



LAKSHYA

P7

## BULLSEYE DEBUT!



PICTURE: PABITRA DAS

SHANTANU GOENKA & RITI GUPTA



PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

P6

## DOING INDIA PROUD

## TREASURE TREATS P14

JIMMY FALLON, KOUSHIK SEN, LUCKY ALI



This year you need to be more practical and less emotional. The key to success is to protect your long-term future. You need to be more focused on achieving your goals. Take positive steps towards improving your health. Pay attention to your dreams as they may contain psychic messages.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: ISHA KOPPIKAR

Instagram



GOLDEN GLOW:

Uploaded by @dishapatani  
(Disha Patani)



MIRROR SELFIE:

Ate the whole apple left no crumbs  
Uploaded by @katyperry (Katy Perry)

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



## ARIES

**DO** celebrate your strengths and vulnerabilities  
**DON'T** argue with loved ones  
**EXPECT** to meet someone with whom you may share an instant bond



## TAURUS

**DO** find balance in your material and spiritual pursuits  
**DON'T** neglect your emotional well-being  
**EXPECT** to help those around you and make sure everyone is taken care of



## GEMINI

**DO** keep going, even when you are doubting yourself  
**DON'T** feel dissatisfied  
**EXPECT** to put in continuous effort if the seeds of the future are to be realised



## CANCER

**DO** assure yourself that things will get better with the passage of time  
**DON'T** be afraid of losing what you have  
**EXPECT** close relationship to be healed and mistakes to be rectified



## LEO

**DO** pay heed to the hidden messages in your dreams  
**DON'T** isolate yourself  
**EXPECT** to connect with others and intuitively read the subtle energies at play



## VIRGO

**DO** continue fighting your battle and don't give up  
**DON'T** harbor an old wound  
**EXPECT** to be overly vigilant until you have the absolute proof of the intentions of others



## LIBRA

**DO** choose your battles carefully  
**DON'T** get into arguments  
**EXPECT** a situation to escalate suddenly, needing a quick response from you



## SCORPIO

**DO** express yourself creatively  
**DON'T** have a low self-esteem  
**EXPECT** to follow your passions truly and fearlessly



## SAGITTARIUS

**DO** consider your options rather than responding impulsively  
**DON'T** be impatient  
**EXPECT** to manifest multiple opportunities



## CAPRICORN

**DO** stay calm and avoid overthinking  
**DON'T** worry about unnecessary things  
**EXPECT** an awakening to something painful that needs to be processed



## AQUARIUS

**DO** be clear about your beliefs and intentions  
**DON'T** let things get out of control  
**EXPECT** to fend off a barrage of upcoming demands and requests



## PISCES

**DO** be receptive to new opportunities  
**DON'T** be hesitant  
**EXPECT** an invitation of some kind which sounds like what you need

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

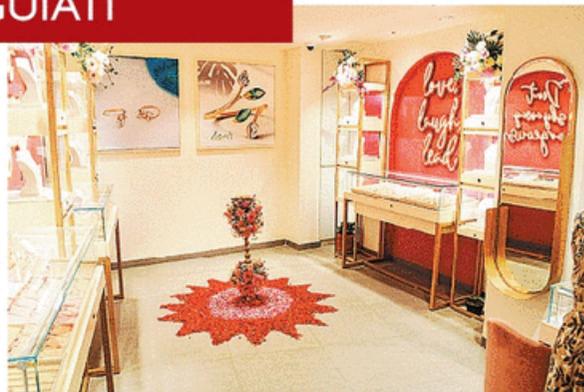
## WHAT SUP

## MIA BY TANISHQ LAUNCHES A STORE IN BAGUIATI

One of India's trendiest fine jewellery brands, Mia by Tanishq launched its latest store in Baguiati on September 12. Tucked on the first floor of Swagatam International Guest House, the store spans 1,000sqft. It offers a diverse range of designs in pendants, earrings, finger rings, bracelets and mangalsutras. Glimpses from the launch.

Somprabh Singh, regional business head, east; Alok Ranjan, circle business head (jewellery-east); and business associate Nilanjana Roy, along with the staff presided over the inauguration.

"This is the 13th year of Mia by Tanishq. Today Mia by Tanishq has got 200-plus stores all across the country. I have worked for Tanishq for almost 25 years and now I have opened this store which caters to the daily adornment of a modern lady who wears different kinds of attires. These are all minimalistic jewellery made of natural diamonds, and gold, specifically made on 14-18 karat. The designs have an international appeal. This store has an elaborate experience zone. We want to ensure that for the customer, it is not just about buying jewellery but also the experience that they



take back with them because in today's world what ultimately matters is the experience," Nilanjana told t2.

"We have a lot of new collections that can excite consumers not only with its designs and sparkling aesthetics but also with its affordable prices as the jewellery is mainly in 14 to 18 karat," said Alok Ranjan.



A cake was cut with the customers on the occasion.



We loved the Love-struck Solitaire collection which features beautiful heart-shaped diamonds.



Pendants portraying Goddess Durga are delicate and sophisticated, made in tune with the festive mood.



With necklaces, earrings, finger rings, chains and pendants, the Evil Eye collection is an assortment that offers the perfect blend of style and sophistication.

Sharmistha Dasgupta (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Biswajit Kundu

# TECH



**SNAP'S LATEST VERSION OF AR-POWERED SPECTACLES HAS BEEN UNVEILED**

The fifth-generation Spectacles are the first to have clear lenses. Picture: Snap

**S**nap's fifth-generation Spectacles are coming. Maintaining the oversized design, the new Spectacles make the augmented reality game more exciting, even though these are primarily designed for developers, who are best positioned to understand the capabilities and limitations of AR hardware.

The new version of Spectacles can display visual information and applications directly on their see-through lenses, making objects appear as if they are in the real world, thanks to an interface powered by the company's new

operating system, Snap OS. Spectacles is a different beast than VR headsets. Snap's offering doesn't obscure the vision; here images seem to float and exist in three dimensions in the world around you.

The hardware and software have become considerably more powerful than in the version presented in 2021. The AR displays are more immersive and support over two dozen AR experiences, including those from brands like Lego and Niantic.

Snap has deliberately made the glasses appear large, giving it a comical feel. The new frames hold

clear lenses that are able to darken when you move outside. The glasses are powered by a pair of Qualcomm Snapdragon processors — one in each temple. Snap's Spatial Engine is responsible for understanding where you are in space.

The dual-processor setup makes the glasses more efficient and tackles all issues around overheating. The fifth-generation Spectacles comes with a battery life of about 45 minutes, up from 30 minutes with the fourth-gen model.

At a resolution of 37 pixels per degree, the user wouldn't be able to discern individual pixels. Plus, there is a wider field of view, increasing the window of visible content to 46 degrees or the equivalent of having a 100-inch display in the room with you.

