

The Telegraph **t2**

on **Sunday**

4 August 2024

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SARTORIAL SPECTACLE

**MOMENTS FROM THE HYUNDAI INDIA COUTURE WEEK
2024 IN DELHI ■ p11-16**

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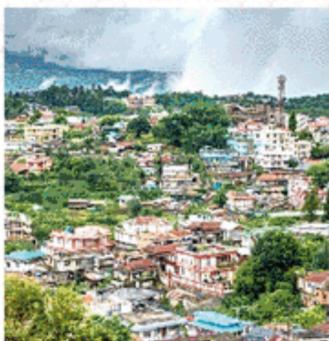
TURN TO... ➔

4 BOOKS



Author Rehman Abbas tells t2oS about the limitations of Urdu and why art must avoid puritanism

24 SAY IT ON SUNDAY



You tell us about the places to travel to during the monsoon season in India

Cover picture: Sandip Das

Watchit 9 Puzzles 18 Comics 20

Zodiac THIS WEEK



Nita Chhotalal

ARIES

Personal: Take a grounded approach to life. Do not let the ego in you create problems among loved ones.

Professional: Your financial endeavors suggests that you are likely to achieve remarkable achievements that will stand as testament to your patience and hard work

Love: You and your partner need to build a relationship on trust, mutual respect, and a solid commitment to each other's well-being.

TAURUS

Personal: Look for opportunities to lift yourself out of the current situation. There may be chances that you have overlooked.

Professional: Financial struggles at work are encouraging you to reach out to friends, family, or even professional resources who can offer guidance and assistance during this difficult period

Love: You and your partner

need to confront your relationship issues head-on and find ways to rebuild trust and reconnect.

GEMINI

Personal: you have the ability to change your life for the better and the power to make your dreams come true. You need to work towards your goals

Professional: Embrace your innate talents, trust your abilities and take decisive action to manifest success in your professional life.

Love: Use your communication skills and charming charisma to enchant your loved one

CANCER

Personal: Have faith in yourself and embark upon adventures with an open heart and mind, ready to embrace the unknown with optimism and trust in the journey ahead.

Professional: On the professional front, you need to think outside the box and embrace opportunities that may seem unconventional or

uncertain. Avoid impulsive decisions.

Love: In a relationship, both the partners need to realise that it is time to embrace spontaneity and let go of any past baggage or preconceived notions.

LEO

Personal: It is time for you to retreat and spend some time in silence. Pay attention to your gut feeling and don't depend on others.

Professional: You need to seek hidden opportunities, trust in your own abilities, and be patient in your financial endeavors.

Love: If single, you need to stay patient and focus on self-discovery as a meaningful connection could manifest when the time is right.

VIRGO

Personal: If you are unable to make a decision due to the many options that are available, you should evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each option so as to make the best choice.

Professional: In order to turn opportunities into reality, you will need to be proactive. Weigh each option and consider it critically. Listen to your instincts and open your eyes to any red flags.

Love: In relationship, take your time and consider things

carefully. Only diligent communication and evaluation will give you what you desire.

LIBRA

Personal: Reach out for the support of others. Cherish and nurture your relationships. Enjoy the experience of connecting with others.

Professional: Your office environment will be very positive in the coming days. Group work and collaboration will be easier than it has been in the past.

Love: If you're single, you may have luck finding love in your social life. A close friendship may also turn into romance.

SCORPIO

Personal: Don't dwell so much on what is troubling you. Focus on what is approaching instead because you determine your fate.

Professional: If you're dealing with some kind of conflict at work amongst clients and colleagues, make sure that you have honest and open conversations with them while keeping things respectful.

Love: You and your partner need to understand that without clear and respectful discussion and a willingness

to work together, the relationship may reach its end.

SAGITTARIUS

Personal: You need to embrace your our emotions and creative pursuits that can lead you to personal growth and fulfillment.

Professional: It may be better for your long-term future to focus on things that are achievable and attain goals one at a time instead of hoping for the lottery or another risky investment to bring you what you desire.

Love: Both the partners need to approach love with an open heart, embracing the beauty and magic that can be found in every interaction.

CAPRICORN

Personal: You need to be fair in all your deeds. By following the right procedure to learn the truth, you will understand what your tasks are. Remember, what goes around, comes around.

Professional: Keep things honest, just and fair when it comes to your financial dealings. Ensure that you balance your needs with others.

Love: Make sure that you have been treating your partner fairly. Watch out for

resentment and defensiveness and ensure that conflicts in your relationships are handled with respect and trust.

AQUARIUS

Personal: You need to trust your instincts and take risks to pursue what you desire. Stay true to yourself and stand firmly in your power.

Professional: When it comes to finances, you need to make shrewd investments and utilise your creative instincts to identify lucrative opportunities.

Love: If you're single, a charismatic and influential person is about to enter your life.

PISCES

Personal: You need to appreciate the comforts of home, the support of your family, and the sense of belonging that comes with a strong community. You need to be grateful for the abundance in your life.

Professional: Your efforts will soon pay off and you will enjoy the fruits of your labour. Financially, you will be very stable.

Love: You need to celebrate the abundant love and happiness that comes from sharing your life with a compatible and devoted partner.

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■ BOOKS ■

MIRRORING SOCIETY

Rahman Abbas talks to *t2oS* about his novel *On The Other Side*, the failings of the Urdu language, and why he will not bow down to puritans

Urdu novelist Rahman Abbas's *Khuda Ke Saaye Mein Aankh Micholi* (2011), translated into English by Riyaz Latif with the title *On The Other Side* (published by Penguin India), mirrors society — patriarchal, prejudiced, exploitative, biased and extremely intolerant — and follows

the story of Abdus Salam Kalshekar, who shares a lot of similarities with the Sahitya Akademi-winning author. Mumbai-based Abbas, who also writes in English, channels his feisty pen, just like in his previous novels *Rohzin*, *A Forbidden Love Story*, and others, and presents the

Rahman Abbas



The Telegraph



3RD INTER-CLUB QUIZ CONTEST

THE TOLLY QUIZZICAL 2024



Sunday, 4 August
Prelims: 3.45 pm
Finals: 6:00 pm
AC Auditorium



QUIZMASTER - BHASKAR DATTA

Mr Datta is well known in the city's quizzing circuit both as an ace quizmaster and an avid quizzer. He has hosted several quizzes across different genres.

complexities of a liberal mind in an orthodox society. A tete-a-tete with Abbas, who has been at the altar of justice on obscenity charges.

The character of Abdus Salam is intriguing. He is a teacher, and philosopher, in parts he is eccentric, in parts he is wise, at some point he is full of conflicts and on the other, he finds simple things deeply meaningful. Tell us about working on his character and how it grew with the book.

To be honest, I have seen contradictions in people since my childhood. We live the lives of many people in a single body. Similarly, at different stages of our lives, we become different people, sometimes we contradict who we once were. Hence, when I started writing this novel, Abdus Salam was already in my head. I just kept writing. He evolved, lived, and died without my interference in his life.

You also seem to share some similarities with Salam. To start with, he is a teacher, has a modern outlook and his writings too do not conform to any set rule. Is there any way in which Salam is different from you in real life?

Ah, yes, these similarities are undeniable. But he was not me; I'm not his reflection.

IN JAIL, I LEARNED THAT WRITING IS A WEAPON AND MUST BE USED CAREFULLY. IN FICTION, NOTHING IS OBSCENE IF THE AESTHETICS ARE MAINTAINED.... DESPITE OUR GREAT TRADITIONS OF THE KAMA SUTRA AND THE MAHABHARATA, WE ARE NOT FREE ENOUGH TO EXPERIMENT WITH SEXUALITY. ALL PURITANS HAVE JOINED HANDS AGAINST THE ARTS AND FREEDOM OF THOUGHT. HOWEVER, FICTION STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO PURITANISM, TOTALITARIANISM, AND DOGMA

➔ CONTD ON P6

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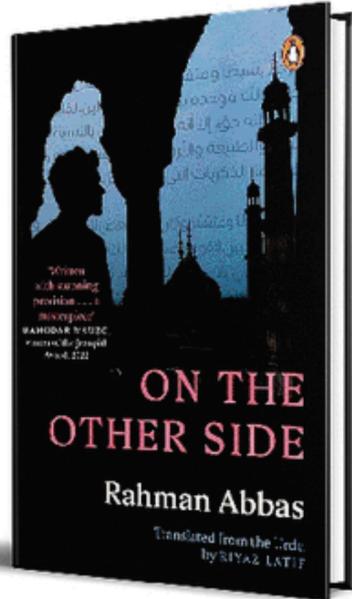
SINCE 1970

➔ FROM P4

However, there is something of him in me. His eccentric traits might be present in me. The difference between this character and me in real life is — he didn't hide his true self; I do, a little, sometimes.

On *The Other Side* follows an interesting concept of a book inside a book with Salam writing his *Dastaan E Ishq* and then another author picking it up and writing on him. What was the genesis of this idea?

Every novel should be a different world. The narrative should be unique and in accordance with the subject's requirements. The complexity of a novel is, in fact, its beauty, but the complexity shouldn't be ambiguous beyond one's comprehension. To experiment with the form, find an appropriate narrative and provide depth. I had to find a way. This was the main reason why I used the technique of a story within a story.



