

{ ZEENAT AMAN }

I mugged up all my lines so that I wouldn't flub a single thing.

On feeling intimidated by actor Rajesh Khanna



#Showbiz
IF A NICE STORY COMES ALONG, I WOULD LOVE TO DO A FILM ON TENNIS: AAMIR KHAN

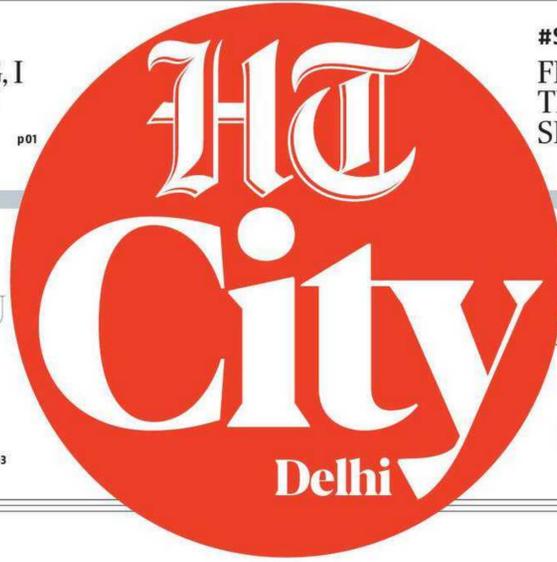
p01

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MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU



The fourth of July celebrations in the Capital commemorated 77 years of US-India partnership

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#Showbiz
FLASHY FILMS DON'T ATTRACT THE AUDIENCE ANYMORE: MONA SINGH

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Scorpio
 Someone's success may inspire you to move forward in life.

p 06



#Showbiz
SINGERS WEIGH IN ON AI
 Shaan, Arjun Kanungo and others share their two cents on the use of AI in the music industry

p 01

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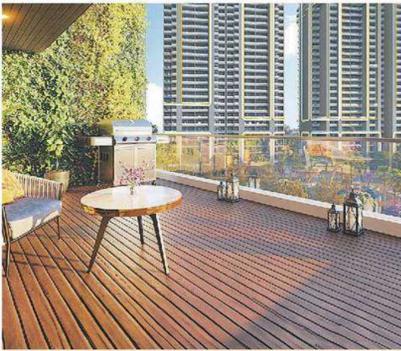
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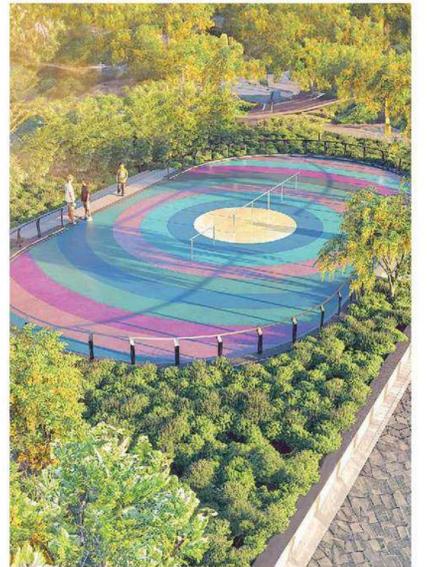
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Aamir Khan and former India tennis star Vijay Amritraj
PHOTO: X

I'd love to do a film on tennis

Actor Aamir Khan was at the Centre Court to witness Wimbledon 2024 in London, UK. Khan says watching the game live is completely different. "You realise just how fast the game is and how amazing the players are. The atmosphere is something else," he told Star Sports while speaking to former Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj.

Khan played tennis growing up and was also the Maharashtra State Champion. Having done sports films such as *Lagaan* (2000) and *Dangal* (2016) already, is a film on tennis on his radar now? "I hope so. If a nice story comes along, then I'd love to do it," the actor responded, adding that sport brings character to a person's life.

"It changes the way we are physically, mentally or emotionally. It teaches children how to work hard and how to take defeat and success," said the Roger Federer fan, who bets on the Spanish player Carlos Alcaraz for winning the championship this year. "It's almost impossible to close a point with him. He makes you work really hard," he added.

Khan also rued the lack of awareness of the sport in India. He said, "When I used to play tennis, a lot of tournaments would happen. There is a lot of talent in India, and I think if we had more facilities, opportunities and support, then we'd have a lot more tennis champions."

