

t2
The Telegraph

XXCE

on

23 June 2024

Sunday



RAINBOW WORLD

t2oS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL PRIDE MONTH WITH A SPECIAL EDITION

INTRODUCING
ami
SIGNATURE PENDANTS

Trest a symbol upon my heart,
a delicate charm, a whisper of strength.
A single word - bold and clear,
'ami'

The diamond within its embrace,
a spark of belief, a promise kept,
reminding me of my own light.

In the face of trials, it shines,
a testament to inner resolve,
a quiet nudge to stand tall.

With 'ami', I wear my confidence,
an emblem of faith, a constant
companion in the journey,
through every challenge
and triumph.

ami
the confidence i wear



ami
MODERN WEARABLES
Gold & Diamond

FROM THE HOUSE OF

B. C. Sen
JEWELLERS

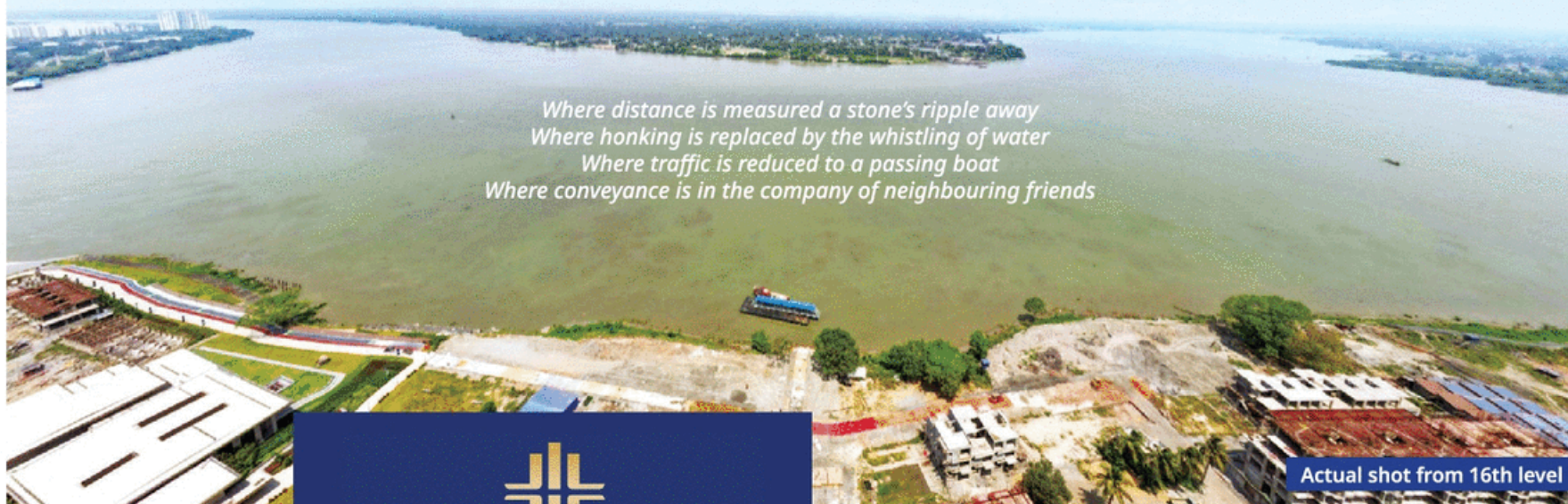
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ALL ON BOARD FOR THE ROYAL GANGES!

*Where distance is measured a stone's ripple away
Where honking is replaced by the whistling of water
Where traffic is reduced to a passing boat
Where conveyance is in the company of neighbouring friends*



Actual shot from 16th level

What makes The Royal Ganges by Srijan Realty your ideal home? The answer lies in the adage 'we are all in the same boat'!

MORNING SHOWS THE DAY

Good news for home buyers at The Royal Ganges. A 35-minute air-conditioned ferry ride on the Ganges has been started to ply from Outram Ghat and back twice every Sunday and public holidays. This will be a more frequent regular conveyance when the project is completed.

The Royal Ganges is the only realty project that offers residents a fully air-conditioned ferry service which would bring Kolkata closer to home!



THE ROYAL GANGES

Bungalows | Villaments | Apartments

The Royal Ganges is a magnum opus of over 39 lakh sq. ft development with about 19-acres of open spaces, 100 percent Ganges-facing sky-touching towers and ultra-luxury villaments near the Bata factory.

Having a vehicle-free private jogging and cycling track of over one kilometre facing the Ganges and its own private jetty and ferry service, recreation and commuting will be a dream in the future.

Home buyers are elated at this news as the service has been started well before the completion of the project, with Phase 1 already sold out and Phase 2 on sale.

- Riverfront residential units
- 73% open space
- Own ferry service

Imagine being enveloped by serenity and embraced by piety at your riverfront home on the banks of the Ganges, only to carry peace of mind across to the other side by very own ferry service.

Free from visual and sound pollution, commuting in the most eco-friendly and sustainable riverine transport facility, the ferry service offered at your home in The Royal Ganges by Srijan Realty will ensure that you sail through the tide of times!



Actual jetty image



Here's what the buyers had to say after taking the fast ferry service to their dream home at The Royal Ganges:

"The ferry service was very comfortable and we felt peace of mind all the way, not having to worry about the commute by road."

- Mr Amitava Banerjee, Buyer

"What a wonderful feeling travelling by ferry! Beyond the commute, this is such a unique, hassle-free experience!"

- Mrs Kasturi Bhadra Roy, Buyer



Artist impression

Zodiac this WEEK



Nita Chhotalal

ARIES

Personal: You need to be generous, kind and forgiving. Support the ability of others to get what they want.

Professional: Do not get caught up in making risky investments or complicated financial deals. Keep an eye on your finances.

Love: You and your partner need to be open and honest about your feelings to get the best outcome for your relationship.



TAURUS

Personal: Put yourself in the loving hands of your family connections and your trust will be well rewarded.

The synergy between you and others could enhance individual talent and creativity.

Professional: This is the right time for coworkers and associates to overcome their differences and reunite along the lines of their mutual interests.

Love: You need to feel more bonded and supported by your partner to have a healthy relationship.



GEMINI

Personal: You need to look deeply at



CANCER

Personal: You may have enough support now, allowing you to increase your experience,

knowledge and ability in your chosen career path. All that is required from you is to thrive and flourish.

Professional: Hard work has brought you to a place where you could earn and receive grace, comfort and freedom, whether that be personal, emotional or financial.

Love: You and your partner are in a stable and secure relationship and that gives you the freedom, independence and support to pursue your dreams.



LEO

Personal: You need to respect your decision-



making process. Instead of criticising yourself for indecisiveness, appreciate the various implications of possible choices. Avoid pushing yourself to make a commitment.

Professional: There could be some unresolved issue or conflict at office that may give rise to feelings of anxiety. Cultivate patience in order to manage your way through the current situation.

Love: The uncertainty in your relationship will pass and you will see the bigger picture again. If you and your partner are patient and sincere, the right path will be revealed to you.

VIRGO

Personal: You need to communicate successfully by keeping your conversations impersonal and humorous, so that nobody feels hurt.

Professional: At work you need to learn how to defend your position without being intimidated. Try to see this as a chance to practice your moves and become stronger at holding your ground.

Love: The bonding and commitment in your relationship will become strong and secure.



LIBRA

Personal: Stay active and just keep moving forward. It is unnecessary to keep checking or interrupting your spontaneity with calculated moves.

Professional: The hard times are over for you and the people who work with you. Finally, the end is in sight. You and your team will achieve the goals easily.

Love: There are new worlds opening up to you and your partner; enjoy the phase, you have both had to work to get your relationship to this point.



SCORPIO

Personal: Move beyond rhetoric and verbal challenges. Now could be the moment to prove what puts you head and shoulders above the rest.

Professional: You have to stand up for yourself if you want to maintain your status or career position. You have the talent, drive and ambition to do so and should be feeling confident and powerful.

Love: You have some challenges coming up and if you want your relationship to go the distance you are going to have to fight for it.



SAGITTARIUS

Personal: Do not allow nostalgia and outworn loyalties to hold you back. Be willing to go through whatever it takes to get to where you really want to be.

Professional: Encourage everyone around you at work to look to the future rather than trying to forestall it with old thinking or habits. Look ahead and not backwards.

Love: You are turning a page in your romantic life. Cast off the detritus of the past and look forward to the future and potential relationships with optimism.



CAPRICORN

Personal: Influence others by setting an example of integrity.

Your self-esteem will increase to the degree that you succeed in your efforts.

Professional: Don't let the fear of failure or the fear of looking foolish hold you back from doing what you want to do.

Love: If your relationship has gone through a lot of emotional upheaval, now is the time to get back on top of it and any problems you faced in the past have actually brought you both closer together.



AQUARIUS

Personal: You need to commit to yourself to pursue changes that will lead to improvement. Overcome the tendency to get distracted and seek someone's approval.

Professional: You could be moving into an easier phase in your work life where things are under control, you are accomplishing your goals and completing tasks with ease.

Love: If single, you need to heal yourself from past wounds and then only can you allow a healthy relationship to come into your life.



PISCES

Personal: You need to put your health first, otherwise you may suffer from chronic fatigue, exhaustion and will be unable to cope.

Professional: Be extremely cautious in your financial dealings and don't take unnecessary risks as this is not a time to gamble.

Love: Being overly dramatic, attention-seeking or playing the victim with your partner may lead to a break-up.



WATCHIT!

MOVIES ON TV



MORNING

Chinese Zodiac: STAR Movies Select HD, 8.15am

Wyatt Earp's Revenge: &flix, 8.50am

Boro Bou: Colors Bangla Cinema, 10am

Ooops! Noah is Gone...: STAR Movies Select HD, 10.30am

65: Sony Pix, 10.45am

Takers: &Prime HD, 11am

Moonfall: STAR Movies Select HD, noon

Boss - Born To Rule: Zee Bangla Cinema, noon

AFTERNOON

Jio Pagla: Jalsha Movies, 1pm

Pratibad: Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm

After a coded signal points to his missing grandfather's (Michael Caine) presence on a remote, uncharted island, teenager Sean Anderson (Josh Hutcherson) teams up with his stepfather (Dwayne Johnson) and heads off on a quest to rescue him.

