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DelhiTimes

OF INDIA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024
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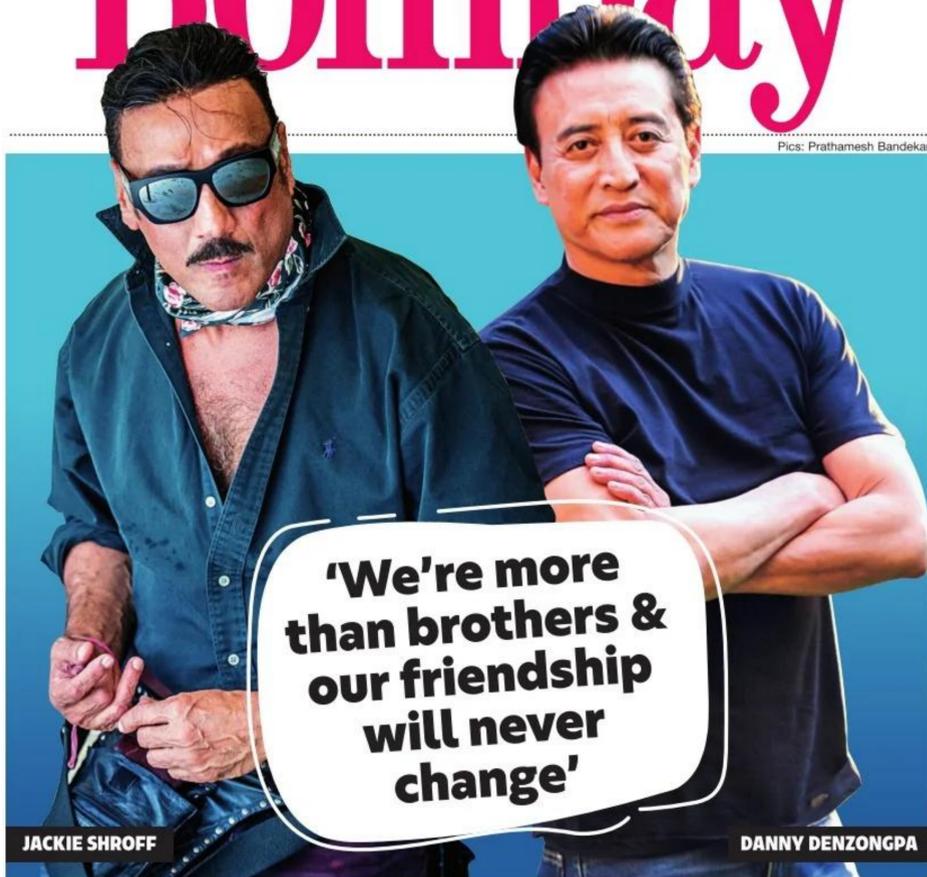
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Bombay

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024



Pics: Prathamesh Bandekar

JACKIE SHROFF

DANNY DENZONGPA

It's difficult to find a person like Danny saab – so dignified and with no malice towards anyone. He is very smart and refined, and I'm surprised he is my friend. I'm not polished at all like him, but we are the best of buddies

– Jackie

While spending time with me, Jackie started taking an interest in nature and started planting organic fruits and rice. He did not even know how to grow a flower, but now he gives me lectures on gardening (laughs)

– Danny

P2

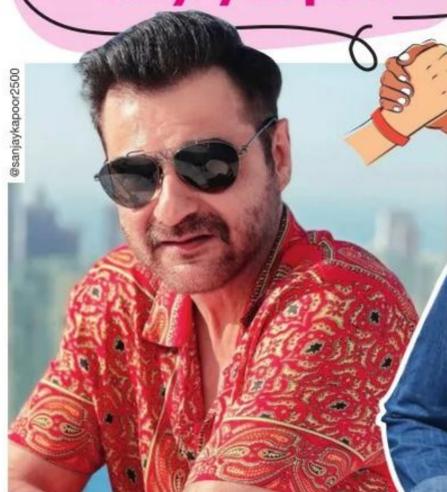
ON FRIENDSHIP DAY, THE TWO ACTORS TALK ABOUT THEIR BOND, SEE

SURPRISED TO SEE Bombay Times TODAY? FLIP TO FIND OUT.

Mumbai vs Delhi: The debate over which city is better is never-ending. This Friendship Day, we asked celebs from each city to tell us what they love about the other metro

Delhi people are **shaukeen**; everything is larger than life:
Sanjay Kapoor

Mumbai gives us the freedom to be ourselves:
Akriti Kakar



I love Delhi winters, when the weather is lovely. It's something I miss in Mumbai, where we don't really experience winter. I enjoy visiting my friends' farmhouses, which have large gardens. We love the barbecue parties there. I also have many family members in Delhi, so I love visiting during the winter months. People in Delhi are *shaukeen*; everything is larger than life.



What I love most about Mumbai is how accepting the city is. It doesn't matter where you come from – if you're good at what you do, the city will embrace you. I also love how Mumbai gives us the freedom to be ourselves without worrying about judgments or stares. Mumbai's unbeatable spirit is also what makes it special. Whether it's the seasonal flooding or any other calamity, the city wakes up and goes to work no matter what.



To find what celebs like Daisy, Aishwarya, Hiten and Hunar like about the cities in the Delhi vs Mumbai debate,

TURN THE FLAP

Different vibe, one tribe.

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OF INDIA

I enjoy Delhi's chole kulche and bukhara ki dal: Padmini Kolhapure



In the past, I enjoyed shooting in Delhi because of the favourable weather conditions. I filmed *Rahi Badal Gaye* in the city and shot at different locations. Now, Delhi has developed significantly in terms of roads and infrastructure, and there are also areas with plenty of greenery. As a foodie, I often visit the Bengali Market to enjoy chole kulche and bukhara ki dal.

The city is as lively at night as it is in the day: Deepika Singh



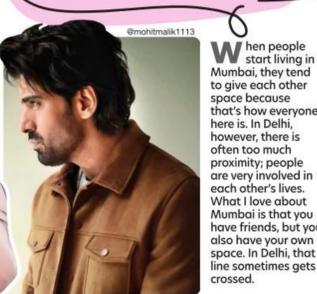
I love the fast-paced life of Mumbai. It is as lively at night as it is in the day. The streets of Delhi are mostly deserted after 9pm. In Mumbai, women feel safe and can use public transport easily. It is very convenient to take autos even at night, which is not the case in Delhi. For two years in Mumbai, I relied solely on autos to commute and felt safer for it.

