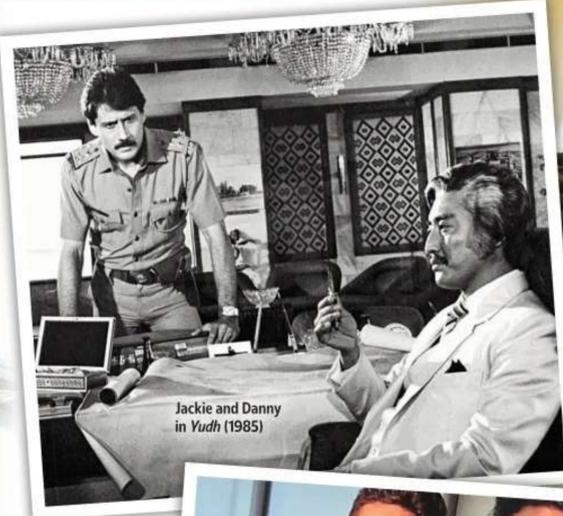




JACKIE SHROFF

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



Jackie and Danny in *Yuddh* (1985)



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



DANNY DENZONGPA

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

Keep tabs on your favourite stars with [@bombaytimes](#)

CONTINUED FROM **K 1**



Danny Denzongpa: 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 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 lectures on gardening (*laughs*).

Jackie: He taught me 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 had 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-paan* (plants), waterfalls and other facets of nature. I'm waiting for him to finish his work and come meet me soon.

What has kept your friendship strong even after all these years?

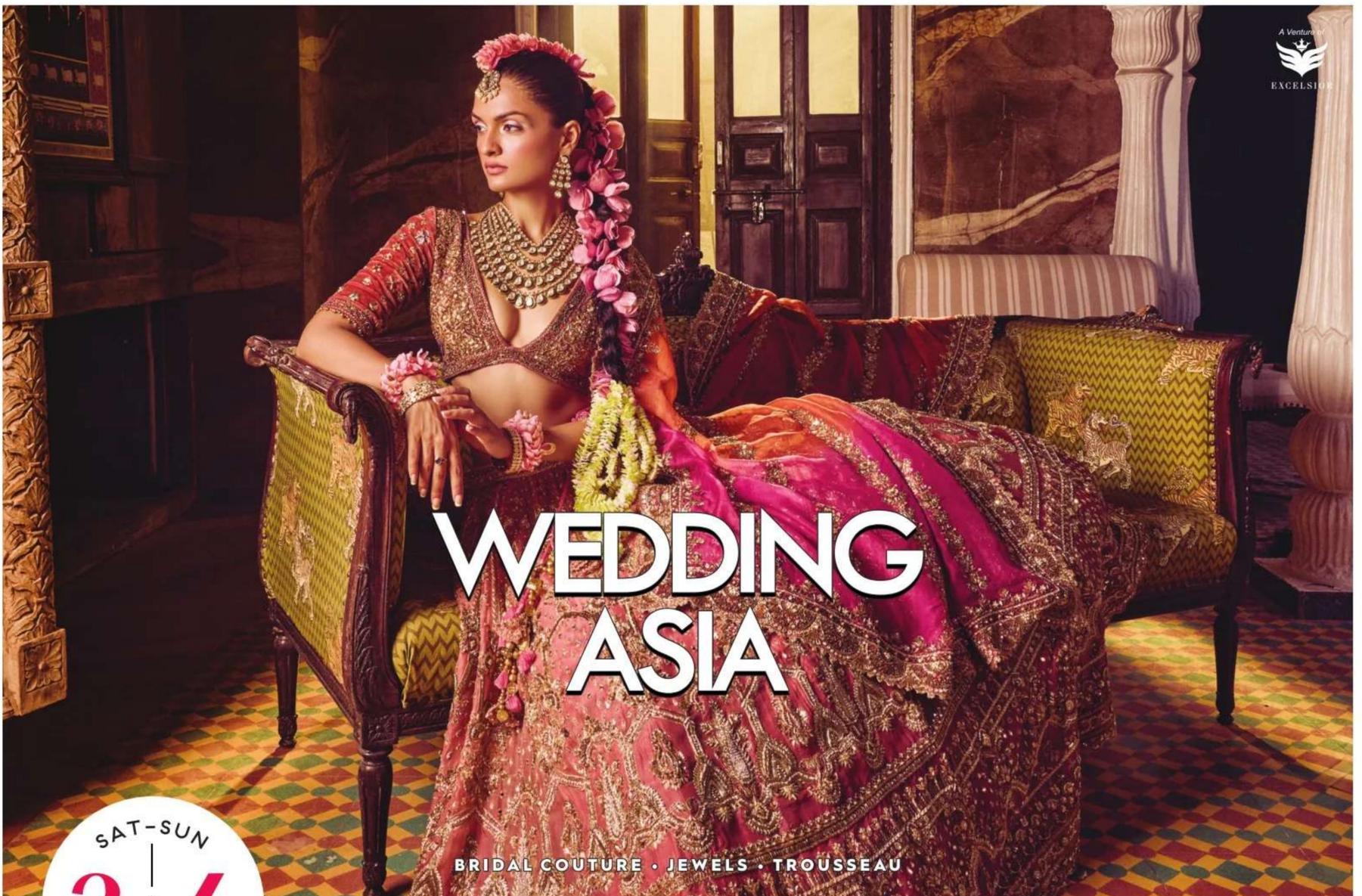
Danny: The best thing about our relationship is that we have no expectations from each other - it's pure. We sit together for hours without talking; it is the kind of relationship I had with my mother. I used to lie down in her lap as she said her prayers and our communication would go on though we weren't 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.

