

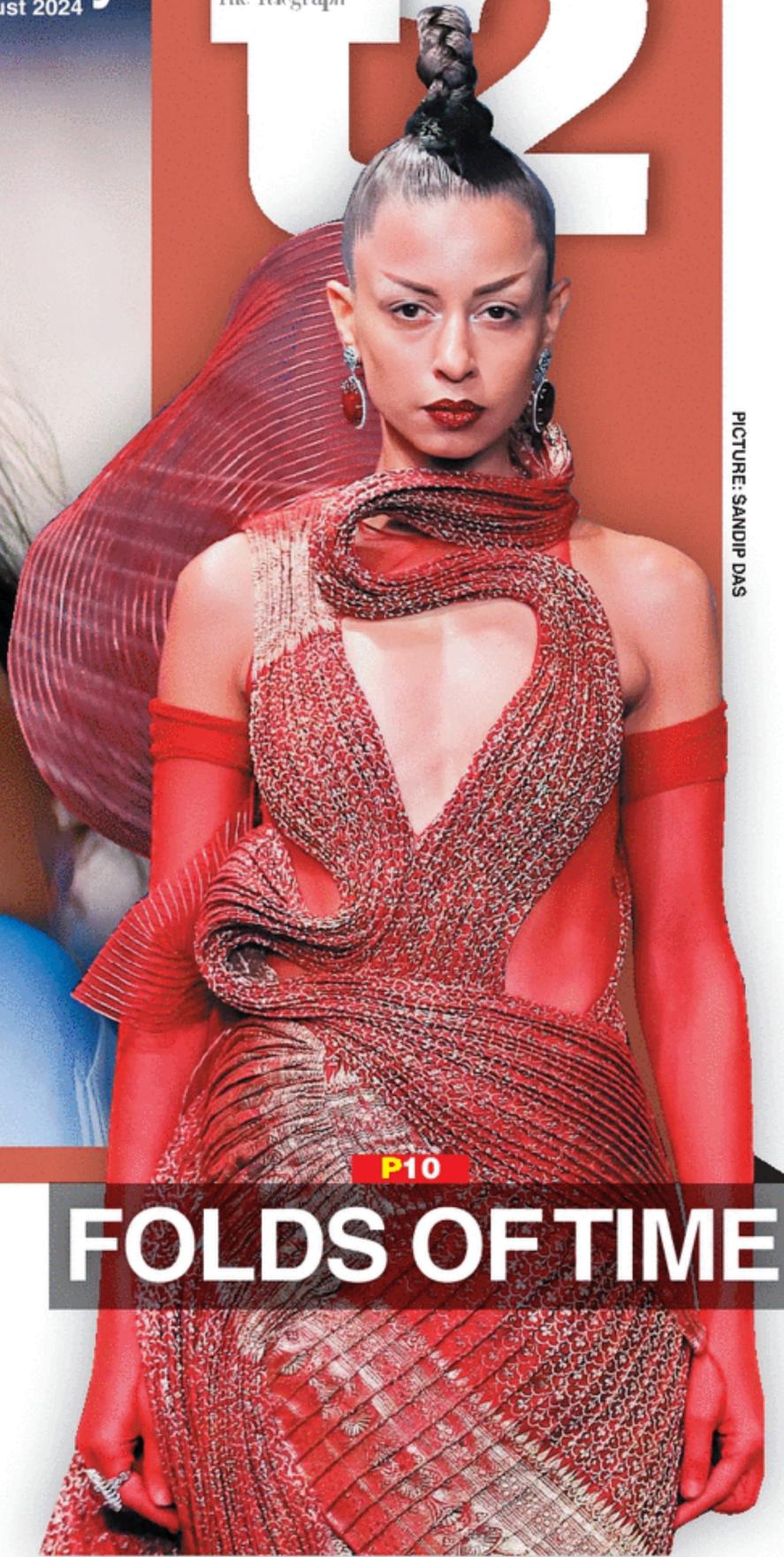
XXCE

Wednesday  
7 August 2024

The Telegraph  
**t2**



SAIYAMI KHER



PICTURE: SANDIP DAS

**P11**

**P10**

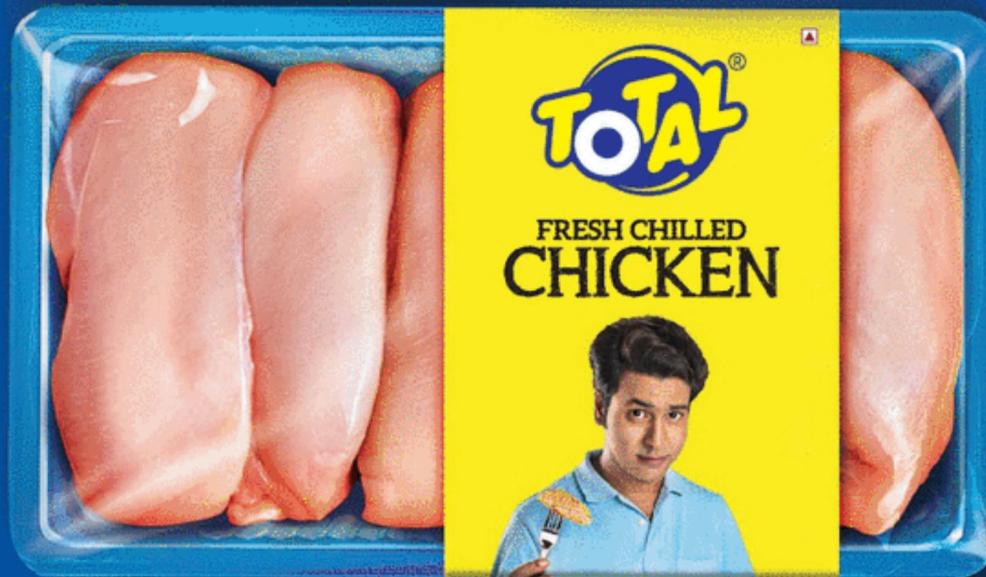
# IRON-WOMAN!

# FOLDS OF TIME

- B'DAY, WATCHIT 2 ● TECH, t2 IS 4,5 ● BOOKS, MUSIC 6,7
- WHATSUP, BAZAAR BINGE 8,9,12,13 ● HARRY POTTER MENU, MASTERCHEF ON CAMPUS 16,17 ● YOUR PICKS, BUY BUY 18,19

**Chicken  
lovers  
kheye  
bolo!**

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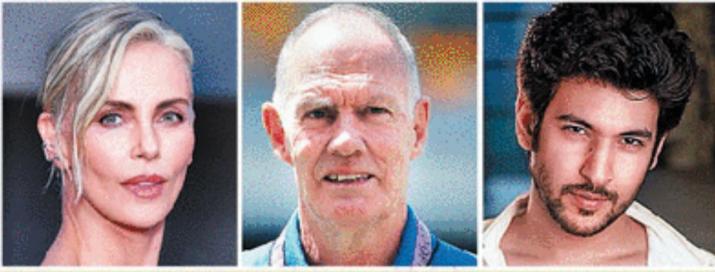
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CHARLIZE THERON, GREG CHAPPELL,  
SHIVIN NARANG



This year reflect on the positive relationships and connections that have contributed to your success. Share your joy with others, whether through a social gathering, a heartfelt conversation or by expressing gratitude. Stay patient, supportive and always provide a safe space for your loved ones to share their deepest emotions. Be mindful of opportunities and support those less fortunate.

— Nita Chhotalal

Instagram



**PARK STROLLS:**

Stroll in the park with VKA. Uploaded by @harshvarrdhankapoor (Harshvarrdhan Kapoor)



**SMILE ALWAYS:**

Always a reason to smile. Uploaded by @faroutakhtar (Farhan Akhtar)

TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



**ARIES**

**DO** stay focused, disciplined and determined in pursuing your passions and aspirations

**DON'T** be controlling

**EXPECT** to step into a leadership role and embrace your ability to influence and lead others



**TAURUS**

**DO** remember to be nice to people on your way up; you may be meeting them again on your way back down

**DON'T** be indecisive

**EXPECT** to make the most of your time by focusing your intention on what you truly want



**GEMINI**

**DO** take some time to explore your passions; try new things, and be open to new experiences

**DON'T** feel stuck or unsure of your direction

**EXPECT** a sudden urge to try something new, to explore uncharted territories or to take on a new project



**CANCER**

**DO** appreciate the abundance in your life

**DON'T** rely on external factors to find happiness

**EXPECT** to celebrate the blessings in your life, as your emotional fulfillment and personal desires are being met



**LEO**

**DO** remain resilient and find the strength needed to overcome adversity

**DON'T** get trapped in a state of lack and despair

**EXPECT** to find solace, strength and the reassurance that no matter what you are going through, you have a network of people ready to lend a helping hand



**VIRGO**

**DO** embrace your innate talents and pursue your ambitions with focus and determination

**DON'T** feel disempowered

**EXPECT** to have the power to create your own destiny and encourage yourself to take action with confidence and determination



**LIBRA**

**DO** make sure you moderate your spending and don't get carried away

**DON'T** be chaotic

**EXPECT** to manage your money well and make sound decisions in terms of investments



**SCORPIO**

**DO** seek clarity, weigh your options and take decisive action to find a path forward

**DON'T** be indecisive

**EXPECT** the need to confront your inner conflicts and make choices that will bring about resolution and progress



**SAGITTARIUS**

**DO** express yourself clearly and directly while maintaining empathy and understanding

**DON'T** be biased in your thinking

**EXPECT** to see through confusion, cut through the noise and make informed decisions based on facts and intelligence



**CAPRICORN**

**DO** let go of the old struggle and move towards something new and more positive

**DON'T** get disappointed

**EXPECT** to release the burdens of the past and embrace the opportunity for transformation and rebirth



**AQUARIUS**

**DO** trust your instincts and delve into the depths of your subconscious to unlock the secrets that reside within

**DON'T** neglect your gut feeling

**EXPECT** to honor your intuition and embrace the infinite wisdom that lies dormant within you



**PISCES**

**DO** stay focused and disciplined to balance any conflicting aspects of your life

**DON'T** let inner conflict hinder your progress

**EXPECT** to have the ability to conquer any challenge and achieve your goals if you remain on your path

Nita Chhotalal is on @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal @mysticalguidancebynita

WATCHIT!



**Jake Lawson (Gerard Butler), a satellite designer, returns to orbit to investigate a network of defective climate-control satellites to help prevent a terrible global storm that threatens to wipe out life on Earth.**  
**Geostorm; Sony Pix, 11pm**

**ENGLISH**

**MOVIES OF THE DAY**

**Mechanic, Resurrection:** Sony Pix, 1.35pm  
**The Emoji Movie:** &flix, 1.40pm  
**Midwives:** &Prive HD, 2.40pm  
**The Craft, Legacy:** &flix, 3pm  
**Spider-Man, Far From Home:** Sony Pix, 3.15pm  
**The 5th Wave:** &flix, 4.35pm  
**The Unholy:** Sony Pix, 5.30pm  
**A Dog's Way Home:** &Prive HD, 6pm  
**Passengers:** &flix, 6.45pm  
**London Has Fallen:** Sony Pix, 7.15pm  
**Apple of My Eye:** &Prive HD, 7.35pm  
**San Andreas:** Sony Pix, 9pm  
**The Fog:** &Prive HD, 9pm  
**Never Back Down, No Surrender:** &flix, 10pm  
**Geostorm:** Sony Pix, 11pm

**SHOWSTOPPERS**

**Pretty Little Liars, Original Sin:** Colors Infinity, 7pm

**The Office:** Comedy Central, 7pm  
**Fight For My Way:** Zee Cafe, 7pm  
**Brooklyn Nine-Nine:** Comedy Central, 8pm  
**The \$100,000 Pyramid:** Zee Cafe, 8pm  
**Game of Thrones:** Colors Infinity, 9pm  
**Parks And Recreation:** Comedy Central, 9pm  
**Planet Earth III:** Sony BBC Earth, 9pm  
**Preacher:** Zee Cafe, 9pm  
**After The Thrones:** Colors Infinity, 10pm  
**Nathan For You:** Comedy Central, 10pm

**HINDI**

**SHOWSTOPPERS**

**Suhaagan:** Colors, 6.30pm  
**Megha Barsenge:** Colors, 7pm  
**Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua:** STAR Plus, 7pm  
**Maati Se Bandhi Dor:** STAR Plus, 7.30pm  
**Kavya - Ek Jazbaa Ek Junoon:** Sony, 7.30pm  
**Main Hoon Saath Tere:** Zee TV, 7.30pm  
**JubileeTalkies - Shohrat.Shiddat.**

**Mohabbat:** Sony, 8pm  
**Radha Mohan:** Zee TV, 8pm  
**Mishri:** Colors, 8.30pm  
**Pukaar - Dil De DilTak:** Sony, 8.30pm  
**Bhagya Laxmi:** Zee TV, 8.30pm  
**Udne Ki Aasha:** STAR Plus, 8.45pm  
**Mangal Laxmi:** Colors, 9pm  
**Kumkum Bhagya:** Zee TV, 9pm  
**Mera Balam Thanedaar:** Colors, 9.30pm  
**Mehndi Wala Ghar:** Sony, 9.30pm

**BENGALI**

**MOVIES OF THE DAY**

**Putuler Protisodh:** Zee Bangla Cinema, noon  
**Bangali Babu English Mem:** Jalsha Movies, 1pm  
**Josh:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 1pm  
**Abhagini:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 2.30pm  
**Parashmani:** Aakash Aath, 3.05pm  
**Ashrita:** Jalsha Movies, 4pm  
**Hirak Jayanti:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 4pm  
**Biye Bibhraat:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 5.30pm  
**Bondhoo:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 7pm  
**Mon Je Kore Uru Uru:** Jalsha Movies, 7.40pm  
**Guru Dakshina:** Zee Bangla Cinema, 8pm  
**Champion:** Colors Bangla Cinema, 10pm  
**Girlfriend:** Jalsha Movies, 10.40pm

