Calcutta Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE I KOLKATA

OF INDIA

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DIG INTO SAVOURY DESSERTS THIS FESTIVE SEASON P2

LIFESTYLE
GLOBAL ARTISTES SET TO ROCK INDIA
P3

Anindya Saha

RAJAT KAPOOR

'REGIONAL FILMMAKERS TEND TO TAKE MORE CHANCES'

Raima Ganguly

A few clowns, dressed mostly in black with hints of white and red took to stage at a city auditorium on Sunday to bring to life two of Shakespeare's timeless classics, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*, in a modern context. Though it may sound a little unusual to place the tragedies in a comic setting, Rajat Kapoor, the creative mind behind the productions, has made it possible. The filmmaker-actor, known for films like *Bheja Fry*, *RK/RKay* and *Iti Mrinalini*, made some time from his busy schedule to speak to CT about his perception of the bard, why classics need to be reinvented, regional films taking the front stage and more.

CANDID IN KOLKATA

Regional films are now in the spotlight. What are your thoughts on this?

Regional films don't have the pressure of catering to a pan Indian audience, on them.The audience, especially down South is slightly more educated, and they allow more experiments to be done, more chances to be taken.

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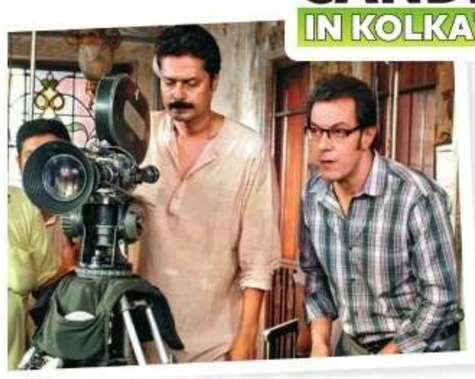


Rajat has featured in three Bengali projects, *Anuranan*, *Shobdo Jobdo* and *Iti Mrinalini (inset)*

> I'm ready for another role in a Bengali film, but nobody is calling me. I recently acted in an Assamese film *Anur*, and I enjoyed it. I am looking forward to working in another Bengali film soon
>
> – Rajat Kapoor

Bhushan Kumar is delighted with Raaj Shaandilyaa's vision, the two are set for a long-term partnership

Raaj Shaandilyaa and Bhushan Kumar collaborated recently on the movie *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*

The internet has been buzzing with one-liners from the trailer of *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*. At the centre of it is the exclusive partnership between producer Bhushan Kumar and director Raaj Shaandilyaa. This collaboration, built on trust and creative freedom, will bring the audience fresh, real-life stories and entertaining films.

In the coming years, Raaj Shaandilyaa will direct, write and produce several films with Bhushan Kumar. The duo aims to entertain cinema lovers across the globe with rooted, desi family entertainers.

Talking about their partnership, Kumar says, "I'm really happy with what Raaj has created. From the beginning, I knew his idea was strong, and I'm glad I supported it. I will be collaborating with him on more films as we both share a passion for good cinema that entertains movie lovers."

> From the beginning, I knew Raaj's idea was strong, and I'm glad I supported it. I will be collaborating with him on more films as we both share a passion for good cinema
>
> — Bhushan Kumar

Shaandilyaa shares, "Bhushan*ji* is not just a producer, he's a true partner who gives me creative freedom to focus fully on my work. His support makes everything easier, and I'm excited to partner with him on more projects. Being at T-Series feels like home, as he understands the craft of cinema and stories from the Indian heartland."

As the two continue their cinematic journey together, it would be interesting to see what they create next. Their partnership promises to bring enjoyable and meaningful stories to audiences.

Ranjit Kumar

'I DIDN'T BUY A SINGLE THING FOR MY WEDDING'

Says celebrity stylist and film producer Rhea Kapoor who treated brides-to-be to a styling masterclass at a leading store in Delhi ahead of wedding season

Wedding Times

Rhea kapoor

> In the '00s, the idea of a girl expressing herself with fashion was hardly there. For Sonam, fashion was a way to do her own thing and we did it together

P3

Buzzstop

MILEY CYRUS SUED OVER ALLEGEDLY COPYING BRUNO MARS SONG ON FLOWERS

Miley Cyrus is being sued over allegations that she and the co-writers of her 2023 hit single *Flowers* copied portions of Bruno Mars' 2013 song *When I Was Your Man*. The lawsuit was filed on Monday in Los Angeles federal court by a music company, which claimed that Flowers includes unauthorised "exploitation" of the song. Bruno Mars, however, is not named as a plaintiff. Agencies

Making 'cat lady' cool: Pet moms reclaim the title

When Taylor Swift endorsed Kamala Harris for US president with a 'Childless Cat Lady' sign off, it was a retort to Donald Trump's running mate JD Vance's now-viral statement. Vance, in a 2021 interview, had referred to Democrats as "a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they've made".

It began discussions about the 'childless' or oft-used 'crazy' cat lady tropes. We explore how the term attained a negative connotation and how it's now being reclaimed as an empowered identity through pop culture.

The 'crazy cat lady' label

American psychologist Mark Travers, in a publication, wrote, "The 'crazy cat lady' myth portrays single women who own multiple cats as eccentric, neurotic or socially isolated. It suggests that women prioritising their cats over human relationships may have difficulty connecting with others and suffer from mental illnesses."

A 'Swift' change

Taylor Swift's post after the US Presidential debate – where she signed off as 'Childless Cat Woman' isn't the first time that the global pop star has proudly displayed her affinity to cats. She regularly posts pics of her cats and has been credited for reclaiming the stereotype of the cat lady in a positive manner.

>> Taylor Swift with her cat Olivia Benson

@taylorswift

@stevienicks

Robert De Niro as a cat lady in an *SNL* sketch; (below) Crazy Cat Lady from *The Simpsons*

Reclaiming the #CatLady label

From T-shirt slogans to social media hashtags, cat ladies are turning the negative connotation on its head and reclaiming it with a touch of sassiness. Thousands of videos of women posing with their cats have resulted in cat lady being a celebrated identity. This, besides the fact that cats themselves are social media celebrities.

Origins

Ancient history, particularly Egyptian, has ample references of cats being revered and looked at as guardians from evil. However, things changed in the Middle Ages in Europe as people started linking cats to witchcraft and dark practices, ultimately labelling women who had cats as crazy.

<< Singer Stevie Nicks posted a pic with her dog, seconding Swift's views and signing off with 'Childless Dog Lady'

— Compiled by Mihir Bhanage

City hosts seminar on advertising for students

The world of advertising is a captivating realm that showcases incredible creativity and innovation, capable of alluring and engaging audience minds. The visualisations and messaging used in advertising campaigns have the ability to capture attention and resonate deeply with the core of the human experience. The Advertising Club Calcutta and NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata are dedicated to supporting the advertising community.