FOR ME, THE NOVEL IS A GENRE THAT INVESTIGATES THE DEEPER TRUTHS OF OUR LIVES, EMOTIONS, EXISTENCE, NATION, SOCIETY, CITIES, AND DREAMS, WHERE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE A NATURAL URGE FOR INDULGENCE, LOVE, HAPPINESS, AND SEX. YES, THERE IS A GREAT TRADITION OF POWERFUL POETRY IN URDU. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF OUR POETS HAVE UNFORTUNATELY BEEN UNABLE TO PORTRAY THE COMPLEXITIES OF RELATIONSHIPS

puritanism, belief systems, and the constant indulgence in religious preaching.

As far as my literary guiding light is concerned, reading poetry, fiction, and philosophy has been my passion. Meer Taqi Meer, (Mirza) Ghalib, (Faiz Ahmed) Faiz, Meeraji, Rajindra Manchanda Bani, and Shakeb Jalali are part of our great tradition of poetry. In fiction, we have (Saadat Hasan) Manto, Rajendra Singh Bedi, Ismat (Chughtai), Krishna Chandra, Nayyer Masud, Syed Muhammad Ashraf, and many other amazing writers. I have learned a lot from them. However, Franz Kafka, James Joyce, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Milan Kundera, Orhan Pamuk, and Umberto Eco have also been my favourites. Yes, we read and learn from good writers, and so do I.

Your work has been called obscene for which you also had to go to jail. In fact, in the book, we find the author ruminating 'Before embarking upon writing should a writer ask religious leaders how much literary freedom one has?' Did that make you fiercer, or have you put your guard on?

In jail, I learned that writing is a weapon and must be used carefully. In fiction, nothing is obscene if the aesthetics are maintained. This novel also raises the question of how free a writer truly is. Our society, in general, is puritanical, and the neo-political milieu has turned our once-great liberal society into a barbaric village akin to parts of Pakistan or Afghanistan, where freedom of expression is compromised. Despite our great traditions of the *Kama Sutra* and the *Mahabharata*, we are not free enough to experiment with sexuality. All puritans have joined hands against the arts and freedom of thought. However, fiction stands in opposition to puritanism, totalitarianism, and dogma. Moreover, when I was writing this novel, the case against my first novel, *Khalistan Ki Talash*, was still there and, hence, I had to be careful.

In one of your writings, *Manto ki Azziyat ka Ehsas*, you share how you felt like Manto. Do you derive your fierceness from him, or has he been an inspiration in any way?

That article on Manto is an outcome of my recalling his trauma in jail as he faced obscenity charges many times. I think he never wrote anything obscene; he was simply born into an obscene and orthodox society. If there is fierceness in my novels, it results from the time I live in and my life in Mumbai. Additionally, my reading of great authors, including Gustave Flaubert, James Joyce, (Jean-Paul) Sartre, Albert Camus, Milan Kundera, (Fyodor) Dostoevsky, and D.H. Lawrence, has certainly influenced my approach to subjects, craft, and language.

The book starts with Salam's story exposing a society that is lost in religion, it then gradually touches upon topics of caste, queerness, patriarchy and more in very small segments.

I cannot imagine a novel without people, places, society, traditions, and country.

Salam thrashes Urdu in the novel and says the language is 'utterly deprived of the colourful exuberance, freshness and heady moods of love and sex'. He goes on, 'The imaginative conception of women in Urdu poetry was worthless and unrealistic; it was nothing but a man's obscene outpouring'. Also, his opinion on Allama Iqbal might raise eyebrows. What are your thoughts on both? I share Salam's views; he has been nakedly honest in his observations. There is no space for me to disagree with him. In front of my eyes, there is the history of Urdu fiction. In the last 100 years, Urdu fiction has not produced a single novel dealing seriously and aesthetically with the subject of love and sex — its pleasure, pain, beauty, challenges, and power. We witnessed that both the progressives and modernists in Urdu fiction failed us on this specific subject. This might be because, for them, literature was either a tool for the propaganda of communism or a struggle to uphold a nonsensical notion of absurdity as the definition of good literature. For me, the novel is a genre that investigates the deeper truths of our lives, emotions, existence, nation, society, cities, and dreams, where men and women have a natural urge for indulgence, love, happiness, and sex. Yes, there is a great tradition of powerful poetry in Urdu. However, the majority of our poets have unfortunately been unable to portray the complexities of relationships. As far as Allama Iqbal is concerned, he is one of the greatest poets but some of his ideas can be challenged, criticised, or laughed at.

The book starts with a lot of wise words and we find Faiz Ahmed Faiz's couplets in the pages. Who has been your literary guiding light? The 'wise words' used at the beginning of the book are, in fact, paradoxical or an effort to deflect Urdu readers, as the first audience of the book was Urdu readers. We know that they seldom tolerate criticism of their society and its truly bleak face. The 'wise words' have worked, as the book has received a huge reception in Urdu despite its harsh critique of society,

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EVERY NOVEL SHOULD BE A DIFFERENT WORLD. THE NARRATIVE SHOULD BE UNIQUE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBJECT'S REQUIREMENTS. THE COMPLEXITY OF A NOVEL IS, IN FACT, ITS BEAUTY, BUT THE COMPLEXITY SHOULDN'T BE AMBIGUOUS BEYOND ONE'S COMPREHENSION. TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE FORM, FIND AN APPROPRIATE NARRATIVE AND PROVIDE DEPTH. I HAD TO FIND A WAY. THIS WAS THE MAIN REASON WHY I USED THE TECHNIQUE OF A STORY WITHIN A STORY

➔ FROM P6

A novel can explore how external factors affect existence. Caste, queerness, patriarchy, and everything else in this narrative are parts of our collective lives. However, this is a small book, so there is no detail. My other novels, *Zindeeq*, *Ek Tarha Ka Pagalpan*, and *Rohzin*, cover these topics in more detail. *Zindeeq* spans almost 800 pages and deals with these and other subjects, including our history, mythology, folklore, politics, the queer movement, our past, and potential threats to all minorities in the subcontinent, including religious and sexual minorities, over the next 100 years.

There's a particular couplet that Salam has written 23 times in his book. Does that couplet hold any significance in your life? Yes, it's from a ghazal by Shakeb Jalali. In fact, it is an existential question. And this question has been haunting me for years.

Riyaz Latif has an excellent command over the English language. How successful was he in translating the story from Urdu? Yes, Riyaz Latif has command over the language and is also a wonderful Urdu poet. I might say he is an eccentric poet, sharing similarities with me and Abdus Salam. This was the only reason he agreed to translate the novel. He has been in touch with me throughout the translation process and has done an amazing job.

Lastly, what's next from your pen? I have already completed a novel titled *Nixdaan*, a Konkani word that deals with the cultural and historical aspects of food. The novel explores themes of conversion, forest life, Konkani culture, Dalit sensibilities, love, and Mumbai from 1970s to 1990s.

—Farah Khatoon

The Telegraph

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WATCHIT!

MOVIES ON TV



Four high school children who were serving detention in school are locked in their adult avatars after being drawn into a mysterious video game and must return to the real world before it is too late. **Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle; &flix, 6.40pm**

MORNING

Murder She Baked, A Plum Pudding Mystery: &Prive HD, 8.30am
I Spy: &flix, 8.45am
The Founder: Sony Pix, 8.55am
Flower Shop Mystery, Snipped in the Bud: &Prive HD, 10am
Nayak, The Real Hero: Colors Bangla Cinema, 10am
John Wick: Sony Pix, 11am
The House Bunny: &Prive HD, 11.25am
Deewana: Zee Bangla Cinema, noon

AFTERNOON

Life: Sony Pix, 12.35pm
The House Bunny: &flix, 12.40pm
The D Train: &Prive HD, 12.55pm
Jio Pagla: Jalsha Movies, 1pm
Premer Kahini: Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm

Holmes & Watson: &Prive HD, 2.35pm
Marjina Abdulla: Zee Bangla Cinema, 3pm
Dadabhai: Aakash Aath, 3.05pm
Khoka 420: Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm
Kelor Kirti: Jalsha Movies, 4.15pm
The D Train: &flix, 4.40pm



Mad Max, Fury Road: Sony Pix, 5pm
Matir Manush: Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.30pm

EVENING

Jumanji, Welcome to the Jungle: &flix, 6.40pm
Bidhilipi: Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm
Rampage: Sony Pix, 7.05pm
Step Brothers: &Prive HD, 7.20pm
Bogla Mama Jug Jug Jio: Jalsha Movies, 7.30pm
Rakto Nodir Dhara: Zee Bangla Cinema, 8pm
John Wick, Chapter 3: Sony Pix, 9pm
Once Upon A Time in Hollywood: &Prive HD, 9pm
Pixels: &flix, 9pm
Total Dadagiri: Colors Bangla Cinema, 10pm
Abar Bibaho Obhijaan: Jalsha Movies, 10.30pm
Pacific Rim: Sony Pix, 10.55pm
Holmes & Watson: &flix, 11.05pm

SPORTS

Sri Lanka vs India 2nd ODI - live from Colombo: Sony TEN 5, 5 HD, 1 & 1 HD, 2.30pm
Durand Cup, Kerala Blasters FC vs Punjab FC - live: Sony TEN 2, 4pm
Durand Cup, Jamshedpur FC vs Chennaiyin FC - live: Sony TEN 2, 7pm
Tamil Nadu Premier League Final - live: STAR Sports 1 & 1 HD, 7.10pm
The Hundred, Men's - Northern Superchargers vs Manchester Originals - live: Sony TEN 2, 10.30pm

Set in 1969 Los Angeles, Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), a fading Hollywood star, is filled with self-pity at his own vulnerability and realises that his friendship with his stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) is the only constant in an uncertain world. **Once Upon A Time in Hollywood; &Prive HD, 9pm**

TT Connect Initiative

Ask Doctor Harsh ...again



Dr. Harsh V. Agrawal
MBBS, MD (Chicago USA)

so while sitting or sleeping. I am 50 years old and suffer from Diabetes and high blood pressure. Can you tell me why it happens and if there is any cure for it.

