

MAKING OF AN EPIC

P11



KALKI 2898 AD

PICTURE: RASHBEHARIDAS



P12

MATTERS OF THE MIND

TEAM HEMANTER APARANHA

- B'DAY, WATCHIT 2
- COMING UP, TECH CHECK 4,6
- SIP STORY, TOLLY 7,8
- TURNING FIVE, WHATSUP, GOING GREEN 14,15,18

BIG DAY!

ANANT AMBANI & RADHIKA MERCHANT

P10





AMAAN ALI KHAN, MALALA YOUSAFZAI, JAMES RODRIGUEZ

This year, you will find success from working with others. You should not rock the boat and stay on the tried and true path. Have the confidence that you will continue to surpass expectations. If you are single, you will find that your romantic life is once again set in motion. A new love interest may spark a romance and your love life can even move surprisingly quickly.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: SANJAY MANJREKAR, MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ

TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal

<p>ARIES</p> <p>DO be aware of the risks when it comes to mixing pleasure and work</p> <p>DONT hide your feelings</p> <p>EXPECT your relationship with your colleagues or business partners to be strong</p>	<p>CANCER</p> <p>DO be receptive to the new changes in your life</p> <p>DONT be judgemental</p> <p>EXPECT to take guidance from seniors or mentors</p>	<p>LIBRA</p> <p>DO share your experience and skills with a larger group to accomplish goals</p> <p>DONT be hesitant</p> <p>EXPECT to collaborate with others, to accomplish more than you could have ever dreamed of</p>	<p>CAPRICORN</p> <p>DO be calm as you are heading towards a more relaxed phase of life</p> <p>DONT be irresponsible</p> <p>EXPECT not to ponder on the problem but on solutions</p>
<p>TAURUS</p> <p>DO save your money and wait for the perfect time to invest</p> <p>DONT make hasty investments</p> <p>EXPECT a sudden, yet steady positive growth</p>	<p>LEO</p> <p>DO Be honest when dealing with others</p> <p>DONT be swept away by emotions</p> <p>EXPECT to be stern in your role while ensuring that you have clarity of mind at all times</p>	<p>SCORPIO</p> <p>DO remember you have more choices than you think you do</p> <p>DONT blame a host of external factors for the delay</p> <p>EXPECT to feel stuck or trapped when it comes to your career</p>	<p>AQUARIUS</p> <p>DO welcome the period of genuine emotional connections that bring satisfaction and contentment</p> <p>DONT get too carried away</p> <p>EXPECT to forget the worries and spend quality time with family and friends</p>
<p>GEMINI</p> <p>DO approach problems in a no-nonsense manner to be successful</p> <p>DONT waste your time on unnecessary things</p> <p>EXPECT to take proper care of yourself</p>	<p>VIRGO</p> <p>DO be thankful for all your blessings</p> <p>DONT get involved in other people's problems</p> <p>EXPECT the end of hard times and sorrows</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>DO research on alternative viewpoints and think carefully about your decision</p> <p>DONT be emotional</p> <p>EXPECT to get distracted from your task</p>	<p>PISCES</p> <p>DO try to seek out new opportunities yourself</p> <p>DONT get frustrated when work is slow</p> <p>EXPECT to start a creative project with lots of energy and enthusiasm</p>

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



WIFE GOALS:
DADDY-O Summer 2024 Uploaded by @kareenakapoor Khan (Kareena Kapoor Khan)



DREAMY:
Uploaded by @kartikaaryan (Kartik Aaryan)



FANBOY:
One BIIG box ticked! What an electric atmosphere! A big thank you to Dr Shubhendu Sen! Uploaded by @parambratachattopadhyay (Parambrata Chattopadhyay)



BOY IN THE HOOD:
Photo dekh lo - padhne ke liye to kitabehai bahut hain Uploaded by @kunalkemmu (Kunal Kemmu)



BE NATURAL:
days with flo > Uploaded by @milliebobbybrown (Millie Bobby Brown)

WATCHIT!



Jane Hayes (Keri Russell), a diehard romantic and a Jane Austen fan who is unlucky in love, books herself an extravagant stay at a Jane Austen-themed B&B facility where she meets two eligible lovers over a weekend full of old-fashioned dance parties. Austenland; & Prive HD, 9pm

Bouma: Zee Bangla Cinema, 6pm
Santrash: Jalsha Movies, 6.50pm
Mahaguru: Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm
Durgeshgorer Guptodhon: Jalsha Movies, 10pm
Fighter, Marbo Noy Morbo: Colors Bangla Cinema, 10pm

SPORT

Wimbledon Championships - Gentlemen's Singles Semi-finals & Ladies' Doubles Semi-finals - live: STAR Sports 2, 2 HD, Select 1, Select 1 HD, Select 2 & Select 2 HD, 3.30pm
England vs West Indies, 1st Test Day 3 - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 3.30pm
World Championship of Legends, 1st Semi-final - live: STAR Sports Hindi 1 & Hindi 1 HD, 5pm
UP Kabaddi League, Awadh Ramdoot vs Sangam Challengers - live: Sony TEN 3, 5pm
UP Kabaddi League, Kashi Kings vs Yamuna Yodhas - live: Sony TEN 3, 6pm
UP Kabaddi League, Ganga Kings of Mirzapur vs Brij Stars - live: Sony TEN 3, 7pm
Cycling World Tour, Tour de France, Stage 13 - live: EuroSport, 7.30pm
UP Kabaddi League, Lucknow Lions vs Noida Ninja - live: Sony TEN 3, 8pm
World Championship of Legends, 2nd Semi-final - live: STAR Sports Hindi 1 & Hindi 1 HD, 9pm
Vitality T20 Blast, Lancashire Lightning vs Yorkshire Vikings - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 11.30pm
Major League Cricket, MI New York vs Texas Super Kings - live: Sony TEN 5 & 5 HD, 12.30am
Extreme E Hydro X Prix, Scotland, Round 1 - Qualifying Race - live: Sony TEN 2, 12.30am
WWE SmackDown - live: Sony TEN 1 & 1 HD, 5.30am
Major League Cricket, Seattle Orcas vs Washington Freedom - live: Sony TEN 5 & 5 HD, 6am

BIG SCREEN

ENGLISH

DESPICABLE ME 4 3D (U): Inox Quest (6.30), Inox South City (11.20, 4), Inox Forum (2.15), Inox Salt Lake (1pm), Inox Rajarhat (1pm), Inox Hiland (11am), PVR Mani Square (1.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (12.40)
DESPICABLE ME 4 (U): Inox Quest (12.30*)
FLY ME TO THE MOON (U/A): Inox Quest (4.05*), Inox South City (8.30pm)
INSIDE OUT 2 3D (U): Inox Quest (1.50), Inox South City (1.40), Inox Forum (11.55am)
LONGLEGS (A): Inox Quest (11.25, 8.45), Inox South City (5, 11.25), Inox Forum (4.50, 11.05), Inox Salt Lake (9, 7.10), Inox Rajarhat (7.10pm), PVR Mani Square (4.40, 11), PVR Diamond Plaza (3.55, 11.15)

HINDI

CHANDU CHAMPION (U/A): Inox Quest (2.30), Inox Forum (4.35), Inox Swabhum (3.15), PVR Mani Square (6.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (12.50)
HINDUSTANI 2 (U/A): Inox Quest (10.40, 5.40, 7*, 9.30), Inox South City (9.20, 1.10, 3.10*, 6.55*, 10.45*), Inox Forum (9.10, 1, 7.15, 10.15), Inox Salt Lake (10.10, 3.20, 6.50, 10.40), Inox Rajarhat (9.10, 3.20, 6.45, 10.35), Inox Metro (3.40, 10.50), Inox Hind (12.10, 7.10), Inox Hiland (9.10, 1, 7.05, 10.30), Inox Swabhum (11.50, 3.40, 6.25, 9.55), PVR Avani (9, 12.50, 5.10, 7.05, 10.55), PVR Mani Square (9, 12.50, 7.10, 9.45), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 10, 1.50, 5.40, 9.30), PVR Uniworl Downtown (9, 3.15, 7, 10.45), RDB Cinemas (9.30, 3.15, 7.20, 11), Nazrullirtha (11.45, 3.15, 5.10, 8.40)
KALKI 2898 AD 3D (U/A): Inox Quest (10, 1.45, 3*, 5.30, 6.45*, 9.15, 10.30*), Inox South City (10, 1.45, 5.30, 9.15, 10.45*), Inox Forum (11, 2.45, 6.30, 10.15), Inox Salt Lake (9.15, 11.30, 3.15, 7, 9.40, 10.45), Inox Rajarhat (9.15, 11.25, 3.10, 6.55, 9.40, 10.40), Inox Metro (9, 3.15, 7, 10.45), Inox Hind (10, 1.45, 5.30, 9.15), Inox Hiland (11.35, 1.15, 3.20, 7.05, 9.55, 10.50), Inox Swabhum (9.45, 11.30, 1.30, 5.15, 9,

10.15), PVR Avani (10.05, 11, 2.50, 6.40, 9, 10.30), PVR Mani Square (10, 11, 2.50, 6.40, 10.30), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 11.15, 3, 5.50, 6.45, 9.30, 10.30), PVR Uniworl Downtown (10.30, 2.15, 6, 9.45), RDB Cinemas (10.15, 3.50, 10.45), Nazrullirtha (noon, 8.50)

KALKI 2898 AD (U/A): Inox South City (11.25*, 7*, 10.15), PVR Uniworl Downtown (12.20), RDB Cinemas (1, 7.30)

KILL (A): Inox Quest (4.05, 11.10), Inox South City (9.45*, 7.55), Inox Forum (9.25, 7.45), Inox Salt Lake (2pm), Inox Rajarhat (1pm), Inox Metro (12.45), Inox Hiland (9.05, 4.55), Inox Swabhum (9.20, 7.30), PVR Avani (2.40), PVR Mani Square (4.10), PVR Diamond Plaza (8.50pm), PVR Uniworl Downtown (12.45), RDB Cinemas (1.40)

SARFIRA (U): Inox Quest (9.10, 2.50, 6.10, 9.30, 10.50*), Inox South City (9, 12.15*, 3.35*, 7.30, 10.50), Inox Forum (9.30, 12.50, 4.10, 7.30, 10.50), Inox Salt Lake (9.25, 12.45, 4.05, 7.25, 10.45), Inox Rajarhat (9.40, 1, 3.30, 6.40, 10), Inox Metro (9, 12.20, 7.30), Inox Hind (9, 3.55, 10.55), Inox Hiland (9.10, 12.30, 3.50, 7.10, 10.55), Inox Swabhum (9, 12.15, 3.30, 6.45, 10), PVR Avani (9.30, 12.50, 4.10, 7.30, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (9.20, 12.40, 4, 7.20, 10.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.30, 12.50, 4.10, 7.30, 10.50), PVR Uniworl Downtown (9, 4.05, 7.25, 10.45), RDB Cinemas (9.15, 12.15, 4.30, 6.40, 9.45), Nazrullirtha (11.30, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30)

BENGALI

AJOGYA (U/A): Inox South City (5.15), Inox Hiland (7.15pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.55), Nazrullirtha (6.30)

ARANYAR PRACHIN PROBAD (U/A): Inox South City (2.35)

HEMANTER APARANHA (U): Inox South City (12.10)

MANIKBABUR MEGH (U): Inox South City (6.15), Inox Salt Lake (4.30), Inox Rajarhat (4.20), Inox Hiland (4.50), PVR Avani (4.40), PVR Diamond Plaza (6.25), Nazrullirtha (3.10)

ENGLISH

MOVIES OF THE DAY

The Emoji Movie: &flix, 1.45pm
Heist: &Prive HD, 2.10pm
Fantasy Island: &flix, 3.05pm
Grown Ups 2: &flix, 5.05pm
Ready Player One: Sony Pix, 6.30pm
Machete: &flix, 7pm
The Baker: &Prive HD, 7.10pm
Austenland: &Prive HD, 9pm
The Karate Kid: &flix, 9pm
Urban Legends, Final Cut: &Prive HD, 10.30pm
Flight of Fury: &flix, 11.35pm
Ghost Rider, Spirit of Vengeance: Sony Pix, 11.40pm

