

SHALINI PASSI

'I DID NOT
ANTICIPATE
THE LOVE I
AM GETTING
FROM ALL
CORNERS OF
THE WORLD'

Divya Kaushik

Being an art collector, fashion patron and philanthropist, Shalini Passi was always used to packed travel itineraries and social calendar blocked for months, but this year, for the first time, she had a new task at hand – managing a fandom obsessed with her diet, skincare routine, wardrobe and her collection of bags. Shalini, a popular name in Delhi's social circle for years, emerged as the most popular name from the show *Fabulous Lives Vs Bollywood Wives*. Be it her sassy persona, fashion choices or just details about her life, everything about Shalini became a hit on social media in 2024.



CONTINUED ON P4

I've been going to Mumbai for many exciting projects. Let's see what works out. I'm also very excited about the new opportunities coming my way, and I hope I have the strength in me to take them forward



Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi; (right) Naseeruddin Shah

REMEMBERING
BENEGAL AND
HIS ENDURING
CINEMATIC
LEGACY

Days after the demise of late Shyam Benegal, cine veterans like Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Naseeruddin Shah gathered to honour the filmmaker at a memorial meet

P4

Any feedback related to stories in Bombay Times?
✉ Mail us at bombay.times@timesofindia.comI wish that people
had used more of my
ability: Arshad Warsi

@arshad_warsi



It's always been difficult to be an actor, but I'd say it's easier now than when I started. Back then, we didn't have the luxury of multiple platforms, it was just films

Arshad Warsi and (inset) with Sanjay Dutt in a still from *Munna Bhai MBBS*

Amina Ashraf

Arshad Warsi, known for his memorable performances in films like *Munna Bhai MBBS* and *Dedh Ishqiya*, recently spoke to us about his career and changes he's seen in the entertainment industry.

Noting that today's platforms, especially OTT, have made it easier for new talent to thrive, he said, "It's always been difficult to be an actor, but it's easier now than when I started. Back then, we didn't have the luxury of multiple platforms, it was just films. Either you succeeded in films or you went back home. Actors today have more spaces to showcase their craft."



CONTINUED ON P4

Buzzstop

JUSTIN BALDONI
SET TO FILE
COUNTERSUIT
AGAINST BLAKE

Justin Baldoni is preparing to file a countersuit against *It Ends With Us* co-star Blake Lively following her allegations of sexual harassment and claims of a smear campaign during the film's promotion.

Agencies

JLO AND KEVIN COSTNER
SPOTTED TOGETHER IN ASPEN

Jennifer Lopez and Kevin Costner were spotted together with friends, at an upscale event in Aspen, US, sparking speculation among fans. The two Hollywood stars, who have both been through high-profile divorces, were spotted in the VIP section of the exclusive venue, grabbing drinks with their set of friends. Dressed in a chic turtleneck sweater and sporting a sleek high bun, she was seen laughing with friends.

Agencies

The Olympics was my
best performance in
2024: Manika Batra

Riya Sharma

Paddler Manika Batra, who trains in Mumbai and Hyderabad now, was in her hometown Delhi recently. Soaking up the winter sun like a typical Delhiite at Mandi House, Manika tells us that she misses home, especially "ghar ka khana" when she is away. "Whenever I have plans to come back, my mother calls me and *woh pehle se hi sab prepare kar leti hain*." Manika created history at the Paris Olympics by becoming the first Indian to advance to the round-of-16 in women's singles. She also reached the quarter-final of the WTT Champions in Montpellier in October. In a chat, the athlete reflects on her year, her mindset and her plans.

CONTINUED ON P3



The Olympics was my best performance. I defeated World No 2 this year and many other top players. I am happy with how the year is ending



Manika Batra

WHAT'S HOT

RING IN 2025 IN STYLE

Celebrate New Year's Eve at ITC Grand Central Ring in 2025 at ITC Grand Central, which is celebrating two decades of responsible luxury. Enjoy an exclusive stay package with a gala dinner and breakfast at Hornby's Pavilion for ₹27,000 + taxes.

- **Ballroom celebration:** ₹11,999 + taxes per couple, 7:30 pm to 12:30 am.
- **Hornby's Pavilion:** ₹4,500 + taxes (non-alcoholic) / ₹6,000 + taxes (alcoholic).