Together, they joined forces to inspire and motivate young aspirants interested in the field. The event was called Advertising: A Career in Curiosity and was held at the NSHM campus. It brought together a distinguished panel of industry leaders and experts to shed invaluable light on the dynamic and multifaceted world of creativity. Kanchan Datta (founder and CEO, Inner Circle Advertising India Private Limited; president, Advertising Club Calcutta) emphasised the vital importance of curiosity in the advertising industry. He described advertising as a serendipitous pursuit, highlighting the fact that advertisers must possess an innate sense of curiosity in order to excel in their field. Just as snowflakes have individual characteristics and are distinct in nature, Datta stressed that advertisers also need to be unique and foster their own distinct curiosity. He discussed the concept of "instilling life into the brand," emphasising that effective advertising can be highly compelling and have an impact on resonating with the target audience.

Kanchan Datta also drew inspiration from Simon Sinek's renowned Golden Circle theory, emphasising the significance of starting with why. He elaborated, "The Golden Circle's three components — why, how, and what — serve as a powerful framework for effective leadership and communication."

Samrat Mukherjee

Samrat Mukherjee (VP, Madison World) encouraged students to cultivate curiosity and embrace the evolving advertising landscape, which has shifted from traditional to modern techniques. He emphasised the need for innovation and creativity to captivate audiences and craft narratives that engage consumers leaving a lasting impression. He mentioned, "Digital marketing has revolutionised the advertising industry, emerging as a key modern technique that's transforming the way we connect with consumers."

Adding to the discussion, prominent speaker L Muralikrishnan shared his expertise on the intricacies of advertising. He revealed that advertising has existed since ancient times. Since then, advertising has been recognised as a highly historical, prominent, and powerful form of storytelling.

He emphasised that advertising is fundamentally about creativity and connection, likening the craft to the works of renowned poet, lyricist, author, and filmmaker Gulzar. "If you are creative enough, then advertising will be easy to pursue," Murali remarked, highlighting the importance of innovation in the advertising industry.

He further said that advertising serves a dual purpose: it promotes products and services and raises awareness about social issues. He explained that "advertising has acted as an eye-opener, helping to transform society by bringing critical matters to the forefront." Murali emphasised that effective advertising has the ability to capture the audience's attention, convey messages, and inspire change.

The workshop provided MBA, Media and Design PG students with invaluable insights into the dynamic world of advertising. NSHM Business School offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including the MBA program. The MBA is a niche course that provides students with a 15-day international study tour. Students have the opportunity to engage in live case studies and gain experiential learning.

NSHM Design School is East India's premier design institution, boasting an exclusive collaboration with Toonz Academy. This partnership provides students with access to live projects at the Toonz production studio, and paid internship opportunities at top organisations. The PG program in Animation & Graphic Design, with a focus on VFX Film Making, is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to launch successful careers in the creative industry.

With 17 years of excellence in media education, the NSHM Media School provides PG Media students with hands-on training at media production houses. The campus also has advanced facilities such as Mac Labs, drones, and a professional radio studio for the students to learn better.

Kanchan Datta

L Muralikrishnan

> **The fireside chat session on advertising was an enlightening platform for aspiring advertising enthusiasts to gain valuable insights & knowledge. NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata and Advertising Club Calcutta are committed to nurturing talent, promoting creativity**
> – Cecil Antony, chief mentor, NSHM Knowledge Campus

What the workshops hope to establish

The advertising workshop provided MBA, Media and Design PG students with invaluable insights into the dynamic world of advertising and how to excel in the field. During the seminar, Kanchan Dutta described advertising as a serendipitous pursuit, highlighting that advertisers must possess an innate sense of curiosity to excel. Samrat Mukherjee encouraged students to embrace the shift from traditional to modern techniques. L Muralikrishnan emphasised that advertising is about creativity and connection.

Titan crew said 'all good here' before implosion; first pic out

For the first time since the tragic incident, the US Coast Guard has released an image of the ill-fated OceanGate Titan submersible. The photo shows its tail cone resting on the ocean floor at a depth of 12,500 feet, offering a glimpse into the aftermath of an implosion on June 18, 2023, which claimed the lives of all five passengers, including OceanGate CEO and Titan operator Stockton Rush.

The vessel during a descent

The first image of Titan's wreckage captures its tail cone resting on the ocean floor at a depth of 12,500 feet

WHAT HAPPENED

On June 18 last year, five people - OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush, British explorer Hamish Harding, British-Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman and French diver Paul-Henri Nargeolet - died after the Titan submersible imploded due to intense ocean pressure off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. The vessel was en route to see the Titanic wreckage

During a hearing on Monday, OceanGate's former engineering director, Tony Nissen, presented alarming new details. He disclosed a series of safety concerns that he alleges were disregarded by Rush. According to Nissen, the submersible had been left exposed to weather and elements during storage for seven months and was never subjected to third-party safety inspections.

During Titan's final dive on June 18, contact with the crew was lost after an exchange of messages regarding the sub's depth and weight, as it descended. The support vessel, Polar Prince, repeatedly attempted to reach Titan, asking if its crew could still see the ship on their display. One of the last messages from Titan's crew to the Polar Prince, sent before the implosion, read, "all good here," according to a visual re-creation shown in the hearing.

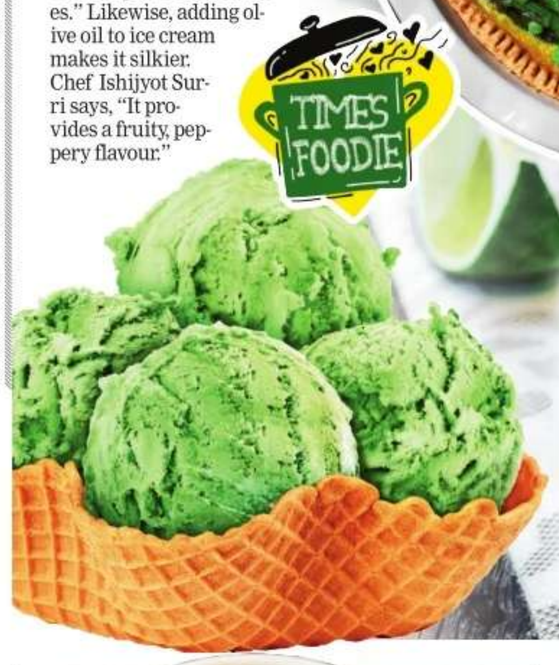
Dig into savoury desserts for a change this festive season

