



P10

# MASS MANTRA



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## SHE POWER AT KIFF

P11

## CALCUTTA CALLING

P12-14

- B'DAY, BOLLY 4
- VISUAL INTELLIGENCE 6
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The evening supports Mission Suswatha by NIF, aiding rural Bengal with medical care.

## TT Connect Initiative

## From vision to reality: Amulya Mica's The Style Studio brings cutting-edge interior solutions to Kolkata

Amulya Mica, a leading name in premium decorative laminates and interior solutions, inaugurated its state-of-the-art experience center, The Style Studio in Kolkata.

Strategically located near Central Metro in one of the city's most bustling commercial districts, The Style Studio marks a significant step in the Amulya Mica's expansion across Eastern India. The launch underlines company's commitment to providing innovative, quality solutions that cater to the evolving preferences of customers and enhance accessibility for interior designers, architects, homeowners and other stakeholders in the region.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Rakesh Agarwal, Managing Director of Amulya Mica said the Company focuses on innovation and engaging with customers. "Our constant objective has been to merge functionality and design excellence. At The Style

Studio, we are offering a hands-on experience that empowers our customers to see their vision and deliver accordingly. This will be an extension of our confidence in this region's potential

"We are very happy to take The Style Studio to Kolkata. This center is part of our vision of providing premier quality design solutions in an accessible way for homeowners, professionals, as well as students. By hosting this center at the heart of the city, we are ensuring convenience for all who are looking for inspiration and guidance for their interior projects."

—Ms. Shailja Agarwal



and resolve to make premium solutions more accessible to the market," he stated.

### Breathing life into living spaces

The Style Studio is more than a mere display gallery - it provides an immersive environment where visitors can explore the brand's wide range of decorative laminates and interior solutions in a real-world con-

text. What the Studio does is innovate the interior layout by integrating interactive displays, touch-and-feel material samples and virtual design assistance to provide customers and professionals with practical tools in envisioning and planning their projects. The Style Studio seamlessly blends technology with aesthetics, embodying Amulya Mica's mission to deliver innovative solutions tailored for contemporary living spaces.

Amulya Mica has demonstrated bold confidence in the market by strategically investing in retail innovation. The strategy behind this investment clearly holds a sense that in Kolkata there is a strong requirement for sophisticated and customized interior design solutions. Ms. Shailja Agarwal, Marketing Director of Amulya Mica said that the biggest challenge is to cater to the changing needs of customers.



SHYAM BENEGAL, RANA DAGGUBATI



Expect happiness, joy and harmony. The universe seems to be agreeing with your path and aiding forward movement into something greater. With perseverance and a positive attitude, your professional journey will be filled with joy and accomplishment. This year, your health could be better, but you need to continue maintaining self-discipline.

— Nita Chhotalal

ALSO: VANESSA HUDGENS

## COMING UP

**What:** Prateek Kuhad's Silhouettes India Tour  
**Where:** Aquatica  
**When:** Today; 6pm onwards  
**What to expect:** Following sold-out shows across the country last month and an intercontinental journey spanning over 45 cities in North America, the UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the UAE and Nepal earlier this year, Prateek Kuhad is back for the next phase of his India tour.

The second leg of the Silhouettes India Tour kicks off this evening in Calcutta and will also cover Guwahati, Lucknow, Indore and Ahmedabad before wrapping

up the year on a high note. Prateek, known for his chart-topping English and Hindi tracks, such as *cold/mess*, *Kasoor*, *Kho gaye hum kahan*, has had a remarkable year with successful shows across continents and the release of three English singles — *No Complaints*, *I'm Someone New* and *Just Like a Movie*.



Prateek Kuhad

Fans and netizens have been raving about his mesmerising performances, with many praising the stunning visuals at the India Tour. Catch Prateek live as he continues to enchant audiences with his soulful performance. Tickets live on [prateekkuhad.com/tour](http://prateekkuhad.com/tour)

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



## ARIES

**DO** pursue your dreams and make choices that align with your passions and values

**DON'T** doubt yourself

**EXPECT** to break free from whatever binds you and step out of your comfort zone



## TAURUS

**DO** be a supportive force in the lives of those around you

**DON'T** get disconnected from loved ones

**EXPECT** to re-establish your connection with the natural world



## GEMINI

**DO** find peace in the loving relationship that offers you a sense of unity

**DON'T** trust people blindly

**EXPECT** to nurture the connection that brings you happiness



## CANCER

**DO** trust your instincts and welcome the uncharted paths in your life

**DON'T** be fearful

**EXPECT** to explore deeper layers of your existence



## LEO

**DO** embrace the freedom that is waiting beyond your self-imposed constraints

**DON'T** be negative

**EXPECT** to break free from mental blockages and find a way out



## VIRGO

**DO** take help from mentors who can offer guidance in times of uncertainty

**DON'T** be controlled by others

**EXPECT** to find solace in the rituals that give a sense of purpose



## LIBRA

**DO** utilise every professional opportunity to grow

**DON'T** be uncertain

**EXPECT** to get into productive mode at work and ensure you handle all crucial tasks diligently



## SCORPIO

**DO** follow your heart

**DON'T** become overly idealistic

**EXPECT** your emotions to guide you towards a greater understanding



## SAGITTARIUS

**DO** find contentment in the present moment

**DON'T** get emotionally drained

**EXPECT** a sense of joy to permeate every aspect of life



## CAPRICORN

**DO** use your emotions as a source of strength and wisdom

**DON'T** be judgemental

**EXPECT** to stay in gratitude and go with the flow



## AQUARIUS

**DO** learn from your past experiences and use them as guidance

**DON'T** be pessimistic

**EXPECT** to have the inner strength to fight circumstances



## PISCES

**DO** extend a helping hand to those around you

**DON'T** be selfish

**EXPECT** to share your good fortune with those less fortunate

Nita Chhotalal is on



@Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal



@mysticalguidancebynita

## BOLLYWOOD

## MARDAANI 3 ANNOUNCED!



Rani Mukerji is all set to return as daredevil cop Shivani Shivaji Roy in the third instalment of *Mardaani*. Titled *Mardaani 3*, the film will hit theatres in 2026.

The announcement was made on Friday, which marks the release anniversary of *Mardaani 2*.

"I'm thrilled to announce that we are starting shooting of *Mardaani 3* in April 2025! It is always special to wear the police uniform and play a character that has only given me love. I'm proud to essay the character of this feisty cop again in *Mardaani 3* as a tribute to all the unsung, brave, self-sacrificing cops who work tirelessly every single day to keep us safe," said Rani, who has won

a lot of praise for her portrayal of the no-nonsense, gritty character in *Mardaani* (2014) and *Mardaani 2* (2019).

Rani added: "*Mardaani* is an extremely loved franchise and we have a certain responsibility to deliver to the expectations that people have. We will do our best to live up to this. *Mardaani 3* is dark, deadly and brutal. So, I'm intrigued to find out the response of the people towards our film. I hope they shower this film with the same amount of love that they have always given."

Abhiraj Minawala will direct *Mardaani 3*, taking over from Gopi Puthran who helmed *Mardaani 2*. The first film was directed by Pradeep Sarkar.

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## HERE'S HOW TO USE ALL THE APPLE INTELLIGENCE-POWERED TOOLS ON iOS 18.2 — GENMOJI, IMAGE PLAYGROUND AND MORE

Apple has something to offer before Christmas — iOS 18.2, one of the most important software updates of the year. For iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max and all iPhone 16 users, several new features have been added.

**GENMOJI: ENOUGH TO UP THE PET GAME**

Genmoji involves coming up with an emoji that doesn't exist in reality. It can be used in Messages, Stickers, Tapbacks and even as a reaction to a message.

To create Genmoji, open any app with text input that accepts emojis, such as Messages or Notes. Shift to the emoji picker as you normally would by tapping the smiling emoji in the lower left of the keyboard. Tap the Genmoji icon to the right of the search field to bring up the creator.

To make a new Genmoji, type what you want your emoji to look like. Keep it simple for best results, for example: "Cat drinking beer", "Moonlit cafe" or "Jar of candies". Once the emoji gets created, you can keep coming up with iterations. There appears to be no limit and it takes a couple of seconds to create an emoji.

There is excellent integration — though indirectly — between Genmoji and Image Playground creations. For example, I wanted to create a Genmoji of my daughter trying out different Indian outfits. As soon as I keyed in the text prompt, Genmoji asked me to choose a person's picture, which got the Image Playground treatment in the background and a likeness was chosen for Genmoji. This makes the feature customisable and effective.

Those who don't have iPhone 15 Pro, 15 Pro Max or any of the iPhone 16s can receive Genmoji. You can then reuse them.