SHOWSTOPPERS

Gossip Girl: Colors Infinity, 7pm
Extraordinary You: Zee Cafe, 7pm
Brooklyn Nine-Nine: Comedy Central, 8pm
The \$100,000 Pyramid: Zee Cafe, 8pm
Game of Thrones: Colors Infinity, 9pm
AP Bio: Comedy Central, 9pm
Nathan For You: Comedy Central, 10pm
House of Cards: Zee Cafe, 10pm

HINDI

SHOWSTOPPERS

Suhaagan: Colors, 6.30pm
Krishna Mohini: Colors, 7pm
Maati Se Bandhi Dor: STAR Plus, 7.30pm
Main Hoon Saath Tere: Zee TV, 7.30pm
Radha Mohan: Zee TV, 8pm
Doree: Colors, 8.30pm
Pukaar - Dil De Dil Tak: Sony, 8.30pm
Mangal Laxmi: Colors, 9pm
Kumkum Bhagya: Zee TV, 9pm
Mehndi Wala Ghar: Sony, 9.30pm
Kundali Bhagya: Zee TV, 9.30pm
Anupamaa: STAR Plus, 10pm
Superstar Singer: Sony, 10pm

BENGALI

MOVIES OF THE DAY

Chowdhury Paribar: Zee Bangla Cinema, 12.30pm
Love Express: Jalsha Movies, 1pm
Josh: Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm
Sout Maa: Zee Bangla Cinema, 3.30pm
Girlfriend: Jalsha Movies, 4pm
Premi: Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm

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What: X-Uberance '24, in association with t2
Where: St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Calcutta
When: July 12, 13 and 14
Expect: The 18th edition of St. Xavier's Collegiate School's cultural fest is billed to be an exhilarating celebration of youth talent and creativity, featuring 41 diverse events with over 2,000-plus participants showcasing their talents. Events will include gaming tournaments like FIFA, business-oriented competitions, stand-up comedy acts, reel-making contests, dance and music competitions. A glamorous fashion show will take the excitement a notch higher. Over 5,000 students from Calcutta schools will gather to witness this cultural spectacle. The grand finale on July 14 will feature a closing performance by singer and performer Adhiraj Bajaj, promising a memorable end to this celebration. This cultural extravaganza serves as a platform for students to showcase their talents beyond academics, fostering creativity and personal growth. X-Uberance '24 is set to be an unforgettable experience, celebrating the vibrant spirit of youth and the enduring legacy of St. Xavier's Collegiate School.
Organiser speak: "X-Uberance has consistently grown bigger and better with each passing year. We aspire to reach the 'Vertex of Vitality' with this edition. We are committed to carrying forward this rich Xaverian legacy and ensuring X-Uberance '24 is a resounding success. With our diverse range of events and participants from various backgrounds, we strive to be the best amongst the best and maintain our position as the talk of the town," said Shiven Bajaj and Parth Singhania, convenors of X-Uberance '24.



What: The Little Closet Monsoon Madness, in association with t2
Where: The Park Hotel, Kolkata
When: July 13, 11am to 8pm
Expect: Expect to immerse yourself in an exhibition tailored exclusively for mothers and children. Replete with a vast assortment of brands and products, this exhibition has something to cater to every taste and liking. Brands like Nanhey, Tiny Fluff, Baby's Barn and Kasa Prive will make their debut at

this event. Besides these, popular brands like Zach & Kiki (from Kochi), Baby Wagon (from Delhi), Chinmaya Mission and Cuddlie Buddie will also display their products. The event boasts exclusive collections where visitors can get a first look at new arrivals and products from both debuting and established brands, be it clothing or accessories, educational material or sleepwear for your children. Hosted in a family-friendly environment, it is sure to

make the mothers' and children's day out memorable.
Organiser speak: "Step into the jungle-themed kids lifestyle exhibition! Discover adorable clothes, charming furniture, captivating books, delightful toys, and thoughtful gifts, all designed to enchant and inspire. Don't miss out on loads of surprises and special offers waiting for you exclusively at The Little Closet," said Bithika Kejriwal and Divya Himatsingka, organisers.



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B D MEMORIAL JR. SCHOOL GARIA 2 (PRE-PRIMARY)	CENTRAL MODERN SCHOOL, BARANAGAR	LAKSHMIPAT SINGHANIA ACADEMY, KOLKATA	SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN SCHOOL, KOLKATA
B D MEMORIAL JR. SCHOOL VIJAYGARH	CALCUTTA PUBLIC SCHOOL, KALIKAPUR	NAVA NALANDA GROUP OF SCHOOLS, KOLKATA	SUSHILA BIRLA GIRLS' SCHOOL, KOLKATA
B D MEMORIAL JR. SCHOOL GOLF GARDEN	CALCUTTA PUBLIC SCHOOL, BIDHAN PARK	PRAMILA MEMORIAL ADVANCED SCHOOL, BAGUIATI	SPK JAIN FUTURISTIC ACADEMY KOLKATA & NEWTOWN
BIRLA HIGH SCHOOL MUKUNDAPUR	CALCUTTA PUBLIC SCHOOL, BARASAT	RAM MOHAN MISSION HIGH SCHOOL, KOLKATA	

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS:
SAMSUNG GALAXY BUDS3 PRO IS THE COMPANY'S BOLDEST SOUND CANS YET

Samsung Galaxy Buds3 Pro (right) on display with the Galaxy Z Fold6 and Galaxy Z Flip6 and Galaxy Buds3. Pictures: The Telegraph



Lights glow on the stem, making it easy to spot the earbuds if you misplace them

When it comes to wireless earbuds, there are plenty of options to choose from but that doesn't mean all of them work well with all smartphones. The best earbuds for a Samsung phone would be those from the company itself. Samsung has announced two new earbuds—the Galaxy Buds3 and the Galaxy Buds3 Pro. We have been using the latter for a few hours since its launch in Paris and here are our first impressions.

The new Galaxy Buds look very different from the Galaxy Buds2 and Galaxy Buds2 Pro. Some people may say it's a familiar design but Samsung has done a good job adding their flavour. The "blade" design itself makes it unique... somewhat triangular around the stems, which have a cool light on it. When you open the case in the dark, the Buds3 Pro has a streak of light across it. Gimmick? Not at all. It helps find the earbuds in the dark or even take out the buds easily from the case in dim lighting conditions. If you accidentally drop it in the plane or car, the light can be a fantastic feature when it comes to searching for the buds.

The "blade" design gives the Buds3 Pro a few advantages. Instead of capacitive touch sensors, the sliding on the stem or the pinching effect works well. The sliding effect appears very effective from the few hours we have had with the Buds3 Pro.

Another good feature that comes on the buds is voice commands. If you are going for a run or cooking, and you don't want to use your hands to skip tracks, you can simply say "skip a track" or say "pause/play".

Staying on with design, there is a nice design touch in the form of the red or blue marking on each stem, so you don't mix up the buds.

Looking at the case, I am not sure how it can resist scratches but we will find out soon. The case

has a flat base, so you can keep the Buds3 Pro in any orientation. Looking at the geometry of the earbuds, they should fit well for most people. The comfort and fit are fantastic, even without a wingtip, which is something I don't personally prefer.

SOUND PROFILE

Let's talk about active noise cancellation. Within ANC there is adaptive ANC. The feature on its own does well but in adaptive ANC it's like an invisible feature. In a quiet environment, it turns on your ambient noise but when you start walking, it will kind of turn that down. Then when we go into a louder environment, everything is much quieter; ANC is in full-blast mode. And it's quite impressive. If you have a siren or an ambulance around you, it will turn on aware mode, so you can hear your surroundings. The adaptive EQ feature utilises the internal and external microphones on the earbuds to adjust the sound in real-time. It's something that's also found on Apple AirPods.

These are great-sounding Galaxy Buds I have come across and Samsung is moving in the right direction, giving users a more premium sound. There are dual drivers and these have dual amplifiers as well. So you are getting a planar tweeter and a dynamic woofer, ensuring less distortion in the lows. Using the equaliser in the app makes the sound even better.

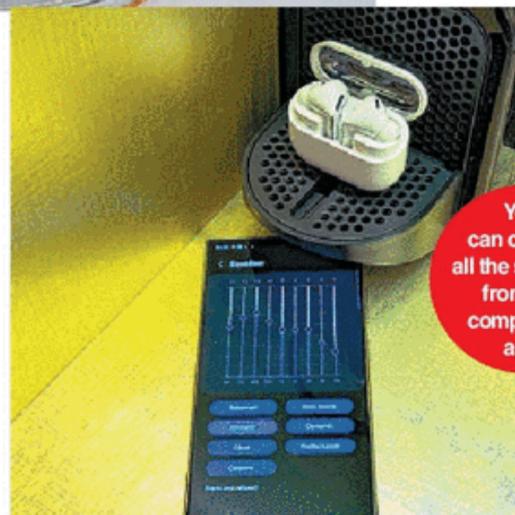
Diving deeper, the pair of



The buds are light and fit snugly in the ears



The sound cans come in a case that can be kept in any orientation



You can control all the settings from the companion app

wireless earbuds comes with enhanced two-way speakers with planar tweeter for precise high range sound production, and dual amplifiers for a crystal-clear sound experience on the go. One big difference between the two wireless sound cans that have launched is the two-way speakers on the Galaxy Buds 3 Pro. Samsung has paired a 10.5mm dynamic driver with dual amplifiers and a 6.1mm planar tweeter.

The overall sound is consumer centric and out of the box, most people won't change the sound from the EQ. When using poor-quality earbuds, I constantly turn up the volume to look for details in the sound. Here, you can hear the details at low volumes, even at 20-25 per cent.

Another cool feature: The adaptive EQ calibrates the sound for your ears or essentially a more ideal sound. You can always use the EQ on the app and adjust but the technology makes the sound more natural.

The earbuds are rated IP57 against dust and water. Samsung's proprietary Bluetooth codec is now capable of wirelessly streaming up to 24-bit / 96kHz audio so long as you use the Buds 3 / 3 Pro with one of the company's recent phones. Though Samsung Seamless Codec is only available with certain Galaxy devices, the buds' default audio codec is AAC, which sounds just fine.

Improvements in how sound processing is done have also helped on the microphone front and you can hear voices far more clearly. The microphones are pointing down towards your mouth, which should allow substantial

improvements. One thing to keep in mind: We don't know how wind will affect when it hits the triangular shape of the buds.

AT A GLANCE

Device: Samsung Galaxy Buds3 Pro

HIGH NOTES

- ▶ Excellent soundstage
- ▶ The companion app has plenty of features
- ▶ Adaptive EQ features work well
- ▶ Good battery life
- ▶ Fits snugly in the ears

To improve overall voice quality, the company added a Super Wideband calls tool that allows Galaxy Buds 3 to transmit voice up to 16kHz. Samsung says previous earbuds only used up to the 8kHz band. Also employed are machine-learning models to battle background noise when you're speaking.

SOME AI FEATURES

One Galaxy-exclusive feature that Samsung has talked about is its Interpreter feature that's part of Galaxy AI. "If you're attending a class in a foreign language, you can turn on Interpreter in Listening mode on the Galaxy Z Fold 6 or Flip 6 with Buds 3 series plugged into your ears," Samsung says. "This will allow you to hear the lecture translated directly through your Buds, removing language barriers that may exist in your studies."

The pros on the device don't stop there: You get longer battery life, lasting up to six hours on a charge with ANC on or a total of 26 hours including case recharges. The Buds 3 can hit five and 24 hours.

Samsung has also launched the Galaxy Buds3, which comes with an open-style design for people who don't like the feeling of having their ears plugged up. In terms of sound, both are top-notch and offer good active noise cancellation. The Buds 3 are missing the dual amps and a transparency mode (they're open earbuds, so you don't need it).

With the arrival of the new buds, many may miss the Buds 2 Pro, especially the bean-shaped Buds Live. But Samsung has revamped its collection of wireless earbuds and it takes aim squarely at Apple's AirPods. So far I love the new look and, of course, the sound profile.

