

Saturday  
22 June 2024

The Telegraph

t2

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# (NO) LOVE LOST **P9**

**P9**

## COMES OF AGE

## FIGHT TO THE FINISH

**P10**

ROBERT WHITTAKER

- B'DAY, RADIO, WATCHIT 4
- TECH CHECK, FARAH ON FIRE 6,7
- TOLLY, COMING UP 8,11
- WHATSUP, SUMMER SIP 12,13
- NEW MENU, BAR TAKEOVER, YOUR FAVES 16,17

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MERYL STREEP,  
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LEE MIN-HO

This year, you will need to maintain control, hold your own and be determined. Don't let others ruin what you have. You need to stand up for what you believe in. Good things will come to you financially. You will reap the rewards of all the hard work you have put in. You may see an improvement in your health or an increase in your energy levels.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: SRIRAM RAGHAVAN, DAN BROWN, BANITA SANDHU

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



### ARIES

**DO** be proud of your achievements  
**DON'T** be careless or frivolous with finances  
**EXPECT** to reach a stage of financial security and stability in your life



### TAURUS

**DO** enjoy the happy event but be mindful of the impact excessive indulgence could have on your health and try to moderate things  
**DON'T** allow someone to ruin your party or create a scene  
**EXPECT** happy times, uplifting and positive energy and good feelings



### GEMINI

**DO** find little ways to get inspired and motivate yourself  
**DON'T** hamper your creativity by sitting in isolation  
**EXPECT** to listen to your favourite playlists, go on an adventure, enjoy a walk in nature and relax



### CANCER

**DO** listen to your gut when logic doesn't do the trick  
**DON'T** be confused  
**EXPECT** your subconscious to know how you really feel



### LEO

**DO** go with the flow  
**DON'T** manipulate everything to calm the chaos  
**EXPECT** events to be beyond your control



### VIRGO

**DO** retain your integrity regardless of the manipulative influences around you  
**DON'T** get into complicated negotiations  
**EXPECT** a summing up of a long-standing project or situation



### LIBRA

**DO** find ways to get out of the trapped circumstances  
**DON'T** feel powerless  
**EXPECT** to have way more control over your situation than you're giving yourself credit for



### SCORPIO

**DO** realise that you have overloaded yourself with work  
**DON'T** feel restricted  
**EXPECT** to work out how to get yourself out from under this burden



### SAGITTARIUS

**DO** remember to share your blessings with those around you  
**DON'T** get into family disputes  
**EXPECT** unexpected financial windfalls such as an inheritance or lump sum of money coming your way



### CAPRICORN

**DO** deal with how things are, rather than how you would like them to be  
**DON'T** deny an underlying truth  
**EXPECT** to go with your first instincts



### AQUARIUS

**DO** make the most of the wonderful new energy that surrounds you  
**DON'T** create unnecessary blockages  
**EXPECT** to feel energised emotionally and physically



### PISCES

**DO** find harmony in your relationships  
**DON'T** neglect loved ones  
**EXPECT** good things to come your way if you show them how much you appreciate them

Nita Chhotalal is on @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal @mysticalguidancebynita

## RADIO



### JIMMY TANGREE ON HOW RADIO CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

It has been a rocking week with *Rupam on the Rocks (ROTR)* taking off last night, from 8pm to 9pm. You can find more about the man, his music and his life every Friday on 91.9 Friends FM as well as on our YouTube podcast channel (@919friendsfmroadcast).

Meanwhile, I am reminded of a *Direct Dilse* moment. Last week I received a message from a lady who has been listening to the show for over a decade. She WhatsApp-ed that she will never forget how the show brought her close to her boyfriend. The two had a fight and she was not taking his calls or messages. So he called *Direct Dilse* and spoke his heart out. That did the trick. Words mean a lot, so dial in.

If you have a story to share call 91.9 Friends FM on 44919919 or WhatsApp us on 8100919919.

### Friends Bolly Top 10

- 4 Pehle bhi main
- 5 Ishq jaisa kuch
- 6 Laal peeli akhiyaan
- 7 Sajni
- 8 Satyanaas
- 9 Tu kya jaane
- 10 Ishq mitaye

THE TOP 3? TUNE IN AT 5PM TOMORROW

### World Chart on Friends

- 4 Million Dollar Baby
- 5 Lunch
- 6 Birds Of A Feather
- 7 I Had Some Help
- 8 Too Sweet
- 9 Gata Only
- 10 Not Like Us

THE TOP 3? TUNE IN AT 8PM TODAY/TOMORROW

### Friends Bangla Top 10

- 4 Aaguner
- 5 Bolo koddur
- 6 Ajogyo ami
- 7 Saiyyan beimaan
- 8 Chawl meye
- 9 Tui ele
- 10 Jhogra kori chol

THE TOP 3? TUNE IN AT 3PM TOMORROW

## COMING UP



band performances of Adhuttam, Debdip Banerjee, Paridhi, and Riddles. The lineup for Day 2 on June 23 will feature The Local Pharmacy, Ishani Nag, The Grooverz and Distorted Chromosomes. Organiser **Speak: Ramesh Pandey**, vice president of marketing and events of Ambuja Neotia Group, expressed his excitement about the celebrations and said, "World Music Day is a time to unite through the universal language of music. We are excited to bring together such diverse talents for Band Fest'24 at City Centre New Town and look forward to celebrating with the community."

**What:** Band Fest'24 celebrating World Music Day in association with t2.  
**Where:** City Centre 2, New Town  
**When:** June 22 and 23  
**Expect:** Band Fest'24 will be a celebration of World Music Day over two days of the weekend. Day 1 on June 22 will have a line-up of

excitement about the celebrations and said, "World Music Day is a time to unite through the universal language of music. We are excited to bring together such diverse talents for Band Fest'24 at City Centre New Town and look forward to celebrating with the community."

## WATCHIT!

### MOVIES OF THE DAY

#### AFTERNOON

**Seven Swords:** STAR Movies Select HD, 2.30pm  
**Aashroy:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 3pm  
**Wonder Woman:** Sony Pix, 3.05pm  
**Dharma Adharma:** Aakash Aath, 3.05pm  
**Underworld, Awakening:** &flix, 3.25pm  
**Snow Monster:** STAR Movies Select HD, 3.45pm  
**Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings:** STAR Movies, 4.45pm  
**Underworld, Blood Wars:** &flix, 4.55pm  
**Manush Keno Belman:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.20pm  
**The Adventurers:** STAR Movies Select HD, 5.30pm

#### EVENING

**Lights Out:** Sony Pix, 5.35pm  
**Black Panther:** STAR Movies, 6.45pm  
**San Andreas:** Sony Pix, 6.55pm  
**Kelori Kirti:** Jalsha Movies, 7pm  
**Master Z, Ip Man Legacy:** STAR Movies Select HD, 7.15pm  
**No Good Deed:** &Prive HD, 7.40pm  
**Asol Nakol:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 7.55pm  
**Quarantine 2, Terminal:** STAR Movies, 9pm  
**Monster Hunt 2:** STAR Movies Select HD, 9pm  
**John Wick, Chapter 3:** Sony Pix, 9pm  
**The Princess:** &Prive HD, 9pm  
**Never Back Down, No Surrender:** &flix, 9pm

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ADVT

## Sutraa Brings Pre Rakhi Edition Exhibition to KOLKATA at Royal Bengal Room, City Centre 1 - Kolkata

**Save the Date**  
**21 - 22 - 23 JUNE 2024**  
**10 AM - 9 PM**

Calling all fashionistas and lifestyle enthusiasts! Get ready to be dazzled by the return of the much-awaited Sutraa: The Indian Fashion and Lifestyle Exhibition. After a long hiatus, Sutraa is thrilled to announce its comeback in Kolkata, bringing a vibrant showcase of the latest trends for the monsoon season. Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 Venue: Royal Bengal Room, City Centre 1, Kolkata.

**A Platform for Exquisite Design :** Sutraa is not just a shopping destination; it's an experience that celebrates Indian design and craftsmanship. Visitors can expect: • **Meet the designers :** Interact with the talented designers themselves and learn about their creative vision. - Footwears - Sarees - Home Decors - Accessories - Western - Occasional Wear - Jewellery - Pret Wear



**A Celebration of Monsoon Magic :** This three-day extravaganza will feature a curated selection of renowned designers from across India, all eager to unveil their stunning collections specifically designed for the monsoon season. Expect to discover an array of: • **Exquisite designer wear:** From elegant sarees and captivating lehengas to statement gowns and trendy ethnic wear, there's something for every occasion and style. • **Monsoon-ready fashion:** Find an abundance of clothing and accessories crafted with monsoon-friendly fabrics and designs that keep you stylish and comfortable during the rainy season. • **Lifestyle treasures:** Alongside the fashion finds, explore a range of home decor, footwear, cosmetics, and other lifestyle products that will add a touch of vibrancy to your life.

• **Exclusive Collections :** Be among the first to witness the latest monsoon fashion trends showcased by these renowned designers. - Orat- Begums - Vivaan Creations - Swayamvar - Desi Attire - Jewellery world by Usman Zariwala - Fidaa - Labelaz - The Hanger Trail - Saftypinz - Rains.

**Mark your calendars and get ready to immerse yourself in the world of Indian fashion and lifestyle at Sutraa!** Sutraa is a leading name in luxury exhibitions, renowned for showcasing the finest collections from India's most talented designers. With a focus on elegant design and trendy products, Sutraa provides a platform for fashion enthusiasts to discover unique and exquisite creations.





There's no escaping stress and that's where yoga comes in. And it's not something you need to talk about only on International Day of Yoga. You don't need any prior experience to benefit from its practice. Whether you are at home, work or somewhere in between, yoga can help you relax. It's something yoga educator Samiksha Shetty can't stop talking about. And she also can't stop admiring how the Apple Watch can help.

"I've been using the Apple Watch generally for years; I think it's been four or five years now. Initially, I was introduced to it with the mindset of counting steps. But the Watch evolved," Samiksha told t2.

She is always excited to talk about the yoga mode on the Apple Watch because it's not easy for a device to help when there are phases that involve fewer movements. "It is very tough usually. I've tried other watches, which, at times, don't scan anything because there are no movements taking place. But the Apple Watch is different. It can track non-movements; yoga's a lot about

Apple Watch has several features to help ease stress. Picture: The Telegraph

breathing. On many watches (from other brands), if I'm holding a pose for three minutes, it sends messages like should the workout be cancelled. The Apple Watch is aware of non-movements. As a teacher, this is important to me," she said.

Apple Watch comes with an in-built feature to track yoga and also a Mindfulness feature to help perform breathing exercises. There are several other features that also keep her hooked to the device: "The stopwatch function helps. Since I am in my studio for long hours, I like the fact that calls get transferred to the Watch; I don't have to disconnect and check my phone. I can teach without getting anxious."

She takes a pause before talking about the Mindfulness app.

"We check out so many times in life because so many things are happening around us. So when the notification arrives to simply breathe, it helps."