The software has been crafted inside-out, making the user interface controllable with hand gestures and voice commands. You can pull up the main menu in the palm of one hand and there are pinch and tap gestures to launch and interact with lenses.

Lego has a game that allows you to pick up bricks with your hands and build objects while Niantic created an AR version of Peridot, which you can place among your surroundings.

Snap isn't selling the glasses directly to consumers but requires you to sign up for at least one year of paying \$99 per month for a Spectacles Developer Programme account. Snap also announced a partnership with OpenAI that takes advantage of its multimodal capabilities.

*Mathures Paul*

## SNAPCHAT IS UNDERGOING A REDESIGN. PLUS, MY SELFIE CORNER



The new 'simplified' Snapchat design. Picture: Snap

**S**nap is bringing a number of changes to the Snapchat app. There's a major app redesign rolling out, plus new AI features.

During its Snap Partner Summit event, the redesign features were announced, which will roll out globally over time. The biggest change is that Snapchat is consolidating different sections of the app, bringing down the number of tabs to three (from the present five): Camera in the centre, chat on the left, and a 'For You' section on the right.

The redesign, dubbed 'Simple Snapchat', will slowly roll out to Snapchat's 850 million users. Snap Map will be accessible from the messaging tab, along with Stories from your friends and creators you follow.

The 'For You' feed will contain full-screen videos from publishers and creators, essentially blending Spotlight with content from media brands like *The Wall Street Journal*

and *Daily Mail*.

The other noteworthy update is a new feature called My Selfie, which uses selfies to create AI-generated images of users and their friends. Snap is also rolling out a new "grandparents lens" that uses AI to imagine what you might look like as you age.

But remember... When you use the feature for the first time, Snapchat prompts you to agree to terms that include using "you (or your likeness)" in ads. You can toggle the "See My Selfie in Ads" setting to off but *404Media* reports that it's enabled by default once you agree to Snap's terms.

Snap has made it clear that data related to personalised ads are not shared data with third-party advertisers. "Advertisers do not have access to Snapchatters' Gen AI data in any capacity," a Snapchat spokesperson told *The Verge*.

*Mathures Paul*

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## THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CALCUTTA CELEBRATES ITS CHARTER DAY WITH A CULINARY EXTRAVAGANZA

**O**n September 30, the ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta all gathered together at Nishtara Banquets, a special banqueting facility by the house of Speciality Restaurants at Primarc Square

in Salt Lake. The occasion was to celebrate their charter day with a series of culinary demonstrations by chefs from different restaurants of the Speciality group, with group chief Anjan Chatterjee in attendance. "This is our 42nd charter day, and we decided to have a celebration. To make it

different I requested Mr (Anjan) Chatterjee for something different. Today, we had live counters where chefs displayed various skills and then we got to taste it as well. I thank him for the favour that he and his team extended towards the Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta," said Champabati Sarkar,

president of the club. With specially curated cooking demos, it was a great learning and interactive environment. The ladies got to taste the different dishes that were demonstrated followed by a gourmet lunch as well. t2 joined in.



The afternoon began with a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the charter day of the club. Some of the first founding members, who have been with the club for over 40 years, also joined in. "I'm very happy to be here today. There are so many veterans who are here with us. In fact, we also have four charter members who've been with us for the past 40-plus years. Thank you so much for having me," said Indrani Basu Mallik, chairman, Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta.

**MUNCH MAP:**



Murshidabadi Murgi Bhaja from Oh! Calcutta



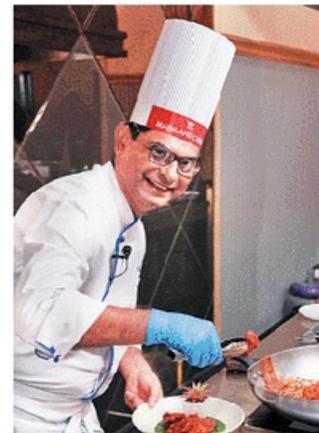
Mushroom Ravioli with morel veloute from Cafe Mezzuna



Smoked Chilli Fish from Mainland China



"The mushroom mixture needs to be cooled before adding it to the ravioli, else the ravioli will crack," a tip by Ashish Rai, cluster chef, Speciality Restaurants.



Eggs, salt, and white pepper are added to the fish along with corn flour and mixed well. The marinated fish is fried and then tossed in a blend of sauces and spices. Garlic, dry red chilli and smoked chilli paste among other ingredients are used in preparing this dish, which was demonstrated by chef Indraneel.



Anuradha Vidhawan, treasurer, Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta



Roshni Ganguly, immediate past president, Inner Wheel Club of Calcutta



Chef Sumanta Biswas undertook the live demonstration of the Murshidabadi Murgi Bhaja that is marinated in red chillies, black pepper, green chilli paste, lemon juice and herbs like mint, coriander and parsley with eggs. The chicken needs to stay marinated for at least an hour, after which it is soaked in another mild marination and shallow-fried.



Mutton Galawati from Riyasat

Chef Hiranmoy Paul demonstrated the cooking of melt-in-the-mouth Mutton Galawati kebabs. These were made using leg pieces of the mutton where the meat is soft, and had a range of spices along with browned onions and roasted cashew paste in its marination.

Zeba Akhtar Ali  
Pictures: B Halder

*Heritage woven with love*

# Eternal Threads

*The Wedding Collection*



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## SEVEN INDIAN DESIGNERS WHO MADE A STATEMENT AT THE JUST-CONCLUDED LONDON FASHION WEEK SS25

The London Fashion Week SS25 closed on September 17 and set some major trends for spring summer '25.

With a staggering 72 designers, 48 runway shows and 63 additional events, the fashion week was a sartorial spectacle. Amidst the global tapestry of fashion, seven Indian designers took centre stage and presented some eclectic collections. Each designer presented a unique vision, reflecting the rich and diverse heritage of Indian fashion. From traditional craftsmanship to contemporary innovation, these collections offered a glimpse into the future of Indian design on the world stage. Here's what they presented:

### AARTI VIJAY GUPTA

Postcards to Kashmir was yet another Aarti Vijay Gupta collection that merged storytelling with design. The line pays homage to the breathtaking beauty that Kashmir possesses, while reflecting on the region's artistic fervour and complexities. A fine blend of Kashmiri miniature art and Kashidakari motifs on otherwise contemporary designs made this line a standout piece on the global platform. While linen was the primary fabric, silk and crepe added the luxurious touch on the collection which came in soft shades of blue, green, white and an occasional throw of yellow and orange.

Aarti told a magazine: "This collection masterfully balances nature and fashion by seamlessly integrating elements from both realms. The effortless appeal of cool, easy linen separates adorned with photo prints contrasts beautifully with the sophisticated silk dresses and co-ord sets featuring intricate landscape miniature art. This blend creates a dynamic interplay between relaxed, casual elegance and meticulously detailed craftsmanship, offering a refreshing mix of simplicity and intricacy."