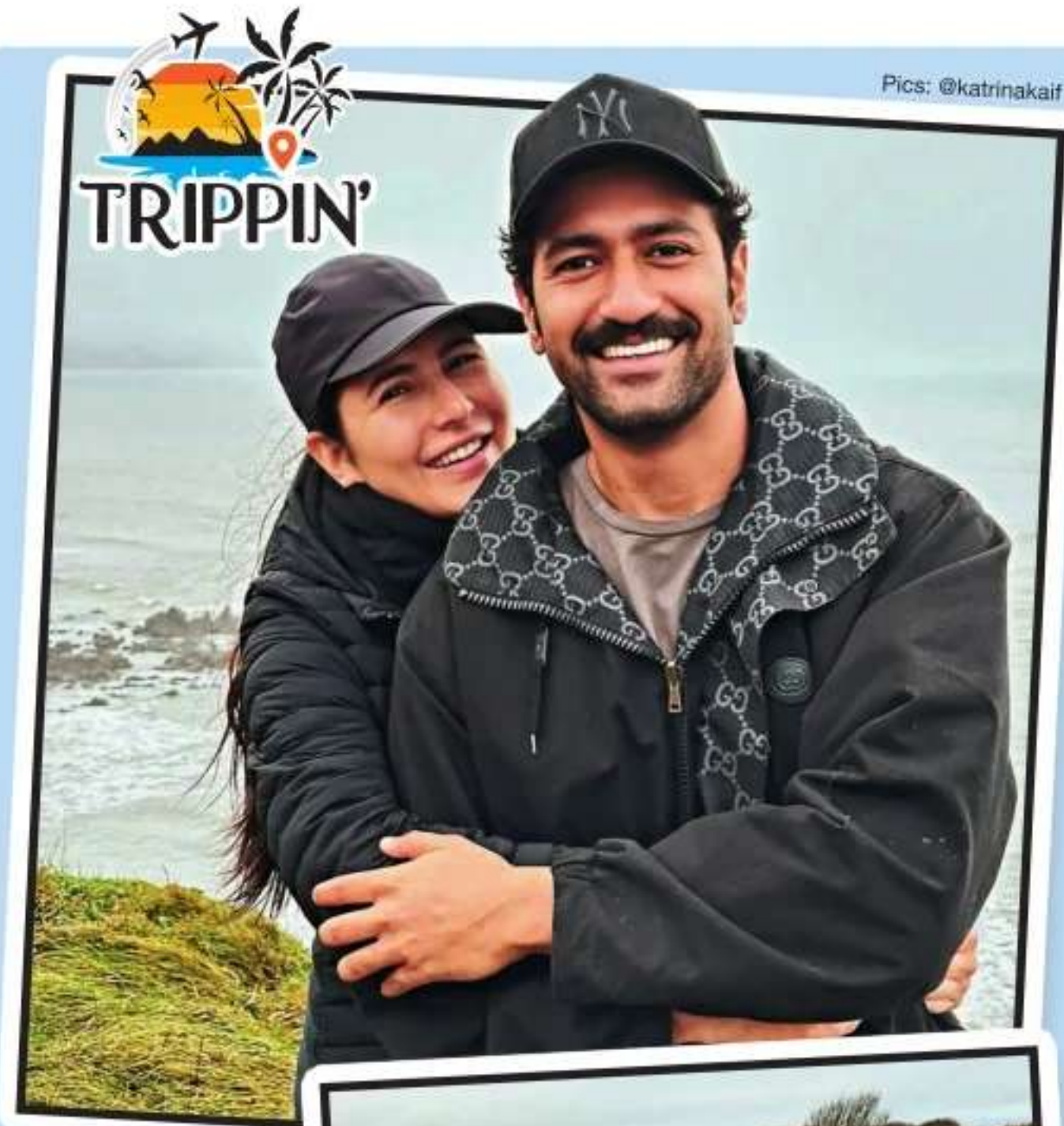
Where: ITC Grand Central, Parel.
Call: 022-67045110.
Email: Myletable.itcgrandcentral@itc-hotels.in



Did You Know?

The tradition of making New Year resolutions began 4,000 years ago

New Year's resolutions can be traced back to ancient Babylon. During a 12-day festival honouring their gods, Babylonians pledged to repay debts and return borrowed items. This eventually set the stage for the resolutions we know today.



KATRINA KAIF and VICKY KAUSHAL are ending the year with a quiet vacation, and their pictures from the "British wildlands" have fans craving a getaway



POV Going solo on NYE? You are not alone

It is that time of the year when 'table for two' and 'couple passes' is the default setting in social spaces. But if you plan to go solo on New Year's Eve, you are not alone.

In a world fascinated by couple goals, a significant number of Indians are celebrating their solitary, not lonely, existence. In fact, there's a sizeable population of the urban middle-class who are in their 40s today – and single by choice. Apart from dodging all manner of questions by family, relatives, acquaintances and household help, most enjoy the freedom of choices that singleness offers them. According to the 2022 *Youth in India* report by the National Statistics Office (NSO), at least 23 per cent of young Indians are not interested in marriage. The focus, instead, is on career, self-care, priorities that begin from the personal. Holiday season is no exception.

In her column for *Time* magazine, sexologist and dating coach Myisha Battle talks about how society, peers and family can judge being single as 'inherently bad', making it almost 'hard to exist' in an environment of expectations. On the other hand, more people are choosing singleness and enjoying it emphatically.

This has been a metaphor for freedom. Without the plus-one baggage, you are the master of your choices. Solo travel, a spa date, adventure sports, a culture walk through your own town, taking up a hobby, delving into the arts, finishing a book or a movie – the choices are endless.

And then, there's solo dining. Reports suggest Indians are warming up to the idea of enjoying a quiet meal by themselves. Ergo, the tone of incredulity at a table for one request has gone down – in favour of buying power. In a patriarchal, family oriented culture such as ours, this is quite a celebration of singleness, freedom, and breaking of stereotypes. Especially if you are a woman.