Street shopping in Delhi has its own charm: Dhvani Bhanushali



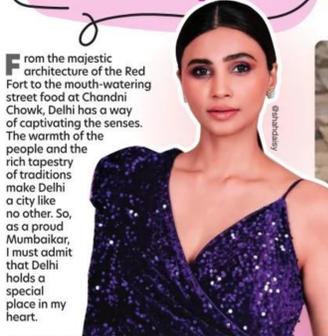
What fascinates me most about Delhi is the food. Though I am a vegetarian, I enjoy dishes like paneer sabzi and *gajar ka halwa* in the city. However, Mumbai has its *vaada pav* and *misal pav*, which you don't find in Delhi. When it comes to shopping, both cities have their advantages. Street shopping and authentic Indian outfits in Delhi have their own unique charm.

In Mumbai, people respect your personal space: Mohit Malik



When people start living in Mumbai, they tend to give each other space because that's how everyone here is. In Delhi, however, there is often too much proximity; people are very involved in each other's lives. What I love about Mumbai is that you have friends, but you also have your own space. In Delhi, that line sometimes gets crossed.

With a rich cultural tapestry, Delhi is a city like no other: Daisy Shah



From the majestic architecture of the Red Fort to the mouth-watering street food at Chandni Chowk, Delhi has a way of captivating the senses. The warmth of the people and the rich tapestry of traditions make Delhi a city like no other. So, as a proud Mumbaikar, I must admit that Delhi holds a special place in my heart.

People go out of their way to offer support: Aishwarya Sakhuja



What I love most about Mumbai is its people. While neighbours may not know each other, because people in Mumbai are always busy, if you are in need of help, you will see those around you rallying together to offer support. Also, compared to other cities, I have noticed that people here go out of their way to care for animals.

Weather can get cold, but people are warm: Hitten Tejwani



I have mostly visited Delhi for work, though as a child I remember going to Qutub Minar and India Gate. I love the food, especially *chole bhature* and *kulchas*. I also enjoy the cold weather, but the people of Delhi are warm. It is a bustling city like Mumbai, though the vibe is different. There is also space for people to build large houses, which is wonderful.

I love Mumbai for its weather & beaches: Hunar Gandhi



I was born and brought up in Delhi and I take pride in being a Delhiite, but my heart is strongly connected to Mumbai. This is where I work. Also, I feel that Mumbai is safer than Delhi for women. I love that Mumbai is always lively. I love beaches and here I can go to the beach anytime I want. I am allergic to cold, so for me Mumbai has just the kind of weather I like.

— Natasha Coutinho, Divya Kaushik and Riya Sharma



Buzzstop

ACTOR MOHANLAL REACHES WAYANAD

Actor Mohanlal, who is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Territorial Army, reached landslide-hit Wayanad on Saturday in his uniform. The actor pledged ₹3cr for rehabilitation work and said, "The magnitude of the landslide can only be comprehended by witnessing it firsthand... All who are part of the rescue operations have done a wonderful job."

Ajay Kumar Gautam

Delhi grooves to King's beats

Delhi is home. Delhi has made me and now, as I return to my hip hop roots, what better place to start this tour than here!



Arpan Kumar Chandel aka King, performed in Delhi on Friday. For more from the concert, turn to page P4



Honey and Bunny set to take over the spy world

(L-R) Nikhil Madhok, Krishna DK, Samantha, Varun Dhawan, Raj Nidmoru and Sita Menon and (below) Samantha clicks a selfie with her fans

Varun Dhawan and Samantha's fans were in for a treat and experience like never before as Prime Video, along with the lead cast and directors Raj & DK, announced November 7 as the premiere date of the much-awaited

Amazon Original series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*. The Indian series born from the world of *Citadel* is produced by D2R Films. Amazon MGM Studios and the Russo Brothers' AGBO Prime Video also released a captivating teaser that showcases the non-stop action and visual scale of the new series, peppered with the charm of the '90s, which audiences can watch and enjoy this November.

Nikhil Madhok, Head of Originals, Prime Video, India, "The teasing excitement for the series has been palpable amongst fans of Varun and Samantha and having them participate in this larger-than-life date reveal event is truly a memorable experience for everyone present."

Raj & DK shared, "*Citadel: Honey Bunny* is a swashbuckling blend of gritty, fast-paced action and compelling drama with exceptional performances. The re-



sponse to the teaser has been very heartening and we believe it is a testament to the dedication of the entire team. We cannot wait for audiences across the world to enjoy one of our most ambitious projects yet, this November!"

Hundreds of lucky Varun and Samantha's superfans participated in the spectacular date reveal at an electrifying event in Mumbai, which also featured a spellbinding performance by Sachin-Jigar along with Shilpa Rao, Shruti Dhasmana, Ash King, Shubham Kalra and Priya Saraiya.

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'The best thing about our friendship is that we have no expectations from each other'



DANNY DENZONGPA



JACKIE SHROFF

6 When Tiger was born, Jackie called me up at 4 am to give me the news! I took glasses and champagne bottles in my icebox and went to the hospital. Then, Jackie, some of his friends and I went to a dhaba for an idli-vada breakfast, and we popped the champagne there

— Danny

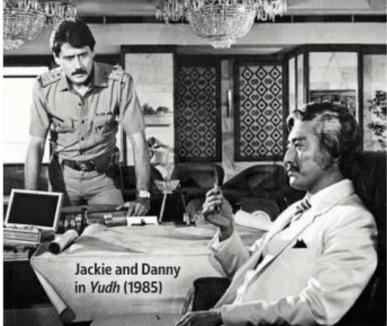
Natasha Coutinho

They may be a decade apart in age, but Danny Denzongpa (76) and Jackie Shroff (67) have been best friends for years. Danny lives in Sikkim now and travels to Mumbai only occasionally, but neither distance nor work commitments can keep these *dosts* apart. This Friendship Day, the actors share their buddy stories with us. Excerpts: **How did the two of you meet, and what were your first impressions of each other?**

Danny Denzongpa: I met Jackie when he was working on his launch film, *Hero* (1983). We met at a hotel, where I saw him wearing cowboy boots, with his feet up on the table. He was looking very shabby, because that's how the character was. We shook hands and I hugged him, wishing him the best and I liked his confidence. Though he was a newcomer, he was very likeable, and we clicked. After *Hero* became a big hit, I went to meet him at Teen Batti *chawl* in Mumbai, where he stayed. I was already a star then and a crowd had gathered around me. Jackie stepped out shirtless with just a towel around his waist, asking people to step away. He was like a *dada* those days. I was surprised to see that he lived in a one-room *chawl*, even though his movie had become a hit and he could have moved out. I met his mother as well and we became close friends. Later, I also met his then-girlfriend, now wife Ayesha, and she became my *rakhi* sister.