PHOTO: YOGEN SHAH



Aamir Khan

Sustainability in film production is achievable: Dia

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Vocal champion of environmental responsibility on the global stage, actor-producer Dia Mirza feels that sustainability should now enter film sets. "With foreign producers and platforms now working a lot in India, they have strong mandates [against plastic use]. But, far more intervention is required across industries. And it is totally possible and doable," says the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme.

"I try to bring environmental change wherever I am. On sets, where I see the use of single-use plastic, I gift eco-friendly items to the set. I urge producers to place dispensers of water so people can refill their bottles, drink from them and minimise waste," says the actor. An active eco-investor, who was a speaker at the Oxford India Forum recently, Mirza intends to "engage with

the film industry as well — with the producers' guild, and associations who matter". The 42-year-old says that one could learn from the past. "If you look back, 50 years ago, film sets were entirely sustainable. Even during the early phase of my own career, we were using reusable cutlery and the like. There was absolutely no single-use stuff used on the sets and we did successful shoots not only in India but all over the world," says Mirza, adding, "If we don't change the way we live and do business, and re-evaluate our relationship with Nature, things will get worse."

People used to laugh when I would carry my bottle on sets... And today, we have travelling bottle hashtags!

DIA MIRZA, Actor and Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Environment Programme



It was straight from the heart: Jatin Sapru on 'long off' line in WT20 finals

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Ice commentator Jatin Sapru's psyched exhortations — "Long off... long off... long off" — before the latter completed the final-over screamer in the tournament final, is etched in cricket fans' memory. But Sapru says the iconic moment belongs entirely to the Indian cricketer. "All I'll say is that it proves that you don't need many words to define a moment. In that moment, I wasn't thinking as a commentator — it came purely straight from my heart," Sapru shares.

The 38-year-old's interviews with members of the WC-winning Indian team have won fans aplenty, including his dignified refusal to touch Virat Kohli's winner's

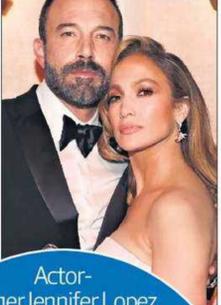


Jatin Sapru (right); Suryakumar Yadav after the catch

medal when the latter held it out in the case. "I didn't think I have the right to touch it. It's something they have achieved and it is for their family and friends. Even when Neeraj Chopra (track and field athlete) asked me to hold his Gold Medal that he won at the Tokyo Olympics (2020) as I was interviewing him, I told him I'd be happy to take a picture of it, but that it wouldn't be right if I held it," he says.

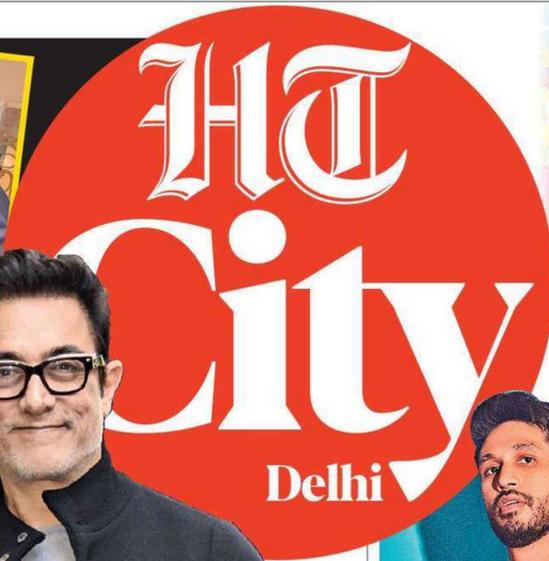
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Actor-singer Jennifer Lopez "wants half of ex-husband Ben's (Affleck) nearly \$150-million (₹125cr) fortune, even though she herself is worth about \$400 million (₹334cr)," reports Radar Online. Sources say this move is a way for her to get back at him, claiming she handled more of the financial responsibilities during their marriage.

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PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM AND ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK

DHVANI BHANUSHALI

Musicians should consider integrating these technological advances into their practice. Having said that, artists shouldn't be exploited at the cost of innovation — there needs to be an equitable ecosystem. Arbitrary usage or copyright infringement of any form warrants legal counsel and action. It should be a choice that every artiste should have.