AARTI VIJAY GUPTA

### HARRI

Harikrishnan Keezhathil Surendran Pillai, aka HARRI, has once again cemented his place in the British fashion landscape. Renewing his membership with the British Fashion Council's prestigious NEWGEN cohort for a second season, HARRI delivered a captivating performance at London's iconic Old Selfridges Hotel.

His latest collection was a symphony of latex, his signature fabric, transformed into an array of provocative styles. Models gracefully glided across the runway while breaking into slow-motion apocalyptic dance, enhancing the dramatic impact of the garments.

A palette of black, khaki, white, sheer green, and burgundy dominated the collection, adding depth and sophistication to the latex creations. Balloon jumpsuits, pointed footwear, skin-tight silhouettes, and one-piece ensembles that expanded at the heels were among the standout pieces. Zipped suits completed the collection, adding a touch of edginess.

### RAHUL MISHRA X TOD'S

A world-class collab, Indian artisanal mastery and Italian heritage combined to make Rahul Mishra x Tod's a superlative line. The Tod's heritage pieces Gommino, Di Bag, and a selection of Timeless accessories have undergone a transition with zari borders and Indian embroidery patterns at the hands of Indian designer Rahul Mishra. The design is also inspired by the Tree of Life, a



HARRI



Rahul Mishra x Tod's



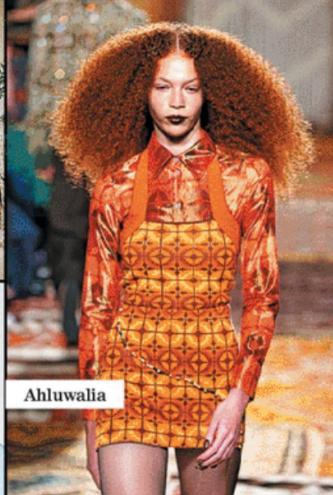
KANIKA GOYAL

recurring inspiration for the Indian couturier. All the pieces are made by Indian *karigars*.

The Gommino loafer, adorned with intricate floral embroidery woven from silk threads onto metallic nappa leather, supple black and golden velvet, emerged as the collection's pièce de résistance.

### KANIKA GOYAL

The Indian designer's eponymous



Ahluwalia



ZERO TOLERANCE

label unveiled Playfield, a collection driven by childhood nostalgia and playfulness. Nature-inspired motifs woven into a sense of exploratory freedom channelled a fresh vibe on the runway. Goyal's signature boxer suits took on a new dimension with a vibrant dash of citrus yellow. Additionally, Playfield showcased deconstructed leather dresses featuring handkerchief hemlines, lending them an avant-garde allure.

### AHLUWALIA

Indian-Nigerian Priya Ahluwalia's Home Sweet Home collection tried to infuse the interpretation of home into her designs. The 31-look collection unravelled at London's Westminster Church and saw a splash of colours on the runway accompanied by floral crochet, geometric patterns and ornamentation. Cross-stitched ball gowns, elegant dresses with athletic undertones and blinged-out sportswear completed the collection.

She said: "The idea kickstarted when I was in Jamaica. I met this lady whose husband had built her house all by himself, and he'd recently passed away and she was telling me about it and I was crying my eyes out. I thought I'd just met this woman, and already you could tell this was such an important home to her."

### ZERO TOLERANCE

Indian brand Zero Tolerance, helmed by Prakhar Rao, presented a concise yet impactful showcase titled Karm. The line spotlighted the 'karm' or handwork of the Indian artisans that have been honed by centuries of tradition. Racer shirts, distressed co-ord sets, zaradozi-adorned cargo pants, patchwork and an overall casual vibe with a touch of goth sum up the collection. The juxtaposition of traditional craftsmanship with a streetwear-inspired sensibility created a visually striking collection.

### TABEER INDIA

Tabeer India's debut at LFW was marked by Celestia, a collection that aptly embodies its name. The line by Indian designer Palak D Arya draws inspiration from the 1980s European era, skillfully blending it with the refined aesthetics of romanticism. Power dressing and old-world elegance converged harmoniously in the collection's blazers, block-pleated skirts, and skirts embellished with crystals.

### Sanjali Brahma

Pictures: Getty Images and Instagram

In July, he made an action-packed big screen debut with *Kill*, and with the blood-and-gore film now making its way to OTT, the accolades for Lakshya are pouring in afresh. t2 chatted with the strapping young actor — a successful TV alum — on the path to his unconventional debut, described as 'India's most violent film'.

Though *Kill* did considerably well at the box office, is there more feedback now with its streaming release on Disney+Hotstar? Yes, and it feels amazing because I was waiting for this day for a very, very long time. I have been in Bombay for nine years now and I have had my fair share of struggle. The love for *Kill* makes me feel validated.

When you spend so much time doing the same thing over and over again and you don't get that level of acknowledgement and appreciation that you think you deserve, it does take a toll on your self-confidence and value system. You start questioning as to whether you are good enough or not. These questions would haunt me but I never lost hope. I always believed in myself.

### What kept you going during this period of uncertainty?

I don't come from a film background. I didn't have any contacts in the Hindi film industry. I started off with television and every year, I felt there was some career growth. Every year, I was doing a bigger and better TV show. So I had some confidence that I am probably still here for a reason.

I never thought

## LAKSHYA ON GRABBING EYEBALLS WITH HIS UNCONVENTIONAL DEBUT *KILL* AND WHY HE NEVER GAVE UP

even in my wildest dreams that I would be an actor. It was too far-fetched a thought. But it grew on me over a period of time. I felt a sense of purpose while acting. I realised this is what I want to do and I have to keep at it. I had to make sure that every year I kept bettering my craft... that I should develop more skills, get more mature with time. I focused on that.

What led to bagging *Kill*? What was your reaction when you heard about the film, which is quite unlike anything Hindi cinema has seen before?

I was initially supposed to start my film career with

'Dostana 2'. That was also with Dharma (Productions, that produced *Kill*). We shot 'Dostana 2' (that also starred Kartik Aaryan and Janhvi Kapoor) for a period of time but it got shelved. That was in 2019. I bagged that film after

doing a TV show called *Porus*, which was quite popular.

At that time, I was thinking of taking a sabbatical from TV because I had done everything that one could possibly do in that medium. I wanted to take a leap of faith and see if I could break into films.

Imet Shanoo Sharma, the casting head of Yash Raj Films. We did a couple of auditions and the process went on for four or five months. She has a massive hand in transforming me into the kind of human being and actor I am today. Television requires a very different set of acting skills and your emotions have to be out there. Films require more realistic acting.

At that time, Dharma was looking to launch a new face and Shanoo asked me to meet them. The audition process there also went on for 40-50 days. I eventually got a call from Karan sir (Johar) that I was on board and that was the best day of my life! But 'Dostana 2' didn't happen and the pandemic hit. After that, Dharma offered me another film called 'Bedhadak' (with Shanaya Kapoor and Gurfateh Pirzada) which got announced but even that eventually didn't happen. At that point, I started thinking that my film career was probably jinxed.