#### GO WITH THE FLOW

To get started, she advises those coming to her studio to at least keep moving through the day. "Keeping track of steps is important."

"When it comes to yoga, it depends on each person. If I'm a highly-motivated person and if I'm a person who loves competition, I would check my calories, check my heart rate, try to get my heart rate up and try to extend my breath. But if a person is not highly motivated, I would just say consistently track

each day of the week. Let's not go too much into calorie burn. Let's focus on heart rate. Let's focus on trying to calm the breath down. I give people different goals but heart rate is important and in yoga, breathing is important."

The mind-body connection created through yoga facilitates change at many levels. If you have a yoga mat, that's great but it's not necessary. A towel works as well or you can just sit on the floor. Find a comfortable spot where you can be alone. Unlike completing "rings" each day, yoga lets you approach fitness differently.

"What we don't realise is though we are not working physically (all the time), our minds are always at work. Yoga is not only about *asanas*, it's not only about sitting on a mat; it's also the breath work that matters. So when you take a break from the physical aspect of it, you can always go to the other limbs of yoga. You can always go to the breath work, the calming of the mind, the meditation aspect of yoga," said the 30-year-old yoga educator.

Samiksha was introduced to yoga when she was around 10 years old. She puts emphasis on the fact that yoga can be practiced by almost anyone. "Kids are the most flexible. I would say yoga can be done at any age because when you're smaller, you're more inclined towards *asanas*. Also, many are becoming injury-conscious. Many sports people come to me now. I also work with those who are 60-65 years old."

Mathures Paul

## HERE'S HOW THE APPLE WATCH CAN HELP WITH YOUR YOGA ROUTINE



Samiksha Shetty says yoga offers health benefits to kids as well as adults

## IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN: 'BACK TO SCHOOL' WITH APPLE

It's time once again for Apple's 'Back to School' moment. Students heading towards their next career milestone look forward to this every year and the company doesn't disappoint.

Be it the iPad or the Mac, there is something or the other waiting for students. Offers continue till September 30. Consider this offer: Buy eligible Mac or iPad, with an iPad you get Apple Pencil or with a Mac you get AirPods.

Before you log in to find out more about what's on offer, let's explore how you can get the most out of your Mac.

Some useful tips to get the best out of your Mac include organising apps with Stage Manager, the ability to have multiple desktops and hot corners (turn on shortcuts by taking cursor to the corner of the screen).

Here are some of our favourite productivity tools:

★ **Create text shortcuts:** If you repeatedly type the same lengthy phrases, you might want to create a text shortcut. This can be done by entering your Keyboard settings from the System Preferences



Macs and iPads are popular tools among students

application. Then click the Text Replacements button.

★ **Video conferencing (Zoom, FaceTime and so on):** Use Reactions, Presenter Overlay and other effects when video conferencing on Mac.

★ **Widgets:** Personalise your desktop with widgets. Place them right on the desktop, interact with them with just a click, and through the magic of Continuity, use iPhone widgets on Mac.

★ **Web apps:** Save your

favourite websites to the Dock for easy access. Access them in a streamlined format for simplified browsing, switch between them like you do with other apps, and get notifications and badging.

★ **Quick emoji selection:** Pressing the globe icon on your Mac keyboard pulls up a lightweight emoji picker that shows emoji relevant to the word you just typed.

★ **Notes:** Review PDFs and scanned documents right in your note. PDFs and document scans are presented

full width in your note, making them easy to view.

★ **Linked Notes.** A new option to add links makes it easy to link one note to another. Quickly find and create links to notes and websites. Try typing ">>" for a shortcut to create links while writing in your note. You can even create a new note from the one you're in and have it automatically linked.

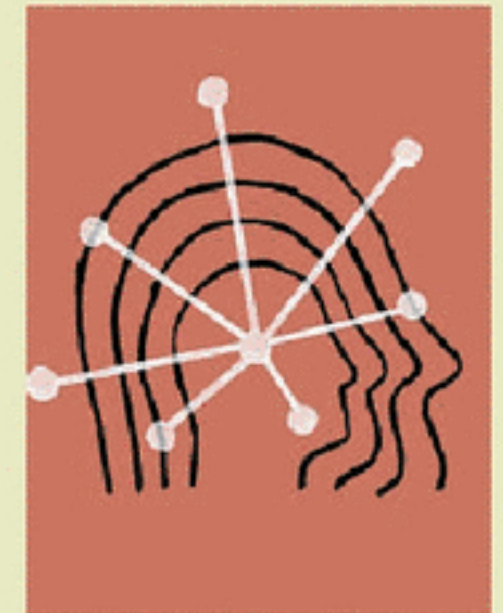
AI-related features include Visual Look Up (find recipes for similar dishes from a photo. Pause a video and click on the sparkling info icon to look up any object that appears in frame), support for cloud-based AI solutions, enabling you to run powerful productivity and creative apps that tap into the power of AI, such as Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365 Canva, and Adobe Firefly, and 3P AI examples (enhancing photos in Pixelmator Pro, remove background noise from a video using CapCut).

There is also plenty on the table when it comes to Continuity (Mac + iPhone), like Air Drop, Instant Hotspot, phone calls, Continuity Camera, AirPlay to Mac and AirPods functionality (moving between Apple devices using the AirPods).

What about the meeting of the Mac and iPad? You can use the iPad as second display. To find out more, visit [www.apple.com/in-edu/store](http://www.apple.com/in-edu/store).

Mathures Paul

## THE AI RACE CONTINUES: ANTHROPIC'S LATEST MODEL IS CLAUDE 3.5 SONNET



Anthropic is releasing a powerful new generative AI model called Claude 3.5 Sonnet

OpenAI competitor Anthropic has announced Claude 3.5 Sonnet, its most powerful artificial intelligence model yet. The company says it can equal or improve on OpenAI's GPT-4o or Google's Gemini across a number of tasks. The new model is already available to Claude users on the web and on iOS.

Claude is a chatbot that has become popular in the past year. Anthropic, which was founded by ex-OpenAI research executives, has support from the likes of Google, Salesforce and Amazon. In the past year, it's closed five different funding deals totaling about \$7.3 billion.

Claude 3.5 Sonnet will be the middle model in the lineup — Anthropic uses the name Haiku for its smallest model, Sonnet for the mainstream middle option, and Opus for its highest-end model. Yet, the company says 3.5 Sonnet outperforms 3 Opus.

Claude 3.5 Sonnet is free from the company's website, [Claude.ai](http://Claude.ai), and in the Claude iPhone app. "It shows marked improvement in grasping nuance, humour, and complex instructions, and is exceptional at writing high-quality content with a natural, relatable tone," the company said in a blog post. The chatbot can write, edit and execute codes.

Anthropic has also announced Artifacts, which allows a user to ask its Claude chatbot to, say, generate a text document or code and then opens the result in a dedicated window.

Last month, Instagram co-founder Mike Krieger joined the company as chief product officer. OpenAI's former safety leader Jan Leike joined the company in May.

Mathures Paul



## PEOPLE



## 'WE ALWAYS SAY THAT WOMEN ARE WOMEN'S WORST ENEMIES. THIS SHOULD BE PUT TO REST,' SAYS FARAH KHAN IN A t2 TETE-A-TETE



Farah Khan at Taj Bengal

**Flurys on Park Street and Nizam's in New Market are the places I have explored before but I am happy to explore new places**

shirts with my jeans. For my prom, I had dressed up as Michael Jackson! I got the jacket from some fashion street for some 30-40 bucks... I don't dress up very girly. Also, the girly outfits are not very conducive to work. I have dressed up girly also but not at work. At my age, I just want to be comfortable. If I am fussing about what is showing then I can't work. I like age-appropriate clothes. For me, style is comfort over fashion. Also, I don't like body-hugging clothes because I am constantly eating something or the other (laughs).

**Vibrant colours are something we have spotted in your wardrobe over the decades. Do you think it helps you to channel your personality better?**

I think my skin tone also is conducive to vibrant colours. If I wear pale colours, I tend to look washed out. Also, when one is overweight, one usually likes to wear black as it makes one look slim. But now I have got a new stylist, Ken Ferns. For *Jhalak (Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa)*, we were experimenting with the looks with some colours and silhouettes. But I also have a lot of no-nos. I don't wear sleeveless, I don't wear strappy because I have to be myself.

**come to Calcutta?**

Long ago I had come here and someone took me to Chinatown. It is a hole-in-the-wall place but it had great Chinese food. Also, Flurys on Park Street and Nizam's in New Market are the places I have explored before but I am happy to explore new places. I would love to take back home some Calcutta *mishti* doi... I love it.

**Much before power dressing was a thing, your fashion statement has always been about power dressing....**

I don't know about power dressing, but even in college, since we had no money, I used to wear my father's

**Long ago I did a Bengali movie. I lived here (in Calcutta) for three months while we were shooting it. It was almost 30 years ago. It was called *Ek Poshla Brishti*. So, he (Prosenjit) is the only one that I have actually really worked with**

**Have you ever had a fashion faux-pas period?**

I think if you ask Karan Johar, he will say I am a fashion faux pas! He calls my lunches the Met Gala of Lokhandwala! (Laughs) I have had many fashion faux pas. I like to make my heroines look great in my movies. I have an eye for what will look great on them. And, of course,

ago. It was called *Ek Poshla Brishti*. So, he is the only one that I have actually really worked with. I have seen him in *Jubilee*. He is a fine actor and he is just improving with age.

**What keeps Farah Khan so calm despite being multi-hyphenated? Calm?! When I am at work I am not cool, I think I am just hyper-energetic. There is a certain energy in the way I work. After so many years of working and experience and a career in Bollywood, I think everything is very transitory. So, there's no need to be hyper about anything. I don't sweat over the small stuff. I may get angry and say that they are not efficient but it doesn't become my problem for the day. For me, I wake up in the morning and decide how my day is going to be —**

**I think Sonam (Kapoor) is very stylish. Even if she is lounging at home and I have gone for an impromptu lunch or something, there also she looks like she is always ready for a photoshoot**

all these women have great bodies, they look great in what they wear. I need to dress according to my body type. Once I remember I was wearing a frock. I was not going anywhere just crossing a church to say a prayer and some paps clicked me and I was featured somewhere and Karan had sent me the picture. I was looking like a pregnant woman and his caption read: 'Praying for a new outfit?' For him, everything I do is bad. But if I dress well, he will say: 'Oh, you have dressed well today, how do I make fun of you?' But I enjoy that banter. Sometimes I dress badly so that I can get that attention!

**Who do you go to in your 'Bolly friends' circle for style tips?**

I don't really go for style tips but I admire many people's styles. I think Sonam (Kapoor) is very stylish. Even if she is lounging at home and I have gone for an impromptu lunch or something, there also she looks like she is always ready for a photoshoot. I think inherently she has great taste and style. I don't like overdressed people. I like event-appropriate clothing. If you are going to the airport, I find it ridiculous to wear stiletto heels and tight-fitting outfits... I mean who wears that at an airport? I think Deepika wears really comfortable clothes. Most of them are great now. Malaika has a great body, so she always dresses great.