ANUSHA MANI

I am not aware of laws in our country with respect to AI and how strong they are or how many loopholes they have but if there is a way, I'd surely consider it.

WILL THE IMPERSONATORS FACE THE MUSIC?



ARJUN KANUNGO

Protecting our voices is of paramount importance for artistes today. With advancements in AI, the potential threats are unpredictable and significant. I think the only way forward is to use legal aid and protect your voice; I would definitely consider it. In the next couple of years, different scenarios could emerge where people's voices are being misused and it could pose a big problem.

Following singer Kumar Sanu's announcement about seeking legal aid to protect his voice from misuse with AI, musicians tell Yashika Mathur about how they're considering similar steps



SHAAN

We, in the Board of Indian Singers and Musicians Rights' Association (ISAMRA), have had several discussions on how to tackle AI-generated voice impersonations. To have to go the legal route individually can be very complicated. I am confident that in a few weeks, we will have an AI protection clause ready that can patent established voices and safeguard them against being misused or commercially exploited.

Musicians in the West sign open letter

Earlier this year, over 200 international artistes signed an open letter asking for protection against misuse of their voice by AI. These include Billie Eilish, Stevie Wonder, Nicki Minaj, REM, among others, reported The Guardian. The letter was issued by Artist Rights Alliance advocacy group and demanded that technology companies promise to not replace human voices with technology. The estates of late musicians Frank Sinatra and Bob Marley have also signed on this.

NIKHITA GANDHI

More than AI itself, it is the usage of AI and the legalities around it that form the problem. The issue at hand is that laws are not clear. I would definitely want to protect my voice against any possible misuse. In fact, every artiste should seek protection.

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In presence of

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Babak Abedin, Head of Department, Actuarial Studies & Business Analytics - Macquarie Business School, Macquarie University
Mayank Jhingon, Regional Director - India & South Asia, The University of New South Wales

Moderated by:

Pratibha Sen,
Destination Director- Australia
and New Zealand (South Asia)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm The Canadian Education Advantage: Quality, Affordability, and Future Prospects

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After the unexpected success of *Munjya*, actor Mona Singh strongly feels movies with 'great content' work better than films with good-looking faces

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/MONASINGH

Mona Singh

FLASHY-MASSY FILMS DON'T ATTRACT AUDIENCE ANYMORE

Navya Kharbanda

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In an era where captivating audiences is no easy feat, Mona Singh says the success of the recently released film *Munjya* reiterates that content is king. The actor, who is receiving praise for her role in the horror-comedy, tells us that the allure of flashy blockbusters is fading in favour of rich storytelling.

"It's not the hero or flashy massy films that attract the audience to theatres now,"

Singh asserts, adding, "Movies shouldn't just be about looking good, making hit songs and shooting at great locations; they should be about great content and experience."

The actor, who has been a part of shows such as *Made in Heaven* (season 2) and *Kaala Paani*, believes the shift towards content-driven cinema has been breathing new life into diverse genres. "After *Stree* (2018), the whole game of horror-comedy has changed. It's important to create a different universe."

Talking about the unexpected success of *Munjya*, Singh notes that it's got a universal appeal and a rooted tale that has resonated with audiences globally. "It is crazy. Maharashtrian folklore is travelling the world. I am so happy about that. The fantasy world is loved by the kids and their parents also join them, making it a family watch. I have also received several congratulatory calls for the film," she says, adding that this success might get "many more producers and directors to reach out to me".

'My exit from GHKPM was unexpected as ratings were amazing'

Akash Bhatnagar

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Actor Shakti Arora recently bid adieu to TV show *Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein* after starring in it for over a year. Perturbed about the exit, he says, "It was unexpected because we were getting amazing TRPs. Getting 2.1 TRP during the World Cup season isn't a joke and no producer would think of taking a leap at such a junction. But only the channel and producers know why they took the call. It's risky to take on a show after a leap and you can fall flat on your face. Thankfully, I was able to pull it off."