Jackie Shroff: The first time I saw Danny *saab* on-screen was in *Mere Apne* (1971) and I identified with him – the *kurta-pyjama*, long hair and bag on his back (not the bomb in the bag, but the rest of the look!) When I became an actor later, we got the opportunity to work together in films like *Andhar-Baahar* (1984) and we really bonded. We were shooting on an oil rig near the Gateway of India and for a week, we would travel together by boat. Post shoot, Danny *saab* would often drop by and have a cup of tea with my family. He calls me "*sangeet ka dushman*" because he likes to sing while I just hum my lines. Both of us share a common interest – cooking.

Both of you share the enthusiasm for growing organic plants and vegetables and protecting the environment.
Danny: I ran away from Mumbai's polluted air and water and now I live in Sikkim. While spending time with me, Jackie started taking an interest in nature and started planting organic fruits and rice. He did not even know how to grow a flower, but now he gives me lec-



Jackie and Danny in *Yuddh* (1985)

tures on gardening (*laughs*).

Jackie: He is the one who taught me all about respecting nature, and that every plant and tree is different. That's how I started propagating the message about being environmentally conscious.

How do you keep in touch despite the distance?

Danny: Jackie visited me last October and stayed for a week. When it gets cold in Sikkim I come and stay at Jackie's farmhouse near Mumbai.

Jackie: We go down to Mahabaleshwar or Matheran together or I go to Sikkim sometimes. We have a lot to talk about, be it *jhaad-pan* (plants), waterfalls and other facets of nature. I'm waiting for him to finish his work and come

6 Rinzing is more like my son; for me, there is no difference between him and Tiger and it's the same for Danny *saab*. Both of us see Pema and Krishna as sisters; they are in the same age group and buddies as well

— Jackie

meet me soon.
What has kept your friendship strong even after all these years?

Danny: The best thing about our relationship is that we have no expectations from each other – it's pure. We sit together for hours without talking; it is the kind of relationship I had with my mother. I used to lie down in her lap as she said her prayers and our communication would go on though we weren't talking. Jackie, too, isn't very talkative and that is why the relationship is special.
Jackie: We are more than brothers and ours is a friendship that will never change. He is a pure soul. It's difficult to find a person like Danny *saab* – so dignified and with no malice towards anyone. He has a sense of decorum and grace, wherever he is. He is very smart and refined, and I'm surprised he is my friend. I'm not polished at all like him, but we are the best of buddies.

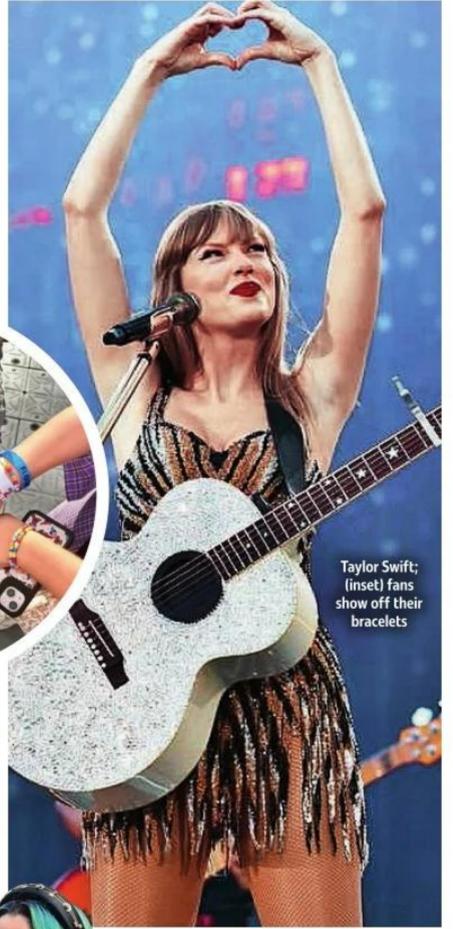
<< Tiger Shroff and Rinzing Denzongpa. "When my kids were born, the four children – Tiger-Krishna and Rinzing-Pema – would spend time together," shares Danny, who was one of the few people invited to Jackie and Ayesha's wedding



Swifties revive friendship bracelets with a cool twist

Yvonne Jacob

When Taylor Swift sang 'So make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it' – lines from *You're on Your Own, Kid* – Swifties took note and revived the nostalgic tradition of friendship bracelets. With colourful beads and threads, Swifties are making themed bracelets to trade and hand out to other fans during the Eras Tour. The trend has become an integral part of the tour experience.



Taylor Swift; (inset) fans show off their bracelets



150 Taylor Swift-themed scrunchies

'Your braids like a pattern, love you to the moon and to Saturn', and 'Karma is the breeze in my hair on the weekend', were some lyrics printed on around 150 scrunchies made by Melody Crescencia D'Souza, a graphic designer from Mumbai, and her mom Nabila Mary D'Souza for Taylor's London concert. "We made five different prints – each reminiscent of a specific lyric or song title. I exchanged them with fans who were present at the London leg of the Eras Tour. They loved the idea, and it was nice to see them using the themed scrunchies at the arena," shares Melody.

What goes into making a Swiftie friendship bracelet

Fans typically pick ceramic, lettered or coloured beads and add Taylor-references in them. Additionally, DIY tutorials on how to make your friendship bracelets for the tour have racked up millions of views online.

The trend goes beyond Taylor's concerts

While the resurgence of these friendship bracelets is linked to the Eras Tour, fans are embracing this activity and handing out bracelets to other celebs too. One of the examples was when former One Direction member Louis Tomlinson was recently given a friendship bracelet outside the Australian Open venue.



What is driving this trend

For Dhanya Tiwari, a social media marketing professional, these bracelets have revived her love for the nostalgic trend. "Having ten bracelets on your hands was cool back when I was a kid. It's a warm feeling to have this tradition back in fashion," she shares. As for Bhopal-based Swiftie Anamika Agarwal, the trend helps her stay creative and turn her love for the songs into keepsakes. "My friends and I made personalised bracelets using lyrics that defined us best and exchanged them within our group. I think it's become our own tradition now. It's nice to get your creativity going and collect little souvenirs," says Anamika.