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

LAST DAY TODAY



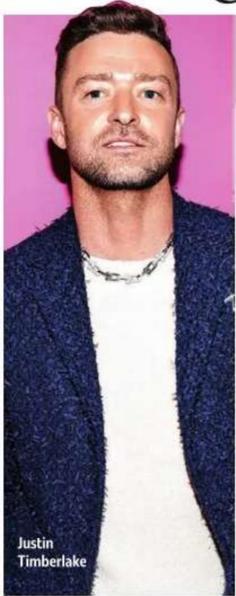
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Justin Timberlake has his driving licence suspended



Justin Timberlake

Timberlake's appearance via video link comes over a month after his June 18 arrest, when he was pulled over by police for allegedly running a stop sign and veering out of his lane. He was driving around 12:30 am when a police officer stopped him and determined he was intoxicated, according to a court document.

Justin Timberlake has had his driving licence suspended after a hearing in New York. The 43-year-old pop star was arrested in Sag Harbor, New York, in June for driving while intoxicated, and Timberlake has now had his licence suspended, after he attended the latest hearing via a video link from Antwerp, Belgium.

Timberlake, who is currently on tour in Europe, pleaded not guilty to a revised misdemeanor charge of driving drunk, according to reports. Sag Harbor Village Justice Carl Itrace also sent a warning to Edward Burke Jr, Timberlake's lawyer, accusing him of making "irresponsible" comments about the case. The judge explained that the comments "come off as an attempt to poison the case before it even begins".

During a previous hearing, Timberlake's attorney denied the allegation and asked for the case to be dismissed outright, alleging that errors were made by the arresting officer. Before his arrest, Timberlake enjoyed a meal with friends in The Hamptons.

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'I don't like to call my life before 12th Fail a struggle; it's an overused term'

@medhashankr

Times have changed; the audience now prioritises quality content, storytelling and acting above anything else



MEDHA SHANKR

CONTINUED FROM 1

Medha adds, "Times have changed; the audience now prioritises quality content, storytelling and acting above anything else. Of course, stars play a massive role in drawing footfalls to the theatres, but ultimately, the story is the real hero."

'IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR MY FATHER TO COME TO TERMS WITH MY CAREER CHOICE'

Recounting the challenges she encountered while pursuing her dreams in Mumbai, Medha says, "I come from an academically inclined family in Noida and was always a studious child. After completing my Masters in Fashion Management, I ventured into modelling. It was during this time that I decided to pursue acting. When I told my father about it, his initial reaction was, 'Have you lost your mind?' He believed that 'acting mein toh woh jaate hain jo padhai mein kamzor hote hain'. It doesn't help when you are not from Mumbai as you often hear exaggerated stories about the industry. However, I moved here and started working hard to establish myself. While my mother and brother supported me from the get-go, it took some time for my father to accept my career choice. Today, he is my biggest support."

'BIG FILMMAKERS I ONLY DREAMT OF WORKING WITH ARE SHOWING FAITH IN ME'

Talking about life before and after the

success of *12th Fail*, Medha says, "People usually associate this achievement with the film's success, but for me, just landing this part was massive because I knew many big actors were considered and newcomers were auditioned for. After bagging *12th Fail*, I realised someone had finally recognised my potential. Life has taken a 180-degree turn. Big filmmakers I only dreamt of working with are showing faith in me, and no one is asking me to audition."



Access to these wonderful opportunities was unthinkable. I have been in Mumbai for almost six years now, I bagged *12th Fail* in the fifth year of my journey here. It wasn't easy, but I don't like to call it a struggle. It's an overused term."

'WHEN I WAS HYPED AS NATIONAL CRUSH, VIKRANT TOLD ME TO FOCUS ON THE RIGHT THINGS'

Like Medha, her *12th Fail* co-star Vikrant Massey, belongs to a non-film background, which was a common ground for them off-screen. She shares, "Vikrant is an incredibly wise person. When I got all this attention as the national crush, he told me, 'Medha, just remember that everything is transient and focus on the right things.' Both Vidhu sir and Vikrant keep telling me, 'Stay the same, don't change; this world has the ability to change people.' I enjoy success but don't take it seriously."



ARIES

Although you'll be extremely busy with new acquaintances and friendly colleagues, you'll crave the companionship of older ones. Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success. You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. Think of a goal you have. Every step you take along the way, you have the choice to keep going – or not. It takes many steps to get there, but you always have the power to take one more step.