Mathures Paul

TIPPLE TALES AND EXOTIC FLAVOURS — LITTLE BIT SOBER'S NEW MENU IS WOW!

What defines a good cocktail bar? Skilled bartenders, premium ingredients, a creative menu and a cool ambience are some of the key points. And Little Bit Sober on Chowringhee ticks all of that and more, like attention to detail and knowledgeable staff!

Owned by Rudradipta Mukherjee and Chirag Punwani, Little Bit Sober opened with an aim to educate guests about the varied global trends in cocktails and also serve them an experience to remember. In one year, they have not only done that but have also made many F&B outlets sit up and take note of this cosy cocktail bar. Celebrating a year of glory in the city, they have rolled out a new cocktail menu (because as Rudradipta had said to t2 during the first look, "cocktails are the star of the place") that tells a story that has a mysterious narrator. Stories that have been narrated to the bar team. For some cocktails, it's someone from the bar who's documenting the story from their perspective.

"When we started, little did we know that our small little bar would go on to make such waves in the cocktail community across the country. We want to thank each and everyone who came, drank and supported us on this amazing journey. We wanted to pay a humble tribute to our patrons with a new cocktail menu that captures the many moments, memories and incidents that happened at Little Bit Sober over the past year. We want to travel across the country with our new menu. So far, we've already covered New Delhi and Hyderabad, and more cities are in the pipeline," said Rudradipta Mukherjee and Chirag Punwani.

t2 picks some faves from the new menu.



For Old Times Sake is a part of Heartfelt by Little Bit Sober (LBS) — a booklet of memory, emotion and moments captured by the bartenders. This gin cocktail with amaro, and vermouth washed with sesame and coconut oil and served with a *til er naru*. It traces back to a story of a duo meeting after 40 years and the woman never expressed her love but that night at LBS she said, "For old time's sake, let tonight be not so sober. It's okay". ₹745



The cocktail and the story behind it make a great combo. Dude, Put Your Shirt On! is a Scotch whisky cocktail that provides a rich and smoky base, complemented by the herbal liqueur's complex botanical notes. Bitters add a touch of aromatic depth and the inclusion of kesar pista kulfi introduces a creamy, nutty sweetness, balancing the boldness of the spirits. The name of the cocktail is derived from the night when resident DJ Masuta called out a man who had taken off his shirt while standing on top of the bar and soon after, continued playing as if nothing had happened. ₹745



When we looked at Friend Of A Friend, we kept looking at the soothing blue colour. This poppy blue-infused gin cocktail blends a unique, botanical twist, enhanced by delicate lavender notes. The bitters add a touch of complexity with their aromatic edge, while the tonic water provides crispness. ₹745



Tequila is trending and What.A.Bar is a fine tequila-based cocktail with a certain tartness of passionfruit and a kick of chilli ferment. Bubbly and light, this one hits the right notes. ₹745

Pramita Ghosh
Pictures: Little Bit Sober



There was an old man, probably in his early seventies, who shuffled in every Wednesday. One cocktail enjoyed in silence. Then, gone. Then one evening, he surprised Shantanu, the bartender. "Make it two". He handed the second to Shantanu and said, "Will you share a drink with me, please?" — is the heartwarming story behind Hello Stranger, a Japanese whisky, matcha, yuzu, coconut milk and anise-based cocktail. We love the smooth foundation with the earthiness of matcha, the delicate taste of clarified coconut milk and the citric note of yuzu. ₹745

SALE

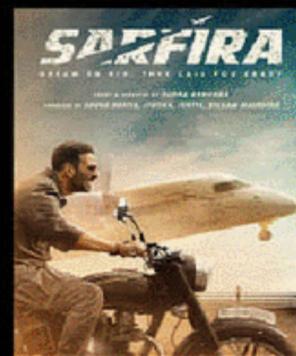
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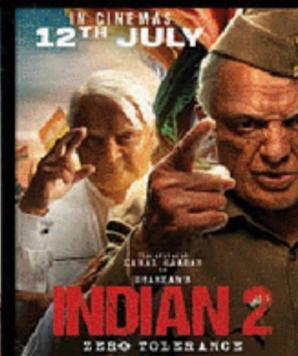
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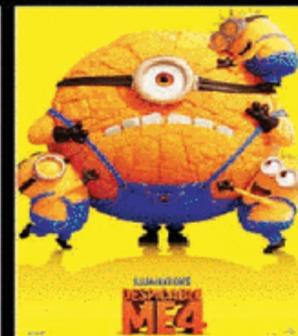
RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY



KALKI 2898 AD | UA | HINDI
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KILL | A
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FILMMAKER ANEEK CHAUDHURI WRITES ABOUT THE JOURNEY OF *THE ZEBRAS*, FROM THE VIBRANT STREETS OF CHINATOWN TO THE ICONIC SCREENS OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, often dubbed the City of Angels, holds a unique allure in the world of cinema. Its sprawling landscape, dotted with iconic landmarks and cultural enclaves, has long been a fertile ground for storytellers and filmmakers. For those of us in the film industry, it represents a dream, a pinnacle, and a testament to our creative endeavours. Now, it's a moment of huge pride that our film *The Zebras* is being released in Los Angeles in theatres in September 2024. The date is September 13.

THE CINEMATIC BRILLIANCE OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is not just a city; it's a cinematic symphony. Every corner of this vibrant metropolis has played host to countless narratives, from the gritty alleys of downtown LA to the sun-drenched beaches of Santa Monica. Hollywood, the heart of Los Angeles, is synonymous with the global film industry, a place where dreams are spun into reality. The Hollywood sign, a beacon of ambition, stands tall, overlooking a city that never ceases to inspire.

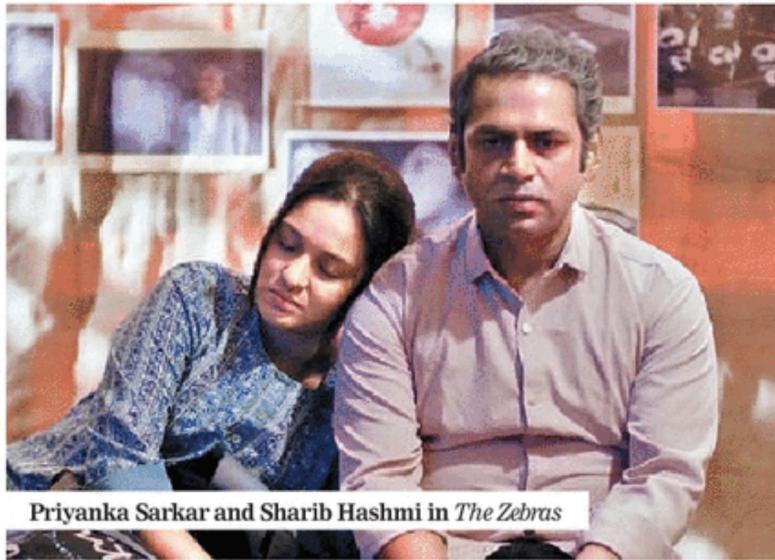
The city's cinematic brilliance is evident in its diversity. It offers a plethora of backdrops: the urban hustle of downtown, the serene suburban neighborhoods, the rugged charm of Griffith Park, and the artistic vibes of Venice Beach. These varied landscapes allow filmmakers to explore different facets of storytelling, making Los Angeles a veritable playground for creativity.

RELEASING THE FILM AND FINDING AN INDIAN DISTRIBUTOR

Releasing *The Zebras* in Los Angeles was a monumental task that required meticulous planning and collaboration. One of the pivotal elements in this journey was our partnership with an Indian distributor. Their involvement was not just instrumental but transformative, turning what seemed like an insurmountable challenge into a successful reality. Fortunately, we came across Indywood. They have been involved with distribution of Indian films worldwide and it was a big relief that we got in line with each other and found ourselves to be on the same platform.

Our journey with the Indian distributor began early in the process. Given the film's roots and its thematic resonance with Indian and broader Asian-American experiences, we knew that finding a distributor who understood these nuances was crucial. We needed someone who could navigate both the cultural and logistical complexities of releasing an independent film in an international market like Los Angeles.

When we first approached the distributor, we presented our vision for *The Zebras* and discussed our goals for the release. Their enthusiasm matched ours, and their extensive experience in distributing Indian films globally gave us confidence. They had a keen understanding of the market dynamics and a strong network of connections that would prove invaluable.



Priyanka Sarkar and Sharib Hashmi in *The Zebras*

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING

One of the most immediate ways the distributor helped was through financial support. Securing the necessary funds for marketing, venue rentals, and promotional activities in Los Angeles was a significant challenge.

The distributor's expertise in market strategy was another critical asset. They conducted thorough market research to identify the best possible release windows, target demographics, and promotional strategies. Their insights into the viewing preferences of the Los Angeles audience, particularly the diaspora communities, helped us tailor our marketing efforts more effectively.

They also guided us in crafting a compelling narrative for our marketing campaigns. This involved highlighting the film's unique aspects, such as its cultural roots, its portrayal of resilience, and its universal themes of unity and perseverance. By doing so, we were able to create a buzz around *The Zebras* that resonated with a broad audience.

Initially, it is scheduled for around 21 theatre screenings in Los Angeles.

THE JOURNEY OF THE ZEBRAS

The Zebras was born out of a

storytelling.

As the director of *The Zebras*, I vividly recall our initial days of shooting in Chinatown. The narrow alleys, the aroma of street food, and the vibrant market scenes provided a rich tapestry for our narrative. Chinatown, with its blend of the old and the new, offered a unique charm that perfectly encapsulated the spirit of our film. The community was

incredibly supportive, and their stories became an integral part of our screenplay.

Our cast and crew were a diverse group, each bringing their unique perspectives and talents to the project. From the early morning shoots to the late-night brainstorming sessions, there was a palpable

sense of purpose and passion. We faced numerous challenges, from securing locations to navigating the complexities of independent filmmaking, but each obstacle only strengthened our resolve.

When it came to releasing *The Zebras*, there was never any question in my mind about where it should debut. Los Angeles is the heartbeat of the film industry, a place where dreams and reality intertwine on a daily basis. The city's rich cinematic history and its global influence made it the perfect place to unveil our film. However, the process of bringing *The Zebras* to Los Angeles screens was both a

audiences here are incredibly diverse and discerning. I wanted our film to be seen by those who truly understand and appreciate the craft of filmmaking.

Moreover, Los Angeles is a melting pot of cultures, much like the setting of our film in Chinatown. This cultural diversity meant that our story of resilience and unity would resonate deeply with local audiences. The city also offers unparalleled opportunities for networking, with countless industry professionals and potential collaborators attending film screenings and festivals. Releasing the film here would not only give us exposure but also open doors for future projects.

THE NOVELTY FACTOR

Releasing *The Zebras* in Los Angeles brought a unique novelty factor that was both exhilarating and profound. Los Angeles, as the epicenter of the global film industry, is saturated with premieres and screenings, yet our film stood out because of its deeply rooted cultural narrative and authentic portrayal of Chinatown's vibrancy. The city's cinematic landscape is rich and diverse, but our story, which intertwines resilience, cultural identity, and unity, offered something refreshingly different. Presenting an indie film in a market dominated by big-budget productions was a bold move, and the novelty lay in its authenticity and the real, unvarnished tales of everyday heroes. The anticipation of how our film, steeped in the textures and rhythms of Chinatown, would be received in the glitzy, competitive arena of Los Angeles added a thrilling edge to the entire experience.

In a landscape often dominated by big-budget productions, *The Zebras* stands as a testament to the fact that with passion, creativity, and a dedicated team, it is possible to create impactful cinema that resonates with audiences. It is a celebration of the spirit of indie filmmaking and a beacon of hope for aspiring filmmakers.

THE THEATRES

Stepping into a theatre, you are immediately greeted by an atmosphere that balances classic

retain a vintage look that harkens back to the golden age of cinema.

Inside, the theatres are intimate and inviting. The lobby areas are adorned with film posters, both vintage and contemporary, showcasing a rich tapestry of cinematic history. The concession stands offer the usual fare of popcorn and candy, but often with unique, locally-sourced options that reflect the community-oriented spirit of these theatres.