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island; Sony Pix, 3.55pm

Monster Hunter: Sony Pix, 2.05pm

Shark Island: STAR Movies Select HD, 2.15pm

Putra Badhu: Zee Bangla Cinema, 2.55pm

Shankhachur: Aakash Aath, 3.05pm

The Captain: STAR Movies Select HD, 3.45pm

Journey 2, The Mysterious Island: Sony Pix, 3.55pm

Pratikaar: Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm

Mon Je Kore Uru Uru: Jalsha Movies, 4.15pm

Pixels: &flix, 4.55pm

Baba Keno Chakor: Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.10pm

In this South Korean disaster thriller, a police detective (Song Kang-ho) is in a race against time to thwart the impact caused by the release of a deadly virus on unsuspecting passengers aboard an aircraft by a deranged man (Yim Si-wan). **Emergency Declaration; STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm**



EVENING

Train to Busan: STAR Movies Select HD, 5.45pm

Gemini: &Prime HD, 5.45pm

Amio Nebo Challenge: Aakash Aath, 6.30pm

Manik: Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm

Rampage: Sony Pix, 7.05pm

Miss Call: Jalsha Movies, 7.15pm

Center Stage, On Pointe: &Prime HD, 7.20pm

Ip Man, Kung Fu Master: STAR Movies Select HD, 7.30pm

Ajker Santan: Zee Bangla Cinema, 8pm

Emergency Declaration: STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm

Spider-Man, Into the Spider-Verse: Sony Pix, 9pm

The Princess: &Prime HD, 9pm

Jamai Raja: Colors Bangla Cinema, 9.30pm

Bhootchakra Private Limited: Jalsha Movies, 10.15pm

S.W.A.T., Firefight: &flix, 11.20pm

Boudi Carleer: Zee Bangla Cinema, 11.25pm

Sword Master: STAR Movies Select HD, 11.30pm

SPORTS

Hyundai Archery World Cup (Stage 3)

Antalya, Turkey - Recurve team finals - live: Sony TEN 2, 12.30pm

India Women vs South Africa Women, 3rd

ODI - live from Bengaluru: Sports18 1 & 1 HD, 1.30pm

Hyundai Archery World Cup (Stage 3)

Antalya, Turkey - Recurve individual final

fours (Semi-finals and finals) - live: Sony TEN 2, 4.30pm

FIH Pro League, Men's - Great Britain vs

Belgium - live: Sports18 1 HD, 5pm

ATP 500, Terra Wortmann Open, Final - live:

EuroSport, 5.30pm

FIH Pro League, Men's - Netherlands vs

Germany - live: Sports18 1 HD, 7.30pm

ICC Men's T20 World Cup, USA vs England

- live: STAR Sports 1, 1 HD, 2, 2 HD, Hindi 1

& Hindi 1 HD, 7.50pm

UEFA EURO, Scotland vs Hungary - live:

Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 12.30am

UEFA EURO, Switzerland vs Germany - live:

Sony TEN 2, 12.30am

ICC Men's T20 World Cup, West Indies vs

South Africa - live: STAR Sports 1, 1 HD, 2, 2

HD, Hindi 1 & Hindi 1 HD, 5.50am

ENTERTAINMENT

ENGLISH

Schitt's Creek: Comedy Central, 4pm

Uncontrollably Fond: Zee Cafe, 4pm

House of the Dragon: Colors Infinity, 5pm

Hwarang, The Poet Warrior Youth: Zee Cafe, 6pm

Fit Fab Feast: Zee Cafe, 7pm

Brooklyn Nine-Nine: Comedy Central, 8pm

Shark Tank Australia: Zee Cafe, 9pm

Three Pines: Colors Infinity, 10pm

Nathan for You: Comedy Central, 10pm

HINDI

Meetha Khatta Pyaar Hamara: STAR Plus, 6.30pm

Krishna Mohini: Colors, 7pm

Maati Se Bandhi Dor: STAR Plus, 7.30pm

Superstar Singer: Sony, 8pm

Doree: Colors, 8.30pm

Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment: Colors, 9.30pm

Madness Machayenge - India Ko

Hasayenge: Sony, 9.30pm

Anupamaa: STAR Plus, 10pm

Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye: Zee TV, 10.15pm

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FEARLESS FACES OF PRIDE

With a special photoshoot for Pride Month, **t2oS** tuned into the stories of some brave individuals who live life on their own terms

Pride is a celebration of oneself and living life unabashedly. Every day should be about pride, visibility and accessibility but when the iconic revolt at Stonewall Inn unravelled in 1969, it sealed the month of June as International Pride Month. A month-long celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community is just a stepping stone after the kind of struggles queers have been subjected to over decades of intolerance.

It's crucial to amplify the voices and stories of those who continue to navigate their identities in a world still stingy with acceptance, respect and humanity. By sharing the experiences of diverse individuals within the queer community, we celebrate not only their courage and resilience but also the never-ending journey towards true equality. This Pride Month, **t2oS** delves into some personal experiences that highlight different hues of queer narratives, reminding us that behind every rainbow flag, there are millions of stories of glee, sorrow, love, hate, shame and pride.



Rahul, Redan and Shayan in front of the Porshi kitchen

RAHUL DHARA, 25, PORSHI STAFF, FROM HOWRAH

Identifies as: Trans man

Pride to you is...

It means expressing myself the way I am.

Your journey...

I struggled a lot as a kid because nobody at home was willing to accept what I liked and what I did not like. Now that I am older, I have learned to make my own decisions so things are better now.

Major turning point...

As a kid, I didn't know that being trans was an actual thing, or what it was at all, I only knew I felt it. That I liked boys' clothes instead of girls'. And my family wasn't happy with that. I have now found freedom in Calcutta and at Sappho — the people I

wish to love and the clothes I wish to wear are all options that I have been allowed in the space I am in today. The things I never had at home, I have found here.

Family's reaction...

They say I'm diseased, that I'm mad. I am not in contact with them any more.

Contribution and being the change...

People refuse to understand, so I don't know what I can say to make them understand if they just don't want to. Educated people say the most illiterate things. Nobody knows what 'trans' even is. That trans people exist, that there are identities beyond the cisgender. Now that I am with Sappho and get to be with similar-minded people, I'm doing a lot better and am happy.

REDAN, 24, PORSHI STAFF, FROM HOOGHLY

Identifies as: Trans man

Pride to you is...

It is an emotion. It is about freely expressing myself. And for people who are closeted or have unsupportive families, they are also free to be who they are.

Your journey...

I was never able to show who I am. When I grew older, I realised more of myself that people at home never accepted, and never will. Later I came to Calcutta and now I live the way I like.

Major turning point...

When I left home. That was my own decision.

Family's reaction...

They were not supportive at first but it has become better over the years. We fight less now!

Contribution to society and being the change...

I wish I could tell people to step into my shoes. If they do that, they will realise immediately how difficult it is to be who we are in a society as oppressive as ours. I would like to tell people my story, ask them to see things for themselves, and learn more about people like me. To study and understand, since understanding is all we need.

SHAYAN SHAIK, 25, PORSHI STAFF, FROM PADMA

Identifies as: Trans man

Pride to you is...

To me, Pride is happiness, celebration, everything that I am. I'd always dreamt of walking at the marches as a kid and I was so desperate to go and see people celebrate themselves and each other. But my family didn't let me when I was younger, so the first time I was able to attend a march, the happiness I felt was unlike anything else. I'm looking forward to going this year too!

Your journey...

My family was not supportive of my identity at all. After moving to Calcutta, I was by myself; I couldn't imagine being independent enough to do

anything on my own. But I'm in a good place now. Of course, there are problems, but what's life without problems, right?

Major turning point...

When I decided to leave home. I was all alone when I left. I knew no one, except a Facebook friend who I asked for help. I told them that I was leaving home and if they could help me get a chance at the place they worked. I still feel that was one of the best and strongest decisions I've ever made. If I hadn't left home then I wouldn't have been here today.

Family's reaction...

Like I said, they weren't happy. Eventually, I left!

Contribution and being the change...

I think my being here is enough contribution. I'll do my bit no matter how big or small the chances are.



SHREOSI RAY, 37, SOCIAL WORKER AT SAPPHO FOR EQUALITY, FROM SOUTH CALCUTTA

Identifies as: Non-binary person

Pride to you is...

I remember reading about the 2009 verdict back during a time when discourse about the community was taboo. I went to my first Pride walk when I was in university, so that was the first time I was truly exposed to the community. Seeing and becoming acquainted with so many people on the queer-trans spectrum was life-changing for me.

Your journey...

I studied at Jadavpur University, and one of the privileges of going to JU is that it allows you to express and be yourself freely. So many movements go on there that it allows space for you to be curious and introduce yourself to various issues. That's when I became curious about the political and historical context behind the movement.

Major turning point...

When I was studying at Kalyani

University, a new course was introduced in my batch called New Gender Studies. The course description appealed to me because of my personal experience and also because I never knew that queerness could be an academic discipline or inclination. I couldn't imagine there being a safe space for me at home, leave alone college, but I found out that there were poems, stories, even theoretical interventions on queerness that I previously had no idea about.

Family's reaction...

They still want me to get married to a man of the caste they feel is right and have a family the traditional way but I don't want to. That was one of the main reasons why I moved to Calcutta. I studied to make myself independent and to remove myself from those shackles.

Contribution and being the change...

I try to encourage conversations and discourse about the community as much as I can. This is my job, what I am involved in 24/7 and work with, and that's a decision I made intentionally. That's why I came to Sappho, and that's why I stayed.

→ CONTD ON P8

TT Connect Initiative

Ask Doctor Harshagain



Dr. Harsh V. Agrawal
MBBS, MD (Chicago USA)

■ Hello Doctor,
I have Diabetes since I was in college. Take Istamet 50/1000 twice a day and Zoryl 2 once in the morning along with my Thyroid medicines. I generally check my sugar on a regular basis through Accucheck machine. My empty stomach sugar is generally around 110-120 while my sugar 2 hr after meal is around 140. But my HbA1c test recently done showed a value of 8.6. How is that possible. Is the report wrong. Please advise what to do
- Savita

Dear Ms Savita,

Your blood sugar might be rising during other times of the day. Some people experience rise in blood sugar after dinner, breakfast or randomly at other times of the day or night. To find out you will have to check your blood sugar during different times of the day like 2 hrs after dinner and breakfast, before lunch, before dinner and in the night. It might not be though possible to prick yourself with the needle so many times. One good options for patients like you is something known as Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) machines.

These are generally placed in the back of the underarm. It automatically

records your blood sugar every 15 mins and maintains a 24 hours records of your blood sugar. One can check the sugar anytime using the sensor. Also through the app available you can get the 24 hour trend of your blood sugar in your mobile.

You can thus find out what time of the day or night your sugar is rising and change your medicine or eating habits accordingly. Consult with your physician once before using the devices as it cannot be used by some patients.

To answer the other part of your question, yes there is a possibility of the lab report being wrong or your machine being defective also. So you can check on that too.

■ Hello Doctor,

I am 20 years old and have been taking multiple supplements in the form of vitamins, calcium and protein everyday. Is this ok? Should I continue to take or will it affect my kidney and liver. What to do?
- Rishabh

Hello Rishabh,

It is not recommended to take routine supplements unless you are found to have a deficiency. There are common tests one can do to check for the same. Unnecessary dose of such supplements can cause unnecessary side effects and yes can damage your organs. So be careful. Consult your physician if you have any symptoms and think that you might be having nutritional deficiency.

This article is to spread public awareness about common diseases

If you have any questions please email at
drharshvardhan19@gmail.com or WhatsApp/call at 96746 44443
Follow on Facebook and Instagram: askdoctorharsh

All Asia Medical Institute - 8B Garcha First Lane, Kolkata: 700019
(Besides Gariahat Pantaloons) Ph : 033 40012200/ 96746 44442



➔ FROM P7

DON HASAR, 31, CO-FOUNDER/ CO-DIRECTOR/ CEO, HIMACHAL QUEER FOUNDATION, ORIGINALLY FROM CALCUTTA, NOW BASED IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Identifies as: Non-binary transgender person

Pride to me is: Living my truth fearlessly, but using what I have to create space for truth/narratives which never find their place in the light.