**SPORT**

**Olympic Games Paris - live:** Sports18 1 & 1 HD, 11am  
**Sri Lanka vs India, 3rd ODI - live from Colombo:** Sony TEN 1, 1 HD, 5 & 5 HD, 2.30pm  
**Durand Cup, Indian Army FT vs Bangladesh Armed Forces F - live:** Sony TEN 2, 4pm  
**Durand Cup, Emami East Bengal FC vs Downtown Heroes FC - live:** Sony TEN 2, 7pm  
**The Hundred Men's, Trent Rockets vs London Spirit - live:** Sony TEN 5 & 5 HD, 11pm

BIG SCREEN

**ENGLISH**

**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE 3D (A):** Inox Quest (9.30\*, 10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30), Inox South City (8.30\*, 11.30\*, 2.30\*, 5.30\*, 8.30\*, 10.50, 11.30\*), Inox Forum (9.45, 12.45, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45), Inox Metro (10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45), Inox Salt Lake (10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 7.45, 10.45), Inox Rajarhat (10.45, 4.45, 10.45), Inox Metro (1.10, 10.15), Inox Hiland (10.30, 4.30, 10.30), Inox Hind (9.45, 6.50), Inox Swabhumi (9.45, 3.45, 9.45), PVR Avani (7.30pm), PVR Mani Square (10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30, 10.30), PVR Diamond Plaza (7.45pm), PVR Uniworld Downtown (7.30pm), RDB Cinemas (12.55, 2.15, 7.45, 10.30)  
**DESPICABLE ME 4 3D (U):** Inox Quest (10am\*), Inox South City (1.40)  
**INSIDE OUT 2 3D (U):** Inox Quest (11am)  
**LONGLEGS (A):** Inox South City (11am\*)  
**MOTHER'S INSTINCT (U/A):** Inox Quest (8.20pm)  
**TRAP (U/A):** Inox Quest (noon, 8.35\*), Inox South City (12.40, 9.55), Inox Forum (4, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (1.30, 10.05)  
**TWISTERS (U/A):** Inox Quest (12.15\*), Inox South City (12.45), Inox Salt Lake (11.55am)

**KOREAN**

**PROJECT SILENCE (U/A):** Inox Quest (2.25)  
**HINDI**  
**AURON MEN KAHAN DUMTHA (U/A):** Inox Quest (10.05\*, 1.15\*, 3.25\*, 4.25\*, 7.35\*, 9.55\*, 10.45\*), Inox South City (9.10\*, 12.20\*, 3.30\*, 6.40\*, 7.35\*, 9.50\*, 10.40\*), Inox Forum (9.15\*, 12.25\*, 3.35\*, 6.45\*, 9.55\*), Inox Forum (10, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40), Inox Salt Lake (10, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40), Inox Rajarhat (9.50, 10.50, 1.40, 7.20, 10.30), Inox Metro (10, 1.25, 4.35, 10.45), Inox Hiland (9.50, 1, 4.10, 7.20, 10.30), Inox Hind (9.40, 12.50, 7, 9.50), Inox Swabhumi (9.15, noon, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30), PVR Avani (10, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 9.30, 10.40), PVR Mani Square (10.05, 1.15, 4.25, 7.35, 10.45), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.05, 12.15, 3.25, 6.35, 9.45, 10.45), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10, 1.10, 4.20, 7.30, 10.40), RDB Cinemas (10, 1.10, 4, 7, 10), Nazruliritha (12.15, 3, 5.45, 8.30)  
**BAD NEWZ (U/A):** Inox Quest (11.05pm\*), Inox South City (9.40, 4.30\*, 8.15), Inox Forum (9.35, 7.45), Inox Salt Lake (4.25, 10.55), Inox Rajarhat (4.30, 10.55), Inox Metro (7.10pm), Inox Hiland (7.25pm), Inox Hind (12.45), Inox

Swabhumi (12.25, 9.45), PVR Avani (noon, 6.25), PVR Mani Square (4pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (10.25, 3.55, 10.30), RDB Cinemas (6.30)  
**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE 3D (A):** Inox Rajarhat (1.45, 7.45), Inox Metro (4.10), Inox Hiland (9.10, 1.30, 7.30), Inox Hind (3.50), Inox Swabhumi (12.45, 6.45), PVR Avani (10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 10.30), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.20, 10.45, 1.45, 4.45, 10.45), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10.30, 1.30, 4.30, 10.30), RDB Cinemas (10.15, 5)  
**KALKI 2898 AD 3D (U/A):** Inox South City (7.05pm), Inox Forum (12.40), Inox Rajarhat (4pm), Inox Hiland (2.45), Inox Swabhumi (6pm), PVR Mani Square (4pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (12.15, 6.50)  
**KALKI 2898 AD (U/A):** Inox Salt Lake (12.40), PVR Uniworld Downtown (6.45), Nazruliritha (8.10pm)  
**KILL (A):** Inox Quest (6.05\*), Inox South City (11.10am), Inox Forum (10.10am), Inox Salt Lake (10.10am), Inox Rajarhat (2pm), Inox Hiland (9.30pm), Inox Swabhumi (3.30), PVR Mani Square (11am), PVR Uniworld Downtown (1.15)  
**SARFIRA (U):** Inox Quest (6.35\*), Inox South City (3.35), Inox Forum (4.25), Inox Salt Lake (7.30pm), Inox Rajarhat (7.35pm), Inox Swabhumi (3.30), PVR Avani (3.05), PVR Diamond Plaza (1.30)  
**ULAJH (U/A):** Inox Quest (9, 12.30\*, 3.05\*, 7.55, 10.55), Inox South City (9.40, 1.30\*, 6.55, 11.15), Inox Forum (10, 1, 6.30, 9.30), Inox Salt Lake (9, 2.40, 7.55, 10.50), Inox Rajarhat (10, 1, 7.45, 10.45), Inox Metro (10.25, 7.45), Inox Hiland (11, 6.30, 10.30), Inox Hind (4, 10.10), Inox Swabhumi (9.30, 12.30, 6.50, 9.50), PVR Mani Square (10, 1, 7.05, 10.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, noon, 3.45, 6.45, 9.45), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10.15, 3.45, 10.30), RDB Cinemas (11.30, 3.45, 9.30)  
**BENGALI**  
**AJOGYA (U/A):** Inox South City (3.10), PVR Diamond Plaza (4.50), Nazruliritha (5.50)  
**MANIKBABUR MEGH (U):** Inox South City (6pm), Inox Salt Lake (5.35), Inox Hiland (5.05)  
**SUCHANA (U/A):** Nazruliritha (4.15)  
**SURJO (U/A):** Inox South City (4pm), Inox Hiland (2pm), PVR Diamond Plaza (7.45pm)



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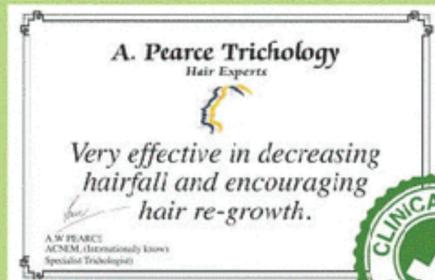


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File picture of Charli XCX performing on *Saturday Night Live*. Picture: NBC/YouTube

**CHARLI XCX SINGS ABOUT GENERATIONAL TRAUMA ON *APPLE*. AS GENERATIONS X AND Y ARE GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH MIDDLE AGE, THE SOUND OF THAT ERA HAS BOUNCED BACK. LOOK AT THE MOST CAFFEINATED DRINK OF THE SUMMER — IT'S "ME ESPRESSO", COINED BY POP SINGER SABRINA CARPENTER**

## IT'S 'BRAT SUMMER' WITH CHARLI XCX AND YOU NEED TO ENJOY THE ONLINE HAPPY HOUR WITH THE APPLE DANCE

Think of a four-letter word for a wild and rebellious child. It's 'brat', also the title of Charli XCX's latest album that celebrates the 1980s like we once celebrated, well, the 1980s. The song — from *Brat* — that has become the sound of 2024 is simply called *Apple*.

And when a 'brat' takes a bite of an 'apple' things can go wild. For the 32-year-old from Essex, the deceptive fruit opens her to the knowledge of imperfection. She thinks "the apple's rotten right to the core/ from all the things passed down/ from all the apples coming before".

*Apple* is the summer sound of 2024, coming with dance steps that are making even Stephen Colbert and Dave Grohl shimmy like there's no tomorrow.

### WHAT'S APPLE DANCE?

Charli sings about generational trauma on *Apple* but it needed New York-based actor and content creator

Kelley Heyer to come up with the dance on "a whim" for TikTok. It unfolds to 1980s-style music.

Her carefree dance style creates the essence of the album, which according to Charli is "that girl who is a little messy... maybe says some dumb things sometimes...". For Heyer, "brat summer means not giving a f\*\*k, but it also means being kind".

The dance captures the honesty of the lyrics on *Brat*. On the album, Charli channels her insecurities to

a beat that's unapologetically 1980s.

Heyer picked up the song early... when there were around 200 videos under the sound on TikTok. "Maybe because it has a slightly different beat and feel than the rest of the album. There's something kind of structured about it which I think — Charli is a genius — she's talking about generational trauma and being stuck inside this box of a family so the structure makes sense. I woke up one day and was like it would be hilarious if I made



(Left to right) Brooke Shields, Stephen Colbert and Dave Grohl with daughter Harper



US vice-president Kamala Harris is giving off 'brat' vibes

### HOW TO BE A 'BRAT'?

- ▶ Embrace the loudest colour of the year — brat green. Don't expect the colour to channel a sense of serenity; it's about getting attention.
- ▶ Act pouty and don't conform to expectations.
- ▶ Combat surveillance or find a way to enjoy yourself in spite of it.

a dance to this as someone who has never made a TikTok dance before," she told *Autostraddle*

### WHO IS DOING THE APPLE DANCE?

From Joe Jonas and Glen Powell to Stephen Colbert and Dave Grohl. The Foo Fighters frontman and former Nirvana drummer has been captured dancing to the song with his daughter Harper. They dance to the track but he is slightly behind Harper but tries his best to keep the momentum going.

Colbert, at age 60, has done his best to live up to the dance steps during a segment on *The Late Show*. Brooke Shields picked up the steps after her girls kept telling her "it's a brat summer". Joe Jonas did his variation of the dance a few days ago in Quebec.

Of course, Charli XCX also had to show off her moves and that's exactly what she has done with Troye Sivan and photographer Terrence O'Connor.

### IS KAMALA HARRIS A 'BRAT'?

Charli played it cool when she posted on X (formerly Twitter) that "Kamala IS brat", leaving the world wondering what it could do to the US vice-president's campaign to become the President. Harris is yet to show off dance moves that will make the people of Thulasendrapuram proud but her HQ has already started to dig into the *Brat* trend.

Politics and history, of course, go hand in hand. Bruce Springsteen performed at Barack Obama campaign rallies while Lady Gaga and Jon Bon Jovi warmed up to Hillary Clinton. The "brats" are young. Rapper Megan Thee Stallion has already performed at a Kamala Harris campaign event in Atlanta. And many young Americans who love Charli's music are also spotting cool vibes in Harris.

### FEELING LIKE THE '80s?

As generations X and Y are getting comfortable with middle age, the sound of that era has bounced back. Look at the most caffeinated drink of the summer — it's "me espresso", coined by pop singer Sabrina Carpenter in her big hit *Espresso*. The song is being kept company by Chappell Roan's *Good Luck, Babe!* while parents are populating Instagram feeds with "dance like it's the 80s" moves.

Mathures Paul

## APPLE'S SAFARI IS GETTING DISTRACTION CONTROL TO HIDE ANNOYING CONTENT

The fifth iOS 18, iPadOS 18, and macOS Sequoia developer betas that launched on Monday bring a new feature on Safari to make browsing less annoying. Called Distraction Control, the feature removes the overlays that at times get in the way of the browsing experience.

Users will have to manually select each item on a webpage that they wish to hide. Once you choose 'Hide Distracting Items' from the menu, you can select items that you want to hide from the page you are browsing.

Distraction Control is not an ad blocker. You will need a different set of tools to block

advertisements. What the feature can do is hide distracting elements from showing on a web page. Once chosen, the feature simply won't show the hidden elements again until the content is changed. It is also not a way to get around paywall content.

The first time you click on Distraction Control, you will be informed that the feature will not permanently remove ads or other areas where content might change or get updated (like banner ads).

The feature is not a controversial one. Safari browser comes with helpful features such as Intelligent Tracking Prevention and



Apple is adding a new feature to Safari called 'Distraction Control' that lets you remove distracting things like cookie preference pop-ups. Illustration: The Telegraph

private browsing, and over time, Apple has added several privacy-focused options. But the new feature will not permanently remove ads or other areas of a website that frequently change.

If a user wishes to unhide an item, they can click back into the Page Menu interface in Safari and choose 'Show Hidden Items'.

If it is privacy you are looking for, Safari has plenty of features to offer besides Intelligent Tracking Prevention. There are options like passkeys, password monitoring to protect against compromised passwords, privacy report (what trackers are tracking you and who is being blocked), social widget tracking prevention, and fingerprinting defence (stops advertisers and websites from tracking you).

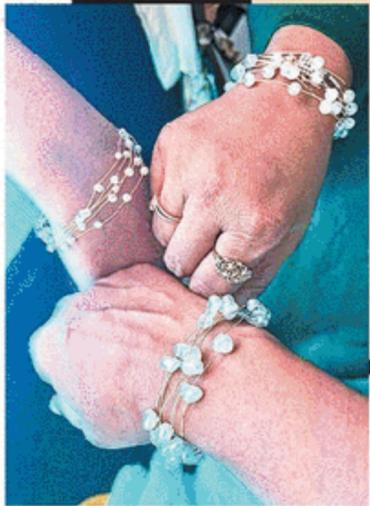
Mathures Paul

**FUNSPACE**



**SLEEPLESS IN COFFEE HOUSE...**

The smell and the noise remain the same but times and people have changed. Yet, one can't get enough of the Bankim Chatterjee Street address when university friends meet every other year to dissect football matches and even the budget. You just can't go wrong with a plate of *pakodas* or cutlets and an endless flow of coffee on the side. One should be grateful for small mercies, like some places remaining the same. Another Infusion please!



**CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP DAY...**

with friends who have lasted in your life for over two decades is a blessing. Thankfully there's a day to express gratitude, have fun, travel down memory lane, become a child again and strengthen the bond. #friendsforever



**RELISHING...**

a lip-smacking platter of mom-made *luchi* and *aloor dom*. As this t2 girl went nom-nom on the scrumptious serving, it took her back to a typical Bhai Phonta morning at home which always began with gifts and this plate of pure love!



