry of Calcutta itself, infusing traditional and favourite recipes with a modern twist and seasonal ingredients that capture the essence of summer. Our new décor features a palette of cool, calming colours designed to create a serene oasis away from the summer heat. Imagine yourself lounging in our cosy seating areas, surrounded by lush indoor plants and refreshing accents. Our new design incorporates natural elements, from wooden furniture to soft lighting, creating an atmosphere that is both modern and welcoming. The new look features a blend of modern aesthetics and a relaxed ambience, creating the perfect setting for you to unwind and enjoy your favourite brews. From cosy seating areas to vibrant greenery, every corner of our café is designed to elevate your dining experience."



A timeless classic, the English Mustard Egg Sandwich has a creamy egg filling with the sharpness of English mustard. It's perfect for a quick lunch or a light snack.



Sticky Baus are fluffy, cloud-like housemade steamed buns that cradle a tantalising filling of savoury chicken or flavorful vegetarian delight.



Classic prawn fritters with a delightful crunch, encasing juicy, tender prawns in a golden, crispy batter. A perfect starter, the Prawn Torpedos bring a touch of summer seaside magic to your table.



Indulge in pure decadence with their special Ferrero Rocher Cake, which is ideal for celebrations or a treat-yourself moment. This one-pound cake has rich layers of chocolate sponge with a creamy and velvety Nutella hazelnut ganache slathered in between. Crunchy hazelnut praline adds texture while the all-time favourite Ferrero Rocher chocolates are the cherry on the top.



A street food lover? Get the same authentic taste in hygienic conditions. Think tangy puchkas with chatpata potato filling and a unique aam panna paani.



Sip on the taste of summer with the Mango Iced Tea, which is a perfect balance of fruity and refreshing, to quench your thirst on a hot day. It's a refreshingly cool black liquor tea infused with the luscious sweetness of Alphonso mango pulp, served over ice.



Transport yourself to a tropical paradise with the Mango Mojito. Freshly muddled mint leaves, tangy lime juice and the exotic sweetness of ripe Alphonso mangoes, topped with fizzy soda water and served over ice.

**Rohini Chakraborty**  
Pictures: ICanFly Tea Kafi



## FASHION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
AZA KOLKATA  
LUXURY SALE,  
WITH t2

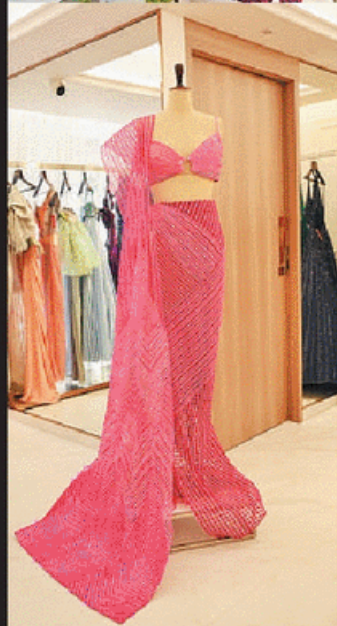
**A**za Kolkata Luxury Sale, in association with t2, was a two-week exhibition held at the Aza Fashions store on Lee Road from June 6. The exhibition showcased a curated collection of menswear and womenswear from a multitude of Indian designers. The exhibition catered to all

with choices of traditional as well as contemporary outfits, emphasising the latest trends in its designs. Though a major highlight of the exhibition was the occasionwear sections, patrons also had a choice to pick from the display of formal, party and semi-casual sections as well. Highlights:



Aza Fashion Sale Exhibition displayed an eclectic curation of styles ranging from Western and Indo-Western to Indian ethnic wear.

In traditional celebratory colours like red and yellow, this section displayed Indian wear outfits like suits and lehngas from labels like Surbhi Shah and Aisha Rao, designed on organza with *gota-patti* and floral threadwork highlights.



The pastel section in the exhibition showcased shades like peach, pink, mint, icy blue and lavender, mostly designed in Indian and Indo-Western silhouettes, apt as occasionwear. This mint green outfit from December was a highlight display, designed with beadwork and *cutdana* all over.



Another highlight in the pastel palette section was this pretty pink gown from Shlok detailed with sequin work and trendy fringes.

A section of the store displayed Amit Aggarwal's signature structural outfits in a soothing shade of pink and classic black. Perfect party headturners!



Label Debyani's display in the exhibition consisted of classic and traditional silhouettes, designed with a hint of contemporary taste. This ensemble with a design detailing of traditional Indian craftsmanship stood out. The contemporary tassel highlights give it an edgy appeal.



Tarob showcased their pret line — an array of printed *bundis* in menswear and formal and casual tops for women.



"The Aza store, located in the heart of Calcutta, redefines the luxury experience. Apart from offering a highly curated selection of the latest designer collections by India's leading designers, Aza promises unparalleled service and warmth, making the shopping experience fun and easy for everyone. You can find A-list designers and trending labels alike under one roof, including Varun Bahl, Amit Aggarwal, Seema Gujral, Ritika Mirchandani, and Ridhi Mehra. The exhibition was organised to gratify loyal customers and introduce new customers to our display," said Alka Nishar and Devangi Parekh (right) of Aza Fashions.

Pictures: Krishna Kumar Sharma



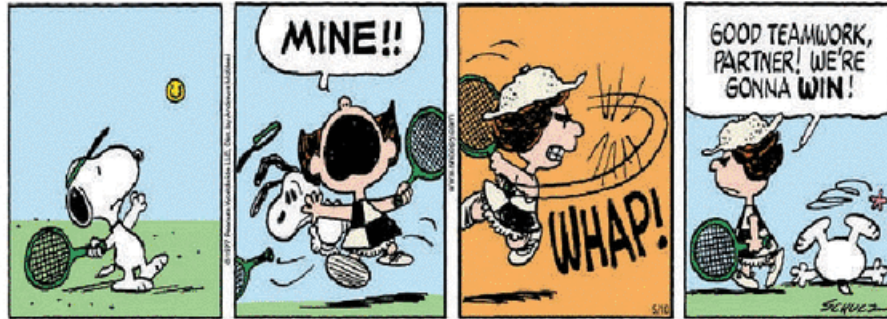
## B.C. by Johny Hart



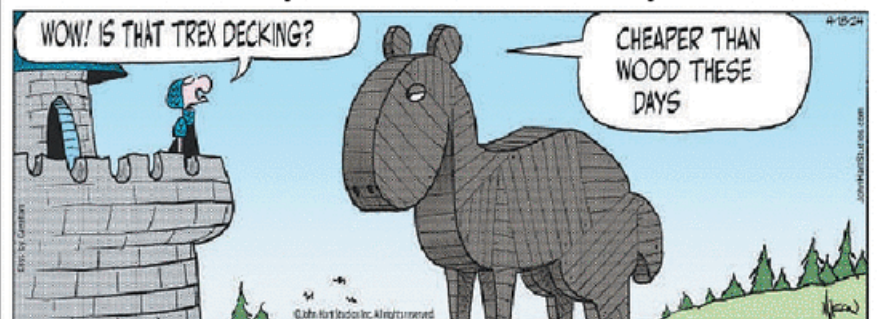
## Luann by Greg Evans



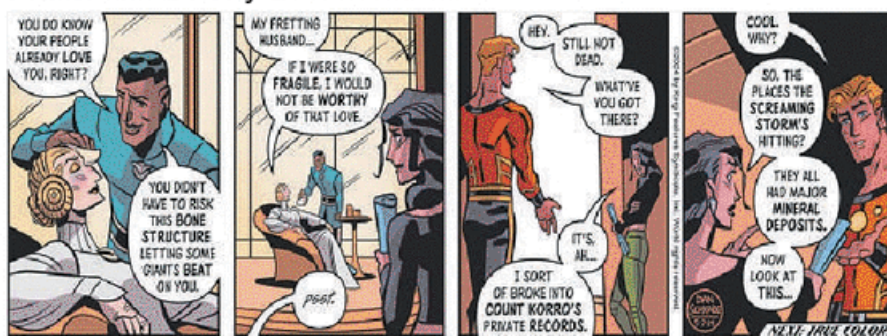
## Peanuts by Charles Schulz



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



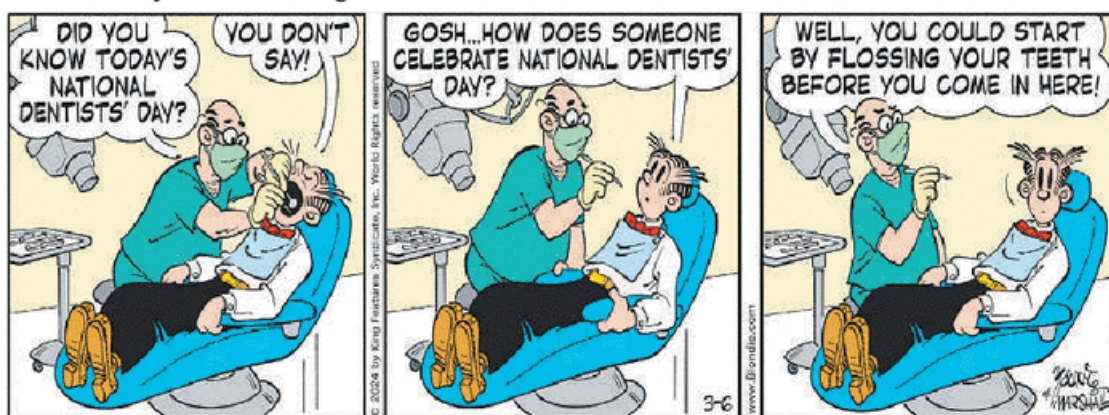
## Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