Your journey: I spent the first 18 years

of my life in Calcutta, having to play the role of a boy/man. Like many others, I did it to secure some acceptance for myself. It continued even after leaving my parent's house. This sense of migration has the potential to change how transpersons see themselves. Just around Covid, I spoke to my parents after deciding to stop living the fake life that I had been living. I sat them down and told them that I was not a boy, not a man and not a woman as well. I identify myself as a non-binary person. This was one of the first sessions that I possibly took.

I knew when I was three or four that I was not a boy. In fact, you don't even know the word 'boy' or 'girl'. You just know this is not who you are. I would love wearing ma's clothes and would feel a sense of alignment with all the women in

Don, who studied philosophy at Jadavpur University, looked stunning in a Dev R Nil sari. In this photo taken on the iconic Park Street, the vibe is one of power and purpose that Don 'dons'. The *haasrate*, the desires. In a tattoo as well as in the heart. Picture: Saionee Chakraborty

my life. Parents are often okay with this till a certain age. The moment you are seven-eight, they start to feel there is a defect which has to be rectified. That is when the shaming and violence starts. And, it did for me as well. Imagine a seven-eight-year-old getting beaten up every day, and failing to understand, 'How does one behave like a boy?' There is no rulebook and we all learn these gender norms as a social conditioning. It happens simultaneously in our homes and schools. I was bullied in my school. But, we also learn how to survive. I feel many trans and queer people are very good actors. We know how to play that character and then we become those people to survive.... When you start telling yourself things like that, it starts eating into who we know we are. This does a great deal of damage to our

sense of self.

Till 24-25, I tried to fit in... but I failed miserably. I wasn't very good at it. Also, one doesn't come out once. We keep on coming out to the world and to ourselves, everyday. Words like 'queer', 'trans', 'LGBT' were never there in my dictionary while growing up. I got them very late in my life... a maximum of seven-eight years back. Till (Section) 377 (Section 377 of the IPC categorises sexual intercourse beyond peno-vaginal sex as an "unnatural offence" effectively criminalising same-sex behaviour consensual or otherwise. The section was read down in a landmark judgement in September 2018 by the Supreme Court whereby adult consensual same-sex behaviour was decriminalised, recognising the historic discrimination faced by the communities'), a lot of us have spent a huge chunk of our lives, believing to be criminals and trying to change who we really are. So, you also put blinders on and live life like a straight cisgender person for a very long time. (Section) 377 was a milestone. Working around artists and photographers gave me the opportunity and exposure to understand what art could look like and how art and cultural resistance come together to speak about identities and how the world treats them. This was also a phase of my life when I learnt how to properly speak and write in English. Till then, most spaces had no entry for me.

Major turning point: My work with the Himachal Queer Foundation. This happened three years back. I went to work as a participant in a workshop on feminism, trans feminism, transgender identities, laws and legalities. I have volunteered for Pratyay Gender Trust for many years and learnt a lot. I realised I have some tools which could be used in the movement space. That sense of accountability made me work more. I met my partner at the workshop and we were stunned to find out how aligned our queer politics was.

We did Himachal Pradesh's first Pride Walk in December 2021 in Palampur. That gave us confidence. Youth joined us from all neighbouring districts. All our placards were in Pahadi. We took all the local folk songs, all misogynistic ones particularly and turned them into songs of queerness and equality. That was the moment when things shifted. The narrative changed from "queerness is a Western thing" to "These are our children, let's listen to what they have to say". Then we registered the organisation and we have been working ever since. We have worked all over Himachal and with local government-level schools and colleges and Anganwadi ASHA workers. Kangra's first trans ID card was mine. Now the DC office calls us for regular meetings and there is a lot of power when people see a person wearing sari with a *daari*, getting inside the DC office, sitting in one of those chairs where only men sit and telling people what our community needs. That is the shift that has happened in the last two-and-a-half, three years. When I go to Palampur, everybody knows that I am queer and people have seen me in all my avatars. They might not understand that, but they respect that because we have sustained the work.

Family's reaction: My parents were not supportive in the beginning. Now they

are there in their space. Now, they are also learning and one always has to acknowledge that. They come from a different school of thought. You cannot all of a sudden expect them to be like, 'We get what you are saying'. That being said, it also doesn't cancel out the violence happening to you, but after a certain point of time, you also realise and they also realise that you are missing out on family. Now they are ok.

Contribution to society and being the change: For me, my community means the village where I stay. In rural mountainous Himalayas, one does not have the privilege to meet queer communities regularly. How do you say who is queer? Particularly because the English LGBTQIAP vocabulary does not exist there. Then we'll start with gender and then we'll come to trans and rights. That is how we have been able to build a community. In the mountains, there is co-dependency. Even though people may not like you, they will still accept you. Ninety per cent of Himachal work in rural conditions. We talk mostly in Pahadi. There will be people with ideologies which are not your ideologies because you believe in everybody's rights. We cannot cancel them out and we believe in working with them in the hope that they become potential allies.

We have to work with the space that is there, with the people who are occupying the space and tell them: *Hum bhi hai*. Queerness is not limited to a certain class and caste. There is a lot of queerness in every community. How often do we speak of migrant labourers or farmers and their queerness? How do we know that they do not explore queerness and sexuality? Who is talking to them, in their language? There is a different world. But we fail to acknowledge that different worlds can coexist simultaneously. We are in a bubble.

I also wanted to simplify the discourse of gender and sexuality. It's not simplistic, but one can always find ways to use simple methods around these. I don't look at it in terms of difficulty because it's always going to be difficult changing societal norms. There are changes happening, but that is not enough. The way forward is to build vocabulary in other dialects and languages.

Cis women are our biggest natural allies. We have to all work together and more than looking at the differences, try to find the similarities. We cannot work in our own silos. All issues are related to each other and practising intersectionality, solidarity and support is an imperative at the moment. We are seeing anti-trans discourses all over the world right now and if we want to sustain this and go to the other side, we need to find our allies.

I am at a very interesting juncture in my life. Right now the work I am doing in the mountainous rural Himachal, I want to take that work to other rural spaces. I also want to live all my dreams. I am at a place where I have found my voice. I used to be quiet even in friend's groups. Now I am actually speaking confidently about things. *Mein sharma nahin rahin hoon*. I am looking forward to a place where we are not institutionalising the meaning of trans and queer. *Itni mushkil se apne bakso se nikal rahe hain. Phir kyun humein bakso mein dal rahe ho? Humain toh azaad rehna hain.*



REE, 44, SAPPHO PROGRAMME ASSISTANT, FROM KONNAGAR

Identifies as: Queer cis woman

Pride to you is...

The feeling of pride itself. This is a month of strength and fighting for our rights, and that fight continues.

Your journey...

I always knew I was different, and I started searching for myself when I was around 10 years old. It was

worse during adolescence when my peers would be interested in school teachers or film stars or *paarar dadas*. That never happened to me at all. I always liked women! And I thought that was my fault.

Major turning point...

There was an article that came out in April 1999 that changed my life completely. I met Malobika and Akanksha eventually and then I joined Sappho. I was the 16th member of the team.

Family's reaction...

I prefer peace over happiness. *Mene*

newa aar mone newar modhye ekta e-kaar aa-kaar er parthokyo. Even if they knew my sexuality, they never spoke of it, and when I first started gaining traction with the media, they kicked me out for a couple of days. My parents have passed now and now no one directly asks what I'm doing or who I'm with. That's a relief!

Contribution and being the change...

Since my work revolves around LGBTQIA+ issues, this is what I am busy with all day. History has been of a particular kind, and the present is of a different kind, but the lens of violence that surrounds our space has not changed. We try to contribute as much as we can in terms of raising awareness and encouraging conversations.

KOYEL GHOSH, 35, SAPPHO FOR EQUALITY MANAGING TRUSTEE, FROM HOWRAH

Identifies as: Non-binary trans person

Pride to you is...

Pride has always been a protest and it continues to be so. It is also a celebration of the togetherness of the community, and about faces that make you happy, and families that you choose and are not born into.

Your journey...

Sappho was formed 25 years ago by six lesbian women. I came to Sappho when I was 21 years old, in 2012. I came here for love, my then-partner was already part of the organisation and she had wanted me to meet her friends. The idea of my non-binary transness was something I understood and acknowledged while I was at Sappho. I came for love, and that love never left, so I never left. That's why I stayed.

Major turning point...

Joining Sappho changed my life completely. I would have been just another person living in shambles and shame, but that has changed. I have accepted myself, I'm okay with my body, with who I love, and who my friends are. So I see myself with a lot of pride.

Family's reaction...

I just have my mother now, and she's come to terms with it in her own language. She doesn't understand but she's accepted it nevertheless because she knows it is intrinsic to

my life.

Contribution and being the change...

I'd like people to just treat us with respect and dignity. According to the Constitution of this country, everybody has the right to dignified living. People shouldn't be ostracised just because they are marginalised or minorities in their own way. So whether it is the intersectionality of caste, class, religion, gender, or sexuality, it is important to treat people with respect, regardless of who they are.

Vision for Sappho that turns 25 this year...

Sappho is a celebration of us, our people. An organisation does not stand on its own, it stands on the shoulders of the people who run it. I hope in the next 25 years, organisations like us don't have to exist, the relevance of grassroots activism and organisations can lessen, that people can go about their lives without the fear of degradation or oppression. A day when such organisations will not be required will be the day the movement will actually take a step forward. I'm optimistic, so I hope things will change for the better.

➔ CONTD ON P10

BAND FEST '24

Celebrating World Music Day

2 Days 8 Bands

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22nd-23rd June '24 | 2 PM Onwards

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Live on 22nd June '24
ADBUTTAM | DEBDIP BANERJEE | PARIDHI | RIDDLES

Live on 23rd June '24
THE LOCAL PHARMACY | ISHANI NAG | THE GROOVERZ | DISTORTED CHROMOSOMES

RADIO PARTNER
91.9 friends fm
Emergency Friends Ki

→ FROM P9

SANDEEPTA DAS, INTER-DISCIPLINARY ARTISTE

Identifies as: Transgender woman

Pride to you is...

Pride to me is being who I am. It is a strategy to go further and grow. Pride is protest and without protest there should be no celebration. We seek rights, basic rights and that forms the base for Pride movements. Pride plays a very important role for me to be who I always wanted to be and also creates the space for others to come forward and live their authentic selves.

Your journey...

We live in a society where we have always had to box ourselves. So the journey was about unboxing myself and coming to terms with my unconventionality. I always wanted to be an artiste so I studied design and animation film studies. Presently, I am working with an IT company as a graphic and visual designer. Apart from that, I love to paint and am preparing for my exhibition. Performing art for me is deep-rooted in my childhood. As a child, I learned Bharatnatyam, Kathak and Odissi. Dance, for me, is an excellent medium of expression and I utilise it to reflect my reality. When I was 14, I realised my discomfort with my body. When you stand in front of the mirror and do not like what you are seeing, be it the body you were born with or body fat or anything that does not align with who you want to be, it is stressful and results in dysmorphia. I still go through a lot of dysmorphia and choose to look at myself in the mirror for long hours so that I can deal with society better. Society is a mirror for

me. To transition from one body to another is medically very expensive. I have been lucky to afford it but there are many who cannot. Thinking about the movement in a broader sense is very important. Nowadays I am beginning to get comfortable with my body so I have chosen to view my experiences with hope and not just with the spectacle of struggles.