Whether by choice or by circumstance, people – even younger people – are increasingly looking inward, holidays included. While crazy NYE parties go viral, the focus is also on the 'self'. There is a need to normalise being alone – not lonely – as much as we embrace relationships.

And staying single on New Year's Eve, despite the pressures of being seen with a partner, is perhaps an apt start to the process.



Agree? Disagree? Got a POV idea? Write to us at: pov@timesofindia.com

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

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

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

Example

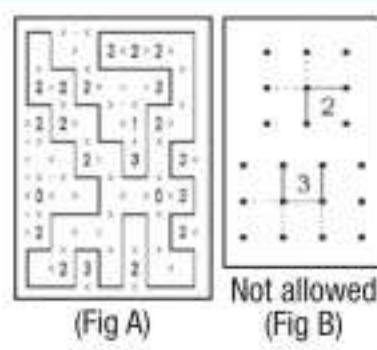
8	5	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5
2	5	7	1	5	4	6
5	6	2	4	3	7	6
2	7	5	5	1	7	2
1	6	6	4	3	5	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	5	7

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)

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.



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.

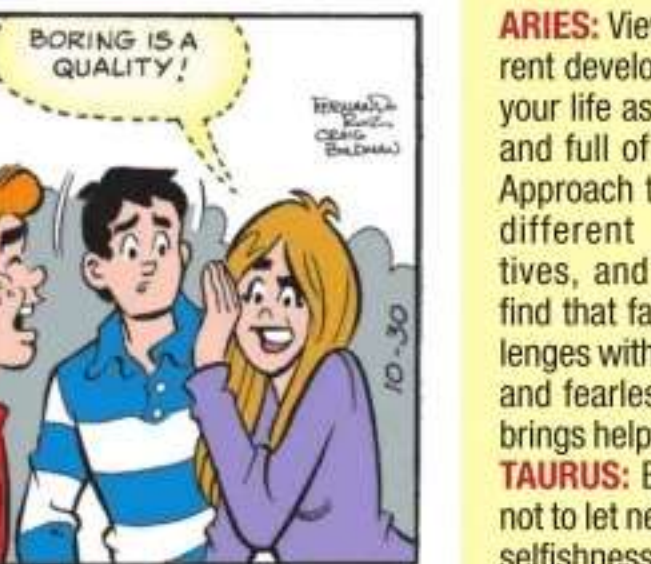
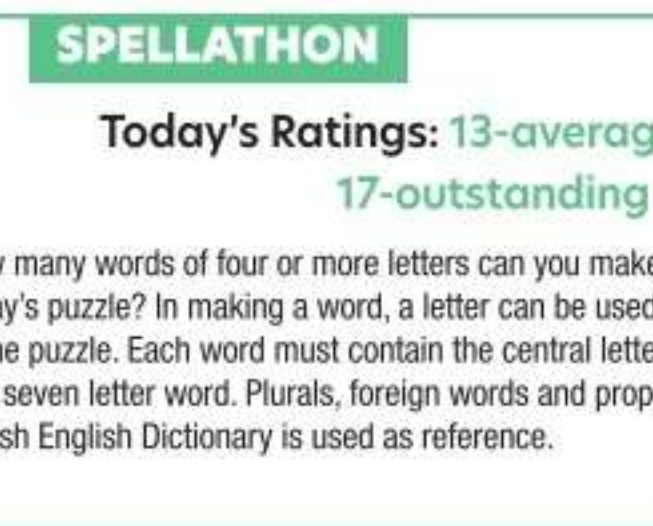
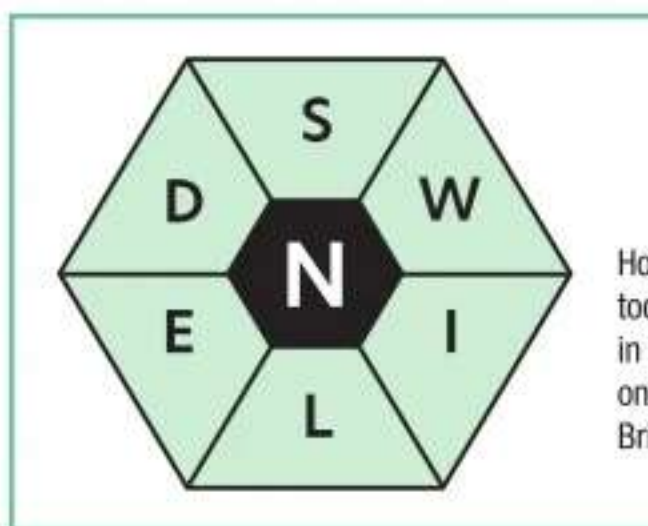
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B).

3	3			2	3	
1		2	3		2	2
3	2					
2		3		2	3	
		0	2	1	2	1
		2				2
3	1				2	3



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SCRAMBLE

ECLAT					
REBID					
ACILCT					
AERHCP					

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

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

Learn by ____ - Martha Graham (8)

FINOLEX FORTUNE

Book Anupam V Kapil for apt/written predictions: 9822042295 or anupamvkapil@gmail.com.