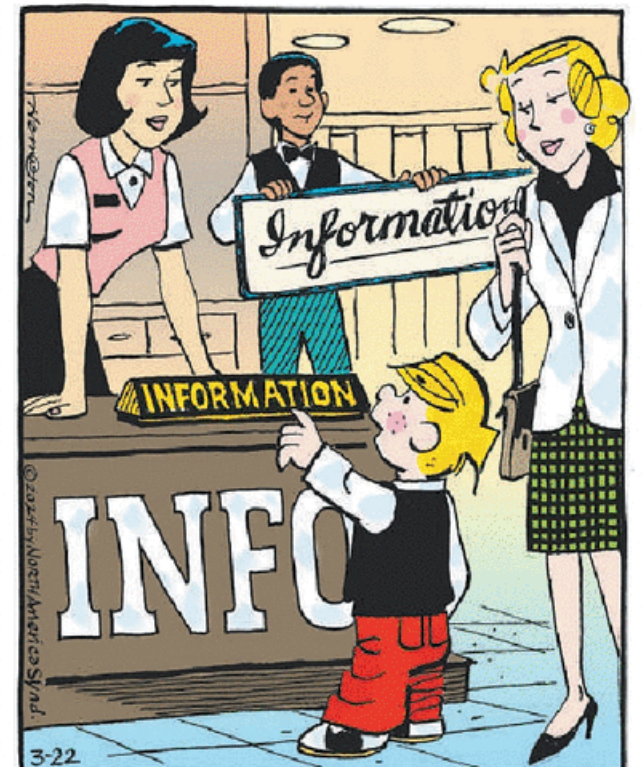
## Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



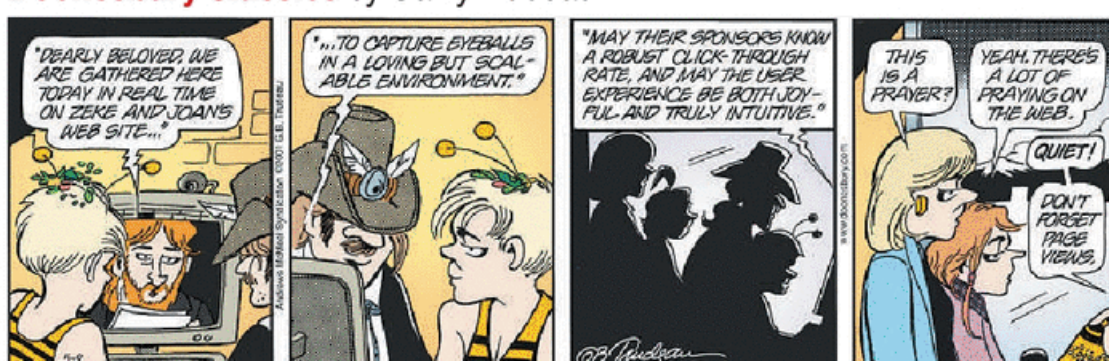
## Blondie by Dean Young



## Dennis the Menace



## Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau





## PUZZLE

11014

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

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 11012 is on the right

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

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11015

## SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

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

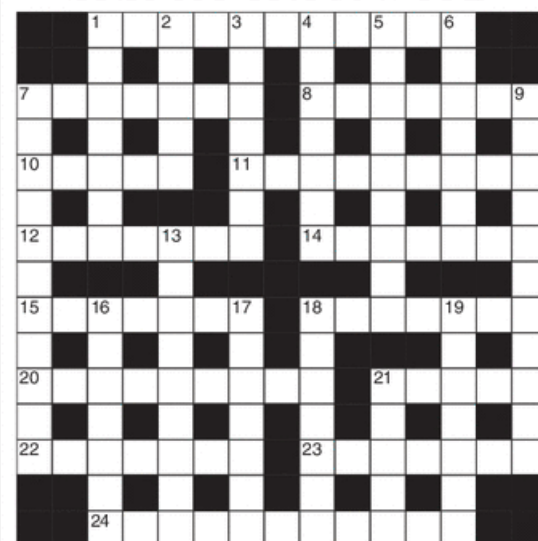
Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11013 is on the right

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

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14364

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 So pale, I'm wasted outside hotel in city (11)  
 7 Club magazine (7)  
 8 Spooner's escaped torment? That signals danger! (3,4)  
 10 Linger, rather like a sailor? (5)  
 11 Confined prior to Green Street Festival (9)  
 12 Bore on the Tube? (7)  
 14 That which makes current measures possible? (7)  
 15 Song about rogue in rural idyll (7)  
 18 Funny at first, prank involves a zealot (7)  
 20 With Indian dish, case for ordering cold water? (6,3)  
 21 Dramatisation about a violin-maker (5)  
 22 Martini at last included in list for revel (7)

- 23 Merseyside port good for pirate (7)  
 24 Riverside communities want deanery demolished (4,3,4)

## DOWN

- 1 Fog with beginnings of rain and light wind (7)  
 2 Governess using three names to describe a year (5)  
 3 Cuts in central Greece producing blackout (7)  
 4 Country under Portugal has endless fish! (7)  
 5 Distress in a damsel? Here's seducer! (6,3)  
 6 Shop to have nothing left on shelves? (4,3)  
 7 Echo stops lively chat with barmen in small room (11)  
 9 Start making jokes – or omelettes? (3,8)  
 13 Bishop surprisingly dominant in game (9)  
 16 Ancient Briton embracing student is in bower? (7)  
 17 Ace trip ending prematurely in America's nation (7)  
 18 Lorry with platform where one might live and sleep? (7)  
 19 Two-wheeled cart seen behind tower? (7)  
 21 Make good your sins an hour after midday? (5)

## Yesterday's solution

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

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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.

WTERH

RYOFT

LKLEYI

BIBRTA

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

THE AUTHOR'S PARTNER UNEXPECTEDLY QUIT, WHICH WAS ---

12/6

Yesterday's Jumbles: ESSAY GRAFT LITTLE POTATO

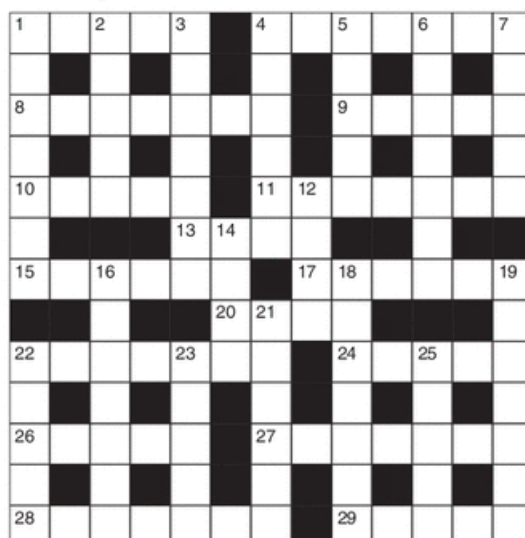
Answer: The evil witch welcomed the visitors and invited them to – SIT FOR A SPELL

(Answers tomorrow)

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14016

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Cut of beef (5)  
 4 Kudos (7)  
 8 Flier (7)  
 9 Mr Johnson (5)  
 10 Educate (5)  
 11 Desert (7)  
 13 Encourage (4)  
 15 Getaway (6)  
 17 Upward slope (6)  
 20 Kinswoman (4)  
 22 Artist Marc (7)  
 24 Surpass (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Surprise (7)  
 2 Peron musical (5)  
 3 Red sauce (7)  
 4 Car safety cushion (6)  
 5 Hooded snake (5)  
 6 Shorten (7)  
 7 Stone worker (5)  
 12 Head (4)  
 14 Concrete (4)  
 16 Prattle (7)  
 18 German bread (7)  
 19 No truce (anag) (7)  
 21 Irish province (6)  
 22 Bewitch (5)  
 23 Stage front (5)  
 25 Cree, e.g. (5)

## Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Gel; 3 eBay; 5 Bees; 8 Egg timer; 10 Stud; 11 WHO; 13 Oinks; 14 Pulmonary; 16 Sly; 17 Use; 19 Toodle-pip; 21 Cacti; 22 Ave; 24 Ooops; 25 Unburden; 26 Tiny; 27 Arch; 28 Nay.  
 Down: 1 Grew; 2 Lego; 3 Epiglottis; 4 Agenda; 6 Eating up; 7 Sidestep; 9 Ghoul; 12 Royal flush; 14 Psych out; 15 Lynchpin; 18 Sieve; 20 Opener; 22 Aden; 23 Envy.

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**'EPISTLES AND MEMORIES FORM A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THIS COMPLEX TAPESTRY OF DESIRE AND DIFFIDENCE,' WRITES FILMMAKER ASHOKE VISWANATHAN ABOUT AJOGYO**



Prosenjit and Rituparna

**The director's handling of his actors is masterly as the performers bring out the dark shades of this unconventional story. Parallely, the white lies that one is forced to take recourse to, are hinted at here... another sequence that catches the eye is the ultimate interaction between Prosen and Parna on the sea beach. Here the gentle bluish hues in the wee hours of the morning serve to create a fitting finale to a tragic drama of loss and longing**

Middle-class metropolitan life has its twists and turns. Often enough, there are patches of the straight and narrow. Periods of placidity. A monotony leads to a strange insouciance. Until something happens. And one is blindsided. A series of events propel you forward and you are sometimes not in control of your own life. Would you call that destiny? Or the stuff that stories



Ashoke Viswanathan

are made of? Even if our lives are stories, it is never easy to tell others about our experiences. Storytelling is an art and director Kaushik Ganguly is certainly an expert in spinning a yarn that can hold your attention. In *Ajogyo*, the dramatic seamlessly dovetails into the romantic albeit not without the evocative twists and turns. This is the chiaroscuro tale of Parna, Raktim and Prosen; a narrative with a rather intriguing back story that interrogates the text in a novel way. Contemporary social commentary is adroitly woven into the fabric of the narrative and the dialogue is crisp, believable and precise. What is particularly interesting is the way the story moves along leaving the

**The juxtaposition of Raktim and Prosen's conversation in the drawing room with Parna's reaction in the bedroom was brilliant, to say the least. Prosen's interactions with his mother are very well written in terms of balance and rhythm. Subtle humour is a running thread through this production and the artistes are equal to the task**



Silajit



Ambarish

sorrows of being retrenched. His joys, and his woes are delicately balanced in a wonderfully praiseworthy performance. His inebriated moments are both poignant and somewhat 'in the face' but wholly comprehensible in the light of his tragic circumstances. When he falls on the floor — a kind of precursor to a second and more serious collapse — it is an astounding moment, stupefying in its inevitable intensity.

Sudip Mukherjee, too, is spot on in his depiction of the office boss who, too, is hiding something from Parna. Ambarish Bhattacharya as the bachelor who lends a helping hand, is quite realistic and natural. Lily Chakraborty, as always, is marvellously insightful in her depiction of the troubled mother, deeply concerned about her son, Prosen. She is so straight-faced in her sardonic dialogue delivery that her antics are sure to bring the house down! Moreover, the way the director has built up this character is to be seen to be believed! The mother is a strong personality, capable of taking control and even dictating terms to her son, Prosen. She is thoughtful, anxious and yet witty in a rustic sort of way; and her appearances are never forced or artificial in any way.