Major turning point...

When I realised that negativity is actually very important to balance the positivity in life. The day I started seeing my struggles in a positive light, as a lesson, my perspective towards life changed.

Family's reaction...

They were not supportive and never accepted me. I left home at a very early age. When a woman is masculine it is much more acceptable to the patriarchal society but when a person born with a male body expresses his femininity, it becomes difficult for the world. The same thing happened at my home. Acceptance comes from people's security with themselves too. Anyway, my chosen family, my friends, have been very supportive and they make the journey easier.

Contribution to society and being the change...

I am a strong believer of if not now, when? If not us, who? So, when I continue to be myself, dress the way I do and keep my head high, be it in my company who had probably not seen a transwoman in a corporate before, or on the roads, I create a ripple. To continue holding dialogues, irrespective of the hate and negativity I receive, is the way forward.

Aftermath Herbarium

Superficial fashion left an unprecedented trail of destruction in its wake, exemplified by the...
towards of once rightly tried lying disembodied across thoroughfares and alleyways and
heavily with a rapidly detached green cover, these trees once offered a respite of shade, flow
and that to both the city's humane and non-humans. Witnessing these surreal, dystopian sce
inspired me to create the 'Aftermath Herbarium'

The visual compendium offers a moment of reflection and healing from the profound g
experience at this immeasurable loss of what should still have been, while also imploring us to
adequate measures to cherish, protect and safeguard our green spa

11 prints from 'Aftermath Herbarium' by Twisha (b. 1987, Kolkata)



ADITYA MOHNOT, FASHION DESIGNER, CO-OWNER OF BONBIBI, FROM CALCUTTA

Identifies as: Homosexual man

Pride to you is...

So, I was one of the people who was a part of the first Friendship Walk in 1999 (Asia's first Pride Parade held in Calcutta). At that time it was about solidarity and seeing like-minded individuals. Pride is about being yourself unapologetically, all the time and everywhere.

Your journey...

I went to La Martiniere for Boys till Class XII and then I studied hotel management at IIM Calcutta. I dabbled in a lot of creative fields after that. However, then I got interested in fashion and now it has been two decades of Bonbibi. Stereotyping has its own pros and cons and fashion is gay men. (Laughs) As far as my sexuality as a homosexual man is concerned, I think I always knew and so did my classmates and friends. When I came out to my sister she said that she already knew and my brother was very accepting about it too. I never had to come out to my mother because I always felt like I would if I wanted my partner to meet her. Fingers still crossed for that! Now that I look back, during one of my performances my classmates kept calling me Mohini. Honestly, I took it as a compliment and did not see it as bullying. I think I have always embraced what life has thrown at me... the saying about life giving you lemons and you using it in the tequila.

Major turning point...

So, after 2010, I realised that pretty much everything in my life is my own doing. It is about how I keep my energy. If my connection with the universe is correct and I allow life to happen, it will. Earlier, I used to be a person who would hold on to a lot of grudges but I realised that it is fruitless. I still have goosebumps when I talk about how beautiful life is and only when you get too affected by people or the need to control do you mess with the universe's flow.

Contribution to society and being the change...

I am changing the narrative just by being me. We have huge discussions about inclusivity but are we really taking the necessary steps? For instance, the activism world today has become "you have not done your homework so I am not going to teach you basics" but that is what activism is about. To hold dialogues, mediate and talk at length. Back in 2005, when I was what we call stereotypically "feminine", I held my head high and I continue to do so.

SOUVIK GHOSH, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIALIST, FROM BIDHANNAGAR

Identifies as: Homosexual
Pride to you is...

I will share an anecdote from when Saathi, an NGO, selected me to attend an International Health Conference in Canada. We were supposed to share rooms with other attendees there. So, one day I told my Mexican roommate that I am gay and I hope that was not a problem for him to share a room with me. To that he replied, "See I have a mole, look I have long hair. You know, I am straight?" Then he told a baffled me that we do not mention basics of your existence and being gay is who you are and you should not have to announce that. That is what Pride aims at, a space where we do not need to be different but feel included.

Your journey...

I was in Class V when I first began exploring my sexuality. I directly wanted someone to talk to when I found Malobikadi's (Minakshi Sanyal) number while reading an article back in 1999. She used to lead Sappho For Equality back then. During my college days, I started volunteering for Saathi, which was close to my college, Bidhannagar Government College. My first big break was in 2003, The Siddhartha

Gautam Film Festival which was a first LGBTQIA+ film festival where films on queer sexual health and struggles at large were screened.

Major turning point...

Undoubtedly, when I watched *My Brother... Nikhil*. When I first watched it, I found myself in a new light. I suddenly found myself very confident of how I actually felt about men. That is the day I validated my feelings towards supposed *dadas* in high school who I pretended to admire as seniors. Additionally, that film also opened my eyes to the burning issues of sexual health in same-sex relationships.

Family's reaction...

When I came out to my sister, she said that she always knew. My mother is also very supportive, like we never talk about sexuality specifically but she just knows.

Contribution to society and being the change...

I have pretty much dedicated my life and career to creating safe avenues for the queer community, especially when it comes to their mental health and sexual health.

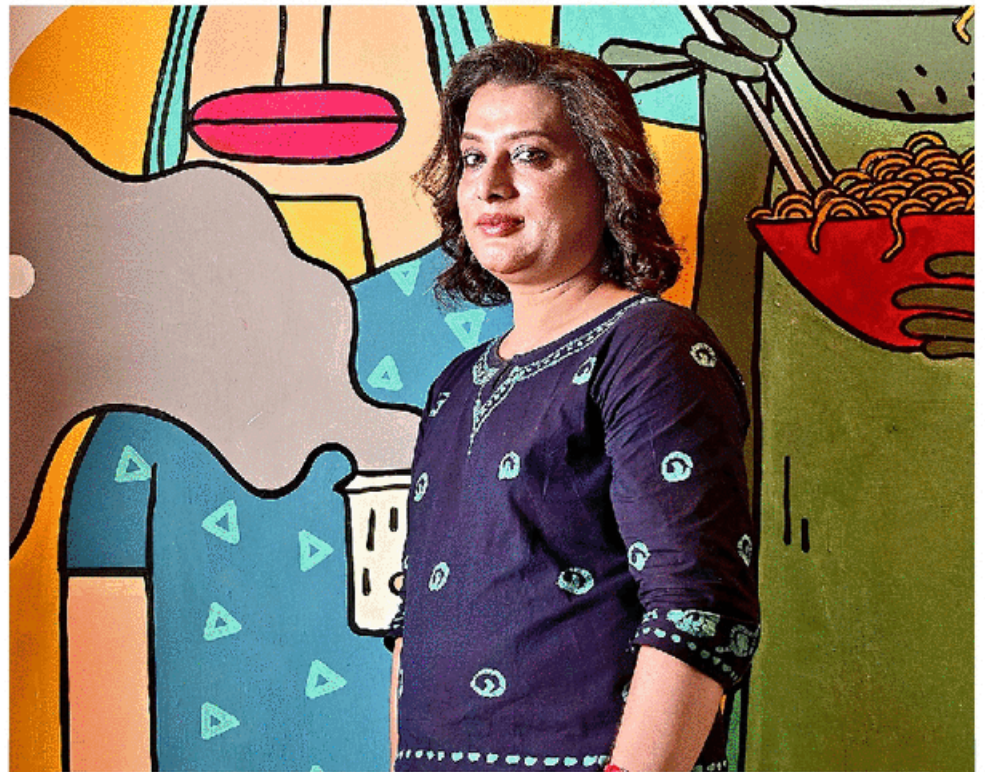
My contributions would encompass holding workshops, creating a secure network so that the taboos surrounding queer sexual health can be broken and, of course, being a part of Kolkata Pride.



... offered a respite of shade, flowers, ... these surreal, dystopian scenes ... to create the 'Aftermath Herbarium'.

... healing from the profound grief ... been, while also imploring us to take ... ect and safeguard our green spaces.

... with 'Herbarium' by Twisha (b. 1997, Kolkata)



SUDEB SUVANA, 45, ACTIVIST/SOCIAL WORKER, FROM BARUIPUR

Identifies as: Female and trans person
Pride to you is...

My identity is my pride. If I were not who I am, then I would not be speaking to you today. I take up medium space everywhere, but I would not be where I am today if I were not a trans-identified person. That is what my strength is.

Your journey...

Ever since I was a child, I felt I was different. I didn't know what I was actually, so I was always searching for myself. There was no Internet when I was growing up so there was no exposure to the information I needed. I still think that the fight I am involved in is not with people or society. The fight is with myself.

Major turning point...

I am currently working towards professional and financial rights, including family acceptance. It is very important to be economically independent. We are no less than anyone else, we have the same strengths as people outside the community. That is what I want to emphasise through my work.

Family's reaction...

I now have my father, brother, sister-in-law, and my brother's child at home. They all love me and accept me, and they have accepted the community as a whole. I don't know what motivated them... my parents especially were never adequately exposed to this culture but perhaps there grew some kind of balance between their interactions with me and their understanding of LGBTQIA+ issues.

Contribution and being the change...

There was this one episode of (Aamir Khan's) *Satyaamev Jayate* that had a beautiful message. He was asked, "If your child was queer, what would you have done?" He had replied, "I would bring them close and tell them that I would always be by their side. That I wanted them to be happy the way they are". I feel that we as a community have been focussed upon a lot. Just treat us as an average human being. It's all about taste, see, if you like sweet food and I like spicy food, does that make us fundamentally different from each other? No, right? So, we're all the same.

Sanjali Brahma, Subhalakshmi Dey
and Saionee Chakraborty
Pictures: Pabitra Das
Location: Porshi Cafe, Jodhpur Park
Make-up: Meghna Balmiki



Pride to me is freedom and happiness. It allows us the ability to be free. I hope one day society will enable us to live the way we deserve," said Meghna Balmiki, our hair and make-up pro for the shoot.

Olterra on Park Street was painted in colours beyond the rainbow as a strong, stirring and impactful discussion was underway at 'Unlearning The Toxic Habits Of Stereotyping' presented by t2 in association with Kolkata Pride and Smirnoff Lemon Pop Non-alcoholic on June 19. In the second edition of t2's one-of-a-kind annual Pride event aimed at visibility, dialogues and inclusivity, individuals from all walks of life poured in to witness the iconic set of panellists talk about the toxicity of stereotypes, their journey and more. The panel, moderated by Navonil Das (Nil), co-initiator of Kolkata Pride and co-founder of Dev R Nil, and Anindya Hajra, co-initiator of Kolkata Pride, was packed with hope and backed with queer rage. Panellists included trans-queer activist Sudeb Suvana, Cannes 2024 Best Actress award-winner Anasuya Sengupta, clothes-maker Kallol Datta, trans queer activist and Himachal Queer Foundation initiator Don Hasar, food consultant Rukshana Kapadia and fashion designer Aditya Mohnot.