**IPHONE IS YOUR PLAYGROUND WITH IMAGE PLAYGROUND**

Image Playground is part of Apple Intelligence, allowing users to enter a text prompt, and the AI will produce an image in the style of a cartoon.

First, why a cartoon style and not an actual representation? Creating lifelike images has its set of complications because at a glance these images can be passed off as real. Second, however much progress AI has made, there are often errors in images created using the technology. On the other hand, having cartoon-like pictures

(Left to right)  
Image Playground,  
Genmoji and Writing  
Tools. Pictures:  
Mathures Paul



allows physics to go for a toss and it's fun to use.

Apple's approach to artificial intelligence is a welcome change of pace for photographers. The company is known to celebrate authenticity with its photo features. Without making any compromises to reality, Apple has come up with a fun

Image Wand  
lets you create  
visual aids for your  
notes on iPhone  
and iPad

**MORE HELPFUL FEATURES**

► **Volume Limit:** The Settings app now has a new Volume Limit control. This lets you limit how loud your iPhone speakers can play media.

► **Photos app tweak:** Videos in the Photos app no longer zoom in or out when you tap on them.

► **Camera Control:** Camera Control two-stage shutter lets you lock focus and exposure in Camera when light pressing the Camera Control. Also, double-click speed can be adjusted. Double-click in Settings > Accessibility > Camera Control. You can choose from Default, Slow, and Slower.

tool that photographers won't mind having.

Image Playground can be accessed via a dedicated app or through the Messages app by clicking on the "+" button on the left side of the text box.

Key in what exactly you are looking for, like "A cat having a mug of hot chocolate in winter." You can use multiple descriptors at once. If you try to use more, Image Playground replaces older suggestions with newer ones.

There are two styles to choose from when you begin — "animation" and "illustration". Once you generate an image, you can apply themes (adventure, birthday, disco, fantasy and so on), costumes (artist, astronaut, chef, farmer and the list continues), accessories (baseball cap, beret, bowtie and whatnot) and places (stadium, stage, volcano and yada-yada).

Another cool feature involves merging two images. For example, let's create an image of a cat having a mug of hot chocolate. It's there on the screen. Now, let's choose a picture from the gallery, like that of a park, and then see the cat's image get merged into all the greenery.

If you try to create images of celebrities or those with copyright, like Mickey Mouse, there will be an error screen.

**SIRI MEETS CHATGPT**

Access to OpenAI's ChatGPT is easy when you use iPhone. Siri can now hand over requests to ChatGPT, a feature that's opt-in.

You can restrict queries to Siri or allow

**Image Playground with all the options**

it to pass on to ChatGPT for complex queries. You don't need to have an account to access ChatGPT. But if you want to access the more complex areas of ChatGPT or if you already have a ChatGPT account, you can log in for specific requests.

If you want to make it simpler to turn requests over to ChatGPT, you can toggle off the Ask Every Time setting so Siri doesn't always need your permission to contact ChatGPT. Siri with ChatGPT integration supports on-screen responses, so you can do things like ask "what's in this photo?" when you're staring at an image.

The idea of conversational AI can be experienced. For example, as long as you've enabled ChatGPT in settings, you can start a question



and follow up without restarting the full context. Also, Siri's capabilities are on the way up, up and up.

**VISUAL INTELLIGENCE... KNOCK, KNOCK ON NOGGIN'S DOOR**

On iPhone 16, Visual Intelligence is a big feature. For example, you see a building that looks important but how can you find more information? Long press the Camera Control button to get to Visual Intelligence, and then point your iPhone at something. You can get hours and reviews if the camera is looking at a restaurant, copy text, get text read aloud, search for items on Google, ask ChatGPT questions about objects, and much more.

**SECRET WEAPON: IMAGE WAND**

You may have heard about it but perhaps not found much information about it. It's somewhat of an offshoot of Image Playground, you can use a text description and Apple Intelligence to whip up an image for you, but you can also use your own rough drawings as base. Remember,

Image Playground and Genmoji don't support sketches as an inspiration for images generated by Apple Intelligence.

Apple came up with the feature for the Notes app and most of Apple's highlighting of the feature has been for the iPad version of Image Wand, but it does work in the Notes app on iPhone as well.

Say you have written a note and want to give it a contextual image. Tap into the Markup menu to get to the Image Wand tool. The icon looks somewhat like a magician's wand.

Select the tool, draw a circle in a blank spot in your note, and the Image Wand feature will create an image. The image parameters will be auto-filled based on what you've written in your note.

As usual, users can go through the different image options to find the most relevant image.

In case it is a handwritten note, you can still have the Image Wand generate an image based on your handwritten text. This is useful for note-taking in a class.

**FRANK SINATRA DA RAPPER: WRITING TOOLS**

We have seen writing tools in action for some weeks but Tim Cook's team has taken the game a notch higher. You don't only need your speech to sound professional or friendly, make it sound pleasing to, say, a rapper... or for that matter, a poet. We tried it on a Frank Sinatra speech and "da man" sounds good.

Mathures Paul

We created a bunch of emoji using Genmoji. Note: The illustration doesn't reflect exactly how the Genmoji appears in Messages app







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A conversation with Sandip Ray, Sabyasachi Chakraborty and Indraneil Sengupta moderated by Pinaki De

19 DEC 2024 | 2:30 PM

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11 - 17 DEC | 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

### THE WANDERER IN ME

Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury in conversation with Srijato Bandyopadhyay moderated by Sanchari Mookherjee

20 DEC 2024 | 5:00



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Exhibition on the history of East Bengal Club

13 - 22 DEC | 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM



A conversation between Chandril Bhattacharya and Somak on the quintessential sense of humour of Bengalis

21 DEC 2024 | 5:00 PM

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## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GALA 50TH REUNION OF THE BATCH OF 1974 OF LA MARTINIÈRE FOR BOYS



The batch of 1974 posed for a group photograph with two of their teachers in front of the Round Chapel of the school



(L-R) The four house captains of the 1974 batch: Raja Ray, I.S. Bhandari (who was also the school captain), Romi Raj Prasher, and Murli Ramanathan placed a wreath on the school's founder, Major General Claude Martin's bust

**T**he 1974 batch of La Martinière for Boys took a nostalgic joyride half a century after passing out of school, with batchmates and friends on November 9 for their 50th reunion at the school campus. The alumni

walked through the corridors of their beloved school, sat in their old classrooms and explored the other nooks and corners of their school where they had spent many memorable days of their school life. The gala reunion celebration, attended by alumni from across

the world, started with a dinner party at Hiland Sapphire on November 8, followed by a meet at their school campus in the afternoon of November 9 and concluded with another dinner party at Calcutta Swimming Club on the same day. Glimpses.



John Stephen, acting principal of La Martinière for Boys, said: "La Martinière for Boys and La Martinière for Girls are vintage schools, and they carry a lot of legacy. Our alumni fondly remember their school days and they all come together on some years to have their reunions. Today's occasion is the reunion of the 1974 batch. Despite several difficulties, they all have managed to come together here to reminisce about their school days."

"This is the time to renew the memories of your school days and make new memories. When you walked down today in this school that is your second home, I hope you are able to reconcile yourself with your past. It is very important. The fact that you can come back together like this is a reason enough to look ahead and celebrate new memories," said Rupkatha Sarkar, principal of La Martinière for Girls.



The Class of 1974 met for a dinner party along with their spouses at Hiland Sapphire on November 8



"Our 50th reunion is filled with nostalgia, emotion, moments and memories. The walk swagger, smiles and stories were energetic," said I.S. Bhandari, who was the school captain of the 1974 batch of La Martinière for Boys.



(Left to right) Michael Carapiet, who attended the reunion from Australia, I.S. Bhandari, and Murli Ramanathan, who attended the reunion from the US, at the dinner party at Calcutta Swimming Club



(L-R) Richard Rekhy, Michael Carapiet, Joy Majumdar, Arijit Ghose and Sudip Bhattacharya gathered at the after party to reminisce their school days

**Sharmistha Dasgupta** (t2 intern)  
Pictures: B Halder

## FEEDBACK



## THE CELEB YOU WISH TO FOLLOW ON A 24X7 REALITY SHOW

Prajakta Koli, aka MostlySane, would be my pick for a 24x7 follow reality show. Widely known for her highly relatable and humorous slice-of-life content, she has garnered a massive fan following on the Internet. She is sweet, quick-witted and authentic, enabling her to tackle a wide range of topics with

rationality, knowledge, and a candour that resonates with her audience. Her works are thoughtful, yet full of positivity and enthusiasm, inspiring us to explore new opportunities as well as enhance our personal development skills. Besides being a successful comedian, she is a talented actress, acing her characters to perfection. From humble beginnings as a radio jockey to leading a community of millions, Prajakta's dedication and passion serve as a testament to her soaring success. (Which celebrity would you like to see in a 24x7-follow reality show... August 21)

**Aayman Anwar Ali**

Shreya Ghoshal: Her smile, style of talking, attitude and, of course, singing, has a unique sweetness. I'd love to see how she manages time, her little one and family and singing together.