Hello Mr Prasad,

Muscle cramps are most frequently seen in the lower legs and tends to be more noticeable during rest (sitting or lying down). The main reasons for such muscle cramps and spasms are: Electrolyte abnormalities (Sodium, Potassium, Calcium etc), dehydration, vitamin deficiency (Vitamin B1, B6), Iron deficiency and sometimes due to poor blood circulation in the legs (in which case the pain increases on walking). The quickest and easiest way to give instant relief is to stretch the involved muscle or gently massage the affected area. There are different such exercises which one can learn from the Doctor. Applying warm

Hello Doctor, I suffer from very frequent muscle cramps. Tends to happen mainly in my lower legs and more

so while sitting or sleeping. I am 50 years old and suffer from Diabetes and high blood pressure. Can you tell me why it happens and if there is any cure for it.

-Prasad

Hello Mr Prasad,

Muscle cramps are most frequently seen in the lower legs and tends to be more noticeable during rest (sitting or lying down). The main reasons for such muscle cramps and spasms are: Electrolyte abnormalities (Sodium, Potassium, Calcium etc), dehydration, vitamin deficiency (Vitamin B1, B6), Iron deficiency and sometimes due to poor blood circulation in the legs (in which case the pain increases on walking). The quickest and easiest way to give instant relief is to stretch the involved muscle or gently massage the affected area. There are different such exercises which one can learn from the Doctor. Applying warm

compresses also helps. Treating the underlying disorder (if found) takes care of the cramps in the long run.

Respected Doctor,

I am a regular follower of your article. In fact I have changed my paper to Telegraph to follow your columns. My father has been a Diabetic and Hypertensive since the last 20-25 years. Since the last 1 month or so he has started getting swelling in both his legs. He take Guconorm G2 Forte, starpress XL and telma. What can be the cause. What tests should I do.

-Girdhar

Hello Mr Girdhar,

Thanks for the compliments. Swelling in the legs can be due to multiple reasons. Since it involves both the legs common causes would be problems related to the liver (low albumin), kidneys, Heart (problems relating to the pumping of the heart), leaky vein etc. You will have to get investigations and tests done related to these (LFT, Urea/Cr, 2D Echo of the heart). I have of course told you the common causes. There are others which have to be determined after proper examination of the legs

This article is to spread public awareness about common diseases

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COUTURE CALL

COVER
STORY

Saionee Chakraborty sat through the shows at the just-concluded Hyundai India Couture Week 2024 in Delhi and here's bringing you the highlights

TARUN TAHILIANI

The last week of July wrapped up with Hyundai India Couture Week 2024, in association with Reliance Brands, an initiative by FDCI. Held in Delhi, the annual fashion fiesta saw 14 designers showcase their creativity, the moodboards packing in quite a variety. From

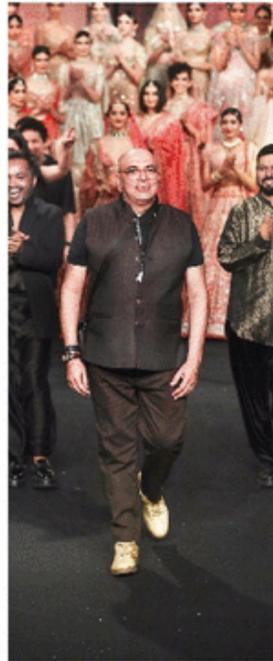
traditional and modern-chic to futuristic and fun. This marked the 17th edition of the fashion spectacle. Here's what some of our favourite designers showcased.

Tarun Tahiliani was his relaxed self when t2oS dropped by at The Leela Palace in Delhi for a special preview of his show at Hyundai India Couture Week 2024, that was to take place at The Ashok, Chanakyapuri, later in the evening. We asked him about naming his collection 'Otherworldly'. "Shouldn't we aspire to be 'otherworldly'?" he guffawed. The signature TT humour. Much like his clothes, which were a celebration of the quintessentially Indian, made oh-so-cool. Again, signature TT. A lovely tapestry, the beauty of it shining through translucent drapes. A chandelier silhouetted against it. Musicians in the romance of TT whites, on either side of the stage. The set for 'Otherworldly'. Tarun, with more than two decades of an enviable body of work in his repertoire, showed a lovely collection laden with utter beauty and sophistication.

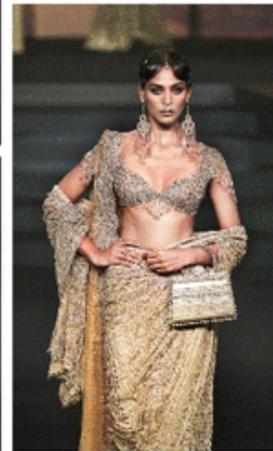
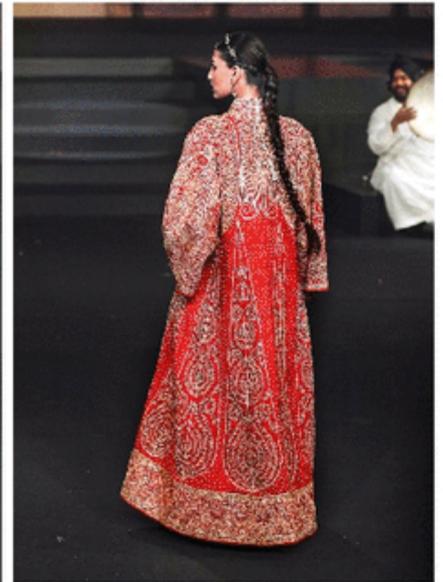
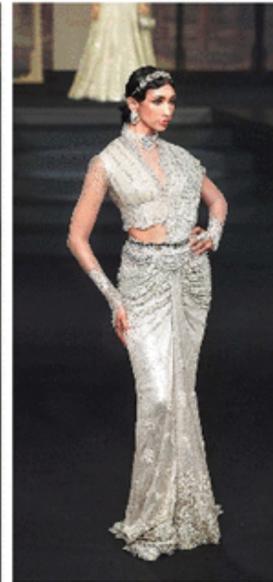
At the preview, we got a closer look at the fine craftsmanship that's the hallmark of the label. There was *chikankari* highlighted with pearls and beads and sequins and *kasheeda*, *mukaish*, *aari* and *zardosi*, floral embroidery, lace which was embroidered and highlighted with pearls and sequins, *cutdana*, French knot. The Art Nouveau collection with Swarovski stones incorporated "new shapes for the fit bride". There were smart capelets. The Pichwai panels had been embroidered "to give it more elegance and depth". There were pieces with "3D techniques". Some of the garments had clocked "4,000 manhours". "Indian craftsmen are amazing. We just get the credit because we are at the end of the line.... I think couture is meant to be a dream," Tarun told t2oS. The palette was a soft one. A glimpse so serene, pure and filled with the joy of a new beginning.

When Tarun unveiled the whole line later at night, there was applause and appreciation galore. Each garment was a statement piece, minutely detailed. The fit, wow. There were *lehngas*, saris, gowns, corsets, sherwanis, *bandhgalas* and kurtas, all chic and sophisticated.

The women looked like princesses with beautiful hair accessories and bejewelled blouses. Tarun showed a line of subtle hues, oh-so-hot and popshades too. There were reds too, but only a few. Former OG model Bhawna Sharma who ventured into the world of costume design and styling for a web series with *Made in*



Tarun Tahiliani took a bow with his team



Heaven, season 2, styled TT's bridal couture '24 extravaganza too. There was an unmissable Bhawna Sharma spunk in the mood.

There was an element of retro in how the models wore their hair, which only added to the timelessness of TT's aesthetics. The mother-of-pearl accents, the lattice pattern and motifs from carpets were some of the other elements of 'Otherworldly'. "We wanted it to be a feeling. Of course, everyone works with craft but we make more and more uncomfortable and torturous clothes that are not keeping up. So, there is a schizophrenia in the West and Indian clothes. We have to take the construction and technology of the West and do our

Indian embroidery but modernise it. I want people to dance. Even if you are the mother of the bride. It takes India, it takes the drape, it takes international fit and it's our vision," said Tarun. The 'lightness of being'. Another TT trademark.

The show's charm was elevated by a group of 10 musicians who drummed up the daf (a Middle Eastern drum) to goosebumpy effect. Music has always been an important character in a Tarun show. This time it was co-curated by Sina Fakhroddin, originally from Iran.

A strain of *Jab pyaar kiya toh darna kya* filled the large ballroom of The Ashok as the curtains came down on the show. The models lined up and TT took a bow with his team. #feelgood

FROM P11



luxury label that was launched in 2022. Like a true artist, Valaya's attention to detail makes all the difference. Be it the printed piping on the kurta or the threadwork on a button placket. We love the animal motifs reminiscent of miniature paintings.