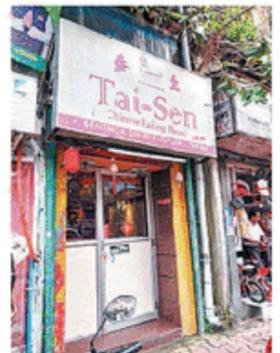
**INDULGING...**

in a dose of vintage opulence at The Claridges, New Delhi, which has been newly-revamped but continues to retain its old-world charm.

**FEELING NOSTALGIC...**

while savouring some authentic Chinese...

felt nostalgic as three t2 girls strolled down to Tai-Sen, nestled in the bustling streets of Bentinck Street, an area which was once the heart of old Chinatown, where the Hakka Chinese settled and became renowned as skilled cobblers and leather workers and are now preserving the rich cultural legacy of the community that shaped this neighbourhood.



**EXCITED...**

to see the original stone chariot that is imprinted on ₹50 currency notes. On a recent visit to Karnataka's Hampi, which was the seat of the historical kingdom of Vijayanagara, we were filled with awe and wonder to witness this magnificent ancient architectural delight at the Vithala Temple Complex, along with many more fascinating edifices spread across the fortified old city which is also a UNESCO world heritage site.



**ROMANCING CALCUTTA...**

Our beloved city looks lovelier in monsoon and we are falling in love with it all over again. And what better way to do it than by taking a walk along the banks of the Ganga, catching a boat ride and feeling the stiff breeze blowing behind us as giant clouds loom overhead.






The old-time frenemies are back to fight the gastronomical war. Come indulge in the best of both the East and the West.

**Date: 6th - 8th Aug'24**

**Venue: Ecospace Business Park**

**Time: 12 Noon onwards**

Online Partner | Radio Partner



**Participants**

AmbujaNeotia | Bhuri Bhoj | Benfish Revelry | Poush Parbon | 36 Banjon | Go Lebanese | Bhooteer Raja Dilo Bor | Sabir's Hotel Palli Bangla | Nalin Chandra Das & Sons | Parameswar Kulfiwala

## BHASKAR CHATTOPADHYAY IS BACK WITH THE FIFTH BOOK IN THE JANARDAN MAITY DETECTIVE SERIES. A t2 CHAT WITH THE AUTHOR

**B**haskar Chattopadhyay's Janardan Maity detective books have long garnered attention for their intricate plots, which blend suspense, drama, and cultural nuances, giving the Bengali reader a brand-new, spiffy *goenda* in the heart of their own land. A t2 chat with Chattopadhyay, whose fifth book in the series *Aperture* is a fine addition to the legacy that his character Maity has left behind in contemporary Indian detective fiction.

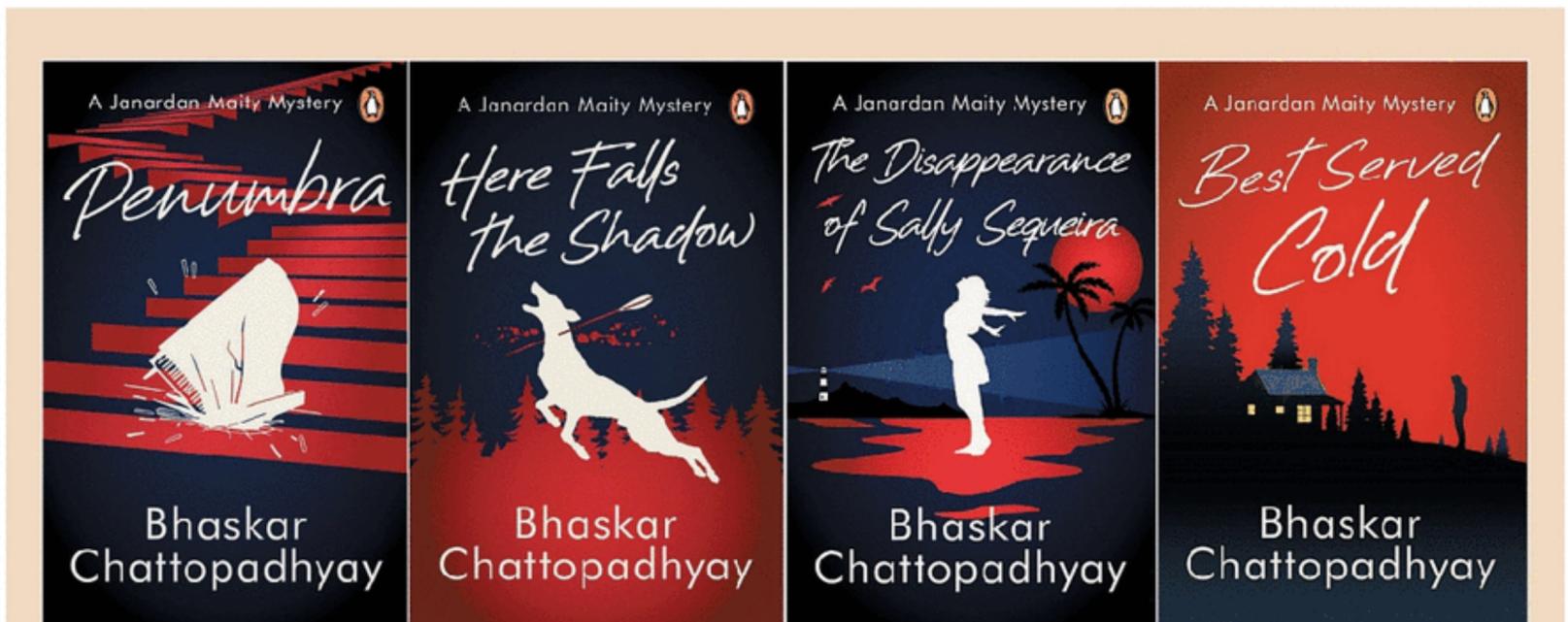
*Aperture* is the fifth Janardhan Maity book. What has the journey of working in this particular genre been like over the years?

It has been a fascinating journey. It may sound like a cliché when I talk about it now, but I had genuinely never imagined that the character would receive so much love from readers. I had always wanted to create a detective of my own, but I never thought it would become so popular. And for that I am immensely grateful. It takes quite a bit of hard work to create the puzzles and then overlay the interplay of human relationships on them. But when I see the love with which readers welcome each book, or even wait for one, it all pays off. Frankly speaking, that love can sometimes seem like a big responsibility too. It makes me tell myself, "You better make the next novel better than the last one, you better not disappoint your readers!"

How would you say Maity has evolved through the series? What aspects of his character have you enjoyed exploring the most?

Other than the fact that we can all see that Maity is clearly getting old with each passing novel, I don't think he has changed much. With age comes more time spent in quiet contemplation. He's still got the punch but in a wiser way rather than a sharper one. Another facet of him that has become more pronounced is his wit and humour, mostly around sarcasm. That is not to say that he has become grumpy. Instead, he has become this middle-aged man who now understands that a bit of peace and quiet is a priceless commodity.

One of the interesting characteristics that I have enjoyed exploring through Maity is his complete lack of interest towards the entire notion of money. Maity is well provided for, so one might say it is a tad hypocritical, even ironic, that he is simply not interested in money. But I look at it this way: Maity can easily make more money. But he simply doesn't want to. He is a simple man, with simple needs. He likes to eat good food, likes reading books, listening to music, likes nature, prefers to sit down and think about life, he likes the company of his dear friend Prakash. If you think about it, none of these things cost too much. As a writer, as Janardan Maity's creator, I like to explore this characteristic of his for the simple reason that I myself have one very big regret in my life: that I should have kept my



The five Janardan Maity books are *Penumbra*, *Here Falls the Shadow*, *The Disappearance of Sally Sequeira*, *Best Served Cold*, and *Aperture*. The stories feature Janardan Maity, a private investigator who solves complex cases with keen observation skills and astute deductive reasoning.



Author Bhaskar Chatterjee

of lack of information, even communication. With that out of the picture thanks to the cellphone and the internet, it becomes quite difficult and challenging to craft a detective story. I suppose there are two ways to overcome this problem, and I have tried both to varying degrees. The first is to simply take the cellphone and the internet out of the picture. One does this by setting the stories in exotic locations, far flung places, putting the characters in the middle of nowhere. The other is to adapt and work around the availability of information.

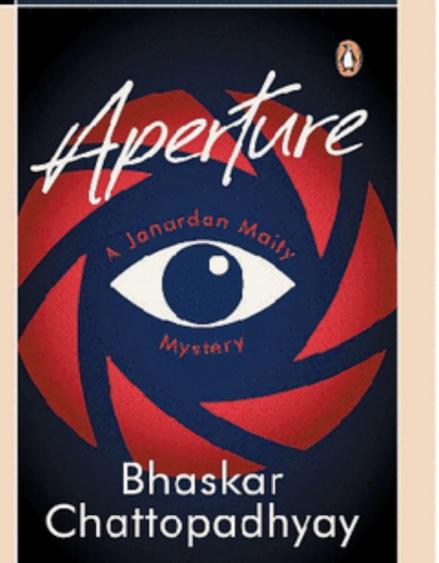
Could you share some insights into your process of crafting the mysteries in your books? How do

you work on the puzzle elements?

It always begins with the puzzle. That's the seed. It is from that puzzle that one gradually takes bits and pieces of information away, step by step, one at a time. Think of it like starting off with a sudoku with a full house. Then you start taking number one, and you gradually reach a stage when you have only certain numbers on the grid. A mystery puzzle is no different. The big, big challenge is knowing when to stop. You stop too early, and readers will be able to see the solution from a mile away. You stop too late, and it becomes an unfair challenge to solve. Like any good detective writer in world literature, I am more interested in the *how* done it, instead of the *who* did it. Like I always say, if there are five people in a room and one of them ends up dead, then there is a 25 per cent probability that a reader can correctly guess who the murderer is, even by randomly guessing. But if I were to ask the same reader *how* the crime was committed, then there are infinitely possible explanations. Therein lies the real charm of a detective story.

What do you enjoy most about writing detective fiction, and how does it differ from other genres you've explored?

Detective fiction is all about puzzles and human psychology. I am fascinated by both. More than the science aspect of it (and by that I mean the forensics), I am interested in the logic aspect of it. In other words, Agatha Christie has had a bigger influence on my stories than Arthur Conan Doyle. I am less interested in the cigarette ash and the fingerprint than a seemingly innocuous sentence spoken under certain specific circumstances, which takes on a completely different meaning in certain others. The optics of a crime and the



**Feluda and Poirot have had the biggest influence on my detective Janardan Maity, and their respective creators Satyajit Ray and Agatha Christie on my writing. I have taken the stylisations of Ray and the acute (almost comical) observation and deduction sense of Poirot and put them together to create my detective. But there is one facet of my detective that perhaps these two fictional characters don't have. My detective is not above making mistakes and errors in judgment. He is a living, breathing man, just like the rest of us**

needs less. The less one needs, the freer one's mind becomes. And then there is room in one's thoughts for the best things that life has to offer, almost all of which come at a very low cost. It is in this aspect that Janardan Maity is the man I always aspired to be.

What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced while writing the Janardhan Maity series, and how did you overcome them?

By far the biggest challenge is to write a classical detective novel in the modern day when practically all information is available at one's fingertips. Stories such as the ones I dabble in rely on a certain amount

**It has been a fascinating journey. It may sound like a cliché when I talk about it now, but I had genuinely never imagined that the character would receive so much love from readers. I had always wanted to create a detective of my own, but I never thought it would become so popular. And for that, I am immensely grateful**

psychology of the characters are what I deal with. And in that sense, detective fiction is not too different from other genres of fiction, which explore human psychology too. The only difference that I can think of is the presence of a crime in the midst of it all.

Who are some of your favourite *goenda* authors and detectives? What impact have they had on your writing of the genre?

Feluda and Poirot have had the biggest influence on my detective Janardan Maity, and their respective creators Satyajit Ray and Agatha Christie on my writing. I have taken the stylisations of Ray and the acute (almost comical) observation and deduction sense of Poirot and put them together to create my detective. But there is one facet of my detective that perhaps these two fictional characters don't have. My detective is not above making mistakes and errors in judgment. He is a living, breathing man, just like the rest of us. In fact, it is his prowess that sometimes becomes a curse for him. After all, the more one sees, the more one understands, the more one gets hurt.

Subhalakshmi Dey

Pictures: Penguin Random House India

# WHATSUP

**W**hat do you experience when a live music pad becomes a live listening environment?

Jamsteady's initiative to churn out fresh new playlists for the party-going crowd and music lovers at Skinny Mo's Jazz Club brings a brand new flavour to the city. "Jamsteady began in 2012 as an initiative to promote live original music and has since expanded into various ventures. We now host our own festival, collaborate with events, host gigs in Goa, and launch albums. Throughout this journey, we've observed shifts in how people listen to music. Today, many venues play generic 'safe' music that appeals to everyone. They've been recycling the same playlists for ages. As the founder of Jamsteady, I felt the need to create new listening environments where people can listen, share, and enjoy music together. The goal is to encourage people to explore new sounds and artists, fostering a more open-minded music scene that embraces new experiences. This ultimately supports the independent music community. This idea inspired our listening parties," said Nishit Arora, founder of Jamsteady.

From homegrown DJs to corporate employees, people from all walks of life get the opportunity to spin the wheels on the console and play their much-loved songs at the Listening Party — a curation that's unique in itself. The venue has hosted nine Listening Parties till date featuring, Nishit Arora (played twice), Romit Sen, Urmimala

## JAMSTEADY LISTENING PARTY AT SKINNY MO'S JAZZ CLUB ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO EXPLORE NEW SOUNDS

**What:** Jamsteady Listening Party  
**Where:** Skinny Mo's Jazz Club at 91, Manohar Pukur Road  
**When:** Every Wednesday  
**Timings:** 7pm to 11.30pm  
**Entry:** Free (live bands are ticketed)



Urmimala Mukherjee with her friends while curating the Listening Party



Eva R. Sachdeva played songs like *Tidal Wave* by Tom Misch and Yusef Dayes, *Strong* by London Grammar, *American Daydream* by Electric Guest and *Matilda* by Alt J on her day



Tara Prakash

Mukherjee, Vinay Daswani, Tara Prakash, Adnan Ariff, Eva R Sachdeva, Sourjya Sinha — with the 10th one scheduled for today, where singer-songwriter Aditya Majumdar is playing a Jamsteady gig and curating the Listening Party at the venue. The event has no entry fee unless there's a live band performance preceding it. The special part about the Listening Party is there's music for connoisseurs as well as those fleeting by — varying across genres like alt-rock, pop, R&B, ambient, shoegaze, post-rock and electronica. "The feedback we have received has far surpassed our expectations. Initially, I planned to curate each playlist myself, but I was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm others showed



Nishit Arora curated the first Jamsteady Listening Party

for curating and hosting these Listening Parties. People were eager to create their own playlists, and since the first event, we've had various individuals take turns hosting these sessions. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The sense of community that has emerged from these

events is what we enjoy the most," expressed Nishit.