The auditoriums themselves are cozy and comfortable, with plush seating that ensures a great view from any spot. The screens are perfectly sized for an immersive experience, and the sound quality is excellent, creating an ideal environment for appreciating the nuances of indie and foreign films. The ambiance is enhanced by the subtle lighting and thoughtfully designed interiors that prioritize comfort and accessibility.

THE ROAD AHEAD

While our journey to Los Angeles has been a significant milestone, it is just the beginning. The success of *The Zebras* has opened new doors and presented new opportunities. We are exploring the possibility of expanding the story into a series, delving deeper into the lives of our characters and the world they inhabit. The positive reception has also sparked interest from international festivals, and we are excited about the prospect of taking our film to a global audience.

Los Angeles, with its rich cinematic legacy, has been a source of immense inspiration. The journey of *The Zebras* has reinforced our commitment to telling authentic, impactful stories. It has been a reminder that the heart of cinema lies in its ability to connect, to inspire, and to evoke emotions. As we look to the future, we are filled with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to continue creating meaningful cinema.

The journey of *The Zebras* from the vibrant streets of Chinatown to the iconic screens of Los Angeles has been a remarkable odyssey. It is a story of passion, perseverance, and the power of storytelling. For our team, it has been a source of immense inspiration, a validation of our efforts, and a celebration of the magic of cinema. For me, as the director, it has been a profoundly transformative experience, one that has reinforced my love for filmmaking and my belief in the power of authentic narratives.

Los Angeles has provided the perfect stage for our story. It is a city that embodies the spirit of dreams and the magic of cinema. As we continue our journey, we carry with us the lessons learned, the memories made, and the inspiration gained. The success of *The Zebras* in Los Angeles is not just a personal triumph but a testament to the power of indie cinema and a beacon of hope for storytellers everywhere.

desire to capture the essence of resilience and camaraderie against a backdrop of urban struggle. Our story began in the bustling streets of Chinatown, a place teeming with history and cultural vibrancy. The journey from these streets to the big screens of Los Angeles is a testament to the power of determination and the magic of

logistical challenge and a labor of love.

WHY LOS ANGELES?

Choosing Los Angeles for the release of *The Zebras* was driven by several factors. First and foremost, Los Angeles is synonymous with cinema. The city's film festivals are globally renowned, and the

cinema charm with a modern, indie vibe. The exteriors of these theatres often feature classic marquee signs, displaying current films in bold letters against a backdrop of twinkling lights, evoking a sense of nostalgia and anticipation. The facades vary from location to location, some with sleek, contemporary designs, while others



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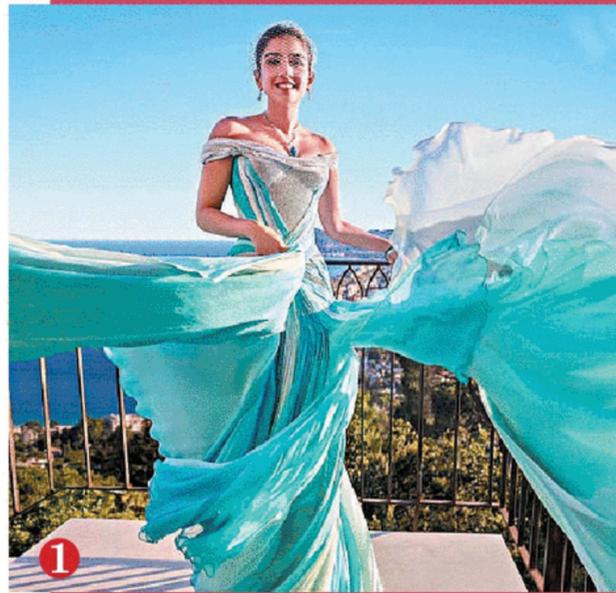
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WITH ANANT AMBANI AND RADHIKA MERCHANT ALL SET TO FINALLY SAY 'I DO' IN MUMBAI TODAY, WE PICK OUR RECENT FAVOURITES FROM THE BRIDE-TO-BE'S ECLECTIC WARDROBE LEADING UP TO THE D-DAY

After a series of pre-wedding parties in various phases — while the celebrations kicked off in Jamnagar from March 1 to 3, the second set was held in Italy in May, and the final set in Mumbai over the past week — it's finally D-Day for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant! The wedding, to be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai tonight, will see various traditional ceremonies. While Bollywood will be in full attendance, all eyes will be on the bride and groom. While Radhika served up stunning looks in various Indian and global designers through the pre-wedding festivities, a little birdie tells us the bride-to-be will be in an Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla lehnga for her wedding. The lehnga will be in ivory with a touch of red, in keeping with quintessential Indian bridal aesthetics. Before pictures of the wedding start flooding our social media feeds, let's rewind to the bride-to-be's best looks in the run-up to her big day!



1

1 This Versace dress was made special by the jewellery Radhika wore. A blue opal and diamond necklace by Lorraine Schwartz. While opal is her birthstone, diamonds are Anant's. #sosoweet

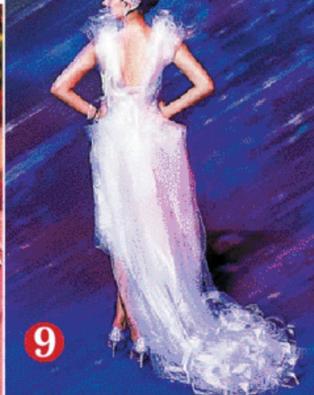
2 Radhika Merchant dazzled in a Grace Ling custom "toga" for one of the Mediterranean cruise events, held between May 29 and June 1. Stylist Rhea Kapoor, who has been putting most of Radhika's looks together with her team, described the avant-garde outfit as "sculpted in gold", with each "piece painstakingly created to fit and hug each curve". #stunning



2



6



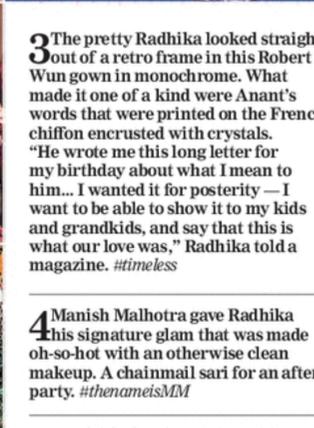
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3



7



3 The pretty Radhika looked straight out of a retro frame in this Robert Wun gown in monochrome. What made it one of a kind were Anant's words that were printed on the French chiffon encrusted with crystals. "He wrote me this long letter for my birthday about what I mean to him... I wanted it for posterity — I want to be able to show it to my kids and grandkids, and say that this is what our love was," Radhika told a magazine. #timeless

4 Manish Malhotra gave Radhika this signature glam that was made oh-so-hot with an otherwise clean makeup. A chainmail sari for an after-party. #thenameisMM

5 Much like her fairy tale wedding-in-the-making, Radhika looked like a princess in a Tamara Ralph gown. The touch of roses added to the romance.

6 Anamika Khanna ideated a 'phoolon ki chadar' dupatta, laden with jasmine and marigold, for Radhika's Haldi ceremony that she paired with a custom organza sharara from AK. "I have to say that I worked in cohesion with Rhea Kapoor. The first thought was it was her Haldi and she needed to wear floral jewellery. For me, it was like, how you go all out with flowers, but not make it a typical floral jewellery situation, which is what happens most of the time. I wanted to do a floral chadar and keep it light and easy and vibrant and fresh." Anamika told t2 on Tuesday evening moments after the look went viral.

7 Radhika rocked traditional colours in Anuradha Vakil and Manish Malhotra for a dinner and her mausalu ceremony, respectively, both styled with a touch of contemporaneity.

8 Radhika and Anant wore Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla for their Sangeet.

9 A fusion of the edgy and classic, Radhika shone in this Lever Couture look styled with a pair of crystal slippers from Jimmy Choo, embellished with Swarovski diamonds. #fab



4



8



5



'WE DID WANT THE AUDIENCE TO ACCEPT THE WORLD OF THE FILM AND CONNECT BACK TO INDIAN MYTHOLOGY, SPECIFICALLY THE MAHABHARATA, AND WE WERE GLAD THAT ALL OF IT HAPPENED VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY' — DIRECTOR NAG ASHWIN BREAKS DOWN KALKI 2898 AD FOR t2



A moment from *Kalki 2898 AD*, now playing in cinemas

The VFX and action and putting it all together was very challenging, and all the more because we were trying out many things that were new. Apart from that, the time it took to make the film was a mental and emotional challenge

Kalki 2898 AD has breached the Rs 900-crore mark at the worldwide box office and director Nag Ashwin couldn't be happier. The 38-year-old director of films like *Yevade Subramanyam* and *Mahanadi*, who has been praised for his vision in the star-studded post-apocalyptic drama that blends Indian mythology with science fiction, was on a much-deserved holiday when t2 caught up with Ashwin — popularly known as Nagi — for a chat.

It has been two weeks since the release of *Kalki 2898 AD* and the euphoria continues. It must still be quite overwhelming... Definitely! The first few days were a lot more overwhelming, especially the first weekend, but even now there is so much love. So many people, so many strangers make it a point to reach out and thank and congratulate me for *Kalki 2898 AD*. I am very, very grateful.

What has been the most special feedback so far?

A person I don't know put out an Instagram post saying how he was waiting in the rain at a bus stop and he heard two school kids arguing about something connected to Arjun and Karna and discussing *The Mahabharata* after watching the film. That man tagged me and wrote: 'This is what you have done'. That definitely touched me a lot.

At what point of writing and shooting *Kalki 2898 AD* did you realise the film could possibly have this kind of a widespread impact?

To be honest, we couldn't really predict how or what it was going to do. We just wanted to make the film that we set out to make and make sure that those who had invested in the project didn't lose any money.

With a film of this scale, one really has no choice but to keep working till the last minute because so much post-production work is involved. So I was pretty much working till almost the day of release, whether it was on the visual effects or the music. One doesn't have time to sit back and wait and think till the movie releases.

Once the film released and we started getting the kind of response we did, it actually was very new for all of us in the team. We did want the audience to accept the world of the film and connect back to Indian mythology, specifically *The Mahabharata*, and we were glad that all of it happened very enthusiastically among a large section of the audience. But before release, we never really had the time or the luxury to think.

What made you want to blend mythology and sci-fi, a mix of which has proven to be mostly tricky and largely unsuccessful in Indian cinema?

It was the simple love for these two genres. I grew up watching mythological films in Telugu. As a kid, I remember watching them at my grandparents' house. That had a huge impact on me, though they were not nicely done and the production values were quite low. One could literally see the bows and

arrows being held up by wires! (Laughs) But it was all very fascinating to me.

At that time, I also got introduced to sci-fi from the West, especially *Star Wars*. What made an impression on me was seeing how effortlessly real that world looked though it had lightsabers and flying spaceships... despite all of this, it didn't look fake, it didn't look like a video game. I loved that aesthetic and when I became a filmmaker, trying to put these genres I loved together was always at the back of my mind. That finally culminated in *Kalki*.

Are there any sequences in the film that sounded great on paper but that you were a little apprehensive about how they would translate on screen?

The climax with Bhairava's (Prabhas) big reveal was definitely one. For me, to attempt anything from *The Mahabharata* cinematically was a daunting thing. That is because we haven't done much of it in our cinema and whatever has been attempted, we haven't done it very well. I needed to do a real good job and if I was



Nag Ashwin

given time even now to work on that aspect, I would still keep at it (smiles). We put in a lot of effort and I am glad that the audience has accepted it in the right way.

You managed to round up a cast to kill for! Did you write the principal characters keeping the actors who play them in mind or did that come in later?

That came later. We wrote the script first and pitched it to my producers. We had a few months of discussions and then decided who to approach for their respective roles. I feel very grateful that I managed to get pretty much the first options we had on our list of actors for the film. They all believed in the film and agreed to go ahead and that was a big win for us.

Besides the obvious challenges of story and scale, what were the relatively smaller challenges of making a film like this?