Present and former Indian women cricketers like Veda Krishnamurti, Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami: It takes a lot of hard work, determination and pain to be achieve what they have on the cricketing field. I am interested in finding out what their daily schedule is.

Kristen Stewart: It is admirable how she is unaffected by the media, criticism or what others think. She's happy being herself. I'd like to take a peek into her life.

Dwayne Johnson: Being a family man, legendary wrestler, great actor and a good human being is a rare combination. I'd like to see him come home a tired actor and then become an energetic daddy.

**Dayita Chakraborty**

The celebrity whom I would like to see in a 24x7 follow reality show is Kinzang Lhamo of



**Kinzang Lhamo**

Bhutan who might have reached the finishing line last in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, but has won the hearts of all for her tenacity, perseverance and never-say-die attitude. Surely, she had comprehended much before the end of the race that even a bronze medal would not be garnered. Yet she continued to remain in the competition instead of quitting, ultimately completing the entire 26.2 mile course in 3 hours 52 minutes and 59 seconds by battling the hilly terrain and heat conditions.

Apart from her physical fitness and mental toughness, the deep philosophy embedded in her psyche, which allowed Lhamo to concentrate upon the task in hand, irrespective of the result, simply mesmerise me.

So I desire to follow Kinzang Lhamo so as to get enlightened about her daily activities which make her physically fit and mentally tough, and thereafter, learn to utilise my capabilities to the maximum and acquire the positive mindset of accomplishing the task at hand in a consistent fashion without expressing an iota of lethargy or expecting any materialistic reward.

**Kajal Chatterjee**

The celebrity I would like to see in a 24x7 follow reality show is Prosenjit. He is a living legend and, undoubtedly, the greatest hero of Bengali cinema after Uttam Kumar. So, I think if in future a reality show on him happens in which the Bollywood superstar's life is showcased 24x7, Bengalis would love to watch it.

**Sourish Misra**



**Prajakta Koli**



## GLIMPSES FROM THE PRE-TRAILER LAUNCH OF KHADAAN



Dev and Jisshu

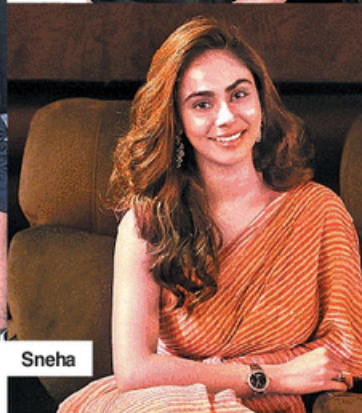
The pre-trailer launch of Dev's Christmas film, *Khadaan*, turned into a massive fan frenzy as hundreds of his ardent admirers flocked to Miraj Cinemas, Salt Lake, recently. The air was filled with chants of "Devda superstar!", as the actor looking dapper made a grand entrance. The event was a star-studded affair, with the film's cast and crew, including Dev, Jisshu Sengupta, Sneha Bose and Idhika Paul, gracing the occasion. Fans, who had been waiting for hours, were eager to catch a glimpse of

their favourite actors. Some even brought personalised paintings as a token of their love and admiration.

*Raja r raja* and *Haye re biye*, songs from the film were shown, which received massive cheers from the packed hall. Directed by Soojit Dutta, *Khadaan* promises a thrilling action extravaganza. The pre-trailer opens with a captivating glimpse of Dev, his face etched with determination, against the backdrop of a sprawling coal mine. The scene quickly cuts to fast-paced action sequences, showcasing Dev's character engaging in hand-to-hand combat and wielding heavy



Idhika



Sneha

machinery with practised ease. The glimpses of action are interspersed with shots of dusty landscapes, smoky environments, and fleeting moments of romance, hinting at a multifaceted narrative.

Jisshu Sengupta also makes a prominent appearance in the pre-trailer, though the details of his character remain shrouded in mystery. The interplay between Dev and Jisshu's characters promises an intriguing dynamic, potentially one that fuels the



The cast and crew of Khadaan

narrative or creates conflict. The pre-trailer effectively utilises sharp cuts, dynamic camerawork, and a pulsating soundtrack to create an atmosphere of suspense and anticipation.

It has been a success spree for Dev and he is leaving no stone unturned to promote *Khadaan*, a story that appealed to him in multiple ways. He told t2 in an exclusive chat, "Throughout the past month, the way the audience has showered love on *Khadaan* even before its release is very humbling. The world where *Khadaan* detonates felt something entirely new to me. The coal belt around the Damodar Valley... is our story, Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar... stories here are completely untouched. When Rino (Soojit) brought this story to me, the structure appealed to me. I visited the mines two to three times before starting the shoot.

"Now, there are some private mines, some public and there are several formalities too. But when I first went down a coal mine, I was awe-struck! I just knew that *Khadaan* is a huge film and Rino is a new director so it would be a lot on my shoulders. But the story and the world is so unexplored that I knew this film had to be made. It was a learning experience for me. I am very excited about the world that I wanted to bring on the big screen,

through our songs, teasers, and finally, the film, and the audience can get closer to that world."

Jisshu said, "I have done a lot of mass films in other languages too but I can say with confidence that *Khadaan* is going to be a groundbreaking one! In Bengali cinema, I am doing action after a long time. I believe this film can change the scene for Bengali mass films. My character is incredible. I am here for Christmas and will be promoting *Khadaan*."

While addressing the crowd, Dev revealed that when Idhika was offered the film, she was more excited about seeing Dev in his old avatar than her own role. While speaking to t2, Idhika said, "Everyone who loves Devda is excited that he is coming back to mass action films with *Khadaan*. It is a big deal to present yourself while working alongside such big actors so a lot of preparation went into it. *Khadaan* has what we call 'chomok' in Bengali and I can't wait for the audience to enjoy the film!" *Khadaan* promises to be a high-octane action thriller, with Dev delivering a powerful performance. The film is slated to release in theatres on December 20.

Sanjali Brahma

Pictures: Krishna Kumar Sharma

## DECODING THE PRE-TRAILER OF KHADAAN

A little over a minute long, the short, action-packed clip is a blend of sleekly edited shots of significant scenes from *Khadaan*, that offer broad hints about its general plot and storyline without giving away details about the characters and their identities.

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Every year, the Kolkata International Film Festival announces a focus country and this time it was France. Emphasis was on films by women filmmakers of France. Three women filmmakers, who travelled all the way from 'The Hexagon' country to KIFF for the screening of their films — Celine Rouzet (*For Night Will Come*), Caroline Vignal (*It's Raining Men*) and Elise Otzenberger's (*Call of Water*), covered a range of subjects, from the mind and mystery to fantasy and women's issues, dreams and desires. At Nandan, t2 caught up with them to talk about the new wave of women French filmmakers, their films and more.

Is it your first time in the city? Did you get a chance to explore Calcutta?

Caroline: Yes, it is our first time in Calcutta. Elise: We explored a little. We went to the place where people make idols...

Celine: Kumartuli. I particularly loved the atmosphere of Kumartuli, the traditional potters' quarter in North Calcutta, near the banks of river Ganga. The narrow lanes, the magic and religiosity in the air, both the liveliness and quietness of the area populated with artisans and inhabitants, the beauty of clay idols... I went there twice!

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Did you get to taste the food in the city?