After attending a Listening Party, t2 felt the vibe was different... it was chill, allowing space for conversation over some really well-made tipples prepared by Ipsi, the bar head at Skinny Mo's. One of their hits from the cocktail menu — Smoky Robinson paired with tracks like *Under The Sun* (DIIV), *Dreamgaze* (Castlebeat), *Body Nature* (Paula Tape) and *Vent* (Signal W) makes it a good Wednesday evening.

**Sramana Ray**  
 Pictures: Margub Ali

"Being an avid music listener and sound engineer, the Listening Party was the perfect opportunity to listen to my fave tunes in a bar setting with my close friends. The uplifting tunes that I curated spanned across the genres like pop, ballads, post rock and electronica mostly and they fit the vibe at Skinny Mo's perfectly," said Vinay Daswani who played tracks like *Honeymoon* (Oracle Sisters), *Idol Eyes* (Common Saints), *Full Circle* (Haelos) and *Priestess* (Pumarosa).



CONGRATS, FASHION DECODERS!

Ritrisha Banerjee

Sneha Bose

Chiranjeev Dutta

Download the app

A big shoutout to the champions who successfully solved the emoji riddle on fashion!

17<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**DECOR DEN CASA INDIA LAUNCHES ITS THIRD OUTLET AT KANKURGACHI. GLIMPSES**

**A**fter finding success with outlets in City Centre Salt Lake and Nagerbazar, Casa India launched its third outlet in the city at Kankurgachi on August 2. The brand manufactures premium home linen and decor items, including cushion covers, bed and table runners,

bed covers, fridge covers, laundry bags and more. They also customise products according to preferences of customers.

The latest outlet boasts a wide range of products, from leading brands. Speaking to **t2**, Vikash Dokania, owner of Casa India, said: "I felt Calcutta lacked a proper home

furnishing store. Here we have products from all leading brands in the home furnishing market, but only the premium section of these brands we are stocking here. That's why the average price range is slightly higher here than the other two outlets. Coming from my distribution background, I felt the need to bridge the

gap between retailers and customers, and wanted to provide a one-stop solution. Currently, Casa India has a presence in 100-plus retailers in major metro cities pan-India. My target is now to reach at least 200 stores. Our cushion covers are made in our workshop in Patipukur. Our craftsmanship, innovative design and personalised service set us apart from others. We at Casa India believe that every corner of the house has a story to tell, and we are here to serve our patrons with elegance, grace, and style."



The 1,000sq ft store is stacked with products from leading home furnishing brands, including Raymonds, Welspun, and more. From bedsheets to cushion covers, table runners, towels, rugs, and so on, the store boasts an impressive collection and is a one-stop solution for all your home furnishing needs. The cushion covers are all designed and manufactured in Casa India's in-house workshop. The price starts at ₹149 and goes on till around ₹22,000 for combos comprising quilts, bedsheets, pillow covers, cushion covers, and so on. Besides, products can be customised and the price can go upwards depending on requirements.



The multi-coloured cushions with vivid designs and patterns are the star attractions of the store.

Filmmaker Ashoke Viswanathan, director of *Hemanter Aparanhe*, posed with a cow-printed cushion.



Actor Richa Sharma, the special guest at the launch, posed for the **t2** camera with a beautiful elephant-print cushion. The gorgeous actress looked resplendent in a white Jyotee Khaitan sari with a golden border. She said: "My heartfelt congratulations to Mr Dokania on opening this outlet of Casa India. The collection is huge and reflects his taste. The cushions are my absolute favourite."



Cast and crew members of *Hemanter Aparanhe* that released last month dropped by for the launch. Actors Moubani Sorcar and Rwitobroto Mukherjee posed with a velvet sunflower-shaped cushion.



Film producer and entrepreneur Amit Agarwal was a special guest at the launch. He said: "Casa India I think is the ultimate destination for lifestyle and home decor products. Bengal being an art and cultural hub of India, the best thing in Casa India is the creativity we see in their cushions. I wish them good luck and more outlets across India in the future."



A cake was cut on the occasion with all the special guests of the afternoon.



Imran Zaki was also present on the occasion.



Vikash Dokania

*Debanjoli Nandi*  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

# SPORTSPACE

## THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TIGER TURF TROPHY, HELD AT KHALSA ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, WAS ALL ABOUT FOSTERING COLLECTIVE GROWTH

The board of management of Gurudwara Bara Sikh Sangat, in association with the managing committees of Khalsa English High School, Khalsa High School and Khalsa Girls High School, organised the opening ceremony of the Tiger Turf

Trophy at the Khalsa English High School. The event comprised the inauguration of a new astro turf, followed by a cultural programme put together by the students and teachers of the Khalsa English High School, Khalsa High School and Khalsa Girls High School. t2 gets you glimpses of the event.



The cultural programme began with an invocation of the divine by a melodious recitation of holy verses or *shabad* from the Guru Granth Sahib, sung by students from the Khalsa English High School, Khalsa High School and Khalsa Girls High School.



The six-a-side astro turf ground is crafted with materials certified by the Federation of International Hockey, ensuring a professional quality playing surface. Designed for optimal performance, it offers players an unparalleled experience, combining durability with safety. Whether for training or competitive matches, this turf provides the perfect setting for athletes to excel and enjoy the game.

"The reason we chose to install a new astroturf is that we have a very rich history in hockey. So many players from our school,



organisations and academy have represented India and Bengal. Every time we made it to the Juniors, there were seven to eight players from our academy. In Seniors, our boys have represented Bengal, and some of them have also played for our country. Our school has also trained Olympians, namely Baljit Singh Saini and Joginder Singh. Our vision is to train players from the grassroots level on this astroturf so that once they qualify for higher levels on bigger grounds, they face no difficulty in adapting to those grounds. In the near future, we plan to start an Under 17 Hockey Academy to train girls and boys across West Bengal. Those who qualify for our criteria will be provided with free education at our Khalsa English High School," said Gurmeet Singh, president of the Gurudwara Bara Sikh Sangat.



t2 caught a cute moment as this kid tried his hand at hockey.

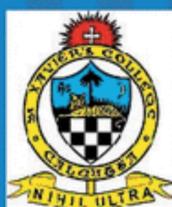


(L-R) Debasish Kumar, Gurmeet Singh, Manoj Kumar Tiwary, and Gurbux Singh held the customary hockey stick after inaugurating the turf and declaring the Tiger Turf Trophy open. Manoj Kumar Tiwary infused a sense of motivation and discipline among students. "Have belief in yourselves, because self-belief is the one thing that takes you places. Be disciplined, and be good human beings," he said.



The programme also comprised a Bhangra performance by students. A traditional folk dance from Punjab, this performance, replete with colours, energy and grace, infused a slice of Punjab in the environment.

Srishti Choudhury (t2 intern) Pictures: B Halder



St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association  
and  
Department of Sports, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata  
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## 'THE PAST MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE TODAY AND GIVES YOU THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW' — AMIT AGGARWAL

**W**e were meeting Amit Aggarwal a couple of hours before he sent his 'Antevorta' on the ramp at Hyundai India Couture Week 2024, in association with Reliance Brands, an initiative by FDCl, at Taj Palace in Delhi. Dressed in black, a colour he loves, Amit, based in Delhi, looked calm. He later told us he was never anxious about the future. "If I do my job well, what's on my plate right now, the future is already set," he smiled.

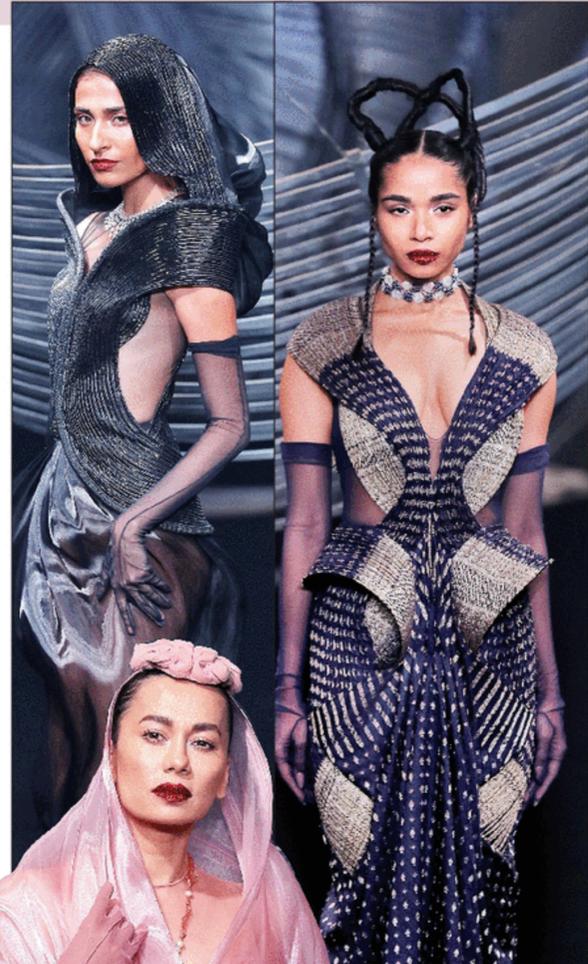
His 'Antevorta' was a job done splendidly. One of our favourite collections, it made us think. The models walked through and around a swirling maze in creations that were pieces of art. The garments had clarity of expression and were executed with the precision of a surgeon that made them look like pieces of sculptures, sexy in all their starkness. The highlight was a series of 'pre-loved Benarasis' that Amit reinterpreted.

This was Amit's sixth year at the annual fashion extravaganza and his brand clocked a dozen years. He decoded the collection for t2.

### What does 'Antevorta' mean?

'Antevorta' is the goddess of future in Roman mythology, but technically, 'Antevorta' is supposed to be the goddess that is with you at the time of your birth to define the future that lies ahead of you.

To run back to the basic concept from which stemmed the idea, Amit Aggarwal is built on three broad pillars, which are eternity, evolution and emotion. Eternity is a strong aspect of what we communicate, get inspired by. Honestly, there is one aspect of our life which has been before us, which has emerged with the universe and it will even prevail after human civilisation or any civilisation comes to an end. That's the concept of time. Time for me is that one eternal concept that really binds our existence together. I started looking at different concepts of time through philosophy, science, math, religion and how I could build different aspects around time. Each part of the collection talks about one aspect of time



**I started looking at different concepts of time through philosophy, science, math, religion and how I could build different aspects around time. Each part of the collection talks about one aspect of time and we have gone ahead and created an entire story around that concept and built it up into textiles, forms, shapes, the sound, the hair and make-up — Amit Aggarwal**



Amit Aggarwal

and we have gone ahead and created an entire story around that concept and built it up into textiles, forms, shapes, the sound, the hair and make-up.

**On average, how much time does it take to put together a garment?** I have actually started refraining from answering this question. I thought about it. In couture, it's always about the man hours. I think, for me, it's not always just about the amount of handworkmanship or the amount of time that has been given in handworkmanship. Yes, of course, all credit to everyone who does that, there is a lot of labour and sweat and everything that goes into making it and a lot of our pieces are completely embroidered or done on the *adda*, but I think, it is what we sometimes tend to negate with this question is the mind that's working on it. There are multiple minds that are working on it even before the germination of an idea or the execution of an idea.

At Amit Aggarwal, the concept is about evolution. I don't think we look at stopping one idea and starting afresh. I think the narrative for us is holding true to our DNA and how we evolve and push the boundaries of creation and look at our materials in a different light and still build it up into something new, season after season.

### What is the role of sketching?

I think the sketch is the initial idea where my hands start to flow. I know what the line quality is looking like, the coordination between the mind and the hand and I think a lot of it is done on the body form or the journey with the

material and what it can do finally. That is really the large conversation.

**What does it mean for you as a designer to build your own signature and honing it?**

At the end of the day, you have to live with your own truth. As a creative individual or as an organisation or as a company, every piece we create, I may not say, it reaches the DNA to a 100 per cent. I think I like that variety. Of course every single piece will have the DNA of the brand, but I feel, if you live that one life, do things that are true to your heart. I really enjoy that. It's also a lot of struggle to keep pushing it over and over again, but I think when that beautiful object is sitting next to you, where the evening lights are falling on it, it's a lot of joy.

**What has the 12-year journey been like for the brand?**

Beautiful. I like the voices that come from far. I think that's an indelible memory and a significant part of all of us. The past makes you what you are today and gives you the hope for tomorrow. I don't think I have a single regret. I have enjoyed every minute of it and given the chance, I'd do it all over again.

**Who is an Amit Aggarwal bride and groom, today?**

I think they are people who are in love with themselves before they found love for each other. We look at people who have an understanding of what makes them feel beautiful and are connected with themselves. Clothing, I feel, can be a part of your celebrations to amplify the feeling and the celebration of yourself, but cannot fill in the void. I think the Amit Aggarwal customer is a strong, opinionated, intelligent, forward-thinking and a progressive person.

**Are you writing more and more?**

No (*laughs*), I don't get the chance to write, but for this collection, there is matter worth 70-100 pages that has been written. The team was saying let's look at converting this into a short book.

**Are you watching anything at the moment?**

Right now, it's been so hectic. I have been reaching home every day for the last three months at 3am. I have dived into some random Spanish rom-com series.

**Finally, what does time mean to you as we speak?**

To me, now, to have an honest conversation with you. That's the beauty of time. I am never anxious about the future. If I do my job well, what's on my plate right now, the future is already set.