The VFX and action and putting it all together was very challenging, and all the more because we were trying out many things that were new. Apart from that, the time it took to make the film was a mental and emotional challenge. When you make a film for so long — in the case of *Kalki*, it took us more than four years — you find yourself to be in a space that not many filmmakers are in. Most films, even the big ones, take a maximum of two or two-and-a-half years to be made. When you decide to make your film for longer, then it is like going to war (smiles). Being in that four-year-plus zone is a very unique space to be in as a filmmaker because there is judgment and perspective and I found that the hardest.

How did you overcome that? Did you second-guess yourself at certain points?

Yes, for sure. But my producers (Vyjayanthi Films) were a big support, along with the whole crew, as I spent time figuring out how to do things in the best way. Now that the film has worked, we are all happy. But the last year was definitely the toughest.

Was the idea for the landscape of post-apocalyptic Kasi always what we get to see eventually in the film?

It was. For a film like *Kalki*, you really have to get these things down on paper and have your concept art ready before you go in to shoot, or actually even before that. There were a number of things that we had to design from the ground up. Even that plate that Deepika (Padukone, who plays SUM80/Sumati) eats from, a lot of thought

and work went into designing that. That design element was applicable to the spoon and even the food that was on her plate. And all of this was done for what was just a one-second shot! There were so many little things like that, few of which were pretty overwhelming to pull off.

Giving Amitabh Bachchan an action role at age 81 and then seeing him run with it. What was that experience like?

We have all known him as the angry action man. He has years of action experience behind him. Honestly, I didn't set out to do anything special with Bachchan sir, but I knew that Ashwatthama had to be him! He is the only one who could portray the depth of emotions, the pain that Ashwatthama had been living with for centuries. It needed somebody of that stature. And his look turned out to be so beautiful.

We have had a young team at work on *Kalki* and every day, one would see us just running around and figuring stuff out. Bachchan sir was always on set and had all remarkable patience with all of us. His support was huge.

What you did very well was to deeply explore Prabhas' inherent poker-faced humour in his portrayal of Bhairava...

The character was written like that. There was a lot of it in the script but Prabhas would come up with a few things which were just him, which I couldn't write anyway because it is just his personality... and they worked pretty well.

One hears that about 20 days of work has been done on the *Kalki* sequel and then stopped. What happened?

This film was always meant to be shot and narrated in two parts and for that, we have already shot a few days for the second film, which was anyway being done parallelly. But at some point, we stopped so that we could only focus on Part One. We have to get back to Part Two soon.

You have some delightful cameos in *Kalki 2898 AD*, but most audis have erupted seeing filmmakers SS Rajamouli and Ram Gopal Varma acting in the film. That must count as very special to you...

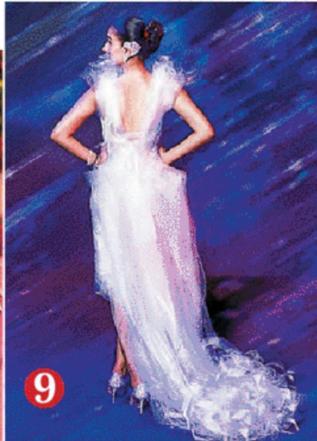
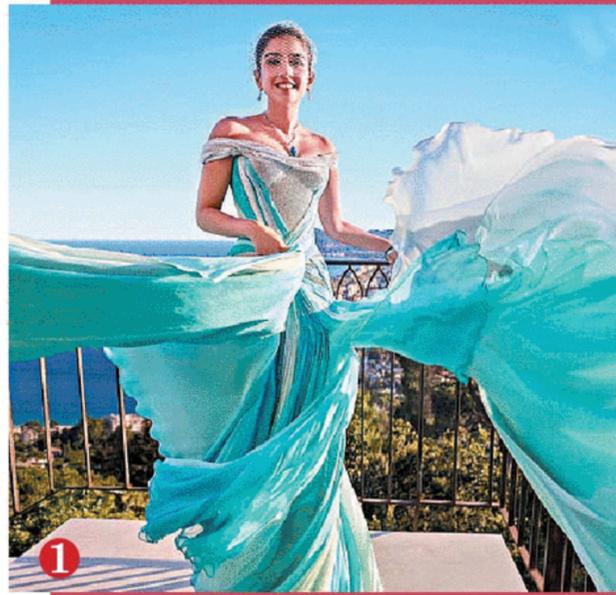
They were game! They knew that we were trying to do something very big and difficult and if this was the help I asked for from them, they were more than happy to come on board very graciously. And directing two directors was fun... I didn't have to do anything!

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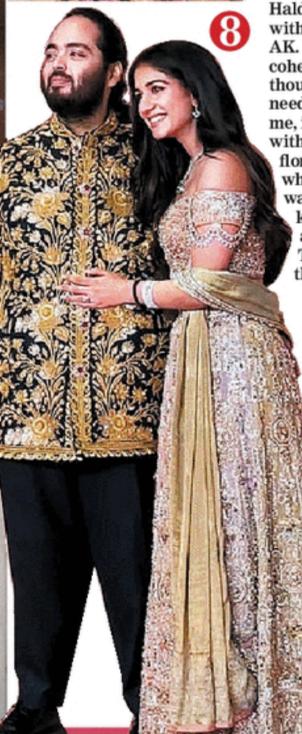
Priyanka Roy
Which were your three favourite cameos in *Kalki 2898 AD* and why?
Tell t2 @abp.in

WITH ANANT AMBANI AND RADHIKA MERCHANT ALL SET TO FINALLY SAY 'I DO' IN MUMBAI TODAY, WE PICK OUR RECENT FAVOURITES FROM THE BRIDE-TO-BE'S ECLECTIC WARDROBE LEADING UP TO THE D-DAY

After a series of pre-wedding parties in various phases — while the celebrations kicked off in Jamnagar from March 1 to 3, the second set was held in Italy in May, and the final set in Mumbai over the past week — it's finally D-Day for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant! The wedding, to be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai tonight, will see various traditional ceremonies. While Bollywood will be in full attendance, all eyes will be on the bride and groom. While Radhika served up stunning looks in various Indian and global designers through the pre-wedding festivities, a little birdie tells us the bride-to-be will be in an Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla lehnga for her wedding. The lehnga will be in ivory with a touch of red, in keeping with quintessential Indian bridal aesthetics. Before pictures of the wedding start flooding our social media feeds, let's rewind to the bride-to-be's best looks in the run-up to her big day!



Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla



1 This Versace dress was made special by the jewellery Radhika wore. A blue opal and diamond neckpiece by Lorraine Schwartz. While opal is her birthstone, diamonds are Anant's. #sosweet

2 Radhika Merchant dazzled in a Grace Ling custom "toga" for one of the Mediterranean cruise events, held between May 29 and June 1. Stylist Rhea Kapoor, who has been putting most of Radhika's looks together with her team, described the avant-garde outfit as "sculpted in gold", with each "piece painstakingly created to fit and hug each curve". #stunning

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3 The pretty Radhika looked straight out of a retro frame in this Robert Wun gown in monochrome. What made it one of a kind were Anant's words that were printed on the French chiffon encrusted with crystals. "He wrote me this long letter for my birthday about what I mean to him... I wanted it for posterity — I want to be able to show it to my kids and grandkids, and say that this is what our love was," Radhika told a magazine. #timeless

4 Manish Malhotra gave Radhika this signature glam that was made oh-so-hot with an otherwise clean makeup. A chainmail sari for an after-party. #thenameisMM

5 Much like her fairy tale wedding-in-the-making, Radhika looked like a princess in a Tamara Ralph gown. The touch of roses added to the romance.

6 Anamika Khanna ideated a 'phoolon ki chadar' dupatta, laden with jasmine and marigold, for Radhika's Haldi ceremony that she paired with a custom organza sharara from AK. "I have to say that I worked in cohesion with Rhea Kapoor. The first thought was it was her Haldi and she needed to wear floral jewellery. For me, it was like, how you go all out with flowers, but not make it a typical floral jewellery situation, which is what happens most of the time. I wanted to do a floral chadar and keep it light and easy and vibrant and fresh." Anamika told t2 on Tuesday evening moments after the look went viral.

7 Radhika rocked traditional colours in Anuradha Vakil and Manish Malhotra for a dinner and her mausalu ceremony, respectively, both styled with a touch of contemporaneity.

8 Radhika and Anant wore Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla for their Sangeet.

9 A fusion of the edgy and classic, Radhika shone in this Lever Couture look styled with a pair of crystal slippers from Jimmy Choo, embellished with Swarovski diamonds. #fab

'WE DID WANT THE AUDIENCE TO ACCEPT THE WORLD OF THE FILM AND CONNECT BACK TO INDIAN MYTHOLOGY, SPECIFICALLY THE MAHABHARATA, AND WE WERE GLAD THAT ALL OF IT HAPPENED VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY' — DIRECTOR NAG ASHWIN BREAKS DOWN KALKI 2898 AD FOR t2



A moment from Kalki 2898 AD, now playing in cinemas

The VFX and action and putting it all together was very challenging, and all the more because we were trying out many things that were new. Apart from that, the time it took to make the film was a mental and emotional challenge

Kalki 2898 AD has breached the Rs 900-crore mark at the worldwide box office and director Nag Ashwin couldn't be happier. The 38-year-old director of films like *Yevade Subramanyam* and *Mahanadi*, who has been praised for his vision in the star-studded post-apocalyptic drama that blends Indian mythology with science fiction, was on a much-deserved holiday when t2 caught up with Ashwin — popularly known as Nagi — for a chat.

With a film of this scale, one really has no choice but to keep working till the last minute because so much post-production work is involved. So I was pretty much working till almost the day of release, whether it was on the visual effects or the music. One doesn't have time to sit back and wait and think till the movie releases.

Once the film released and we started getting the kind of response we did, it actually was very new for all of us in the team. We did want the audience to accept the world of the film and connect back to Indian mythology, specifically *The Mahabharata*, and we were glad that all of it happened very enthusiastically among a large section of the audience. But before release, we never really had the time or the luxury to think.

What made you want to blend mythology and sci-fi, a mix of which has proven to be mostly tricky and largely unsuccessful in Indian cinema?

It was the simple love for these two genres. I grew up watching mythological films in Telugu. As a kid, I remember watching them at my grandparents' house. That had a huge impact on me, though they were not nicely done and the production values were quite low. One could literally see the bows and



Nag Ashwin

arrows being held up by wires! (Laughs) But it was all very fascinating to me.

At that time, I also got introduced to sci-fi from the West, especially *Star Wars*. What made an impression on me was seeing how effortlessly real that world looked though it had lightsabers and flying spaceships... despite all of this, it didn't look fake, it didn't look like a video game. I loved that aesthetic and when I became a filmmaker, trying to put these genres I loved together was always at the back of my mind. That finally culminated in *Kalki*.

Are there any sequences in the film that sounded great on paper but that you were a little apprehensive about how they would translate on screen?

The climax with Bhairava's (Prabhas) big reveal was definitely one. For me, to attempt anything from *The Mahabharata* cinematically was a daunting thing. That is because we haven't done much of it in our cinema and whatever has been attempted, we haven't done it very well. I needed to do a real good job and if I was

given time even now to work on that aspect, I would still keep at it (smiles). We put in a lot of effort and I am glad that the audience has accepted it in the right way.

You managed to round up a cast to kill for! Did you write the principal characters keeping the actors who play them in mind or did that come in later?

That came later. We wrote the script first and pitched it to my producers. We had a few months of discussions and then decided who to approach for their respective roles. I feel very grateful that I managed to get pretty much the first options we had on our list of actors for the film. They all believed in the film and agreed to go ahead and that was a big win for us.

Besides the obvious challenges of story and scale, what were the relatively smaller challenges of making a film like this?

The VFX and action and putting it all together was very challenging, and all the more because we were trying out many things that were new. Apart from that, the time it took to make the film was a mental and emotional challenge. When you make a film for so long — in the case of *Kalki*, it took us more than four years — you find yourself to be in a space that not many filmmakers are in. Most films, even the big ones, take a maximum of two or two-and-a-half years to be made. When you decide to make your film for longer, then it is like going to war (smiles). Being in that four-year-plus zone is a very unique space to be in as a filmmaker because there is judgment and perspective and I found that the hardest.