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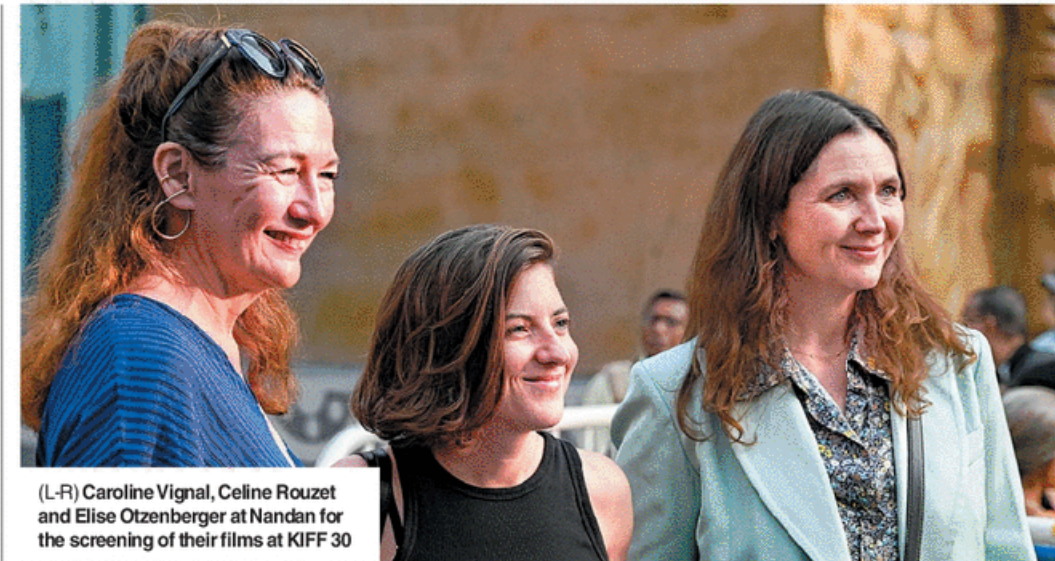
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How are festivals like KIFF helping in the global visibility of a new wave of women French filmmakers like yourself?

Celine: I was honoured and delighted to be invited by KIFF and to have my film, *For Night Will Come*, screened in front of an Indian audience. The welcome was magnificent. We also took part in a round-table discussion organised by Alliance Française du Bengale. Several young female students came to see me afterwards with great enthusiasm. I feel that seeing women directors talk about their own films



(L-R) Caroline Vignal, Celine Rouzet and Elise Otzenberger at Nandan for the screening of their films at KIFF 30

and their career paths can encourage other young women to take the plunge, which is very positive.

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What kind of stereotypes are you all challenging, what are the topics you are focusing on?

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the fear of the other, the violence of the norm and the savagery that lurks beneath the surface of ordinary life. The rejection of difference, the question of race and the violence of neo-colonialism are themes that obsess me. What my two previous films have in common, and what I suspect will be the next, is a mixture of tenderness and violence. It's also my obsession with microcosms, those inward-looking

too, many filmmakers are working on such subjects now. What inspired you to make this film? I am glad to hear that because we don't really get to meet the international audience. I was thinking people don't have the same life here, so they will probably not enjoy it. The day we screened it, I saw a lot of men in the audience. There were hardly any women. People

worlds with their own laws and a concentration of our society's injustices.

Something that the new wave of filmmakers are focusing on in their work is to alter the existence of the male gaze in French films that was earlier predominant. How important is it for your generation to come out and alter that gaze and show women in a different light... focusing on their desires and dreams?

Celine: It's a constant question in my work! To make women exist as they are, as beings who dream and reflect, as desiring subjects capable of making decisions and taking action, rather than mere objects of desire. It's also through the emergence of new collective narratives that society will change.

Elise: In France, we are quite lucky... there's a helping system so we can make a lot of different movies and there are many new directors now. The new directors have unique styles and they are all working on different subjects. But it is difficult to see it as a kind of movement... I will be 80 years old or something like that to see it take the shape of a cinema movement!

Caroline, your film talks about the quinquagenarian women who are breaking stereotypes and exploring their desires... in India

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Elise, your film *Call of Water* is a fantasy title. What inspired you to tell this story?

I always loved the idea of cinema as something that would be a place to put magic and that's what I did in my film.

Celine, your film *For Night Will Come* caters to a young adult audience and is also a fantasy film exploring the co-existence of vampires in the human world. What inspired you to make this film?

As a child, my older brother, Vincent, was scared of vampires and said they came into his bedroom to talk to him. The years passed and he became obsessed with them. He seemed to feel a connection with those scary,

and frightening monster, whose condition is invisible at first sight — difference, disability, depression or adolescent ill-being are closely associated with it. You could say that this film sums up my obsession — disturbing characters crack up a very conventional world.

Your film also won the Jury award at Cannes and now is at KIFF. There have been many popular films and books on the fantasy world of vampires. What is clicking with the audience?

This film is about the story of a young man with vampirism, desperately trying to fit in a world that doesn't look like him and to find some kind of answer through love. I think we can all identify with this quest. It also focuses on marginality and conformism, family sacrifices, outbursts of anger, wild desires but also highlights the savagery lying beneath the surface of ordinary Western life. I like the political load and the intensity of emotions and sensations specific to the cinema of the imaginary worlds. In movies, vampires have embodied marginality, predation, contamination and eternal love. For my part, I see the vampire as a fragile and tormented figure, dissident and eminently erotic. But what inspired me most are monster-and-exclusion movies like Cronenberg's *The Fly*, Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands* and *The Elephant Man* by David Lynch. In the case of *For Night Will Come*, vampirism is a condition as mysterious as would be for an orphan with disease or disability at birth. It's almost a case study — what happens if a teenager with vampire symptoms arrives in a quiet, uneventful residential neighbourhood? I looked for a jubilant, *Parasite*-like tone.

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Celine: Yes, although progress is being made and attitudes towards women directors are changing, the figures speak for themselves: only just over a quarter of European films are directed by women, according to the 2023 edition of a study by the European Audiovisual Observatory, which deplores the "under-representation" of women in decision-making positions... over the period 2018-2022, only 26 per cent of European feature films (from EU member countries) were directed by women filmmakers.

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Picture: B Halder



## GLIMPSES FROM THE PRE-TRAILER LAUNCH OF KHADAAN



Dev and Jisshu

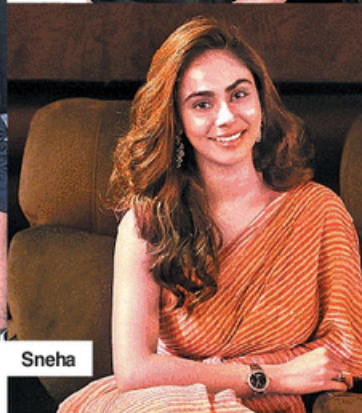
The pre-trailer launch of Dev's Christmas film, *Khadaan*, turned into a massive fan frenzy as hundreds of his ardent admirers flocked to Miraj Cinemas, Salt Lake, recently. The air was filled with chants of "Devda superstar!", as the actor looking dapper made a grand entrance. The event was a star-studded affair, with the film's cast and crew, including Dev, Jisshu Sengupta, Sneha Bose and Idhika Paul, gracing the occasion. Fans, who had been waiting for hours, were eager to catch a glimpse of

their favourite actors. Some even brought personalised paintings as a token of their love and admiration.

*Raja r raja* and *Haye re biye*, songs from the film were shown, which received massive cheers from the packed hall. Directed by Soojit Dutta, *Khadaan* promises a thrilling action extravaganza. The pre-trailer opens with a captivating glimpse of Dev, his face etched with determination, against the backdrop of a sprawling coal mine. The scene quickly cuts to fast-paced action sequences, showcasing Dev's character engaging in hand-to-hand combat and wielding heavy



Idhika



Sneha

machinery with practised ease. The glimpses of action are interspersed with shots of dusty landscapes, smoky environments, and fleeting moments of romance, hinting at a multifaceted narrative.

Jisshu Sengupta also makes a prominent appearance in the pre-trailer, though the details of his character remain shrouded in mystery. The interplay between Dev and Jisshu's characters promises an intriguing dynamic, potentially one that fuels the



The cast and crew of Khadaan

narrative or creates conflict. The pre-trailer effectively utilises sharp cuts, dynamic camerawork, and a pulsating soundtrack to create an atmosphere of suspense and anticipation.

It has been a success spree for Dev and he is leaving no stone unturned to promote *Khadaan*, a story that appealed to him in multiple ways. He told t2 in an exclusive chat, "Throughout the past month, the way the audience has showered love on *Khadaan* even before its release is very humbling. The world where *Khadaan* detonates felt something entirely new to me. The coal belt around the Damodar Valley... is our story, Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar... stories here are completely untouched. When Rino (Soojit) brought this story to me, the structure appealed to me. I visited the mines two to three times before starting the shoot.

"Now, there are some private mines, some public and there are several formalities too. But when I first went down a coal mine, I was awe-struck! I just knew that *Khadaan* is a huge film and Rino is a new director so it would be a lot on my shoulders. But the story and the world is so unexplored that I knew this film had to be made. It was a learning experience for me. I am very excited about the world that I wanted to bring on the big screen,

through our songs, teasers, and finally, the film, and the audience can get closer to that world."

Jisshu said, "I have done a lot of mass films in other languages too but I can say with confidence that *Khadaan* is going to be a groundbreaking one! In Bengali cinema, I am doing action after a long time. I believe this film can change the scene for Bengali mass films. My character is incredible. I am here for Christmas and will be promoting *Khadaan*."