**Saionee Chakraborty**

Pictures: Sandip Das

## 'I MANAGE TO GET INTO A BETTER FRAME OF MIND WHEN I PUT MY BODY THROUGH THIS TORTURE!' — SAIYAMI KHER ON PLUNGING BODY, MIND AND SOUL INTO THE IRONMAN TRIATHLON

**S**aiyami Kher has always been an actor with a difference. That has not only reflected in the unconventional projects she has done so far — starting right from her debut film *Mirzya*, directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra — but also in her life beyond acting. An avid sports fan as well as one who plays a variety of sport, Saiyami is now ready to take on one of her most challenging roles yet.

Come September, the 32-year-old actor will take off to Germany to participate in the Ironman Triathlon. Widely considered as one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world, the Ironman Triathlon includes a 3.9km swim, a 180.2km bicycle ride and a 42.2km run in quick succession. With about a month left for her big (make that, huge) challenge, t2 chatted with Saiyami.

**Less than two months to go for the Ironman Triathlon! What are the emotions like?**

It is a little more than 40 days away, so I do feel a little bit of nervousness. It is the kind of nervousness one feels the day before a film releases. I was brave enough to sign up for it (*smiles*). I have been very consistent with my training for six months, but I was down with viral fever last week. For the first time in six months, I had to take four days off from my training. And suddenly, I am super nervous thinking that I will have to restart from scratch. To do a half marathon right after cycling 100km suddenly feels very daunting. But I keep watching documentaries about people who have done crazy things and I tell myself: 'It is no big deal. The world is doing so much more than what I am doing' (*smiles*). So I put myself to sleep every night with that thought and then wake up and train again.

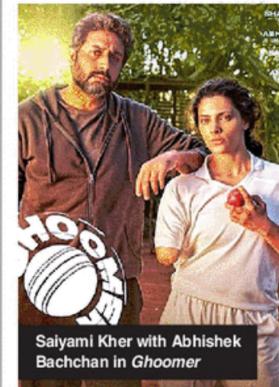
The only concern is that I am shooting all of August and so I have to be very intelligent with my training. I have to utilise my time well and ensure that I am still at it though I know it will not be at the level that I was at all these days.

**Ironman was always the next step for me. The honest truth is that endurance tests keep me sane. I could be in the middle of back-to-back shoots, there could be a hundred other things happening... but it is my physical training that proves to be the most calming for me**

**Shooting and training for something as strenuous as this at the same time must be very stressful...**

The mind and the body work in funny ways. On the first day I trained after my viral fever, I came back from shoot in the evening, sat on my couch and was mindlessly scrolling through Instagram. I kept telling myself that the more I postpone getting on to my bike, the tougher it is going to be to restart. What happens with the human mind is that the negative forces can take over easily but it is just about letting that little bird on your shoulder tell you to start doing it. The minute I got on to my bike, all the tiredness went away and I was back on track.

**You have always been into sport majorly. Was there a specific reason why you decided to sign**



Saiyami Kher with Abhishek Bachchan in *Ghoomer*

**Ghoomer taught me a lot about myself and it will probably be the most special film I have done so far. I get very attached to the projects I do. It will soon be a year to Ghoomer's release but the film is still very much a part of my system**



Saiyami Kher

**up for Ironman?**

I have done a couple of marathons and half-marathons. Ironman was always the next step for me. The honest truth is that endurance tests keep me sane. I could be in the middle of back-to-back shoots, there could be a hundred other things happening... but it is my physical training that proves to be the most calming for me. I manage to get into a better frame of mind when I put my body through this torture! (*Laughs*) It is a reminder to me that if I set my mind to doing something, I can achieve it. Doing something so rigorous is just purely about the kind of victories which sometimes one can't have in a profession or somewhere else.

These small victories mean a

lot to me. The Ironman Triathlon is obviously the ultimate goal but even the training I have undergone all these months — which has told me what my body and mind can achieve when it is pushed — is a victory for me.

**What are the drastic changes you have had to incorporate in your life while training for this?**

I don't have any other life anymore. I film for nine hours, I train the rest of the time and in Bombay, a lot of time is anyway spent in commuting. I have not met my friends in the last six months. I was always disciplined but now I really value the time I have in a day. On Sundays, I end up training for six hours which includes

cycling 100km, then swimming, then running... and repeating the process.

**Are there any lifestyle changes that you plan to continue with even beyond Ironman?**

Most people tell me: 'If you think this is the only Ironman that you will do, then you are highly mistaken'. It is actually quite addictive. I have already started thinking of what I want to do after Ironman, in the sense which is the next race that I want to sign up for. It gives me a goal and some kind of purpose which I like to wake up for every morning.

Also, I might go back to doing a full marathon because I want to better my time. I will definitely be changing certain targets every year but hopefully getting this one done first.

**Has there ever been a point when you have wanted to give up?**

Surprisingly, I have never felt like giving up. The same goes for my acting career. Even if the chips are down, I never want to give up.

With Ironman, I always knew what I had signed up for. I knew how gruelling this was going to be, physically and mentally. Sometimes, when my body is not in rhythm or is very tired, I listen to it. I will not continue that day but I will go back to it the next day. Yes, there have been certain days that have been very, very bad but at no point am I giving up. Also, I genuinely enjoy being in the pool, swimming, hitting those targets....

**You are currently shooting your Telugu film SDGM with Sunny Deol in Hyderabad. Would you count this as a totally different experience from the films you have done so far?**

It is very, very different. It is always nice to shake yourself out of your comfort zone. This is exciting because it is something that I haven't done before. The scale of the film is something which I haven't seen in my career so far. Even after being in films for seven years, it feels like a whole new experience.

**Which roles, so far, have challenged you the most and have been the most creatively satisfying?**

It is a tough toss-up between *Choked* (directed by Anurag Kashyap) and *Ghoomer* (directed by R. Balki). Both the films took a lot out of me. *Ghoomer* (in which she played a physically-challenged cricketer) took a lot out of me physically and emotionally and *Choked* was completely out of my comfort zone. Both the films were extremely liberating.

*Ghoomer* taught me a lot about myself and it will probably be the most special film I have done so far. I get very attached to the projects I do. It will soon be a year to *Ghoomer's* release but the film is still very much a part of my system. And *Choked* taught me a lot about myself as an actor.

Priyanka Roy

## 'THE PAST MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE TODAY AND GIVES YOU THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW' — AMIT AGGARWAL

**W**e were meeting Amit Aggarwal a couple of hours before he sent his 'Antevorta' on the ramp at Hyundai India Couture Week 2024, in association with Reliance Brands, an initiative by FDCCI, at Taj Palace in Delhi. Dressed in black, a colour he loves, Amit, based in Delhi, looked calm. He later told us he was never anxious about the future. "If I do my job well, what's on my plate right now, the future is already set," he smiled.

His 'Antevorta' was a job done splendidly. One of our favourite collections, it made us think. The models walked through and around a swirling maze in creations that were pieces of art. The garments had clarity of expression and were executed with the precision of a surgeon that made them look like pieces of sculptures, sexy in all their starkness. The highlight was a series of 'pre-loved Benarasis' that Amit reinterpreted.

This was Amit's sixth year at the annual fashion extravaganza and his brand clocked a dozen years. He decoded the collection for t2.

### What does 'Antevorta' mean?

'Antevorta' is the goddess of future in Roman mythology, but technically, 'Antevorta' is supposed to be the goddess that is with you at the time of your birth to define the future that lies ahead of you.

To run back to the basic concept from which stemmed the idea, Amit Aggarwal is built on three broad pillars, which are eternity, evolution and emotion. Eternity is a strong aspect of what we communicate, get inspired by. Honestly, there is one aspect of our life which has been before us, which has emerged with the universe and it will even prevail after human civilisation or any civilisation comes to an end. That's the concept of time. Time for me is that one eternal concept that really binds our existence together. I started looking at different concepts of time through philosophy, science, math, religion and how I could build different aspects around time. Each part of the collection talks about one aspect of time



**I started looking at different concepts of time through philosophy, science, math, religion and how I could build different aspects around time. Each part of the collection talks about one aspect of time and we have gone ahead and created an entire story around that concept and built it up into textiles, forms, shapes, the sound, the hair and make-up — Amit Aggarwal**



Amit Aggarwal

and we have gone ahead and created an entire story around that concept and built it up into textiles, forms, shapes, the sound, the hair and make-up.

**On average, how much time does it take to put together a garment?** I have actually started refraining from answering this question. I thought about it. In couture, it's always about the man hours. I think, for me, it's not always just about the amount of handworkmanship or the amount of time that has been given in handworkmanship. Yes, of course, all credit to everyone who does that, there is a lot of labour and sweat and everything that goes into making it and a lot of our pieces are completely embroidered or done on the *adda*, but I think, it is what we sometimes tend to negate with this question is the mind that's working on it. There are multiple minds that are working on it even before the germination of an idea or the execution of an idea.

At Amit Aggarwal, the concept is about evolution. I don't think we look at stopping one idea and starting afresh. I think the narrative for us is holding true to our DNA and how we evolve and push the boundaries of creation and look at our materials in a different light and still build it up into something new, season after season.

### What is the role of sketching?

I think the sketch is the initial idea where my hands start to flow. I know what the line quality is looking like, the coordination between the mind and the hand and I think a lot of it is done on the body form or the journey with the

material and what it can do finally. That is really the large conversation.

**What does it mean for you as a designer to build your own signature and honing it?**

At the end of the day, you have to live with your own truth. As a creative individual or as an organisation or as a company, every piece we create, I may not say, it reaches the DNA to a 100 per cent. I think I like that variety. Of course every single piece will have the DNA of the brand, but I feel, if you live that one life, do things that are true to your heart. I really enjoy that. It's also a lot of struggle to keep pushing it over and over again, but I think when that beautiful object is sitting next to you, where the evening lights are falling on it, it's a lot of joy.

**What has the 12-year journey been like for the brand?**

Beautiful. I like the voices that come from far. I think that's an indelible memory and a significant part of all of us. The past makes you what you are today and gives you the hope for tomorrow. I don't think I have a single regret. I have enjoyed every minute of it and given the chance, I'd do it all over again.

**Who is an Amit Aggarwal bride and groom, today?**

I think they are people who are in love with themselves before they found love for each other. We look at people who have an understanding of what makes them feel beautiful and are connected with themselves. Clothing, I feel, can be a part of your celebrations to amplify the feeling and the celebration of yourself, but cannot fill in the void. I think the Amit Aggarwal customer is a strong, opinionated, intelligent, forward-thinking and a progressive person.

**Are you writing more and more?**

No (*laughs*), I don't get the chance to write, but for this collection, there is matter worth 70-100 pages that has been written. The team was saying let's look at converting this into a short book.

**Are you watching anything at the moment?**

Right now, it's been so hectic. I have been reaching home every day for the last three months at 3am. I have dived into some random Spanish rom-com series.

**Finally, what does time mean to you as we speak?**

To me, now, to have an honest conversation with you. That's the beauty of time. I am never anxious about the future. If I do my job well, what's on my plate right now, the future is already set.

**Saionee Chakraborty**

Pictures: Sandip Das

## 'I MANAGE TO GET INTO A BETTER FRAME OF MIND WHEN I PUT MY BODY THROUGH THIS TORTURE!' — SAIYAMI KHER ON PLUNGING BODY, MIND AND SOUL INTO THE IRONMAN TRIATHLON

**S**aiyami Kher has always been an actor with a difference. That has not only reflected in the unconventional projects she has done so far — starting right from her debut film *Mirzya*, directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra — but also in her life beyond acting. An avid sports fan as well as one who plays a variety of sport, Saiyami is now ready to take on one of her most challenging roles yet.

Come September, the 32-year-old actor will take off to Germany to participate in the Ironman Triathlon. Widely considered as one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world, the Ironman Triathlon includes a 3.9km swim, a 180.2km bicycle ride and a 42.2km run in quick succession. With about a month left for her big (make that, huge) challenge, t2 chatted with Saiyami.

**Less than two months to go for the Ironman Triathlon! What are the emotions like?**

It is a little more than 40 days away, so I do feel a little bit of nervousness. It is the kind of nervousness one feels the day before a film releases. I was brave enough to sign up for it (*smiles*). I have been very consistent with my training for six months, but I was down with viral fever last week. For the first time in six months, I had to take four days off from my training. And suddenly, I am super nervous thinking that I will have to restart from scratch. To do a half marathon right after cycling 100km suddenly feels very daunting. But I keep watching documentaries about people who have done crazy things and I tell myself: 'It is no big deal. The world is doing so much more than what I am doing' (*smiles*). So I put myself to sleep every night with that thought and then wake up and train again.

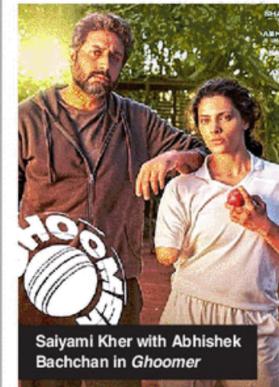
The only concern is that I am shooting all of August and so I have to be very intelligent with my training. I have to utilise my time well and ensure that I am still at it though I know it will not be at the level that I was at all these days.

**Ironman was always the next step for me. The honest truth is that endurance tests keep me sane. I could be in the middle of back-to-back shoots, there could be a hundred other things happening... but it is my physical training that proves to be the most calming for me**

**Shooting and training for something as strenuous as this at the same time must be very stressful...**

The mind and the body work in funny ways. On the first day I trained after my viral fever, I came back from shoot in the evening, sat on my couch and was mindlessly scrolling through Instagram. I kept telling myself that the more I postpone getting on to my bike, the tougher it is going to be to restart. What happens with the human mind is that the negative forces can take over easily but it is just about letting that little bird on your shoulder tell you to start doing it. The minute I got on to my bike, all the tiredness went away and I was back on track.

**You have always been into sport majorly. Was there a specific reason why you decided to sign**



Saiyami Kher with Abhishek Bachchan in *Ghoomer*

**Ghoomer taught me a lot about myself and it will probably be the most special film I have done so far. I get very attached to the projects I do. It will soon be a year to Ghoomer's release but the film is still very much a part of my system**



Saiyami Kher

**up for Ironman?**

I have done a couple of marathons and half-marathons. Ironman was always the next step for me. The honest truth is that endurance tests keep me sane. I could be in the middle of back-to-back shoots, there could be a hundred other things happening... but it is my physical training that proves to be the most calming for me. I manage to get into a better frame of mind when I put my body through this torture! (*Laughs*) It is a reminder to me that if I set my mind to doing something, I can achieve it. Doing something so rigorous is just purely about the kind of victories which sometimes one can't have in a profession or somewhere else.