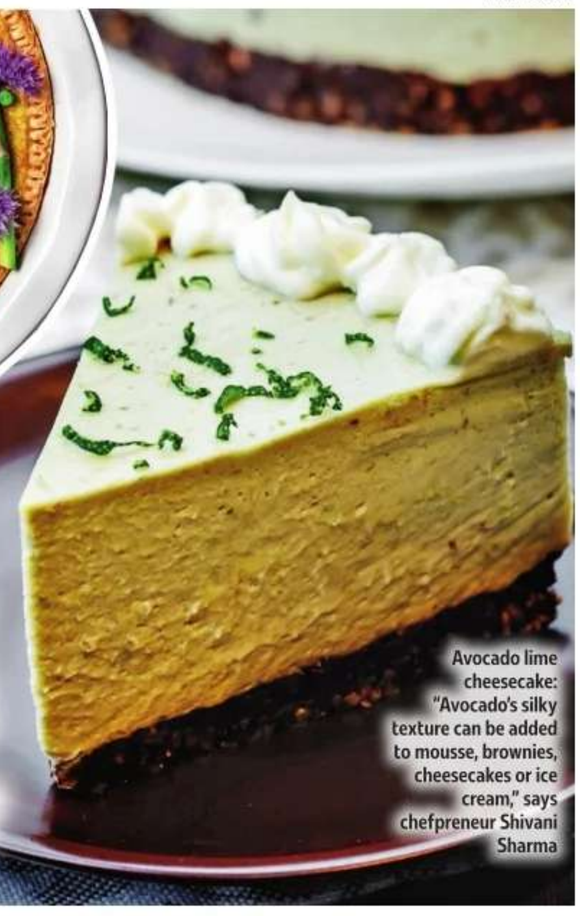
Pics: iStock

Masumi Shah

Typically fitted for savoury dishes, avocados, tofu, olive oil or jalapeños can find a luscious space in desserts as well, say experts. Chefpreneur Shivani Sharma says, "Tofu can be added to smoothies and cheesecakes. Jalapeño provides depth to sweet dishes." Likewise, adding olive oil to ice cream makes it silkier. Chef Ishijyot Surri says, "It provides a fruity, peppery flavour."

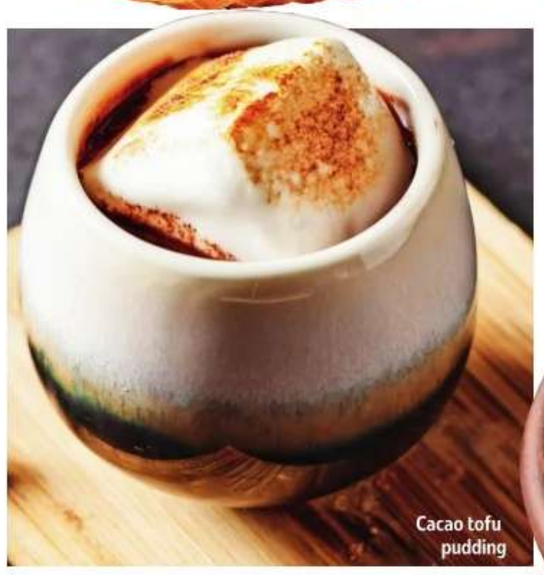
Green peas asparagus tart




Avocado lime cheesecake: "Avocado's silky texture can be added to mousse, brownies, cheesecakes or ice cream," says chefpreneur Shivani Sharma

Keep in mind

- The sweetness should remain intact; the savoury components should complement the dessert
- Pay attention to textures
- Balance jalapeño or chilli with sweetness and acidity
- Choose flavours that complement each other - chocolate with chilli is a bold match, while avocado pairs well with lime or vanilla


Cacao tofu pudding

> Herbs can give aromatic notes, sea salt or balsamic glaze enhance sweetness, and nuts and seeds provide crunch – Chef Ishijyot Surri

> Cucumber puree can enhance sorbet's flavour, while basil adds an earthy note. On the other hand, soy sauce caramel gives an umami flavour to ice creams, pastries – Chef Smeet Patel

Caramel ice cream with mint, black sesame seeds and sea salt

Funky combos to try

- **Tofu cheesecake with berry sauce:** Use tofu and cream cheese, topped with a tart berry sauce
- **Chocolate avocado mousse:** Made from ripe avocado, cocoa powder, sweetener, vanilla bean
- **Olive oil and basil ice cream:** Made with balsamic reduction, fresh berries
- **Avocado lime cheesecake with a coconut crust:** Comprises toasted coconut crust, topped with avocado, lime cream cheese blend
- **Chilli-infused orange pound cake:** With a dominant citrus taste, the cake is made with dried chilli

– Inputs by chef Ishijyot Surri, chef Shivani Sharma, chef Smeet Patel

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'GO TIMELESS FOR WEDDINGS' | 'LAYER FABRICS FOR A LEANER LOOK' | 'ALL BRIDES NEED NOT GO FOR RED'

Rhea Kapoor doles out tips for brides-to-be

Wedding Times

Shivika Manchanda

Pics: Ranjit Kumar

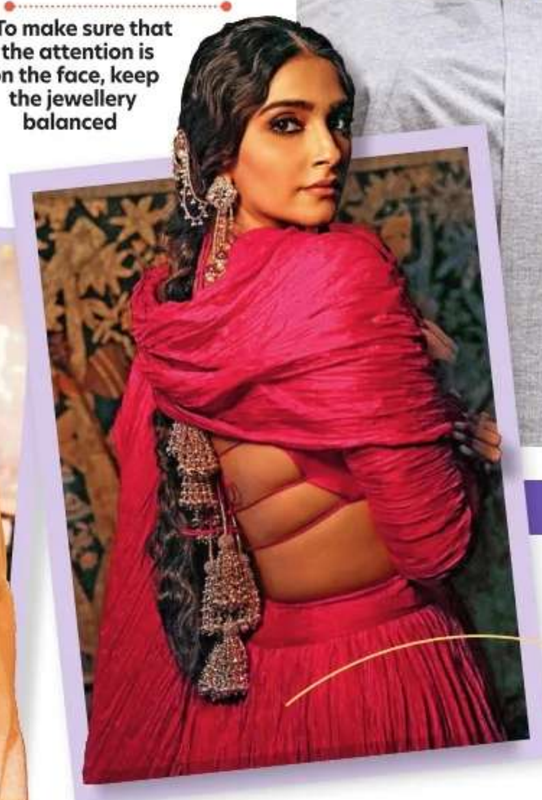
Choose a light *dupatta* with a heavy *lehenga*. Draping fabrics and layers correctly can make you look slimmer

'Celebrate heritage in your wedding silhouette'

Suggesting that brides and their family members embrace their heritage for weddings, Rhea says, "If you are confused about what to wear for your big day, start talking to your grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles. Ask them about your ancestors and the region they belong to. Research and discover the crafts and embroidery that come from those regions. Your features are aligned to your roots, so if you opt to wear something that's a part of your heritage, you'll look the best in that attire." One can also mix and match two crafts from the same region, like *bandhani* and *patola* from Gujarat, which will go well with each other, she said at an event held in a Delhi-based ethnicwear store.