>> Miny Kaling took her daughter to a Swift concert and posed with the bracelets



Celebs hop on the trend

- Fans tweeted photos of Nicole Kidman putting on a friendship bracelet shared by a fan
- Jennifer Garner shared photos showing her hands covered with friendship bracelets
- A fan shared a photo of Roger Federer smiling while receiving a friendship bracelet at a concert



Roger Federer shared a photo with his bracelets

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	157.11	130.40	₹ 40,000	₹ 8,39,816	₹ 35,19,264	₹ 26,39,448	₹ 17,59,632	₹ 87,98,160
Type-B	162.41	134.80	₹ 40,000	₹ 8,69,496	₹ 36,37,984	₹ 27,28,488	₹ 18,18,992	₹ 90,94,960
	167.42	138.96	₹ 40,000	₹ 8,97,552	₹ 37,50,208	₹ 28,12,656	₹ 18,75,104	₹ 93,75,520
	172.26	142.98	₹ 40,000	₹ 9,24,656	₹ 38,58,624	₹ 28,93,968	₹ 19,29,312	₹ 96,46,560
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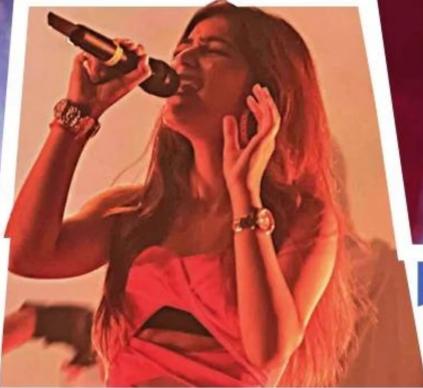
King & Badshah rule Delhi



Badshah joined King on stage towards the end of the gig

Riya Sharma

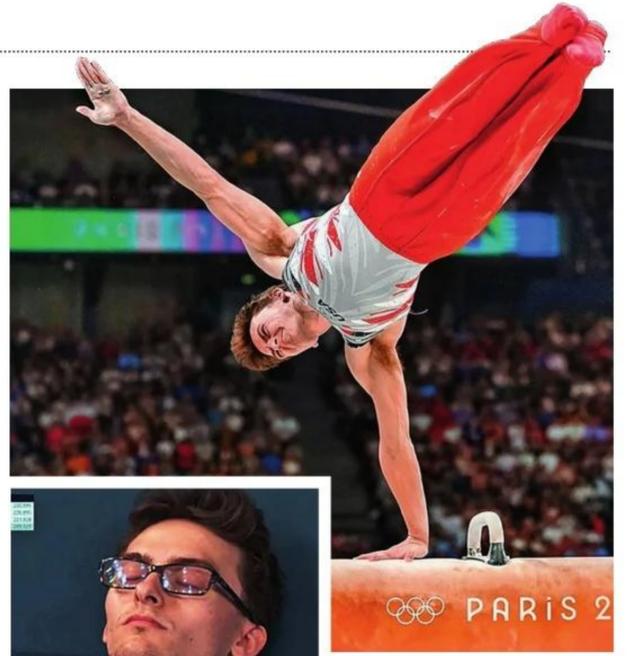
With OGs like Ikka and Badshah in attendance, Arpan Kumar Chandel aka King, performed in Delhi on Friday. "What's up, Delhi. Thank you for coming out tonight," said *Tu Aake Dekhle* singer as he came on stage fashionably late. With choreographed pieces and several artists joining him on stage, King sang, danced and partied with his fans, 'his family'. "We made it, family, here are all the OGs on stage," said King as he sang *Maan Meri Jaan* and wrapped up his performance with It's Your Boy Badshah on his side.



(Left) Bella was among the artists who joined King on stage for a song. After the song, the two shared a hug



Delhi has been an important part of my journey, Delhi is home, Delhi has made me and now, as I return to my hip hop roots, what better place to start this tour than here! This is a big thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years and seen me grow as an artist



PARIS 2024

Internet has been going gaga over Stephen's Clark Kent-to-Superman style transformation after removing his glasses

Meet the pommel horse guy aka the Clark Kent of Paris Olympics

Stephen Nedorosick waited all day – and also took a quick nap – for his moment to arrive in the men's gymnastics final at the Paris Olympics and when it did, he removed his thick glasses, took deep breaths and produced a flawless performance to lift the US team onto the podium. Now Nedorosick, affectionately known as "pommel horse guy" after his specialty apparatus, is having his moment on the internet.



Nedorosick can also solve a Rubik's cube in less than 10 seconds, something he says helps him relax. His removal of his signature glasses has been likened to Clark Kent's transformation into Superman.

Megan @MegWritesBooks

Obsessed with this guy on the US men's gymnastics team who's only job is pommel horse, so he just sits there until he's activated like a sleeper agent, whips off his glasses like Clark Kent and does a pommel horse routine that helps deliver the team its first medal in 16 years.

Meghan O'Keefe @megsokay

I love this nerdy kid from Worcester who's at the Olympics just to do pommel horse and only pommel horse and he is literally Team USA's best chance at Olympic gold for just pommel horse. And today he's literally just hanging out until it's time for pommel horse. LOVE HIM.

jelliot @j_elliot_art

Gratifying that the olympics is radicalizing many on real productivity (laziness punctuated by insane feral bursts of action) as against the casual cultural domination of fake productivity (constant performative busyness)

The Quirky Pastor @thequirkypastor
Steve Nedorosick is the new Clark Kent. He's a seemingly mild-mannered nerdy guy who solves Rubik's cubes in under 10 seconds, but is really Superman flying through the air on the pommel horse at the Olympics.

WEATHER CANCELS IMMEDIATE TRAVEL TO HILLS, I-DAY LONG WEEKEND PLANS STILL ON



23 dead in Uttarakhand, Himachal cloudbursts, several highways blocked

Divya Kaushik

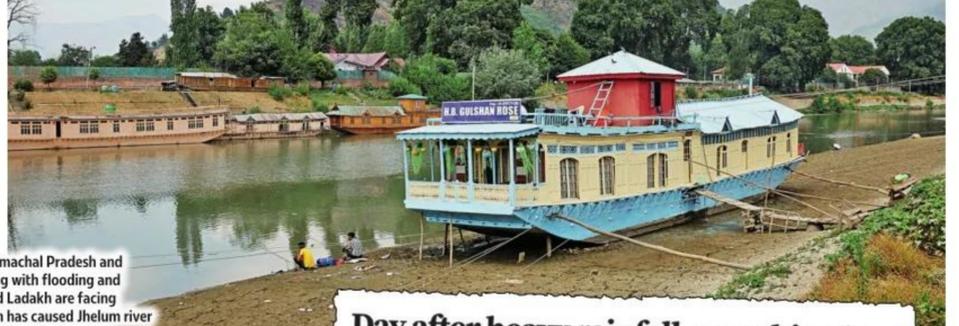
From cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to heatwave in Leh and Kashmir – mayhem caused by extreme weather has adversely impacted these travel hotspots. While immediate travel plans to these areas – particularly the hills – have been cancelled, travel industry insiders say that plans for the Independence Day-Rakshabandhan long weekend are still on.