These small victories mean a

lot to me. The Ironman Triathlon is obviously the ultimate goal but even the training I have undergone all these months — which has told me what my body and mind can achieve when it is pushed — is a victory for me.

**What are the drastic changes you have had to incorporate in your life while training for this?**

I don't have any other life anymore. I film for nine hours, I train the rest of the time and in Bombay, a lot of time is anyway spent in commuting. I have not met my friends in the last six months. I was always disciplined but now I really value the time I have in a day. On Sundays, I end up training for six hours which includes

cycling 100km, then swimming, then running... and repeating the process.

**Are there any lifestyle changes that you plan to continue with even beyond Ironman?**

Most people tell me: 'If you think this is the only Ironman that you will do, then you are highly mistaken'. It is actually quite addictive. I have already started thinking of what I want to do after Ironman, in the sense which is the next race that I want to sign up for. It gives me a goal and some kind of purpose which I like to wake up for every morning.

Also, I might go back to doing a full marathon because I want to better my time. I will definitely be changing certain targets every year but hopefully getting this one done first.

**Has there ever been a point when you have wanted to give up?**

Surprisingly, I have never felt like giving up. The same goes for my acting career. Even if the chips are down, I never want to give up.

With Ironman, I always knew what I had signed up for. I knew how gruelling this was going to be, physically and mentally. Sometimes, when my body is not in rhythm or is very tired, I listen to it. I will not continue that day but I will go back to it the next day. Yes, there have been certain days that have been very, very bad but at no point am I giving up. Also, I genuinely enjoy being in the pool, swimming, hitting those targets....

**You are currently shooting your Telugu film SDGM with Sunny Deol in Hyderabad. Would you count this as a totally different experience from the films you have done so far?**

It is very, very different. It is always nice to shake yourself out of your comfort zone. This is exciting because it is something that I haven't done before. The scale of the film is something which I haven't seen in my career so far. Even after being in films for seven years, it feels like a whole new experience.

**Which roles, so far, have challenged you the most and have been the most creatively satisfying?**

It is a tough toss-up between *Choked* (directed by Anurag Kashyap) and *Ghoomer* (directed by R. Balki). Both the films took a lot out of me. *Ghoomer* (in which she played a physically-challenged cricketer) took a lot out of me physically and emotionally and *Choked* was completely out of my comfort zone. Both the films were extremely liberating.

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Priyanka Roy

## FLO-YFLO BAZAAR WAS A PRE-FESTIVE SHOPPING PARADISE AT TAJ BENGAL. t2 DROPPED BY

**F**ICCI FLO Kolkata and YFLO Kolkata joined hands to organise FLO-YFLO Bazaar, in association with t2, on August 1 at Taj Bengal. Even the rains couldn't dampen the spirits of the shoppers who dropped by for their festive shopping. With an array of items under the same roof, including apparel, homeware, accessories, skincare and gifting items, from a variety of national and local brands, it was a one-stop treat of a shopping destination. Here's what we liked.



AZE Dubai's western contemporary collection stood out for its cool designs. Wearable silhouettes were customisable. The outfits came with Swarovski crystal detailing and other embellishments, apt for a glam look. ₹14,000 onwards @aze\_dubai (Instagram)

As a multi-designer platform, Design Den's curation catered to everyone's needs. The collection on display was unique and spunky, with new patterns and cuts, which kept in mind the comfort of the wearer. ₹ 7,000 onwards



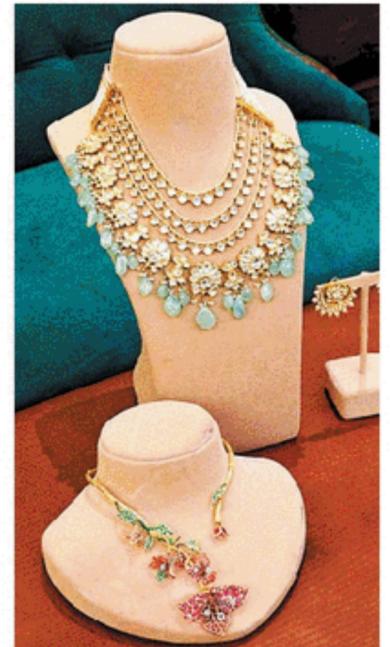
Ojasvini displayed dressy occasionwear outfits. The design detailing on these easy-breezy contemporary silhouettes included zari and bead and threadwork. ₹10,000 onwards @ojasvini\_fashions (Instagram)



Mumbai-based Mitikka specialises in table couture and has created its own niche with its colourful collection of table runners, mats and tableware. The collection at the FLO-YFLO Bazaar gave a sneak peek into their vintage, festive and holiday line, apt for sprucing up your dining table this festive season. ₹800 onwards @mitikka.in (Instagram)



Crisanto Jewels displayed a wide range of stylish jewellery for kids and teenagers. Their collection featured kurta buttons and cufflinks for boys and bracelets, nazarias and pendants for girls, with cute motifs, which are apt for Rakhi and other festivals ahead. ₹ 4,000 onwards @crisantojewels (Instagram)



Jaipur-based jewellery house Sunita Shekhawat, known for its heritage jewellery, showcased a variety of sets, featuring Jaipur's signature gemstones and meenakari work. Price on request @sunitashekhawat.com

Light Path's range of tableware and homeware were popular items at the exhibition. Made with Roshanara fabric, these handicrafts by the rural artisans were aesthetic and sustainable picks. ₹1,000 onwards

FICCI FLO Initiative, headed by FICCI to offer a platform to the rural artisans of the country, displayed a wide range of home decor items, like table runners, coasters and baskets—handcrafted and made with bamboo. ₹50 onwards



Mira by Radhika Jain presented a collection of silver artefacts and jewellery for this festive season, including a stunning silver-plated homeware collection, with beautifully crafted delicate motifs and intricate craftsmanship. ₹3,000 onwards @mirabyradhikajain (Instagram)



# WHATSUP



Ivara showcased a beautiful collection of bags which had the deft craftsmanship from Lucknow. Their collection of colourful bags were designed with *chikankari*, *kasab art* and *zardosi*. On display were styles like clutches and *potlis*, created with sustainable fabrics. ₹4,500 onwards @ *ivarapret (Instagram)*

Chayam's health and wellness tea sets and packs, packaged aesthetically, are perfect Rakhi gift options for your tea-loving brother or sister. ₹ 150 onwards @ *chayamtea (Instagram)*



The wide range of candles at Butterfly Bath & Bubbles looked wow. Crafted in shapes of desserts like mousse, cupcakes and Bento cakes and decorated with waxberries and whipped cream, they had heavenly fragrance. The products were made with coconut wax, soy wax, beeswax and certified aromas, which are safe to be used in air-conditioned rooms for a relaxed experience. ₹1,200 onwards @ *butterflybathnbubbles (Instagram)*

## SHOPPER SPEAK:



"We are so happy to be here. We love the exhibition! It is so hard to choose a favorite out of all these, which is probably why we have bought so much," said Kanchan Madhugaria and friend Kumud Agarwal.



"The exhibition is nice and the variety of products is truly astounding. The range is varied and there are so many things to browse through. One can never get tired!" said Shreya Sariya (left). Her friend, Prachi Tatsian, said: "More than the variety, it is the guarantee of premium pieces here that we really like. My favourite by far were the clothing and earrings sections at the exhibit."

"It was very well curated. It was fun to meet everyone. The annual event really creates an opportunity for everyone to showcase their brands on this platform. Congratulations to Varsha Wadhwa Chirimar and Shradha Murarka for pulling this off so seamlessly," said Manjri Agarwal, past chairperson, YFLO.

## ORGANISER SPEAK:



"Despite the rains, everyone came. The response was positive," said Varsha Wadhwa Chirimar (right), YFLO chairperson. Shradha Murarka, chairperson of FICCI FLO Kolkata said: "We were overwhelmed with the response, the footfall was been fantastic, ever since we started. The ambience is vibrant and the enthusiastic participation of exhibitors contributed to its success. The overall experience made us happy, which shows that our committees worked hard to create this and empower our members with the opportunity. We want to thank the city and the organisation for putting up such an amazing show together. It is what FICCI truly stands for."

**Urmika Roy** (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

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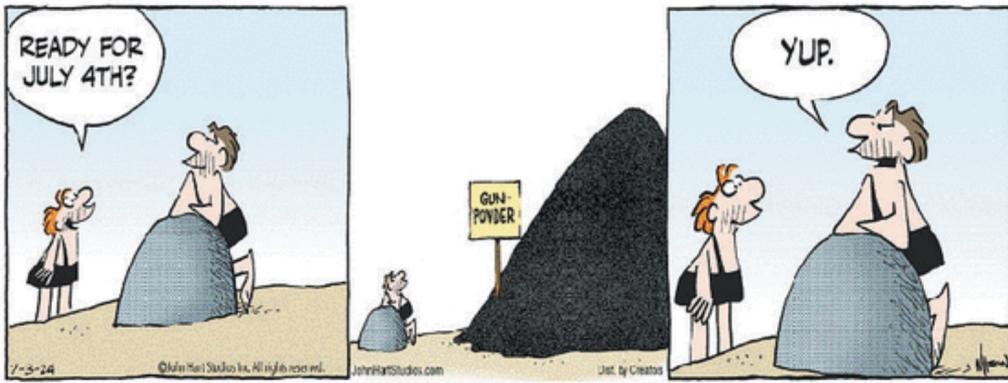
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B.C. by Johny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



Peanuts by Charles Schulz



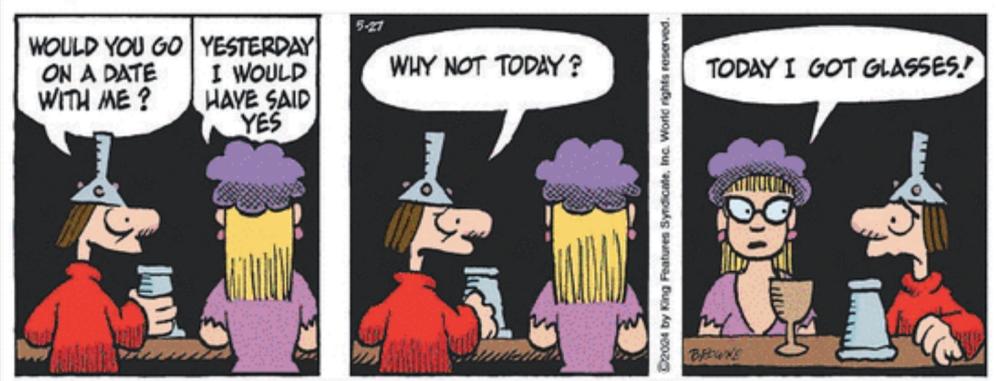
The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johny Hart



Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



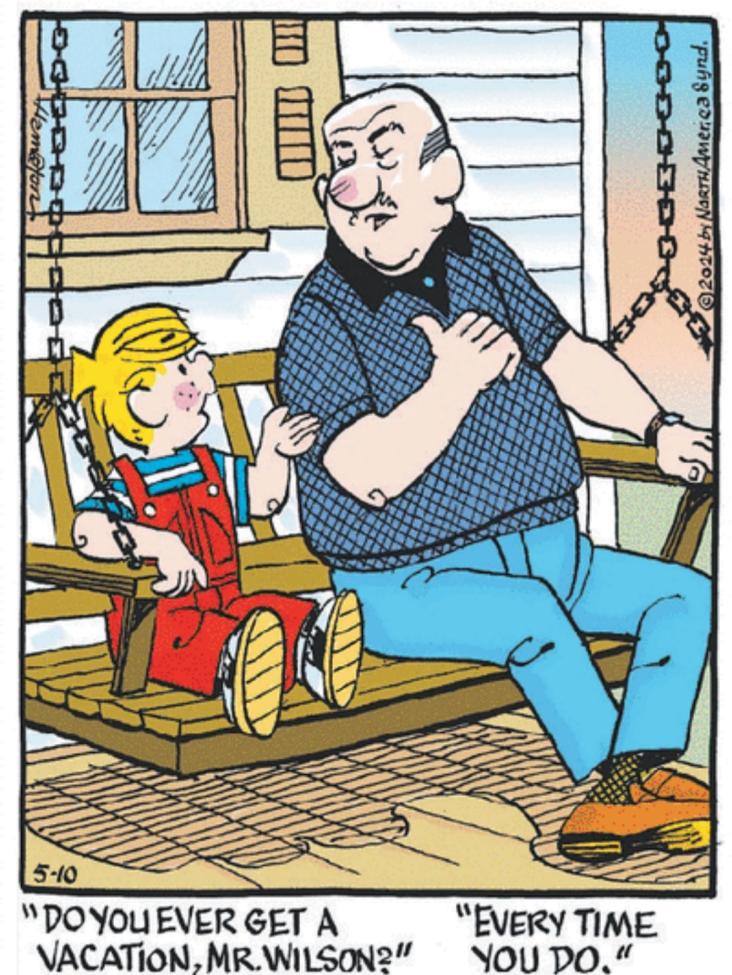
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