Jewellery

- Choose a one-of-a-kind highlight piece and let it become the focus
- Mix metals and jewellery types like gold, silver, uncut or cut polki, rose gold, as it gives the jewellery a lot of character
- Dig into your lockers to find the old pieces of jewellery that haven't been worn in a long time
- Weddings are a perfect occasion to embrace heirloom jewellery
- To make sure that the attention is on the face, keep the jewellery balanced



Ensemble

- Opt for clothes that make you feel the most comfortable. There's no point following a trend that doesn't suit you. Invest in good innerwear, it can help you to look neat. It even affects your posture, how clothes fit and fall on you
- Red can be overwhelming for young brides. Hot pink is a versatile colour for Indian skin. Brides can also go for pastels to experiment
- Understand the undertone of your skin. Choosing an ensemble that's a shade deeper than your skin's undertone will enhance your look. So a person with a pink undertone should wear pink
- Hunt for real *zari* borders, add it to a fabric and use them as second drapes on your wedding ensemble. It adds a sense of drama and balances the silhouettes

Hair

- Hair style must be decided on the basis of your jewellery. Open hair can look really good with a bridal look
- *Chotis* with *parandis* will look great on brides who opt for traditional looks
- Avoid a messy front. If the neck appears too busy with heavy jewels, pull back the hair from the front and leave it open at the back

> Every girl must feel like they are going on the red carpet. You may be more of a behind-the-scenes person, but it is important to feel great and enjoy (your wedding). Do all that makes you feel like the Madhuri Dixit of your moment

> Go timeless for weddings. Choose things that are going to be cool forever

> I didn't buy a single thing for my wedding day. I wore what was comfortable and meaningful to me, like my mom's uncut pearls set. You'll always remember what you carry on your big day

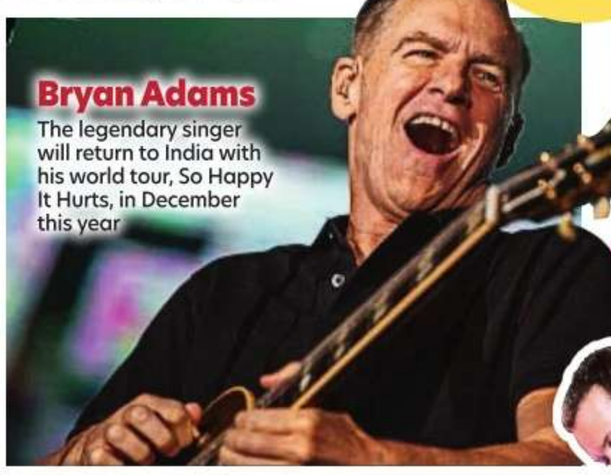
Coldplay, Dua Lipa: Global artistes set to rock India

Anna Fernandes

In the months to come, the Indian music scene is set to rock, as a wave of international artistes are set to perform in the country. From iconic rock bands and yesteryear legends to chart-topping pop artistes and indie sensations, the lineup offers something for everyone.

Dua Lipa
Dua Lipa will return to the India stage to headline the Zomato Feeding India Concert in Mumbai, on November 30

Bryan Adams
The legendary singer will return to India with his world tour, So Happy It Hurts, in December this year

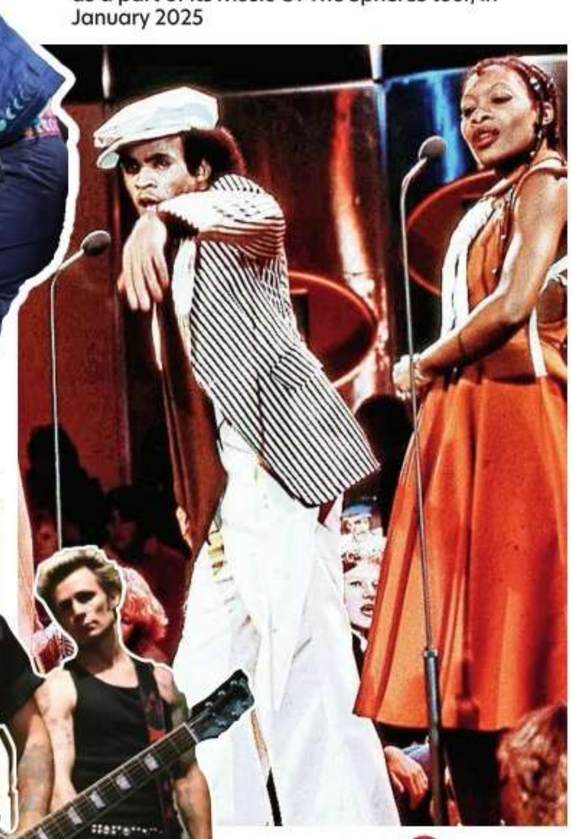


Shawn Mendes
Shawn Mendes is among the top-billed acts making their India debut at Lollapalooza India 2025, in Mumbai, in March

Akon
Global icon Akon is set to perform in India at the Cherry Blossom Festival, in Shillong, in November

Coldplay
Coldplay is set to take the stage in India yet again, as a part of its Music Of The Spheres tour, in January 2025

Cigarettes After Sex
As a part of the India leg of their X's World Tour, Cigarettes After Sex will tour Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, in January 2025