While addressing the crowd, Dev revealed that when Idhika was offered the film, she was more excited about seeing Dev in his old avatar than her own role. While speaking to t2, Idhika said, "Everyone who loves Devda is excited that he is coming back to mass action films with *Khadaan*. It is a big deal to present yourself while working alongside such big actors so a lot of preparation went into it. *Khadaan* has what we call 'chomok' in Bengali and I can't wait for the audience to enjoy the film!" *Khadaan* promises to be a high-octane action thriller, with Dev delivering a powerful performance. The film is slated to release in theatres on December 20.

Sanjali Brahma

Pictures: Krishna Kumar Sharma

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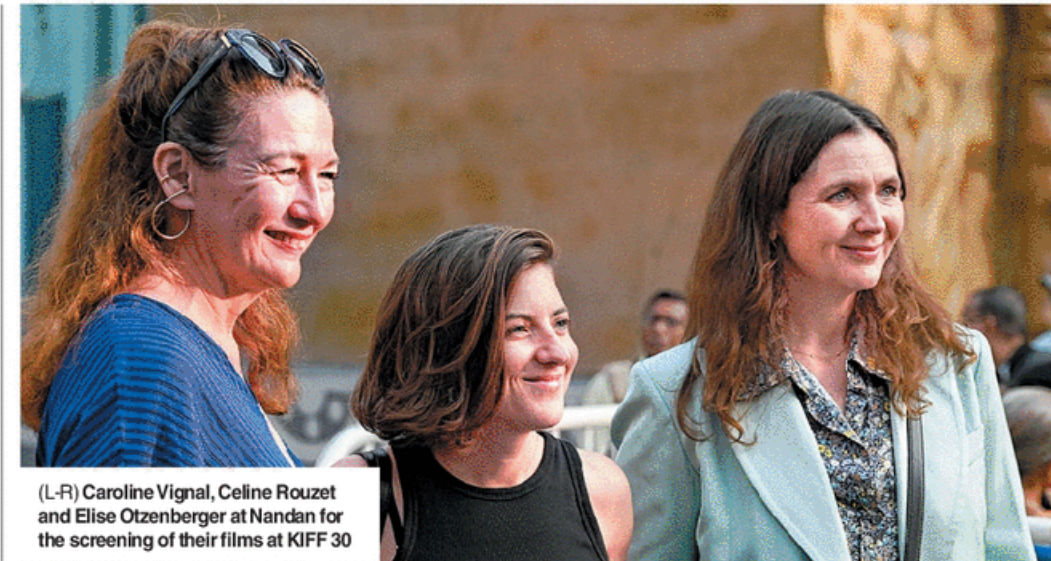
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dangerous, yet fragile and misunderstood creatures. Just like them, my brother was born different. It wasn't obvious at first but as he grew up, the gap between him and other people became ever more apparent. *For Night Will Come* was inspired by my family and my teenage years. But the only way for me to tell that story was through this genre. What interests me in the figure of the vampire is that it is a fragile



## GOOD EARTH COMES TO CALCUTTA AT HINDUSTAN PARK. t2 GET YOU THE FIRST LOOK OF THE STORE

**What:** Good Earth  
**Where:** 54/1B Hindustan Park  
**Timings:** 11am-8pm (open through the week)  
**Contact:** +918981842255



Good Earth's Calcutta store is housed in a restored mid-20th-century Bengali home in Hindustan Park



Each room is designed with its own design scheme. This is a cosy living room



The gifting section

**G**ood Earth is for the old soul. At their Calcutta store, which is housed in a restored mid-20th-century Bengali home in Hindustan Park and spread across approximately 2,500sq ft, you feel a strange sense of calm. The white building with a touch of a sea-greenish hue, originally constructed in the 1940s, has a certain warmth about it. There is a marble plaque that announces 'Good Earth' to the visitor and wears a patina of familiarity. Push open the wrought iron gate, and you feel you are home. You cross a small courtyard and enter the wonderland of beauty, art and vibrant emotions. There is a stunning melange of sea green and the deepest of reds in one room that's deeply satisfying to behold. And, delicious candy tangerine stripes in another. There's poetry in the walls with gorgeous wallpapers wrapping the place up. Fresh flowers add to the charm. There's whites in one room against which the shadow of chandeliers stage a silent drama. The mix and match is utterly joyous. Old-world romance with each piece having its own story.

t2 caught up with Anita Lal, the visionary founder of Good Earth, on coming to Calcutta with the brand, and more.

**We are so excited that Good Earth is finally in Calcutta! When did you plan to come to our City of Joy?**

We've always felt a deep connection to Calcutta, a city that beautifully balances tradition and modernity. It's a place where heritage is cherished, and the

cultural richness of the past coexists with the vibrancy of today. For Good Earth, opening a store in Calcutta wasn't just a business decision — it was about finding a city that truly resonates with our values, where craftsmanship, culture, and a love for the finer things in life are deeply ingrained.

We've had an existing customer base in Calcutta for years, with many patrons shopping from our online boutique, so the idea of opening a store here was always exciting. However, we wanted to find the right partners and the right space and these collaborations take time. When we saw the location, a beautifully restored 1940s Bengali home, we knew we had found our home in Calcutta.

**What are the architectural highlights of the Calcutta store?** The architectural highlights of our Calcutta store are a tribute to the city's soul. Located in the heart of Hindustan Park, the building itself is a living testament to Calcutta's heritage. Our philosophy has always been to preserve and sustain tradition in a way that is relevant in

the contemporary context. So we maintained the original red oxide staircase, terrazzo floors, and large windows with adjustable hurricane shutters — features that are typical of mid-century Calcutta homes.

One of the most captivating elements is the expansive verandah, or *baranda*. It was once a space where families gathered, shared stories, and basked in the evening light, so we wanted to keep that idea of connection. It flows seamlessly into the store's design, inviting visitors to linger.



Anita Lal, founder, Good Earth. Picture courtesy: Anita Lal

The store's layout is deliberately intimate, almost like walking through a home. Uniquely in our Calcutta store, each room offers a distinct experience — there's bedroom, a living room, a tearoom and so on. It flows freely and visitors can wander and discover at leisure. The engraved marble plaque at the entrance, a nod to the city's architectural heritage, ties it all together, serving as a quiet reminder of the home we've come to inhabit.

**What of Calcutta is in Good**

### Earth, Calcutta?

The store celebrates the soul of the city! We drew from its architectural and cultural heritage. It's all about capturing the nuances that make Calcutta's homes so distinctive — whether it's the traditional flooring materials, the use of nameplates, or the sense of intimacy found in its old buildings.

Calcutta's "cabin culture" — the idea of small, private, yet welcoming spaces where people gather — also resonates strongly in the design.

### Why did you choose Hindustan Park as the location?

Hindustan Park was chosen for its upscale residential character and proximity to some of Calcutta's finest restaurants and historic landmarks. This area not only aligns with our brand image but also caters to a diverse clientele who appreciate quality and heritage. It has a neighbourhood boutique vibe and is an artsy area with contemporary as well as iconic concept stores.

### What of Richa Kanoi's aesthetics made you want to partner with her for the Calcutta store?

Richa's aesthetics resonate with our vision at Good Earth, which is why we chose to partner with her. Her meticulous work in breathing fresh life into historic buildings, like the beautiful Bengali family

home she transformed into Bombaim (Dr Sarat Banerjee Road), is a testament to her sensitivity to the city's architectural history. She recognises that buildings are not just relics of the past but living, evolving spaces. This philosophy aligns perfectly with Good Earth's belief in adapting and celebrating heritage while infusing it with purpose for the present.

Richa's long-standing admiration for Good Earth also ensures that our collaboration feels authentic and seamless, as she truly understands the essence of our brand.

### What are your expectations from the Calcutta store?

Our expectations for the Calcutta store are multifaceted and deeply rooted in understanding the city's unique cultural landscape. We want to learn more about the diverse communities that call Calcutta home, particularly the Bengali and Marwari cultures, as well as exploring connections with other East Indian communities. This understanding will allow us to tailor our offerings to resonate with local preferences and traditions.

Additionally, we recognise that gifting is a significant aspect of Calcutta's culture. Therefore, we plan to introduce innovative gifting solutions and packaging options that cater specifically to this market. Our goal is to create a store that not only reflects Good Earth's commitment to quality and heritage but also serves as a hub for meaningful connections within the community.