TAURUS

A sense of comfort and reassurance comes from two benefic planets, Mercury and Venus moving through your domestic sector, promising peace, and contentment on that front. This could open the door to a travel opportunity or the chance to widen your intellectual interests, it may also mean a spiritual trip with your close relatives or near and dear ones, in fact, you must also make such plans now as that shall offer you divine help. You are fully alert to spot opportunities as they arise and you will easily persuade loved ones to take full advantage.



GEMINI

Your counselling skills will come in handy in getting you out of difficult situations. Venus continues to make you popular and charming to your superiors who shall be impressed with your work and may also entrust you with more work of a different nature. Those connected with publishing, media and writing shall find it a very productive phase now and must not shy away from experiments to get good results. Continue working hard, they say, luck is an accident that happens to the competent.



CANCER

What people have the capacity to choose, they have the ability to change, so take advantage of the Jupiter-Mars combination to taste success. A project seems to be going on for a long, arduous time. Still, it's important to finish with a bang, not a whimper. Include others when broadening your range of objectives, because you'll have a better chance at success with more people involved. There is an excellent possibility that two new people from distant places might enter your life. Both will have a strong, constructive influence on your important affairs.



LEO

Expenses may not be under your control now, visits to the doctors and medical bills might leave a hole in your pocket. The first step toward success is taken when you refuse to be a captive of the environment in which you first find yourself. You should fare much

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better in an arrangement you initiated, but now leave it up to others. Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.



VIRGO

Well, you have been going through a very bumpy ride ever since Mercury entered your sensitive twelfth house and this exposes you to sudden hurts and you need to be careful of slipped discs or injuries to your feet and legs. Money matters are under somewhat adverse influences, so avoid speculation and also do not lend money to anyone asking for monetary help now, as there are great chances of the money not returning again. Always remember, when work is a pleasure, life is a joy and when work is a duty, life is slavery.



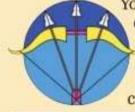
LIBRA

Monetary and financial matters are under very good influence. Those into speculation may have good opportunities coming their way and sudden gains are very much likely now. You continue to take your obligations seriously. In a legal or financial matter, you need to play your cards close to your chest. You could be forming new ideas about the way money should be handled in the future and looking for ways to enhance your investment potential. There is a strong sense of empathy between you and someone you have recently met. An ongoing relationship could become more intimate as the need to make joint decisions brings you closer together. You have other people's best interests at heart, as well as your own.



SCORPIO

The focus shall be on your career opportunities, favours flow in and new job opportunities open up for new people. Friends shall also be instrumental in good advice on career matters, and in some cases also actively advancing your career. The role of women will be important and helpful in career matters. Don't be distracted by criticism. Remember, the only taste of success some people get is to take a bite out of you. The secret of success is to do the common thing uncommonly well.



SAGITTARIUS

You need to work very hard and be quite alert as the planets don't support your ambitions. Your communication skills may create problems and this can create problems for you professionally as well as at home. Subordinates who have been creating problems or have been nursing ill should be counselled properly lest they try to vent their frustrations in public. It really is time to release hurts and resentment that may have become frozen within you. They are energy blocks that prevent you from getting on with your life. Whatever it takes to move through them and beyond will be worth the effort. Focus on the present and take advantage of all that's happening now.



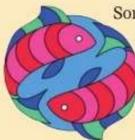
CAPRICORN

Your optimism could lead you to take a gamble, it is never a good idea to risk money that has been set aside for specific purposes, especially when Saturn is still retrograde. However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible. If you don't risk anything, you risk even more.



AQUARIUS

Do not quarrel with authority figures and avoid showing your displeasure too even in day-to-day life as you shall be prone to making secret enemies now. Career matters too look somewhat strange now as you are unable to fully comprehend the situation now, but an underlying aggression in your attitude now due to Mars must be controlled as your professional life shall surely improve a few weeks from now. Success is not the absence of failure, it's persistence through failure.



PISCES

Someone close such as a relative or neighbour could give you plenty to talk about and to think about in the future. What is being discussed at this time could alter your family life for the better for some time to come. When the Sun occupies the part of your chart ruling romance and affairs, anything is possible. It looks like someone new has just entered into your life and you're not ready to tell everyone yet. What's it about this stranger who seems to know your every thought? Get revved up about embracing a healthy lifestyle. Time to ditch the whole "no pain, no gain" attitude and find exercise that doesn't feel like drudgery.

LEISURE

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

LOOP THE LOOP

RULES

- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



Not allowed (Fig B)

HOW TO BEGIN:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines

	3	3			2			
2	2	0	2	2	1			
2	3				2			
3			2			3		
3		3				2		
3	2		2		1			
2	2	3	2	2	2	3		

can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead end (Fig B).

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SMACK!
SMACK!
ABOUT ODIE'S SQUIRREL CHASE GAME.

SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:
15-average | 17-good |
19-outstanding



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

STAAE ○ ○ ○ ○
CNAST ○ ○ ○ ○
EOUXDT ○ ○ ○ ○
INPSHX ○ ○ ○ ○

HOW TO PLAY

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except — and — Benjamin Franklin (5,5)

TIMES KAKURO

			13	11		27	15		
16	21	28		10		8	13		
5			23	15				32	
23						3			
	19				19				
16				27					11
	17							7	
29						7		9	
15									

HOW TO PLAY

The numbers in the coloured squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the coloured square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 2 boxes below 12 must contain 2 digits that add up to 12, whereas for 20, the 3 boxes placed horizontally next to it must add up to 20. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance in the example, we cannot have the combination of 8+4+8 for 20.

20			

Example

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU
[Sudoku grid solution]

LOOP THE LOOP
[Loop puzzle solution]

TIMES KAKURO
[Kakuro grid solution]

SPELLATHON
olive, vine, violent, veil, veto, vile, vine, eviol, evil, five, fifteen, love, novel

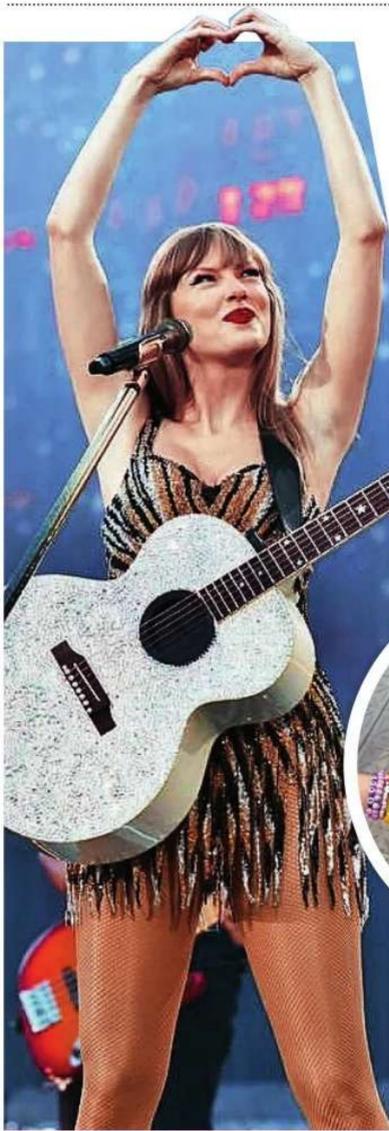
SCRAMBLE
taxes - Benjamin Franklin
Answer: But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes - Benjamin Franklin (5,5)

Swifties revive friendship bracelets with a cool twist



What goes into making a Swiftie friendship bracelet?

Fans typically pic 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.



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 a nostalgic tradition of friendship bracelets. With colourful beads and threads, Swifties are making themed bracelets, even scrunchies, to trade and hand out to other fans during the Eras Tour. The trend that has become an integral part of the tour experience and may just double up as your friendship band today.



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 Tay Tay'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.

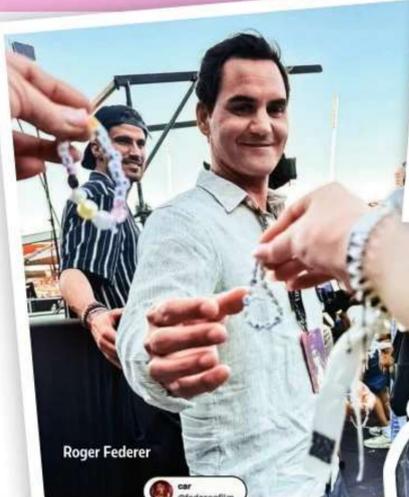
Taylor Swift; (inset) fans show off their bracelets



Lupita Nyong'o and Sarah Paulson with their sisters at a Taylor Swift concert

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.



Roger Federer

JUST GAVE NICOLE KIDMAN A FRIENDSHIP BRACELET

From Roger Federer to Nicole Kidman, celebs hop on the trend

- Jennifer Lawrence was spotted at the VIP section of an Eras Tour concert in Philadelphia
- Fans tweeted photos of Nicole Kidman putting on a friendship bracelet shared by a fan. The actress also shared a photo with her husband Keith Urban showing their bracelets
- 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

Roger Federer shared a photo of his bracelets



Mindy Kaling

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.

Adele to take an extended break to focus on her family



Adele is set to perform 10 shows in Munich, Germany throughout August, but she intends to put her music career on hold at the end of the year. A source told an international paper, "She has had a busy few years since releasing her album *30* in 2021. She's had incredible opportunities and it's been a dream come true." However, Adele, who has Angelo, 11, with her ex-husband Simon Konecki, plans to step away from the spotlight next year. The insider added, "She has a few more dates in Las Vegas later this year, which were rearranged due to illness a few months back, but after that, she will be walking away from music for an extended break. It's time to focus on her family and enjoying life away from the spotlight."

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Inside the Olympic Village

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.

An exhibition of rare rudrakshas

Wearing a rudraksha during the holy month of Shravan is said to have several benefits. Established in 2001 with an aim to spread knowledge about the various benefits of rudrakshas, Rudralife offers a range of unique products. A spokesperson of the organisation says, "Rudraksha are natural beads and available from 1 to 21 mukhis. Each bead has a controlling planet and a presiding deity, and bestows certain traits to the wearer. We offer personalised recommendations of suitable rudraksha that one can wear to people from all walks of life."