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

ARIES: View the current developments in your life as intriguing and full of potential. Approach them from different perspectives, and you may find that facing challenges with a positive and fearless attitude brings helpful results.

TAURUS: Be mindful not to let negativity or selfishness take over, as it could cloud your judgment. If a financial matter has been weighing on you, a solution could be presented that could help to put your mind at ease, initially the idea will not seem appealing.

GEMINI: If you have an outstanding project on your plate, you should be able to find the energy and focus you need to plow through and bring it to completion. You may feel a strong urge to focus on physical well-being. Ensure that you draw your own conclusions based on evidence.

CANCER: Someone you're interested in may start to turn their attention elsewhere, but don't worry – plenty of people are quietly admiring you. Avoid letting stubborn people get under your skin, and try adjusting your mindset to embrace opportunities.

LEO: Romantic energy is highly favourable for you now, and there's no reason not to be happy with someone loving by your side. Get ready for positive networking opportunities that could enrich your life both professionally and personally.

VIRGO: Trust in your ability to follow your dreams today. You are shining brightly, and the person by your side is incredibly lucky. Your

creativity and emotions are enhanced.

LIBRA: Today is the most favourable day of the week to take action. Don't hesitate to make changes, even if they seem small or insignificant. Everyone seems to be on a different wavelength today.

SCORPIO: A burst of positivity shines on your romantic life today. Focus on deeper needs beneath the surface, and avoid letting daily challenges undermine your confidence. Think of others before you act.

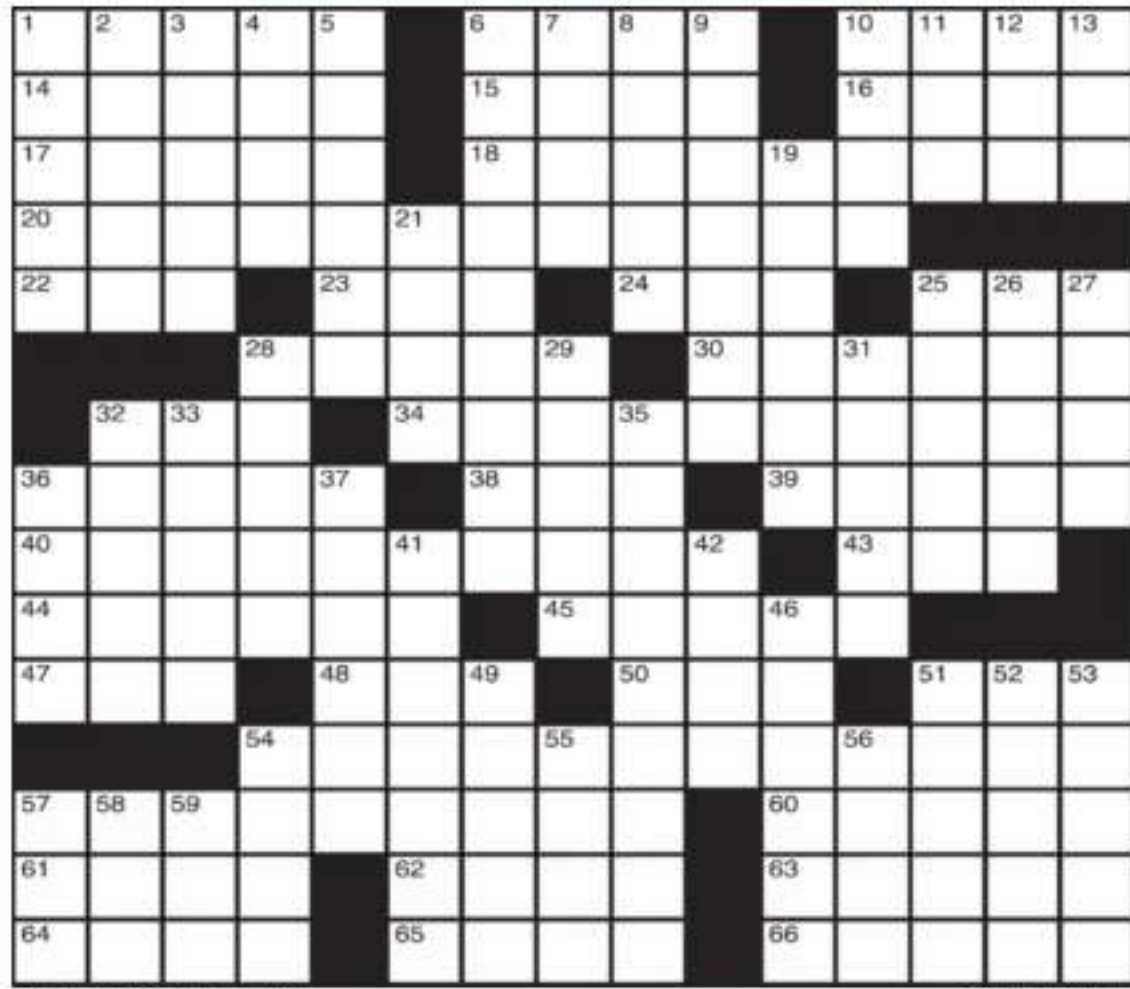
SAGITTARIUS: Others may see you as being from another realm, but don't let that make you feel disconnected. You may think that you don't have anyone to turn to, but lean on your community.