"The entire gamut is always about eight months, that's how much time we take for research and collection development to prints, embroidery, textile fabric and then towards the last three or four months we start working on the other elements, right down to the size of the brick and what kind of brick and the colours, getting into micro detailing," Valaya breaks down the process, post-show.

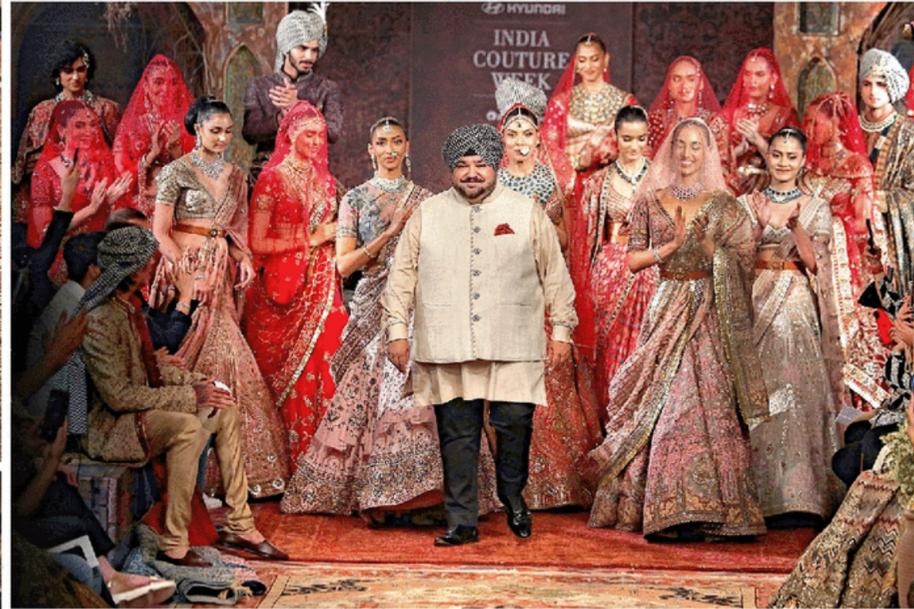
In all these decades, he has played around with several themes. Having fun has always been at the core. "My rule is very

simple. It's evolution. Every year I must feel good about what I have done that year and truly be able to sense that I have evolved from the season before," he smiles.

There is poetry in the choreography that is in sync with the mood of the music that brings to life the bustle of the bazaar or the drizzle of the rains. "Sahil Vasudeva, the composer, is brilliant. This is my third year with him and he ends up putting a fantastic lot of musicians together who get the feel of the collection," says Valaya.

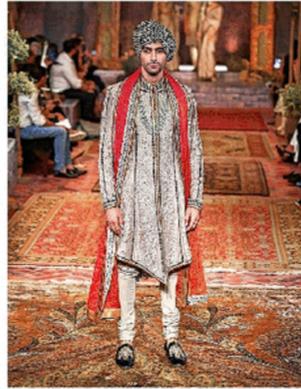
We also spot a couple of new silhouettes in the world of Valaya. "We have subtly slipped in a new introduction that we are going to do over the next few seasons, which we call JJ Valaya India chic, which is couture but where couture starts," explains Valaya.

JJ Valaya



JJ VALAYA

There is a strange calmness about master couturier JJ Valaya that is the most enviable part of being JJ Valaya. A state of homeostasis that stems from years of experience—more than three decades now—and his constant exploration of meditation as a tool to stay centred as well as focused on evolving and adapting. "You will crush the clothes if you sit," he tells a model, backstage, as he approves the final looks before they are sent on the ramp. Not an iota of annoyance, but assertion yes, in his voice. The business of the backstage is a contrast to Valaya's composed mood. "I prepare for a show by being absolutely stress-free," he tells t2oS, as he heads to check out the elaborate jewellery and its final styling for 'Muraqqa' (a word that Google describes as 'the Persian name for an album of paintings and calligraphy, derived from the Arabic word for 'patchwork'), his showcase. "We are not minimalists. Whether it's sets, music, clothes, make-up, styling, everything has layers and layers of activity happening. Grandeur is the keyword. We are bringing together three civilisations, bringing art forms from there, putting it together in a beautiful medley of multi-alleyed streets. In fact, this is the first time the entire venue is a set in itself," he tells us, giving us a peek into what is to



unfold. And, when it does, it is larger than life. A tale of three cities, united by the aesthetics of 'modern royalty'. Taj Palace's Durbar Hall, in New Delhi, is a bustling souk and takes guests on a trip through Isfahan (a city in central Iran), Istanbul and Delhi.

The 60-look show seemed like a collage of memories, many cultures and heritage. Rich. Diverse. Intricate. And, very today.

The intense embroidery on the lehngas and sherwanis was matched by the drama of the kohli eyes and Valaya's signature, the chevron motif.

The collection also showcases lots of prints, a glimpse of JJV Kapurthala, Valaya's bridge-to-



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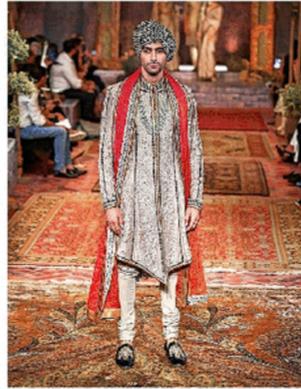
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➔ FROM P12



GAURAV GUPTA

A stunning backdrop, perfect for Instagram posts, stories and memories, welcomed guests into the maximal-minimal world of Gaurav Gupta's 'Arunodaya' at The Ashok, Chanakyapuri. A wall of *mudras* (hand gestures) in various states of meditative joy. An avant-garde artist who has always played around with his creativity, drawing from his curiosity to learn and absorb from art, and pushing the envelope with his vast imagination. His clothes are his canvas. He fills up his sketches with his inimitable aesthetics that has seen the label gain a worldwide reputation, with the likes of Cardi B, Kim Kardashian and Beyonce dressing up in his creations. In leaps and bounds. With 'Arunodaya', he mixed form and flow and blended a maximal imagination with a feeling of minimal chic. "For me, starting points are quite abstract. I had the *mudras* in my head which I did in my last Paris collection... metal casting," said Gaurav. He opened with an oomphy sequence of metal-casted corsets, our absolute favourites.

'Arunodaya' was a celebration of light in all its luminescence. His control over the imagery, dripping in modern cool as much as crystals and pearls, defined the certain stillness in the pieces. They were embellished and heavily so, but somewhere underlined by a stark sensibility. "(I have explored) the concept of light and that's when Arunodaya came about. The very first light of dawn. The different rays of light, the way it glistens and shimmers and meanders and just the way it makes one feel. When you have a light from inside, that's what abstractly inspired me in different ways for this collection,"



explained Gaurav.

There were *lehngas*, sari gowns, and draped saris. The men wore jackets with dramatic bird motifs and 'reflective embroidery'.

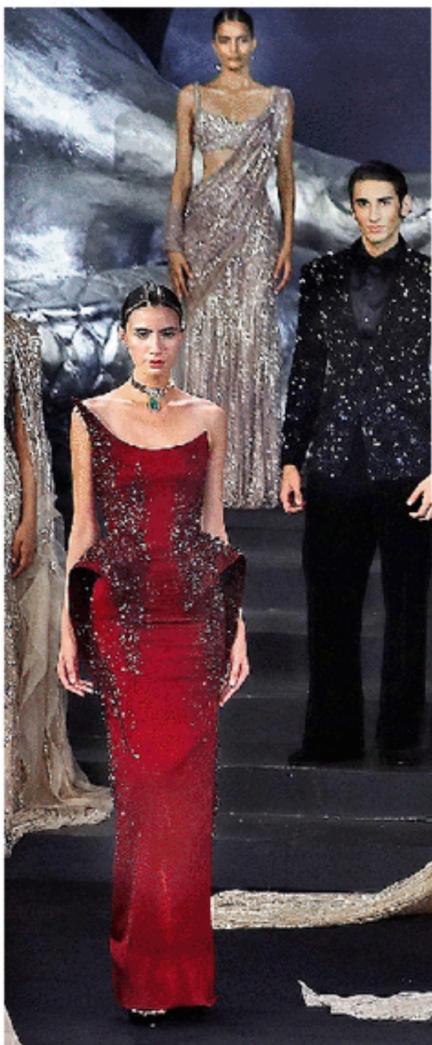
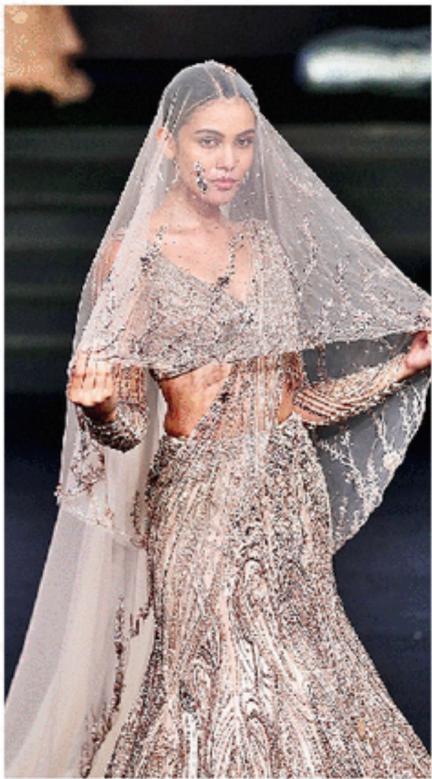
Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina, both of whom debuted with Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies* and are reportedly dating, walked for Gaurav. Their cute chemistry had many a sparkly, "young love" moment. While Vedang wore a black velvet long jacket, Khushi was in a fitted mermaid skirt and an off-shoulder blouse with sleeves, and a shoulder cape, a look from the brand's new bridal line. Also, the hero pieces of the collection, for Gaurav. "You can wear our new bridal *lehngas* to a reception, cocktail or Sangeet, even sometimes on your wedding day. We were just finding the right balance which will be

Gaurav Gupta and the brand and is still kind of futuristic, innovative and elevated in a certain couture way. I am very proud of my team to have found this new balance. What Vedang is wearing is futuristic, yet it's Indian. That's GG," said Gaurav.