Then, Karan sir called me and said that there is a director (Nikhil Nagesh Bhat) who is making a hardcore action film. I met him and halfway through the narration of *Kill*, I was in tears. I was reacting to everything that he was saying. I was living every moment of the narration. I was imagining myself doing all those stunts. By the end of it, my only question to him was:

"When are you getting started?" I was desperate for work... I had been out of work for over three years. By then, even money had become a bit of a problem for me. I was losing confidence. Friends and family would keep asking me what I was shooting next and I had no answer. When *Kill* came to me, I gave it all I had. It came to me at the right time. I was so full of angst, desperation and vulnerability.

Did you channel those emotions into your performance? I believe I did. I was angry about so many things and I was desperate. I wanted to prove myself to



Kill is streaming on Disney+Hotstar

I wanted to prove myself to everybody and also to myself that I was worthy enough. I felt a hunger and anger that I targeted into my acting. I was genuinely being vulnerable and honestly being that angry, I didn't need to act in the film. I was just being honest to the emotions that I was feeling. I kept it very personal and that is why *Kill* is very personal to me

everybody and also to myself that I was worthy enough. I felt a hunger and anger that I targeted into my acting. I was genuinely being vulnerable and honestly being that angry, I didn't need to act in the film. I was just being honest to the emotions that I was feeling. I kept it very personal and that is why *Kill* is very personal to me.

### What is the most enduring feedback that you have got for your performance in *Kill*?

It happened on the day of the trailer launch when Karan sir told me that he felt the same emotions for me as he felt for Alia (Bhatt) when he had launched her. Alia being Alia — such a fine actress — that was a massive compliment for me. Vicky Kaushal had very good things to say about my performance. Vicky being (action director) Sham Kaushal's son, understands action very well. Also, a lot of aspiring actors have reached out to me saying: 'Looking at you, it feels like that we can also do it.' That feels amazing. *Kill* has given me more than I expected.

### *Kill* was an incredibly difficult film to make, physically and emotionally. What was the toughest for you?

There was a lot of prep involved. We trained for six months, day in and day out. I memorised every piece of choreography, every fight scene... and that involved not only my punches but other people's moves as well. I was completely immersed in every aspect of the film.

I had to look like a commando and that involved gaining muscle mass. I had to work a lot on that as

well. We also went to the Army camp in Manesar and met the commandos there. I was fortunate enough to get a chance to interact with them. I wanted to get an insight into how they talk and think. They are so inherently charming and cool. I tried imbibing that in my character.

We all focused on making an honest, sincere film. Though it is gory and bloody, the honesty of the story shines through. The audience feels a sense of personal loss when they watch the film. I felt that as well while making *Kill*. Initially, I couldn't sleep at night because I would keep having nightmares of the fight sequences. I was so caught up in the process that I could not think of anything else. I stopped meeting my friends. I was not able to interact with my dog properly. I was not able to give her the kind of love that I would otherwise do.

*Kill* is an extremely technically sound film. So many people ask me how we managed to shoot it so well. Every department has done such an amazing job.

Though you were right in the middle of it, did the gore catch you off-guard when you watched the film?

It was always meant to be a brutal film with solid emotions. At our premiere at TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival), the audience around me was hooting and clapping. It felt so surreal. While making *Kill*, I never approached it as a gory or violent film. I knew I am an actor and I had to do justice to my part and to the film. My punch had to be the hardest punch.

### Do you think an unconventional debut like *Kill* has elicited more interest in you as an actor than love stories like 'Dostana 2' or 'Bedhadak' could have?

To an extent, yes. But the other two films didn't happen, so I don't know what paths they would have opened for me. It is very hypothetical. *Kill* has happened and I am very happy with what is happening to me right now. *Kill* has definitely proven my worth as an actor.

Destiny has plans for everyone. Imagine 'Dostana 2'... such a fun comedy space and me coming out of a pool, flaunting a six-pack and cut to a movie like *Kill* where I am covered completely in blood. The universe works in a mysterious manner. I am grateful for whatever has happened.

Sometimes the most conventional, the most 'correct' formula doesn't line up. And sometimes you make a very different film that no one would have thought of and it works. The process is always evolving and one is always discovering new ideas. You really can't say what works and what doesn't.

Priyanka Roy  
Lakshya was the right choice for *Kill* because... Tell t2 @abp.in

Lakshya

## GLIMPSES FROM THE RECORDING OF A NEW SONG FOR THE UPCOMING FILM CHAALCHITRO — THE FRAME FATALE

The melodious voice of Iman Chakraborty wafted through Debojyoti Mishra's cosy Jodhpur Park studio. The composer stood with director Pratim D. Gupta in front of three large screens that grasped the waves of Iman's beautiful notes. "O je maane na maana," Mishra sings and we witness Iman delivering different variations of the same line, perfecting the emotion.

It was the recording of *Bolo taare*, the second song for the tracklist of *Chaalchitro — The Frame Fatale*, a thriller starring Tota Roy Choudhury, Raima Sen, Shantanu Maheshwari, Anirban Chakrabarti, Swastika Dutta among others. The sound recordist working on the track played the full song for the team and we knew we could be moved to tears on a bad day if it came up in our playlists. From pain to longing, *Bolo taare* hits the right spots and is powerful enough to trigger those tear glands.

When we had met Mishra a couple of months back for a tete-a-tete, we had asked him why he does not take up more mainstream work to which he had replied, "I need to feel that I am required for the composition and I require that bond with the filmmaker. It has to be a well-mounted film made with love, emotion and care." One of his last mainstream works was *Chawl rastaye* which continues to rule playlists. This time when we sat down with Mishra, Pratim, Iman, and producer Firdausul Hasan, we learnt the story behind Mishra and Pratim coming together for the first time.

"I loved the movies that have been directed by Pratim. I am really happy that Hasan, who is more of a friend to me than a producer, and Pratim came together to get me on board. When I heard the storyline of the film, I was convinced that they needed me and the story had everything that I look for in a film whose music I want to create. We created this song like we did in the olden days. Ritam has done a fantastic job of writing the lyrics. I first created the music and he gave the words. We sat together for two days and Ritam would just come up with a certain word in a particular juncture of the song. Even today, on the recording floor, Ritam and I made changes to the lyrics and the music, respectively. Iman is one of my favourite artistes. In fact, for this song all three of us, Hasan, Pratim and I unanimously wanted Iman to sing this tune. When we came up with this song we did not think twice. Even the other song that has been recorded for this film, a more fast-paced one, has been sung by Rupam (Islam) and that



Iman



Firdausul Hasan, Pratim D. Gupta and Debojyoti Mishra

was also a unanimous decision," said Mishra.