How did you overcome that? Did you second-guess yourself at certain points?

Yes, for sure. But my producers (Vyjayanthi Films) were a big support, along with the whole crew, as I spent time figuring out how to do things in the best way. Now that the film has worked, we are all happy. But the last year was definitely the toughest.

Was the idea for the landscape of post-apocalyptic Kasi always what we get to see eventually in the film?

It was. For a film like *Kalki*, you really have to get these things down on paper and have your concept art ready before you go in to shoot, or actually even before that. There were a number of things that we had to design from the ground up. Even that plate that Deepika (Padukone, who plays SUM80/Sumati) eats from, a lot of thought

and work went into designing that. That design element was applicable to the spoon and even the food that was on her plate. And all of this was done for what was just a one-second shot! There were so many little things like that, few of which were pretty overwhelming to pull off.

Giving Amitabh Bachchan an action role at age 81 and then seeing him run with it. What was that experience like?

We have all known him as the angry action man. He has years of action experience behind him. Honestly, I didn't set out to do anything special with Bachchan sir, but I knew that Ashwatthama had to be him! He is the only one who could portray the depth of emotions, the pain that Ashwatthama had been living with for centuries. It needed somebody of that stature. And his look turned out to be so beautiful.

We have had a young team at work on *Kalki* and every day, one would see us just running around and figuring stuff out. Bachchan sir was always on set and he had remarkable patience with all of us. His support was huge.

What you did very well was to deeply explore Prabhas' inherent poker-faced humour in his portrayal of Bhairava...

The character was written like that. There was a lot of it in the script but Prabhas would come up with a few things which were just him, which I couldn't write anyway because it is just his personality... and they worked pretty well.

One hears that about 20 days of work has been done on the *Kalki* sequel and then stopped. What happened?

This film was always meant to be shot and narrated in two parts and for that, we have already shot a few days for the second film, which was anyway being done parallelly. But at some point, we stopped so that we could only focus on Part One. We have to get back to Part Two soon.

You have some delightful cameos in *Kalki 2898 AD*, but most auds have erupted seeing filmmakers SS Rajamouli and Ram Gopal Varma acting in the film. That must count as very special to you...

They were game! They knew that we were trying to do something very big and difficult and if this was the help I asked for from them, they were more than happy to come on board very graciously. And directing two directors was fun... I didn't have to do anything!

We have all known him as the angry action man. He has years of action experience behind him. Honestly, I didn't set out to do anything special with (Amitabh) Bachchan sir, but I knew that Ashwatthama had to be him!

Priyanka Roy
Which were your three favourite cameos in *Kalki 2898 AD* and why?
Tellt2@abp.in

ASHOKE VISWANATHAN, ANUSHA VISWANATHAN AND RWITOBROTO MUKHERJEE TALK ABOUT FRIDAY FILM *HEMANTER APARANHA* AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART

Last year, audiences greeted Ashoke Viswanathan's film *Hemanter Aparanha* with a standing ovation at the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival. Produced by Amit Agarwal's Adarsh Telemedia, the film is finally releasing in the theatres today. Ahead of the release, t2 caught up with cast members Anusha Viswanathan, Rwitobroto Mukherjee and director Ashoke Viswanathan for a chat on the film. Excerpts:

How did the festival appreciation feel for you all?

Anusha Viswanathan: It was a surprise to see people willing to sit on the floor, and stairs, standing and watching an entire full-length movie.

Rwitobroto Mukherjee: It was somehow relatable to all generations.

Ashoke Viswanathan: I am still mystified! But I can give an anecdote. It was director Mrinal Sen who had visited Paris where Jean-Luc Godard was present. He told Godard that in the 1982 film festival there were huge lines to see Godard's films and Godard was absolutely mystified and said, 'That never happens'! Mrinal Sen told him that was on the first day but on the second day there were no lines. Godard said, 'Yeah, that is more like it!' (*Everyone laughs*)

Anusha: Hoping that won't happen here. Even though it is an Ashoke Viswanathan film, it is not hard to understand. It deals with something which all of us went through, the entire world went through... the Covid-19 phase and the loneliness that came with it and we had to battle that.

The film shows the Covid and post-Covid times. When was the film conceived and what was the thought that led you to script it?

Ashoke: I started writing it towards the end of 2020 which is the end of the first phase of Covid but we started shooting in 2022 and finished in 2023. We have Covid in it and coming out of the different phases and different waves. Also during Covid, the war started in Ukraine, which is also a running motif in the film.

Anusha: It is weird when my character talks about the fourth wave. When you are constantly plying with crisis after crisis then you have no choice but to become numb. With that numbness you become insensitive and it has repercussions on your mental health.

Ashoke: The mental health aspect is there in the film.

The film hints at an increasingly concerning social issue—the loneliness of the superannuated life. How have you approached the subject in the film?

Ashoke: I had thought about it very much but when we started writing the story. I wrote it with the



Rwitobroto Mukherjee and Anusha Viswanathan

protagonist also in my mind. That's what led us to the thought about the superannuation. I thought about the different resonances. The character that Rwitobroto plays, Rajesh, is sensitive to his predicament. There are scenes in which the two of them share a relationship.

Rwitobroto: I feel it is extremely well captured. We have centered the story on the outskirts of Calcutta mainly. We get a peek into how their lives are. I have seen films where we have seen a theatre stage and live performances but one thing we haven't seen is what goes beyond that. The rehearsal room, the simple adda over tea and puffed rice, the light-hearted relationship between a senior and junior, the fun they have. The hierarchy within the group. So many things are interwoven... an old man not willing to do Facebook. These are very honest and genuine approaches towards the slices of life we often do not get to see on the screen.

Anusha: In this film, Satyapriyada (Mukherjee) is so much senior to us but he is a debutante in this film, the hierarchy is not necessarily divided by age in our film. Meghla is the *didimoni* of the group. She did it beautifully and we have seen multiple conversations happening in the room at the same time...

basically how we observe a room from the audience's perspective. We basically see everything at the same time. It is all happening together.

Ashoke: Papiya, the character, is a subaltern. who is new to theatre, in that sense she is an outsider. Satyapriya plays a character called Sudhin and he is coming into the theatre for the first time. We have someone who is mentally challenged, he is part of the main cast. So we have a lot of these subalterns. If we look at the theatre groups of the Sixties, Nandikar or Bohurupee from the 30s and 40s, the director used to be the supremo and sometimes the secretary of the group and he used to be in charge of

everything. Here we have a director who is an outsider, there are senior members in the group who are older than the director. There are juniors of the group who manage the group. So, that is a stereotype I tried to break.

Anusha and Rwitobroto, when you both were chosen for the film, how did you approach it?

Anusha: I didn't come into the film having any expectations. I came to experience and learn. This film has very interesting elements which could make people think... they will also find certain things quirky which will arouse their curiosity.

Ashoke: I have used humour throughout the film. Humour doesn't mean you laugh uproariously all the time. It is witty and interesting. Like the character of Binodini in the film.

Anusha: We have a few dream sequences. We see a lot of storms happening but the storm is a paid actor! We are creating the situation. (*Everyone laughs*)

Rwitobroto: I often think when we have the time as an audience member, we often do not take into consideration the things that we are presented with. Later we try to find archives and repent that we did not go to the theatres. I think it is so important to be associated with films which have a social responsibility, have a personal and individual responsibility towards stories and this film is so responsible to the entire world around us. It has tons of personal stories of the character's presented in a macro lens which actually talks about a universal view. Being recognised by someone whose films are studied nationally and internationally feels great.

Anusha: Unfortunately not regionally!

Rwitobroto: People from West Bengal don't care about someone until they become a part of the nostalgia. This was a masterclass for us.

Anusha, how was it working with your father?

Anusha: It was not tough. I was a little apprehensive because I have never extensively worked with him like this. He is a specific, detailed director. He will tell you exactly what he wants and how he wants it. But we still have room to make our own choices within that. I am not calling him autocratic because he is not but he is very specific about what his vision is and then it is upto the actor to be able to create their version of his vision. That's a very interesting way to work. We never had the entire script. We had the story but from which point it will go to which point we did not know that. Which is why it was a surprise for us to watch the film for the first time. Rwitobroto and I were joking after watching the film for the first time that now we know all the answers. Every scene is a performance of its own. We had to pay attention to the little things.

Ashoke: Performances in cinema is a little different from theatre. In cinema, the final performance is a product of the actor, director, cinematographer and the editor to some extent. The film is a product of all these things

Anusha: In most of the cases, we behaved instead of acting, except for the part where we were on stage or in the film within the film.

Rwitobroto, how did you deal with not having the script?

Rwitobroto: I believe that I am very open-minded to whatever directions come my way being an actor who submits to the vision of the director. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and this was also understanding the ways layers work in cinema. This is the first time I am playing an actor on screen. Rajesh is a theatre actor, during rehearsals he is doing rehearsals and then he is doing a film also and he has a personal space, too. All these four areas are also covered in the film itself. I had so much fun shooting the stage part. All of us, I think. We shot it at Jogesh Mime Academy and our cinematographer also captured it so well.

Anusha: It was very authentic. Like in suburbs when they do a drama. They adapt famous plays but then the costumes and wigs are not super refined because that's the budget and that's what you would have access to in the suburbs. We have ill-fitted wigs and weird costumes. (*Laughs*)

Anusha and Rwitobroto, you share a great bond off the sets too. What's the best thing about working with each other?

Rwitobroto: Genuinely the best part about working with Anusha is the comfort level and not faking the chemistry. The kind of personal and professional respect we have for each other as actors and as human beings and as friends helps us to understand what the scene demands. I think both of us have become much more professional. That's one thing that has developed parallelly where we have evolved as genuine human beings also.

Anusha: We don't need to rehearse a lot. We just look at each other and we know the tone of the scene that it is going to be. There's a certain amount of peace, I feel. I know that our scenes will get over fast because neither of us forget lines and even if we forget lines, we kind of have each other's back. We gossip so much! We keep each other in a good mood, so that we can work longer hours without becoming irritated.

Ashoke, with the kind of response you received at the film fest, do you think the audience has also evolved?

Ashoke: The audience is much more aware definitely. When Griffith used the close-up shot for the first time, people wondered about the rest of the body. Whenever we are doing something slightly different which is breaking the narrative or which is counter-culture, you have to build it up in such a way that it is interesting.

Priyanka A. Roy

Pictures: Rashbehari Das



Director Ashoke Viswanathan with producer Amit Agarwal



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AS THE DAILY CAFE TURNS FIVE, t2 CHATS WITH OWNER AND CHEF URVIKA KANOI ON MEMORIES, MOODS AND AN UPCOMING ALL-DAY PARTY ON JULY 14



Urvika Kanoi

From The Food Studio to The Daily cafe and Cafe Duco in Mumbai, Chef Urvika Kanoi completes 10 years as a restaurateur and five years of The Daily cafe, known for its fun cafe food inspired by French and European flavours. t2 sat down with the city chef for a quick chat on two new menus that launch today, and a special all-day party for patrons on July 14 with lots of fun surprises.

So the daily is turning five and you're turning 10 as a restaurateur! What is the feeling like?

I don't think I can describe it in words, like a very cliché beginning, but it feels quite surreal. I don't think Calcutta is a very easy market, so for everybody who survives beyond this three- or four-year mark, I think somewhere we feel really happy to get that love from the customers and the patrons.

Me turning 10! Haha! So, when I started, I didn't know if I'd stay one year as a chef because it's a tough, tough industry to be in the kitchen. But yeah, I'm very proud of myself, I'm very blessed to be starting in Calcutta, to have started in Calcutta and got the kind of love we did, be it from you guys, be it from our patrons.

With The Daily turning five, what special do you have in store for the city?