**Is there any actor from the Bengali film industry that you would like to work with?**

I have actually only worked with Prosenjit (Chatterjee). Long ago I did a Bengali movie. I lived here for three months while we were shooting it. It was almost 30 years

a good day or a bad day.

**Mom, mentor or friend Farah Khan or filmmaker Farah Khan — which role is closer to your heart?**

When I am with my kids, I enjoy being with them. At work, I thoroughly enjoy it as all my creative juices come out then. I am in my element. When I am just in bed with my dog taking a nap or just chatting with my girls or gossiping... I enjoy that also. The only thing I don't enjoy is getting ready and taking pictures, self-shot videos for others and getting ready for interviews and getting ready after seven in the evening to go anywhere.

**You came to the city for a FICCI event. How important is it for women to support women?**

We always say that women are women's worst enemies. This should be put to rest now. If you support and mentor somebody, it doesn't mean that your chair is becoming less. Women always think that I have only this much, if I give away this much what will I have but that is not what happens. People in the same field need to be supportive of each other but it rarely happens. If you are secure in your own

work, you know that if you support someone, your work is not going to become less. And I think a woman's brother, father and husband also need to support her even more... however much we talk of feminism. Because even now it is their saying that decides the fate of women.

**I like age-appropriate clothes. For me, style is comfort over fashion. Also, I don't like body-hugging clothes because I am constantly eating something or the other**

**N**ot because it is an easy alliteration but a word that's truly synonymous with Farah Khan is 'fabulous'. She is always fabulous. Humorous, candid, relatable and relevant... that's Farah Khan on-screen, off-screen or in person. Whether sharing her signature recipes on social media with fans, wrapping up a multi-starrer in Bollywood or creating memorable hook steps as a choreographer, she makes it all look like a cakewalk with an uncanny sense of simplicity and a pinch of effortless humour. On the sidelines of her recent visit to Calcutta for a FICCI FLO event, t2 caught up with Farah in a tete-a-tete on food, style, films and more.

**Apart from all your identities, we know you as the foodie Farah Khan. What do you look forward to tasting when you**

**Priyanka A. Roy**  
Pictures: Pabitra Das





Jeet and Rukmini Maitra in *Boomerang*

Willing suspension of disbelief is a mindset we often adhere to when viewing a superhero film or a commercial masala film in languages other than Bengali. When it comes to our mother tongue most urban viewers look for reason, logic, intellect and breaking of norms. For the masses, however, sentimental family stories have an attraction that is eternal.

In recent times the Bengali films released have had a decent run. They have been a merry mix of relationships, both new world and old, thrillers and biographies.

*Boomerang*, a Bengali film, is a digression from the usual fare, both good and bad. Sauvik Kundu has now delved into the world of make-believe with modern technology as his tool both in perception as well as execution. And within this, he has added romance, sentiment and a good dose of comedy, both situational and slapstick. The visual effects created have a finesse that is appreciable.

As the brilliant yet impractical

## 'BOOMERANG IS A HEALTHY COMEBACK INTO THE WORLD OF IMAGINATION AND PURE ENTERTAINMENT,' WRITES FILMMAKER SUDESHNA ROY



Sudeshna Roy

scientist Samar and his inhuman mechanical alter ego Amar, Jeet has excelled himself! His comic timing, as well as his clever quips, have the power to evoke laughter

and kudos! For those who expect a fight and superhuman feats from Jeet, they too will not be disappointed. While appreciating the hero one must also remember the director's contribution in making the unbelievable look and feel real.

*Boomerang* is not just Jeet's film. The heroine Rukmini Maitra as Isha and Nisha is to be reckoned with! Be it comedy, ire or mechanical interpretations, Rukmini once again proved to be a competent performer who can hold her own. She has emerged as a mainstream heroine who is also capable of realistic portrayals. Sauvik's earlier film *Switzerland* revealed one face of Rukmini;

*Boomerang* has two faces.

A host of competent actors — Kharaj Mukherjee, Rajatava Datta, Ambarish Bhattacharya and Saurav Das — have been well utilised by the director to provide squeals, thrills and giggles.

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The best thing about *Ishq Vishk Rebound* is that it ends. At some point. Clunky at its best, confused at its 'worse' and pretty much unwatchable at its worst, this Gen-Z upgrade of the early 2000s rom-com *Ishq Vishk* that propelled Shahid Kapoor from Aishwarya Rai's background dancer in *Taal* to the leading man slot and has kept him there since, is a mish-mash of everything that Bollywood feels will stick with the new generation. So we have situationship, love triangle, "but she's your best friend, yaar" moments and sentences that invariably begin and end with "bro". At one point, one bro tells another bro: "Bro, what a mess, yaar." That is the only

part of this film that finds some resonance.

*Ishq Vishk Rebound* relies a little too much on the natural charm and easy-on-the-eye screen presence of its leading man Rohit Saraf. But there is only that much that the young actor — earnest but completely out of depth in a sketchily-written role — can do.

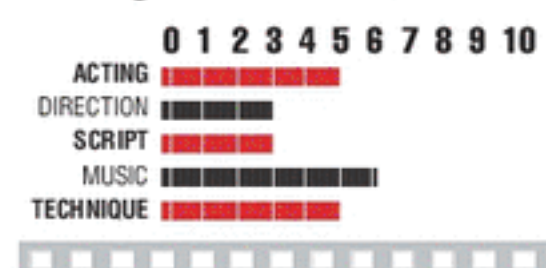
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Cast: Rohit Saraf, Pashmina Foshan, Jibraan Khan, Naita Grewal, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Kusha Kapila, Shataf Figar

Running time: 106 minutes



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Sahir and Sanya break up. Raghav breaks up with his activist girlfriend (Naita Grewal) who stages protests about environment conservation holding a steel *thali* with the word 'Protest' written on it. Raghav and Sanya find themselves getting into a relationship. Sahir shows up again, so does activist girlfriend. But for all the triangles and squares and rectangles that *Ishq Vishk Rebound* has in its 'plot', there is zero chemistry between any of its players. In fact, they show far more energy in the millions of Instagram Reels doing the rounds in which they dance to the title track.

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would be vulnerability. Everyone, at some point, comes face to face with a situation that has the power to completely change their lives. Vaibhav's (Mayur More) meltdown in Episode 4 where he launches into a breathless tirade against the whole joint entrance examination system is not played out for laughs (*Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAAMA* monologue, we are looking at you). It makes the reality of what these young, stressed-out minds face on a daily basis, all too real.

Meena's (Ranjan Raj) moment of truth where he has to support himself financially by taking up teaching even while being a student himself and cutting down on his own study hours, illustrates the reality that many lower middle-class students have to grapple with. In the same vein, Uday's (Alam Khan) accident brings him within sniffing distance of giving up on his dream.

The biggest instance of the show's changing fabric arrives early... and hits hard. 'Jeetu Bhaiya' (Jitendra Kumar), shaken by the death at the end of the previous season, is no longer the demigod-like figure helping his

students at Aimers with both Physics problems and life lessons. Jeetu, who we see grappling with more questions than answers for the first time ever in *Kota Factory*, now wants to be 'Jeetu Sir', aiming to detach himself from the lives of his students for the sake of his own sanity. A lucrative job offer only helps him in changing the course of his life.

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The show *Shubho Bibaho* presents the story of Tej and Sudha. Sudha, an honest and resilient woman, finds herself at a crossroads in life after her divorce. Despite the unimaginable pressure from her family to remarry, Sudha finds herself entangled in restarting her life amid the noise of peer pressure. Tej, a man from an orthodox background, unknowingly becomes a part of Sudha's journey when their paths cross unexpectedly at a wedding. Her friend poses a

question that lingers in Sudha's mind: how long will she continue to decorate other people's weddings while neglecting her own?

Tej is played by Honey Bafna while Sudha is played by Sonamoni Saha. They share the screen for the very first time. Produced by Acropolis Entertainment, *Shubho Bibaho* also stars Mallika Mazumder, Sohini Sanyal, Kushal Chakraborty, Suchismita Chowdhury, Saswati Guhathakurta, and many others. The show airs every day at 9pm on Star Jalsha.



Honey Bafna

Sonamoni Saha





Jeet and Rukmini Maitra in *Boomerang*

Willing suspension of disbelief is a mindset we often adhere to when viewing a superhero film or a commercial masala film in languages other than Bengali. When it comes to our mother tongue most urban viewers look for reason, logic, intellect and breaking of norms. For the masses, however, sentimental family stories have an attraction that is eternal.

In recent times the Bengali films released have had a decent run. They have been a merry mix of relationships, both new world and old, thrillers and biographies.

*Boomerang*, a Bengali film, is a digression from the usual fare, both good and bad. Sauvik Kundu has now delved into the world of make-believe with modern technology as his tool both in perception as well as execution. And within this, he has added romance, sentiment and a good dose of comedy, both situational and slapstick. The visual effects created have a finesse that is appreciable.

As the brilliant yet impractical

## 'BOOMERANG IS A HEALTHY COMEBACK INTO THE WORLD OF IMAGINATION AND PURE ENTERTAINMENT,' WRITES FILMMAKER SUDESHNA ROY



Sudeshna Roy

scientist Samar and his inhuman mechanical alter ego Amar, Jeet has excelled himself! His comic timing, as well as his clever quips, have the power to evoke laughter

and kudos! For those who expect a fight and superhuman feats from Jeet, they too will not be disappointed. While appreciating the hero one must also remember the director's contribution in making the unbelievable look and feel real.

*Boomerang* is not just Jeet's film. The heroine Rukmini Maitra as Isha and Nisha is to be reckoned with! Be it comedy, ire or mechanical interpretations, Rukmini once again proved to be a competent performer who can hold her own. She has emerged as a mainstream heroine who is also capable of realistic portrayals. Sauvik's earlier film *Switzerland* revealed one face of Rukmini;

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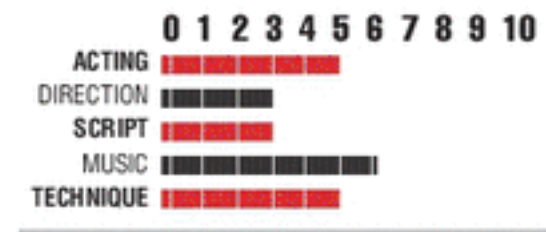
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## ROBERT WHITTAKER SHARES WITH t2 HIS SUNDAY GAME PLAN AGAINST IKRAM ALISKEROV

**before a match?**  
I don't pay attention to it and I distract myself with other things.

**Do you follow news online?**  
None!

**You have trained in various forms of martial arts. Has it helped you in improving your concentration levels before a match?**  
Definitely. The different martial

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arts that I've practised have certainly shaped how I fight, and it's definitely helped. Martial arts in combat sports is my way of life. That's what martial arts has done for me. You know, it's put the discipline in me and you know the holistic approach to martial arts, is my way of life.