Pratim, who was very involved in the recording, talked to us about the film and the overall musical flavour of it. He said, "It is a thriller but not like the ones we have been seeing around for a long time. There are four cops in the film played by Tota, Shantanu, Anirban and Indrajeet. The film revolves around how all their personal lives get entangled with their job. The case that these four

**This song weaves the emotional turmoil of these four women. The melody stitches all these hearts together. Debu has composed a lilting, soft, melancholic and beautiful song where there is still a ray of hope — Pratim**

individuals are working on ends up affecting and disrupting the lives of their wives, lovers and daughters. This song weaves the emotional turmoil of these four women. The melody stitches all these hearts together. Debu has composed a lilting, soft, melancholic and beautiful song where there is still a ray of hope. He watched the scene where I wanted the song and he just came up with this. I absolutely love the song! Earlier, this film was not supposed to have any

songs but through conversations with Hasanda, I realised that as feminine characters came in the script, the necessity of songs increased. We have three songs in *Chaalchitro — The Frame Fatale*."

"Since our childhoods, we remember multiple songs without knowing the names of the films. Songs, I believe serve as an identity for films. I told Pratim that you must have songs in *Chaalchitro — The Frame Fatale* for it to be impactful. Moreover, everyone working on the film is very close to me and they have a strong hand in me being the producer I am," said Hasan.

Pratim believes that when two creative minds come together for the first time, they inspire, indulge, excite and challenge each other in new ways. "That's what is happening with Debu and me. We are from two generations but our love for cinema and melodies transcends the gap. I'd like to go on record to say that this is the big comeback for the man who gave us the unforgettable songs of *Raincoat* and *Memories In March*," he added.



Ritam

Iman was absolutely mesmerised by the song. "It has multiple dynamics... ups and lows. Firstly, Ritam has worded the song extraordinarily. Second, this song is a Debojyoti Mishra signature... it is very much like the songs from the maestro's genre. This is also the first time I am working with Pratim... and I have watched every film made by him. When I said yes to this song, I did not know that it was being produced by Hasanda. I have several experiences of working with both Debu and Hasanda and it is a first with Pratim... this has been a fantastic experience! I really hope the audience loves the song as much as we love it."

Lyricist Ritam Sen expressed his happiness and said, "I started working back in 2018 with *Tomake bujhina priyo* and more... for *Chaalchitro — The Frame Fatale* I met Debu after a long while and it has been an amazing experience."

The film is expected to hit the theatres by December 2024.

**Sanjali Brahma**

Pictures: Rashbehari Das

# BOOKS

## ENAKSHI SENGUPTA'S *THE SILK ROUTE SPY* REIMAGINES THE LIFE OF AN INDIAN DOUBLE AGENT DURING THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE. A t2 CHAT WITH THE AUTHOR

The 1920s were a tumultuous time in India's struggle for Independence. Young men and women associated with the liberation movement were often posted in places far away from their native lands, and involved in patriotic activities that never guaranteed them safety. One of these heroes whose story has now been forgotten is Nandlal Kapur, who, like many others, was initially recruited as a spy by the British. However, as he navigated the undercurrents of rebellion in the country and met revolutionaries determined to break free from colonial rule, Nandlal stood torn between loyalty to his role and his love for his country. Eventually, he became a double agent and chose to contribute to India's emancipation.

Kapur's story has now been documented and re-imagined by his granddaughter-in-law Enakshi Sengupta, whose latest book *The Silk Route Spy* is an account of an extraordinary life whose intricacies are now lost to time. Charting Kapur's journey across India and abroad during the struggle for Independence, the book is a fictionalised version of history, taking readers on a ride that shows them the sacrifices made by those who freed the country. A t2 chat with Sengupta:



Enakshi Sengupta

You mention in the book, both in the introduction and as your final words, that you heard the tale of Nandlal from your husband, but I'm sure a lot of background checks must also have gone into the writing process. What kind of research did you undertake to ensure historical accuracy, while simultaneously building at least some parts of the book from your imagination?

Yes, you are right. What I heard was more of storytelling, that too from a personal point of view. What I lacked was historical underpinnings. For example, I knew Nandlal Kapur travelled to

Burma or, in fact, to Shanghai. I also knew that he took the ship and a flight to Shanghai. That's all that was told. I had to look for the mode of transportation from Calcutta to Rangoon, the name of the shipping company, the route, and so on. I had to corroborate the historical incidents like what was happening in Nanjing, the geo-political situation in the Malay peninsula, and even the products that were being traded from Hyogo port in Kobe, at that time.

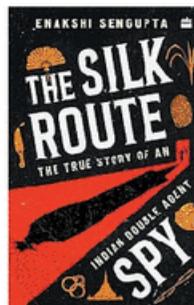
I depended a lot on open sources like archived film clippings, journals, news clips, and articles from the Central University of Punjab, Bhatinda. There were lots to read before I could connect the dots and ensure that everything that I cited matched with history on one hand and the narrative that I heard on the other.

Did you plan on writing the book as a biography of sorts or are there any specific themes you wanted to highlight?

When I embarked on writing the book, I had nothing planned. I just wrote and the book started shaping on its own. Sometimes I feel as if I was writing in some kind of trance!

I wrote what I heard, what I felt, and what remained unsaid. I wanted

to highlight the contribution of a man who has been long forgotten. He remained anonymous and faded into obscurity. No one knew the perils that he fought, the battles he waged with himself and with his surroundings. A man torn away from what was familiar and comfortable and trying to carve out a niche in alien soil, yet remaining true to the cause he believed in.



*The Silk Route Spy* is a fictionalised version of a slice of history

Was there a particular scene or chapter in *The Silk Route Spy* that was especially difficult or emotional for you to write?

I would say the epilogue and the prologue. It brought back memories of my late husband, his animated gestures, the excitement in his voice, and the twinkle in his eyes

when he used to narrate the story of his hero, his grandfather. I could visualise him talking to me, sitting perched on the edge of the bed with excitement. It brought back memories of how he related his stay in Malaysia, visiting Johor Bahru and he would speak non-stop about what his grandfather had seen or done.

Many historical novels teach readers about the past. Was your goal more to entertain, inform,

or create a blend of both? I would say it was to inform. To inform readers about the contribution of Nandlal Kapur, to inform how a silent battle was being fought for Independence outside India, in faraway shores. How people like Jivat Singh, Anandilal, or Hashmukh remained true to their country. Their contributions were not some amplified versions of arsenal and killings but what they did was no less significant.

What do you hope readers take away from the novel, both in terms of history and the story itself?

I wanted to transport the readers to a world that has been long forgotten. I hope they get a glimpse of the life of a spy and a double agent who operated in difficult circumstances. I would be happy if they remembered all the unsung heroes who helped us become the glorious nation that we are today. There were battered Indian soldiers in the Malay peninsula, mainly from the Punjab regiment who were wounded and hungry and left behind by the British Raj after they fought a battle that was not their own. They didn't forget their country, they regrouped, gathered their strength, and formed the INA. These people deserve to be remembered.