The brand was looking to explore the world of bridals more, said Gaurav. "Yes, it's at a much more intricate level that we are going more and more into bridals. There is an expanse of couture that we are doing now, which are lighter sari-gowns or metal-casted corsets or bridal gowns or *lehngas* and amazing menswear," said Gaurav.

The *mudra* set, conceptualised and designed by The A-Cube Project, was a highlight. Glistening in silver, pregnant with many a mood and creative depth. Much like Gaurav Gupta's sense of self that seamlessly flows into designs.

Gaurav Gupta took a bow post-show with Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina



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→ FROM P14



RAHUL MISHRA

When Lisa Ray walked out in gold and ivory, red flowers in her hair, for Rahul Mishra and his 'Nargis', a memorable moment was made. *Afreen Afreen* played in the background. The 1996 song written by Javed Akhtar and sung by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is a watershed moment in Indian independent music and the era of music videos in the country. It's been 28 years since Lisa Ray appeared on the sandy dunes, looking striking in a *bandhni* dupatta or a white dress, walking straight into our hearts and remaining there. She remains as strikingly iconic as the charming song. What does she pat her back and say 'well done' for today? "For being here today. For standing here today. Established in myself. I am 52. I also commend Divya (Bhatt Mishra) and Rahul for inviting me to walk the ramp. I am sort of doing it for all the 50-year-old women out there, the mid-lifers who are entering their prime, I might add. I really do feel I am in the prime of my life now... this is about expressing that incredible period of a woman's life when you are fully confident and in your power and when you want to show that to the world," Lisa smiled.

Rahul and Divya smiled. Lisa and 'Nargis' had come together in a seamless bond. One that celebrated the eternal. The timeless. Like Lisa. Like nature, Rahul's forever muse. He has chatted about the dream home he is

building in the mountains every time we have met him in the last few years. His phone is full of albums that try to capture the incredible flora of the region. The colours. The textures. The sheer joy and magnificence. The bounty and the beauty. With 'Nargis' once again, Rahul brought alive a slice of nature, his full-on Indian festive line in a while.

"We always work on parallel collections and want to stay focused on what we want to do. When we go to Paris, it's more for art and the global audience in that way. When we are doing festive India Couture Week, it's for our country, for consumption and for the most beautiful bride, the young girls out there, what they want to wear. We enjoy both the processes and we are in a lucky juncture that we are able to create such a versatile and two different and unique collections," Rahul told us.

The collection summed up Rahul's core mood. That of intense detailing and extensive man hours (eight months in this case). There were sari gowns, gowns, saris, *shararas*, *lehngas* and a line of cocktail wear. A press note read 'more than 1,200 embroidery artisans' worked on the pieces that combined *aari* thread-work, bugle beads, *kundan*, rhinestone crystals, glass beads, fresh water pearls, sequins and *nakshi pita* work. The menswear too had a "balanced and tailored look".

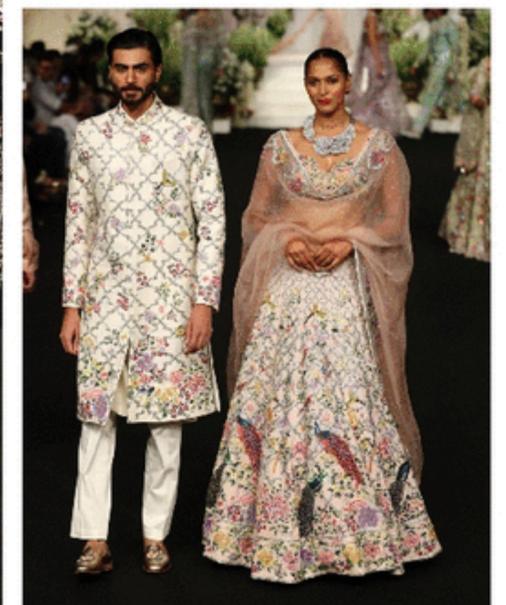
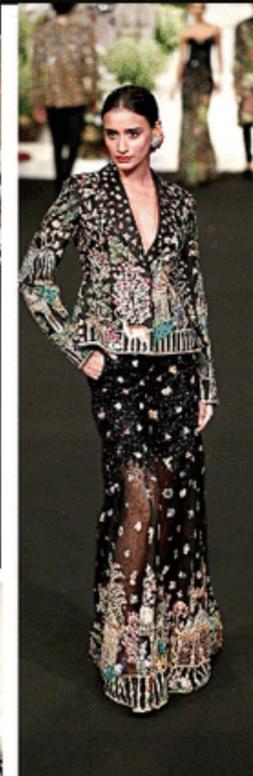
Swapnali Sachdev sang live and *Chandni raatein* and *Saiyaan* matched the mood of the runway.

"The mystical world of Rahul Mishra".

Pictures: Sandip Das



Divya Bhatt Mishra and Rahul Mishra took a bow



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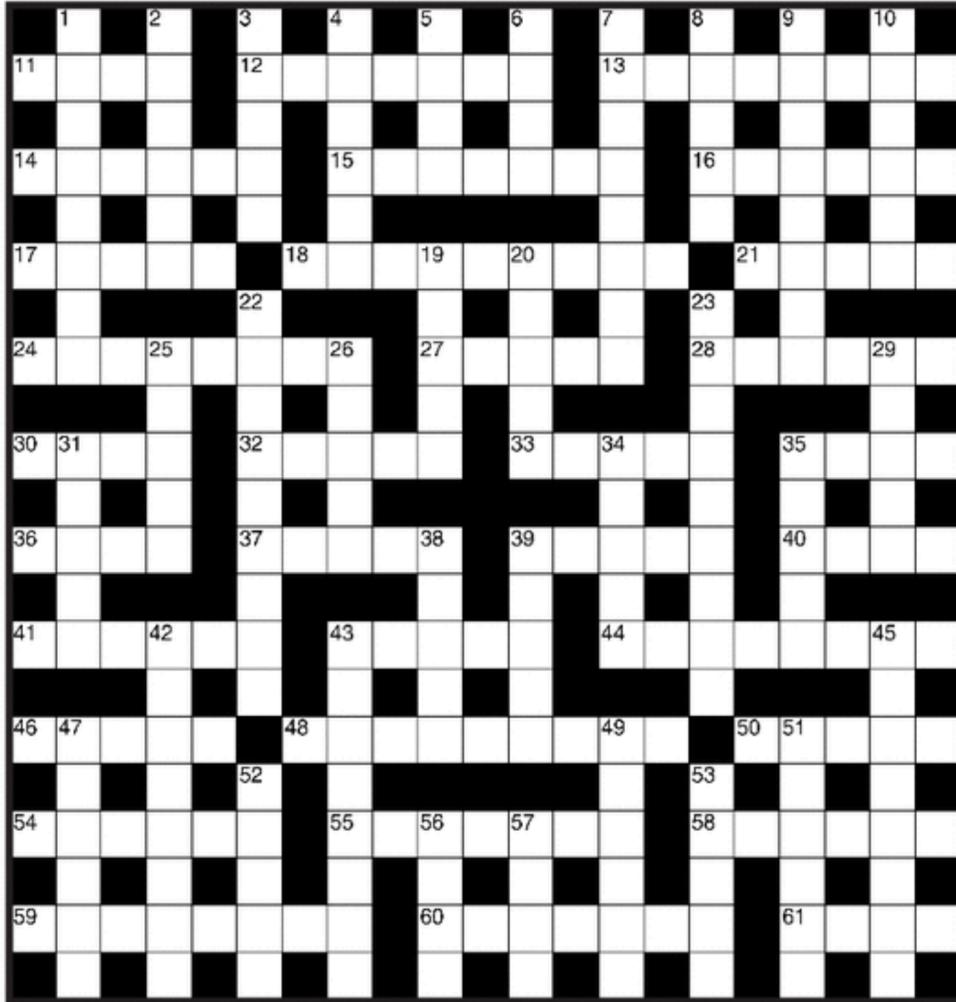
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ACROSS

- 11 Author whose novels include *Lucky Jim*, *The Green Man* and *The Folks That Live on the Hill*; a friend of Philip Larkin with a literary son (4)
- 12 London district that forms a borough with Kensington, site of an annual flower show hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society (7)
- 13 Gourd fruit served in sandwiches, gin cocktails, burger buns, Greek salad, fattoush, tzatziki and Pimm's (8)
- 14 Head accessory worn in the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot, traditionally black silk plush or grey felt (3,3)
- 15 Material such as clay hardened by heat, used as the basis of china, porcelain or earthenware (7)
- 16 Couplings for pipes; emblematic devices on the upper inner corners of flags; or, organisations for workers (6)
- 17 *The Country* — of an Edwardian Lady; book of