The 38-year-old reveals that he learnt about his exit from media reports "one-and-a-half months prior". "I didn't want to believe it but I started preparing myself," he says, adding that even though he tried talking to the makers, it didn't pan out. "I have been working in TV for a long time, but I didn't have the chance to be at the top of the TRP list. With *GHKPM*, we were number one for three months from October 2023 to January 2024. And even when I said goodbye, we were at number 1. For me, it was like winning the world cup," he shares.

Ask him what's next for him and the actor says, "It's about getting opportunities that give you creative satisfaction, adds to your image and market value. If you pick up a wrong project, people wonder if you are doing it just for the money. I don't want to disappoint my audience, so I don't pick projects — be it films and OTT. That won't benefit my career."

Shakti Arora

Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein

GHKPM was number one [show on TV] between October 2023 to January 2024; even when I said goodbye it was on top.

SHAKTI ARORA, Actor

Rohit on *Ishq Vishk* Rebound failure: At least fans liked my act

Navya Kharbanda

Rohit Suresh Saraf, whose recent release, *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, got mixed reviews and tanked at the box office, collecting only about ₹4 crore in a week. But the actor wants to only focus on the positive — appreciation for his performance amid the dismal numbers.

"I don't understand box office numbers, and I don't get the math behind it. I only know that people liked my performance," says the 27-year-old, adding, "I am very happy that my family, fans, and people from the industry have liked my work. I am using all that positivity to do better in a project that I am currently working on."

Ask him about the varied responses to the film, Saraf says, "You can make the greatest thing and somebody would still not like it, and it's absolutely okay. Everything doesn't have to appeal to everybody."

He maintains the same acceptance and open-mindedness for his future projects, too. "I can think about what kind of roles I want to do, but it also depends on what I am offered," he says. The actor, who has tasted success with OTT projects like *Mismatched* and *Ludo* (2020) as well as theatrical releases such as *The Sky is Pink* (2019) and *Vikram Vedha* (2022), also talks about what he wants to explore next: "At this point, I am enjoying romance. But I'd like to explore comedy, as I have enjoyed a little bit of that in my previous projects. I would really love to deep dive into the genre."

Everything doesn't have to appeal to everybody. I respect that and still appreciate that they took out the time to go and watch it

ROHIT SARAF, Actor

When push comes to postponing

A still from *Kalki 2898 AD*The original release date for *Baby John* was May 31, but is now scheduled for December

Rishabh Suri

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Just three days before its release on July 5, actor Ajay Devgn's *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* was pushed to a later date. Rumors suggest that the makers decided to move it due to the release of Prabhas-starrer *Kalki 2898 AD*, a week before that. This isn't the first time such a decision was taken; movies like *Jersey* (2022) and the upcoming *Baby John*, also moved their release dates quite a bit. However, experts say there may be repercussions of such decisions.

Varun Gupta, head of Max Marketing, that handled *Kalki 2898 AD*, says, "I remember with *Jersey* (2022), the makers realised they will clash with *K.G.F: Chapter 2* (2022), which had a lot of advance booking. I think the same happened with *Auron Mein...* They didn't think *Kalki 2898 AD* would have such a craze in the North. For *Adipurush* (2023), there

was overestimation and no films were released two weeks hence." He feels the problem occurs when "the makers don't have new assets to create a buzz during the new date."

BEST TO AVOID A CLASH

Meanwhile, trade analyst Taran Adarsh feels makers of *Auron Mein...* made the right choice by opting out of the clash. "Postponing a film impacts the finance as interest mounts. It would've been immature to be stuck on, 'Hum toh issi date pe aayenge', knowing *Kalki 2898 AD* was a storm."

When a big-budget film is postponed, it messes with the entire year's release calendar. Amit Sharma, managing director of Miraj Cinemas, tells us, "*Pushpa 2* was slated for August 15, but the date change turned the entire calendar upside down. Release of small and mid-budget films are majorly affected as they look for the right time to come out to grab more eyeballs."

THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF POSTPONING A RELEASE

Many factors play a part in creating buzz around a film, including media interviews, social media collaborations and on-ground promotions, where actors visit colleges, shopping malls, restaurants, etc. around the country. These events are slated in advance. Danny Singh, who handles film promotions in north India, calls this a "big issue". "If a film gets pushed by 15 days to two months, it's tough to reorganise interviews. It's not producers, but people like me who are affected when events are cancelled. They don't spend on actors' trips to different cities; Hotels, colleges, malls, etc., pump in money in return for the actors' visit."