If the performances are a highlight of *Ajogyo*, the visualisation, too, is attractive with Gopi Bhagat's cinematography blending well with Kaushik Ganguly's screenplay. If the preponderance of slow motion in a few sequences seemed unnecessary, it may be just a personal opinion. The indoor lighting is rather dolly shots, angular and moving

as in a quadrant, are aesthetically applied.

The editing is competent and in consonance with the script. The occasional use of parallel cutting gives space to the characters who are troubled in their own way. Appropriate use of reaction shots of the principal players succeeds in creating a creative mosaic of unanswered questions although one felt the repetition of the wedged-in flash cuts seemed a trifle overdone.

The sound design is interestingly evocative with the perspective adding a separate dimension. Even when the dialogue is loudly articulated, the mixing lends it a soothing quality. The sounds of Calcutta and Puri are accurately reproduced albeit the frequent music in the background did seem excessive at times.

Yet, the juxtaposition of Raktim and Prosen's conversation in the drawing room with Parna's reaction in the bedroom was brilliant, to say the least. Prosen's interactions with his mother are very well written in terms of balance and rhythm. Subtle humour is a running thread through this production and the artistes are equal to the task. In terms of the mise-en-scene, the decoupage is effective with a plethora of telling close-ups. Towards the end, the lighter which Parna accidentally discovers becomes significant in the unravelling of the plot.

Another sequence that catches the eye is the ultimate interaction between Prosen and Parna on the sea beach. Here the gentle bluish hues in the wee hours of the morning serve to create a fitting finale to a tragic drama of loss and longing. As the ill-fated lovers come together for a few evanescent moments, the film seems to revel in this sudden stoppage of time. Could the film have ended here? Perhaps not because there are a few twists before one reaches the last visual.

Open-ended conclusions are often found in Kaushik's films and this presentation is no exception. The sea in the sequence featuring Prosen and Parna stands a witness, not entirely mute, to the closure of this resonant relationship, fraught with tremulous moments and disjunctions.

But can memories be effaced completely? Can the lingering desire to revisit one's past be suppressed?

Epistles and memories form a significant part of this complex tapestry of desire and diffidence. The one missive, more than two decades back was a harsh bolt from the blue, smashing the aspirations of a tender soul; the other, in the present, no less painful. There is an indefinable sense of melancholia in this bewitching film and words are insufficient to express the pain caused by the second epistle. Here it is a dull pain, an ache reminding the one about what was and will never be again.

At age 67 and in his fourth decade in the business, Anil Kapoor continues to reinvent himself. The actor now trudges into fresh waters as the host of the third season of *Bigg Boss OTT*, which has been hosted by Salman Khan for many years now. Before the season goes live on June 21 on JioCinema Premium, the veteran actor chatted with t2.

**What made you want to host *Bigg Boss OTT*?**

This is something that I have never done before. For me, that always becomes very exciting... getting to do something for the first time. I played a game show host in *Slumdog Millionaire* (Kapoor's Hollywood debut that won eight Academy Awards). You will be surprised to know that we actually shot those scenes in *Slumdog Millionaire* in a rather unscripted way.

Then I had the opportunity to work on a show (called *Remunerations*) for Disney International with Jeremy Renner. It was a completely unscripted reality show.

But hosting a show is a first for me. If you see the way I have gone about my life, my relationships as well as my career... I always trust my instincts and when the opportunities come, I grab them with both hands. I always ask myself: 'Why are they coming to me? There must be something'. I feel very honoured and grateful that this job opportunity has come to me, so I want to do my best.

**Being a host on *Bigg Boss* requires much more than just being a host. What is going to be your approach to hosting a show which is so unpredictable and has so many twists and turns?**

As a show, *Bigg Boss* is very real. I am looking forward to meeting all the contestants and interacting with

them. On the show, I know that there will be instances where the contestants' behaviour will sometimes be disrespectful. But I will be firm as well as fair. We have to understand that they are human and flawed, like all of us are. They will make mistakes, especially in a high-pressure environment. I will hold them accountable but empathy and discipline will go hand in hand as far as I am concerned.

The Indian audience loves *Bigg Boss*. It is a very close version of the crazy phase of life everyone experiences. We are, through laughs and tears and everything in between, letting people feel a sense of excitement, entertainment and joy.

**What do you think has accounted for the sustained popularity of**

***Bigg Boss* across almost two decades now?**

There are some genius minds who have created ideas like *Big Boss* (*Big Brother* is the original franchise) and *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*? or for that matter, even these song-and-dance reality shows that are so popular across the world.

When television started, so many new things came in... whether it was stand-up comic shows or fictional drama. Seasons of TV shows started and then you had the reality shows that have so many hosts all over the world. Some of them became huge successes and continue to draw high viewership.

Then the same thing started in India and it became successful because the human psyche is the same all over the globe. There is something inherently in it which makes it very successful... the content is very powerful.

The team behind it is very important. The success of every season depends on how good the participants are. It is also important to see what platform a show is on and whether it is being marketed and promoted well. *Bigg Boss OTT 3* is going to stream on JioCinema Premium, which is a prolific platform with international content, shows and films in local languages as well as wholesome kids and family entertainment. It has as many as 105 Originals, blockbuster movies, exclusives, before-TV premieres and live channels.

*Bigg Boss OTT* is going to stream 24x7. All the viewers of *Bigg Boss* are very loyal fans and they get to watch it all the time, whenever they want.

**If the roles were to be reversed, do you think you have the temperament to be on the show as a contestant?**

I feel that I have gone through a lot in life that has shown that I have the tenacity to be in every kind of situation. I started out as a background dancer and from there, I graduated to doing films in which the leading man



Kapil Sharma



Karan Johar



Salman Khan

**I would take Kapil Sharma, Karan Johar and Salman Khan (into the *Bigg Boss* house). Lots of entertainment and laughs guaranteed!**

had 10-12 friends and I was one of them. I did a Telugu film (*Vamsa Vruksham*) followed by a Kannada film (*Pallavi Anu Pallavi*).

After that, I went to Calcutta and shot the film called *Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaya*. I stayed in a guest house which was just across the Ballygunge station. There were a lot of power cuts where I lived, there was no AC in that room. I would put water on the floor so that it would get a little cooler and I could get some sleep. I have gone through all that in my life and I have always had the temperament to work hard, to never take things for granted.

**The tagline of *Bigg Boss* this season is 'kuch logic kuch magic'. How would this line describe the extremely eclectic and highly successful career you have had so far?**

It definitely has been a mix of logic and magic. The 'logic' bit definitely includes the hard work, being consistent... you have to be professional, you have to be committed and you have to keep

improving your craft.

The 'magic' is the luck factor, which determines what projects come to you and what kind of people you get to work with. The magic is created by the blessings of God. My career has definitely been a good mix of magic and logic. More logic and less magic, maybe (*laughs*).

**You brought the thriller drama *24* to India with its Hindi adaptation in 2013, a few years before the streaming boom happened, and gave Indian television high-production values, slick action and the concept of seasons. It was a clutter-breaker in its time but do you sometimes wish you had done the show now?**

I had such a great experience working in the eighth season of the original *24* (frontlined by Kiefer Sutherland). I simply loved the script and I found it to be better than many film scripts. I got really inspired.

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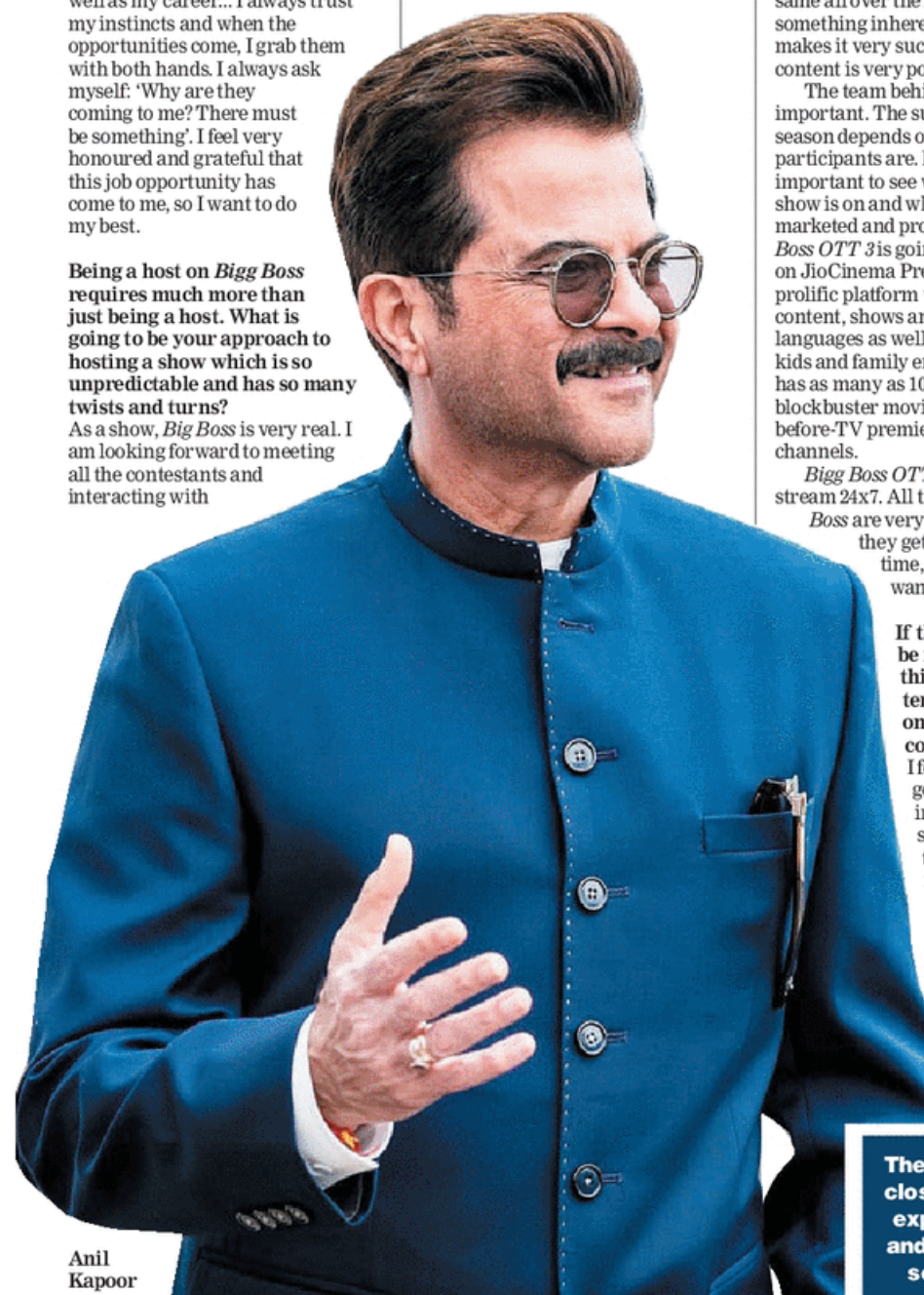
**It has been a great few years for you with roles which have had meat and meaning. There have been box-office winners as well as critically-acclaimed work. How would you look at this phase of your career?**