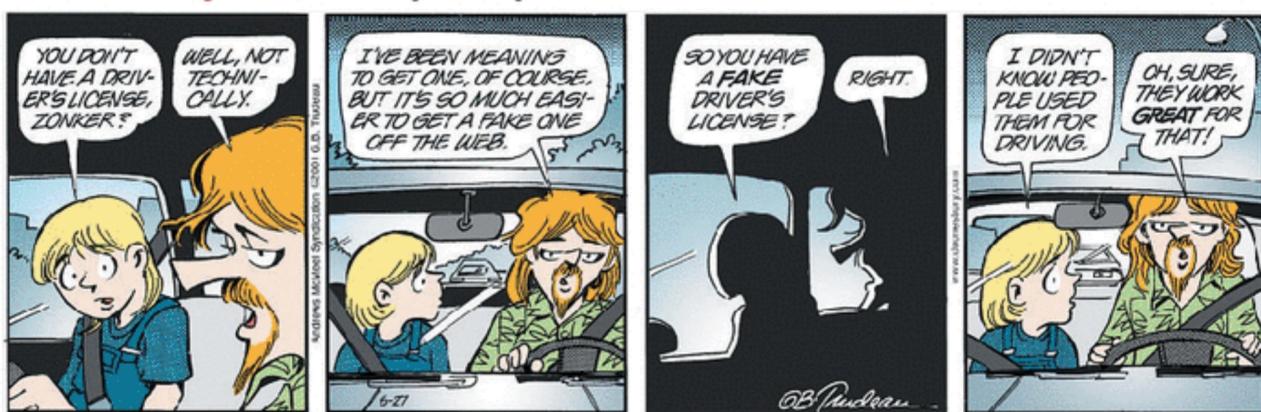
Blondie by Dean Young



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



# PUZZLE

**11112**

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11112 is on the right

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

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph Copyright: Michael Mephram 2005

**11113**

## SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

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

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 11113 is on the right

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

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**14413**

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9			10					
11						12		
						13		
		14		15				
16	17							
18								
							19	20
21			22		23			
			24					
25						26		
27						28		

**ACROSS**

- Profile of Charlie taking trip overseas perhaps (7)
- Quick inspection from king in lavatory, lots of water reported (4-3)
- Open-mouthed, commander exercises (5)
- Unofficial enforcer leaving it in a mess (9)
- Replace vessel, having found all but the first two? (10)
- That lady married son of Arkwright! (4)
- Hierarchical structure of people kissing? (7,5)
- Quietly angry with a gopher, somehow Schofield finally snapped (12)
- Underground feature that may be square? (4)
- Film course for unstable person (10)

**DOWN**

- Bring shame on Diane's integrity (9)
- In mag, Lowestoft is gleaming (5)
- Heat unit Claire rebuilt with nothing inside (7)
- Stage from which one might be transported (3,4)
- Reason to accept large part of sentence (6)
- Tight times could be close (6)
- Too much of article included in open work (4-3-3)
- Fasten stand with top missing (5)
- Regularly jumpy after match in Paris? Relax! (7,2)
- Just nothing on lake in New York (4)
- Cooler overhead (8)
- Eternally growing (8)
- Happen to arrive at mountain route (4,2,4)
- Repaired broken set, it's found by the way (9)
- Crops Dai scattered now and then (8)
- No profit in fuel that's enormous (8)
- Hammer crude metal left inside (6)
- Embarrass when performance finished (4,2)
- About to plunder chocolate (11,5)
- Low river seen in high ground (4)

**Yesterday's solution**

J	A	C	K	I	N	T	H	E	B	O	X
A	R	N	O	N	A	S	C				
S	H	O	C	A	S	E	D	K	E	T	C
M	S	I	H	U	E	R	A				
I	N	S	I	D	E	B	R	A	N	D	I
N	E	I	C	E							
E	X	P	A	N	D	A	N	I	M	A	T
A	T	P	G	A	E						
C	H	R	I	S	T	E	N	S	C	A	R
O	A	R	H	A							
H	I	G	H	B	R	O					
O	U	O	X	S	N	M	K				
R	E	A	L	M	I	N	T	R	I	C	A
T	Y	B	D	O	S	G	T				
B	E	N	E	F	A	C	T	R	E	S	S

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

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

OSIPE

RWCNO

RBUADS

TADBEE

Looks like the Gulf Stream is slowing down. Let's keep monitoring it to be sure.

BASED ON THEIR MEASUREMENTS, 4.5 MILES PER HOUR WAS THE GULF STREAM'S ---

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

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUND TIGHT LONELY WILLOW  
 Answer: To learn about the Mariana Trench, you can go online to — GET THE LOWDOWN

**14065**

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					8	
9					10	
				11		
12	13	14				
15				16		17
18			19	20	21	
			22			
23						24
			25			
26						
			27			28

**ACROSS**

- Jimmy —, comedian (4)
- Andrew —, reporter (4)
- Lean (4)
- Pact (9)
- Let (6)
- Deserve (anag) (7)
- Fuel (6)
- Fuel (6)
- Pleasure boat (6)
- Protects (6)
- Truthfulness (7)
- Wealthy elite (3,3)
- Greedy (9)
- Restraint (4)
- Jason's ship (4)
- Series of winding paths (4)
- Declare (4)
- Swaying chair (6)
- Crumb (6)
- Harvested (6)
- Science (9)
- Bloodsucker (4)
- Wearisome (7)
- Milky gem (4)
- Building (9)
- Ticket (7)
- Endure (4)
- Empty talk (3,3)
- Whipped ice cream (6)
- Entrance hall (6)
- Sailor (4)
- Murmur (4)

**DOWN**

- 2 Declare (4)
- 3 Swaying chair (6)
- 4 Crumb (6)
- 5 Harvested (6)

**Yesterday's solution**

Across: 1 Fare; 4 Eek; 6 Ache; 8 Couple; 9 Embark; 10 Narcotic; 11 Main; 12 Bits and pieces; 17 Omit; 19 Navigate; 22 Entrap; 23 Grease; 24 Levy; 25 Nil; 26 Days.  
 Down: 2 Aloha; 3 Expects; 4 Erect; 5 Kneecap; 6 Album; 7 Heroine; 10 Nab; 13 Immense; 14 Ninepin; 15 Egghead; 16 See; 18 Tardy; 20 Vigil; 21 Tasty.

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE READ THIS WEEK?

Browse through t2ONLINE and let us know which article is your current favourite and why in 20 words by sending a mail at [entries@t2online.in](mailto:entries@t2online.in).

Check out this space for the best answers received.

Scan the QR to browse

## THE IRISH HOUSE IN QUEST MALL CELEBRATED HARRY POTTER'S BIRTHDAY WITH AN ENCHANTING WIZARDRY MENU

**T**he Irish House, Quest Mall laid out a magical experience with a Harry Potter Wizardry Special menu to celebrate the birthday of the fictional boy wizard, Harry Potter. Fans of his wizard world indulged in spellbinding cocktails and dishes curated

around the theme. From frothy Butterbeer to delicious Roast Chicken Feast, this special menu took us straight into the world of Hogwarts. The ambience and decor captured the Hogwarts charm and let guests be completely immersed in the wizarding universe. To test the knowledge of participants, the

pub also curated some engaging activities based on Harry Potter Trivia in collaboration with Ace of Pubs & The Souled Store. Activity winners received special vouchers. A lover of Gryffindors, Hufflepuffs, Ravenclaws, or Slytherins, there was something for everyone to experience. Snapshots.



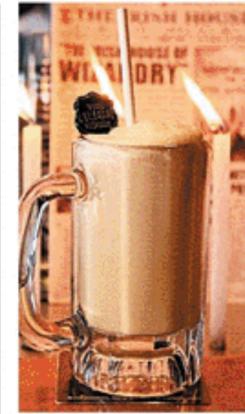
The Irish House was all decked up in Harry Potter theme to welcome guests and give them a taste of the wizarding world, which most have read about or watched during their childhood. We loved this door decor made up of The Daily Prophet newspaper clippings as found in the books and movies.



**Roast Chicken Feast:** A common sight at the Hogwarts dinner tables, this simple dish has all the yummy flavours. After all, who isn't fond of good roasted chicken? This special item was served with a smoky bell pepper sauce along with sautéed tubers and asparagus.



**The Patronus Potion:** Perfect for your Gram's boomerang with a glittery effect in the glass, this drink featured floral notes of pea flower-infused with tequila, and perfectly balanced with rose wine. With a hint of soda and lemon juice, this drink was truly magical to savour.



**Butterbeer Blast:** The showstopper cocktail item from the menu made with a magical twist of creamy butterscotch ice cream, Jim Beam bourbon whiskey, soda, and Sprite. This cocktail will surely make you nostalgic for the days when Harry Potter used to be your Holy Grail.



**Pumpkin Pastries:** These crispy roasted pumpkin pastries served with hot white sauce were tasty and flavourful. Served with exotic vegetables and spiced mushrooms, it made the perfect plate with Butterbeer Blast.



**Honey Toast:** Any meal is incomplete without a dessert. But when you get a combination of honey-butter glazed brioche topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and some chocolate syrup, it's the ultimate chef's kiss.

**Suchismita Maity** (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Rashbehari Das

## WHAT SUP

### CITY CENTRE SILIGURI'S FRIENDSHIP DAY BASH WAS A GALA AFFAIR, WITH t2

**C**ity Centre Siliguri hosted Friendship Day Bash, in association with t2, with much pomp and fervour on August 4. The event featured a range of activities, including

an adults' fashion show, a kids' fashion show, dance performances, interactive games, and a band performance by Tanmay and The Collectives, who delighted the audience with songs like *Yaaron* by KK and

other popular friendship and fun tracks, which kept the audience swaying and grooving. Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Pandey, vice-president, marketing and events, Ambuja Neotia Group said, "Friendship

Day celebration at City Centre Siliguri has been a fantastic day filled with laughter, joy, and the spirit of friendship. We've seen wonderful performances, participated in exciting activities, and most importantly,

it is the bonds that bring all of us together. We hope that we all carry forward the spirit of friendship and continue to cherish and nurture the relationships that mean so much to us". Snapshots.



In the adults' fashion show, models walked the ramp in a range of Western attires, from midi dresses to co-ords and suits. They were groomed by SR Modelling Studios.

The band Tanmay and The Collectives set the mood right with their soulful renditions of popular Bollywood numbers.



In the solo round, this male model who walked the ramp in a black and white sleeveless jacket, white shirt and black trousers, with matching black shades, was a picture of confidence.



A model showing off a white, floral print midi dress. She paired her dress with strappy high heels.



This participant flaunted a pretty tiger-print dress as part of the kids' fashion show. A floral wreath on her head added extra charm.



This tiny tot, wearing a striped red shirt and black pants paired with a white hat and black shade reminds us of Ranveer Singh... and how!



Team SA, a dance group from SR Modelling Studios, put up a scintillating performance on popular Bollywood, contemporary and hip-hop numbers.

**Text: Debanjali Nandi**  
Pictures: Ambuja Neotia

## 'MASTERCHEF' BY ICC YOUNG LEADERS FORUM WAS A COLOURFUL AND FUN CULINARY EXPERIENCE

The Almond banquets in Sector V turned into a mini kitchen with 'Masterchef' that was organised by the Young Leaders Forum. The vibrant and entertaining culinary extravaganza saw participants embrace the spirit of competition. They played around with their outfits and cooked up a storm. Chef Kunal Kapur,

Sneha Singhi Upadhaya and Lovey were the judges, whose tips were insightful. The Almond banquets were beautifully done up by Pepsi Kalwani Hazrat and Shiv Karira.

The teams were given 15 minutes to choose a Mystery Box containing secret ingredients with which they had to cook appetisers, main courses and

desserts and they were marked on various aspects, including presentation. On the menu were items like stuffed pasta, pita bread with different dips, mousse, Apple Cinnamon Tarts and many more. Each team showcased their culinary skills and creativity focusing on flavours, techniques, and artistic presentations. **t2** dropped by.

### WINNERS:



Team Miso Hungry were the Best Team.



The runner-up title and the award for the cleanest station went to Bangers & Mashers.



Team All Fired Up received the award for the Best Dressed team.



The entrance of the banquets had a backdrop of seasonal vegetables to give a feel of a vegetable market.



"The YLF 'Masterchef' event turned out to be a spectacular success with 18 teams showcasing their culinary talents. We are proud to announce eight winners across various categories, each demonstrating exceptional skill and creativity. The event not only highlighted the culinary prowess of our members but also fostered super bonding among participants. The mind-blowing decor added an extra layer of excitement and grandeur, uplifting the event to another level. We were honoured to have the esteemed chef Kunal Kapur, Lovey and Sneha Singhi Upadhaya," said Rahul Kyal, chairperson of the Young Leaders Forum.

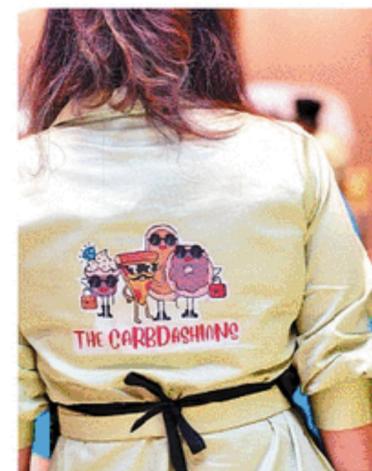


"Our goal was to create an immersive experience that reflects the excitement and sophistication of the MasterChef competition, transforming your venue into a chef's paradise. We used clear vases filled with colourful ingredients like pasta, beans, and spices. This adds a visual pop while reinforcing the cooking theme. We used lush greenery and an array of exotic vegetables and incorporated props such as oversized tacos, pizzas and burgers to make the photo experience memorable and entertaining. With a MasterChef-themed event highlighting exotic vegetables, we tried creating a memorable experience that celebrates both culinary art and the beauty of nature," said Pepsi Kalwani Hazrat and Shiv Karira, co-founders of U.D Events And More.

### MOOD & MOMENTS:



We caught a cute moment when the Eggscellent Chefs team members fixed each other's chef hats. The sunny-side-up prints on the pants were so cool.



Team The Carbdashians dazzled in a lemon-yellow apron dress, adorned with playful food patches. From doughnuts to pizzas, their outfits were a fun tribute to all things quirky and carb-loaded.



A touch of precision made all the difference!



Team Bangers & Mashers sported a sleek all-black ensemble adorned with miniature kitchen cutlery.



Amritsari Nirvana made by team Soup-A-Stars got the Most Innovative Dish award.



The judges tasted all the items. "All the participants have truly impressed us with their creativity and innovation in crafting such remarkable dishes. It's inspiring to see how their passion came alive in this competition. We asked them to enjoy the journey, savour the experience, continue pushing culinary boundaries and keep up the amazing work," said (l-r) Sneha Singhi Upadhaya, Kunal Kapur and Lovey.

Rohini Chakraborty  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

t2  
TALK

## THE MURDER MYSTERY SET IN THE HILLS THAT YOU LOVED

*Jaane Jaan* stands out as my favourite murder mystery set in a hilly area. This film weaves an intricate narrative against the backdrop of a serene, yet ominous, mountainous landscape. A cold, dark Kalimpong enhances the beauty of the movie. The isolation and tranquility of the hills contrast sharply with the suspense and tension of the unfolding mystery, creating a compelling atmosphere.