Edited excerpts from the engaging and impactful discussion...
Nil: Suvana trains people in farming... so, Suvana, when you saw people being kind of embarrassed because they were farmers, how did you tackle this stereotype?
Sudeb Suvana: The way I grew up, I realised that the security of occupation is very important for a person to stay alive. As a trans person, it is very easy for your sexuality to convert into your only identity. Being a trans person, I work with a lot of trans people but that doesn't

skills each person is equipped with and what they wanted to do.
Second, I genuinely wanted to find a profession where the division of roles on the basis of sex is absent. In India, until now farming is an occupation that does not discriminate or divide. So, we first started with mushroom farming. Funnily, this one time someone was calling one of the people working with us and when asked what they were doing, they said they were cutting vegetables at someone's house and were just going to cook. Can you imagine that the stereotypes ran in a way that being a domestic help was viewed in a better light than being a farmer?! Today those same people proudly say we are farmers and they say the same at their houses too. But to reach here, it took a lot of time and it took us a long process to hold on to the dream, the vision very strongly.
Nil: We, from within the (LGBTQIA+) community, are trying to break the stereotypes. We are trying to educate and encourage people to choose farming and multiple other professions instead of working as domestic help or asking for money on the streets. It is a very long process...
Suvana: Yes and there was another stereotype that we had to break. We discovered stereotypes in layers. Another layer was that when people chose farming over other jobs that would give them a lot of money in a short period of time, that was a challenge. To make them realise that it is the satisfaction of the job that really matters was definitely something.
Anindya: Anasuya, I was wondering that as actors, we are always expected to rely on stereotypes which derive from a maze of identities expressing them-



(L-R) Aditya Mohnot, Navonil Das, Anasuya Sengupta, Don Hasar, Kallol Datta, Sudeb Suvana, Anindya Hajra and Rukshana Kapadia post the discussion on 'Unlearning The Toxic Habits Of Stereotyping'

I DEDICATED THE (CANNES BEST ACTRESS) AWARD TO THE QUEER COMMUNITY ACROSS THE WORLD AND ALL OTHER MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES. I SAID THEY ARE SO BRAVELY FIGHTING A FIGHT THAT THEY REALLY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FIGHT. I BELIEVE IN THAT FIGHT AND I AM WILLING TO KEEP MAKING THE NOISE. AS I GET OLDER, I UNDERSTAND HOW IT COULD WORK BETTER AND HOW IT COULD GET BETTER. I THINK JOINING HANDS, BEING FRIENDS AND STANDING BY EACH OTHER IS THE WAY FORWARD — **ANASUYA SENGUPTA**, AN ALLY OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY



SHATTERING STEREOTYPES

'Unlearning The Toxic Habits Of Stereotyping' presented by t2 in association with Kolkata Pride and Smirnoff Lemon Pop Non-alcoholic at Olterra was an evening of impactful dialogues and unapologetic identities

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selfes. In what sense then do you feel it is a reflection of truth where you continue to stay connected with who you are?
Anasuya Sengupta: What feels truthful to me while acting or performing is embodying a character. The first step I take is embracing that it is a human who I am playing,

before all the divisions, which I feel shouldn't be there but I understand that they are there. It is an attempt to pick up the noise and be where I personally would want the world to be. As I said, so many different marginalised communities apart from the queer community have had to make that noise and gather

strength just to exist. It is appalling. Just my work couldn't change it but it can change a part of it. When we talk about stereotypes, I think me being here on this panel in itself is the biggest stereotype broken.
Nil: Yes, you are here as an ally. The speech you gave at Cannes resonated with all of us in the room so,

thank you for that speech. We need more allies onboard! Anasuya won the Best Actress award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival this year for her role in *The Shameless* where she plays a character of a woman who is in love with another woman. You should all definitely read the synopsis of the film and watch it.

Anasuya: Yes, I dedicated the award to the queer community across the world and all other marginalised communities. I said they are so bravely fighting a fight that they really should not have to fight. I believe in that fight and I am willing to keep making the noise. As I get older, I understand how it could

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Anindya: For me, the takeaways were to embody and to fortify and in a world which is dealing with

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➔ CONTD ON P14

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➔ CONTD ON P14



The panel had Aditya Mohnot, Anasuya Sengupta, Don Hasar, Sudeb Suvana, Kallol Datta and Rukshana Kapadia as speakers and was moderated by Nil and Anindya Hajra

WE, FROM WITHIN THE (LGBTQIA+) COMMUNITY, ARE TRYING TO BREAK THE STEREOTYPES. WE ARE TRYING TO EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE FARMING AND MULTIPLE OTHER PROFESSIONS INSTEAD OF WORKING AS DOMESTIC HELP OR ASKING FOR MONEY ON THE STREETS. IT IS A VERY LONG PROCESS... — **NIL**

➔ FROM **P13**

war and genocide. The kind of human courage we see on display where children are being bombed in one part of the world. So it is not about textbook queerness. We fracture and rupture that conversation in so many ways. We are contesting so many human positions irrespective of gender, identity, race, caste etc.

Nil: Taking it from identities, Sappho For Equality is completing 25 years this year and we celebrated it yesterday. Someone who has been there with Sappho For Equality from the heydays is here on the panel today. Rukshana, you have been a part of the queer community and the lesbian movement for so long. What sort of stereotypes did you have to break as a food critic, food consultant, food writer, so many roles?

Rukshana Kapadia: I was born in 1972, studied in Loreto House down the road and grew up at a time when there was no Internet and the library was our only source of information. When I was around 14, I realised that when we went to all the fests, my friends were crushing on other boys but I was crushing on my friends. I did not even know what was right or wrong or what was a lesbian but I just knew I was different. Luckily, I come from a family which believes in education and equality between men and women. Possibly, because I am a

little bit mad, I have always been an outgoing person. I have always been a tomboy. Like, I was given a doll when I was young and I remember throwing it out of my grandparents' window of their fifth-floor apartment. I rather preferred cars. Being a tomboy was cool in school because I used to have a lot of people following me, unlike my male queer friends who were in turn harassed, tortured and



Anindya Hajra was co-moderator of the session and added value with his inputs too

shamed. I think I was very lucky.

That being said, as I tried to find my feet in society while simultaneously trying to comprehend who I was, it was a very lonely journey. Considering I am an absolute optimist, there were still very dark moments because you never knew who to speak to or connect with. I think it was not until I was 18, I hesitantly came out to a cousin and luckily I was met

with acceptance. A lot of women my age have not been so lucky and they inspire me to be a better version of myself. Going forward, I went to work in a male-dominated industry. The F&B space continues to be one of the heavily male-dominated spaces.

Nil: There have been whispers of stereotypes behind your back. Have you encountered any of those?

Rukshana: If you are effeminate,

FOR ME, THE TAKEAWAYS WERE TO EMBODY AND TO FORTIFY AND IN A WORLD WHICH IS DEALING WITH WAR AND GENOCIDE. THE KIND OF HUMAN COURAGE WE SEE ON DISPLAY WHERE CHILDREN ARE BEING BOMBED IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD. SO IT IS NOT ABOUT TEXTBOOK QUEERNESS. WE FRACTURE AND RUPTURE THAT CONVERSATION IN SO MANY WAYS. WE ARE CONTESTING SO MANY HUMAN POSITIONS IRRESPECTIVE OF GENDER, IDENTITY, RACE, CASTE ETC — **ANINDYA HAJRA**

I THINK THE MOST MEANINGFUL THING I DID WITH WORK, WITH MY CLOTHES-MAKING PRACTICE, WAS TO LEAVE THE FASHION INDUSTRY IN 2018. BECAUSE I MEAN AS WITH EVERY OTHER SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY, WE KEEP ON REWARDING MEOCRITY. HOW ARE YOU EVEN GOING TO APPROACH DRAFTING A PATTERN FOR A BASIC INDIAN BODY TYPE WHEN ALL YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO DO IS AN AMERICAN OR A MAINLAND EUROPEAN BODY? YOU GO BACK TO THE TRADITIONAL, RIGHT? — **KALLOL DATTA**



Kallol Datta makes a point



A light moment from the discussion

I THINK IN A SPACE LIKE THAT (A VILLAGE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH) WHERE RESOURCES ARE VERY FEW, THERE'S ALSO A SENSE OF ACCEPTABILITY. BECAUSE OVER THERE, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY, I MEAN, FOR ME, THE COMMUNITY WOULD NOT BE JUST A QUEER, TRANS COMMUNITY. A COMMUNITY WOULD BE FORMED OF EVERYBODY WHO LIVES THERE. THE ENTIRE VILLAGE OVER THERE IS OUR COMMUNITY.... CONVERSATIONS CONSTANTLY ARE BASED ON JUST THE NEED TO SURVIVE... THEY UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU HAVE VERY LESS RESOURCES YOU TEND TO FOCUS MORE ON THE SIMILARITIES THAT YOU HAVE THAN THE DIFFERENCES — **DON HASAR**

you are always tortured and harassed and if you are very butch like me, people are afraid and they are worried until they get to know that you are just as human as them. A lot of the times when I am asked what is my religion, politics and background, I say it is just about being kind and being human. **Anindya:** What is the takeaway from what people understand about our identities? It's also a certain kind of reading is never neutral, I would say. All our readings are sort of culture-specific. They are rooted in a certain time and space. I kind of relate to somebody who was asking me this question as to how has the city changed. I mean, has the city really changed? Of course, it has. And of course, it hasn't. So as much as we kind of navigate, you know, these like mushrooming cafes and stuff and all that, it sort of represents a certain kind of growth in the city. You also sort of encounter mindsets that haven't really grown. So the more things change, the more they remain the same.

I go to Adi as someone who has been in a very familiar space. He has walked the first Pride Walk, the Friendship Walk, which is turning 25 this year...

Aditya Mohnot: I didn't think it was anything courageous at that time. It was this young boy who was just excited about doing whatever he was doing. I've also been

और सभी न्यूज़ पेपर मैगजीन प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम इस टेलीग्राम ग्रुप को ज्वाइन करें नीचे दिए लंकि पर क्लिक करके ज्वाइन टेलीग्राम

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somebody who's been awfully privileged in the set-up where I've grown up. Whether it's my parents, whether they knew what the differences were, they just let me be who I was. Friends in school also just accepted me for who I am. Of course, there were names called and what people today would call bullying, but did I feel that? No. Was I excluded from things that they were doing? No. So I've been one of those privileged people.

I cannot speak for anyone else because I was not excluded from things. I did not even think of the word bullying. This is a language that I might have acquired over time and I might be using it today and as a six-year-old child who entered school or a teenager in school who was called "Mohini" did not feel it because when the entire school would scream "Mohini" they would be cheering me at least! That's the way I have always heard it. If that was their perspective that's theirs but not mine so I just felt more empowered, you know, (by) the fact that everyone could call me "Mohini" on the stage and (I would) do whatever I was doing so I've never really felt excluded ever. And I know this comes from a very very liberal space, not everyone experiences it and from what I've heard over time and experiences, it's very very different from most of the other people.

Anindya: It's also what meanings we have made then and what meanings we have made over these years. It's like how back when I sort of look at my experience of being bullied and sort of singled out in school, in an all-boys school and growing up as gender variant, we didn't have words like trans etc. back then. I feel like now I have made sort of peace with a lot of my schoolmates. So we have a school group here and those bullies then are now my biggest protectors. The change comes from within, the change comes from who we are to be able to find a voice and that shift has happened somewhere down the line.