The spokesperson adds, "After years of research, Rudralife has devised various power combinations like Saraswati Bandh, which is said to be beneficial for students. Swasthya Bandh is good for overall health. Kaal Sarp Dosh Nivarak is said to tone down the malefic effects of Rahu and Ketu. A 12 mukhi rudraksha representing the Sun is beneficial for senior executives and businessmen to achieve fame and administrative growth. A 14

mukhi rudraksha helps improve intuitive power and decision making. 14 mukhi is also found to be beneficial for people involved in speculative businesses like stock market, trading and real estate. Siddha Mala is a combination of beads from 1 mukhi to 14 mukhi with Ganesh and Gaurishankar Rudraksha. It is designed for successful people to fulfil their ambitions. A 19 mukhi representing Janardhan Vishnu is sought after by people in the legal profession and business corporations."



Highlights of the exhibition

- Free entry
- View the entire range of 1-21 mukhis
- Get free personal guidance from panel experts on which rudraksha to wear
- Free mala making by expert artisans and abhishek of rudraksha by a Vedic priest

Rudralife is organising an exhibition and sale of rudraksha from August 2 to 6.
Where:
● Rudralife, 901, Sri Krishna, New Link Road, Opposite Laxmi Industrial Estate, Andheri (W).
Call: 022 66926633 / 66926634

● The Beetle Hotel, JMJ House, Orchard Ave, Hiranandani Gardens, Panchkurtir Ganesh Nagar, Powai.
Call: +91 9322947642.
● Fantasy Ballroom, Sunville Banquets, 9, Dr Annie Besant Road, Siddharth Nagar, Worli.
Call: +91 9320077017.

Timings: 10 am to 8 pm (open on Sunday)

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



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

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 whose 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.

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.

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a larger apartment in the future, the rent from the starter home can take care of the equated monthly instalments (EMIs). Those purchasing the flat purely for passive income and not for end use can expect attractive rental returns, especially if they've chosen an area with high rental demand. Smaller homes tend to offer good rental yields due to their lower purchase and maintenance costs.

SAVE ON UPKEEP COSTS
Bigger properties usually come with

ditioners and water heaters in an apartment, you can manage with less in a smaller home. Additionally, if you've got a packed schedule, a compact home can be a blessing in disguise because it's more convenient to keep it organised without being burdened by extensive upkeep.

LESS CLUTTER, MORE CUSTOMISATION
While minimal furnishings will make it easier to tidy up, sheer curtains in pastel shades will give your home a spacious appeal. Take your cue

Mirrors also helped invoke the effect of extra light and space as I painted a wall and then decorated it with tiny mirrors, thus uplifting the overall appearance," she describes. So, rather than overshooting your budget with a big property purchase, invest in a smaller apartment and customise it as per your preferences.

If planned wisely, it becomes affordable to furnish a compact home with multi-functional pieces. Instead of a bulky sofa set, pick a sofa cum bed that fits against the longest

Small homes, big benefits

Whether for end use or investment purposes, a small flat can reward you with a range of perks. Let's understand how to make the most of this purchase

benefits to female applicants," shares Atul Goel, a developer.

LONG-TERM RETURNS
There are many ways to take advantage of your investment in a compact home. If you plan to buy

higher utility expenses. From monthly bills to regular repairs, there are umpteen costs associated with home-ownership. Although one usually needs two or more air con-

ditioners and water heaters in an apartment, you can manage with less in a smaller home. Additionally, if you've got a packed schedule, a compact home can be a blessing in disguise because it's more convenient to keep it organised without being burdened by extensive upkeep.

from graphic designer Ilisha Mathur who elevated her humble abode with just a few enhancements. "I arranged small pieces of artwork on the walls without making them look closed in.



cushions when you have guests. These can be kept away when you want more vacant space," says interior designer Deepa Ravi. Ottomans or pouffes with

storage also provide space to stash small belongings. Besides, get nested tables, tray tables, or coffee tables on wheels. These can double as dinner tables for a small family and be moved away when not in use.

While these factors favour small homes, don't compromise on essential aspects such as storage space, ventilation, and the layout's appeal. Regardless of the size, the apartment should ultimately cater to your needs.

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-₹1,000)
- 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)



Foodie

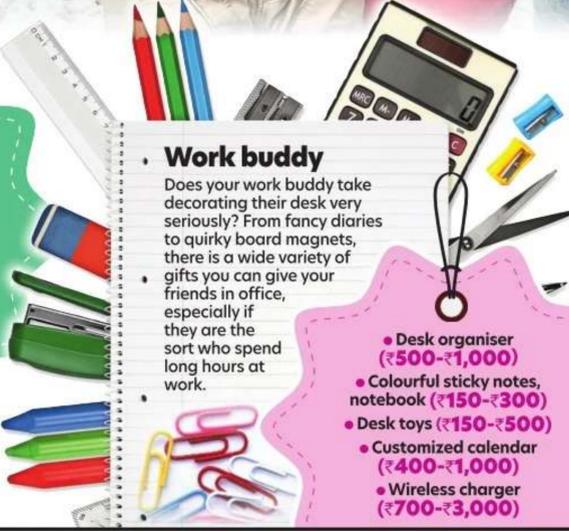
Like Joey, does your friend hate sharing their food too? Give them a box of premium chocolates or better, send them on a guided culinary tour in their city to satisfy their cravings. If your friend is a coffee fiend, an espresso machine will surely make his day special!