- watercolour illustrations and handwritten notes by Edith Holden chronicling her rural life (5)
- 18 Growing near dens of vixens and their male counterparts and loved by fairies according to folklore, one of the most poisonous plants in our flora, Digitalis (9)
- 21 Actor who served as an army captain before taking over from Sean Connery as James Bond to become the longest-serving actor in the role (5)
- 24 Potter from Staffordshire noted for powder-blue and white jasperware and fine cream-coloured Queen's ware (8)
- 27 Book for sets of stamps, coins, photos or autographs; or, a collection of music on CD, iTunes or other format (5)
- 28 Author of a book on household management whose picnic plan includes two roast ducks and six each of lobsters, loaves of bread and bottles of claret (6)
- 30 Used by Thomas Gainsborough to create one of his notable portraits, a colour with shades including lapis

- lazuli, turquoise, peacock and indigo (4)
- 32 — of Arms; chief heralds with authority to grant coats of arms (5)
- 33 From the French meaning "stretched", one of the battlements in classical ballet where the extended foot never leaves the floor (5)
- 35 Material used in carpentry and studied in xylogy; or, the comedienne who wrote *Acorn Antiques* and *Dinnerladies* (4)
- 36 Solar disc in Egyptian mythology (4)
- 37 Author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* (5)
- 39 Clump of lawn torn up by a pony's hoof during a game of polo or by a golf club during a stroke on a fairway (5)
- 40 Shoemaker's model of a foot (4)
- 41 Painting of a woman stealing pigment from a rainbow by Royal Academy founding-member Angelica Kauffman (6)
- 43 The colour of the ball worth four points in snooker (5)
- 44 Quality of balance or proportion represented in Vitruvian Man (8)
- 46 Cerne —; Dorset village near a chalk hill figure of a naked giant (5)
- 48 Style/technique of training hornbeams into a narrow screen or hedge (9)
- 50 From the Latin meaning "table", a southern constellation; or, a society for people with a high IQ (5)
- 54 Old contraption with rollers for wringing laundry or smoothing linen (6)
- 55 The —; film-making partnership of Powell and Pressburger (7)
- 58 — Farm; home in Pilton of Glastonbury Festival-founder Michael Eavis (6)
- 59 Publisher of books on peerage and etiquette, each bearing a rose, thistle and shamrock colophon in gold (8)
- 60 —: Impossible; films with Tom Cruise (7)
- 61 Spots on dominoes or dice; or, seeds of apples, pears and quinces (4)

DOWN

- 1 Fossilised spiral shell of an extinct mollusc common in Lyme Regis or Charmouth (8)
- 2 Dutch artist noted for his illustrations of impossible constructions (6)
- 3 Explorer who died with his crew on return home from the South Pole (5)
- 4 Nylon fastener inspired by burrs (6)
- 5 Title of the Russian emperors from the reign of Ivan IV until Nicholas II (4)
- 6 Land for cultivating crops or rearing livestock for meat, eggs, wool or milk (4)

- 7 Food served with wafers or in a cone; a traditional seaside treat (3,5)
- 8 Member of a movement founded Lord Baden-Powell senior to a Cub (5)
- 9 Description of an animal that eats a variety of animal and plant foods (8)
- 10 "Father of immunology" who developed the world's first vaccine (6)
- 19 Material used in lampworking (5)
- 20 Electron's path around a nucleus; or, the Moon's trajectory around Earth (5)
- 22 County divided into Ridings in which Emily Brontë set *Wuthering Heights* (9)
- 23 Richard Curtis film with Bill Nighy (5,4)
- 25 Colour of emeralds, baize, lovat tweed and kale; or, a grassy area in the centre of a village (5)
- 26 Cloth used for jeans and dungarees (5)
- 29 Double-reed musical instruments (5)
- 31 Venetian artist who painted *Portrait of a Woman* inspired by Lucretia (5)
- 34 Sister island of St Kitts (5)
- 35 Playwright depicted by Rupert Everett in his film *The Happy Prince* (5)
- 38 La —; autonomous region of northern Spain, capital, Logroño (5)
- 39 One of the actresses in *Nothing Like a Dame* with Maggie Smith, Eileen Atkins and Joan Plowright (5)
- 42 Large conservatory-like building for cultivating lemon or fig trees, camellia, gardenia, exotic plants ... (8)
- 43 Meaning "beautiful country" in Italian, a creamy cheese from Lombardy (3,5)
- 45 Red haw-like fruits found in hedgerows, used to make natural skincare products, cordial or syrup (4,4)
- 47 Jacket for school uniforms or yacht/sports clubs inspired by one originally styled by Lady Margaret Boat Club (6)
- 49 Nickname of a legendary beast said to inhabit the deep waters of a lake in the Scottish Highlands (6)
- 51 One of the two continents with Asia occupied by parts of Russia (6)
- 52 Book and art collector who married Talitha Pol in 1966; the son of an oil baron once the world's richest man (5)
- 53 Mute —; portrayed by cello in *Le Cygne* by Camille Saint-Saëns, birds subject to the annual ceremony of upping (5)
- 56 Collection of tents or bivouacs and the place where they're pitched (4)
- 57 — Lynne; novel by Ellen Wood (4)

ANSWERS

ACROSS

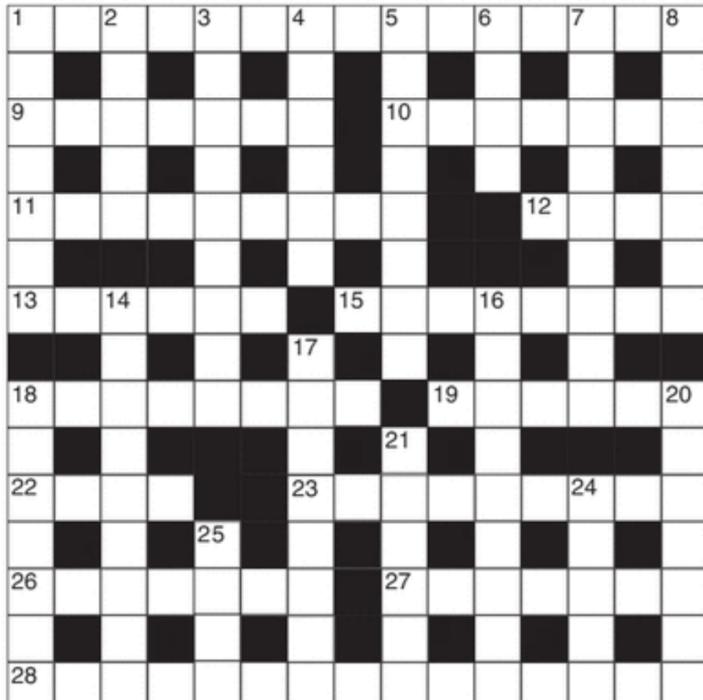
- 11 Amis, 12 Chelsea, 13 Cucumber, 14 Top hat, 15 Ceramic, 16 Unions, 17 Diary, 18 Foxgloves, 21 Moore, 24 Wedgwood, 27 Album, 28 Beeton, 30 Blue, 32 Kings, 33 Tendu, 35 Wood, 36 Aten, 37 Homer, 39 Divot, 40 Last, 41 Colour, 43 Brown, 44 Symmetry, 46 Abbas, 48 Pleaching, 50 Mensa, 54 Mangle, 55 Archers, 58 Worthy, 59 Debreets, 60 Mission, 61 Pips.

DOWN

- 1 Ammonite, 2 Escher, 3 Scott, 4 Velcro, 5 Tsar, 6 Farm, 7 Ice cream, 8 Scout, 9 Omnivore, 10 Jenner, 19 Glass, 20 Orbit, 22 Yorkshire, 23 About time, 25 Green, 26 Denim, 29 Oboes, 31 Lotto, 34 Nevis, 35 Wilde, 38 Rioja, 39 Dench, 42 Orangery, 43 Bel Paese, 45 Rose hips, 47 Blazer, 49 Nessie, 51 Europe, 52 Getty, 53 Swans, 56 Camp, 57 East.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 14410



ACROSS

- 1 Food for thought: technology reduces fat close to neck (2,5,3,5)
- 9 Like Seurat painting compared to a Monet, say, and more off the wall (7)
- 10 Pay trio for a makeover, and maybe Holly's cut and shape (7)
- 11 Stay with European, getting component for Native American hut (9)
- 12 Sign that leads gents into ladies? (4)
- 13 French art con copper probes in old Portuguese capital (6)
- 15 Conservatives getting on screen (3,5)
- 18 Wind heralding depression in

DOWN

- 19 Mostly dull article about fruit (6)
- 22 Back Gunners to grab English striker at last (4)
- 23 Hoodlums go for Scots pilots half-heartedly (9)
- 26 Learner in vehicle, one operating horn (7)
- 27 Some food on a table for group of insects (7)
- 28 Dancing on Ice, one album on very rarely (4,2,1,4,4)
- 1 Doctor eluding nanny (7)
- 2 Set up of French corporation suppressed (5)
- 3 One's keen and tense when on this? (5-4)
- 4 Kind and soft on the

inside, as it were

- (4,2)
- 5 Shy, Elton going off under cover (2,3,3)
- 6 Gratuities rubbish here! (4)
- 7 Girlfriend flying to a marina (9)
- 8 "Yale motto"? Significant term in online searches (7)
- 14 Old bus's opening docked horse squeezes into (9)
- 16 PM delighted with flag? (9)
- 17 Tobacco plant that grows up walls (8)
- 18 Spain knocked out of soccer 1-0, sadly. It's a blow (7)
- 20 Muscles occasionally tear in decline (7)
- 21 Details on a sorrel, finally pregnant (2,4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