I want to take my next question to Don who works in a very different setting. A lot of the queer dialogue and conversations are also stratified and get fixed in certain spaces. The new generation deals with different words and pronouns. So Don, I was just wondering, would you say that the presence of a stereotype sort of is like a currency which allows historically excluded communities a sort of a safe passage? Given the context in which you work do you think you can turn stereotypes on its head to give you a strategic advantage? **Don Hasar:** Everything is very context-specific, right? And even culture would differ from space to space. And I work in a space where, you know, this vocabulary that we are using here with so much ease, the words queer or trans or LGBTQAI+ or all the other words that we use, these words do not exist. So what do you do with lives and desires when you don't have the words? They still exist, right? Words will be there, words will not be there. New words will come. And in a region which is very challenging to live in geographically, you know, it's very

I CANNOT SPEAK FOR ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE I WAS NOT EXCLUDED FROM THINGS.... AS A SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHO ENTERED SCHOOL OR A TEENAGER IN SCHOOL WHO WAS CALLED "MOHINI", I DID NOT FEEL IT BECAUSE WHEN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WOULD SCREAM "MOHINI" THEY WOULD BE CHEERING ME AT LEAST! THAT'S THE WAY I HAVE ALWAYS HEARD IT. IF THAT WAS THEIR PERSPECTIVE THAT'S THEIRS BUT NOT MINE SO I JUST FELT MORE EMPOWERED, YOU KNOW, (BY) THE FACT THAT EVERYONE COULD CALL ME "MOHINI" ON THE STAGE.... AND I KNOW THIS COMES FROM A VERY VERY LIBERAL SPACE, NOT EVERYONE EXPERIENCES IT AND FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD OVER TIME AND EXPERIENCES, IT'S VERY VERY DIFFERENT FROM MOST OF THE OTHER PEOPLE — **ADITYA MOHNOT**



The panelists exchanged views in an engaging discussion

harsh climate for six to seven months in a year. It's difficult to get out. It's raining. It's very cold or it's very hot. There's a mobility issue. Public transport is not available. It's not that well planned. What do people do who want to express themselves?

So I think in a space like that where resources are very few, there's also a sense of acceptability. Because over there, when we talk about community, I mean, for me, the community would not be just a queer, trans community. A community would be formed of everybody who lives there. The entire village over there is our community. And again, I think you spoke about allyship. Allyship is very important in our work. And A, we can't cancel out people every time they're wrong because then you'll end up working alone. Because, of course, these terms, people are not used to these terms over there. Over there, we talk in Hindi or Pahari, whatever we talk about. So when we take sessions, even if we're talking about the laws, legalities, and discourses, we don't use English.

And B, I really believe that it can't be just any one particular marginalized community's responsibility to only talk about that. That's where allyship comes in. Conversations constantly are based



The interactive session saw the panelists take some questions from members of the audience



Ushoshi Sengupta raised a very pertinent question about processing issues of queer identity for young minds

IN OUR SOCIETY, WE CONTINUE TO SEE A STRINGENT DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, I WANTED TRANS PEOPLE TO HAVE A STRONGER GRIP OVER THEIR PROFESSIONS SO THAT COULD BE PART OF THEIR IDENTITY TOO.... I GENUINELY WANTED TO FIND A PROFESSION WHERE THE DIVISION OF ROLES ON THE BASIS OF SEX IS ABSENT. IN INDIA, UNTIL NOW FARMING IS AN OCCUPATION THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE OR DIVIDE — **SUDEB SUVANA**

IF YOU ARE EFFEMINATE, YOU ARE ALWAYS TORTURED AND HARASSED AND IF YOU ARE VERY BUTCH LIKE ME, PEOPLE ARE AFRAID AND THEY ARE WORRIED UNTIL THEY GET TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE JUST AS HUMAN AS THEM. A LOT OF THE TIMES WHEN I AM ASKED WHAT IS MY RELIGION, POLITICS AND BACKGROUND, I SAY IT IS JUST ABOUT BEING KIND AND BEING HUMAN — **RUKSHANA KAPADIA**

on just the need to survive... they understand when you have very less resources you tend to focus more on the similarities that you have than the differences. I'll just illustrate this with an example, so where I stay, the nearest town is around 15-20km, so if I need to buy something, I'll have to go to the person selling something from the shop next door. And in most cases what happens is we do not share the same ideologies, (we have) very different ideologies but if I don't buy from them I'll have to travel for 20km and if he doesn't sell his things to me his shop will be shut down. So we accept each other with all the differences in ideologies with the hope that we can have a dialogue about being potential allies and let's see each other as humans. You might not understand my transness, my queerness, whatever expressions I have but you understand other

aspects of me.

Anindya: To come to Kallol, whose practice is kind of placed at a juncture where they have been dealing with these ideas of clothes and clothes-making initially, because that's been their training and to the space that you're occupying right now where you work within cohorts that have had their own sense of stigmas. And I'm sort of interested in asking you a question about fast fashion because it has its own sort of footprints, and you can sort of expand when you respond. Do you see where the question of cuts and patterns or colour, or something even as objective sounding as size, and I sort of see this as a trans person constantly being challenged by sizing charts, you know, I like particular footwear which I wouldn't find in the kind of section that you usually sort of want me to go and buy from, so you know this question on size and these are all based on some kind of an index, an index that's based on and which caters to a point of some global reference? There is a certain standardization of these ideas. Does the existence of these measures align themselves to certain stereotypes of body types, race, gender, etc?

Kallol Datta: I think the most meaningful thing I did with work, with my clothes-making practice, was to leave the fashion industry in 2018. Because I mean as with every other sector in the country, we keep on rewarding mediocrity. How are you even going to approach drafting a pattern for a basic Indian body type when all you've learned how to do is an American or a mainland European body? You go back to the traditional, right? Masters who've learned the craft without going to a school. Yeah, I mean that's like a really indigenous way of crafting, like let's say the way sari blouses are made or things like that on a larger scale, like when we talk of hyper fashion or hyper-fast fashion you're not talking about Shein and Zara and all of that but you're also talking about designers in India who are churning out clothes which nobody's buying and are just constantly adding to landfills. Because that's how the money powers always follow the money trade. And when all of that is happening, we realise we live in a capitalistic world. And there's no coming out of it. So rather, we apply for grants and fellowships, and we take the capitalist money and we make meaningful work, which harnesses the now and captures what's happening now in our lives.

Transcribed by Sanjali Brahma and Rohini Chakraborty

Pictures: Rashbehari Das and Pabitra Das

House of ODD enthralled the audience with a unique performance

Soon after the panel discussion on 'Unlearning The Toxic Habits Of Stereotyping' presented by t2 in association with Kolkata Pride and Smirnoff Lemon Pop Non-alcoholic, at Olterra, House of ODD put up a performance that was greeted with cheers and love. Headed by Sandeeptha Das, the fashionable group focuses on bringing queer ballroom culture to the Indian context, from the early 80's Harlem Ballroom Scene, New York. Sandeeptha said: "House of ODD was created to increase the visibility of the trans community in Calcutta. In 2017, House of ODD started in my bedroom when Asit and I conceptualised it. The dance style we performed is vogue and our performance is about reclaiming spaces. It is about being able to express ourselves."

The group's monochromatic

outfits were inspired by Madonna in the 1980s and embodied semi-formal high-end fashion.

The performers included Debanjan Sinha, Souvik Ghosh, co-founder of House of ODD, Asit Biswas and founder and House Mother Sandeeptha Das. "Fashion does not have any gender, just like fabric. How you wear a piece of clothing or how you carry it has got to do with your personality. It is just beyond the binaries we follow every day," said Debanjan. "Fashion as an art is something we can leverage as a strong medium to break barriers," added Asit.

The group began performing while being a part of the audience. →



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The energy was unparalleled.



Besides being excellently dressed and striking sharp moves, the vogue-based performance was about being yourself with pride.



(l-r) Debanjan Sinha, Asit Biswas, Souvik Ghosh and Sandeeptha Das

SNAPSHOTS AND VOICES FROM THE AFTER-PARTY OF 'UNLEARNING THE TOXIC HABITS OF STEREOTYPING' PRESENTED BY t2, AT OLTERRA



"I spoke to my parents almost 22 years back. I grew up in a joint family and, luckily, my parents and sisters were very supportive. In the last two decades, I think things have become easier. The new generation is way more aware of queer identities. Awareness is crucial for any movement, which is happening on a large scale now. Talking to your kids about what they want in life and educating them on diversity and inclusivity is very important," said Anupam Chatterjee fashion stylist.



Fashionista Davina Thacker channelled athleisure with an element of chic



"An inclusive world demands there should be room for everyone and it is upon us to make that possible. Today's event is the best example of coming together and celebrating what we call humanity," said Imran Zaki.



(L-R) Nabo Maity, Sayani Datta and Sujoy Banik



"Times are changing and people are getting the courage to just be themselves. Speaking from my fashion background, we have always worked together. Queerness has always been there and is a universally accepted truth," said designer Sayantan Sarkar who came with Olivia Sinha Roy.



"Many people have this notion that queerness is a Western concept, which is not true. The fact remains we have been long colonised by Western philosophy. The divide-and-rule strategy of the West not only used religion as a tool but used queer identities. The throes of colonisation created 'rules' of what is 'acceptable' and what is not.... Our texts have always had a representation of queer people. Shikhandi be great a reference point in this regard.... Calcutta is an inclusive city and is way safer for me to walk the streets in a sari compared to certain places in North India," said Pushpak Sen.



Rinkie Mazumder of Diageo



Anasuya Sengupta looked striking in a Bobo Calcutta ensemble. Make-up pro Abhijith Chanda and hairstylist Abhijit Das got her ready for the evening.



Tulip



Make-up pros Kaushik and Rajat

"Queerness is classless and timeless. It is a trait you are born with. However, people are constantly looking for acceptance and validation and there is nothing wrong with that. A heteronormative person also looks for acceptance. And this is exactly why when I introduce myself I don't say I am part of a community but a diaspora. My identity is not about my sexual orientation. My voting rights do not revolve around my sexual orientation. It's about who I am.... Queerness is not an alien concept in India but it is not much talked about. Here comes the crucial role the media can play in initiating dialogues. I think they need to be a bit sensitive while reporting stories of the queer community. t2 does a commendable job in this regard as it never stereotypes," said multi-disciplinary artiste Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee.

(L-R) Arpita Sinha, Surojit Sarkar, Ankita Banerjee, Upahar Biswas, and Roja Paromita Dey. "It was a pleasure coming to the event and I think over the course of time, we've seen a lot of things change hopefully for the better. There is still a long way to go. I would not like to compare exactly, but I feel it's a great reference point to see things from around the world. India isn't far behind and I think it also has its own characteristics that it brings to the table and we should keep doing the great work," said Arpita.



➔ FROM P17



(L-R) Sonika Dey, Jeena Mitra Banik, Kanaklata Datta and Mayurakshi Datta



(L-R) Rahul, Shankhadeep, Nishaan, Angshu, Atul, Amarnath and Debojyoti



Runa Laha with son Rudraksha



Roy Abhisek



Indroneel Mukherjee



(L-R) Ruchir, Sandip Roy, Bishan Samaddar and Debjit



Kallol Datta, Sankar and Robert



The designer and his muse. Ayushman Mitra and Anasuya Sengupta. "At the end of the day, it's all about who you want to be and what you want to represent.... It's about being the person you are and what makes you happy," said Ayushman.