In the past, Singh has faced legal entanglements when actors have either postponed or cancelled an event. He rues, "Colleges and event sponsors have sued us for the same. Stars also cancel at the last minute and the production house simply says, 'Artiste ka mood nahi hai'."

Stills from *Pushpa 2: The Rule* and (right) *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*

In India, as a programmer, there are at least 40 movie titles that we handle a week. It made sense to push *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*, when *Kalki 2898 AD* was already doing well. It is a logistical issue.

DEVANG SAMPAT, MANAGING DIRECTOR, CINEPOLIS INDIA

Portions of *Gadar 2* were ghost-directed by me: Ameesha Patel

Ameesha Patel; (inset) a still from *Gadar 2*

Mugdha Kapoor

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Actor Ameesha Patel claims that she and her co-star Sunny Deol "ghost-directed" portions of the 2023 blockbuster *Gadar 2*, the sequel to the 2001 hit, *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*.

Patel candidly confesses that there were persistent creative differences between her and the film's director, Anil Sharma. "Even on the sets of *Gadar*, I would not talk to him (Sharma)

and he would not know how to convey something to me [directly]. We've had our creative differences, and that track record has carried on," says the actor.

Addressing her role in "ghost-directing" *Gadar 2*, Patel clarifies, "We corrected crucial parts [in the film]. [Few] Portions were ghost-directed, [including] many important parts that were key factors in making the film a soulful experience for the audience." The actor also claims that she and Deol also fought to add back some shots of the duo that had been edited out. "The film was imbalanced, and we brought back that balance. Today, when people see the result, they know whatever we did was for the good of the film, not for the good of an individual. There were no hidden agendas," she shares.

Having said that, the 49-year-old adds that she has "utmost respect" for Sharma. "If tomorrow he offers me any films, I will be open to working with him," she ends.

When we contacted Sharma for his reaction to Patel's claims, he refused to explain himself but added, "Main keechad mein pathar nahin fekna chahta".

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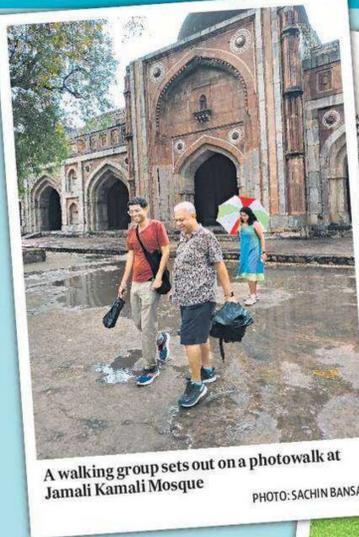


FOCAL POINT: CAPTURING THE HUES OF DELHI'S MONSOON

Kriti Kambiri
kriti.kambiri@hindustantimes.com

One downpour and Delhi's concrete jungle becomes that much greener! As Capital dwellers bask in the showers, heritage walk organisers are giving them the opportunity to capture the city's ephemeral hues with monsoon photowalks. We speak to heritage walk organisers who are bringing back these experiences after a long pause, as well as those who are dipping their toes in for the very first time.

EVERY SHADE OF GREEN
Photowalks are experiences which bring together heritage and Nature enthusiasts to capture the beauty of their surroundings. "We're a 14-year-old group, but this is the first time we are organising our monsoon-special photowalk series. Once it starts raining, the plants become lush and the weather is more pleasant to walk around in," says Virendra Shekhawat, from Delhi Photography Club, adding "We were in Sunder Nursery last weekend and plan to visit Old Delhi (July 21) and Noida next month. We selected these sites



A walking group sets out on a photowalk at Jamali Kamali Mosque
PHOTO: SACHIN BANSAL



Photowalks in Mehrauli blend heritage with lush, green backdrops



Photowalk participants whip out their cameras in Sunder Nursery

for their blend of heritage and flora and fauna."

MONSOON REVIVAL
Several walking groups in the city are reviving their monsoon special walks for the first time since the pandemic. DelhiByFoot, for instance, plans

to explore Mehrauli's Mughal ties (July 14), the history of Hauz Khas (July 28) and more. "As a photographer, my favourite time to take pictures is no longer winter but monsoon. Delhi is so beautiful during this time," shares Ramit Mitra, from the group.