- 24 Time after time, Oscar's poetic inspiration? (5)
- 25 What surfer taking tablet needs? (2-2)

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11106
SUDOKU MODERATE

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11104 is on the right

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

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11107
SUDOKU GENTLE

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11105 is on the right

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

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QUICK CROSSWORD 14062

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

ACROSS
 1 Strongroom (5)
 4 Successor (4)
 8 Steal (3)
 9 Jet, e.g. (9)
 10 Capital of Norway (4)
 11 Consignment (8)
 12 Coat (3)
 13 Appeared (6)
 14 Less shallow (6)
 16 Clear (3)
 17 Taken aback (8)
 18 Mistake; fall (4)
 20 Hoarder (9)
 21 Help (3)
 22 Looked at (4)

DOWN
 23 Pale (5)
 1 Assorted (7)
 2 Incredible (12)
 3 Snare (4)
 4 Tougher (6)
 5 Damaged (8)
 6 Butterfly larvae (12)

7 Tax (4)
11 Failure (3)
12 Downy (8)
14 Performed (3)
15 At speed (7)
16 Relaxed (6)
17 Fire; bag (4)
19 Clutch (4)

Yesterday's solution
 Across: 1 Pay; 3 Yaw; 5 Weigh; 8 Cruel; 9 Tsarina; 10 Sign; 11 Dilemmas; 13 Parrot; 14 Merely; 17 Indicate; 19 Bets; 22 Shampoo; 23 Award; 24 Stars; 25 God; 26 Try...
 Down: 1 Picks; 2 Younger; 3 Yell; 4 Within; 5 Weakened; 6 Idiom; 7 Hearsay; 12 Concepts; 13 Priests; 15 Elegant; 16 Strong; 18 Drama; 20 Sadly; 21 Maid.

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Jumble
David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

CITDH
 O O O O O

VEARB
 O O O O O

TSOYLM
 O O O O O

FRUGIE
 O O O O O

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TRYING TO EAT LUNCH ON A BEACH WITH SO MANY SEAGULLS WAS ---

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

O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O

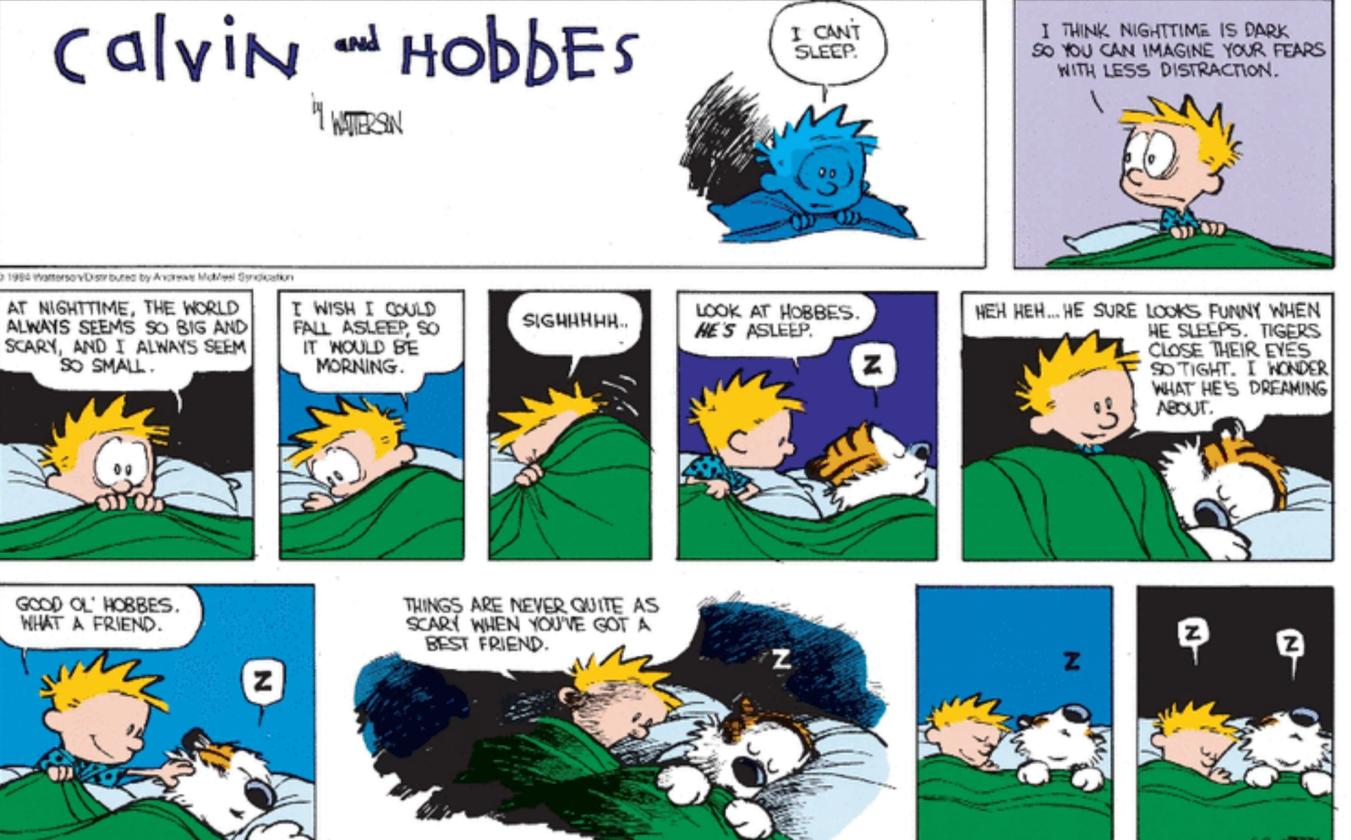
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ORBIT PRINT PROMPT NIMBLE
 Answer: He wanted to take out more money to play blackjack but decided he - "BETTOR" NOT

COMICS

Calvin and Hobbes by Watterson

calvin and hobbes
by WATTERSON



I CAN'T SLEEP.
 I THINK NIGHTTIME IS DARK SO YOU CAN IMAGINE YOUR FEARS WITH LESS DISTRACTION.

AT NIGHTTIME, THE WORLD ALWAYS SEEMS SO BIG AND SCARY, AND I ALWAYS SEEM SO SMALL.
 I WISH I COULD FALL ASLEEP, SO IT WOULD BE MORNING.
 SIGHHHHH...
 LOOK AT HOBBS. HE'S ASLEEP.
 HEH HEH... HE SURE LOOKS FUNNY WHEN HE SLEEPS. TIGERS CLOSE THEIR EYES SO TIGHT. I WONDER WHAT HE'S DREAMING ABOUT.

GOOD OL' HOBBS. WHAT A FRIEND.
 THINGS ARE NEVER QUITE AS SCARY WHEN YOU'VE GOT A BEST FRIEND.

The Fusco Brothers by J. C. Duffy

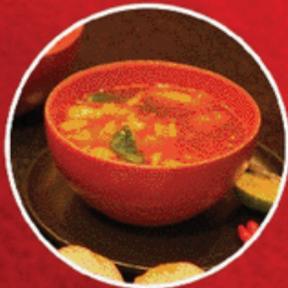
I WAS THINKING ABOUT HAVING A TONGUE SANDWICH FOR LUNCH TODAY AT THE DELI NEXT DOOR. WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT IS HOLY COULD I HAVE BEEN THINKING?

From the house of Camellia

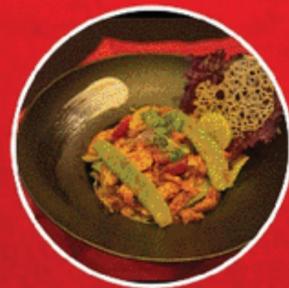
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Yin Yang's menu boasts an impressive array of dishes from 12 countries, including Hong Kong, Thailand Singapore, China, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia, Java, Tibet, Korea, Malaysia, and the unique Kolkata Tangra cuisine blended with Sikkimese delicacies. This eclectic mix ensures that every visit offers something new and delightful.