Pooja Gupta and Manav Arora



Richa Sharma



Chaitanya Sharma and Abhishek Ray



Tina Mukherjee



Mariam Zaki and Kushal Mehta



Abhijith Chanda



(L-R) Pritam Das, Aamrapali, Kaju Guha, Soumya Nandi and Kiara Sen



Abhijit Das and Rabi Gupta



Rukshana Kapadia and Suneha Saha (left)

Pictures: Pabitra Das and Rashbehari Das



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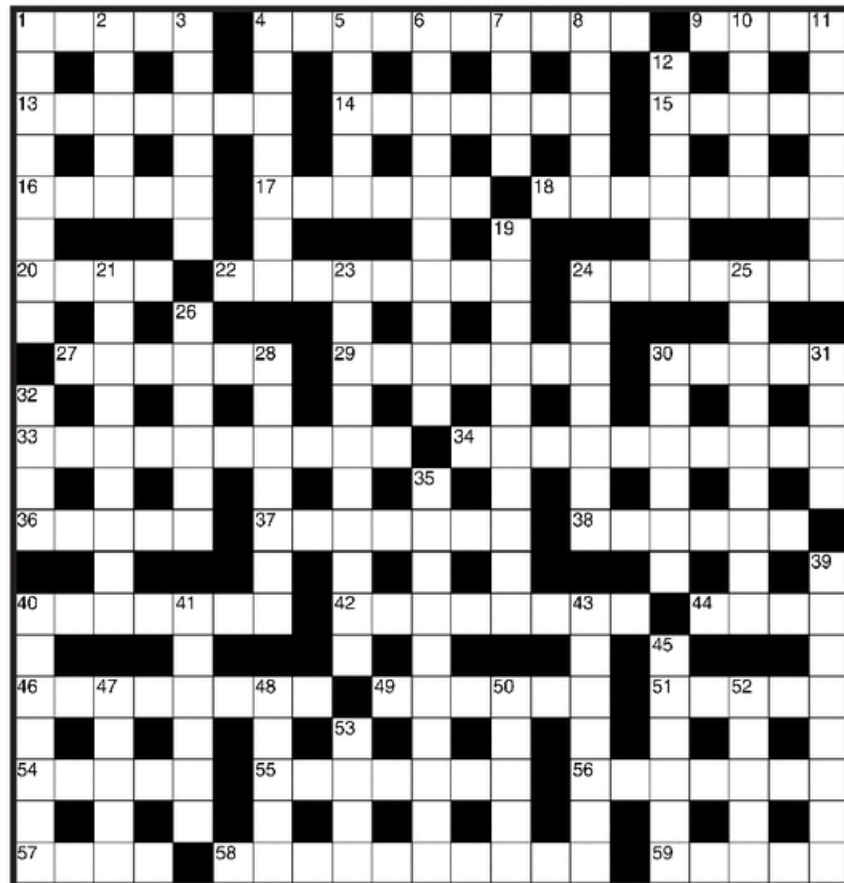
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PUZZLES

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 763



ACROSS

- 1 Author from Dorset noted for his Wessex novels including *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Woodlanders* and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (5)
 4 Worn as a symbol of remembrance known as "Bleuet de France", a wild plant with electric- or royal-blue petals used to flavour Lady Grey tea (10)
 9 Device for removing boots; figure of a man striking the bell in an old clock; or, a small white ball in bowls (4)
 13 Situated 41 miles west of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides, an archipelago evacuated in 1930 which is the remotest part of the British Isles (2,5)
 14 General name for soft fruits used for Eton mess, summer pudding, jam, tartlets, cheesecakes and smoothies (7)
 15 Number expressed in Roman numerals as VIII or viii; or, a type of boat used in competitive rowing or its crew collectively (5)
 16 First course of a formal Italian meal following

- antipasti; or, the leading or principal part in a duet (5)
 17 Persian word for a teacher bestowed as title by Queen Victoria for her attendant Abdul Karim (6)
 18 Grain-like seeds of a plant commonly called love-lies-bleeding, typically prepared in a similar way to quinoa (8)
 20 Actor who starred in a number of films during his 60-year career including *Spellbound*, *Gentleman's Agreement* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (4)
 22 Word linked with "wire" for a method of moving money from one bank to another internationally; or, a type of design or sticker also called a decal (8)
 24 Western Romance language; one of the co-official languages of Spain (7)
 27 Navigable channels with a series of locks (6)
 29 English —; swum by Matthew Webb in 1875, body of water known as the Sleeve, site of Jersey and Guernsey (7)
 30 Poet who held the title Countess of Winchelsea and

- wrote *A Letter to Daphnis*, *A Nocturnal Reverie*, *To the Nightingale* and *The Owl Describing her Young Ones* (5)
 33 Competitive outdoor event for testing the working ability of spaniels, setters, Labradors and other gun dogs (5,5)
 34 Nautical knot for shortening a rope (10)
 36 Poet awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1948 for *The Age of Anxiety* (5)
 37 Depicted on the Royal Arms and also as a smartphone emoji, a mythical beast resembling a white horse with a horn (7)
 38 Number of years celebrated on a china wedding anniversary (6)
 40 Brightest star in Carina; fictional home of Arrakis in Frank Herbert's *Dune* (7)
 42 Scientist whose *Annus Mirabilis* papers contributed towards the foundation of modern physics (8)
 44 Collective noun for a group of frogs (4)
 46 General name for precipitation measured in inches per hour (8)
 49 Power tools used with a collection of bits for DIY projects (6)
 51 Pomaceous fruit depicted in Dante Gabriel Rossetti's *Venus Verticordia* (5)
 54 One of the largest living lemurs (5)
 55 His *Dark Materials* trilogy author (7)
 56 Aeronautical pioneer who helped the Wright brothers in making the world's first flight in a powered aircraft (7)
 57 — Gardens; 1975 docudrama featuring Edith Bouvier Beale and her mother (4)
 58 Close — of the Third Kind; 1977 sci-fi movie by Steven Spielberg (10)
 59 Longest river in Pakistan (5)

DOWN

- 1 Garden device sometimes banned from use during drought conditions (8)
 2 Short title of a Hindu festival where sisters give string bracelets to brothers (5)
 3 Main colour of a maillot jaune (6)
 4 Archbishop of Canterbury during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI who led the English Reformation (7)
 5 Related to blackbird, nightingale and thrush, the UK's favourite bird (5)
 6 Estuary on the North Sea coast of Scotland, spanned by one of the longest railway bridges in the UK (5,2,3)
 7 Supreme god of the Norse pantheon (4)

- 8 — salts; magnesium-rich bath crystals used to help aching muscles (5)
 10 Inert noble gas forming 0.94 per cent of Earth's atmosphere (5)
 11 One of the rooms where a murder can take place in *Cluedo*; or, the percussion section of an orchestra (7)
 12 Pointillist pioneer who painted *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (6)
 19 Embroidery stitch used to form part of a flower such as a lazy daisy (6,4)
 21 1st Earl of —; title of Edward Hyde, Lord Chancellor to Charles II, author of *The History of the Rebellion* (9)
 23 Stone fruits related to apricots, cherries, peaches and plums (10)
 24 French comptroller-general of finances 1661-83; chief adviser to Louis XIV (7)
 25 Duchy of —; one of the two royal duchies in England (9)
 26 Author of children's novels including *The Birds on the Trees*, *Carrie's War* and *The Peppermint Pig* (6)
 28 "Waltz King" who composed the piece commonly called *The Blue Danube* (7)
 30 Doctor —; series with Suranne Jones (6)
 31 Maori war dance performed by the All Blacks before an international match (4)
 32 King of Mercia 757-96 (4)
 35 Largest marque of the Mini cars (10)
 39 Mountain range rising 3,404 metres to its highest peak Aneto (8)
 40 Sport based on sliding a flat stone (7)
 41 Known collectively as a circus, species of auk found on archipelagos including the Faroe Islands and Isles of Scilly (6)
 43 Arthropods studied in entomology (7)
 45 Italian whose *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects* formed the basis of art history as a study (6)
 47 Music genre made by bands without major corporate funding (5)
 48 Papilionaceous cottage garden plant with butterfly-like flowers, often paired with delphiniums (5)
 50 Performed in warrior-one asana and based on a fencing thrust, an exercise to strengthen the quads, hips and glutes (5)
 52 Imperial unit of weight equivalent to 16 ounces (5)
 53 Greek muse of history (4)

ANSWERS

ACROSS

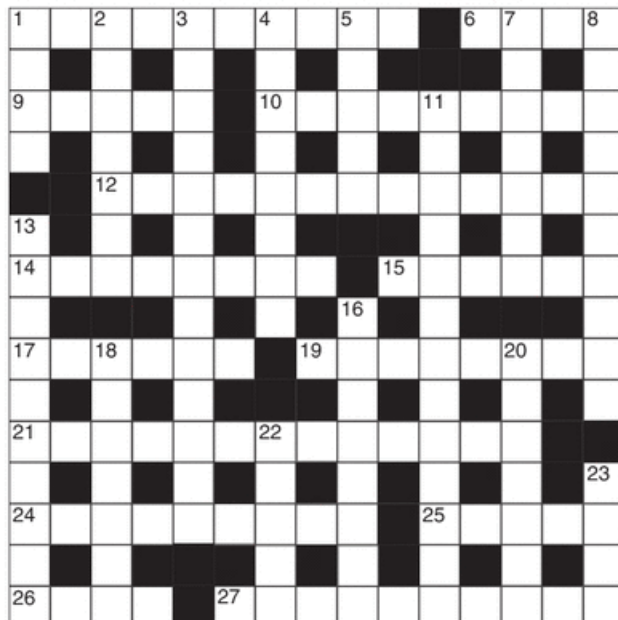
- 1 Hardy, 4 Cornflower, 9 Jack, 13 St Kilda, 14 Berries, 15 Eight, 16 Primo, 17 Munshi, 18 Amaranth, 20 Peck, 22 Transfer, 24 Catalan, 27 Canals, 29 Finch, 33 Field trial, 34 Sheepshank, 36 Auden, 37 Unicorn, 38 Twenty, 40 Canopus, 42 Einstein, 44 Army, 46 Rainfall, 49 Drills, 51 Apple, 54 Indri, 55 Pullman, 56 Chanute, 57 Grey, 58 Encounters, 59 Indus.