Immediate travel to hills cancelled

"On Tuesday, we had five cancellations after pictures of damaged and flooded roads surfaced from Himachal. All bookings were for Manali and they were supposed to travel by road. So far there still hasn't been any cancellation request for the August 15 weekend," says Saurabh Tiwari, founder, Sushant Travels. A staff at a Manali hotel informs that "some properties near the affected areas have decided to stay shut till August 15 and some are offering future credit for cancelled bookings. People are advised to check with the property if it is safe to travel." "As of now, the interest in hill stations in the north is reduced due to the weather conditions.



However, trends can change given that the August 15 weekend is still two weeks away and the majority of Indian travellers book within a week of travel," says Rajesh Magow, co-founder & Group CEO, MakeMyTrip. "We are anticipating a significant surge in occupancies in all our resorts across Uttarakhand and Himachal, with pre-bookings up by 20% compared to last year," shares Shahzad Aslam, head of sales, Leisure Hotels Group.



Day after heavy rainfall, scorching heat grips Kashmir again

Leh: Flights cancelled due to heat wave

Despite heatwave, Kashmir still in demand

Flight cancellations in Leh because of the heatwave have led to some cancellation in bookings, however, Kashmir, which was also affected by the heatwave, is still among the most in-demand destinations for the I-Day weekend. "Most good hotels are fully sold out in Kashmir and there is no impact of the heatwave on bookings, especially for the upcoming long weekend. The only change is that now instead of staying in Srinagar, visitors are asking for lesser-known destinations like Gurez Valley and they are preferring to stay in areas like Pahalgam and Gulmarg," says Muzammil Nazir, owner of India Private Travels in Kashmir.



"For the upcoming long weekend, there has been a significant uptick in searches for Kashmir, Ladakh, Varanasi, Goa and Andaman," says Daniel D'Souza, president & country head - holidays, SOTC Travel.

Awards celebrate the achievements of women

Pics: Ajay Kumar Gautam



Pooja Bedi



Archana Dutta and Kiran Bedi



Prof Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House

One of the leading platforms for learning, upskilling, and holistic growth, SecondAct recently announced the launch of the Inaugural SecondAct Awards. This event honoured extraordinary women who reshaped their paths, showcasing resilience, and determination throughout their journeys.

At the event, Kiran Bedi was the Chief Guest, setting the tone for an evening of empowerment and celebration. The platform's management team said, "The awardees included Pooja Bedi, actress turned wellness entrepreneur; Rashi Narang, founder of Heads Up for Tails; Madhura DasGupta Sinha, founder of

Aspire For Her; and Anuradha Das Mathur, founder of Vedica Scholars."

Archana Dutta of SecondAct expressed her excitement, stating, "The inaugural awards were a tribute to the remarkable women who transformed their lives and paved the way for others. Their stories of resilience and reinvention reminded us that it is never too late to pursue one's dreams and make a significant impact."

Kiran Bedi added, "I was honoured to be part of this event that celebrated the strength and courage of women. Their journeys were a testament to determination and the human spirit."

A captivating art experience for Delhiites



(L-R) Dr Preeti Seth, Pavleen Gujral and Nikita Agarwal



Shalini Modi and Sumit Mishra, Art Director

Nikita Agarwal's latest exhibition, *Ripples Of Reflection*, is being hosted in Delhi. The art portrays Banaras through the artist's lens. Launched on 1 August at LTC Gallery Bikaner House, the show was graced by prominent figures including Dr Preeti Seth, Sanjay Bhattacharyya, and Padma Shri awardee Biman Bihari Das, along with honoured guests Sumit Mishra, Pavleen Gujral, and Shalini Modi. The organisers say, "We invite the viewers to

delve into the soulful rhythms and vibrant heritage of Banaras. The exhibition will remain open until 4 August, from 11am to 8pm."



Sanjay Bhattacharyya and Biman Bihari Das

Aerosmith is set to retire from touring



Aerosmith's Steven Tyler performing on stage

Aerosmith has announced their retirement from touring and cancelled their farewell tour, scheduled for this September, due to lead singer Steven Tyler's vocal injury. Last year, the band postponed the tour after Tyler fractured his larynx, the area of the throat containing the vocal cords.

Announcing the retirement on social media, the band posted: "As you know, Steven's voice is an instrument like no other. He has spent months tirelessly working on getting his voice to where it was before his injury. We've seen him struggling despite having the best medical team by his side. Sadly, it is clear, that a full recovery from his vocal injury is not possible (sic)".

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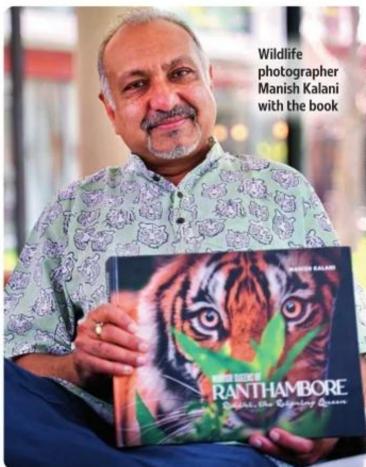
A new coffee-table book showcases the story of five generations of a tigress



A photograph from the book

Ranthambore tigresses have been the centre of interest among visitors, attracting many wildlife enthusiasts annually. "But, it is the legendary Machhli who is most famous among people there. This inspired me to embark on a photographic journey to capture five generations of Machhli's descendants, culminating in a coffee-table book titled *Warrior Queens Of Ranthambore: Riddhi Is The Reigning Queen*," says wildlife photographer Manish Kalani.

Speaking about the book, Kalani said, "It was some ten years ago that I went to Ranthambore, and the only stories I heard were of Machhli, who was hailed as the queen of the forest. Her stories, and how every other tigress was related to her, piqued my interest. That is when I decided to explore Machhli's family tree, and the project was conceived. For eight years, I kept capturing her family, and it is only recently that I thought



Wildlife photographer Manish Kalani with the book

of putting all that into a book as a tribute to her."

The book features over 500 photographs narrating the journey of the family of the legendary tigress Machhli, her daughter Krishna, granddaughter Arrowhead, great-granddaughter Riddhi, and Riddhi's cubs.

Kalani adds, "In eight years, I witnessed the boundless beauty of the wild and its queens. This is my humble effort to take that beauty from India to the world."