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**Coming back to *Bigg Boss*, if you could spend some time on the show with three people from the film industry, who don't belong to your family, who would you pick?**

I would take Kapil Sharma, Karan Johar and Salman Khan. Lots of entertainment and laughs guaranteed! (*Laughs*)

**Priyanka Roy**  
Who is your favourite Indian and international reality TV host?  
Tell t2@abp.in



Anil Kapoor

**The Indian audience loves *Bigg Boss*. It is a very close version of the crazy phase of life everyone experiences. We are, through laughs and tears and everything in between, letting people feel a sense of excitement, entertainment and joy**



**'EPISTLES AND MEMORIES FORM A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THIS COMPLEX TAPESTRY OF DESIRE AND DIFFIDENCE,' WRITES FILMMAKER ASHOKE VISWANATHAN ABOUT AJOGYO**



Prosenjit and Rituparna

**The director's handling of his actors is masterly as the performers bring out the dark shades of this unconventional story. Parallely, the white lies that one is forced to take recourse to, are hinted at here... another sequence that catches the eye is the ultimate interaction between Prosen and Parna on the sea beach. Here the gentle bluish hues in the wee hours of the morning serve to create a fitting finale to a tragic drama of loss and longing**

Middle-class metropolitan life has its twists and turns. Often enough, there are patches of the straight and narrow. Periods of placidity. A monotony leads to a strange insouciance. Until something happens. And one is blindsided. A series of events propel you forward and you are sometimes not in control of your own life. Would you call that destiny? Or the stuff that stories



Ashoke Viswanathan

are made of? Even if our lives are stories, it is never easy to tell others about our experiences. Storytelling is an art and director Kaushik Ganguly is certainly an expert in spinning a yarn that can hold your attention. In *Ajogyo*, the dramatic seamlessly dovetails into the romantic albeit not without the evocative twists and turns. This is the chiaroscuro tale of Parna, Raktim and Prosen; a narrative with a rather intriguing back story that interrogates the text in a novel way. Contemporary social commentary is adroitly woven into the fabric of the narrative and the dialogue is crisp, believable and precise. What is particularly interesting is the way the story moves along leaving the

audience to mull over some of the questions raised even as the plot develops. This is an unusual film concentrating on the dramatic possibilities in unexpected circumstances while taking care to include crucial elements of the milieu and zeitgeist. A series of short flashbacks and even flashcuts provide a whiff of Bolpur and the dark face of rural exploitation and oppression.

The film begins after a brief esoteric montage, with an interview situation and then merges into the middle-class existence of Parna and Raktim, in a spot of bother owing to financial difficulties. Raktim has lost his job in a private bank and is fast turning into a dipsomaniac. They have a child who is physically challenged and they badly need work. One can clearly see that Raktim is going to pieces.

The director's handling of his actors is masterly as the performers bring out the dark shades of this unconventional story. Parallely, the white lies that one is forced to take

recourse to, are hinted at here.

Prosenjit's entry is suitably dramatic and his presentation is normal and relaxed although one can sense the turmoil that seeks to burst out from within. His Prosen is a complex creation, well-meaning but intriguingly taciturn at moments. He plays his cards close to his chest and excels at the effort.

Rituparna Sengupta as Parna executes a resonant performance that is, to an extent, out of the box. It is an acutely emotional endeavour embellished with delicate nuances and gestures. Her relationship with Prosen is etched out in an uncommon manner, often underplayed and distant even if acutely disturbed. She often pulls out the stops in some sequences and still manages to be poised and convincing. Her relationship with her husband and adopted child is a delicate balancing act replete with paroxysms of fear and remorse.

Silajit Majumdar is wholly believable as Raktim the husband who takes to drink to alleviate the



Silajit



Ambarish

sorrows of being retrenched. His joys, and his woes are delicately balanced in a wonderfully praiseworthy performance. His inebriated moments are both poignant and somewhat 'in the face' but wholly comprehensible in the light of his tragic circumstances. When he falls on the floor — a kind of precursor to a second and more serious collapse — it is an astounding moment, stupefying in its inevitable intensity.

Sudip Mukherjee, too, is spot on in his depiction of the office boss who, too, is hiding something from Parna. Ambarish Bhattacharya as the bachelor who lends a helping hand, is quite realistic and natural. Lily Chakraborty, as always, is marvellously insightful in her depiction of the troubled mother, deeply concerned about her son, Prosen. She is so straight-faced in her sardonic dialogue delivery that her antics are sure to bring the house down! Moreover, the way the director has built up this character is to be seen to be believed! The mother is a strong personality, capable of taking control and even dictating terms to her son, Prosen. She is thoughtful, anxious and yet witty in a rustic sort of way; and her appearances are never forced or artificial in any way.

If the performances are a highlight of *Ajogyo*, the visualisation, too, is attractive with Gopi Bhagat's cinematography blending well with Kaushik Ganguly's screenplay. If the preponderance of slow motion in a few sequences seemed unnecessary, it may be just a personal opinion. The indoor lighting is rather cinematic and some of the gentle dolly shots, angular and moving

as in a quadrant, are aesthetically applied.

The editing is competent and in consonance with the script. The occasional use of parallel cutting gives space to the characters who are troubled in their own way. Appropriate use of reaction shots of the principal players succeeds in creating a creative mosaic of unanswered questions although one felt the repetition of the wedged-in flash cuts seemed a trifle overdone.

The sound design is interestingly evocative with the perspective adding a separate dimension. Even when the dialogue is loudly articulated, the mixing lends it a soothing quality. The sounds of Calcutta and Puri are accurately reproduced albeit the frequent music in the background did seem excessive at times.

Yet, the juxtaposition of Raktim and Prosen's conversation in the drawing room with Parna's reaction in the bedroom was brilliant, to say the least. Prosen's interactions with his mother are very well written in terms of balance and rhythm. Subtle humour is a running thread through this production and the artists are equal to the task. In terms of the mise-en-scene, the decoupage is effective with a plethora of telling close-ups. Towards the end, the lighter which Parna accidentally discovers becomes significant in the unravelling of the plot.

Another sequence that catches the eye is the ultimate interaction between Prosen and Parna on the sea beach. Here the gentle bluish hues in the wee hours of the morning serve to create a fitting finale to a tragic drama of loss and longing. As the ill-fated lovers come together for a few evanescent moments, the film seems to revel in this sudden stoppage of time. Could the film have ended here? Perhaps not because there are a few twists before one reaches the last visual.

Open-ended conclusions are often found in Kaushik's films and this presentation is no exception. The sea in the sequence featuring Prosen and Parna stands a witness, not entirely mute, to the closure of this resonant relationship, fraught with tremulous moments and disjunctions.

But can memories be effaced completely? Can the lingering desire to revisit one's past be suppressed?

Epistles and memories form a significant part of this complex tapestry of desire and diffidence. The one missive, more than two decades back was a harsh bolt from the blue, smashing the aspirations of a tender soul; the other, in the present, no less painful. There is an indefinable sense of melancholia in this bewitching film and words are insufficient to express the pain caused by the second epistle. Here it is a dull pain, an ache reminding the one about what was and will never be again.

At age 67 and in his fourth decade in the business, Anil Kapoor continues to reinvent himself. The actor now trudges into fresh waters as the host of the third season of *Bigg Boss OTT*, which has been hosted by Salman Khan for many years now. Before the season goes live on June 21 on JioCinema Premium, the veteran actor chatted with t2.

**What made you want to host *Bigg Boss OTT*?**

This is something that I have never done before. For me, that always becomes very exciting... getting to do something for the first time. I played a game show host in *Slumdog Millionaire* (Kapoor's Hollywood debut that won eight Academy Awards). You will be surprised to know that we actually shot those scenes in *Slumdog Millionaire* in a rather unscripted way.

Then I had the opportunity to work on a show (called *Remunerations*) for Disney International with Jeremy Renner. It was a completely unscripted reality show.

But hosting a show is a first for me. If you see the way I have gone about my life, my relationships as well as my career... I always trust my instincts and when the opportunities come, I grab them with both hands. I always ask myself: 'Why are they coming to me? There must be something'. I feel very honoured and grateful that this job opportunity has come to me, so I want to do my best.

**Being a host on *Bigg Boss* requires much more than just being a host. What is going to be your approach to hosting a show which is so unpredictable and has so many twists and turns?**

As a show, *Bigg Boss* is very real. I am looking forward to meeting all the contestants and interacting with

them. On the show, I know that there will be instances where the contestants' behaviour will sometimes be disrespectful. But I will be firm as well as fair. We have to understand that they are human and flawed, like all of us are. They will make mistakes, especially in a high-pressure environment. I will hold them accountable but empathy and discipline will go hand in hand as far as I am concerned.

The Indian audience loves *Bigg Boss*. It is a very close version of the crazy phase of life everyone experiences. We are, through laughs and tears and everything in between, letting people feel a sense of excitement, entertainment and joy.

**What do you think has accounted for the sustained popularity of**

***Bigg Boss* across almost two decades now?**

There are some genius minds who have created ideas like *Bigg Boss* (*Big Brother* is the original franchise) and *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*? or for that matter, even these song-and-dance reality shows that are so popular across the world.

When television started, so many new things came in... whether it was stand-up comic shows or fictional drama. Seasons of TV shows started and then you had the reality shows that have so many hosts all over the world. Some of them became huge successes and continue to draw high viewership.

Then the same thing started in India and it became successful because the human psyche is the same all over the globe. There is something inherently in it which makes it very successful... the content is very powerful.