So, basically what we did was when we started discussing this a couple of months back, we only had a one-point agenda, how to make the five

We also have a party for the consumers on Sunday. We're going to have a doodle artist come in and doodle cups for them. We're going to have a personalised merch studio. Whenever they buy merch, we're going to personalise it for them with as many patches as they want. Free desserts on the house and other surprises also. We have a big giveaway also happening, which is actually not one, not two, not three, it's five gifts — Urvika Kanoi

as big as it's for us, also for our customers.

We are doing pop-ups. We did Hoppumm, which just finished. We are doing another pop-up two months later. And so we want to keep the trend of pop-ups going for the customers because we see that when we do something different, our consumers really like it. We are also launching two absolutely different menus this time. Our new menu, which is the anniversary menu, will run for a substantial amount of time, a minimum of two months. That actually encapsulates

very, very fun dishes from across the world. So, we have something like a Tomato Mascarpone Paccheri Pasta. The same time we are doing a French Onion Pasta, which is our take on the soup. Then we have done things like feta eggs, chilli oil eggs. We have a whipped ricotta toast. We have done very whimsical desserts. So, we have taken what the customers want, what flavour profile they are fond of, and we have converted it into the menu.

Then we have something called the big five, which is a very whimsical menu. These are five dishes which are going to be quite... let's sort of call it like a guilty pleasure. So, we have a churro, which is one foot long. A triple chocolate hot chocolate, which is so delicate and decadent that you'll be thinking that you're just drinking thick, luscious chocolate ganache. And some more.

Plus, we are launching our own in-house dips. A lot of consumers, when they come in, they're like can we take a bottle of the hot sauce home? We did a little run during the Covid period when we were not open for dine-in. The sauces and dips did really well. So we thought, why not bring a chunk of that back for the consumer?

And we're launching our own line of merch. So the merch is very humorous, very funny, something that's very easy on the pocket. Great quality. Something you can give to your friend, your brother, sister or partner. You know, anybody. It's going to be very slapstick humorous. Cups and oversized T-shirts and regular T-shirts.

And we also have a party for the consumers on Sunday. We're going to have a doodle artist come in and doodle cups for them. We're going to have a personalised merch studio. Whenever they buy merch, we're going to personalise it for them with as many patches as they want. Free desserts on the house and other surprises also. We have a big giveaway also happening, which is actually not one, not two, not three, it's five gifts. So there's a surprise gift, there's free mods, there's a free meal. You have a free coffee voucher which you can redeem five times.

Over the last five years, what has been one of your most gratifying moments when it comes to The Daily?

I think there are so many. Every time we got felicitated with an award, it has been very, very heartwarming. And every time you guys do a feature on us, we feel really happy. Every time we see the restaurant full, and we see our consumers leaving happy, or when consumers call us and they are like, can we celebrate a special occasion here? All of those things are very happy. We've been a part of proposals and even baby showers.



French Onion Pasta: Popular French culinary marvel, the French onion soup meets pasta in this decadent cheesy and umami pasta bowl that you just can't put down.



The Grinder Sandwich: Crisp and nutty seeded in-house loaf is loaded with fresh veggies, a special slaw called the grinder slaw, along with cheddar cheese with a tart dressing that we quite enjoyed.



Brown Butter Toast: This is love on a plate with crisp brioche slice toasted with brown butter and laced with floral honey topped with sea salt flakes and served with Chantilly cream and ice cream. Must try!

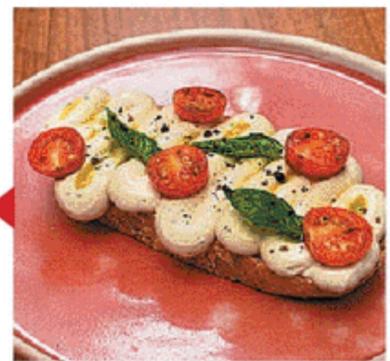


Moroccino: Hazelnut lovers unite for this is a fun nutty hot coffee that combines espresso, milk, foam and our fave Nutella to create a rich and decadent hot sip.



Honey Lavender Latte: A personal favourite, the floral notes of lavender, the sweet tinge from the honey and the strong taste of coffee create a wonderful sip.

Whipped Ricotta Toast: A creamy brunch option, this has a generous slather of whipped ricotta cheese on sourdough drizzled with olive oil and some basil and blistered tomatoes for freshness.



Give us top five dishes or drinks that you would recommend from the menu. Our Daily Roast, the Salmon and Beet, all our Eggs Benedict, our Pomodoro Pasta, and I'll say something for the vegetarian folks, the Avocado Salad and the Moroccan Bowl.

coming from you in the next couple of months? Now we would want to do something bigger and better in Calcutta. But, that's under wraps. And you will read it first in t2 only, whenever it happens.

What new can we see

Zeba Akhtar Ali
Pictures: Rashbehari Das

MUSIC

AMIT KUMAR FAN CLUB ORGANISES GALA MUSICAL NIGHT 'FOREVER AMIT' TO CELEBRATE THE SINGER'S BIRTHDAY



Rupak Saha with anchor Debasish Bose



Nilayan Chatterjee and Aakansha Dutta with other artistes



Rupankar Bagchi and Anindya Bose



Chandrima Bhattacharya and Sidhu

Therefore, this special event was organised in Calcutta," said Sudipta Chanda, founder-secretary of Amit Kumar Fan Club.

While Rupankar Bagchi sang *Kichhu swapno niya*, Anindya Bose went down memory lane with *Phool phonte phool jhore*. Chandrima Bhattacharya and Sidhu delivered a duet

performance of *Kaisa lagta hai*.

Speaking on the occasion, Rupak Saha said: "It's indeed a special evening as noted singers from Bengal are paying respect to Amit Kumar this way. I don't think such an initiative has been taken before."

Pictures courtesy: Shyam Sundar Co. Jewellers

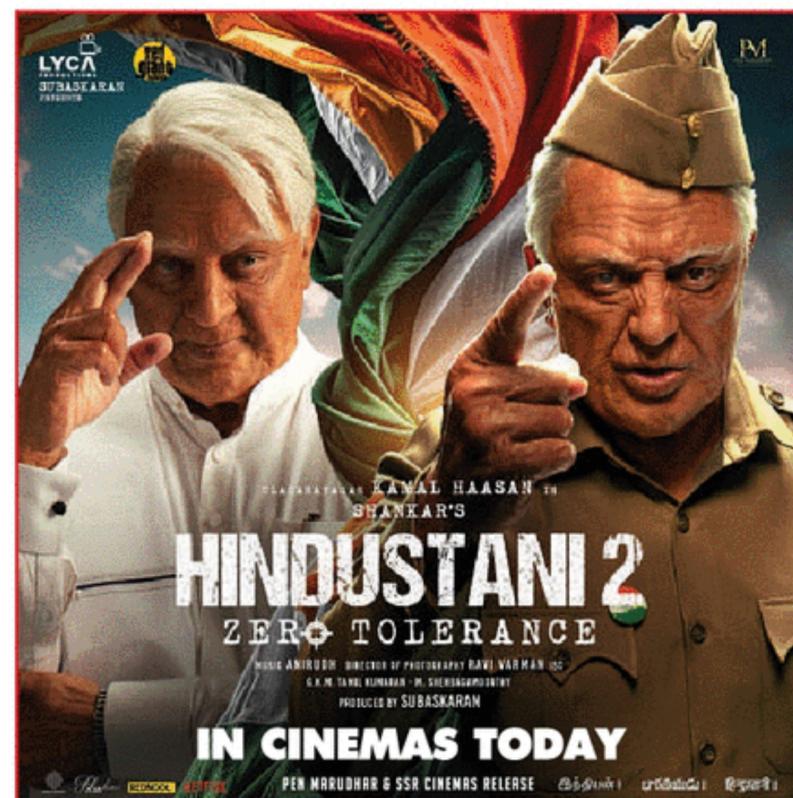
Legendary singer Amit Kumar, a household name for many for over five decades now, celebrated his 72nd birthday on July 3, and to mark the occasion, Amit Kumar Fan Club organised a special musical night, Forever Amit, presented by Shyam Sundar Co. Jewellers and backed by Khukumoni Sindoor Alta and Flixbug. The evening saw performances by contemporary Bengali musicians, including Rupankar Bagchi, Sidhu, Anindya Bose, Chandrima Bhattacharya, Nilayan Chatterjee, Aakansha Dutta and so on, at Uttam Manch. A cake was cut as part of the celebrations.

Rupak Saha, director, Shyam Sundar Co. Jewellers, Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee, Ujjaini Mukherjee, Soumya Dasgupta, Devjit Roy, Tochon Ghosh, Tirtharaj Bose and many other prominent people from the Bengali film and music industries graced the occasion.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of Amit Kumar Fan Club. "Amit Kumar has a close connection with the City of Joy.



FARNAZ



FARNAZ

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Monsoon Madness

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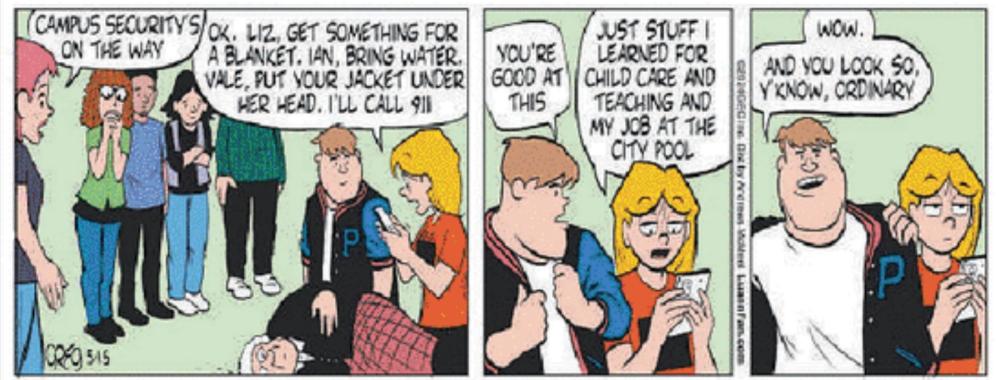
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Follow us on: [@thelittlecloset_tlc](#) [thelittlecloset](#) Curated by: Bithika Kejriwal & Divya Himatsingka

B.C. by Johny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



Peanuts by Charles Schulz



The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johny Hart



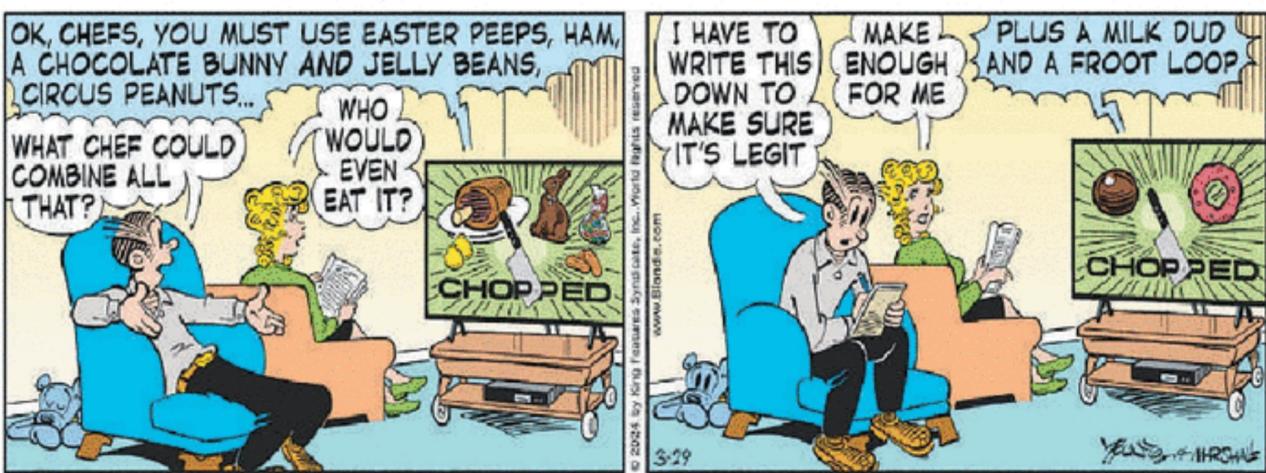
Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