- 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)

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani celebrates the bond between friends



- 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)

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.

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)



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. "Its 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.



Boost productivity & well-being, build healthy friendships at work



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. Mitul 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."

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

63% Gen Zers say they have a best friend at work.
Source: Glassdoor



'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



In the first few days of the games, track and field athlete Sha'Carri Richardson flaunted her signature extra-long acrylic nails, all glammed up in red, white, and blue with an American flag



Indian paddler Manika Batra's nail art featured the Indian flag and Olympic rings during the Games. She has been sporting the Indian flag for earlier events as well. In an earlier interview with us, she said, "The tricolour is in my heart and I put it on my nails also. I love to flaunt it"

Nailed it! Olympians' creative, colourful manicures



Tennis star Coco Gauff posted a "nail check" video on social media as soon as she arrived at the Village



While showing off his 'Made It' hat at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Noah Lyles also displayed his nail art, which read 'ICON'

NAILING IT: Jordan Chiles spoke about her love for long nails and told AP, "People always ask me how do I do gymnastics with such long nails? To tell you the truth, they actually help me with my technique... People always have to have that one little touch of who they are within their sport. Mine's my nails"

Aerosmith to retire from touring due to Steven Tyler's vocal injury



Aerosmith performing on stage; (below) statement posted on social media

Rock band 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)".

IT WAS 1970 WHEN A SPARK OF INSPIRATION BECAME AEROSMITH. THANKS TO YOU, OUR BLUE ARMY, THAT SPARK CAUGHT FLAME AND HAS BEEN BURNING FOR OVER FIVE DECADES. SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING AND ALL OF YOU ARE THE REASON WE MADE ROCK 'N' ROLL HISTORY.

IT HAS BEEN THE HONOR OF OUR LIVES TO HAVE OUR MUSIC BECOME PART OF YOURS. IN EVERY CLUB, ON EVERY MASSIVE TOUR AND AT MOMENTS GRAND AND PRIVATE YOU HAVE GIVEN US A PLACE IN THE SOUNDTRACK OF YOUR LIVES.

WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BLOW YOUR MIND WHEN PERFORMING. AS YOU KNOW, STEVEN'S VOICE IS AN INSTRUMENT LIKE NO OTHER. HE HAS SPENT MONTHS TWOLESSLY 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. WE HAVE MADE A HEART-BREAKING AND DIFFICULT, BUT NECESSARY, DECISION - AS A BAND OF BROTHERS - TO RETIRE FROM THE TOURING STAGE.

WE ARE GRATEFUL BEYOND WORDS FOR EVERYONE WHO WAS PUMPED TO GET ON THE ROAD WITH US ONE LAST TIME. GRATEFUL TO OUR EXPERT CREW, OUR INCREDIBLE TEAM AND THE THOUSANDS OF TALKED-TO PEOPLE WHO'VE MADE OUR HISTORIC RUNS POSSIBLE. A FINAL THANK YOU TO YOU - THE BEST FANS ON PLANET EARTH. PLAY OUR MUSIC LOUD, NOW AND ALWAYS. DREAM ON. YOU'VE MADE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE.

The band also stated that the decision to retire was difficult and heartbreaking, but necessary. "We are grateful beyond words for everyone who was pumped to get on the road with us one last time. Grateful to our expert crew, our incredible team and

the thousands of talented people who've made our historic runs possible. A final thank you to you - the best fans on planet Earth. Play our music loud, now and always. Dream On. You've made our dreams come true (sic)," the post continued.

We actors should be considerate about rising production costs: Divya

As the discussion around exorbitant entourage expenses of Bollywood actors that add to production cost of films continues in the industry, Divya Dutta feels that actors should definitely be considerate and think from the producer's point of view, too. The *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* actress says, "If you know that something is leading to an escalation in the production cost then you should self-reflect and be thoughtful. I am not saying cut down on all your demands, but try to reach a middle ground."

Citing her own example, Divya, last seen in *Sharmajee Ki Beti*, shares, "I had done a film free of cost, for which I was paid later, and that too a hefty amount because it did well. So, you have to believe in the film, you have to believe that a lot of money is being spent to make it, and many people are dependent on the movie. After all, it's not just about you because filmmaking is a collaborative process."