ROMANTICISING THE RAIN
"Imagine walking through bustling streets and quiet alleys and feeling gentle raindrops on your face as you uncover the city's hidden stories," says Nidhi Bansal, from Delhi

Walks. The group's Walk In The Rain series, seeks to explore everything from the city's folklore of djinns (July 14), to the culture of cafes and cinema (July 21), among others. "Whether it's the glistening rooftops, reflections in puddles, or vibrant greenery — every moment is a perfect picture waiting to be taken," Bansal explains.

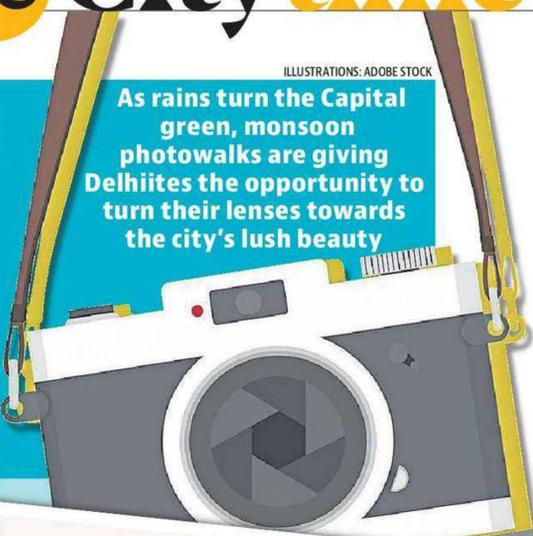
My favourite time to take pictures is no longer winter. Once the rains begin, everything takes on a different hue. The greens are sharper and the monuments are cleaner.

RAMIT MITRA from DelhiByFoot

These walks are an invitation to embrace the rain and capture the city's charm. Every moment is a picture waiting to be taken!

NIDHI BANSAL from Delhi Walks

As rains turn the Capital green, monsoon photowalks are giving Delhiites the opportunity to turn their lenses towards the city's lush beauty



#adoptapet

With the monsoon bringing the mercury down, who wouldn't want a fur baby to snuggle up to? Get yourself a companion for every season. Adopt, don't shop for pets!

Brownie, Manu and Sinu are three-month-old siblings who were rescued from the streets of Rohini. Their current owner is moving into a new residence where pets are not allowed and so these kittens are looking for a new home! Friendly, playful and not fussy about food at all, all these furballs need is a place that can lend them some warmth. Vaccinated and dewormed, they can be either adopted as a trio or separately. To adopt, WhatsApp: +919540396868.



Sweetie is a two-year-old indie who was rescued from a south Delhi market. Healthy, vaccinated and sterilised, she is leash- and toilet-trained. While she enjoys the company of humans, she's not too comfortable around small children. She also has separation anxiety, so a home where she isn't left alone for long is preferred. To adopt, WhatsApp: +91959833664.



Cuddles is a one-year-old Indie spitz who was found abandoned in Civil Lines. He is a happy, snuggly and active pup who is as friendly as they come! He loves humans and other house pets, and his favourite

pastimes are napping and playing. Dewormed, vaccinated and potty-trained, he is currently learning to walk on a leash. He will be neutered prior to his adoption. To adopt, WhatsApp: +919971972409.



Bambi is a cheerful four-year-old doggo who enjoys human company. Presently living in a shelter in Faridabad, she might take time to open up to new people, but once she does, she is an absolute lovebug. Fully vaccinated and sterilised, she is overweight due to the lack of a regular exercise routine. Hence, a family that's willing to work on her health will be preferred. To adopt, WhatsApp: +91959833664.