Justin pleads not guilty to drunk driving charge

Police arrested Justin Timberlake on June 18 after they said he ran a stop sign

Pop singer Justin Timberlake pleaded not guilty on Friday to driving while intoxicated in a virtual appearance before a judge who ordered that his driver's license be suspended in New York state, US media reported.

The police made a number of very significant errors... We are very confident that the criminal charge will be dismissed

- Justin's lawyer Edward Burke



28 July, 2024

Justin was not drunk during DUI arrest: Attorney

Judge ordered that the *Cry Me a River* singer's right to drive in New York state be suspended, which the star's lawyer Edward

Burke told reporters would last for the duration of the case. Burke again insisted

that Justin was not drunk when he was stopped, and had consumed just one martini before he was pulled over. The next hearing is scheduled for August 9.

On June 18, the singer was pulled over in Sag Harbor, New York, where police spotted him failing to obey a stop sign and veering off lane.

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Brewing wellness, one cup at a time

Specialty coffee blending offers more than just a delightful beverage during monsoons; it is a way to wellness and self-care

Artha.Neog @timesgroup.com

As the rains pour down, coffee lovers in India are in for a treat. The aroma of coffee invigorates the senses and lifts the spirits. Whether you are snuggled up with a book or sharing a hearty laugh with loved ones, a steaming cup of coffee during the monsoon season is the ultimate

comfort drink - a reminder to slow down and indulge in life's simple joys. However, have you thought about trying a specialty coffee blend to enhance the monsoon joy this season?

"Specialty coffee blends harmonise perfectly with the monsoon season, offering a rich and aromatic experience that enhances the natural beauty of a rainy morning. Each cup reflects quality beans and sustainable sourcing, promising not just a delightful taste but also a comforting, wellness-boosting ritual," says Rajat Agarwal, CEO of a popular coffee chain.

In the world of coffee, specialty blends stand out for their unique profiles of flavours, high-quality beans, and artisanal craftsmanship. They are crafted using high-quality arabica beans, carefully selected and roasted to bring out the unique flavour profiles of each bean. The roasting process is an art that requires precision and skill, as it can make or break the flavour of the coffee. The beans are then blended in specific proportions to create a harmonious balance of flavours.

"During the monsoon season, the



humidity and temperature fluctuations bring out the inherent sweetness in the coffee beans, making them even more flavourful and aromatic. The slower maturation process during this time allows for a more even extraction of flavours," says Mishthi Aggarwal, founder of

GOURMET EXPERIENCE Specialty coffee blends are often rich in antioxidants, which help combat free radicals in the body. These antioxidants can boost your immune system. Also, the caffeine in specialty coffee can enhance physical performance by increasing adrenaline levels

a well-known coffee roastery.

According to Aggarwal, expertly crafted specialty coffee blends offer a range of advantages that elevate the coffee experience for connoisseurs. He shares, "A well-blended cup of coffee can sharpen your focus and improve mental clarity. The combination of different coffee beans can provide a balanced caffeine kick that helps you stay alert and productive throughout the rainy day."

Aggarwal adds, "Studies have shown that moderate coffee consumption can be linked to a reduced

of your daily caffeine consumption is essential to ensure a positive outcome."

Specialty coffee blends are often rich in antioxidants, which help combat free radicals in the body. These antioxidants can boost your immune system and protect your cells from damage, promoting overall health and well-being. Also, the caffeine in specialty coffee can enhance physical performance by increasing adrenaline levels. This boost is especially beneficial on mornings when you need extra motivation to stay active and energised.

Besides improving mental alertness, enhancing physical performance, and boosting metabolism, coffee offers numerous health benefits.

"Combined with turmeric's powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, coffee support immune health, promote joint comfort, and aid in digestion. This thoughtful fusion of taste and function makes it the perfect way to enjoy delicious coffee while nourishing your body, making your daily coffee ritual a delightful experience and a proactive step towards well-being," says Rahul Aggarwal, founder and CEO of a leading coffee brand.

By carefully selecting and combining coffee beans and being mindful of your caffeine intake, you can create a personalised blend that enhances your mood, and boosts your health.

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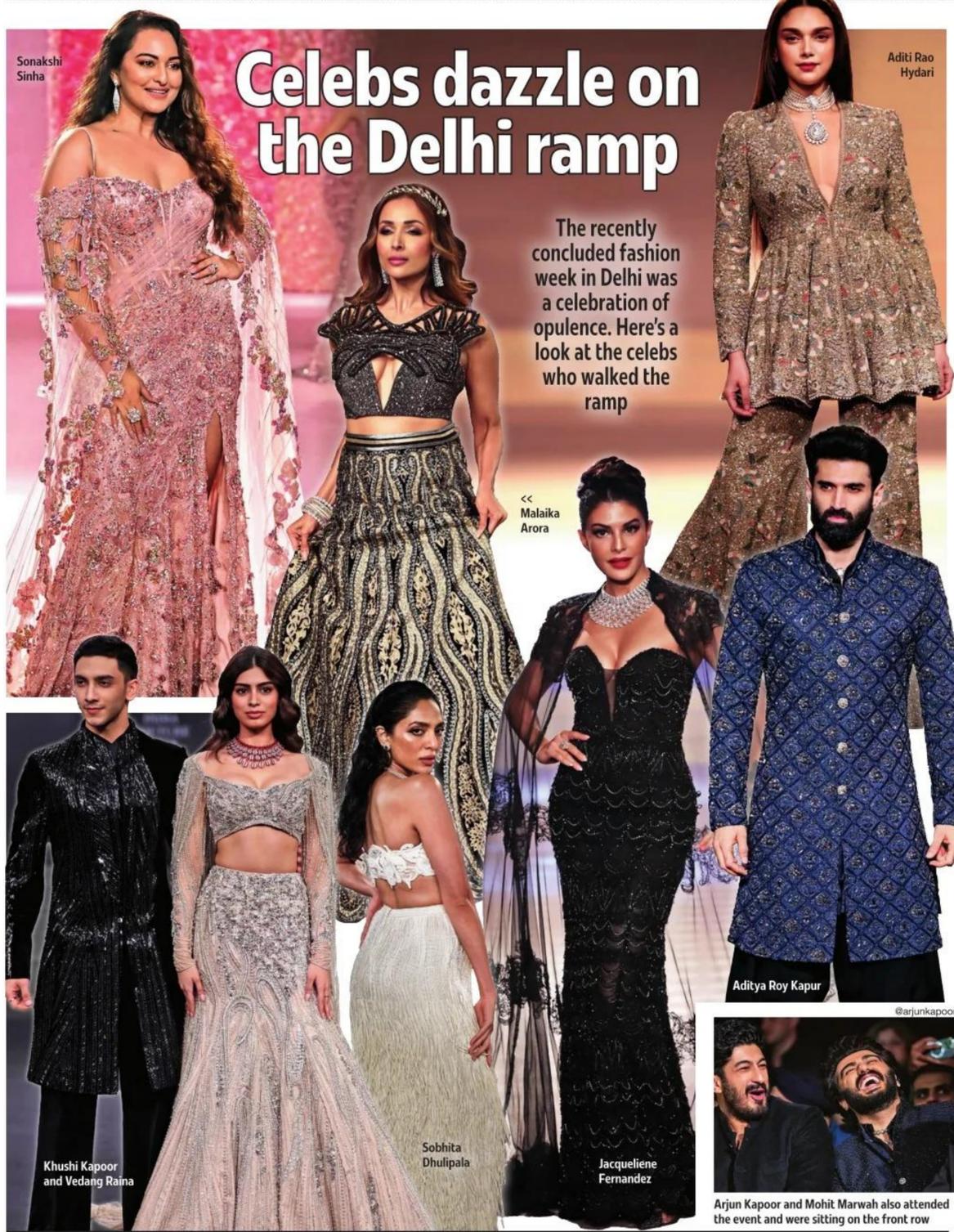
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Celebs dazzle on the Delhi ramp