**How has boxing contributed to your UFC career?**  
Yeah, massively. You know, I like to hit people. (Laughs)

**How would you describe the last 12 years with UFC?**  
Yeah, I've been blessed with a great career, you know. I'm respected by my peers. I've achieved the highest of highs. And yeah, I've been blessed with my career. Obviously winning the belt was probably the highlight, the crowning achievement at the moment, but you know I intend to still hit some milestones, coming up.

**Your Instagram is full of lovely pictures of the family. Do your kids take an interest when you are training for a match?**  
Umm, yes and no. Like they're interested. They train. But they're not too fussed, you know, on watching me fight or anything like that. I don't think they're fans (laughs).

They're still very young. So, I think they're slowly starting to get it, to understand that I fly overseas and I fight and it's on TV. So, my wife puts the fight on the TV, when I fight but yeah, but it's still slow going.

**What is your ultimate dream for yourself?**  
I want to just keep perfecting my craft. I want to keep getting better and I want to get back the belt and then, you know, step away on top. That's my plan, that's the goal and that's the drive that I'm doing.

**Saionee Chakraborty**

Watch *UFC Fight Night: Whittaker vs. Aliskerov* on June 23 from 3am IST onwards LIVE on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD

**I think in a lot of ways Ikram is just as or more dangerous than (Khamzat) Chimaev. I think he's got a really well-rounded skill set and it's going to be a test on the weekend. I understand that. I understand the task, but the task is the same. I'm going to go in there and hunt him for 25 minutes and just hurt him and hurt him and hurt him until he can't take it any more**



**A**head of his Sunday match against Ikram Aliskerov, UFC athlete Robert Whittaker who is a former UFC Middleweight champion and ranks number three on the UFC Middleweight rankings, chatted with t2 on his match preparation and more.

**How are you approaching your Sunday fight?**  
Obviously, there's been a switch of opponents, so I'm having to make a few changes in the way that I approach the fight. But honestly, my general game plan is to take the fight to my opponent and make them worry about my skill set. And that's exactly what I intend to do on Sunday.

**What is your take on your opponent Ikram Aliskerov? Do you think you are a clear favourite?**  
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**Do you have a game plan before a fight?**  
Most of the time I go out there and I fight my fight. You know, I like to dictate the fight and take the fight in the direction where I'm strongest. So that gives me a lot of flexibility with how I fight and who I fight.

**How has your preparation evolved over the years?**  
Definitely. Over the years my training has changed night and day. Who I am has changed, night and day. I feel like my general fight style

has stayed the same. But it's been sharpened and honed to perfection to where I am today.

**How do you handle mind games**



## COMING UP



Spaghetti Aglio e Olio

**What:** From Italy with Love  
**Where:** Shamiana, Taj City Centre New Town  
**When:** June 22 to 29  
**Timings:** 12.30pm to 3pm, 7pm to 11pm  
**On the menu:** Shamiana, the all-day dine den at Taj City Centre New Town is all set to take foodies on a voyage to Italy with a special pop-up that brings Trattoria from President, Mumbai-IHCL SeleQtions, to Calcutta. Trattoria is renowned for its authentic and eclectic Italian cuisine. Pizza lovers can savour a variety of Italian favourites including Lamb Bolognese, Mozzarella Cheese and Onion Bologna, Ham, Salami, Sausages, Chicken and Prawn Trattoria, Tomato and Basil Margherita, Four Cheese- Gorgonzola, Mozzarella, Goat Cheese and Parmesan Quattro Fromaggi, Garlic, Herbs,

Parmesan Cheese and Olive Oil Focaccia and much more, while pasta enthusiasts can choose from options like Vodka Prawn, Pollo E Funghi, Lasagne Lamb, Spinach and Ricotta stuffed Cylindrical Pasta, Ravioli with Mushroom and Sundried Tomato.  
**Hotel speak:** "We are delighted to bring the taste of Trattoria's eclectic Italian cuisine to Kolkata. This promotion is a celebration of fresh flavours, delicious aromas, and traditional cooking techniques. Our renowned chefs have carefully prepared each dish to retain the authentic Italian flavours that Trattoria is known for," said Indranil Ray, general manager, Taj City Centre New Town.  
**Meal for two:** ₹ 2,200-plus  
**For reservations:** Call on 9971250569



Mango Chimichurri Bruschetta

Litchi Mimosa

**What:** Mango and Litchi Festival at Voila Bistro  
**Where:** Voila Bistro, 43B Lake Place Road, Southern Avenue, opposite Karma Fitness Studio, Lake Range, Kalighat  
**On till:** July 10  
**On the menu:** Indulge in a variety of refreshing and delicious dishes crafted to celebrate the flavours of summer. Savour the tangy Mango Chimichurri Bruschetta or enjoy the unique Mango Sago Bites. Cleanse your palate with the Detox Mango Salad. For the main course, treat yourself to the Spicy Mango Chicken or Grilled Chicken Tender with Mango Salsa. Desserts include the creamy Mango Panna Cotta, a delectable Mango Tart, and the exquisite Litchi Rose Mousse. Each dish is a burst of tropical flavour, perfect for the summer season.  
**Organiser speak:** "As a newly-opened restaurant, we're thrilled to introduce our first Mango & Litchi Festival. This festival offers the perfect fusion of global and local flavours. Our diverse menu of starters, salads, main courses, and desserts is designed to delight every palate," said Supratik Ghosh, co-owner of Voila Bistro.  
**Pocket pinch:** ₹ 800 onwards



Aam Panna



Aam Gosht

**What:** Mango Festival  
**Where:** Kebab-e-Que and Deck 88, The Astor Kolkata, 15 Shakespeare Sarani Road  
**On till:** June 30  
**On the menu:** The annual mango festival is back at Kebab-e-Que, the vintage restaurant, and Deck 88, the cool hangout at The Astor Kolkata. Curated by executive chef Azad Arif, the festival is an ode to the summer months when mango becomes the go-to fruit. Start with Fresh Mango Boba Tea, Badami Mango and Sabja Lassi, Raw Mango Chuski and Who

Tweaked My Granny's Aam Panna? Enjoy Ripe Mango & Watermelon Salad, Jackfruit Poppers and Paka Aam-er Salsa, Green Mango Tandoori Prawn, and Wok- Tossed Chicken. Savour Stir Fried Silken Tofu, Alphonso Zucchini Lasagne Rolls, Aam Gosht, Pan-Fried Fish and Raw Mango in Oyster Sauce, and Coriander marinated Grilled Chicken. Indulge in Mango Kulfi in Astor Way, Rose Tart, Fresh Cut Mango & Vanilla Ice Cream, and Kancha Aam-er Rasgulla for desserts.

**Hotel speak:** "Summer season is synonymous with mangoes and at K-e-Q and Deck 88, every year we try to bring in innovative dishes for our patrons. The best thing about mangoes is that they can be used in drinks, starters, main course, salads and desserts. This wide range of utility gives mangoes a special place in the kitchen. I hope everyone likes our mango festival," said Amit Kobat, general manager, The Astor Kolkata.  
**Meal for two:** ₹ 1,000

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## A FRESH TAKE ON SHAKESPEARE COMES TO THE BENGAL CLUB STAGE

If music be the food of love, play on! That's what William Shakespeare might have said if he were in the audience at The Bengal Club on the night of June 14, when Harish Mehta and Julie Banerjee Mehta put together a fine homage to the bard – *Happy Birthday, Mr Shakespeare!*, a fusion play in two acts. The production involved innovative comedy as well as canon interpretation of Shakespeare's plays. Viewers were in for a ride that was equal parts entertaining and enriching as they were transported into a world where the timeless wit and wisdom of Shakespeare met contemporary creativity and flair.

The play was brought to life by 13 actors including the Mehtas, 12 of whom were members of The Bengal Club (or children of members). These 13 actors played 40 different roles in an ensemble performance that transitioned seamlessly between characters, costumes, and scenes, creating a theatrical experience that highlighted the richness of Shakespeare's oeuvre while infusing it with modern humour and insight.

What made the presentation stand out was its unique and different forms of comedy in each scene of the first act, and the medley of various Shakespeare characters from across his plays coming together to deliver some of his most profound monologues in the second.

Harish Mehta, who wrote and directed the first part of the play, led the comedic aspect of the production with three separate mini-plays unfolding in the first half. There were a number of Shakespearean characters coming to life to wish the newborn Shakespeare a very happy birthday in the piece *Happy Birthday, Mr Shakespeare!* *Shakespeare in Hollywood* featured a writer's block-ridden Shakespeare being offered contracts in modern-day action-loving Hollywood. *Villains in the Boxing Ring* had racy risqué scene of his villains Richard III and Iago involved in a war of Shakespeare's best insults.

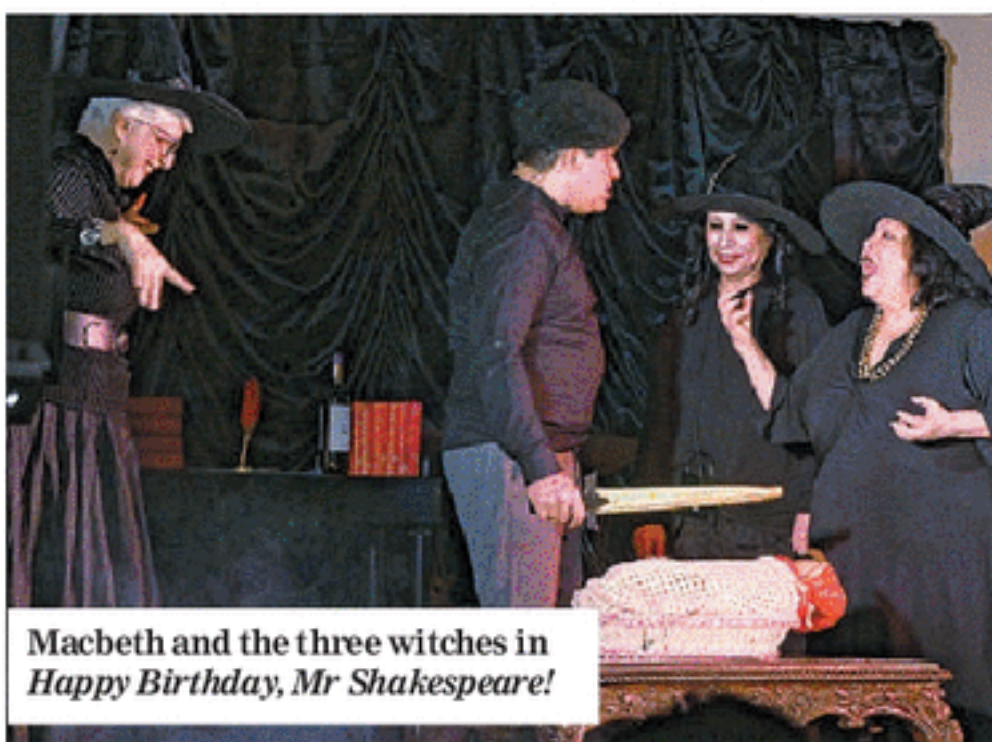
The audience heartily guffawed their way through the first act, but were in for a much more serious journey in the next, which was conceptualised by Julie Banerjee Mehta. This latter half of the play brought together Shakespeare's Henry VIII, Cressida, Caliban, Juliet, Lavinia, Desdemona, Shylock, Portia, Hamlet, Lear and Richard III to deliver some of their most powerful monologues and soliloquies, all bound together by a common theme – that of human ambition and frailty.