The story follows the investigation of a chilling murder. The protagonist, a sharp and determined detective, navigates through a web of secrets and lies, uncovering hidden motives and unexpected connections. The characters are deeply layered, each with their own mysteries and emotional baggage, making every twist and turn of the plot gripping and unpredictable. The cinematography of *Jaane Jaan* enhances the film's eerie mood, capturing the misty, winding paths that conceal more than just the killer's tracks. The cafeteria, the boarding school, the wooden house, the clean, long roads with thick green trees and a silent environment enhance the feeling of suspense. The hilly setting itself becomes a character. The combination of a riveting storyline, strong performances, and the haunting beauty of the hills make *Jaane Jaan* an unforgettable murder mystery. It keeps viewers on the edge of their seats, right until the shocking final revelation. (Which is your favourite murder mystery set in a hilly destination... July 1)

Sarvani Banerjee

Sharing a commonality in the mountain milieu, *Aranyak* (2021) and *Jaane Jaan* (2023) are my favourites. While the first has its roots in a Himachal Pradesh town, the latter is closer home, with Kalimpong as its backdrop. Both these tense and gripping thrillers owe a major part of their world-building to the chilly, fog-shrouded and mysterious atmospherics of the forest and hilly terrain, with their surrounding sounds and shadows.

Anamitra Bhaduri

My favourite murder mystery set in a hilly destination is the 2022 Srijit Mukherji film *Darjeeling Jawmjawmat*, based on the Satyajit Ray novel. The murder of retired banker Birupaksha Majumdar, settled in Darjeeling, led Feluda and his gang to investigate and unravel the mystery and find the culprit.

Kajal Chatterjee

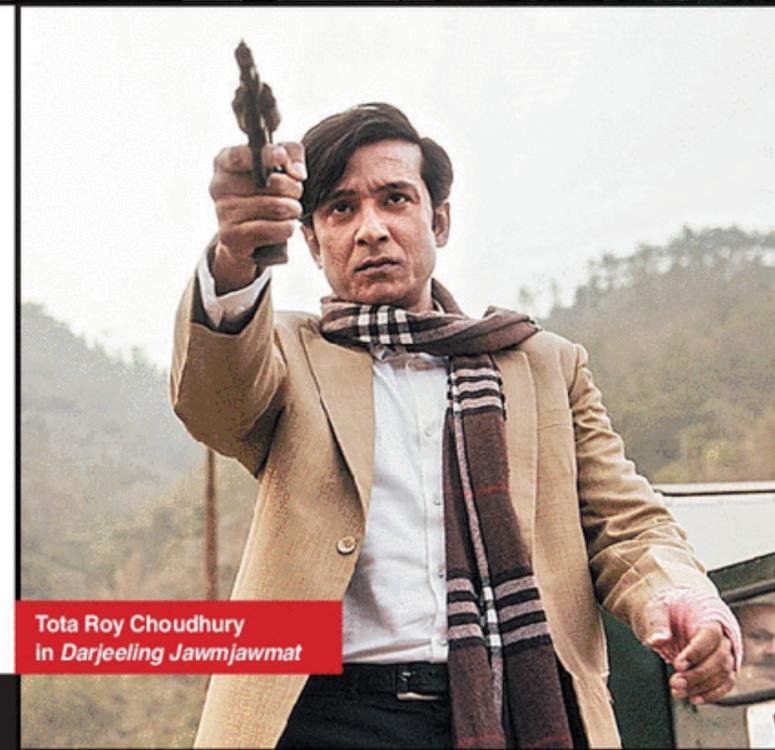
Among the murder mysteries set in hill stations that I have watched so far, the Netflix crime series *Aranyak*, directed by Vinay Waikul, is the best. Set in Himachal Pradesh's fictional town Sironah, the mystery of the film is the existence of a 'leopard man' who has been killing girls for years. Officer Angad Malik (Parambrata Chattopadhyay) comes

Parambrata Chattopadhyay and Raveena Tandon in a scene from *Aranyak*

to replace officer Kasturi Dogra (Raveena Tandon) for one year, but later, both join hands to discover the truth behind the mysterious death of Aimee, a girl found hanging from a tree in the forest. The honest endeavour of the two officers to solve the murder mystery uncovers many hidden facts, and every result comes with renewed suspense.

Diegesis, strong characterisation and suspense are responsible for making *Aranyak* a superb crime thriller. The narrative of the web series is free from foretelling, and the truth is only shown through the confession of the witnesses and the use of technical evidence (phone records, video, CCTV footage).

Kasturi Dogra's character as a mother, wife, daughter-in-law and police officer is interesting to watch. Her initial relationship with Angad is unsteady because of the latter's short-tempered and forthright character, which Kasturi does not accept, but later, they become close

Kareena Kapoor Khan in *Jaane Jaan*Tota Roy Choudhury in *Darjeeling Jawmjawmat*

friends. However, their friendship leads the narrative to solve the mystery despite pressure from politics and their superiors. And the suspense is mind-blowing. Angad and Kasturi narrow out the possible suspect list, set the innocent lover of Kasturi's daughter free and capture Gagan Srivastav, the son of an IAS and an aspirant of UPSC, who raped Aimee before she was killed. The turn is unexpected. Mahadev Dogra (Ashutosh Rana),

Kasturi's father-in-law, ex-head constable of the Sironah PS, and the only person to see the 'leopard man', finds out the identity of the killer by inspecting the style of the noose. What two superb officers could not do is done by a person occupying a lower position.

Supratik Dalal

Sujoy Ghosh's *Jaane Jaan* is one of the best murder mysteries set in the hills in recent times. The chiaroscuro of dimly-lit winding paths, the fog-enveloped surroundings and the silhouette of snow-capped mountains in the distance contribute to the suspenseful atmosphere of the movie. The hills resonate with the conspiracy brewing inside an apparently innocuous house where Maya D'Souza (Kareena Kapoor Khan), owner of Tiffin Cafe and Naren (Jaideep Ahlawat), a much respected teacher of a reputed local school are neighbours.

The murder of Maya alias Sonia's husband, Ajit Mhatre, comes to the fore when a badly burnt dead body alongside Mhatre's identity card is discovered in a desolate place. The hilly roads wearing a deserted look offer ample opportunity to the killer to dispose of the corpse. Vijay Varma as Inspector Karan Anand arrives at the crime scene only to be distracted by conflicting testimonies from the suspects. A cat-and-mouse chase ensues where the characters on the radar attempt

to pull wool over Karan's eyes. Crime and falsehood beget more crime and falsehood. A flummoxed Karan fails to put his finger on the truth that is right in front of his eyes. Jaideep Ahlawat delivers one of his finest performances as a wacky Math wizard. The hills provide him the reclusiveness needed to carry on his ventures but in an ironic way. The warm and cosy cafe, the solo karaoke bar are all accomplices to the crime, as it were. The hilly town shrouded in dense fog keeps the mystery well hidden. Sujoy Ghosh, the master auteur of suspense thrillers, steers the plot to a superb climax that leaves us awestruck. The teacher, realising failure in his love attempt, allows his ladylove to live a peaceful life amidst the austere grandeur of a mountainous destination.

Suparna Ghosh

As I am an avid Feluda reader, my favourite murder mystery set in a hilly destination is none other than *Darjeeling Jomjomat* written by Satyajit Ray and set against the backdrop of Darjeeling. After reading this thrilling story, I have craved its visual version and Srijit Mukherji made it happen by releasing a six-episode series based on the story starring Tota Roy Choudhury as Feluda, Kalpana Mitra as Topshe his cousin and Anirban Chakrabarti as Lalmohan Ganguly aka Jatayu, their friend. In this story, the trio visits Darjeeling for the shoot of the film adaptation of Jatayu's novel at Nayanpur Villa, home of Birupaksha Majumdar, who nurses a secret. But the beautiful hilly region soon turns out to be an ominous place when Birupaksha Majumdar is murdered. After a series of twists and turns and after Feluda himself is attacked, he solves the crime with his incredible observation and deduction.

Sikrity Ghosh

*Dhund*, a gripping thriller, is my favourite murder mystery set in a hilly place. Way back in 1973, the movie became an instant hit because of its subtle plot and some superb performances by Danny Denzongpa and Ashok Kumar. The film is still fresh in my memory because of its excellent script, great screenplay and lilting music by Ravi.

Partha Banerjee

My favourite murder mystery set in a hilly destination is the 2021 Netflix show *Aranyak*, starring Raveena Tandon and Parambrata Chattopadhyay. It revolves around the murder of a foreign tourist in a picturesque hill town named Sironah. The story was intriguing, thrilling and suspenseful. Raveena's performance was riveting and the actress was in top form in the role of police inspector Kasturi Dogra. Our very own Parambrata also delivered an amazing performance. According to me, this eight-episode web series is one of the best Hindi crime thrillers released in recent times.

Sourish Misra

WHAT SUP

TIC TAC TOE, THE ULTIMATE KIDS' RETAIL EXPERIENCE WITH t2, OFFERED ADORABLE FESTIVE BUYING IDEAS FOR LITTLE ONES

A day-long exhibition with an exclusive kids-focus, Tic Tac Toe: The Ultimate Kids' Retail Experience in association with t2, took place on July 27 at The Park. Decked up in warm, inviting colours and lighting, the exhibition space greeted visitors with its adorable

collection of all things pretty, cute, and funky, with each counter loaded with a huge range of attractive products for the little and not-so-little ones. The diverse collection on display included kids' fashion apparel, nightwear, personalised gifts and stationery, toys, books, jewellery, school accessories,

playroom accessories, bedroom decor items, and much more featuring 50 distinguished brands from all over the country curated by Ayesha Saraf and Nancy Choudhary. The exhibition witnessed a heavy customer turnout despite the heavy downpour, with throngs of excited shoppers

busily browsing the various stalls. It proved one more time that Calcuttans love to shop as products from all labels participating at the show were seen flying off the counters. t2 dropped by and selected some that will be just right for the little ones in your family in the upcoming festive season.

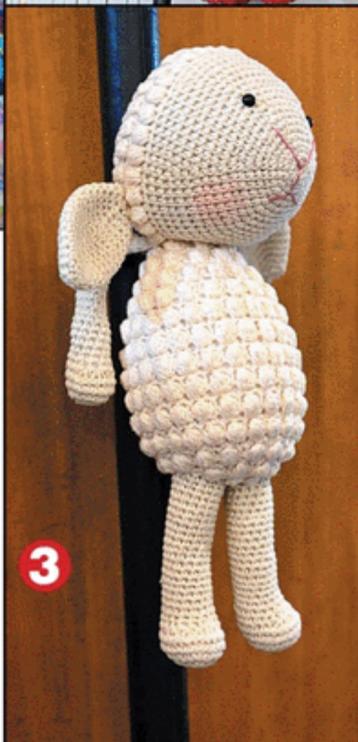


**1** Label Shruti Jalan aims to create comfortable wear for kids, made with pure fabrics only. This smart boys' kurta in Lucknowi mirrorwork look has been made from amla, giving it a very light texture. ₹6,000 @shrutijalan\_kidswear (Instagram)

**2** Add to the warmth of the festivities this Raksha Bandhan by making daughters and sons twin it in style in Rage Attire sharara and sherwani sets. This siblings' set by Rage Attire is specially designed for the festive season ahead. The gorgeous red lehenga (₹7,500) and sharara sets (₹3,900) for girls and the sherwani (₹5,100) for boys are all hand-embroidered in pearl and dori work. @rage\_attire (Instagram)

**3** We loved the handmade and sustainable pure cotton crochet toys, photo frames, special rakhis, hampers, gift options, and room decor products by Haute by Hand, a women-only enterprise. This curtain holder, designed like a soft, woolly lamb is for ₹3,300. @haute\_hand (Instagram)

**4** We spotted this adorable hair band by Samairaz' Aura. The Disney-themed furry toys sitting on top of a bed of sequins will surely make it your little girl's favourite hair accessory. ₹1,200



**5** Dis n dat tries to make sustainable as well reusable products. This revolving, doll-house-shaped, customised gift hamper by Dis n dat is filled with wooden toys. It can also be reused as a doll-house, dessert stacker or appetiser server, which is in tune with the brand's philosophy of reuse and sustainability. ₹2,200. @disndatbyshruti (Instagram)

**6** This Tom and Jerry-themed Rakhi by Koohu was a showstopper. A special magnetic sibling Rakhi, it comes with a tiny magnetic ball that connects the two Rakhis, symbolising sibling love. ₹490 @koohuofficial (Instagram)

**7** Abracadabra's muslin essential gift set contains one blanket, one muslin swaddle, one face rattle, three muslin wipes and one cuddle toy. Made with eco-friendly fabrics using eco-friendly methods, the gift set is safe for use and baby-friendly in every way. ₹3,500 @abracadabrakids\_india (Instagram)

**8** This cheerful-looking, bright red, bean-bag-styled chair was one of the most popular items at the stall by Peekaboo Patterns. The chair comes in three sizes so you can select the size that's just right for your kid. This bean chair in popcorn-bag design is for ₹6,500. @peekaboopatterns (Instagram)

**9** This mint-coloured gift bag in Madam Butterfly theme is one of Bespoke Gifting Solutions by Namrata Dalmia's most beautifully curated pieces. With its incredible artistic detailing, it is an art object on its own. We also loved the see-through bag with a My Little Pony cutout design on it. ₹1,300 @namrata.dalmia.art (Instagram)

**10** First Impression by Bhavna Jasra showcased delicate and detailed hand and feet castings of newborns and infants that were aesthetically framed to serve as mementos and gift items. @bhavnajasra (Instagram)

**11** A showstopper and winner from the Junior Miss India contest, this bright, multi-coloured dress for little girls by Little Weird screams joy and excitement. It is made of pure crepe, with a feather and a chain embellishment to add more style and swag to the ensemble. ₹6,500 @littleweird\_nehakankaria (instagram)



"It is a completely kids-focused exhibition with a variety of categories being offered. We are grateful and very thrilled with the response," said co-curator Ayesha Saraf (left). "We got from the show exactly what we hoped for, so we are pumped up about it," said co-curator Nancy Choudhary.



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