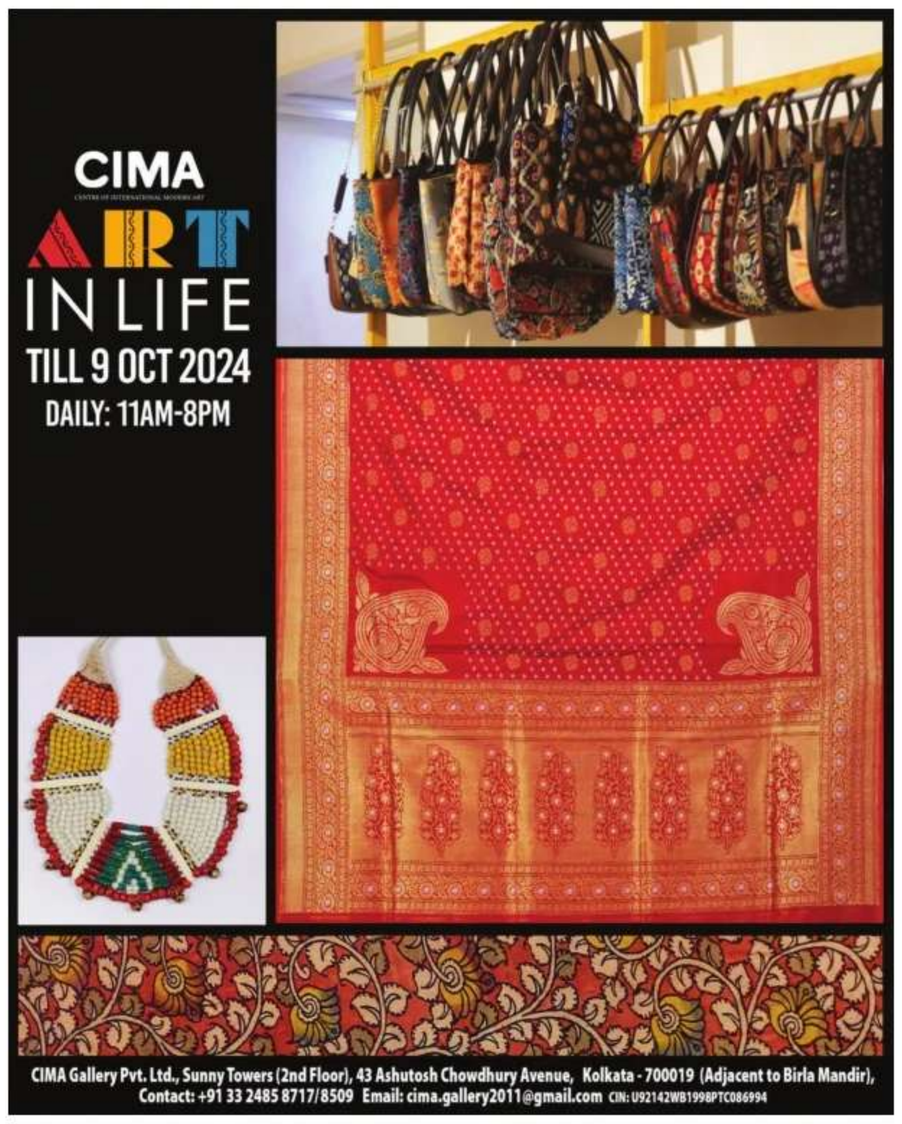


Green Day
Punk-rock titan, Green Day, is set to headline The Lollapalooza India 2025, in Mumbai, in March

Boney M
'70s and '80s hit disco band, Boney M, is also set to grace the stage at the Cherry Blossom Festival 2024, in Shillong, in November this year

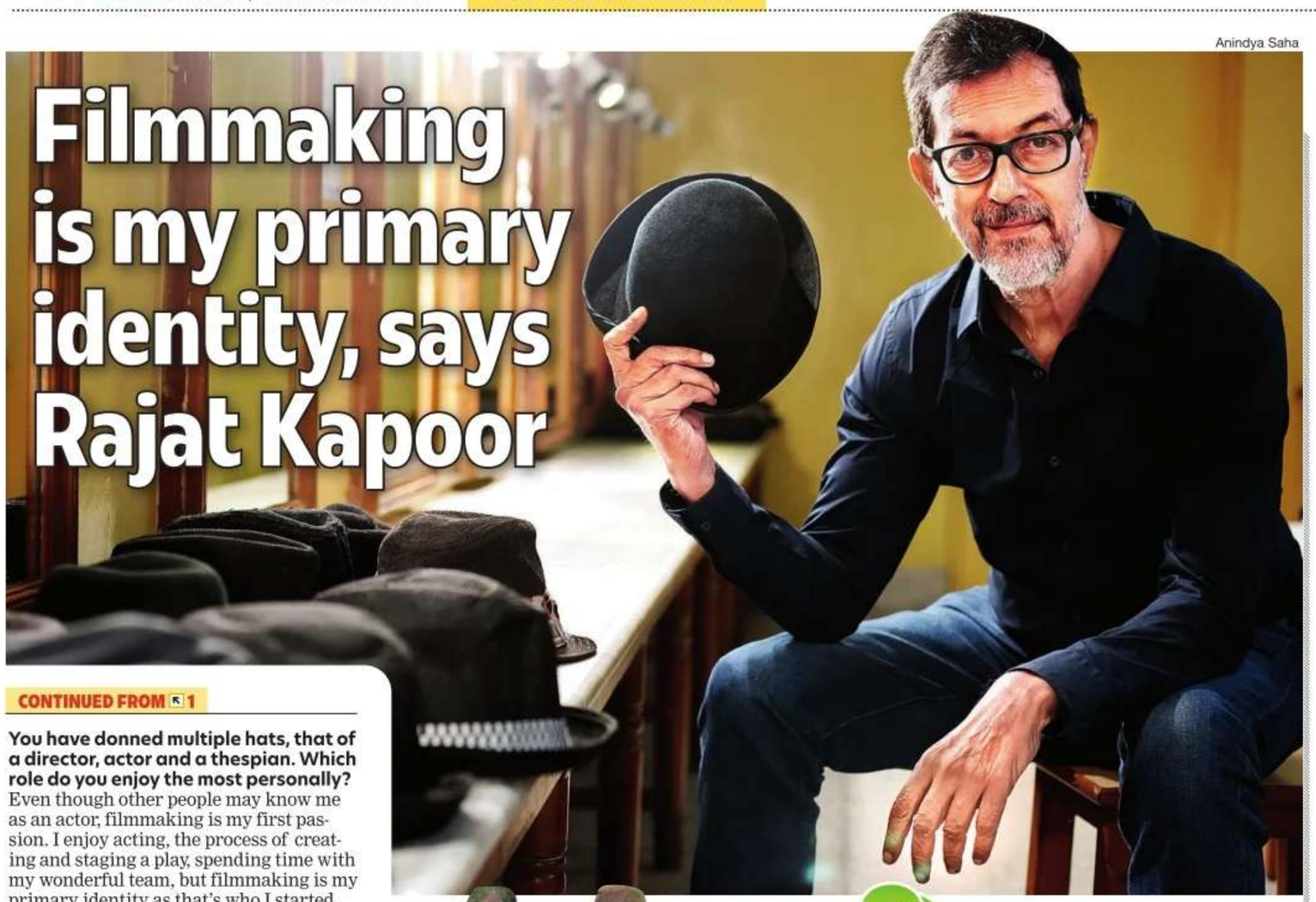
'India's live music scene is booming'

Owen Roncon, chief of business – Live Events, at an online ticketing platform, shares, "Live entertainment and live music performances are certainly seeing a massive resurgence in India. This isn't just a one-time phenomenon, but something that we are witnessing over a very vast spectrum. Several factors have come together to foster this kind of growing response towards live music shows in India. India remains the second largest market when it comes to audio streaming numbers for artistes globally and is thus becoming a focus region for international artistes and performers, as they sharpen their performances."



Filmmaking is my primary identity, says Rajat Kapoor

Anindya Saha



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You have donned multiple hats, that of a director, actor and a thespian. Which role do you enjoy the most personally?
Even though other people may know me as an actor, filmmaking is my first passion. I enjoy acting, the process of creating and staging a play, spending time with my wonderful team, but filmmaking is my primary identity as that's who I started off as a young man.

It's been quite some time since you started staging adaptations of Shakespeare. What about the bard and his works that intrigue you?
The first time I did a Shakespeare adaptation was *Hamlet: The Clown Prince*. The idea was to see if one can stage a classic with clowns. We have staged four Shakespearean adaptations so far, and with each play I've come to discover the greatness of the bard. In his own way, he takes each story and delves deep down into certain human emotions"

> I spent my life studying and trying to make films. I think when you make a film; you put everything into it, since each film takes away two years of your life. You invest a lot more in it

CANDID IN KOLKATA

Ranvir Shorey (left) as Macky B, the protagonist in Kapoor's *Macbeth*

Using comedy and clowns to stage tragedies

The *Anuranan* actor says both the plays, *Macbeth: What's Done is Done* and *Nothing Like Lear* are not directly talking about the current socio-political scenario, but still reflecting on it in some way. He expresses, "Not that *Hamlet* is not dark, or *King Lear* is not dark, but I specifically wanted to work with scary clowns in *Macbeth*. Black, white and a bit of red are a part of the plays, and dark clowns are there primarily because dark comedy is the medium of expression in each of the productions."