Each character demonstrated the intricate tapestry of emotions and motivations that define Shakespeare's works. This thematic unity created a resonating experience for the audience, and celebrated the enduring impact of Shakespeare's immortal insights into the human condition.

Here are some moments from the performance.



The cast and crew of the production. Standing, l-r: Jewel Celestina Sneyd, Susmita Banerjee, Keshav Roy, Julie Banerjee Mehta, Harish Mehta, Arjun Navada, Chandra Shekhar Mukherjee, Anju Munshi, Ranjit Chaudhri, Arpan Banerjee and Anubha Roy. Sitting, l-r: Chaitali Maitra, Aparna Khastagir and Anasuya Navada-Pal.



Macbeth and the three witches in *Happy Birthday, Mr Shakespeare!*

Jewel Celestina Sneyd, who enchanted the audience with her singing in the second act, sang popular numbers like *Englishman in New York*, *Rolling in the Deep*, *My Heart Will Go On*, *Dead Flowers*, and *Sweet King Richard III*.



The Mehtas addressed the audience before the play began. "When I conceptualised a Shakespeare celebration four years ago, it was my response to the then president of The Bengal Club, Ambarish Dasgupta's request for me to begin a Shakespeare tribute on Shakespeare's birthday. This year, I said why not perform on stage? I envisaged this tribute to Shakespeare as a collective of voices who loved the Bard and his works. Second, I wanted very much to make Shakespeare accessible to younger and more traditional members," said Julie.

"The support, encouragement, and compliments that have poured in are overwhelming. It was not a regular theatre experience. It was an amalgam of experimental theatre and going beyond the paradigmatic geographies. And to balance that there was the selection of traditional Shakespeare passages. So we had something for everyone," added Harish.



Chandra Shekhar Mukherjee during his monologue in the second act.



We spotted theatre veteran Jayant Kripalani in the house! "The play was very funny, and so well-written! The material was solid and I would dearly love for more people to be able to come watch," he said.



Shakespeare, Anne, and Puck go global in *Shakespeare in Hollywood*.



*Villains in the Boxing Ring* had Richard III and Iago battle it out in a war of Shakespearean insults.

Subhalakshmi Dey

Pictures:  
Rashbehari Das



## t2 ENJOYED A COUPLE OF FRUIT-FLAVOURED BEERS AND A FUN SUMMER MENU AT OLTERRA

**O**lterra, the chill-pad and microbrewery off Park Street has added two new beers to the menu. While one champions the mighty mango, the other dark

variant has notes of figs and plums. To go along with the beers, the lounge also has some fresh menu offerings that are great for the season. t2 checks it out.



**Ninkasi's Nectar (Alphonso Mango Beer):** This is the harmony of two icons, the Alphonso mango from India and Olterra's artisanal Belgian-inspired ale. The sweetness of the Alphonso mango intertwines seamlessly with the taste of the ale, resulting in a great fusion.



**Loki's Doppelbock: 'Doppel'** in German translates to 'double', and this beer is a take on the classic German bock beer. It's a robust and intensified rendition, boasting a stronger alcohol content and a bolder flavour profile. Originating from Bavaria, this dark lager has gained popularity for its strong-sweet profile, with notes of plum and figs. Originally crafted by monks to sustain during fasting periods, it's fondly referred to as "liquid bread" due to its substantial calorie content and nourishing qualities. Its production involves a longer fermentation process and the use of quality ingredients.



**Pulled Jackfruit Bao:** A great protein-packed option, this has succulent jackfruit in a salty-sweet marination, along with crunchy veggies and roasted nuts for added texture.



**Thai Spiced Chicken Dumplings:** Bringing in the freshness of chilli, and ingredients like ginger, galangal, kaffir lime for a spicy kick, these dumplings are juicy on the inside and are served with two dips, one peanut and one chilli-based.



**Spinach, Feta and Olive Ravioli:** A must-try dish from the summer menu, this has carefully crafted ravioli stuffed with baby spinach, feta cheese and olives. It is served with a sauce made using pumpkin puree and some Kalimpong cheese.



**Murgh Rozali Kebabs:** Stuffed minced chicken wrapped with red cheddar, fresh herbs and aromatic spices and cooked in a clayoven, these kebabs will melt in your mouth in no time.



**Mango Cheese Cake:** This is a mildly-sweet cheesecake stuffed with mango puree and has a biscuit base and is topped with fresh mangoes.