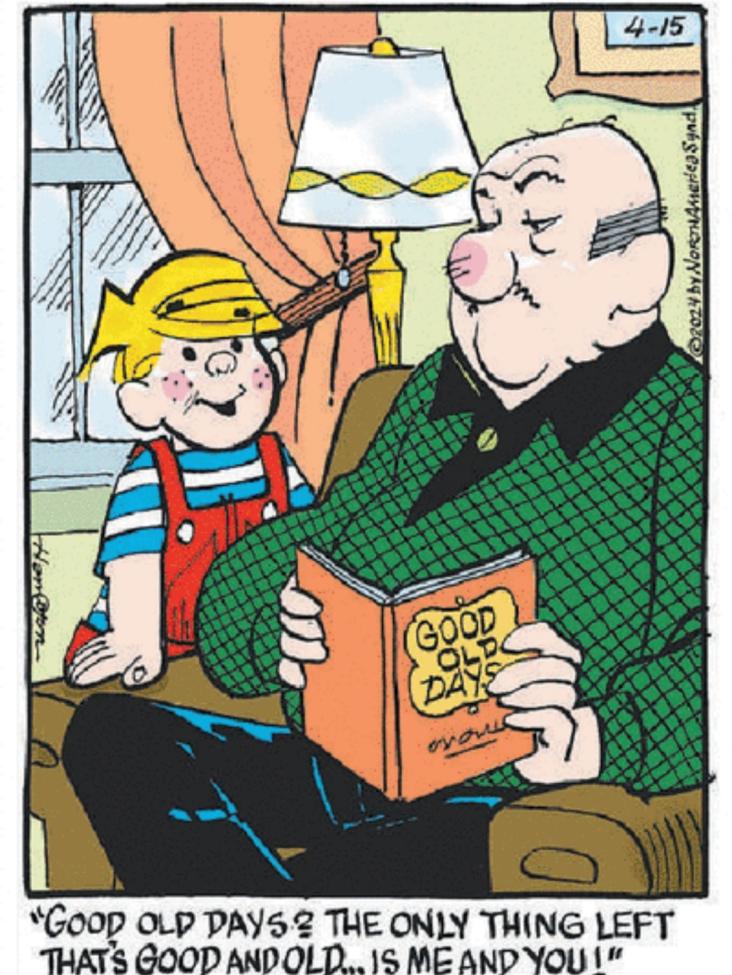
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



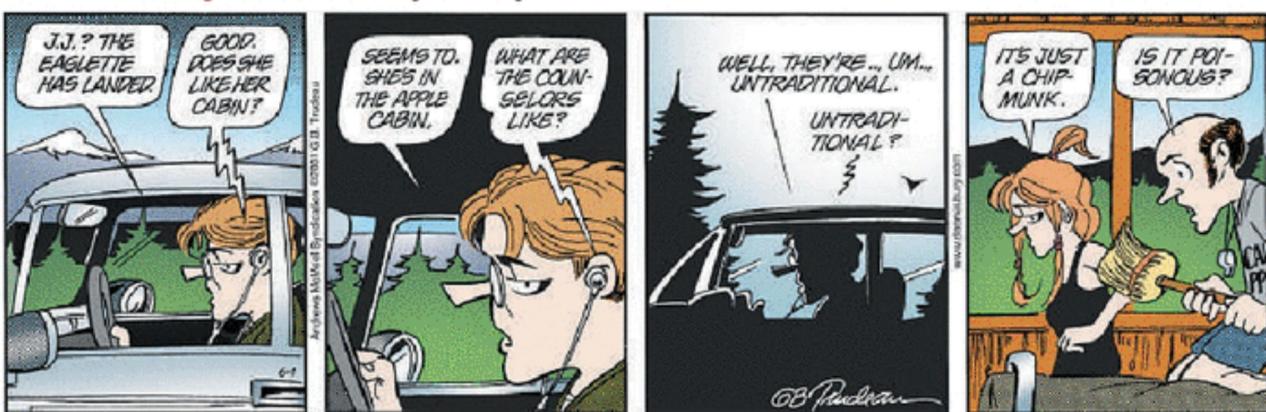
Blondie by Dean Young



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



PUZZLE

11060

SUDOKU MODERATE

2								
		9	5	8				
				4	8		3	
7	3						2	
6		8						9
	2				6	5	8	
1		3	5					4
			2	4	7			
								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 11058 is on the right

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

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11061

SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

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

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 11059 is on the right

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

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14387

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10				
11						12	
						13	
		14		15			
16	17						
							19
21			22		23		
			24				
25						26	
27						28	

ACROSS

- Cold air turning warm (7)
- Runs film rolling credits (7)
- Sit back following ace storyteller (5)
- Unaware of endless falsehood in open (9)
- Echo sounded in blasts and backfires (10)
- Haggard woman embracing old loafer? (4)
- Nude in arrest dancing with abandon (12)
- Bond has Interpol worried about one (12)
- It's dead good touching sweetheart! (4)
- People purchasing pine goods (10)
- Cutting fish, worker holds kipper's tail (9)
- Reportedly demolish then build up (5)

DOWN

- Somebody is impotent, perhaps (7)
- Right embarrassed about gutted services (7)
- Irascible taxi-driver keeping right (6)
- Filmed again and disturbed others (6)
- Drench, permeating pants (10)
- Sponge in a dessert rising (5)
- Strikes out framing Georgia representatives (9)
- Stray from prior view, occasionally (4)
- Dress is fine wearing heavy footwear (8)
- Arrests American over payments (8)
- Old lady survived feigned illness (10)
- Spare former partner with single charge (9)
- Panic just being stuck in bog (8)
- Ringing man after proposal (8)
- Total fury supporting hospital department (6)
- Idiots accepting Trump's principal strengths (6)
- Fur is lavish on Queen (5)
- Oddly sick sailor getting blackleg (4)

Yesterday's solution

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

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

OCCUH
○○○○

RETBE
○○○○

NRLEKE
○○○○

CLDAPI
○○○○

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

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNARL EXPEL BALLET BAMBOO
Answer: When asked how the rookie boxer had been able to knock him out, he said -- BEATS ME

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14039

QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10					11	
12	13			14		15
						16
17		18		19	20	21
22				23		
24				25		26

ACROSS

- Spans (4)
- Vase (3)
- Close (4)
- Impassive (6)
- Ceremonial (6)
- Synopsis (8)
- Fathers (4)
- Commercial (13)
- Sons (4)
- Madness (8)
- Wreckage (6)
- Seldom (6)
- Profound (4)
- Lout (3)
- Suspend (4)
- Loft (5)
- Quiet (7)
- Below (5)
- Agitated (7)
- Famous (5)
- Desert (7)
- Resort (3)
- Bishopric (7)
- Parched (7)
- Sovereign (7)
- Plaything (3)
- Fragment (5)
- Bush (5)
- Claw (5)

DOWN

- Mane (3)
- Tonne (3)
- Ants (3)
- Gettysburg (9)
- Etna (3)
- Abracadabra (12)
- Aorta (3)
- Lie in (3)
- Role-playing (11)
- Anew (3)
- Landholder (11)
- Ante (3)
- Magna Carta (1)
- Extract (2)
- Tuscan (3)
- Nougat (4)
- Eager (5)
- Stun (3)
- Tale (10)
- Avant-garde (11)
- Rare (3)
- Idyllic (16)
- Tenner (17)
- Old-hat (18)
- Owlet (20)
- Nine (22)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Mane; 3 Tonne; 7 Ants; 8 Gettysburg; 9 Etna; 12 Abracadabra; 13 Aorta; 15 Lie in; 19 Role-playing; 21 Anew; 23 Landholder; 24 Ante; 25 Tarot; 26 Cope.
Down: 1 Magna Carta; 2 Extract; 3 Tuscan; 4 Nougat; 5 Eager; 6 Stun; 10 Tale; 11 Avant-garde; 14 Rare; 16 Idyllic; 17 Tenner; 18 Old-hat; 20 Owlet; 22 Nine.

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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.

Check out this space for the best answers received.

Scan the QR to browse

t2 CHECKED OUT NOVOTEL'S NEWLY LAUNCHED GREEN PLATE BRUNCH

Novotel Kolkata Hotel & Residences is taking diners on an eco-friendly culinary adventure with its innovative Green Plate Brunch concept. Launched on July 7, this unique offering brings sustainability to the forefront of fine dining, proving that reducing waste can be both delicious and visually

appealing. The brunch's theme of reducing, reusing, and recycling is evident in every aspect of the meal, introducing Calcutta to a new standard in eco-conscious dining. Chef Vikram and his team have embraced the challenge of minimising waste without compromising on flavour or presentation.

The Green Plate Brunch caters to all palates,

offering a diverse menu that goes beyond sustainability. From the familiar comfort of local chaats to the international flair of mezze platters, there's something to satisfy every craving. So, for a guilt-free and flavourful brunch that nourishes both body and soul, head to Novotel Kolkata and experience the Green Plate Brunch. Here's what we liked.

What: The Green Plate Brunch: A sustainable brunch menu
Where: The Square at Novotel Kolkata Hotel & Residences
When: July 14 and July 21 (Sundays)
Pocket pinch: ₹1,749 per person



The Mezze Platter served in sustainable plates and clay pots, brings a touch of the Mediterranean to Calcutta. An assortment of dips, olives, and flatbreads offers a variety of flavours and textures, all presented with eco-consciousness in mind.



Local *puchkas* get a sustainable makeover, served in charming bamboo baskets and clay cups. The crisp *puchkas* along with a tangy tamarind water and spiced potato mixture, offer a much-loved Calcutta street food in an eco-friendly presentation.

Coconut lovers will delight in the Coconut and Passionfruit Mousse, elegantly presented in a coconut shell. The tropical flavours are a nod to local ingredients, while the presentation eliminates the need for disposable serving ware.



The Charred Grilled Fish is a standout, showcasing the bounty of nearby waters. The fish is expertly grilled, its delicate flesh complemented by a light herb marinade that lets the natural flavours shine through.



"Sustainability is a buzzword these days, but it often gets left out of the kitchen. Every industry is embracing eco-friendly practices, so why not food? This menu is our way of proving that delicious food and environmental responsibility can go hand-in-hand. It's not easy, though. Crafting the menu is straightforward, but the real challenge lies in sourcing local ingredients and minimising waste. It takes constant research, learning, and a whole lot of creativity to transform leftovers into delectable dishes and ensure nothing goes to waste," said Vikram Kumar Jaiswal, executive chef of Novotel Kolkata Hotel & Residences.



"Sustainability isn't just a trend for us — it's at the heart of everything we do at Novotel. We believe we're the last generation with a real chance to make a difference for our children's future. That's why our entire team is so passionate about this. We know food is a powerful way to connect with people, so we've made our menu a showcase for sustainability. We're moving away from imported items like fish and cheese, replacing them with fantastic local alternatives. It's a win-win: our guests love the food, and we are proud to say we're working towards zero waste. It's exciting to see how enthusiastic everyone is about this approach," added Arjun Kaggallu, general manager of Novotel Kolkata Hotel & Residences.



Bornonaa Barik (t2 intern)
Pictures: B Halder

প্রকাশিত

EXCLUSIVE

আত্মজীবনী লিখতে বসে বিস্ফোরক বিশ্বজিৎ

- রত্নার সঙ্গে প্রথম বিয়েটাই আমার জীবনে সর্বনাশ ডেকে আনে।
- তিনটে বিয়ে করার পর বুন্ডা এখন বুঝেছে, কেন ওর বাবা সংসার ছেড়ে চলে গিয়েছিল।
- পল্লবী বিয়ে করেছিল নিজের আপন মামাকে! আমার জীবনে ওই মেয়ের কোনও অস্তিত্ব নেই।
- আমার চোখের সামনে গৌরীবোদি ছিড়ে দিলেন উত্তমদার পাঞ্জাবি! বের করে দিয়েছিলেন বাড়ি থেকে...

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সকলের সামনে আনতে পারলাম।

বিস্ফোরক বিশ্বজিৎ



12 জুলাই
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আনন্দলোক



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