CAPRICORN: Your idealistic view of the world may not always align with others' perspectives. Stay focused on what's important and prioritise your tasks to avoid falling behind. You're driven by the desire to improve situations around you, though you may feel off-balance when interacting with coworkers today.

AQUARIUS: Focus on your needs and communicate them openly with your loved ones. It's an ideal time to focus on your health, and you'll find great joy in creative and artistic pursuits. Social activities will also help balance your energies.

PISCES: Your finances continue to improve and opportunities continue coming your way by the people within your circle. Right now it's all about making your contacts and connections count as a word of mouth will be helpful in getting you where you want to go.

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Micah Sommersmith

30/12/2024

ACROSS

- 1 Vision-correcting surgical beam
- 6 Topiarist's target
- 10 No-frills grocer based in Germany
- 14 Words on a Wonderland cake
- 15 "¿Cómo ____ usted?"
- 16 Woodwind insert
- 17 Moves briskly
- 18 Symbols like :-)
- 20 Precarious plan, metaphorically
- 22 Sinus MD
- 23 JFK successor
- 24 Mai ____ cocktail
- 25 Poetic sphere
- 28 Many a "Men in Black" character
- 30 Tissue that covers the iris and pupil
- 32 Pink Floyd co-founder Barrett
- 34 Events with sprints and relays
- 36 Go in one's ____; replace
- 38 Penn of "Harold & Kumar" films
- 39 Cooks quickly, as tuna
- 40 Corporate executive's perk
- 43 On the ____; furtively
- 44 Punch combo
- 45 Ordinary writing
- 47 Half a score, or a perfect score
- 48 Doc intended to protect confidentiality
- 50 German pronoun
- 51 Smallish batteries
- 54 "I don't need that back," and what can be said about the starts of 20-, 34-, and 40-Across
- 57 Anthropomorphic
- 60 Over the top
- 61 Not close
- 62 Change to fit in,

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- perhaps
- 63 Spud
- 64 Elevator direction
- 65 Double-hyphenated digits, for short
- 66 Three-ingredient sweet treat
- DOWN**
- 1 Mythical river of forgetfulness
- 2 Slugger Judge who was the 2017 AL Rookie of the Year
- 3 Portly, or porter
- 4 CPR experts
- 5 Flip, as a property
- 6 Slim Jim product
- 7 "Semper Fi" military org.
- 8 Ferret kin
- 9 Porkpie's place, perhaps
- 10 Pickleball paths
- 11 Sign before Virgo
- 12 TV room
- 13 Employee badges, e.g., for short
- 19 Figures of speech
- 21 Memorial bio
- 25 NBA star with the
- hit rap album "Shaq Diesel"
- 26 Have another go at
- 27 Chilean sea slug
- 28 Change to fit in
- 29 Civil rights gp. since 1909
- 31 Witherspoon of "Walk the Line"
- 32 Pebble, e.g.
- 33 Country south of Saudi Arabia
- 35 Woodwind instruments that need 16-Acrosses
- 36 Kilt wearer, often
- 37 Occur to
- 41 Small lumps
- 42 Pebble, e.g.
- 46 Units of paper
- 49 Corrosive compounds
- 51 Is ____; probably will
- 52 Broadcast network
- 53 Fixed gaze
- 54 Crochet need
- 55 Similar (to)
- 56 Test
- 57 Consumed
- 58 Airborne mystery
- 59 Gaping mouth

GALLERIA

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Required Small Budget Hindi Feature Films having Unknown or little-known Star-Cast or Star-Cast. Already Censored as Certificate – U or U/A or yet to be Censored. May the Production value be Medium or Low. Theme Social, Family Viewing subjects, Neat and Clean only, Comedy, Biopic of Real-Life Achievers in Different Sectors like Sports, Education, Social-Work, Agriculture, Environment, Health, Water. Looking Producers/ Rights Holders those made such Films but unfortunately were remain unable to get Buyers/ Distributors since last one year or More. Also remain unable to sell to any Private Channels or any OTT platforms or Cinemas like PVR/INOX etc. or unfortunately remained Utter-Flop in Cinema.