**Zeba Akhtar Ali**  
Pictures: Rashbehari Das


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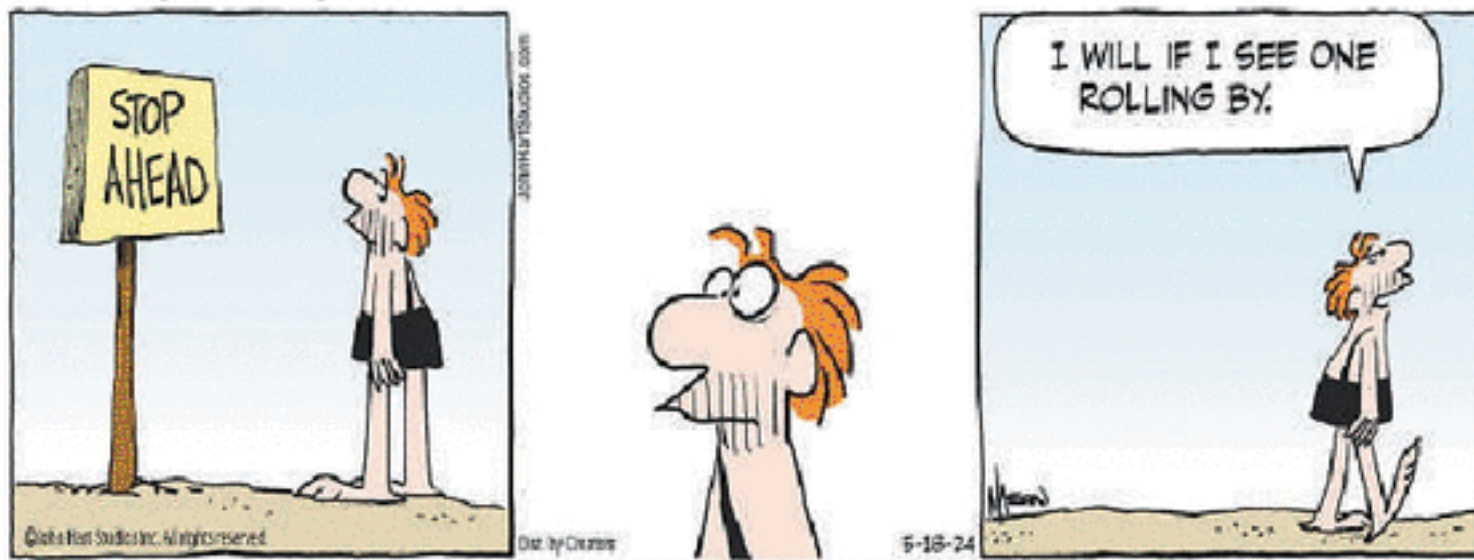
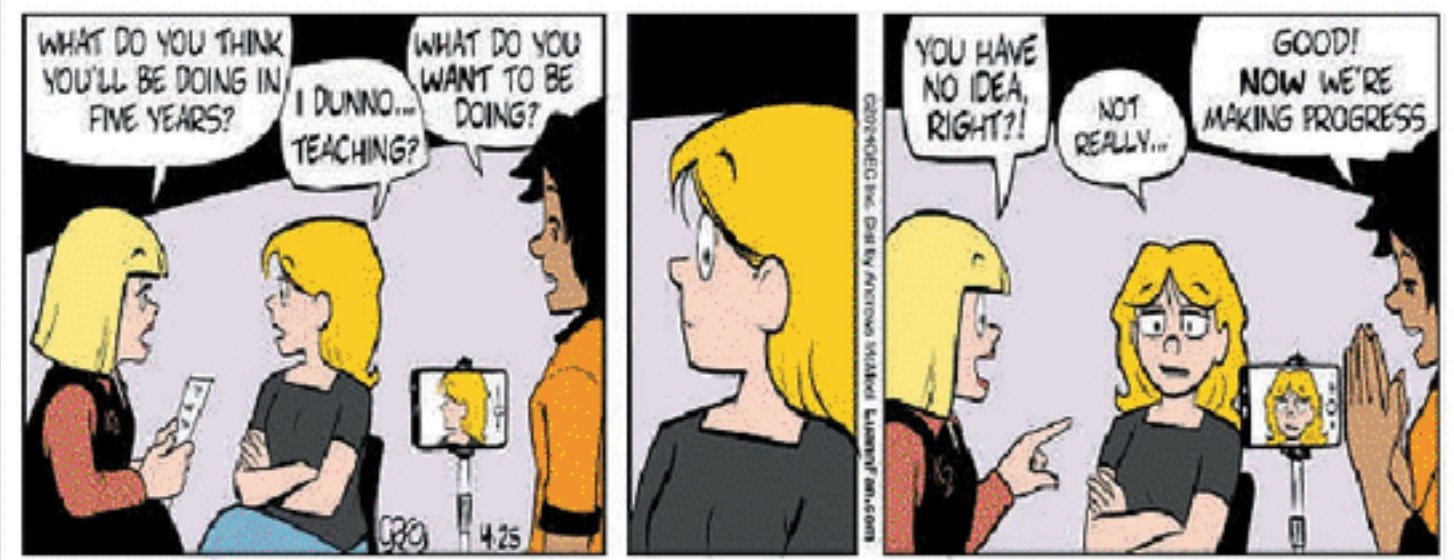
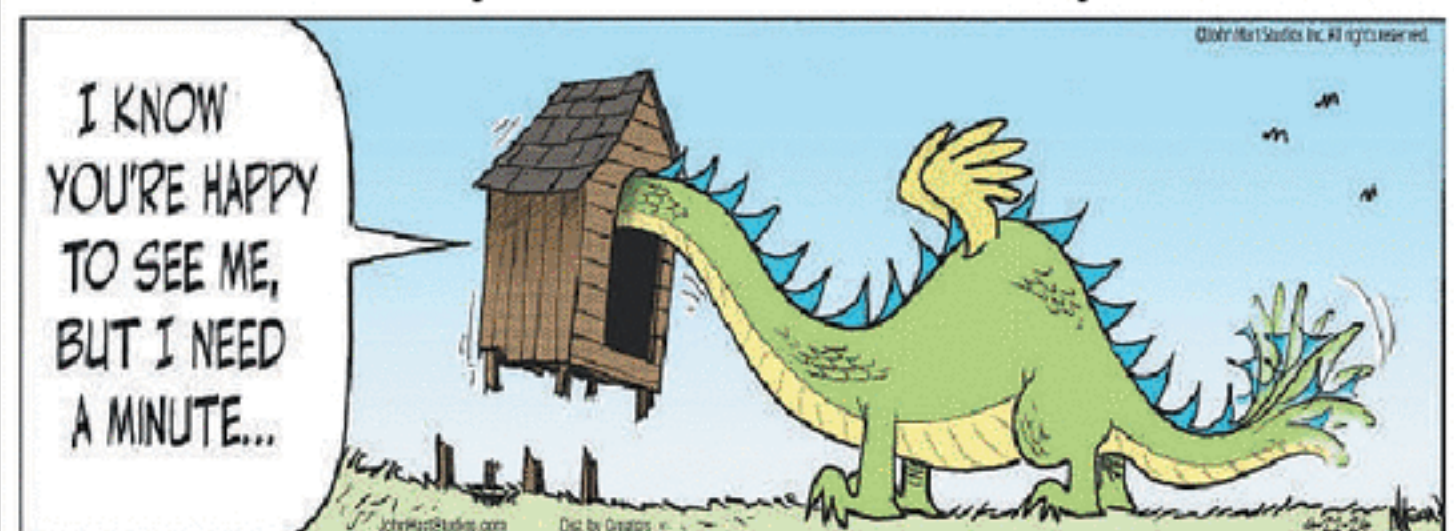
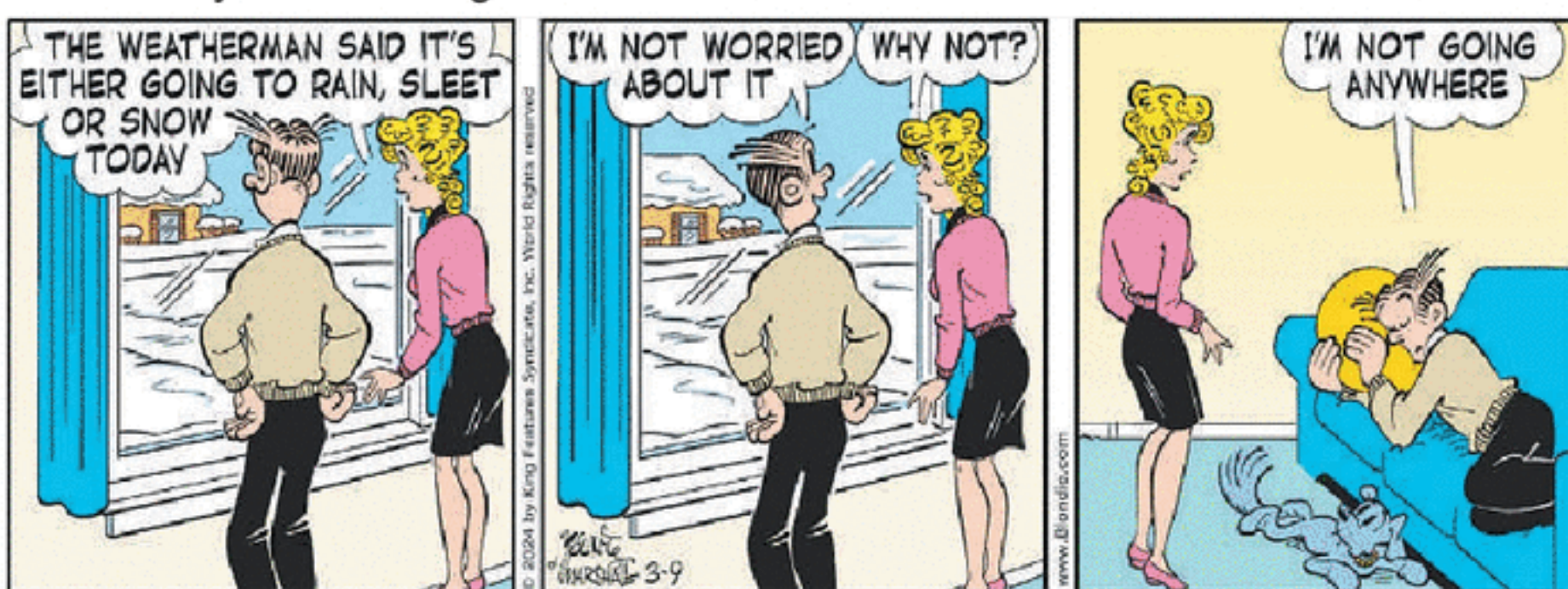
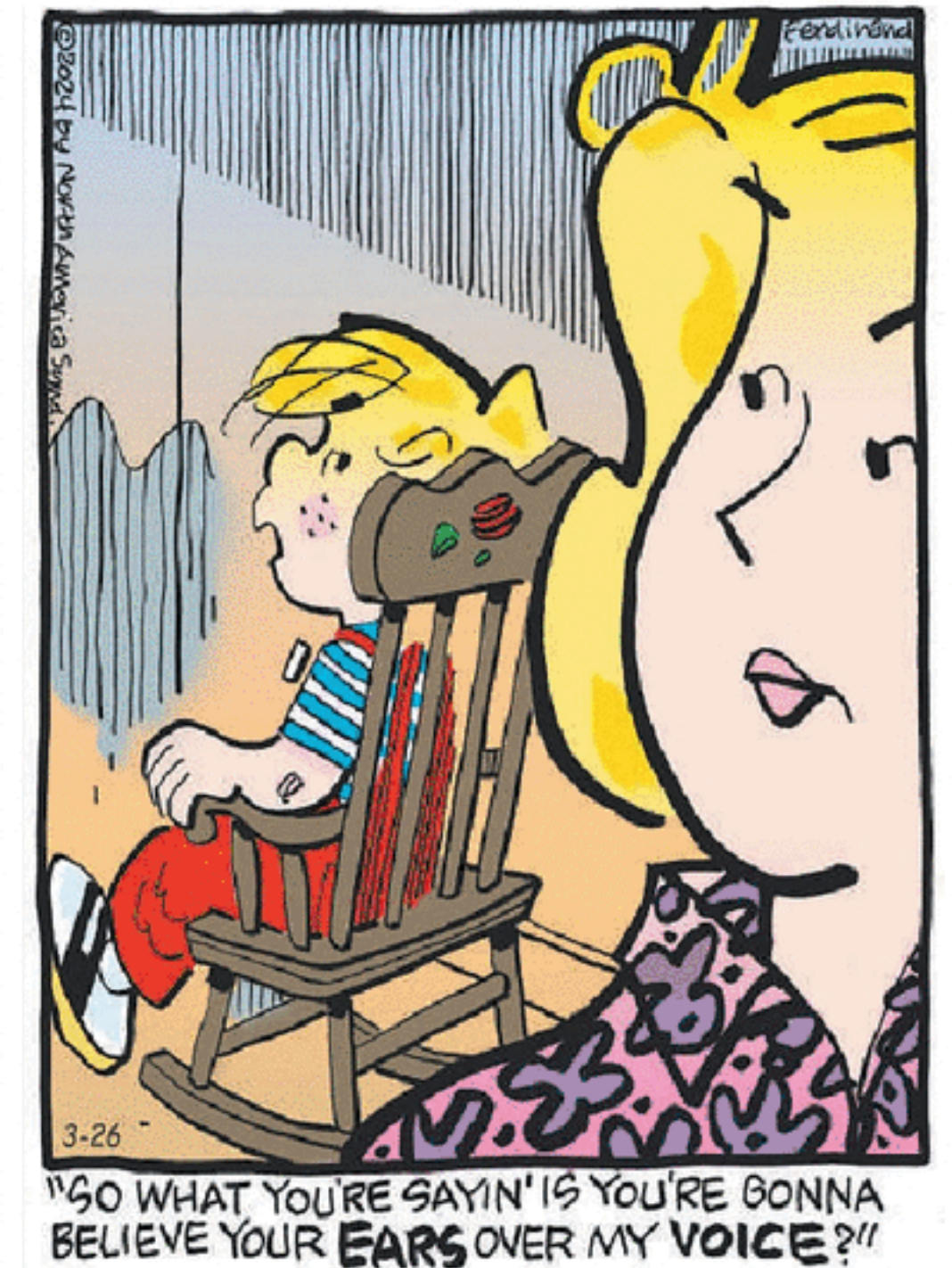
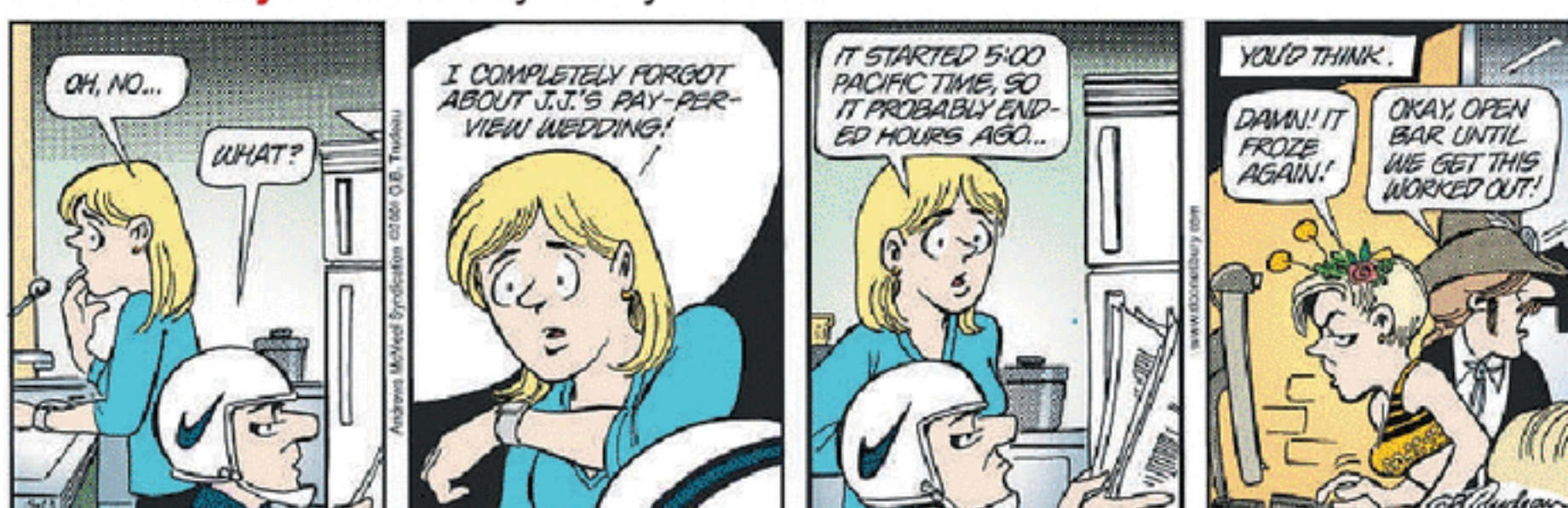
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**B.C.** by Johny Hart**Luann** by Greg Evans**Peanuts** by Charles Schulz**The Wizard of Id** by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart**Flash Gordon** by Dan Schkade**Hagar the Horrible** by Chris Browne**Blondie** by Dean Young**Dennis the Menace****Doonesbury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