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#culturecapsule



Life on an Island

This exhibition shows Mauritius through the lens of photographer Akshar Bhan. From seascapes to unexplored islands Bhan, weaves a visual story featuring Mauritian flora and fauna. The snaps encapsulate its history from when the Arabs first landed there to being colonised by the Dutch and the French. **Where:** Annexe Art Gallery, India International Centre, Lodhi Road **When:** July 10 to 16 **Timing:** 11am to 7pm



Between These Lines: In this Space I Root and Grow

This solo exhibition by artist Seema Pandey features autobiographical works in miniature and large formats, created over two years. Structured compositions and organic forms give shape to her works that speak about the resilience of the human spirit. **Where:** Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg **On till:** July 21 **Timing:** 11am to 8pm



{ DAILY HOROSCOPE } Friday, July 12, 2024

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vaastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

ARIES MAR 21-APR 20

You will be able to keep good health by controlling your diet. Pulling out all the stops in achieving what you want at work or on the academic front will soon find you in a position of strength. **LOVE FOCUS:** You are likely to do something special to rejuvenate your love life. **LUCKY NUMBER: 2 LUCKY COLOUR: Silver**

LEO JUL 23-AUG 23

Things brighten on the financial front. Getting back in shape may become your priority now. A good companion promises to make a long journey interesting. **LOVE FOCUS:** Those eligible can expect positive developments on the matrimonial front. **LUCKY NUMBER: 9 LUCKY COLOUR: Saffron**

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Things begin to look up on the financial front. Steps taken to keep fit may help you enjoy better health. Take a good look at what is happening in your life and try to improve your lot. You are likely to take a break with a short vacation. **LOVE FOCUS:** Your romantic desire is likely to be fulfilled today. **LUCKY NUMBER: 5 LUCKY COLOUR: Grey**

TAURUS APR 21-MAY 20

Financially, you will have nothing to worry about, as money flows in. An opportunity you had been waiting for is set to arrive soon. Days of rest between workouts promise to keep you fresh and energetic. **LOVE FOCUS:** Someone you like is likely to make the first move, so get set for a budding romance! **LUCKY NUMBER: 9 LUCKY COLOUR: Red**

VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23

Money via inheritance or gift is likely for some. Lending a helping hand at home before being asked will help you gain big brownie points. An outing with friends is possible and promises lots of fun. **LOVE FOCUS:** Much pleasure is in store for those newly in love. **LUCKY NUMBER: 5 LUCKY COLOUR: Orange**

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 21

You will manage to read the market well and put your money judiciously to earn handsome dividends. An initiative on the social front may get a mixed response. **LOVE FOCUS:** Spending exclusive time with spouse is indicated and will help strengthen the loving bonds. **LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR: Yellow**

GEMINI MAY 21-JUN 21

Hard work and perseverance are likely to open some new avenues for earning. Owning a house can become your aim. **LOVE FOCUS:** Someone is waiting for you with open arms, so expect the day to be romantically fulfilling! **LUCKY NUMBER: 18 LUCKY COLOUR: Brown**

LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23

Meeting of the minds will become important to make a relationship work. Financial advice becomes necessary for those thinking of big investments. **LOVE FOCUS:** A chance for romance is in the offing, so look your best! **LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR: Magenta**

AQUARIUS JAN 22-FEB 19

A decision taken at work may not seem favourable, but it will be just. Those worried about financing educational pursuits will find the money when the time comes! **LOVE FOCUS:** Your attempts to rekindle your love life will be successful, so get set for an exciting time! **LUCKY NUMBER: 8 LUCKY COLOUR: Beige**

CANCER JUN 22-JUL 22

You will reap the benefits of a new initiative on the health front. Your decision to take on too many responsibilities may seem daunting, but you will be able to discharge them satisfactorily. **LOVE FOCUS:** Romance may keep those in love totally occupied! **LUCKY NUMBER: 4 LUCKY COLOUR: Dark Blue**

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Someone's success may inspire you to move forward in life. Switching to healthy food options will be a big plus for you on the health front. A property division will be to everyone's satisfaction. **LOVE FOCUS:** Romance promises to keep you in an upbeat mood. **LUCKY NUMBER: 3 LUCKY COLOUR: Purple**

PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20

Remain extra careful of your health. Success in a job interview cannot be ruled out for those looking for suitable employment. A remote possibility of earning big bucks may require prompt action. **LOVE FOCUS:** Romantic life will be most satisfying. **LUCKY NUMBER: 1 LUCKY COLOUR: Maroon**