Subhalakshmi Dey  
Pictures: The author

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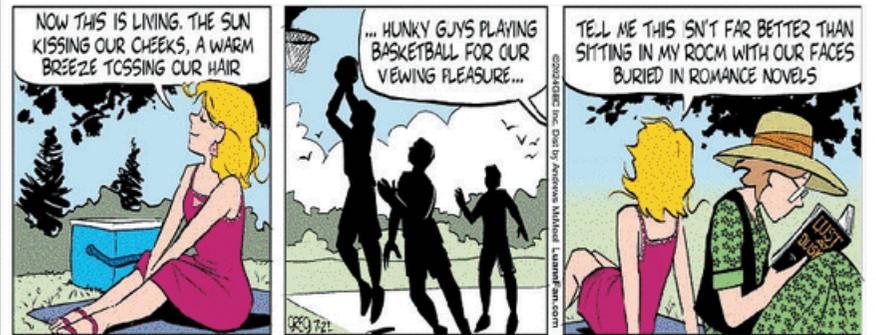
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B.C. by Johny Hart



Luann by Greg Evans



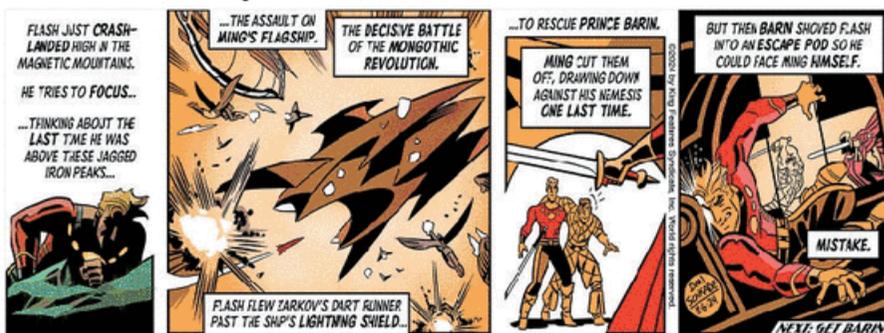
Peanuts by Charles Schulz



The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johny Hart



Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



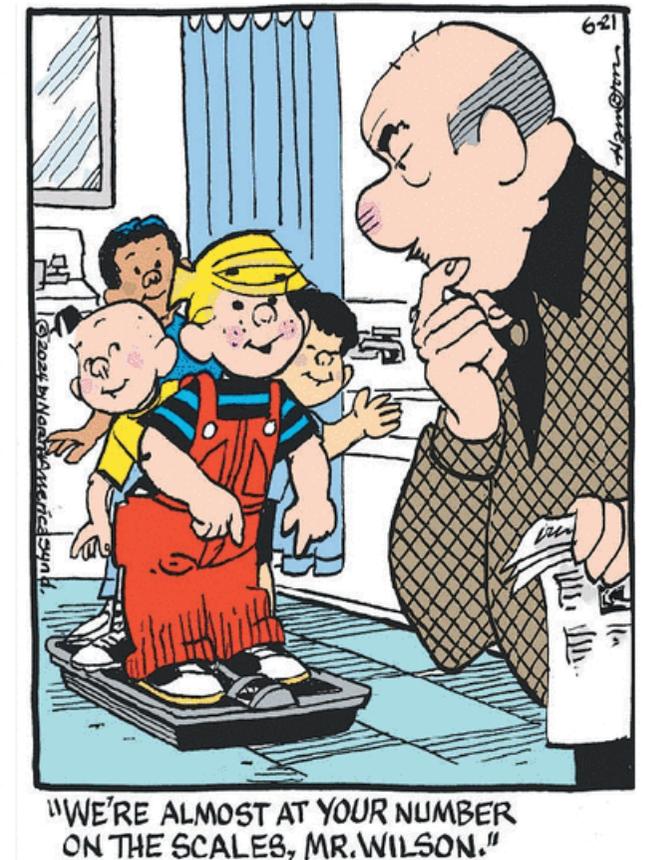
Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



Blondie by Dean Young



Dennis the Menace



Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau



# PUZZLE

**11196**

## SUDOKU MODERATE

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

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11194 is on the right

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

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph Copyright: Michael Mephram 2005

**11197**

## SUDOKU GENTLE

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

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 11195 is on the right

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

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**14455**

## 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	

**ACROSS**

1 Implement choice of temperature scales? (4)

3 Nonchalant during escape, giving little glower? (5,5)

9 High point getting married in a church (4)

10 Extravagant fellow entertaining lad in apartment (10)

11 Sweet and affectionate social worker? (7)

13 Academic in chaos erupting over Left and Right (7)

14 Points given for ignoring this flashy installation? (5,6)

18 Is no ketchup ordered for poor food stall? (4,7)

21 Article about Salvation Army seen in May? (7)

22 Withdrawn do-it-yourself recipe for tongue (7)

23 Hysterical, pour out port in

land down under (10)

24 Spent greenbacks touring Spain? (4)

25 Vitality in appalling gag done about mate with ewe (3-2-3-2)

26 Committed student having whiskey in boozier (4)

**DOWN**

1 Swimmer fine as filth bubbles around (8)

2 Jogger getting on with Daley's bodyguard? (8)

4 Vote to exclude leader's share (5)

5 Cut wood supporting seats (4,5)

6 Very courageous in the ordeal surprisingly (4-7)

7 Good woman accommodating 50 with pleasure (6)

8 Lecturers voice disapproval or start to shout (6)

12 Assistants leave after a day in ancient Rome (5-2-4)

15 Praise mature person shielding alpha particle (9)

16 Awesome feller Bond consulted (8)

17 Not terribly keen about news boss being sharp (2,3,3)

19 Virtuous sort on step tied up? (6)

20 Advertise Crete as setting for mystery (6)

22 Juvenile, year-old African antelope heading north (5)

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.

TNNHI

OOO

RIDYT

OOO

GANFEL

OOO

HNRCEI

OOO

People pay to see me!

I want top billing!

Erad? Dwayne? What's going on? You worked so well together in the last movie.