Pranab Ganguly (M) 9711187316 / 8447556279
Email: lakshaya51@gmail.com
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DENNIS THE MENACE



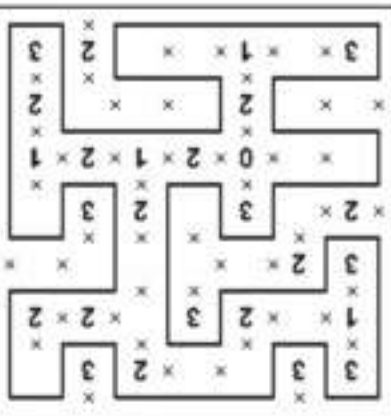
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SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

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

LOOP THE LOOP



TIMES HITORI

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

SPELLATHON

spine, lend, lien, line, line, send, sewn, sine, sine, whed

SCRAMBLE

Words: Cheat, brife, lacte, preach
Answer: Learn by practice - Martha Graham

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I learn from my setbacks, criticism & challenges: Manika

CONTINUED FROM K 1

Talking about the year that has gone by, Manika shares, "2024 mein actually *bahut* ups and downs *aaye*. It wasn't a stable year, but I am proud of myself. *Maine apni haar se comeback kiya hai*, but if you look at my overall performance and my hard work, I am really proud of myself. If I talk about the Olympics, it was my best performance. I defeated World No 2 this year and many other top players. I am happy with how the year is ending and my target is to be in the Top 15 next year, so *uske live* physical skills, mental training *pe kaam karti rahoongi*."

'MENTAL TRAINING IS AS IMPORTANT AS PHYSICAL STRENGTH'

While setbacks are a part of a player's life, Manika points out that they have always taught her. "I learn from my setbacks, criticism and challenges. *TT ne mujhe seekhaya hai ki past mein nahi rehna hai*, present mein rehna hai. So I focus on the present. I also sometimes get comments like, 'focus on TT,' when I post about something other than the sport. It is fun to see those comments, I enjoy them. *Main pehle focus karti thi ki aisa nahi hona chahiye*, but I cannot change their mind. It is their perspective and their mindset. I focus on myself, the right mindset and people around me who support me. *Agar dekha jaaye toh log bas medal dekhte hain*, but *uske peeche jo hard*

**2024
REWIND**



work *hota hai aur jo* dedication player *lagata hai woh sab log nahi dekhte*," she shares.

"I focus on my mental training every day. I also meditate a lot. It has helped me in the past and it still helps me. *Log hamesha baat karte hain physical strength ke baare mein*, but this is equally important. *Hamare back-to-back tournaments chalte hain toh right mindset bahut important hota hai*, push *karna apne aap ko important hota hai*. I like to talk to myself when I am alone and that helps me stay calm," Manika adds.

Manika Batra says, "*Maine apni haar se comeback kiya hai*, but if you look at my overall performance & hard work, I am really proud of myself"

Mujhe hamesha se lagta tha ki log table tennis ke players ko pehchane and that's happening now. Not just me, other players are also getting recognised. It is not just about us, it is about TT getting popular

After 19 years, I am ready for movies: Mohit Malik



Mohit Malik is all set to make his Bollywood debut. The actor will be seen playing the antagonist in Abhishek Kapoor's film *Azaad*. Mohit, who has played a variety of roles, from an abusive husband to a gentle musician on TV, says after 19 years, he is finally ready to act in a film. "I have been working in showbiz for the past 19 years, but in the initial years, the goal was to earn money and run my home. Also, I wanted to hone my skills and then give movies a shot. Since the past few years, I have been feeling that it was time to branch out, and I am glad I bagged this offer."

'I HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH TO BAG A FILM IN BOLLYWOOD'
TV actors often say that it's not easy for them to get into films. Sharing his experience, Mohit says, "I will not say it is an easy process for any actor to bag a good film. Even after working in TV for so long, it was a completely new journey when I started giving auditions and meeting people for films. People did not judge me

because I was a TV actor, but they felt that it is a different medium and one has to prove oneself again. The difficult part is how you have to start from scratch even after working for two decades in showbiz. I had to clear three rounds of auditions to bag a role in *Azaad*. Also, I am not a star kid, so I had no background. I am just glad that I bagged a film with a good filmmaker, rest will be my hard work and destiny."

'PLAYING A QUEER CHARACTER IN CHAMAK WAS CHALLENGING'
Mohit clarifies that he doesn't plan to quit TV or OTT for films. He says, "I am looking at playing interesting roles across all mediums. In my OTT show *Chamak*, I played a queer character. Many actors had rejected the role, but I saw it as a challenge. I have always played roles which have layers. The best thing about OTT or a film is that there's a proper script, so it is easy to prep. In TV shows, the graph of your character depends on ratings and viewership."

Even after working in TV for so long, it was a new journey when I started giving auditions for films

Harshit
@thatharshitguy

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Mumbai air quality breaches 'poor' mark

The deteriorating air quality in the city since the past few days has become a topic of discussion with netizens expressing their concern



Dr. Shiram Nene @DoctorN... 13h
Crazy! 😮
Mumbai Rains @rushike... 19h
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Can it get worse than this?
#Mumbai & it's #AirPollution



Gaurav Agnihotri @Gaurav81184

Same location, but see the level of pollution in Mumbai now.
#Mumbai #AQI
Pic-1, 23-Dec-23
Pic-2, 26-Dec-24



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I LOVE IT WHEN PEOPLE SPEND THEIR TIME MAKING MEMES ON ME: SHALINI

CONTINUED FROM K 1

'I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE LOVE THAT I AM GETTING FROM ACROSS THE WORLD'

Ask Shalini about how her life has changed in the past few months and she says, "There is always a certain kind of fame attached when you come on a huge OTT platform, what I did not anticipate was the love that I am getting from all corners of the world. And not just love, people are also saying how they have been inspired by me, especially young people. That has inspired me to work harder. All these messages and pictures from around the world have been wind beneath my wings. I'm really grateful for the love that I've received from all over the world. After the release of the series, I had planned to go on a vacation and travel in the country. I had to drop that plan to have all the media interactions and interviews. It's been slightly more hectic than my usual pace, but I'm thoroughly enjoying it."

'THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS WHEN PEOPLE SAW ME, SCREAMED MY NAME AND CAME RUNNING FOR PICTURES'

She adds that it isn't just on social media where fans have been following every detail about her, she has had some fun encounters with fans in real life too. She says, "I have had some very interesting encounters in hotels, which have been real-life experiences with fans. For instance, there have been moments when fans started screaming and running towards me in the hotel lobby while I was shooting. I also had fans when I went for *Bigg Boss*;

there were a lot of fans outside Filmistan theatre, even at Mehboob Studios, crowd started gathering outside to take pictures. One of my favourite moments was at Sophia College where I had so many women fans, that was amazing. I had some fun incidents in Chennai too when people came up to me to take pictures and, share their stories."

My old pictures already existed on social media, people just went down further and searched them. I feel that a lot of people think it's an invasion of privacy, but I feel that I'm getting so much love, and I have nothing to hide

SHALINI PASSI



'Some odd, bizarre things I read about myself include claims that I have had a hair transplant'

Shalini adds that her beauty regime and diet plans have now become social media content. She has also read some bizarre things about herself online. "Some odd, bizarre things I read about myself include claims that I've had a hair transplant. And yeah, that was very funny because everybody in my family and my friends know that I've had long hair for the longest time. I've shaved my hair in Tirupati four times, and it always grows back. The texture of my hair is the same as it has always been like that, it is not what people claim it to be. I'm just blessed to have good hair," she says.

'I love it when little girls have 'Sassy-Passi Parties' and wear hair bands'

From her old wedding pictures to details about her husband Sanjay Passi's business, almost everything about Shalini Passi is now on social media, but she says that she never considered this to be intrusive. "My old pictures already existed on social media, people just went further and searched them. I feel that a lot of people think it's an invasion of privacy, but I feel that I'm getting so much love, and I have nothing to hide. If they want to know my age, how many children I have, I think it's fair enough. I feel that I got onto this platform so that I could be a voice for the people, especially for north India. But I came out as somebody who people were able to relate to. I came out as somebody whose different aspects of personality resonated with various people of different generations. I especially love it when little girls have 'Sassy-Passi Parties' and wear hair bands and clips. I think there's a whole generation of Shalinians who are going to follow what I have done for a long time," she says.

Addressing the Passi memes, she says, "I love it when people spend so much of their time on memes and get so creative with them"

SHALINI IS SELF AWARE. SHE KNOWS SHE IS NOT NORMAL LIKE OTHERS. BASICALLY, MY DELULU IS HER SOLULUUUUU

Shalini's pug Boston is a perfect poser!

Shalini Passi's 13-year-old pet dog Boston is no less than a star now that he has also been part of the show. "He is as popular as I am. He was also a part of the show and now he has got a fan following of his own," shares Shalini with a big smile as she fixes a scarf in the same print as her dress around Boston's neck. "He has also become very smart now when it comes to shooting. He knows how to pose and will look straight into the camera once he notices them around," she adds

Industry remembers Shyam Benegal



Death is the unimportant part of life and what's important is what you do with the time you have. It is undeniable that Shyam used every single moment of his life, breath and iota of energy in a creative pursuit of some kind or the other

- Naseeruddin Shah

Days after filmmaker Shyam Benegal passed away, his friends Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah on Saturday fondly recalled his "wide, warm smile" and how he stayed true in his pursuit as a creative person. At a memorial service in the city, several personalities from the film industry, including Javed Akhtar, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Ila Arun, Prahlad Kakkar, Urmila Matondkar, Divya Dutta and several others gathered to honour Benegal.

PTI



Shabana Azmi



Urmila Matondkar

He was my mentor. I consulted him every now and then about a project that I should do or not. He wanted neither to be my guru nor my mentor. He was my friend, equal and he created that space for this friendship

- Shabana Azmi



Rajeshwari Sachdev and Divya Dutta



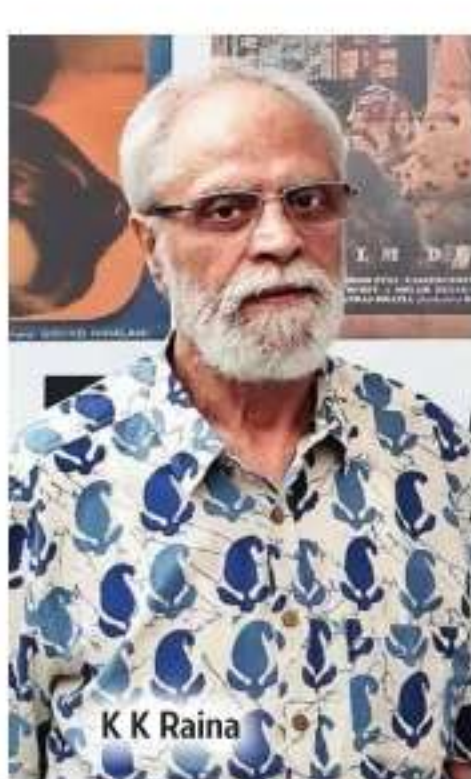
Kunal Kapoor with son Zahan



Vardhaan Puri



Sudhir Mishra



K K Raina

'Actors have more opportunities today'