The team behind it is very important. The success of every season depends on how good the participants are. It is also important to see what platform a show is on and whether it is being marketed and promoted well. *Bigg Boss OTT 3* is going to stream on JioCinema Premium, which is a prolific platform with international content, shows and films in local languages as well as wholesome kids and family entertainment. It has as many as 105 Originals, blockbuster movies, exclusives, before-TV premieres and live channels.

*Bigg Boss OTT* is going to stream 24x7. All the viewers of *Bigg Boss* are very loyal fans and they get to watch it all the time, whenever they want.

**If the roles were to be reversed, do you think you have the temperament to be on the show as a contestant?**

I feel that I have gone through a lot in life that has shown that I have the tenacity to be in every kind of situation. I started out as a background dancer and from there, I graduated to doing films in which the leading man



Kapil Sharma



Karan Johar



Salman Khan

**I would take Kapil Sharma, Karan Johar and Salman Khan (into the *Bigg Boss* house). Lots of entertainment and laughs guaranteed!**

had 10-12 friends and I was one of them. I did a Telugu film (*Vamsa Vruksham*) followed by a Kannada film (*Pallavi Anu Pallavi*).

After that, I went to Calcutta and shot the film called *Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaya*. I stayed in a guest house which was just across the Ballygunge station. There were a lot of power cuts where I lived, there was no AC in that room. I would put water on the floor so that it would get a little cooler and I could get some sleep. I have gone through all that in my life and I have always had the temperament to work hard, to never take things for granted.

**The tagline of *Bigg Boss* this season is 'kuch logic kuch magic'. How would this line describe the extremely eclectic and highly successful career you have had so far?**

It definitely has been a mix of logic and magic. The 'logic' bit definitely includes the hard work, being consistent... you have to be professional, you have to be committed and you have to keep

improving your craft.

The 'magic' is the luck factor, which determines what projects come to you and what kind of people you get to work with. The magic is created by the blessings of God. My career has definitely been a good mix of magic and logic. More logic and less magic, maybe (*laughs*).

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## IT WAS DADDY'S DAY OUT AT WAREHOUSE CAFE ON FATHER'S DAY! ONLY t2 WAS THERE

**O**n the occasion of Fathers' Day, Warehouse Cafe, owned by Amit and Vanita Bajoria, raised a toast to fathers from different walks of life in the presence of their children. The chill spot on the fourth floor

of South City Mall had tasteful music and mouth-watering dishes that made for a perfect Sunday adda session over lunch. "We always celebrate Women's Day, Mothers' Day, but fathers are never given priority. From morning to evening they stay at their

office, and then come back to their mundane lives. So I wanted to do something different, not what everybody does. We did this for the fathers today," said Vanita.

Snapshots from the celebration, of which t2 was a part.



Father-son billiards champions Manoj and Sourav Kothari were among the guests. Talking about his father, Sourav said: "I think becoming a billiards player was in my genes because he was world champion even before I was born. I've grown up watching him play. I was six years old when he won the world title and that little boy just wanted to do what his father did." What was his father's message for him? "I always told him, it's not the end of the day if he loses because even the top players lost many times before winning again. And that actually establishes them, and makes them icons," said Manoj Kothari. So how does Sourav sum up their relationship? "It's a very hands-on father-son relationship."



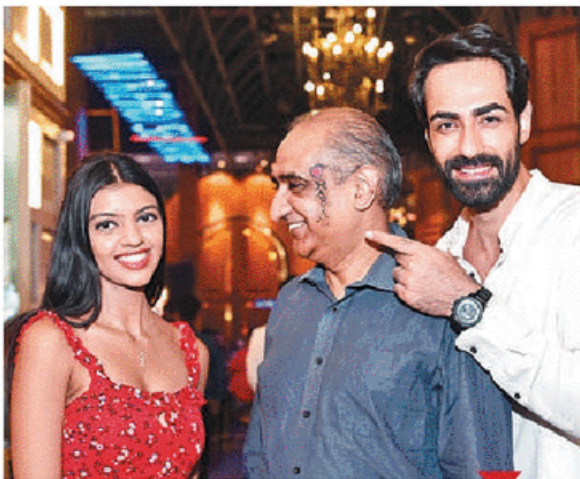
Model and fitness expert Neeraj Surana cut a heartwarming picture with his wife Jessica Gomes Surana and children Vivaan and Kaira. "I think they've made me aware of a side of me which I didn't know I had. Every day is a learning experience. Being a father gives me immense pleasure. They come up with questions and situations which I don't have answers to, and I probably would've lost my cool sometimes, but then I have to take two steps back and think about it differently. It's a learning curve all the way," he said, about sharing a lovely bond with his children.



The t2 camera caught Suhasini Chakraborty serving food lovingly to her parents Arjun and Nilanjana Chakraborty. The trio had some of the most amusing and delightful stories to share on Fathers' Day. "The moment she was born we were elated. We didn't know how to express our feelings. Every day I see her, my heart goes like a popcorn," said Arjun, while wife Nilanjana spoke about the father-daughter bond. "They have an inherent chemistry. It's very vibrant, very robust and they have a lot of common denominators between themselves," she said. From having The Mummy marathons to both of them being introverts, this father and daughter couldn't stop talking about how they get along.



Singer Aneek Dhar was present with his father Pankaj Dhar and his daughter Aadya to celebrate Father's Day. The day was extra special for him as it was his father's birthday too! "He has been a big inspiration for me, starting from my academics to my singing career. I've never seen a selfless man like him. I remember during my *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* audition, it was raining heavily and he had gone there and queued up at six o'clock in the morning just to put my name in the list so that I wouldn't have to go myself in the rain," recounted Aneek with a smile on his face.



Imran Zaki dropped by along with his daughter Mariam and son-in-law Kushal Mehta, and the sport that he is, he flaunted a face painting with Mariam's name written! "The kind of endless joy she brings to my life is simply amazing," he said about his daughter. "Fathers play a very important role, especially when it comes to daughters. Daughters are always very special," he added. His daughter having moved back to Calcutta after spending a decade abroad, he went on to express his utter happiness at his daughter's return to the city.

"One of my cherished moments with my *abba* was during my wedding preparations with Kushal. Amid the chaos and excitement, he took a moment to sit with me, offering not just practical advice, but heartfelt words of wisdom and encouragement. His unwavering support and belief in me filled me with confidence and joy, making that special time even more memorable. To this day, Kushal, *abba* and I have this unparalleled bond which makes me realise that I got really really lucky with the men in my life!" said Mariam joyfully.



From Hawaiian Murg Tikka to delicious Butter Corn Cottage Cheese Dim Sum, accompanied with yummy sips, the food spread was delish!

Radhika Banerjee (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das



## FASHION

## THIS SUMMER, DITCH THE TOP AND WEAR A BRALETTE INSTEAD. t2 TAKES NOTES FROM B'TOWN FASHIONISTAS

**W**hile summer is all about crop tops and tank tops, there is also a bold alternative to channel summer fashion. It's the bralette top. Recently, we have spotted many Bollywood celebrities ditching the full-fledged top and opting for a bralette, which is a midway between a bra and a top, and their bold choice paired with both formal attire and Indian ethnic wear, has blended style and comfort. Our picks!



**1** Kiara Advani sported a bralette-style blouse with *shararas* and a long jacket. Her bralette featured a plunging V-neckline and geometric patterns of embellishments and sequin work.



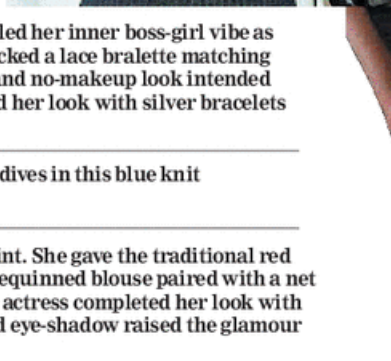
**2** Alia Bhatt's printed Sabyasachi pantsuit featuring a matching bralette top with a plunging V-neckline is perfect for both casual and chic outings. She accessorised her look with a layered necklace and went for minimal make-up.



**3** Kriti Sanon's sporty beige bralette top featuring spaghetti straps and black borders with a quirky cutout showing off her cleavage has given her power dressing a bold twist. She matched things up with a biker jacket and trousers. To check off on the beauty bit, the *Crew* actor opted for a subtle dewy makeup and a classic tight bun.



**4** Priyanka Chopra Jonas oozed casual yet chic aesthetic in this shimmering checkered bralette top that she paired with a cropped black jacket and black skirt. As she headed out for hubby Nick Jonas's concert, she amplified the glam quotient with bold red lips, filled-in brows and classic winged eyes.



**5** Kareena Kapoor Khan's all-black look channelled her inner boss-girl vibe as she dolled up for *Koffee with Karan*. The star picked a lace bralette matching her black blazer and trousers. Her open mane and no-makeup look intended to let the outfit do all the talking. She completed her look with silver bracelets and a silver finger ring.



**6** Shraddha Kapoor screamed travel goals in Maldives in this blue knit bralette top that she paired with beige shorts.



**7** Sara Ali Khan's sartorial game is always on point. She gave the traditional red lehnga a modern twist with her bralette-style sequinned blouse paired with a net *dupatta* for a jewellery promotional shoot. The actress completed her look with statement necklace and earrings. Her red-toned eye-shadow raised the glamour quotient.



**8** Janhvi Kapoor's sequined cricket-themed bralette top paired with a black-and-white striped flowy skirt for the promotions of *Mr. and Mrs. Mahi* was a show-stealing combo.



**9** Taapsee Pannu made a case for power dressing with her black bralette top paired with colour-blocked pants and a black jacket with white piping. We love the combination of the femininity of the top, the casual vibe of the flared colour-blocked pants and the elegance of the jacket on top.



Debanjali Nandi

Pictures courtesy: Instagram pages of the actors



## THE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION RAISED A TOAST TO INDO-ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP



The evening's host Riccardo Dalla Costa, consul general of Italy, addresses the gathering as state guest Prabhat Mishra, principal secretary, irrigation and waterways, looks on

It was "a day of joy, hope, reconciliation and unity" when the people of Italy chose to live as a republic — at the end of World War II — on June 2, 1946. "It was the day when the generation of our grandparents voted for the first time in a free and democratic state", at a time "when the unity of the country itself was at risk", said Italian consul general Riccardo Dalla Costa, addressing guests at the Festa della Repubblica reception at Taj Bengal.