11020

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

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 11018 is on the right

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

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11021

## SUDOKU TOUGH

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

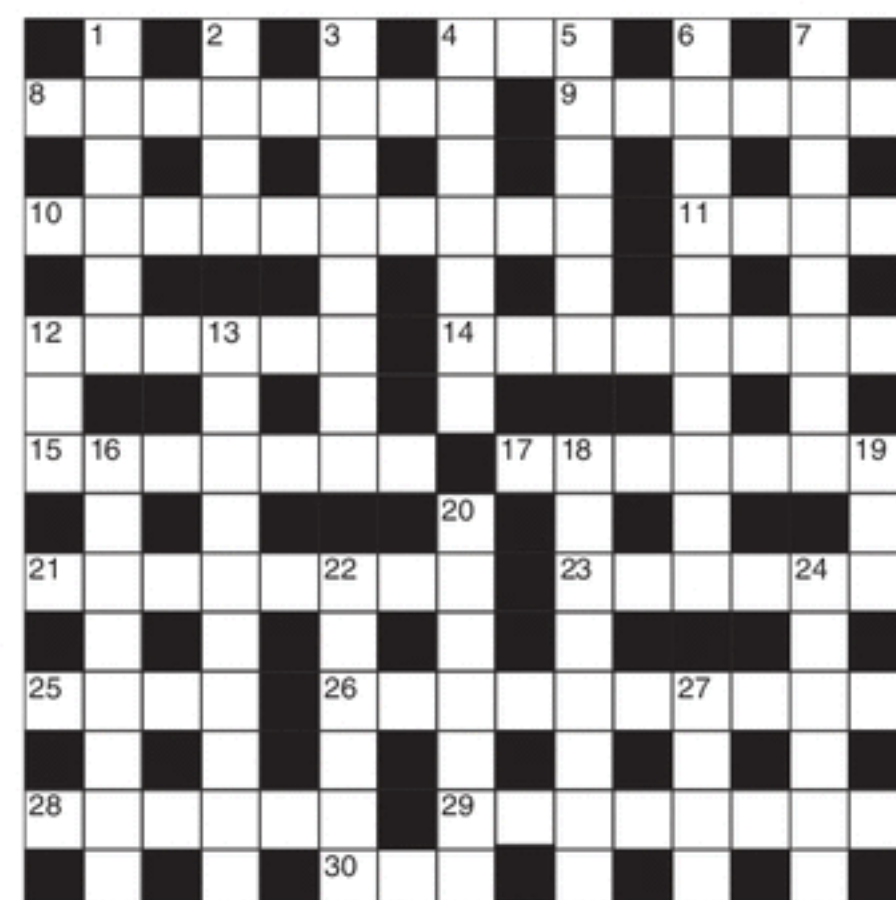
Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11019 is on the right

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

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14367

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 4 Four Across done first of all? Fancy! (3)  
 8 Evil pals concocted something to ward off the chaps (8)  
 9 Halt manuscript's extract for film director (6)  
 10 Crime that I cracked? It's not all adding up (10)  
 11 Son beginning to like wearing glasses in capital (4)  
 12 Property in spacious car (6)  
 14 One pauper leaving Portugal, possibly Spanish? (8)  
 15 Maybe Susie is close to vet, one treating canine? (7)  
 17 Transpose final couplet in Shakespeare sonnet? (7)  
 21 Speech in late summer kept back by actress Jessica (8)  
 23 Eye police officer quietly ejecting student (6)  
 25 Was too late in the

- auditorium for film (4)  
 26 Still lacking proposal at the AGM? (10)  
 28 Noisy Brexiteers in bars (6)  
 29 Former news chief eating sweet, fulfilled (8)  
 30 Rise of Rocky character is nonsense, looking back (3)

## DOWN

- 1 Nerves? Lie and relax, briefly (6)  
 2 'Ope's 'is 'at, regularly lost, is over 'ere! (4)  
 3 Perhaps roses for Yuppies (8)  
 4 Writer experienced US jail (4,3)  
 5 Terpsichorean cared about entertaining knight (6)  
 6 Roundabout in Petersham bad for air? (10)  
 7 Protective wear over trousers for those holding post (8)  
 12 Friend saving fine Rhode Island ruin (3)  
 13 Great hotel breaks, everything included (10)  
 16 Checked cotton fabric cut up (8)  
 18 With no introduction, pop medley awkwardly taken on (8)  
 19 Raised first of readings on sin (3)  
 20 Watch Sky for this item that follows the news (7)  
 22 Calm ostrich? Not quite ... not quite (6)  
 24 Less demanding because I learn periodically (6)  
 27 Boor not here to support Liberal (4)

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## Yesterday's solution

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

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE READ THIS WEEK?

Browse through t2ONLINE and let us know which article is your current favourite and why in 20 words by sending a mail at [entries@t2online.in](mailto:entries@t2online.in).

Check out this space for the best answers received.

Scan the QR to browse



## 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.

VRIPY

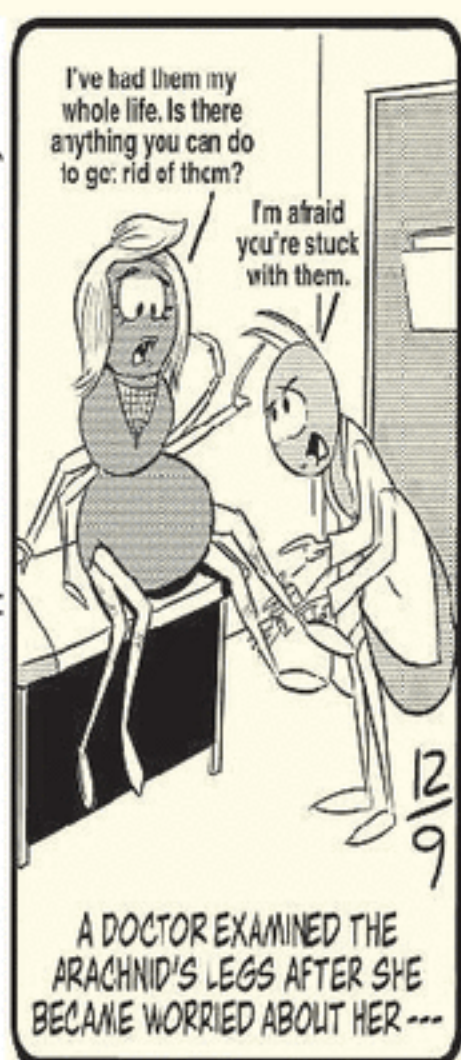
GEISN

VIDAEC

NALIDS

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: RUNNY OCTET LOCALE SHROUD  
 Answer: The construction company that would be building the new subway line was — UNDER CONTRACT



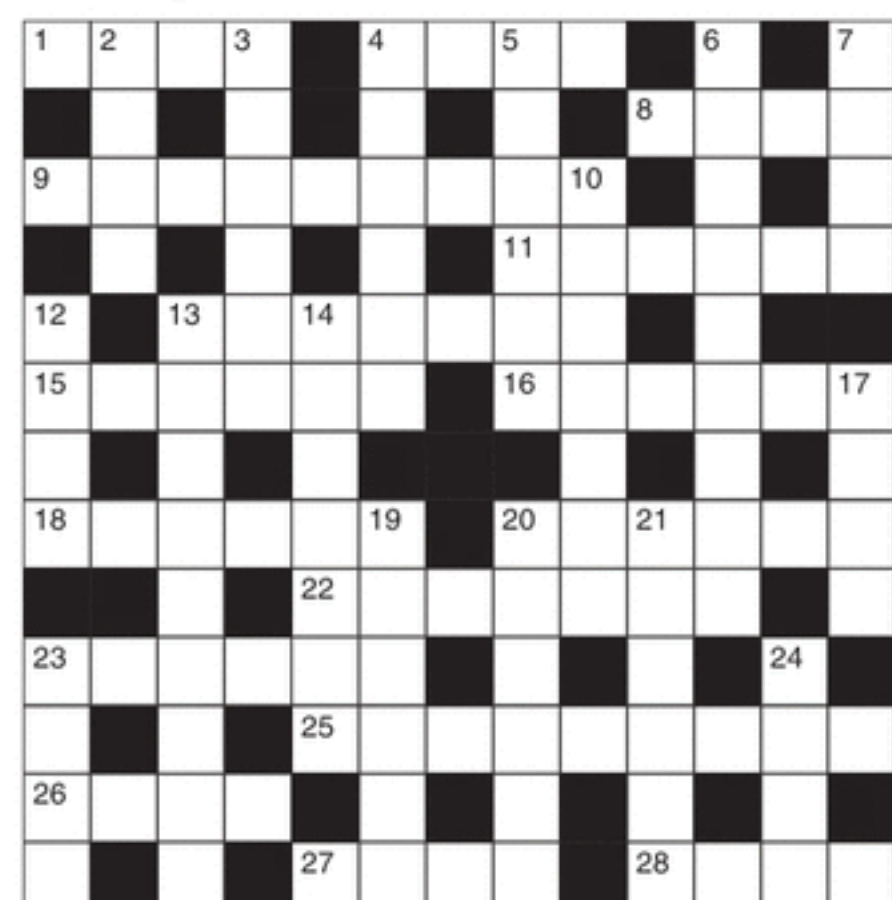
A DOCTOR EXAMINED THE ARACHNID'S LEGS AFTER SHE BECAME WORRIED ABOUT HER...

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

(Answers Monday)

14019

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Croon (4)  
 4 Rook's cries (4)  
 8 Impulse (4)  
 9 Innumerable (9)  
 11 Protective headgear (6)  
 13 Cover (7)  
 15 Drowsy (6)  
 16 Walkout (6)  
 18 Seasonings; enlivens (6)

## DOWN

- 20 Sport (6)  
 22 Map books (7)  
 23 Isolated (6)  
 25 Daintiest (9)  
 26 Posted (4)  
 27 Exploited (4)  
 28 Trade (4)  
 2 Golf club (4)  
 3 Tender (6)  
 4 Outpost (6)  
 5 Desires (6)

## 6 Victors (9)

- 7 Leave out (4)  
 10 Resolves (7)  
 12 Enquires (4)  
 13 Start (9)  
 14 Pleas (7)  
 17 Comfort (4)  
 19 Pop star Harry (6)  
 20 Labelled (6)  
 21 Caught (6)  
 23 Mislaid (4)  
 24 Largest continent (4)

## Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Fur, 3 Bet; 5 Error; 9 Opening; 10 Ribs; 11 Apparent; 13 Estate; 14 Costly; 17 Peasants; 19 Buys; 22 Shampoo; 23 Empty; 24 Dread; 25 God; 26 Tie.  
 Down: 1 Fewer; 2 Rarebit; 3 Beer; 4 Troops; 5 Elevator; 6 Raise; 7 Rightly; 12 Strapped; 13 Exposed; 15 Trumpet; 16 Strong; 18 Aware; 20 Style; 21 Herd.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph



## DASTAAN'S NEW MENU OFFERS AN ENCHANTING SPREAD OF AWADHI DELIGHTS

The lavish spread included Nalli Nihari, a slow-cooked stew featuring tender goat shanks simmered with aromatic spices; Taftan, a Persian-inspired leavened bread baked with milk, yoghurt, and a hint of saffron; Chapli Kebab, originating from Peshawar, these kebabs boast a crispy exterior and a tender, juicy interior, making them a perfect starter for your meal; Chicken Shorba, a clear broth made by simmering chicken with an array of spices and herbs; Dum Murg, a dish where chicken is slow-cooked in a sealed pot to retain its juices and flavours. For sweet endings there is Rose Kheer. A creamy rice pudding infused with the delicate essence of rose, garnished with slivers of almonds and edible rose petals, elevating its flavour profile to a whole new level. A must-try for any dessert lover! (Picture: Pabitra Das)



The launch of the new menu was celebrated with an enchanting evening of soulful music. The musical ensemble comprising Shantanu Das, Hindoli Banerjee and Pinntu Das performed captivating ragas like *Madhuvanti* and *Kalavati*, along with folk tunes and popular melodies. The event was graced by Pandit Anindya Banerjee, a leading sarod player.