CONTINUED FROM K 1

'ONCE PEOPLE SEE YOU IN A GENRE, IT STICKS WITH THEM'

When asked if he would approach his career differently if he debuted today, Arshad said, "I wouldn't have started with comedy. Once people see you in a genre, it sticks with them and you end up doing more of the same. But for me, it worked out because I started with comedy and then took on serious roles." On whether OTT has affected traditional cinema, Arshad shared, "There are certain things you can only enjoy on the big screen. Movies like *Pathaan* and *The Avengers* cannot be enjoyed on a small screen."

'NOT APPREHENSIVE TO PLAY ROLES THAT ARE NOT CENTRAL'

Arshad feels that the industry has not utilised his talent fully. He shares, "It will be selfish to say, but I have an immense amount of talent and I feel I'm wasted. No matter how many years later you ask me this question, I'd still say I wish people had used more of my ability."

When asked if he felt apprehensive about working on brief yet memorable roles that aren't always central, he shared, "It doesn't make me apprehensive. I'm interested in doing films that I will be proud of when I get old."

Aditya Yadav



Arshad Warsi

Had resigned myself to a quiet retirement: Zeenat

@thezeenataman



Zeenat Aman

Reflecting on a busy year, Zeenat Aman shared a long post on the weekend, reminiscing about her initial retirement plans. The veteran actress wrote, "Spending the last few mornings of 2024 relishing the Bombay chill, accompanied by my trusty shadow Lily (her pup). I've been quiet on here, but my what a busy year it's been... Two years ago I had quite contentedly resigned myself to a quiet retirement with the odd job thrown in to temper the monotony. Now I find myself struggling to find a spare date on my calendar."

The post further read, "Such is the wheel of fortune! Take it from a veteran who's both scraped the depths of despair and tasted dizzying success. So... if things are looking bad for you, persevere."

TNN

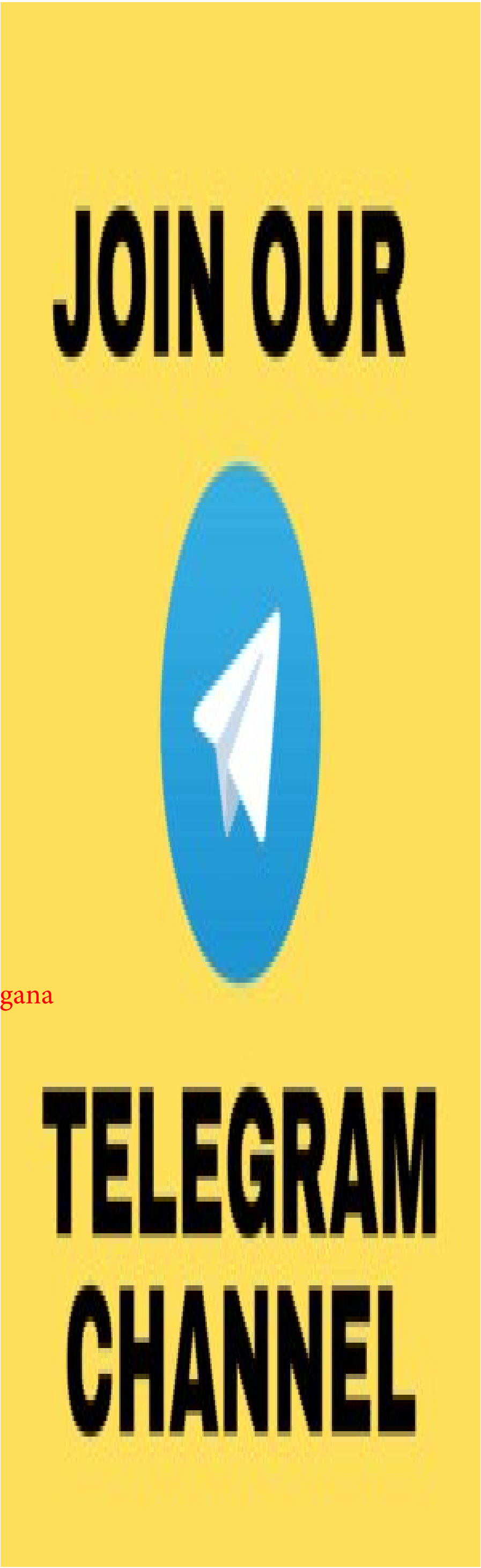
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