**TENSION WAS HIGH ON THE SET BECAUSE THE MOVIE STARS WERE HAVING TROUBLE ...**

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

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

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**Ans. here:** OOO

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHACK BUDDY FEMALE UNWISE  
 Answer: The baker wasn't going to rush making the bread and would take as long as - SHE "KNEADED"

**14107**

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9		10	11	
14	15		16			
17						
18				19	20	21
			22	23		
24			25	26		
27			28			29

**ACROSS**

1 Take in aurally (4)

4 Slaughtered (4)

6 Relatives (3)

8 Devise; incubate (5)

10 Greek geometrician (6)

12 Aquatic bird (4)

14 Hawaiian greeting (5)

16 Ideal (7)

17 Predatory insect (7,6)

**DOWN**

2 Alcohol type (5)

3 Heave (5)

4 London enclave (4)

**18 Migrate (anag) (7)**

**19 Impoverished (5)**

**22 Moon of Saturn (4)**

**24 Crustaceans (6)**

**26 Borders (5)**

**27 Adam's wife (3)**

**28 Nudge (4)**

**29 Love god (4)**

**5 Storm centre (3)**

**6 0.62 miles (9)**

**7 Small swellings (7)**

**9 Alliance (9)**

**11 Not instructed (9)**

**13 Ego hurt (anag) (7)**

**15 Citrus drink (9)**

**17 Meat product (4,3)**

**20 American symbol (5)**

**21 Dance night (5)**

**23 Principal (4)**

**25 Knight's title (3)**

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

CATCH MITHUN AND DEBASHREE REUNITING AFTER 16 YEARS!

Scan the QR to know more

# A WALKTHROUGH OF ZEVAR EXHIBITION, A GALA JEWELLERY SHOWCASE AT TAJ BENGAL, WITH t2

Laxmi Jewellers from Jaipur, which specialises in *polki*, *kundan*, *meenakari* and contemporary jewellery, brought unique pieces for their display, including a *sarpech* (centre) or head ornament. “*Sarpech* was worn by the rajas and maharajas over their crown. Our *sarpech* consists of real Zambian emeralds and old Golconda *polkis*,” said Raghav Bihani of Laxmi Jewellers. @laxmi\_jewellers on Instagram



Tyaani by Karan Johar was one of the highlight exhibitors that showcased elaborate yet lightweight jewellery sets in 22-carat uncut diamonds and gold, studded with *polki* and *jadau*. With Diwali and the wedding season around the corner, the exquisite sets appealed to many shoppers who dropped by. @tyaanijewellery on Instagram



Banka Jewels that specialises in diamond jewellery and gold chains showcased an eclectic variety, including kids’ jewellery like pins, *nazariya* and chains, apart from regular jewellery pieces like brooches, earrings and bangles. @banka\_jewels on Instagram



Beauty Gems and Jewellery exhibited jewellery sets made of gold, *polki* and diamonds and different kinds of coloured stones. The pastel palette on display by this Jaipur brand was an eye-catching corner that highlighted some exquisitely crafted sets. @beautygemsjaipur on Instagram

Tvea Diamonds added to the glitz of the exhibition by showcasing their exclusive range of affordable laboratory-grown diamond jewellery. They catered to different customer needs, like daily wear, occasion wear and wedding wear. @tveadiamonds on Instagram



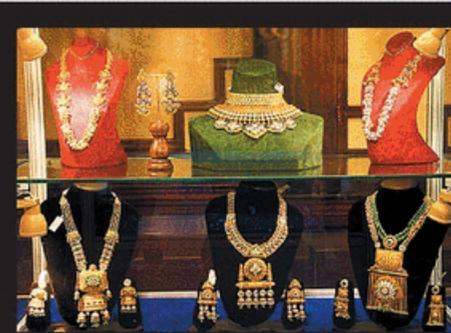
Jaipur Emporium, exhibiting in Calcutta for the first time, displayed their *kundan*, *meenakari*, *jadau* and *polki* jewellery. Their product range included a huge variety, like bangles, necklaces, earrings and much more. @jaipuremporiumjewellers on Instagram

Specialising in diamond jewellery, Dhruv Diamonds showcased its collection of lightweight diamond jewellery. The versatile and contemporary designs are apt for wearing on festive occasions as well as formal parties. Apart from occasionwear, they displayed some daily workwear too, in diamonds. @shagunjewellery.kol on Instagram

Zever Exhibition, in association with t2, was held at Taj Bengal on September 13 and 14. The fifth edition of the exhibition, organised by Glambox,

brought together over 30 jewellery brands exhibiting exquisite handcrafted jewellery and other versatile varieties, including diamond jewellery, laboratory-grown diamond jewellery, *polki*,

*jadau*, antique and bridal jewellery. From maximalist occasionwear to everyday workwear channelling minimalism, the exhibition had something for everyone. t2 picks:



SK House of Jewellery showcased a wide variety of gold jewellery. The brand launched their Rajwada collection at Zever, consisting of elaborate statement neckpieces and jewellery sets. @skjewellers on Instagram



GK Chudiwalas from Jaipur showcased their finely-crafted diamond and *polki* jewellery sets. Designed elaborately, they are apt for flaunting as statement pieces during any festivity or wedding occasions. @gkchudiwalas on Instagram



From super cute to super elegant, Kusp exhibited their unisex brooches, buttons and cufflinks, studded with coloured stones on unique designs and showcased pieces with non-repeatable gemstones. @kuspbykaamyia on Instagram



Shruti Keshri, director of Glambox, and Chintan Pandya, managing partner at Glambox, said: “The first edition of Zever Exhibition was held in 2018. This is our fifth edition. At Zever, one can find more than 10,000 jewellery designs from across India. I can assure everyone the best of jewellery quality here,” said Keshri.



“There are many stores from Jaipur today. We were not aware of all despite being from there. Through Zever, we got to know of them. We are looking for some bridal collection today,” said Suman Sarma along with designer Shikha Daga (right).



“The experience at Zever is fabulous. Even last year it was great and this year it is bigger, better and the designs are absolutely exclusive,” said Nandita Daga.



Friends (l-r) Richa Bagaria, Ankisha Patni and Khusboo Patni had an “amazing time” at Zever.



“It is such a wonderful show because they have all brands from Mumbai, Surat, Jaipur and all over India. They have very versatile and very beautiful jewellery,” said Megha Kajaria.

Sharmistha Dasgupta (t2 intetn) Pictures: Rashbehari Das

FOOD

GET READY TO ENJOY 'ROLL BACK PRICES' AT PAN ASIAN AT ITC SONAR



**What:** Rollback Prices  
**Where:** Pan Asian, ITC Sonar  
**When:** September 21  
**Timings:** Noon to 3.30pm and 7pm to midnight  
**Pocket pinch:** Prices starts from ₹425 onwards  
**Contact:** For reservations call 9903722853

The highlight of Pan Asian is its three interactive kitchens, most notably the teppanyaki counter with seating around it. This setup encourages close interaction with the chefs, allowing one to enjoy the meal being prepared with much flair, to your personal preference.

Get ready to experience the exquisite flavours of East Asia at Pan Asian, ITC Sonar with special rollback prices. This comes as a token of appreciation for the outlet's patronage and to thank the city for making Pan Asian one of the most popular restaurants. For the uninitiated, it means the 130-seater fine-dine outlet will have their signature items at steal deal prices,

starting at ₹425. "Rediscover East Asia's timeless flavours at special prices. Our chefs at Pan Asian, ITC Sonar, blend discipline, precision, and artistry into every dish, crafting an extraordinary culinary journey. Enjoy unparalleled excellence with us," said Gaurav Soneja, cluster general manager, ITC Royal Bengal & ITC Sonar. t2 spotlights some must-try items on September 21!