**We've always felt a deep connection to Calcutta, a city that beautifully balances tradition and modernity. It's a place where heritage is cherished, and the cultural richness of the past coexists with the vibrancy of today. For Good Earth, opening a store in Calcutta wasn't just a business decision — it was about finding a city that truly resonates with our values, where craftsmanship, culture, and a love for the finer things in life are deeply ingrained — Anita Lal, founder, Good Earth**



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**Date & Time**  
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## প্রকাশিত

‘দাদাজি’র জীবনের অজানা গল্প  
বললেন নাতি রণবীর কপূর

মায়ের সঙ্গে **নগ্ন হয়ে স্নান!** রাজ পেলেন  
জীবন ও সিনেমার শিক্ষা

**নার্গিসকে ব্যবহার করেছেন** নিজের  
প্রযোজনা সংস্থার উন্নতির জন্য?

পিতা **পৃথ্বীরাজের সঙ্গে** প্রবল বিরোধ...  
ছাপ পড়ল সিনেমায়

পরিবারের মধ্যে থেকেও একা? কেমন  
ছিল **কপূর বাড়ি?**

**বিশ্বজিৎ এবং বৈজয়ন্তীমালার**  
স্মৃতিচারণে উঠে এল অন্য রাজ কপূরের গল্প

সাক্ষাৎ  
■ **টোটা রায়চৌধুরী**  
■ **সুজিত সরকার** ■ **পায়েল কপাডিয়া**

‘লার্জার দ্যান লাইফ’ জীবন  
বাঁচতে পছন্দ করতেন তিনি।  
চাইতেন শত সমস্যাতেও  
কপূর পরিবার যেন ভেঙে না  
যায়। বিতর্কে বিদ্ধ হয়েছেন।  
কিন্তু সেসবের মধ্যে দিয়েও  
নিজের ইমেজ তৈরি  
করেছেন **রাজ কপূর!**  
জন্মশতবার্ষিকীতে ফিরে  
দেখা হল তাঁর জীবন,  
প্রেম, স্টারডম...

## জন্মশতবর্ষ

স্বর্ণযুগের প্রায় সিংহভাগ বাংলা গানের গীতিকার  
**গৌরীপ্রসন্ন মজুমদার** শতবর্ষ পেরোলেন অভূত  
নীরবতায় তাঁকে আনন্দলোকের প্রজ্ঞার্থ্য



**আমর কলাম**



FROM PAGE 12



The bedroom



The tearoom



The bar room



Mirage linen cushions and silk velvet throws

Twenty eight years since Good Earth first launched in Mumbai, how has Anita Lal grown?

It's been a remarkable journey, both personally and for Good Earth. When I first started Good Earth in Mumbai, it was with a deep desire to bring together the rich crafts and heritage of India with a sense of modern design. Over the years, I have grown not just as an entrepreneur, but as someone who has come to understand the deeper nuances of what it means to create a brand that is rooted in culture and craftsmanship, yet has the ability to evolve and stay relevant in a rapidly changing world. As I reflect on the 28 years, it's clear that the journey has been as much about self-discovery as it has been about the growth of the brand.

**I have been visiting Good Earth since its first store opened at Kemps Corner in Bombay — I must have been 16 or 17 then. I can always spot a Good Earth product, and it makes the perfect gift for any special celebration. It's influenced my own take on design, something that is an integral part of any store Bombaim opens. Giving Good Earth a home in Calcutta gives the city a space that focuses on design, quality, and ambience — everything that makes for a beautiful shopping experience. The rich culture of Calcutta marries so well with Good Earth's identity. The timing for a Good Earth in Calcutta is just perfect at the moment —** Richa Kanoi, founder, Bombaim/retail partner (Calcutta), Good Earth

Good Earth is expanding.

How are you choosing your destinations now?

Good Earth is expanding with a thoughtful approach to selecting our new destinations. Our strategy is driven by a deep understanding of cultural heritage and community dynamics across various cities in India. In choosing new destinations, we prioritise cities with rich cultural histories and diverse communities, much like Calcutta. Our decision is often driven by the presence of a strong, discerning customer base who already appreciates Good Earth, as we have seen in cities like Calcutta and Lucknow, where our web boutique has had a loyal following for years before we opened a physical store there.

Saionee Chakraborty

Pictures: Pabitra Das



The dining room



The Pomegranates and Roses dinnerware collection



The Rosabagh dinnerware collection

## CLUB SANDWICH

### DALHOUSIE INSTITUTE'S TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES WAS A NOSTALGIC AFFAIR

**O**n a magical November evening, Dalhousie Institute transformed into a haven of nostalgia with its tribute to The Beatles. Titled Abbey Road Revisited, held in association with t2, the event struck the right chords with the members of DI who

are known as connoisseurs of Western music. Taking them on a journey through the golden era was the Band 1972.

The band played a selection of The Beatles's greatest hits, including the foot-tapping *Hey Jude*, the heartfelt *Let It Be*, and many electrifying numbers that are

still favourites of many. Eighteen other city clubs were invited to join the festivities, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared love for timeless music.

The music had an irresistible pull, with guests swaying, clapping, and even breaking into impromptu dances. From

teenagers to seniors, everyone vibed to the tunes, transported back to their cherished memories of the fab four. Adding a unique touch was a recreation of The Beatles's iconic Abbey Road zebra-crossing pose that became a selfie zone for the fans of the rock band.



Band 1972 belted out timeless Beatles hits, leaving the crowd mesmerised and cheering.



Band members (from left) Ahijit Ghosh, Rajshekhar Banerjee, Rachit Lakshmani, Tutul Mukherjee and Bachospati Chakraborty recreated the iconic Abbey Road pose.



An array of snacks added to the lively atmosphere, allowing attendees to enjoy the melodies with delightful bites like vegetable croquette, cheese ball, fish fingers and so on.



Spellbound by the Fab Four's magic, the audience listened in rapt attention.



Natalie Pote, entertainment head, DI; Nondon Bagchi, drummer and founder member of the band 1972; and Leslie D Gama posed for a click.

"Dalhousie Institute has become a hub for great music in Calcutta. As a core organiser, I believe inviting 18 other clubs fosters camaraderie, evident in the 500+ footfall at Abbey Road Revisited celebrating The Beatles," said Leslie D Gama, jr. vice president, Dalhousie Institute, posing with Biswajit Dasgupta. Dasgupta, organiser from BD&A, added: "Organising Abbey Road Revisited at DI was wonderful, with Band 1972 reviving timeless Beatles hits. Thanks to DI VP Leslie DGama and the Council for hosting members from 18 clubs and creating an unforgettable evening of music, food, and camaraderie."



"It is a matter of immense pride to host 'Abbey Road Revisited', a celebration of the timeless legacy of the Fab Four. The overwhelming turnout of our members and guests speaks volumes about the enduring magic of The Beatles and the love they inspire across generations. Moments like these remind us why our club, with its century-old legacy, continues to be a beacon of culture, music, togetherness, and shared memories," said Jayajit Biswas, president, DI.



Club members Michael Rao, Tanya Robinson, Ashim Nandy and Ajanta Nandy.

Shreyasee Dutta (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das



## COMING UP



Keeping the annual tradition of ushering in the Yuletide spirit, The Saturday Club hosted its cake-mixing ceremony recently. In attendance were honorary consul general of Norway, Nayantara Palchoudhuri; British deputy high commissioner, Andrew Fleming, and others. "Keeping with traditions the cake-mixing ceremony is a celebration which all member families were looking forward to. It is an occasion of happiness and excitement for the upcoming festive season. This year we had the British deputy high commissioner who was kind enough to tell us more about the tradition of cake mixing," said club president Sanish Magon.