Divya feels that she understands this because she comes from a different school of thought. She says,

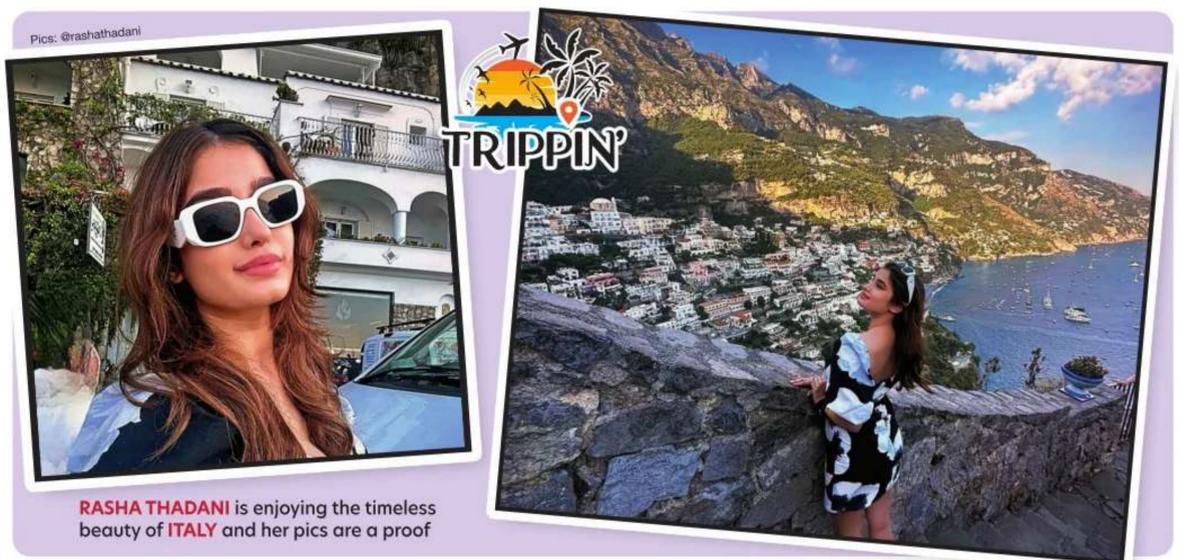
If you know that something is leading to an escalation in the production cost then you should self-reflect and be thoughtful

"I've done all kinds of movies. I come from Shyam Benegal school of filmmaking where even though we had vanity vans, we would sit outside and chat with each other. The other day, I heard Shabanaaji (Shabana Azmi) say that she and Smitaji (Smita Patil) had cars to go to a set, but they refused to use them, saying, 'Hum baaki actors ke saath jayenge'. For *Stanley Ka Dabba*, I didn't ask for a vanity van because I wanted to spend time with the kids who were a part of the cast and share *dabbas* with them during breaks."



Divya Dutta

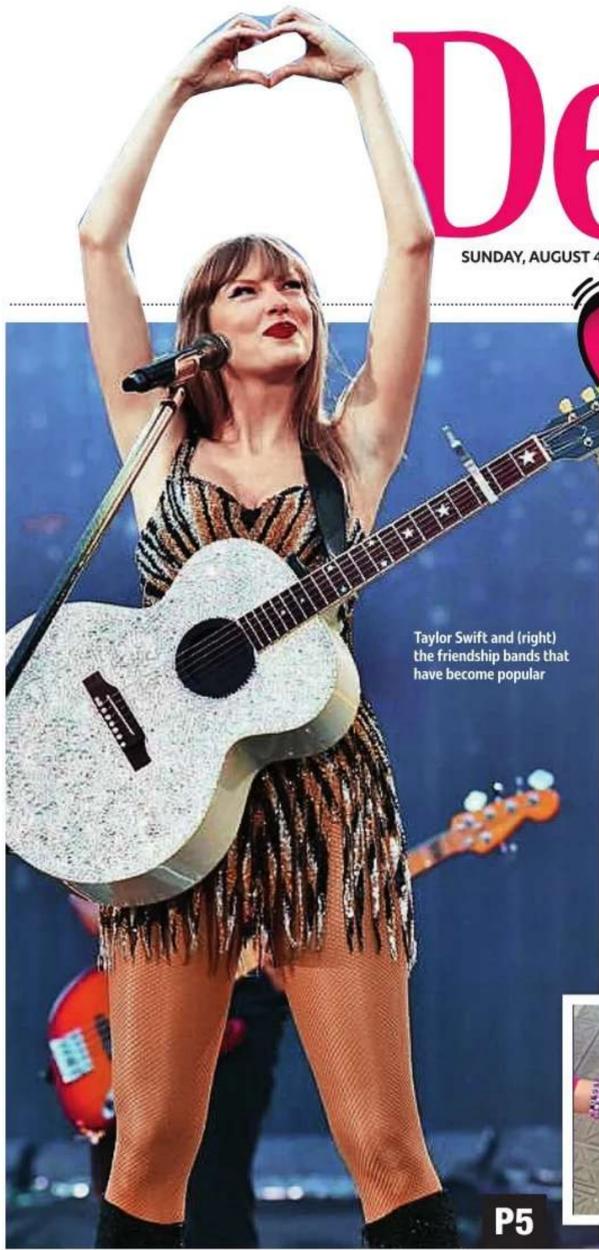
Keep tabs on you favourite stars with [bombaytimes](#)