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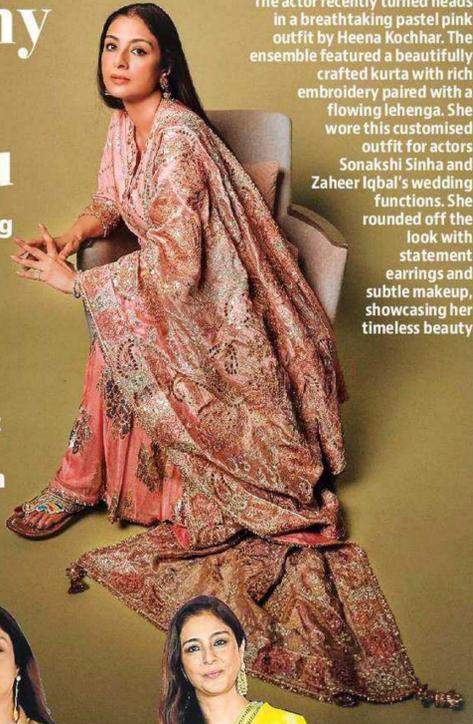
BACK TO BLACK
The actor went for a subtle yet spunky look by opting for a black Pathani kurta pyjama for the promotion of her upcoming film.



The many hues of Tabu

With her evolving style, Tabu has been capturing attention and setting fashion trends. Here are her five most recent looks that have left us in awe, from stylish modern ensembles to ethnic outfits

PASTEL PERFECTION
The actor recently turned heads in a breathtaking pastel pink outfit by Heena Kochhar. The ensemble featured a beautifully crafted kurta with rich embroidery paired with a flowing lehenga. She wore this customised outfit for actors Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal's wedding functions. She rounded off the look with statement earrings and subtle makeup, showcasing her timeless beauty



PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH AND INSTAGRAM

AU NATUREL
In her recent Instagram post, Tabu looks radiant in a white dress by the label Injiri. The garment featured floral block prints and was paired with a jacket. Her outfit blends simplicity with elegance.



SUNNY ELEGANCE
The actor captivated everyone with her recent appearance in a stunning yellow brocade sharara from Raw Mango. She paired her look with kundani earrings, which added a regal touch to her outfit.



NEUTRAL SOPHISTICATION
Tabu wowed in her camel co-ord set which she wore during her recent outing. The three-piece set consisted of a V-neck top, pleated skirt and a blazer. She completed the look with gold accessories and transparent heeled sandals.



On French Fry Day today, here's looking at scrumptious variations of this beloved finger food from around the world

DID YOU KNOW?

Contrary to popular perception, French fries actually originated in Belgium, not France. During a particularly harsh winter in the Meuse Valley in southern Belgium, the villagers decided to fry potatoes as they would fry their fish, and the rest is history! Around World War I, American soldiers encountered these fried potatoes and dubbed them "French" fries, as French was the primary language spoken in that part of Belgium.

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK



INDIA'S MASALA FRENCH FRIES
India's flavourful masala-style French fries are a spicy adventure. In this recipe, potatoes are seasoned with chaat masala, red chilli powder, cumin, peri-peri and other aromatic spices. These fries have a tangy taste that is complemented by zesty, fresh dips such as mint yoghurt.

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK AND SHUTTERSTOCK



GREECE'S GYRO WITH FRIES

Gyro is traditionally made of a thin pita filled with roasted meat, tomatoes, onions and tzatziki, a refreshing, zesty sauce. Added to this combo, fries add a crispy punch and manage to complement this dish well.

BELGIUM'S MOULES-FRITES

Widely considered as Belgium's national dish, this delectable plate is made of steamed mussels served with French fries. The Dijon mayonnaise adds a pungent, spicy taste to the dish. This sharp taste, combined with the saltiness of French fries and the mussels, makes for a hearty savoury dish.

CANADA'S POUTINE
Canada's poutine, which originated in the Quebec region, has had an undeniable influence on the culinary world. Crispy, thin fries are tossed with cheese curd, followed by a rich, velvety beef gravy, complete with aromatic spice undertones. This dish is a staple for weathering the harsh Canadian winters.

Compiled by Samiksha Kasyap



PERU'S SALCHIPAPA

A beloved street food from Peru, Salchipapa is a portmanteau of salchicha (sausage) and papa (potato) in Spanish. This simple but tasty dish combines French fries with the robust flavours of a sausage, complemented by various sauces. Mustard, olive sauce and ketchup are common sauces that are served with Salchipapa.

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