"We know music is the food for soul and at Dastaan we wanted to complete the circle by putting food on the plate alongside the sound of classical guitar. This fusion with the Awadhi cuisine was nothing short of a small miracle. When we created Dastaan, we wanted to talk about the stories behind the food and this is our first attempt in doing so. The smile on the faces of people who came told us the effort in on the right track," said owners Shilpa and Sanjay Roy Chowdhury

**Kashish** (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Dastaan

Chicken Biryani: An Awadhi meal is incomplete without a plate of Biryani and we relished tender pieces of chicken cooked to perfection with aromatic spices and rice.



Mutton Rogan Josh: Slow-cooked with select spices for a velvety gravy, the succulent mutton pieces is joy in every bite.



Reshmi Malai Tikka: A soft and comforting starter for a grand meal, this kebab wins hearts with its balanced spices and creamy texture.

## BLACKBIRD FROM KATHMANDU GAVE A TASTE OF NEPALI COCKTAILS WITH A TAKEOVER AT MISS GINKO



Blackbird: The signature drink of the cocktail bar, was prepared with rum blend, pineapple, molasses, Campari and lime. We loved the bittersweet taste.



Myna: Myna made its debut in Calcutta! Made with Hapusa, brandy and spiced chai blend (Nepalese tea), it brought the flavours of tea blended with some spirit and derived its name from the colour of the myna's beaks, a yellow like the yellow of the drink. It was served in a tea cup because of its ingredients.



Toucan: This was a simply pleasant addition to the cocktail menu, prepared with Hapusa, chang vermouth, coconut water and matcha.



Hummingbird: Stirred up with some Hapusa, *laliguras* (the national flower of Nepal), rosemary, hibiscus, lime and soda, the Hummingbird was an absolute delight.



"Getting Blackbird from Kathmandu is very close to my heart because it's about time people go and check out Kathmandu. The takeover was more about creating awareness of a beautiful city and what they have to offer. Every cocktail has a story and every sip makes a memory and the night was just that. Hosting Blackbird from Kathmandu just kept us all in high spirits. It was a phenomenal collaboration," said Johanne Mantosh, the owner of Miss Ginko.

more. The cocktail menu was eye-catching, with Nepali herbs, spices and tea — whipped up together to create tasty tipples. The cool music with Miami-based DJ Juan Mejia and his funky playlist was a bonus of the night! t2 got a taste of it all

(L-r) Saurav Mansur, Santosh Faiia and Anand Rai were the bartenders of the night.



"When I started Blackbird in Kathmandu after coming back from New York, there were hardly any cocktails there, mostly just hard liquor. Then I explored the different flavours and I named all the drinks after birds because I love birds, and I associated the flavours with the bird's colour, look, and tunes," said Santosh Faiia, owner, Blackbird.



DJ Adnan (founder of Mural Fibre) is the man behind Miss Ginko events curation. He posed with guest DJ from Miami, Juann Mejia, whose soul and funk playlist kept us hooked.

**Sramana Ray**  
Pictures: Rashbehari Das



## FEEDBACK

t2  
TALK

## WHY YOU ADMIRERD RICHA CHADHA'S ACT IN HEERAMANDI

Richa Chadha as  
Lajjo in Heeramandi

Richa Chadha's acting prowess is a blend of her natural talent, dedication and her knack for breaking stereotypes. She has carved a niche for herself in the industry with her bold and unconventional characters. In spite of her short screen time, she captivated us in *Heeramandi*. Her look, which resembled that of Meena Kumari in *Pakeezah*, left us in awe. Though she usually portrays bold characters, her role as Lajjo, a lovelorn, delusional and heartbroken woman was well fleshed out. Her deeply layered character reflected the complexities of love, sacrifice and the social constraints of that era. The way she expressed the death of her unrequited love was poignant. Not to mention her beautiful dance sequence whose expressions perfectly mirrored the inner agony of Lajjo. Lajjo stands out from the rest of the *heeras* of *Heeramandi*. Her character was markedly different from the others and Richa Chadha did complete justice to it. (What did you think of Richa Chadha's performance in Heeramandi... May 24)

Shreyasee Dutta

Clad in a mustard-yellow *sharara* teamed with dazzling jewellery, Richa Chadha gracefully made her way to the stage with her rhythmic dance steps and winsome smile, encapsulating the charming

energy of spring in *Sakal ban*. Composed of a multitude of emotions, her character dealt with numerous vulnerable situations, decolourising her charming face with unendurable anguish and despondency. Each drop of tear shed by her speaks volumes about the unspoken grief afflicting her golden heart, prompting her to take the extreme step. It was harrowing to witness the heart-rending transition of a beautifully sketched character like hers worthy of a happy ending.

Be it her impressive adeptness as an actress or her mesmerising Kathak steps, she captured attention with her all-round performance. It was exhilarating to watch Richa experiment with new roles and put up a delightful spectacle of her capabilities effortlessly. Whether it be a cameo or a full-fledged role, her passion towards acting is evident in every frame, elevating her image as a versatile actress.

Aayman Anwar Ali

Richa's performance in the movie was completely relatable. Lajjo had to pay for yearning for a normal life... her character has an element of fatalism which has been portrayed in its truest form. Had more screen space been given to her, it would have added up to a more layered

portrayal of the bygone era.

Ishani Sen

Richa Chadha portrays the role of a courtesan named Lajjo in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi*. Though the role is short, it is impactful. In her non-traditional look, she brings a distinct beauty to the character. Her portrayal of Lajjo is melancholic and she effectively articulates deep sorrow through her expressive eyes. Despite limited screen time, Richa's performance is noteworthy, making Lajjo a memorable and real character. Her beautiful performance deserves recognition and perhaps more screen space.

Sarbani Banerjee

Richa Chadha performed just brilliantly in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut webseries *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. She captivated the audiences with her stellar performance in the role of Lajjo, her screen time in the show was relatively brief. Its proof is the overwhelming love and appreciation she has been receiving from viewers since the day the epic show premiered on Netflix. I was greatly moved by Richa's remarkable performance. Undoubtedly, this heart-touching act is one of the finest performances of her critically acclaimed and commercially successful career.

Sourish Misra

t2  
TALK

## THE LITERARY REFERENCES YOU SPOTTED IN BRIDGERTON

While watching *Bridgerton*, the period series on Netflix, I stumbled across Jane Austen again and again. Both *Bridgerton* and *Pride and Prejudice* explore themes of marriage, social class and the pressures of finding a suitable match. Daphne Bridgerton's quest for a husband and the social expectations surrounding her choices echo Elizabeth Bennet's experiences.

The romantic entanglements and emotional struggles of the Bridgerton siblings parallel those in *Sense and Sensibility*. For instance, the contrasting approaches to love and relationships of the Bridgerton sisters resemble the differences between the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne. The strong familial ties in *Bridgerton* mirror the close-knit relationships in *Sense and Sensibility*, where family support and loyalty play crucial roles.

The character of Lady Danbury in *Bridgerton* can be seen as a counterpart to the meddling yet well-meaning Emma Woodhouse. Both *Bridgerton* and *Emma* provide a humorous yet insightful commentary on the social structures and expectations of their time. The themes of regret and second chances seen in *Persuasion*

resonate with several storylines in *Bridgerton*.

Both *Bridgerton* and *Northanger Abbey* employ elements of social satire, poking fun at the absurdities and hypocrisies of high society. *Bridgerton* evokes the spirit of Jane Austen's novels, blending romantic drama, social critique and richly drawn characters within a visually stunning and engaging narrative. (What other literary references did you stumble across while watching Bridgerton... May 25)

Sarbani Banerjee

"Any suitor wishing to gain an audience with Miss Edwina Sharma must first tame her sister."

Lady Whistledown's lines in her society papers, is a subtle nod to Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Here, the character of Kathani Sharma (Kate) resembles that of Katherina Minola (the elder sister in the play) while Edwina Sharma is based on Bianca Minola (the younger one). Just like Katherina (who is referred to as the 'shrew'), Kate Sharma is the main obstacle for suitors who want to pursue her younger sister. While Petruchio had tried to tame Katherina in the play, Anthony had given his heart away to the fierce and competitive Kathani. He could



Bridgerton

not even change her a bit.

Sreemoyee Bandyopadhyay

One of the most captivating aspects of Julia Quinn's regency romance novel series *Bridgerton* is the creative utilisation of literary references which not only heighten the tone of the show but also honour the timeless works of renowned literature wizards. Out of a long list, I would like to mention the allusions drawn from *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park*. Considered one of the earliest

works of Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* explores the lives of the Dashwood sisters who are forced to leave their family estate and move into a modest home with their widowed mother. Of the three sisters, the plotlines revolving around Elinor and Marianne Dashwood synchronise with the Sharma sisters, Kate and Edwina. Elinor tries to fill her father's shoes, devoting herself to secure a suitable match for her younger sister Marianne, and holding back her own feelings. Kate Sharma,

too, embodies a similar dynamic when she prefers to prioritise Edwina's happiness over her growing feelings for Viscount Anthony Bridgerton.

In Season 1, the viewers were introduced to the dashing and eligible Simon Basset, the Duke of Hastings, who concealed a dark secret in his heart. As a victim of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his father, Simon's tribulations reverberate with that endured by Fanny Price in *Mansfield Park*. Their childhood trauma moulded a large part of their personalities. So too Simon decided to end his bloodline, until true love touched his life.

Aayman Anwar Ali

While watching the immensely popular Netflix show *Bridgerton* based on a series of romantic novels by Julia Quinn, in Season 2, I noticed that the names 'Lady Julia — a romantic' and 'Miss Quinn — an exceptional writer' in Viscount Anthony Bridgerton's shortlist of potential Viscountesses. I was delighted to see the author honoured in this wonderful way in the show.

Sourish Misra



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