RASHA THADANI is enjoying the timeless beauty of ITALY and her pics are a proof

Delhi

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024



Taylor Swift and (right) the friendship bands that have become popular



SWIFTIES REVIVE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS WITH A COOL TWIST



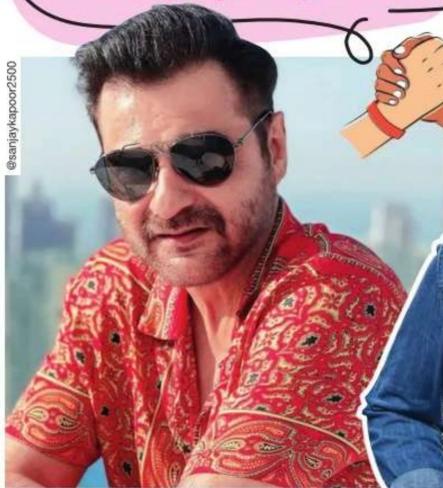
P5

SURPRISED TO SEE DelhiTimes 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



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.

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.



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

TURN THE FLAP

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 Rohi Badai 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 gojar ka halwa in the city. However, Mumbai has its vada 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.



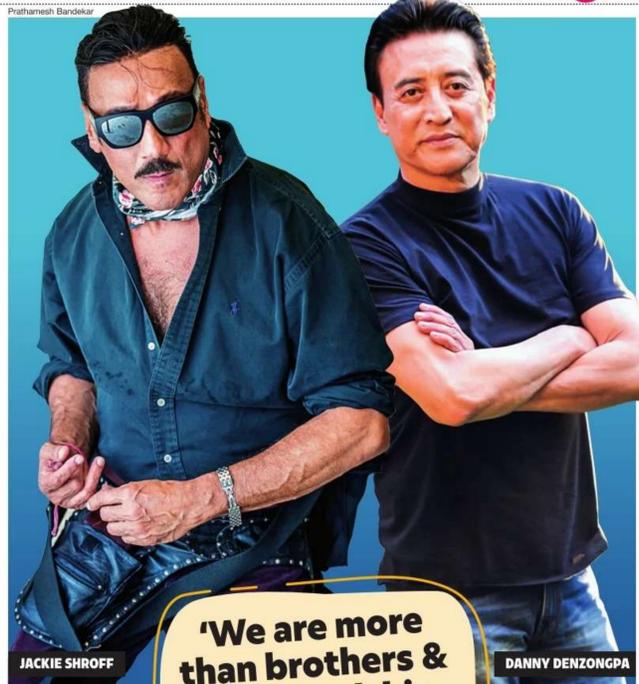
Weather can get cold, but people are warm: Hitten Tejwani

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.



JACKIE SHROFF DANNY DENZONGPA

'We are more than brothers & our friendship will never change'

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 Sikim now and travels to Mumbai only occasionally, but neither distance nor work commitments can keep these *dosts* apart. This Friendship Day, the two actors share their buddy stories with us. Excerpts:

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

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.

ON FRIENDSHIP DAY, THE TWO ACTORS TALK ABOUT THEIR BOND, SEE P2

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

Honey and Bunny set to take over the spy world



(L-R) Nikhil Madhok, Krishna DK, Samantha, Varun Dhawan, Raj Nidimoru 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 teeming 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 response 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 super-fans 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.

Stars are important, but ultimately the story is the real hero: Medha Shankr

Prathamesh Bhandekar



Life has taken a 180-degree turn. Big filmmakers I only dreamt of working with are showing faith in me, and no one is asking me to audition. Access to these wonderful opportunities was unthinkable



Neha Maheshwari

Medha Shankr, who debuted with Gurinder Chadha's British series *Beecham House* (2019), came into the spotlight with Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *12th Fail*. Her path to recognition spanned six years, a journey she now divides into "before *12th Fail*" and "after *12th Fail*". She looks forward to pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons with every film. In an interview with Bombay Times, she discusses how her life has transformed since the success of *12th Fail*. Excerpts:

"THE AUDIENCE PRIORITISES QUALITY CONTENT NOW" Medha believes it's the power of *12th Fail*'s content that saw the film win box office success and critical acclaim. She says, "The success and love received by the film makes it feel like a true cinematic experience. *12th Fail* may not be star-driven, but it's driven by acting, direction and content, and look at what it has achieved."

CONTINUED ON P.4

Have Siddhant Chaturvedi and Navya Naveli Nanda parted ways?

Divya Jagtap



AEROSMITH TO RETIRE FROM TOURING



P8



Vinay MR Mishra

We hear actor Siddhant Chaturvedi and Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter, entrepreneur Navya Naveli Nanda, who were rumoured to be in a relationship, have called it quits. A source says, "The two broke up almost a month and a half ago. They are extremely mature individuals, and their split was also very amicable. They were not able to see a future for their relationship. It had run its course."



Buzzstop

ACTOR MOHANLAL REACHES WAYNALAD 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."