On the elements that are essential to keep classics relevant...

Rajat thinks artists don't consciously create a masterpiece, in order to keep it relevant years down the line. He says, "An artist creates for the people around them, of their time. It is only because they've created something so special, that it transcends time and manages to live for centuries, be it Greek tragedies, Kalidas, Shakespeare or Dostoevsky."

> Be it dark comedy or any other form of it, anything can be misused. But what matters is the intent, whether you want to raise questions with it or instigate someone

'We should not be afraid to speak up'

Neha Maheshwri

After making a mark in the South Indian film industry, **Samyuktha** is now gearing up for her Bollywood debut alongside Kajol in *Maharagni*. In a conversation with us, the actress opens up about the landmark Justice Hema Committee report that exposed the issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. Excerpts:

'SETTING UP SOMETHING LIKE THE JUSTICE HEMA COMMITTEE IS A PROGRESSIVE MOVE'

The Malayalam film industry has recently come under scrutiny following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report. Welcoming the report, Samyuktha says, "The Malayalam film industry, like any unorganised sector, lacks structure. It's like being lost in a forest, where you have to find your way out. Setting up the Justice Hema Committee is a progressive move. This movement to create a safer, more inclusive space for women must be wholeheartedly welcomed."

'STRICTER LAWS ARE THE NEED OF THE HOUR'

Samyuktha admits she was not shocked by the findings of the Hema Committee report. She elaborates, "Women can be exploited in any field. What's crucial is that they shouldn't be afraid to speak out or seek justice for their suffering"

Samyuktha

> Women can be exploited in any field, not just the film industry. What's crucial is that they shouldn't be afraid to speak out or seek justice

#HITCHED: CHARLIE PUTH MARRIES GF BROOKE SANSONE

Charlie Puth exchanged vows with his longtime girlfriend Brooke Sansone in an intimate wedding ceremony at his family's estate in California. Sharing pictures, the singer wrote "I love you Brooke...I always have, with you I am my very best. I promise I'll love you everyday in this life"

Madalsa Sharma quits Anupamaa: I miss the spark my character Kavya used to have

EXCLUSIVE

Tanvi Trivedi

Madalsa Sharma, who played Kavya in *Anupamaa*, has quit the show. The actress revealed how unlike her co-star Sudhanshu Pandey, her decision was not sudden.

The actress says, "When the show started in 2020, there were three main characters - Anupama (Rupali Ganguly), Vanraj (Sudhanshu Pandey) and Kavya. It was Kavya who brought an upheaval in Anupama's life and that changed things for everyone. Kavya was shown to be a strong woman, who had the guts to fall in love with a married man. My character had tremendous growth, but in the past one year I felt that the story has moved on."

She further added, "There was not much spice or spark left in my character. Had Kavya continued playing the grey character that she played earlier, I would have continued to be a part of the show. For the past few months, the creative team tried to do something different with my character, but nothing worked out. So, (producer) Rajan Shahi sir and I mutually decided it was best for me to move on."

@madalsasharma

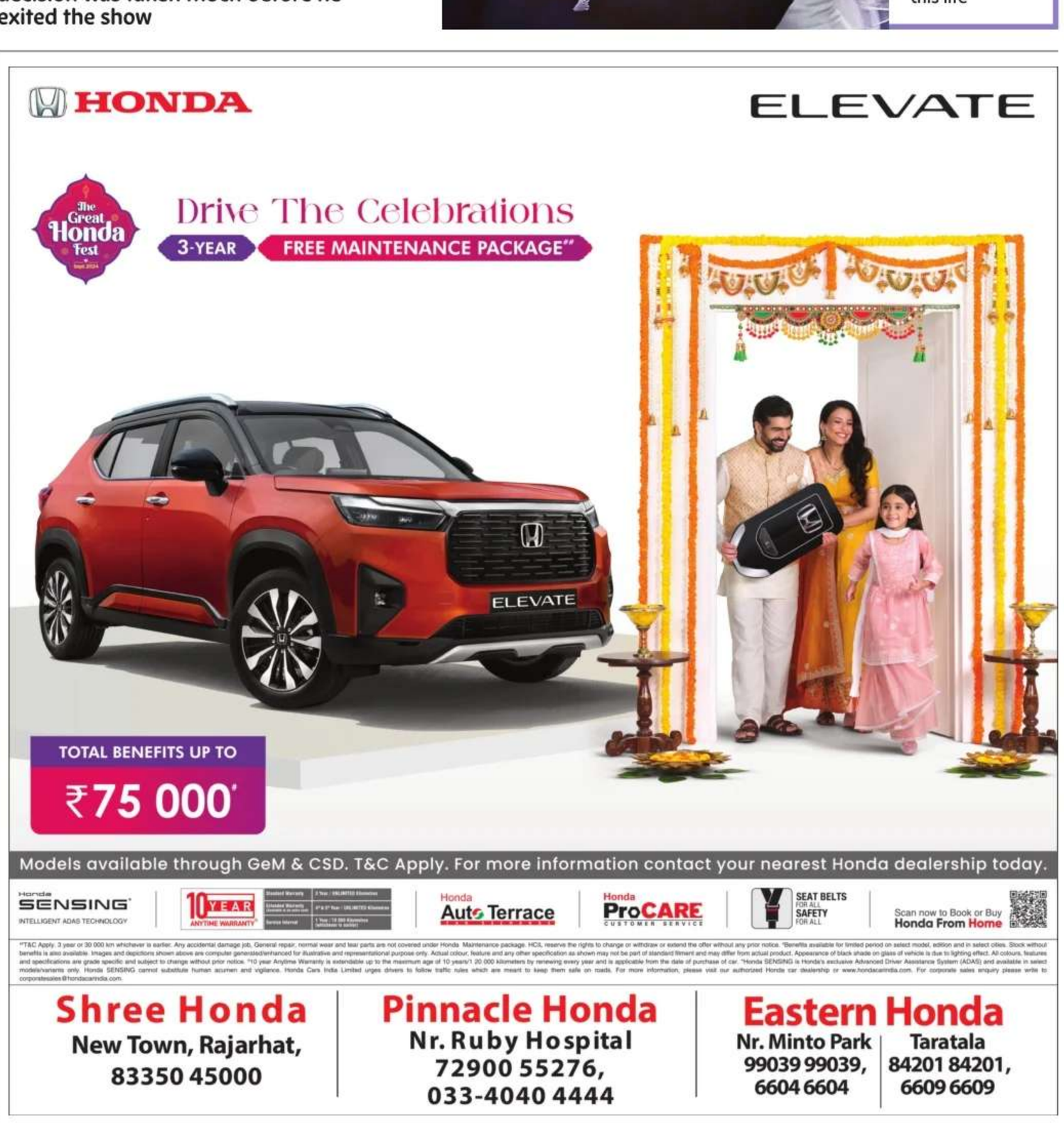
Madalsa Sharma; (above) with Rupali Ganguly and Sudhanshu Pandey in *Anupamaa*

> Sudhanshu (Pandey) had his own reasons to quit *Anupamaa*. I had a chat with him recently. However, my decision was taken much before he exited the show

'Family felt that I should move on'

On the personal front, Madalsa, who has been married to Mimoh Chakraborty for six years, said, "My mother, husband and father-in-law (Mithun Chakraborty) felt that I should move on if I want to pursue other things and grow. I wanted to leave the show when my character was being appreciated and liked. This character will always be close to my heart."