Picture: Pabitra Das






# BIRYANI & KEBAB

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**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2024 | Time: 12 noon onwards\***

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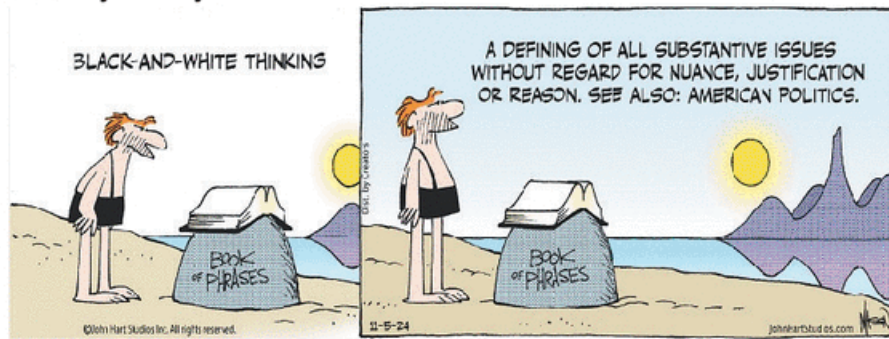
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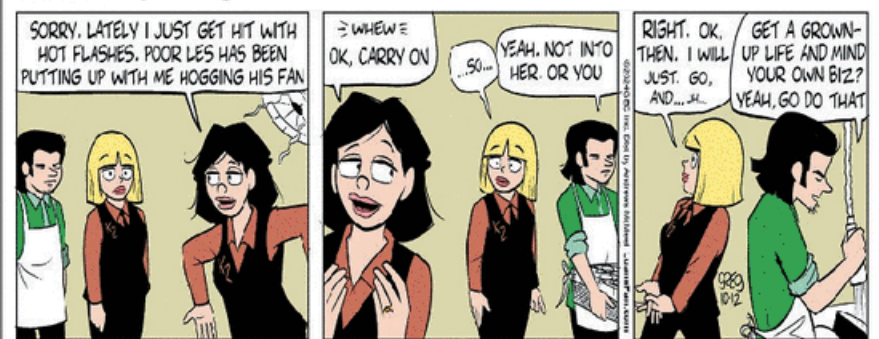
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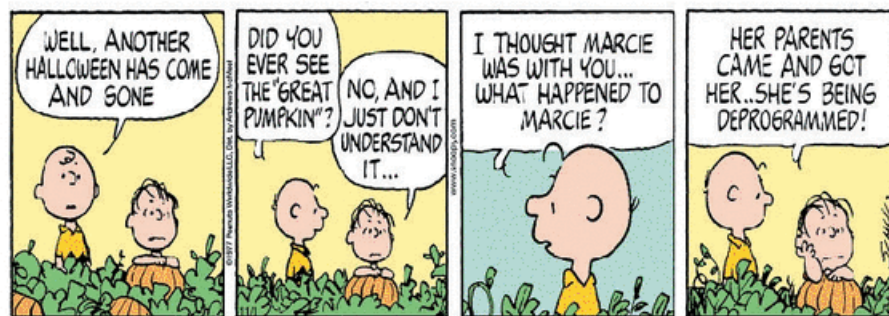
## B.C. by Johny Hart



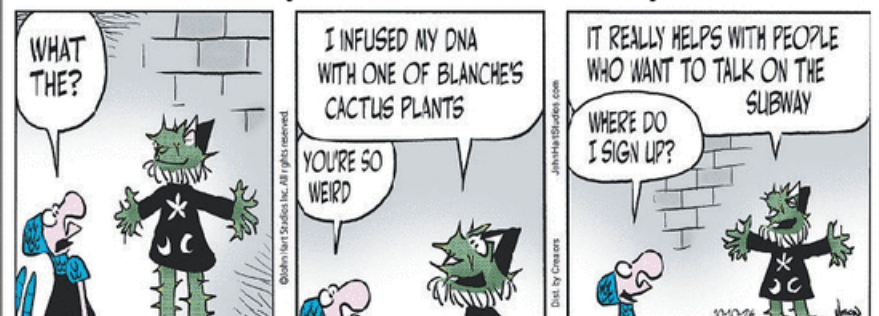
## Luann by Greg Evans



## Peanuts by Charles Schulz



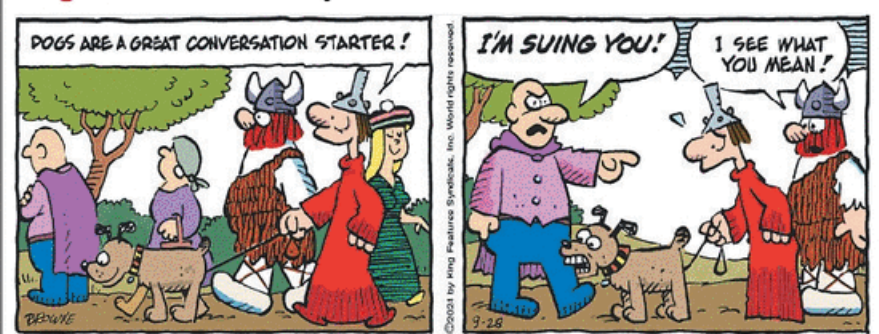
## The Wizard of Id by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



## Flash Gordon by Dan Schkade



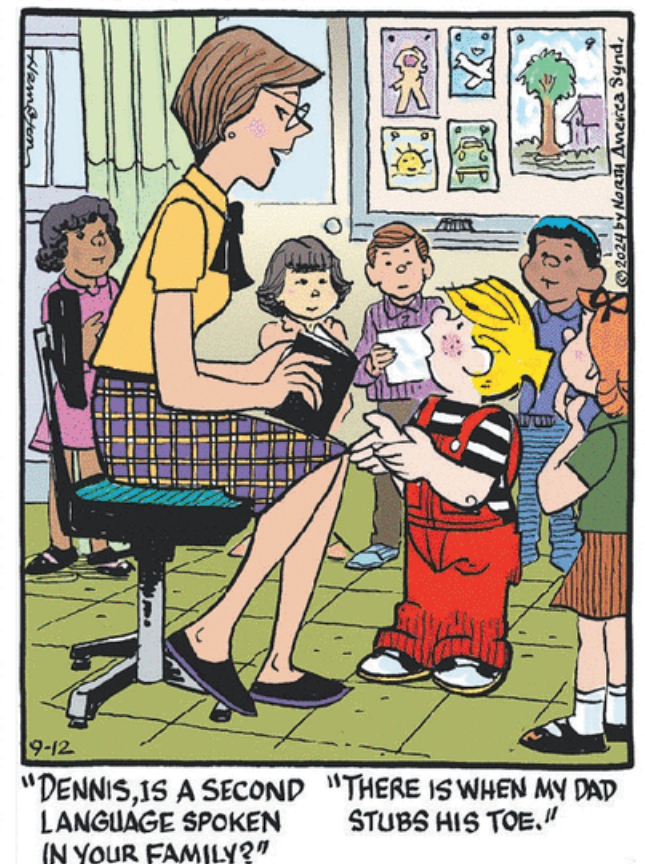
## Hagar the Horrible by Chris Browne



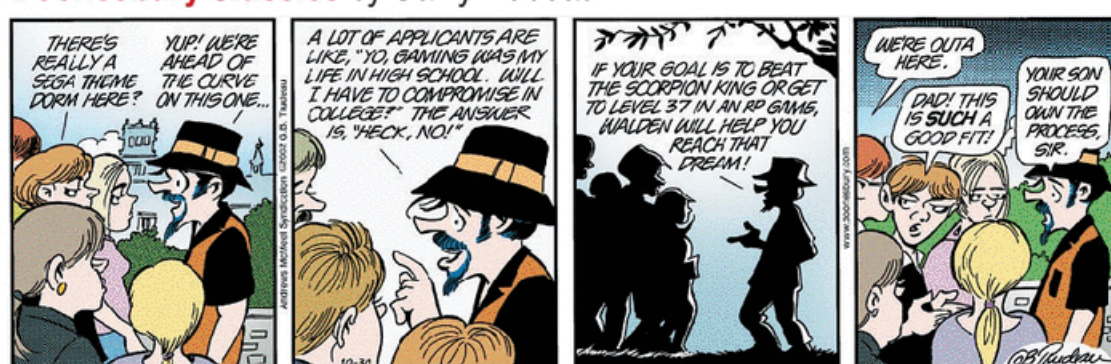
## Blondie by Dean Young



## Dennis the Menace



## Doonesbury Classics by Garry Trudeau









**T**he Kolkata Queer Arts Month (Ko:QAM 2.0) has commenced and this time exhibitions are taking place simultaneously at three different locations. The chosen sites — Aranya Bari, Anjali Pratay and Experimenter — hold distinct significances to pride and art at large. Through a series of conversations, displays, workshops and presentations under the theme Ghosts and Ghettos, Ko:QAM will renegotiate the relationship marginalised sections and queer people share with established gallery spaces.

In all three sites, the exhibitions explore whether galleries — often spaces of creative expression — are paradoxically sites of exclusion. It confronts the metaphor of the “ghetto”, a term that resonates deeply within queer and trans communities, who have historically faced marginalisation across lines of class, caste, race, and gender.

The month-long displays have brought together artists, community members, and allies in a warm and inclusive space. With its focus on storytelling through art, Ghosts and Ghettos explores the invisible yet powerful intersections of queer identities with histories of exclusion, trauma, and belonging.

Through its thought-provoking curation, Ghosts and Ghettos challenges viewers to reconsider the boundaries between the mainstream and the marginalised, between what is deemed art and craft, and the binaries that often dominate cultural spaces.