The occasion was being held over lunch, which is unusual for National Day receptions which are evening affairs. "We chose the hour as it is Sunday. This is just like back home, when we have an Italian lunch on this day with family and friends," he explained to t2.

With Prabhat Mishra, principal secretary, irrigation and waterways, by his side as the state guest, he spoke of the opening of the Italian gallery at the Jorasanko Thakurbari, celebrating Rabindranath Tagore's connection with Italy, last December. "Calcutta has thus become the only major city in India with a permanent space in a museum dedicated to Italy."

Having taken up his post barely four months ago, Costa also thanked the city for welcoming him warmly.

In the current geopolitical context of strife, references were also made to "a significant need for upholding democratic values and rule of law" as well as "increasing global effort to restore peace and international law", and the role played by multilateral fora like the United Nations, G20, under India's presidency last year, and the ongoing G7, under Italy's presidency.

A highlight of the gathering was the completely Italian menu. Calamari and bakti were grilled and served in traditional Italian style. Prawn Risotto with fish sauce and sun-dried tomato had guests queuing up for repeats. A surprise favourite was grilled asparagus with pesto sauce, which impressed even die-hard non-



Maria-Claudia Marini, deputy consul general



US consul general Melinda Pavek with her partner Brandon Dorsey



Debashis and Urmila Sen

vegetarians. "We crafted the menu together with the hotel team. Some ingredients were brought over," Costa added.

Word also went round on stand-out tipples being served at the bar. An Italian liqueur brand, Disaronno, was on every lip and in every glass for its fruity and nutty notes, predominantly almond and orange zest (though opinion varied). "The glass decanter was designed decades ago by a master craftsman from Murano, in Venice," said vice consul Daniele Panfilo.

The wines had come from cellars in far northern reaches of alpine Italy. There was also the sweet and soft grappa from the



Hugh Boylan, Australian consul general



Bangladesh deputy high commissioner Andalib Elias



Kevin Goh, Australian deputy consul-general



The Bose brothers, Sugata and Sumantra



A group of Italian volunteers

grapes of Friuli, aged for two years in wild cherry casks.

A group of young Italians, chatting away in their mother-tongue, turned out to be in-bound and out-bound volunteers at the Institute for Indian Mother & Child. "This party is like coming back to our comfort zone," said Ginevra Mazzula with a smile, giving a thumbs-up to the



Andrew Fleming, British deputy high commissioner



Philippe Kerbiriou, deputy consul general of France



Neelam Rani, director, ministry of external affairs branch secretariat, and Thai consul general Siriporn Tantipanyathee



Sourendro Mullick and Soumyajit Das



Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee

desserts, especially the tiramisu, for authenticity.

Her friend Luca Montinaro felt the two big challenges they faced in the course of their stay were the weather and the lack of a sense of personal space on public transport. "It's so hot and loud and crowded. But people are nice and helpful," he said, adding that they were off to Ladakh at



Simon Kleinpass of the German consulate general, dressed in tracht and lederhose, a traditional Bavarian outfit



Debanjan Chakrabarti, director, east and northeast, The British Council



Upal Sengupta



Restaurateur Nitin Kothari with Goethe Institut Kolkata Astrid Wege and her husband Kiron



Vice-consul Daniele Panfilo with K. Mohanchandran of the Taj group

the end of their volunteering tenure.

The guests left with Italian biscuits, called Cantucci, and salted snacks, called Taralli, from Fabbrica along with a signed thanksgiving note from the host.

**Sudeshna Banerjee**  
Pictures by Pabitra Das



## t2 GETS A FEEL OF INGENIA TECH'S HOME AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS



A 4K acoustically-perforated screen for a minimalistic approach where speakers are behind the screen with lighting fixtures made of wood to complement the acoustical treatment in the room

**I**ngenia Tech, on Keytala Road, is known in the realm of home automation. The company specialises in integrating lighting, sound and security systems to create personalised and immersive living experiences.

As a design, engineering, and project management company, Ingenia Tech's approach to lighting extends beyond mere illumination. It tailors each light to its specific application, ensuring it serves a purpose, whether for relaxation, focus, or entertainment. The use of customised fixtures is designed to complement the architecture of a space, thereby enhancing the occupants' overall well-being.

Lighting is a critical aspect of Ingenia Tech's projects. By aligning lighting with natural circadian rhythms, the company aims to improve sleep patterns and overall mental health, utilising hues of white and yellow light to create a positive living environment.

**At Ingenia Tech, we are committed to creating exceptional experiences for our clients. When they entrust us with their homes, we ensure every moment spent within is unforgettable**  
— Rohan Agarwal, co-founder, Ingenia Tech

The company has completed numerous projects in eastern India, including at The 42, Atmosphere, and Urbana. They have also worked on other high-profile projects like Courtyard by Marriott in Siliguri and Tata AIG's office in Calcutta. The company's influence extends beyond India's borders, as they have collaborated with international clients in Bangladesh and Nepal.

#### COMPREHENSIVE HOME AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS

The company's systems cover a wide array of functionalities, including mobile and voice-

**1** The replication of "indoor sunlight" with lighting focused on architectural elements along with speaker "towers" for extraordinary sound

**2** Acoustic panels increase the absorption of sound and make for a successful home theatre setup

**3** Rusted metal has been used in the facade and there is a unique amber temperature to the lights

controlled systems, media and sound integration, and comprehensive security solutions. Ingenia Tech's home automation systems enable the control of lighting, shades, HVAC, security, and audio-visual equipment through user-friendly interfaces. The integration of world-class brands such as Control4, Lutron and Fibaro ensures that clients receive top-tier quality and reliability.

#### AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

The company offers a comprehensive suite of audio and video solutions, catering to a diverse range of needs. From background music systems to sophisticated Dolby Digital Atmos setup, the company's audio-visual services aim to provide high-quality sound experiences. Whether for casual listening or immersive home theatre environments, Ingenia Tech ensures that clients enjoy

the best possible sound quality.

Home theatres involve arranging speakers around a television or projector to replicate a theatre experience. When high-fidelity (Hi-Fi) sound is added, the focus shifts to sound precision, making the audio or music sound exactly as it was recorded in the studio. Ingenia Tech provides solutions for various audio applications, including Hi-Fi stereo, home theatres, background music, dedicated home theatres, and multi-room audio setups.

Acoustics play a significant role, and no matter how many high-quality components are used, the sound system will not reach its full potential unless the room acoustics are properly

**Our goal is to transform homes into sanctuaries that clients eagerly return to day after day —**  
Abhinav Jajodia, co-founder, Ingenia Tech

addressed. The company helps with this aspect.

#### SECURITY SOLUTIONS

The company offers state-of-the-art security services designed to integrate seamlessly with their home automation systems. By integrating security features with the overall home automation system, Ingenia Tech ensures that safety is always a priority. This integration allows for comprehensive monitoring and control, enhancing the security of the home while maintaining ease of access for the occupants.

The company's commitment to creating enhanced living environments through innovative solutions is evident in every project they undertake. By combining technology with aesthetic design, they ensure that each project is a unique masterpiece that meets the specific needs and preferences of their clients.

**Ishayu Gupta**  
(t2 intern)

Pictures: Rashbehari Das

#### t2 CLICK



DEAR READERS,  
HERE ARE YOUR  
CLICKS FOR  
'TRAVEL MANIA'.  
SEND IN YOUR  
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Urmila Kothari (Umiam Lake, Shillong)



Tanmay Nandi (Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh)



Barnali Roy (Srinagar, Kashmir)



In 1990, Saikat Mitra was supposed to record a song for Salil Chowdhury. So busy was the composer then that he would keep sending the young singer back. Finally he composed the tune and wrote the first couple of stanzas, promising to write the rest soon.

"The day of recording arrived and we were at the HMV studio. When I halted after the first *antara*, he asked why I had stopped. I did not have the guts to tell him that he had not written the lyrics yet. He asked me to search, and so I did dutifully, till he asked: 'Ami likhini, na re?'"

Speaking at an adda to mark the launch of a poster and disc exhibition ahead of World Music Day to pay tribute to composers whose works have added sheen to the golden era of Bengali songs, Mitra recalled with awe how Chowdhury glanced at the first two stanzas and asked for a pen. "It was just the time needed to put pen to paper and scribble the words that he needed to complete the song. And this is what he wrote:

*Hajaro bochorer bnachar  
sukhe bhora jeebone koto pol paar  
holam,*

*Set hishab jodi dhoro toh  
koti koti bochor prithibir buke  
chhilam;*

*Kintu mone jani je kawti pol  
tumi amar buke dhora dile shey koti  
pol sudhu bnechchhilam."*

The conversation was taking place among the offsprings of doyens of Bengali music such as Sudhin Dasgupta, Nachiketa Ghosh and Shyamal Mitra, who were joined by singer and archivist Devajit Bandyopadhyay and researcher Debasis Mukhopadhyay. Jhinuk Gupta, Pankaj Kumar Mullick's granddaughter-in-law, also dropped by for a while.

Suparnokanti, Nachiketa Ghosh's son, shared memories of staying in a house in Mumbai from where S.D. Burman's house could be seen. "Often, he would be pacing in the verandah wearing nothing but a gamchha."

Basu Chatterjee, who wanted

## IN THE RUN-UP TO WORLD MUSIC DAY, SONS OF BENGALI MUSIC DOYENS SHARE MEMORIES OF A GOLDEN ERA



Jhinuk Gupta speaks as (from left) Devajit Bandyopadhyay, Suparnokanti Ghosh, Soumya Dasgupta, Sanjib Acharya of Serum Thalassaemia Prevention Federation, Saikat Mitra and researcher Debasis Mukhopadhyay at the opening of an exhibition of posters and records



**GENERATION NEXT:** Saikat Mitra, Suparnokanti Ghosh and Soumya Dasgupta, sons of Shyamal Mitra, Nachiketa Ghosh and Sudhin Dasgupta respectively. Pictures by Sudeshna Banerjee



Children invited by the Serum Thalassaemia Prevention Federation pour petals in a vessel to mark the opening of an exhibition of posters and records at Wisdom Tree on Jatin Das Road

to sign him for a film, visited the building on several occasions, only to be turned away by the doorman. The temperamental Burman was then reluctant to take on a new project.