<< Madalsa with husband Mimoh and father-in-law Mithun Chakraborty



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FIRST PHOTO OF TITAN WRECKAGE RELEASED BY US COAST GUARD P2

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HYDRATION GOES IG-WORTHY AS CELEBS SIP IN STYLE
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Colourful sippers and alkaline water: Hydration gets an IG-worthy glam up

Eshna Bhattacharya

From celeb-approved Stanley bottles to K-pop-inspired thermos flasks, the world is no longer content with a simple sip from a not-so-appealing bottle. Today's hydration scene is dripping with luxury, turning a basic necessity into a trend-worthy accessory. Think tea strainers, built-in juicers, and ice-cube compartments—staying hydrated is now as much about the 'gram as it is about health. Here's what is keeping people hydrated.

Pics: iStock

Hydration with a purpose

Motivational water bottles have made their mark in the hydration craze. Featuring time markers and uplifting quotes, these aren't just about style -they double up as reminders to stay hydrated. Whether you're hitting the gym or hustling, they ensure you're drinking enough water while boosting your mood.

Sara Ali Khan sips from her thermos

K-Pop thermoses, Stanley bottles are some of the top-trending hydration accessories now

Colourful sipper bottles preffered by fitness freaks

Designer bottles on the go

Beyond the claims of better health, bottles have found a new role: as paparazzi bait. It's less about H2O and more about the image. The water bottle has become the new 'it' accessory which is a symbol of a trendy, healthy lifestyle that's as much about appearances as it is about wellness.

What's in your bottle?

- **Charcoal water:** Supposed to 'detox' the body, it's a little more than a novelty. Our organs do the detoxing job just fine
- **Alkaline water:** Claims to balance your body's pH, but for a fact, your body already has that under control
- **Hydrogen water:** It's the latest trend claiming anti-aging magic. But we have a spoiler: No miracle here, just a lot of bubbles and hype

Charcoal water (above) and hydrogen booster bottle

Here's to the VIPs of H2O: Celebs & their signature sips

- Adele was spotted using the viral Stanley travel cup during her Carpool Karaoke episode with James Corden
- Kourtney Kardashian swears by her alkaline water bottle
- BLACKPINK's Rosé is a fan of the Stanley cup, often spotted with it during her daily routine
- Virat Kohli relies on his alkaline water bottle, believed to maintain his pH balance
- Dakota Johnson is clearly in love with her gallon jug (above), and it also doubles up as a portable dumbell

Stanley cup with a sipper

> Thermos cups and bottles can be a healthy option. They promote hydration and reduce waste. However, it's essential to choose high-quality products, and use them according to safety guidelines
>
> – Dr Ananya Bhowmik ,clinical nutritionist and wellness consultant

Thermos with an ice compartment

> Hydrogen water has anti-inflammatory & anti-ageing effects, but its benefits are yet to be fully explored. It's a complementary addition, but not a diet replacement
>
> – Dr MS Purkait, medical superintendent, city-based multi-speciality hospital

LEISURE

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

HOW TO PLAY

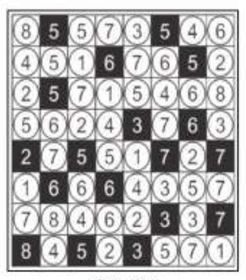
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box.You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

TIMES HITORI

HOW TO PLAY

1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)
2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.
3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.
4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, which means they cannot be eliminated.
5. Any cell "sandwiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 4 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

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

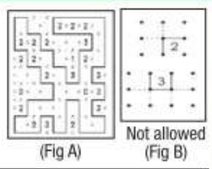


Example

LOOP THE LOOP

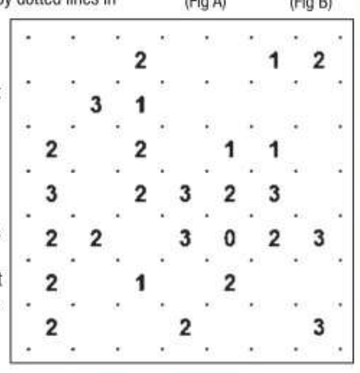
RULES

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



(Fig A)

Not allowed (Fig B)

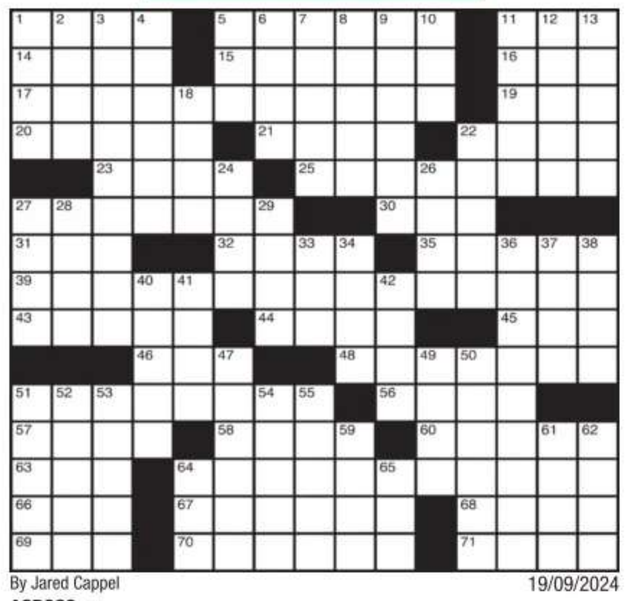


HOW TO BEGIN:

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

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jared Cappel — 19/09/2024

ACROSS

1 Satisfied sounds
5 Comforting text during a bad storm, say
11 Popeyes rival
14 Political coalition
15 Econ. figure used to highlight income inequality
16 Every last one
17 *Totally falls apart
19 20-20, say
20 Surgical tube
21 "Deal"
22 Offshore
23 Radiate happiness
25 *Floating lunar particles
27 Hollywood VIP
30 Doc's order
31 Bygone space station
32 Wine category
35 Breakaway groups
39 *Gravity powered nourishment
43 Anesthetic of old
44 Praise
45 Musician Yoko
46 Debtor's letters
48 Words on some missing posters
51 *Tips to the next dollar, say
56 Wolfe of fiction
57 Professionals who work from home about a quarter of the time?
58 Asian language
60 Channels of communication
63 "__ me guess ... "
64 Audio technique, or a feature of the answers to the starred clues
66 "Me" problem
67 Terrarium pet
68 "Night" author Wiesel
69 __ Juan, Puerto Rico
70 Wipes
71 Related groups