Jjigae



Thai Chicken Salad



Prawn Tempura



Chicken Gyoza



Lotus Root in BBQ Sriracha



Steamed Bhetki with Red Chilli, Lime, Coriander and Thai herbs

Bompas Road (Open now)

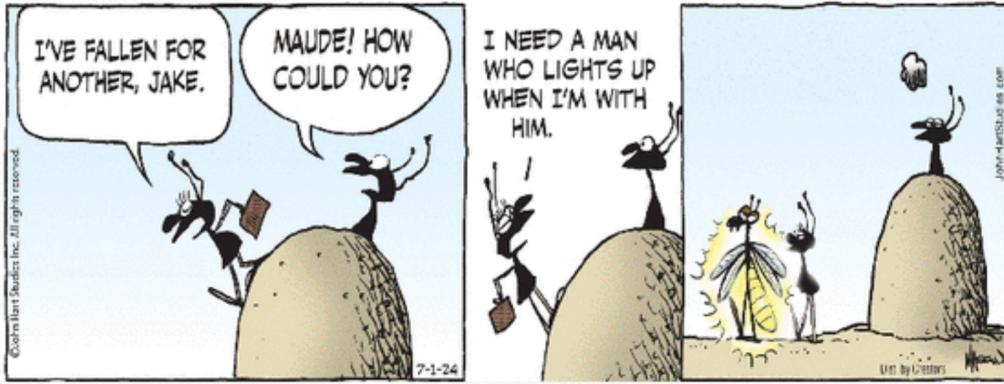
3 Bompas Road, Kolkata

Salt Lake, Little Russel Street, Tollygunge (Opening Shortly)

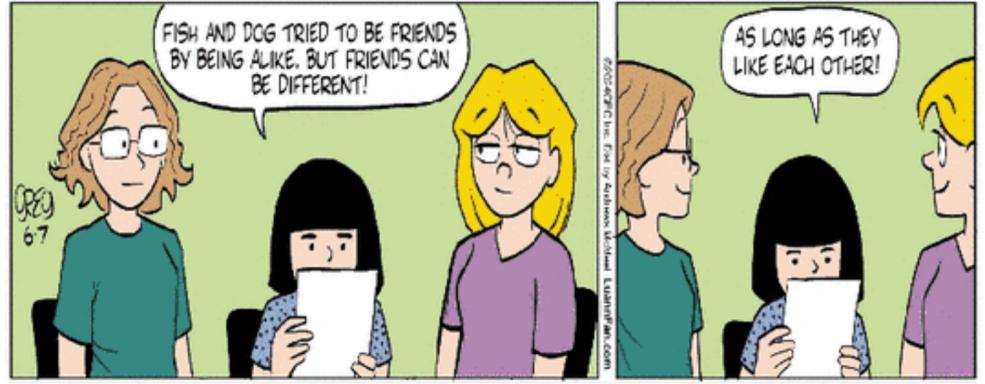
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B.C. by Johnny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



Baby Blues by Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



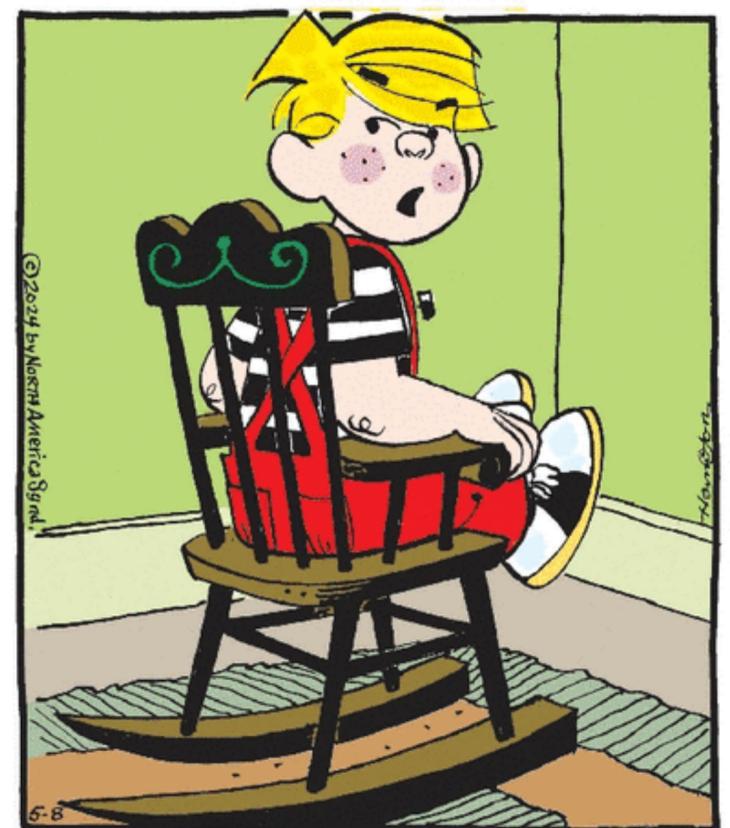
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



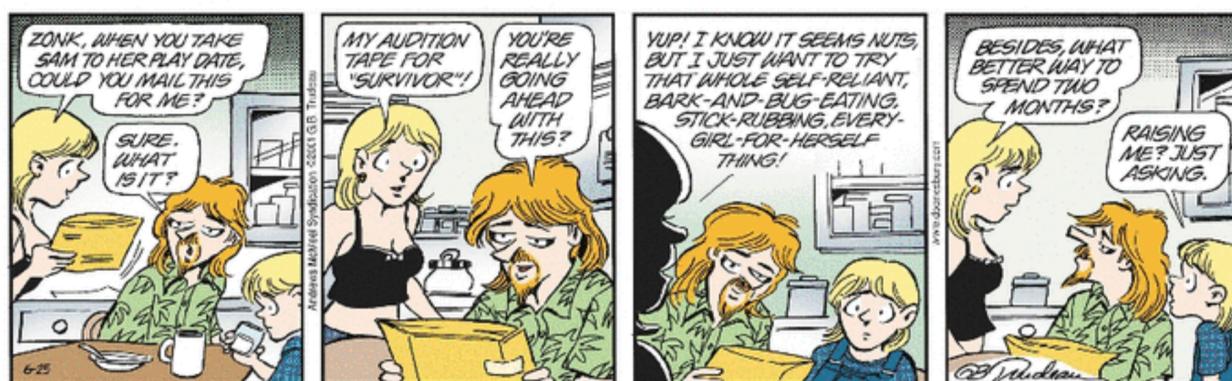
Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



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BAJAJ FINSERV



WE ASKED: Which are the best places to visit during the rains?
Tell t2onSunday@abp.in

I would recommend that everybody visits Munnar in Kerala, which is in the lap of the Western Ghats, during the rains. I was just thrilled by its majestic and mesmerising beauty. It is a very relaxing as well as a very serene place during the



Shillong. Picture: istock

rains that not only makes you feel better but also very soulful. The Tea Garden, which is my favourite, as well as the Tea Museum, the Kundale Lake and the Mattupatti Dam are the places which I have visited.

Adhipa Nag

Kurseong is a pretty hill station near Darjeeling. I loved the place while travelling through it. During the rainy season, Kurseong would

be a wonderful place to visit.
Srimita Chakraborty

During the monsoons, I love exploring Darjeeling's misty tea gardens, Cherrapunji's stunning waterfalls, and Coorg's lush coffee plantations. Munnar's vibrant hills, Shillong's serene beauty, and the mystical Sundarbans captivate me as well. Each place transforms into a picturesque paradise, offering a refreshing and enchanting experience amid the rains.

Parshv Gandhi

During the rainy season, if a traveller is adventurous he/she should visit the hills. But if a

relaxing holiday is on the mind, then it is best to visit the seaside. A few of the best places to visit during the monsoons are Puri (where the rain mingles beautifully with the sea), Shillong (where beauty paves way to adventure), Munnar (which is far away from the madding crowds), Mahabaleshwar (which is a dream destination for nature lovers), and Udaipur (a wonderful place for history lovers).

Upasona Lahiri

TT Connect Initiative

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tions, it is not just a spread; it is a celebration of indulgence. Enjoy with roti, bread and bun, or even make a chocolate pizza with it!

So, pop open a jar of joy and scoop out some yumminess, and let Amul Choco Buttery Spread be the sweet beginning every day.

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Spread and enjoy!

Dive into the world of culinary creativity by using Amul Choco Buttery Spread on pastries, as a topping for pancakes, or even as a dip for crackers. The possibilities are endless, so get your imagination going! With its luscious taste and versatile applica-



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Here Sutraa Exhibition is back with latest Rakhi & Teej Special collection.

Sutraa – Indian Fashion Lifestyle Exhibition. The 3-Day Rakhi & Teej Special event, with a vision to develop a platform that brings together artists & independent designers and to create a show that has never been done before in a city full of textile, art, and architectural treasures to leave a lasting impression on the visitors. Sutraa Exhibition will be held in Royal Bengal Room (City Center 1), from August 3rd to 5th and the timings would be 10am to 9pm.

Rakhi & Teej Sutraa Exhibition is coming to make your special day. Trending and designer lehngas and matching jewellery. Footwears to all the accessories you need to look more elegant. The special curated show will showcase 70+ Designers from all across the Country. The show will display designer clothes for Women, Kids, some bespoke jewellery, handcrafted, shoes, designer clutches, beautiful hair accessories and home decor.

This event enables brands and companies to establish themselves and use various innovative ideas that enable them to set apart from other brands. This show evolves the retail apparel designs and revolutionizes the fashion industry by using latest technologies.

Some of the exhibitors participating in the exhibition are:-

- Adaa Creation Mumbai
- Excessorize
- Polka Dots
- Twingo
- House Of Kashmir
- The Sangini Boutique Rani Goenka
- House of Silk
- Orfebre
- Sachida Creative House - Delhi
- Craft And Artisans - Jaipur
- Daks Creation - Kolkata
- Rashi N Style, Mumbai
- Vara Jewellers
- Madhu Bedcover
- Saje Silver Jewellery

And much more...

designers are coming to showcase their Rakhi & Teej Special collection.



This is a must attend for all fashion designers and aspiring fashion industry students to gain knowledge from the professionals and experience the latest trends from different parts of the country under a same roof.