"Finally Chatterjee got Manna Dey, who had started in Bombay as SD's assistant, to help him get an appointment. Burman asked Chatterjee if he knew his fee. SD had stuck to Rs 1 lakh, even at a time when his son RD was charging Rs 7 lakh, simply because he did not believe in taking more. As instructed, the next morning Chatterjee reached with a new attaché case filled with cash. Burman asked him to open it and commented that he would accept only fresh notes," said Suparnokanti. It could not be known whether Chatterjee obliged or Burman relented but the film did happen — *Us Paar* (1974).

Saikat recalled the respect that senior artistes commanded. "Baba (Shyamal Mitra) was to do the music for *Ananda Ashram*, which would be a remake of the 1941 film *Daktar* (starring Pankaj Mullick). He went over to Pankaj Mullick's house with me to seek his permission."

Good music could come only from good relationships, felt Suparnokanti. "Sandhya pishi (Mukherjee) would invariably call me in the morning if we had an evening sitting to ask what I would eat as she knew I would be coming from office."

His father (Nachiketa Ghosh, the composer of evergreen hits like *Neeshi raat banka chand*, *Neer chhoto kshoti nei* and *Surjo dobar pala*) was a good singer. "He would often do shows with Dwijen kaka (Mukhopadhyay). Once he was singing in presence of Mullick. He forgot the tune of a Tagore song midway and managed

by improvising. When he got off stage, Mullick made him promise never to perform Rabindrasangeet again," laughed Suparnokanti.

Another composer, Sudhin Dasgupta, Saikat said, had got Bengali music to graduate "from half pant to full pant". "Despite being trained in the West, he infused a Bengali vibe in his tunes that resonated with the youth," he said.

Sudhin's guitarist son Soumya, who had lent his art space Wisdom Tree for the exhibition, recalled being berated by Manna Dey for attending a jamming session. "He would switch to English at times. 'Young man, what are you doing here?' he asked me. When I said I was playing, he retorted: 'Porashona ki gollay gyachhe?' On hearing I was a student of architecture, he was a bit pacified and said: 'OK. But you should not be here too often.'"

Saikat also spoke of the frustrations of icons in later life. "Once when I was at RD's flat in Bombay, he asked me what I was seeing through the window. When I responded 'the road', he said once the road could not be seen due to the queue of visitors and their cars. Even Salil jethu had such dark thoughts. Once he asked me to massage his forehead one night in Delhi. As I did, tears trickled down his face. 'Bengalis have not understood me. They will do so 50 years after I go,' he reflected."

While the exhibition saluted composers, Suparnokanti requested for similar tributes for lyricists as well. "People remember only the singers, not the creators of the songs," said the man who has given music to songs like *Coffee House-er shei adda ta* and *Shey amar chhoto bon*.

Sudeshna Banerjee

A 78 rpm shellac record, with the song *Amar sokol dukher pradipt*, sung by pre-Independence era artiste Bina Choudhury, credits "Rabindranath" for music and lyrics. There is no logo of Visva Bharati Music Board, a later-day mandatory feature.

A disc of the film *Judge Saheber Naatni* does not mention the artist's name. The composer is "Kumar Sachin Dev Burman". Above it, a single line has the words "*Nostami dushtumi kore Mohoner gan*". "This means a character in the film, Mohon, gave lip to the song," explained Sudipta Chanda, whose collection was the source of the exhibits on display at an exhibition at Wisdom Tree on Jatin Das Road that concluded last Sunday. "In those days, it was customary to credit a film song to the character, and not the singer."

An EP record features *Ei mom jochhonay* sung by Uttam Kumar though the Nachiketa Ghosh song is known as an Arati Mukherjee hit. The other side has his dialogues. A cover features a photo of

## TRIBUTE TO GREAT COMPOSERS OF BENGALI SONGS THROUGH A FILM POSTER AND DISC SHOW



Posters of films at an exhibition paying tribute to composers

a singing Suchitra Sen for her only album, set to tune by Rabin Chatterjee. "Covers of 78rpm discs carried only designs. Megaphone Record made an exception for her."

Asha Bhosle's first non-film Bengali release *Jabo ki jabo na* under R.D. Burman's baton, Amit Kumar's disc with his father Kishore's music, Ranu Mukherjee's songs directed by father Hemanta...



Album covers of Sachin Dev Burman, Asha Bhosle's first non-film Bengali songs with Rahul Dev Burman and Amit Kumar singing to father Kishore's tunes

there were several significant choices among the discs exhibited.

There were a couple of tributes too — of Sandhya Mukherjee to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, composed by Sudhin Dasgupta, and Shyamal Mitra to Uttam and Mohd. Rafi, who died barely a week apart in July 1980.

There were 23 posters of films with composers spanning from

Pankaj Mullick to Bappi Lahiri.

Chanda pointed to posters of *Kabuliwala* with Pandit Ravi Shankar as composer, *Atithi* with Tapan Sinha as composer and *Baksho Badal* with Satyajit Ray as composer-cum-screenplay writer.

"Ray also created the lettering of the poster but did not design the poster itself," pointed out Ray researcher Debasis Mukhopadhyay.

He pointed out that though Nityananda Dutta had directed *Baksho Badal*, Ray had directed a sequence of *Notir Puja* in the film. "It was one of the two dance dramas of Tagore that he wanted to film, the other being *Balmiki Pratibha*." A disc had two Ruma Guha Thakurta songs under the baton of uncle Satyajit Ray, both Tagore songs, one for *Baksho Badal* and the other for *Monihara*.

Mukhopadhyay, himself a collector, highlighted the difficulty of preserving film posters as they are printed on flimsy paper.

There were also film booklets, containing synopses, cast and crew, and lyrics, including one of *Kal Tumi Aleya*, where Uttam Kumar directed the music himself.

"This room contains so much history. We hope a visit would entertain and educate people and induce the youth to listen to the songs," said Sanjib Acharya, the secretary of Serum Thalassaemia Prevention Federation, which had organised the exhibition.

Sudeshna Banerjee



## FUNSPACE

**IMPRESSED BY...**

This t2 girl's mom's gardening skills! Maybe it's time for us to pick up a new hobby...

**GETTING THE FEELS...**

Seeing the fur baby sleeping like a, well, baby!  
#DogsAreTheBest

**CRAVING...**

To go back to the snow-capped mountains in Ladakh as we get roasted in the Calcutta heat. The sight itself is such a relief!

**MISSING...**

The misty cold weather of the hills of North Bengal as the heat and humidity of the city just refuse to go. Wish we could go back to the hills again!

**ENJOYING...**

The familiar sights of Puri on a sudden trip to one of our favourite beach destinations. The combination of sun, sand and frothy waves with the usual beachside trappings of Puri never tire us.

**REMEMBERING...**

This t2 girl's first work trip to Dubai, especially this gorgeous and clear view of the Museum of The Future complemented by skyscrapers, luxurious cars, and Middle-Eastern opulence, from her hotel.  
#dubaidiaries

**TRYING...**

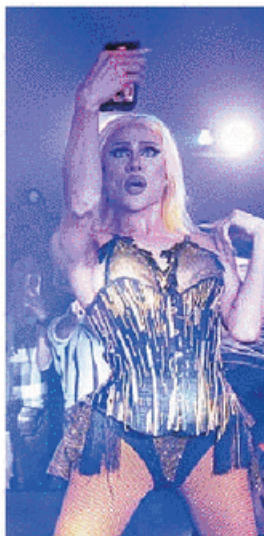
Filter coffee for the first time, although this t2 girl isn't much of a coffee person! The R.K. Narayan-esque name of the brand definitely has nothing to do with it.

## PRIDE

## THE KITTY SU ASIA TAKEOVER TOUR X PINK PARTY WITH t2 AT THE LALIT GREAT EASTERN KOLKATA WAS A SIZZLING NIGHT. GLIMPSES

**O**n June 15, The Great Ball Room of The Lalit Great Eastern Kolkata was enlivened as Kitty Su Asia Takeover tour X Pink Party in association with t2 took place

at the peak of International Pride Month. With an all-women DJ night and a party that did not want to stop even at four in the morning, it was a memorable night. t2 soaked in the vibes.



International drag artiste Zepee performed to *Don't Cha* by The Pussycat Dolls and had the partygoers in awe. The crowd could not stop cheering as she took the phone from a member of the audience and recorded a bit of her performance.



Meannie Minaj bore a striking resemblance to the more famous Minaj, popstar Nicki. The international artiste showed off some hot moves and had the crowd eating out of her hands!



Shouvik set the stage on fire as the crowd went into a frenzy as he went shirtless. Hot, hot!



Arna danced to Bollywood numbers and the crowd went gaga!



Sheldon's performance was prop-heavy and the artiste exuded confidence.

**ORGANISER SPEAK**

Navonil Das, co-initiator of Kolkata Pride, was the emcee for the night and kept the party going. He said: "This is just the beginning of the international performers coming back to India again. The Thai performers were amazingly fun and they even performed on Indian numbers. What a night!"



"The event was centered on dismantling gender binaries, sexism, racism even social discrimination through the spectacle of drag. We are celebrating Pride month and at Lalit group of hospitality we have always supported the cause of LGBTQIA+ community. This event was part of various activities that we are doing in our group and the Calcutta unit to express our solidarity with the inclusive culture," said Kamal Raza, general manager of The Lalit Great Eastern Kolkata.

**Sanjali Brahma**  
Pictures: B Halder



## YOUNG MINDS COLLECTIVE PUT TOGETHER A DELIGHTFUL PRODUCTION OF DISNEY'S *THE LION KING*

**Y**oung Minds Collective is known for their programmes that promote holistic development through experiential learning. On June 15, it staged a beautiful rendition of Disney's *The Lion King* at Gyan Manch that was a captivating performance

by children aged three to 10 years. The production was the culmination of a two-week summer camp, which had the young performers put in 15 days of hard work and rigorous training for the big day.

The show featured various iconic scenes from the original 1994 classic, each

one seamlessly flowing into the next. From the signature opening sequence of the film, *Circle of Life*, paying faithful homage to Hans Zimmer's evergreen soundtrack, to the final climax and confrontation between Simba and Scar, each part of the show was marked by the enthusiasm of

the kids, coupled with lively performances, innovative costumes, and vibrant sound-and-light sequences. While the backgrounds briefly transported viewers to the heart of the Savannah, the costumes and headgear added depth to the characters on stage.

Glimpses from the show...



"We've been preparing for a while now, and it was a lot of fun to conceptualise the production. In the past 15 days, the kids showed incredible dedication and teamwork, and it's such an overwhelming feeling to see the final output of something we all had dreamed of as a team. The kids were amazing, and the best part was that they all absolutely loved being on stage," said Dishha Singla Agarwal, founder, Young Minds Collective.