The recently concluded fashion week in Delhi was a celebration of opulence. Here's a look at the celebs who walked the ramp

Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina

Sobhita Dhulipala

Jacqueliene Fernandez

Aditya Roy Kapur

Arjun Kapoor and Mohit Marwah also attended the event and were sitting on the front row



An Olympic proposal

After Chinese shuttler Huang Ya Qiong secured a gold medal in the mixed team event at the Paris Olympics, fellow badminton player Liu Yu Chen walked out with a wedding ring and proposed to Huang right after the medal ceremony.

Corrigendum

In the article 'Celebrating nostalgia & achievements at Hindu College's alumni awards' published on August 3, senior advocate Sidharth Luthra was incorrectly attributed as Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary. The error is regretted.



Sidharth Luthra, senior advocate



Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary

'Robotic surgery can treat Obstructive Sleep Apnea'

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is increasingly prevalent not only in India but worldwide. Dr Kalpana Nagpal informs, "OSA is the most dangerous ailment as it is the root cause of many disorders. OSA can increase the risk of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. It can cause hypertension, diabetes, deranged lipid levels, memory disturbances, reduced sexual drive, weight gain, and daytime sleepiness, among other symptoms. The quality of life in such patients isn't good, with mood disturbances, depression, and other mental health problems. OSA in drivers can be particularly dangerous as it is one of the major causes of road traffic accidents."

Talking about the treatment of OSA, the doctor says, "Treatment can be surgical and non-surgical. Assisted devices like CPAP have been the recommended treatment by most sleep specialists and physicians worldwide. Weight reduction is always advisable and is an effective part of the treatment regimen. Adequate treatment of OSA can reduce the severity of the comorbidities patients are suffering from."

She adds, "Since the advent of TransOral Robotic Surgery (TORS),



there has been a significant number of OSA patients who can either be cured or improved significantly. Those who fit in the selection criteria can benefit greatly from this. TORS for OSA has shown proven outcomes here as well as in the developed world. After taking a thorough clinical examination and upper airway endoscopy, an experienced doctor can predict whether a patient is a good candidate for



<< Dr Kalpana Nagpal, Senior Consultant and Robotic Surgeon, Department of ENT Head and Neck Surgery, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital

TORS. Various surgical options have been tried over two decades and more, but TORS has superseded all of them."

"As awareness increases, more patients are opting for tongue-based procedures, as the approach to this area (which is the main culprit) has been made easier with the advent of robotics. Robot-assisted tongue base reduction with or without epiglottoplasty is a safe procedure re-

quiring a one-day hospital stay. The surgeon performs the procedure with the help of robotic instruments, which can access difficult areas like the tongue base, supra-glottic region, and hypopharynx," the doctor says.

Address: Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road
Contact: 0116925858; extension 1123

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the experts.

Are Tara Sutaria and Arunoday Singh the new couple in B-Town?



Arunoday Singh

Tara Sutaria seems to have found love again. We have learnt that Tara and Arunoday Singh have been seeing each other for over one and a half years. A source told us, "It all started with a mutual liking for art, and that led to them finding solace in each other. Tara's family is aware of their relationship, and they like Arunoday a lot. Both of them want to keep their relationship private, and that's how they are. The two bond over their love for art and English language." Tara, who was last seen in the film *Apurva* and Arunoday, who featured in the web show *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhlein*, have been spotted having dinner with her parents at a restaurant in Bandra.

Tara was previously dating actor Aadar Jain. The two reportedly broke up sometime in January 2023. Arunoday, who was married to Lee Elton, got divorced in 2019. We reached out to Tara and Arunoday, but they did not comment until the time of going to press.

—Vinay MR Mishra



Tara Sutaria

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Here's your guide to the best Friendship Day gifts

Whether your buddy loves to eat, travel or pamper pets, here's a gifting guide for friends of every kind



Travel enthusiast

Is your friend someone who's always planning their next getaway? These essential travel goodies will help stay connected on the go, minimise luggage weight and make their travels hassle-free and enjoyable.

- Travel pillow (₹400-₹1000)
- Portable charger (₹800-₹1,500)
- Travel adapter (₹250-₹3,000)
- Customised luggage tags and passport holder (₹500-₹1,000)
- Portable luggage scale (₹500-₹1,000)



Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani celebrates the bond between friends



Environment lover

If you have a friend who's constantly schooling people about disposing of garbage carefully, or ditching plastic for eco-conscious alternatives, any of these items will make his eyes light up with joy.

- Canvas backpack (₹1,600 - ₹2,500)
- Best-out-of-waste DIY friendship band (₹500 - ₹900)
- Bamboo notebook and pen (₹500 - ₹900)
- Organic beauty products (₹200 - ₹3,000)
- Eco-friendly cutlery set made from items like hard wood and bamboo fiber (₹300 - ₹2,500)

Pet lover

Does your friend love to splurge on their fur babies? Are they the sort who would rather take their dog out for a walk than go out on a date? If yes, these gifts will help you make their very special. After all, a dog — or any other pet — is a man's best friend.