“After curating the inaugural edition of Ko:QAM, watching the team plan and execute edition 2.0 has been equally thrilling. More than an interlocutor, I was glad to just listen and have the team bounce their ideas off me. They have done a brilliant job,” said clothesmaker and

## KOLKATA QUEER ARTS MONTH 2.0 OPENS AT THREE VENUES WITH THOUGHT-PROVOKING DISPLAYS



An artwork displayed at Aranya Bari



The opening ceremony at Anjali Pratay included a brilliant dance performance on self-love, Antardrishti, performed by children of Ektara. The performance was choreographed by Sudarshan Chakravorty.

artist Kallol Datta.

By amplifying voices from across intersectional lines, Ko:QAM 2.0 continues its mission to foster inclusion, provoke dialogue, and celebrate the diversity of queer experiences while keeping the queer anger intact. It is a call to action for a more equitable and expansive understanding of art and identity.

**Urmimala Dev** (t2 intern)

Pictures: Pabitra Das and Kolkata Pride

**WHEN:** The exhibitions at Aranya Bari and Anjali Pratay are on till January 12 and the one at Experimenter is on till January 20

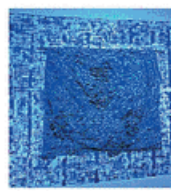
**WHERE:**  
**Anjali Pratay:**  
Dr GS Bose Road,  
Tiljala  
**Aranya Bari:**  
379, Jodhpur  
Park  
**Experimenter:**  
2/1, Hindusthan  
Road



**I, Exist** is a 3-meter-long acrylic on canvas that powerfully confronts systemic erasure of marginalised identities, celebrating resilience. On display at Anjali Pratay, the piece embodies the tension between survival and resistance, evoking hope for the global LGBTQIA community. “My art navigates the intersections of identity, history, and emotion. It embodies resistance and celebrates resilience, bridging personal and collective struggles,” said artist Archee Roy.



A snapshot from the third site of Ko:QAM 2.0, Experimenter.



“Crafted through a collaborative process with Anjali Pratay residents and Ek Tara machinists, Object 36 interrogates historical codes of morality from SWANA, the Korean Peninsula, and Japan. It traces their lingering influence on contemporary identity, blending history with lived experiences,” said Kallol Datta.

### ORGANISER SPEAK

Navonil Das, co-initiator of Ko:QAM and Kolkata Pride, said:

“In the second edition of Ko:QAM, we have been able to open up our canvas to a wider audience not only in the sense of artists including established ones and young, upcoming ones, but also in getting three unique locations. We are very grateful to all our partners at Experimenter, Anjali Pratay and Aranya Bari for coming together, opening up their homes to us and letting us in their spaces.”



“Considering how we wanted to explore taking Ko:QAM 2.0 outside traditional gallery spaces while simultaneously nuancing the queer footprint within it, we chose three primary sites. Experimenter is an

incubator for ambitious and challenging contemporary practices. Aranya Bari, a newly opened arts cafe, is an interstitial space of dialogue and conversations. The third most vital space being Anjali Pratay, housed within a former hospital for mental illnesses that has now been transformed to an assisted living space for those who have recovered from serious mental health conditions. This resonates with Ko:QAM 2.0's vision of reimagining the Ghosts and Ghettos of Calcutta, through a trans and queer lens,” said Anindya Hajra, transgender rights advocate and co-initiator of Ko:QAM and Kolkata Pride.

**I**n the run-up to the Kolkata Rainbow Pride Walk on December 15, a poster making and sloganeering workshop was held earlier this week at the Anjali Pratay Home in Tiljala. The event brought together members of the community for a creative and collaborative session.

The workshop was an opportunity for participants to create beautiful posters and slogans that will be used during the pride march. The focus was on sharing ideas, spreading messages of inclusion and equality, and celebrating the diversity of the community. Participants were provided with all the materials needed, including poster boards, paints, and markers, ensuring everyone could take part comfortably.

Navonil Das, co-initiator of Kolkata Pride, said: “Today, in this 150-year-old Anjali Pratay house, we celebrate pride with the people here, a proof to the statement that inclusivity is not just a buzzword but a way of life for many of us, who are actively practising it. Let us embrace ourselves, and uplift each other together.”

The workshop encouraged self-expression, and emphasised on the importance of visibility and solidarity within the community.

**The Kolkata Rainbow Pride Walk will take place on Sunday, December 15. It will begin from Lady Brabourne College, Park Circus at 2pm and conclude at Park Street Maidan**

**Urmimala Dev** (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das

## KOLKATA PRIDE ORGANISES POSTER MAKING AND SLOGANEERING WORKSHOP AHEAD OF RAINBOW PRIDE WALK 2024



“Through my drawing, I wanted to capture a woman fully embracing herself, radiating confidence and self-love. Such events are vital, as they encourage dialogue, educate society, and inspire change, especially among parents, fostering acceptance and understanding in a world that truly needs it,” said Puja Sarkar, a psychologist.



When asked about the inspiration behind their poster, Tintin said, “Queer people are often seen as black sheep, and just as black cats are labeled as bad luck in society, I have represented myself as a black cat. But black cats, like me, embody mystery, resilience, and beauty. By embracing the black cat, I honour my identity—misunderstood yet powerful, feared yet fiercely authentic. It is my way of celebrating who I am and reclaiming what the world casts aside.”



“There are countless colours within each of us and no one should be defined by a single label. Society may try to confine us, but embrace your true self. Break free from the binary and remember, at our core, we are all human, born beautifully unique and worthy of love,” said Sumit Nath.

Participants enthusiastically came together to create a massive and vibrant poster for the Kolkata Pride Walk 2024.



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*Shree Balaji Marble celebrates 20 expansive years in providing exquisite marble across India.*

**F**ounded with a vision to redefine luxury in the marble industry, Shree Balaji Marble has already set a new benchmark of excellence. With a deep rooted passion for natural stone and keen desire to provide the finest quality marble across India, the Company started its journey in 2004 under the able guidance of brothers Ritesh Agrawal, Anurag Saraf and Mukesh Agrawal.

Recently, Shree Balaji Marble celebrated its 20th anniversary at their state-of-the-art showroom cum workshop in Uttar Panchanna Gram, Kolkata. Renowned architects, builders, and interior designers from different parts of the country also graced the occasion.

In celebrations, the Company participated in a carnival at Swabhami in which the Chief Guest was the Consulate

General of Italy Mr Ricardo Dalla Costa. Many dignitaries also attended the carnival.

## Largest importer of marble

After two decades of relentless endeavour towards excellence, Shree Balaji Marble is now the **leading direct importer and distributor of marbles in Eastern India** with the largest

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The Company has an extensive inventory of ready stock which includes a wide variety of **premium imported marbles** like Statuario, Michaelangelo, Dover White, and Bianca Lhasa to name a few, sourced from around the world.

In the exclusive imported tiles showroom, Villeroy & Boch sanitary solutions as well as Nexion tiles are on display.

Apart from Kolkata, Shree Balaji Marble has processing units and stock in Kishangarh, Rajasthan.

The Company's large stockyard ensures that the clients have access to a vast collection of marble at any point of time.

## Firmly rooted in fine quality

The brand philosophy of Shree Balaji Marble revolves around quality, trust

and customer satisfaction. Keeping these goals in mind, the Company continually updates its inventory with the latest trends in marble and ensures competitive pricing without compromising on quality. It is also exploring opportunities to introduce new product lines and enhance its service offerings.

Over the years, Shree Balaji Marble has earned a reputation for excellence, providing top-notch products to a wide range of clients, including architects, interior designers and builders. Apart from Kolkata and the Eastern region, the Company is expanding its reach to other parts of India, establishing new distribution centres across the country.

Find Shree Balaji Marble as Associate Partners at the Design Milestone Exhibition (Dec 13-15, 2024) and as Gold Sponsors at the ABID Exhibition (Jan 10-13, 2025) being held at the Milan Mela grounds.



L-R Mukesh Agarwal, Ritesh Agarwal, Anurag Saraf, Directors, Shree Balaji Marble

Dignitaries who attended the 20th anniversary celebrations of Shree Balaji Marble



**Surender Dugar** - Builder & Promoter, PS GROUP



**Hari Sharma** - Builder & Promoter, RSH GROUP



**Rishi Tody** - Builder & Promoter, NPR GROUP



**Kiran Gala** - Architect & interior designer, Kiran Gala & Associates - Mumbai



**Riccardo Dalla Costa** - Consulate General of Italy in Kolkata



**Rupande Shah** - Architect & interior designer, Rupande Shah & Associates



**Vinoo Chadda** - Architect & interior designer, The Design Cell



**Ajay Arya** - Architect & interior designer, A Square Design



**Devyani Jaiswal** - Architect & interior designer, DJ Associates - Nagpur