The Young Minds Collective team: (Standing, l-r) Sonam Goenka, Saiba Rahman, Dishha Singla Agarwal (founder), Bidisha Chandra and Rakhi Shaw; (Sitting, l-r) Sayani Dey, Aritri Bhattacharya, Asmaa Ghayas, and Ronita Das Modak

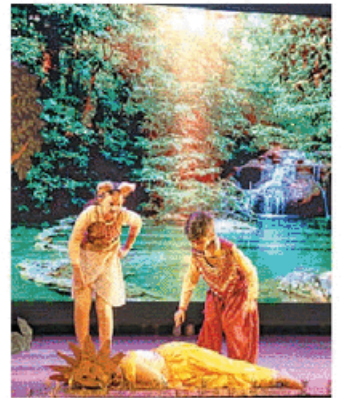
Mufasa showing Simba the Pride Lands — "Everything the light touches is our kingdom"



The three hyenas and Scar in the scene that precedes *Be Prepared* in the film



That one scene we all hate — the scene in which Mufasa plummets to his death, and Scar banishes Simba from the Pride Lands



Timon and Pumba find the sleeping Simba after he runs away



The final scene in which Scar has been overthrown from Pride Rock and Simba has taken his rightful place as king

Subhalakshmi Dey  
Pictures: Kaushik Saha

## FOOD

**W**hat can be more synonymous with Summer than mangoes? Picking up the seasonal delight Princeton Club has rolled out a limited-time menu that celebrates the king of fruits. Put together after a lot of research and trials by executive chef Abhijit Chakraborty, the menu brings an array of dishes prepared with mango in various forms and the gourmet food blends Oriental and continental techniques and flavours while remaining true to the authentic Bengali palate.

Sanjay Karmakar, manager-operations at Princeton Club, expressed his excitement about the festival. He said: "Mango Mania is a celebration of the rich and diverse flavours of mangoes. Our guests will enjoy a unique dining experience and innovative dishes curated by our expert chefs spearheaded by our executive chef Abhijit Chakraborty. Princeton Club is known for its culinary supremacy and innovation. We invite everyone to join us and indulge in this mango extravaganza."

t2 had a taste of the delicious spread and here are the things that we enjoyed!

## PRINCETON CLUB'S LIMITED-TIME MENU CELEBRATES MANGOES WITH AN INDULGENT SPREAD



**Grilled Bhetki with Mango Mustard Sauce and Black Rice:** While mango remains the star in this multi-element plate, what makes the fish delectable is the tactfully prepared tangy mango mustard sauce that envelopes it. Black rice adds another novelty to this mains.



**Mango Veg Teriyaki and Mango Sticky Rice:** It is an example of a culinary masterpiece and is a harmonious blend of the sweet and tangy flavours of mango with the richness of traditional teriyaki sauce.



**Mango Basil Shake:** The bonhomie of luscious ripe mango, herby basil, and vanilla ice-cream is a comforting concoction that makes you forget the wrath of summer.



**Chopped Mango Phirni:** This is the season to give your favourite dessert a mango-ey twist and this *phirni* is like a celebration of the fruit and the tradition. The hint of mint leaves lends it a dash of freshness.



**Kafir Lime Stone Ground Mustard Raw Mango Salad:** Similar to the authentic Bengali Aam Makha with Kasundi (mustard) this salad woos with a confluence of flavours including tangy, spicy, and sweet.



**Mango Chicken Basket:** A delightful presentation of sweet and savoury, this dish presents the succulent flavour of ripe mangoes with Oriental-style chicken. The presentation, with mangoes and baby tomatoes by the side, is definitely Instagrammable.

Sanjukta Sengupta  
(t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

**What:** Mango Mania

**Where:** Princeton Club, 26, Prince Anwar Shah Rd, Badam Talla, Tollygunge

**On Till:** June 23

**Timing:** Lunch and Dinner

**Pocket Pinch:** ₹1,000-plus for two



## FEEDBACK

t2  
TALK

## WHY YOU LOVED YOUNG SHELDON

I started watching *The Big Bang Theory* prequel *Young Sheldon* when I was living away from home and missed my family with every fibre of my being. The show provided me some warmth in the freezing, cold winter months. *Young Sheldon* gave us a much-needed understanding of Sheldon as a child, his background and the life he led before coming to Caltech, his experiences of being a child prodigy in a small town in Texas, and his family. It also gave us a chance to know Sheldon's father who was already dead by the time *The Big Bang Theory* started.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call the whole show my favourite moment. However, to pick moments from the show I think about more often, would be the family dinners with the whole family gathered around the dinner table, saying 'Grace', eating and sharing anecdotes from their day. Other moments would be Missy's date with her dad at Red Lobster when she looked adorable dressed like a princess, and the father-daughter moment was beautifully captured. It is surprising that despite the show being called *Young Sheldon*, my favourite moments are often about the other characters. Meemaw being a whole mood... beautiful, feisty and always sticking up for her grandchildren. She is a lesson on how to live life to the fullest even in old age. Georgie growing up, becoming a responsible dad, he and Mandy naming the baby Constance after Meemaw, Missy taking care of the family in the aftermath of the tornado in the absence of Mary, a glimpse of all the major *TBBT* characters as young versions of themselves in one of the earlier seasons, are all moments that will stay with me for a long time to come.

The three moments that take the cake include our young protagonist, Sheldon. First being his baptism after George Senior's death when Mary tells Sheldon to leave if he wants to since he did not believe in God. Sheldon assures her that while he might not believe in God, he did believe in his mom. That was not just sweet but also very deep on many levels as parents are for some of us, the human form of God, the only God we need.

The second would be Sheldon in Caltech as just a boy. When he is asked by a



Young Sheldon

professor if he is lost, Sheldon takes a moment to reply, saying that he is exactly where he is supposed to be, bringing home the fact that he is indeed lost after his father's passing but has found his way and is where he is meant to be. He is moving on and at peace. It is a moment of truth all the viewers and the fans of *TBBT* needed, to see Sheldon find peace and rise above his tragedy. The third and final moment would be Jim Parsons and Mayim Bialik making a much-needed appearance in the ultimate episode, looking older, settled and in perfect sync with each other as a middle-aged couple, and mentioning that their kids are frequently being babysat by Penny, hinting that even though years had passed, Penny remained an important part of their lives. (*What did you love most about Young Sheldon...* May 27)

Ishika Mitra

Though I loved each of the characters of *TBBT*, Sheldon Cooper captured a special place in my heart, in spite of how eccentric he was but also how funny, caring and considerate, and relatable on many different levels. I was very excited to watch *Young Sheldon*, especially the scenes where Sheldon tried to make uranium and fell into trouble with the authorities. I

went on to like Iain Armitage who plays the titular role so beautifully as well as the other characters. The portrayal of Meemaw has to be one of my favourites. Also, the Georgie-Mandy story arc has to be mentioned because of how it showed an immature Georgie evolving into a caring father and the man of the house. The series finale obviously teared me up. Though George's death is something we all knew was coming, it hurt us. Mayim Bialik and Jim Parsons's cameo was a sweet surprise.

Rapti Rudra

Narrating the chronicles of child prodigy Sheldon Cooper, *Young Sheldon* unfolds the challenges faced by him both in school and at home due to his intellectual capabilities and social ineptitude. Boasting an impressive intelligence quotient of 187, he possesses mastery over a variety of subjects, ranging from biological sciences to technology to comic characters. He was a curious little kid with an insatiable penchant for learning, enabling him to master the most complex theories comfortably. As a viewer, I believe the manner in which the director emphasised his quality of being unique was an absolute standout, inspiring the young audience to have faith in their potential, irrespective

of the varied opinions questioning their decision. The star cast too lived up to our expectations, adding charm to every frame of this fascinating series. Kudos to the creators for concluding the series on a bittersweet note, underlining the emotional depth embedded in this mirthful comedy series.

Aayman Anwar Ali

I have loved every season of *Young Sheldon*. The actor portraying young Sheldon is brilliant. It is amazing to look back and realise how young he was when it all started. All the actors have grown so much over the years along with Sheldon. The acting and the way it is written with all the authentic '80s problems have made this show unique and mature. It truly stands out from the television series of the present. A feel-good retro TV sitcom that tells a new and interesting story each week.

Nili Ghosh

*Young Sheldon* is a show that simply grew on me. It's one of the sweetest shows I have seen. From the first season, where the kids are so little, to the last, where the kids are all grown up and responsible, it was one hell of a ride. What I like the most is probably how real the

show feels. It is a show with funny and witty dialogues but at the same time, touches your heart at so many points. It deals with Mary's obsession with Jesus and her always coddling Sheldon, to Georgie's journey of fatherhood, to Missy's relationship with her father and how she was always daddy's little girl. Despite the show being about Sheldon, I think the supporting characters brought the most life to the show. Meemaw was a particularly interesting character who I just love. George, who was considered a 'bad' parent in *TBBT*, was the one who balanced the family the most. Their father's death was one of the most heartbreaking deaths on TV. I like how at the end of the show, Sheldon does appreciate his father and regrets how he treated his father all these years. I love how the portrayal of regret was made by all family members, for as Anne Frank once said — "Regret is stronger than gratitude."

Arundhati Das

When we see the world through the eyes of the Texas-born genius / weird child Sheldon, every ounce of it is entertaining yet insightful. I love this show as it depicts the diverse nature of children, how every child is different, how unique their personalities are and how they handle situations in their own way. Georgie, Missy, Billy, Sheldon — I love every character for who they are. I also love Meemaw and I couldn't help but wonder how cool a grandmother could be. I am sure many people who are like Sheldon, with all their intellect but with trouble socialising, can relate to this show. I love the dynamics within the Cooper family. I love the friendship between Billy and Sheldon... they are two different socially awkward kids and yet they manage to spend a good amount of time together whenever they meet. I love how quirky the character of Missy is, how even after constant hassle and tussle, the twins have each other's backs. The entire Cooper family has my heart and every one of them will be missed.

Shreyasee Dutta

I loved its endearing characters and engrossing stories which provided hilarious comedy as well as heartfelt moments. I watched all the seasons of this hugely popular spin-off series and it was an entertaining and enjoyable watch throughout. I will surely cherish all the wonderful memories of watching the show which wrapped up recently.

Sourish Misra



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