DOWN

- 1 Hosepipe, 2 Rakhi, 3 Yellow, 4 Cranmer, 5 Robin, 6 Firth of Tay, 7 Odin, 8 Epsom, 10 Argon, 11 Kitchen, 12 Seurat, 19 French knot, 21 Clarendon, 23 Nectarines, 24 Colbert, 25 Lancaster, 26 Bawden, 28 Strauss, 30 Foster, 31 Haka, 32 Offa, 35 Countryman, 39 Pyrenees, 40 Curling, 41 Puffin, 43 Insects, 45 Vasari, 47 Indie, 48 Lupin, 50 Lunge, 52 Pound, 53 Clio.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 14368



ACROSS

- 1 Hector's hint about 1 Down for starters (10)
 6 A few wanting nothing with duck (4)
 9 Escape introduction to Taylor Swift (5)
 10 Clip with Man U playing, inspiring one of City (9)
 12 German writer's penning long, scary tales (5-8)
 14 Controversial part of PhD is put edifyingly (8)
 15 Embarrassed-looking nincompoop back in dating app (6)
 17 Engineers twice getting a low grade study again (6)
 19 Maybe Ford's vice-

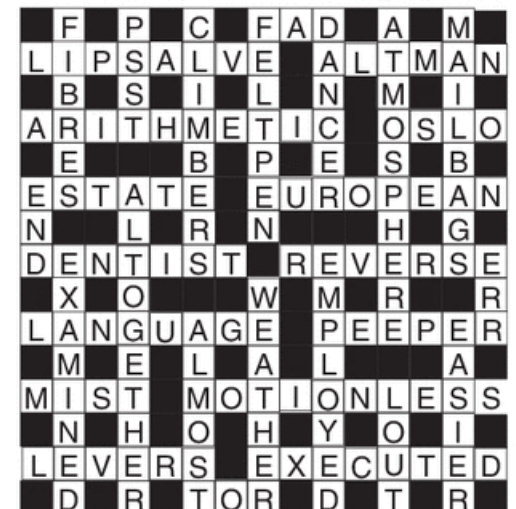
- president, working (8)
 21 Job for Renaissance artist? He's working with Plasticine (7,6)
 24 Suggest annuities should be redistributed (9)
 25 Decorating attic in grubby clothes (5)
 26 Try and keep quiet and gracious (4)
 27 Cool cryptic setter meeting King Edward (6,4)

DOWN

- 1 Dope from UK province to the north (4)
 2 Son leaving highlights in hair (7)
 3 Activity for fresher in tutorial, with Mac crashing (13)
 4 Darned entertaining school games possibly rained on (8)

- 5 Something fisherman uses, turning on taps for fish (5)
 7 Irrate about work, that chap's one suffering a shock (7)
 8 The two of us are going to jump in a fountain (10)
 11 Ring with awfully garish tip for person with beautiful hand (13)
 13 Dealing with e.g. vinaigrette Sally chucked out (10)
 16 Country singer with simple material (8)
 18 Opposes further exams plugged by head of school (7)
 20 More seasoned sailor, I heard, in odd places (7)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



- 22 Upset, cancel court claim (5)
 23 Begs lady to undress? How shocking! (4)

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

11022

SUDOKU MODERATE

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

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 11020 is on the right

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

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11023

SUDOKU GENTLE

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

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 11021 is on the right

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

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QUICK CROSSWORD 14020



ACROSS

- 1 Part of the face (3)
- 3 4x4 vehicle (4)
- 5 Wild party (4)
- 8 Fellow sailor (8)
- 10 Revered person (4)
- 11 Scottish cap (3)
- 13 Glorify (5)
- 14 Battle (with) (4,5)
- 16 Freezing (3)
- 17 Defective (3)
- 19 Scooby-Doo, e.g. (5,4)
- 21 Farewell (5)
- 22 Rip off (3)
- 24 Whirlpool (4)
- 25 I close in (anag) (8)
- 26 Acidic (4)
- 27 Swiss city (4)

DOWN

- 2 Fair (4)
- 2 Impulse (4)
- 3 Act prematurely (4,3,3)
- 4 OT Queen of Persia (6)
- 6 Raccoon-like mammal (3,5)
- 7 Xmas season (8)
- 9 Chaos (5)
- 12 Uncertainty (10)
- 14 Connecting tissue (8)
- 15 End lyric (anag) (8)
- 18 Joining (5)
- 20 Tempt (6)
- 22 Cruifix (4)
- 23 Legume (4)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Sing; 4 Caws; 8 Whim; 9 Countless; 11 Helmet; 13 Blanket; 15 Sleepy; 16 Strike; 18 Spices; 20 Tennis; 22 Atlases; 23 Lonely; 25 Slightest; 26 Sent; 27 Used; 28 Deal.
Down: 2 Iron; 3 Gentle; 4 Colony; 5 Wishes; 6 Champions; 7 Omit; 10 Settles; 12 Asks; 13 Beginning; 14 Appeals; 17 Ease; 19 Styles; 20 Tagged; 21 Netted; 23 Lose; 24 Asia.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

MAFER

TNHOM

NEEVAU

LOORIE

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Smile for the camera. Yay! We made it!

THE ASTRONAUTS JUMPING ABOVE THE LUNAR SURFACE FOR A PHOTO WERE

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

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PRIVY SINGE ADVICE ISLAND
Answer: A doctor examined the arachnid's legs after she became worried about her - SPIDER VEINS

COMICS

Calvin and Hobbes by Watterson

calvin and hobbes

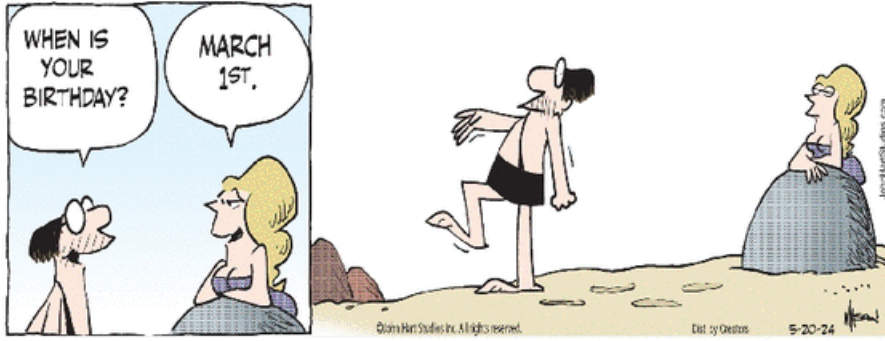
© 1984 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

BOY, ROUGH LIFE, huh? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TODAY?!

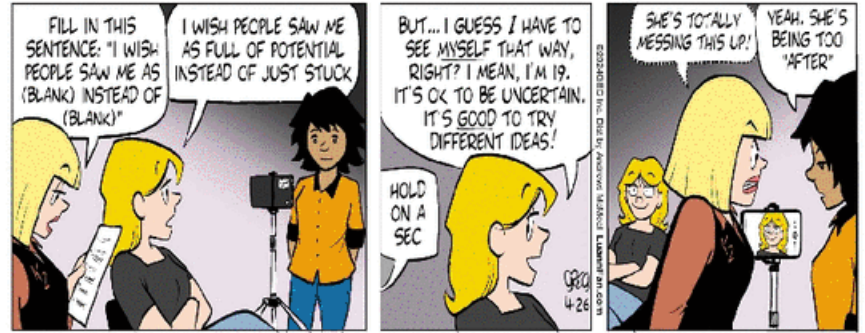
I REALIZE I'M NO PERRY MASON, YOUR HONOR, BUT I THINK THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT THE D.A. IS NO HAMILTON BURGER.

The Fusco Brothers by J. C. Duffy

B.C. by Johnny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



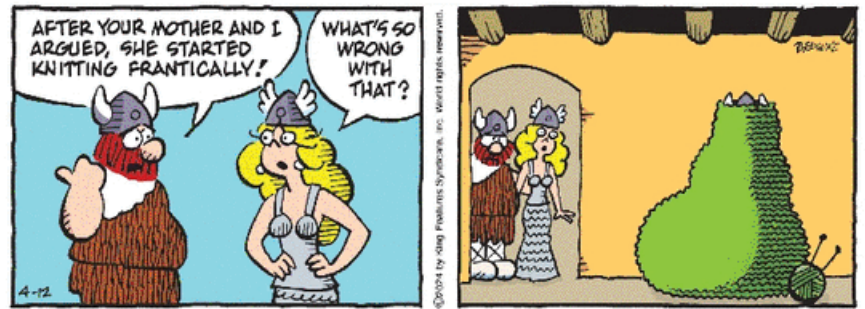
Baby Blues by Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



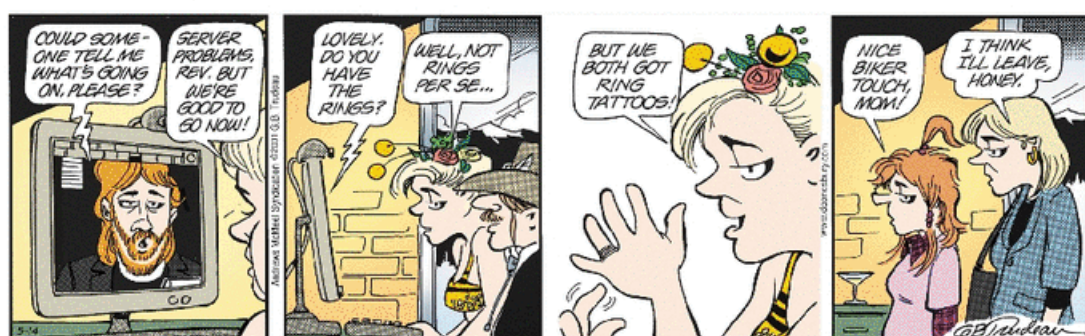
Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



FROM RAINBOW DECOR TO FOOD, IT WAS PRIDE ALL THE WAY AT OLTERRA

The evening was 'loud and proud' with the colours of the rainbow dominant everywhere in both decor as well as the spread laid out at Olterra for the 'Unlearning Toxic Habits of Stereotyping' presented by t2 in association with Kolkata Pride and Smirnoff Lemon Pop Non-alcoholic on June 19.

"Olterra was delighted to host this incredible evening celebrating Pride Month. The panel discussion

'Unlearning the Toxic Habits of Stereotyping' was supremely relevant and inspiring and went a long way in understanding how to make our world more inclusive. We are grateful to Kolkata Pride and t2 for making us a part of this collaboration and look forward to hosting more such events, and above all, being a safe space for everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community. Happy Pride!" said Rudresh Agarwal, co-owner, Olterra, the venue partner for the event.



We totally dig this rainbow dessert platter crafted by the chefs at Olterra, especially for the event.



Rainbow-coloured roses bunched together in bouquets formed the centrepieces on each table at Olterra.



'Love Always Wins' was brightly displayed at the photo corner that paid homage to the colours of the rainbow, a symbolic element of the Pride movement. Multicoloured leaf-shaped bamboo fans and pampas grass were the main elements present in the decor done by White Rose Events.



Colour, colour everywhere was very well reflected in these succulent plates of Signature Paneer Tikka that had something for every palate, spicy, sweet as well as tangy.



In sync with the theme, these rainbow noodles were another crowd-pleaser.

Diageo was the beverage partner for the event pouring brands like Gordon's London Dry Gin, Johnnie Walker Blonde and Smirnoff Vodka. The cocktails on the menu were centred around characters from the popular TV show, *Modern Family*.

"While Overdramatic Cameron (right) had a gin base with citrus and apple notes, Serious Jay (centre) had fruity touches of mango, along with vodka and coriander, and Simply Mitchell (left) was a simple highball character incorporating Johnnie Walker Blonde, kaffir lime bubbles, aromatic bitters and rainbow cookies," said Subhobrota Majumder, beverage manager, Olterra.



The live pasta counter was a hot favourite where you could choose your pasta type, sauce, and toppings and dig into some great plates customised to your palate.



Flying off the trays were these Cheesy Mushroom Dimsums. Soft, chewy, and oh-so-cheesy!

Zeba Akhtar Ali
Pictures: Rashbehari Das

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Date-Time & Venue

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