**Broccoli, Tofu & Snowpeas in Malak Sauce:** Relish this addictive and healthy stir-fry dish with broccoli, tofu, and sweet snow peas tossed in a spicy and aromatic Malak sauce, creating a dish that is both satisfying and nutritious.



**Crispy Tahoo:** This hot fave dish for any vegetarian packs in complex flavours with tofu, basil, chilli paste and other Thai herbs as main ingredients. It's spicy but the tofu and onions balance the heat perfectly.



**Stir-Fried Pork Belly with Pickled Chilli:** Pork lovers will thrive on the succulent slices of pork belly. Stir-fried to perfection with vibrant pickled chilli, the flavours are rich and slightly tangy.



**Stir-Fried Asparagus & Shiitake with Chilli and Almond Flakes:** If you love your greens you won't get enough of this dish and if you are not a fan of greens, this will make you enjoy them! Tender asparagus and shiitake mushrooms are quickly stir-fried with fresh chilli, topped with crunchy almond flakes for a contrast. The sesame on top adds fun to the texture.



**Crunchy Spicy Roll:** You cannot visit Pan Asian and not have sushis! Try this delightful fusion of crispy tempura flakes, rolled with fresh avocado and cucumber, topped with spicy mayo and a drizzle of Sriracha.



**Andaman Lobster in Garlic Butter Sauce** is a star on the menu. Fresh Andaman lobsters are delicately cooked and served in a rich and fragrant garlic butter sauce, offering a melt-in-your-mouth seafood experience.



"We have always been blessed with guests who have been a patron since its inception. They are so particular that they actually know the menu by heart. The love and popularity of the restaurant has only doubled with time. The consistency of each dish and the warm hospitality makes Pan Asian a favourite. Just as a Kung Fu master perfects his skills, our chefs have refined their craft through discipline, dedication, and passion," said Chef Pramod Sinha, senior master chef, Pan Asian.

Pramita Ghosh

Pictures: ITC Sonar and B Halder

MUSIC

ANIMALS AS LEADERS DELIVERED A HIGH-OCTANE PERFORMANCE IN CALCUTTA AS PART OF THEIR PARRHESIA INDIA TOUR 2024

The recently concluded Parrhesia India Tour 2024 brought Tosin Abasi (guitar), Javier Reyes (guitar), and Matt Garstka (drums) of Animals As Leaders, a progressive metal band from Los Angeles, USA, to Calcutta. The band took a four-city tour of India with concerts in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Calcutta. Roots on Chowringee Road was packed to the brim as musicians and patrons joined the crowd on the day of the concert.

The Skillbox Production partnered with Artistry and Roots (for the Calcutta concert) saw people turn up in large numbers and as the band started off with their high-energy setlist with tracks like *Red Miso*, *Complex Cartography*, *Monomyth*, *Thoughts and Prayers*, *Asahi* (from their 2022 studio album *Parrhesia*), they all chanted the names of the members one after the other, simply in awe of the riffs, beats and power on stage. Snapshots from the evening:



Javier Reyes



Tosin Abasi

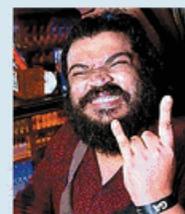


Matt Garstka



Universe in a Crayon, a Calcutta-based instrumental progressive rock band with members Suraj Saha, Anurup Guha Thakurata, Soumyadeep Deb and Rohan Chakraborty opened the show for Animals As Leaders at Roots

Rohan Chakraborty, the drummer of UIC in action



Gaurab Chatterjee aka Gaboo, the drummer of Bangla band Lakkhichhara



(L-r) Akshay Janakiram, Ishan Ray, Megha Ghosh, and Shirsho Ray cut a cool concert frame. "Animals As Leaders is revered for their complex artistry and we got a piece of that at Roots. I definitely want to see such niche bands making inroads to Calcutta more often in the future," said Ishan.

Sramana Ray

Pictures: Rashbehari Das

SHANTANU GOENKA X LÄDERACH AT THE GLENBURN PENTHOUSE WAS AN EVENING OF UTTER INDULGENCE AND PURE HAPPINESS. **t2** WAS A PART OF THE JOY



Riti Gupta of Läderach India was happy to see the excitement. "Calcutta is a great market for us. Since we opened in Delhi, we've got a lot of queries and orders, in terms of bulk gifting. This was a natural step for us to have a preview here and test the market out and people seem to be very excited," she said, with Shantanu by her side. Läderach came to India in 2023, in an "exclusive partnership" with DS Group, a multi-business corporation and a leading FMCG conglomerate. Läderach's first store in India is located at the DLF Emporio in Delhi. "It's been great. In fact, it's been quite overwhelming for us. Most people know the brand because they have travelled so much and the exact variants they like. We deliver in Mumbai and are opening a store there on October 1. Even in Mumbai, we know it'll be great because we are very aware of the product," said Riti. All the chocolates are imported from Switzerland. "We try to keep as much selection as possible from the brand itself. We order more based on the preferences of flavours, for example, our Hazelnut Dark, Almond Dark, Almond Milk sell quite a bit. So we do order more of those. In the Mumbai market, Pistachio Dark does exceptionally well," she added. Ahead of the festive times, Riti suggested you pick up Almond Dark, Hazelnut Dark and a praline box for your loved ones. For more details, write to [laderach@dsgroup.com](mailto:laderach@dsgroup.com)

Tables heaped with chocolates are a sight that can melt the toughest of diet resolutions. Thankfully, we weren't on any such restraint plan. Our eyes lit up when they fell upon the delicious treats Läderach had laid out at the Glenburn Penthouse on Russel Street last week. The gorgeous Glenburn Penthouse looked like a dreamland decked up in flowers. A select set of guests pushed open the glass door to walk into a world of gaiety and left with a sense of contentment that savouring a piece of chocolate can alone bring about. The private preview was hosted by fashion designer Shantanu Goenka, a "die-hard" chocolate lover. And, the smile on his face said it all. "This is Disneyland for me! I love milk chocolate. The nut-based ones are my favourite," he said, with wife Tripti, by his side. Tripti's pick was milk chocolate with hazelnuts.



The preview was a buzzing affair, with the guests trying out the various flavours from the Swiss chocolate brand. This table was the prettiest and the most crowded, with conversations gathering steam around FrischSchoggi, pralines, truffles, Tablets, Tartufis and more. Yum!



Kitchen queens (clockwise from above left) Lovey, Sneha Singhi Upadhaya and Shripriya Gupta were among the select guests who dropped by.

**Saionee Chakraborty**  
Pictures: Pabitra Das



Exclusive sleeves in *patan* designed by Shantanu for the Swiss chocolate boxes, were eye-catchers. "The festive season is around the corner. These are special packages for weddings and gifting purposes and are bespoke," said Shantanu.