DOWN

1 Building blocks
2 Bushels
3 Residential delivery?
4 Act divisions
5 Critical hosp. area
6 Department store department
7 Genesis city
8 Speed skater Ohno
9 Swifties, e.g.
10 Word with public or private
11 Fried Japanese cutlet
12 Takes a high way
13 Spiked shoe
18 Saves or assists
22 Said more
24 Griffin who created "Jeopardy!"
26 Loch __ monster
27 Québec pal
28 __ roller
29 Instagram video
33 23andMe material
34 Genre for Otis Redding
36 Predator with powerful jaws
37 Lifford of "Queen Sugar"
38 Ad
40 Bridle straps
41 Former Yank who's now part owner of the Timberwolves
42 Japanese noodle
47 American leg of a concert series
49 Frozen Four game
50 "Jurassic Park" dinos
51 Principles
52 Last Greek letter
53 Supermodel Kate
54 Saldaña's "Star Trek" role
55 Slacks
59 Run in neutral
61 Still fighting
62 Grows older
64 Sault __ Marie
65 Month, in Mexico

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	S	S	I	E	■	■	C	A	R	N	E	■	B	T	S
S	P	A	N	X	■	A	E	N	E	A	S	■	O	R	A
H	U	N	T	I	N	G	L	O	D	G	E	■	W	I	N
A	N	D	A	L	S	O	■	R	A	N	■	V	L	O	G
■	■	■	K	E	A	■	S	A	L	A	M	I	■	■	■
C	A	S	E	S	■	L	A	K	E	G	E	O	R	G	E
L	S	U	■	■	L	E	A	■	■	N	E	L	S	O	N
A	T	M	■	B	I	G	B	R	E	A	K	■	V	A	T
N	O	M	A	A	M	■	■	■	D	A	G	■	P	P	E
G	R	A	B	S	A	S	E	A	T	■	L	O	S	E	R
■	■	■	R	E	B	E	L	S	■	S	I	R	■	■	■
E	M	M	A	■	E	C	O	■	A	N	N	A	S	U	I
L	E	E	■	V	A	R	I	A	B	L	E	C	O	S	T
S	A	G	■	I	N	E	S	S	E	■	A	L	B	E	E
E	T	A	■	E	S	T	E	S	■	■	R	E	A	R	M

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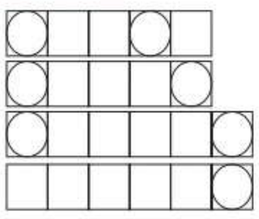
SCRAMBLE

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

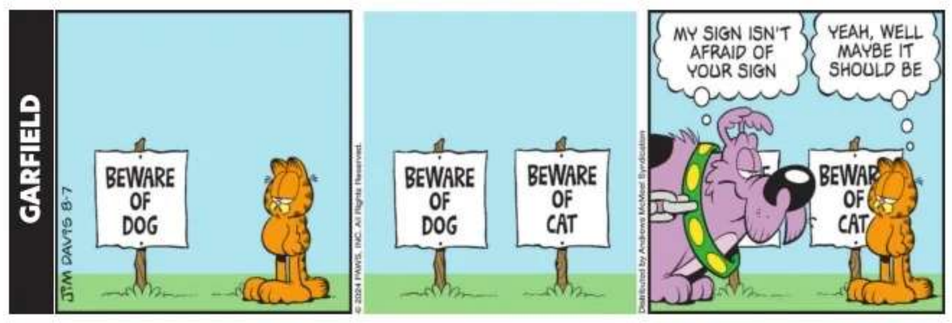
OWNED
GHIST
AETTDM
ABFLRY



___ - the gentle art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it. - Oliver Herford (7)

HOW TO PLAY

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



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See what the stars have in store for you – according to your moon sign.

ARIES: You may have opportunities to travel, study, go abroad, expand your horizons. You might become more intellectually curious now, and academic pursuits are likely to benefit you and run smoothly during this cycle.
TAURUS: Career matters come to a head. You may be challenged to perform and prove your competence. Keeping everything above board is critical. Finding a balance between your home and career is the challenge now.
GEMINI: You could struggle somewhat with your own expectations in partnerships. Self-deception may very well be in play, and when others don't quite measure up to their expectations, disappointments occur. Do your best to see people for who they are rather than what you'd really like them to be.
CANCER: You are likely to feel more confident and enthusiastic about your ability to earn a living, and this can help you to attract more income, as long as you are realistic. There may be an opportunity to improve your finances.
LEO: If you intend to make changes to your work schedule over the next few days, you are advised to let your colleagues know what you are doing well before you actually do it. They have a stake in what you are doing too, so be smart and keep them informed.
VIRGO: Gifts, benefits, or other opportunities may come through visits, short trips, messages, emails, or they could come through contacts with siblings, classmates, and neighbours. Some sort of positive news or announcement is likely to be part of the picture.
LIBRA: Social activities are under favourable stars at the moment, so don't be afraid to get out into the world and make new friends. You may not be the most open and outgoing member of the zodiac but you have your moments.
SCORPIO: You tend to be less practical than you are idealistic, dreamy, and sensitive. Some of you may find the mundane concerns of life too boring to grab your attention! Some may feel less confident, as their direction in life is suddenly uncertain; others may attune themselves to a stronger spiritual purpose.
SAGITTARIUS: The need to be appreciated by others, and the need for togetherness with others, comes into play. A love affair may begin now. New contacts with others may also occur.
CAPRICORN: The more you worry about something, the more power you give it to disrupt your life, so make a conscious decision to put it out of your mind and never think about it again. By far the best way to deal with your fears is to ignore them.
AQUARIUS: You're a practical person by nature, and much of your life is about tangible, bottom-line concerns. But now is the time to break out of that pattern.You might consider these thoughts impractical, but indulge them anyway.
PISCES: Talking with other people, especially new acquaintances, is an engaging pastime today. It gives you a sense of discovery, as if, by connecting with perfect stranger, you'll get a glimpse into a new world. Being overly inquisitive may put them off.

SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:
03-average | 04-good | 05-outstanding

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

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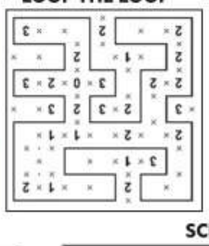
DENNIS THE MENACE

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

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

LOOP THE LOOP



TIMES HITORI

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

SPELLATHON

Words: Endow, sight, matted, batty
Answer: Modesty - the gentle art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it. - Oliver Herford

SCRAMBLE

fresh, FRESHER, here, REFRESH, sheer

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