- Custom pet portrait (₹800 - ₹1,500)
- Printed socks or pajamas with their favourite pet (₹200 - ₹1,000)
- Pet bed (₹700-₹3,000)
- Customised matching clothes or accessories (₹1,000 - ₹5,000)
- Fetch toys (₹400 - ₹800)



Foodie

Like Joey, does your friend hate sharing their food too? Give them a box of premium chocolates or better, send them on a guided culinary tour in their city to satisfy their cravings. If your friend is a coffee fiend, an espresso machine will surely make his day special!

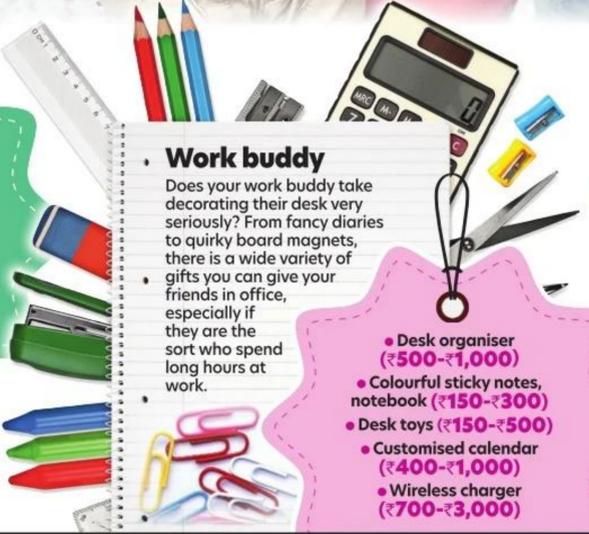
- Foodie experience vouchers or food tour (₹1,000-₹3,000)
- Cookbook (₹600-₹1,500)
- Curated chocolate basket (₹1,000-₹2,500)
- Premium cutlery set (₹2,500-₹7,000)
- Coffee maker (₹1,000-₹3,000)



Work buddy

Does your work buddy take decorating their desk very seriously? From fancy diaries to quirky board magnets, there is a wide variety of gifts you can give your friends in office, especially if they are the sort who spend long hours at work.

- Desk organiser (₹500-₹1,000)
- Colourful sticky notes, notebook (₹150-₹300)
- Desk toys (₹150-₹500)
- Customised calendar (₹400-₹1,000)
- Wireless charger (₹700-₹3,000)



MEME SHARING TO BONDING OVER TWEETS:

Friendships thriving on digital platforms



Thanks to the internet, pen pals have gone digital. People are bonding over memes and reels, making friendships that go way beyond the old-school letters

Shourya Jha

With communication just a click away, the pen pal culture has made way for online friendships. Whether it's a shared bond over memes, reels, or real time stories, digital friendships seem to be quite a hit for helping people explore friendships beyond the conventional.



Tweeting their way through friendship

"I would post about poetry, and excerpts from books. Caroline somehow found my page and followed me," says Jai Pratap, a Gurgaon-based content writer. His friendship with UK-based Caroline Phelepe happened on X (formerly Twitter) and extended to their personal lives. "It's been three years since we have been friends. We've never met but exchanging postcards has kept the friendship alive," adds Jai.

Online book clubs to the rescue

For 20-year literature student, Sanchi Rana, an online book reading community allowed her to connect with like-minded people. "When I moved to Delhi in 2022, I had no friends. Due to my interest in reading, I stumbled across an online book club. We discuss our favourite books, and even do virtual book swaps."



Online travel forums

"I found my now best friend on a travel forum in 2019. We started chatting about our favourite destinations. Five years later, we've travelled together to one country abroad and four places in India. We keep in touch through daily texts and weekly video calls, much like pen-pals of yesteryear," says Swara Bhosale, 30, a Pune-based lawyer.



Memes, reels: The new way to communicate

"My friends and I have a group chat where we only send memes. It's our way of staying connected," says Rohit, a Delhi-based college student. Social media platforms like Instagram and Snapchat provide real-time updates through stories and reels, allowing friends to feel present in each other's daily experiences. "Seeing my friend's Instagram stories is like getting a glimpse of their daily life, whether it's a new recipe they tried or a weekend getaway," says Arunima Kaul, a Mumbai-based graphic design intern.



Build workplace friendships for better productivity & well being



Masumi Shah

Having a few close connections at work can significantly enhance job satisfaction, productivity, and overall well-being, as suggested by numerous studies. It's no surprise that employees who share a camaraderie tend to collaborate more effectively. But are workplace friendships worth nourishing? Experts tell us. **'WORKPLACE FRIENDSHIPS CRUCIAL AND CHALLENGING'** Having friends at work can make employees feel more connected with their jobs. Mital Parekh, a startup founder, shares, "Employees who share healthy

friendships at work are more likely to stay with the company. They feel a sense of loyalty. Also, it makes the brainstorming sessions more fun and creative."

Megha Panchal, an HR professional adds, "Work takes up a major part of our day. So fostering friendships at the workplace is crucial. Sometimes, the current state of work can make connections harder to maintain. When we were working remotely during COVID, we missed our colleagues. But there was also a sense of individuality instilled in us, which made working in close quarters again challenging."

63% Gen Zers say they have a best friend at work

Source: Glassdoor

56% of new hires felt productive after making a work buddy

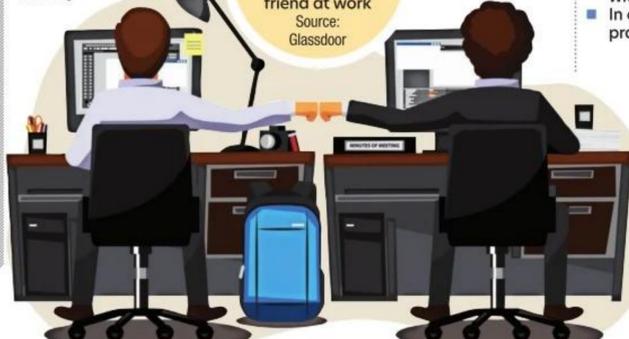
Source: Microsoft

72% employees, who have a friend at work, feel satisfied

Source: O C Tanner

Be open, supportive and interactive with colleagues

- Be approachable and open. Gestures like greeting warmly and taking genuine interest in conversations can help.
- Participate in team lunches, after-work gatherings, and other informal events.
- Work closely on projects and be open to collaboration.
- Be willing to lend a hand when a colleague is in need. Acts of kindness and support go a long way.
- Respect professional boundaries. Ensure that personal interactions do not interfere with work responsibilities.
- In case of disagreements, address conflicts promptly.



Establish reasonable boundaries. Manage how and when you hold non-work related discussions – lunch break, grabbing a coffee together, etc, can be a good start
– Megha Panchal, HR professional and coach

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