

BombayTimes

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025
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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE



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'Lohri signifies growth and new beginnings'

Shiv Gautam

Circling around the bonfire, enjoying traditional dishes like sarson ka saag with white butter... and everyone taking part in the preparation of the food - that is how I have celebrated Lohri since childhood

SHEHNAAZ GILL



Jaspreet Nijher

As the winter chill peaks in north India, Shehnaaz Gill, who is currently shooting for her Punjabi film in Chandigarh, is wrapped up in the Lohri

fervour. In a chat, the actress-singer talks to us about celebrating the festival with her loved ones, embracing renewal and looking ahead with optimism. "This Lohri is renewing me in every way," she shares.

CONTINUED ON 3

THIS LOHRI, I WILL MISS MAA KE HAATH KA KHAANA: RAKUL

Onkar Kulkarni

It's her first Lohri post *shaadi*, and Rakul Preet Singh, who tied the knot with Jacky Bhagnani in February 2024, is excited to celebrate the festival with the family she's married into. The actress exclusively posed for us dressed in traditional finery and spoke about the many memories associated with the festival and how she plans to celebrate it this year.

CONTINUED ON 4

On Lohri, I always remember the celebrations we would have as kids with our grandparents... We would have a big bonfire on the terrace or lawn, which was perfect as it would be very cold in Delhi



Buzzstop

COURT EXEMPTS ALLU ARJUN FROM WEEKLY POLICE VISITS



Allu Arjun has been granted relief by a district court in Hyderabad from the condition that required him to appear before the police every Sunday. This stipulation was part of the conditional bail granted to him in connection with the *Pushpa 2* screening stampede case. The court accepted the actor's plea that weekly appearances posed security risk, while emphasising that he must cooperate with the ongoing investigation. Allu has also been permitted to travel abroad as part of the revised bail conditions. TNN

@realpz

Preity Zinta

Grateful that we are safe as of now: Preity on LA wildfire

Preity Zinta, who lives in LA with husband Gene Goodenough, addressed the devastation that has consumed the city. In a post on X, the actress wrote, "I never thought I would live to see a day where fires would ravage neighbourhoods around us in LA, friends and families either evacuated or put on high alert, ash descending from smoggy skies like snow and fear and uncertainty about what will happen if the wind does not calm down with toddlers and grandparents with us. I'm heartbroken at the devastation around us and grateful to god that we are safe as of now. My thoughts and prayers to people that are displaced and have lost everything in these fires. Hope the wind dies down soon and the fires are contained. A big thank you to the fire department, fire fighters and everyone else helping to save lives and property. Stay safe everyone."

@backgrid_usa

Meghan and Harry visit wildfire victims

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, visited California to help distribute food and supplies to victims of the Eaton Fire on Friday. The couple connected with the affected families, as per *People*.



Angelina Jolie with son Knox aid wildfire victims

Angelina Jolie and son Knox were seen shopping for supplies to assist those affected by the devastating fires. "Right now, I'm taking care of people close to me and having them at my house," Jolie said.



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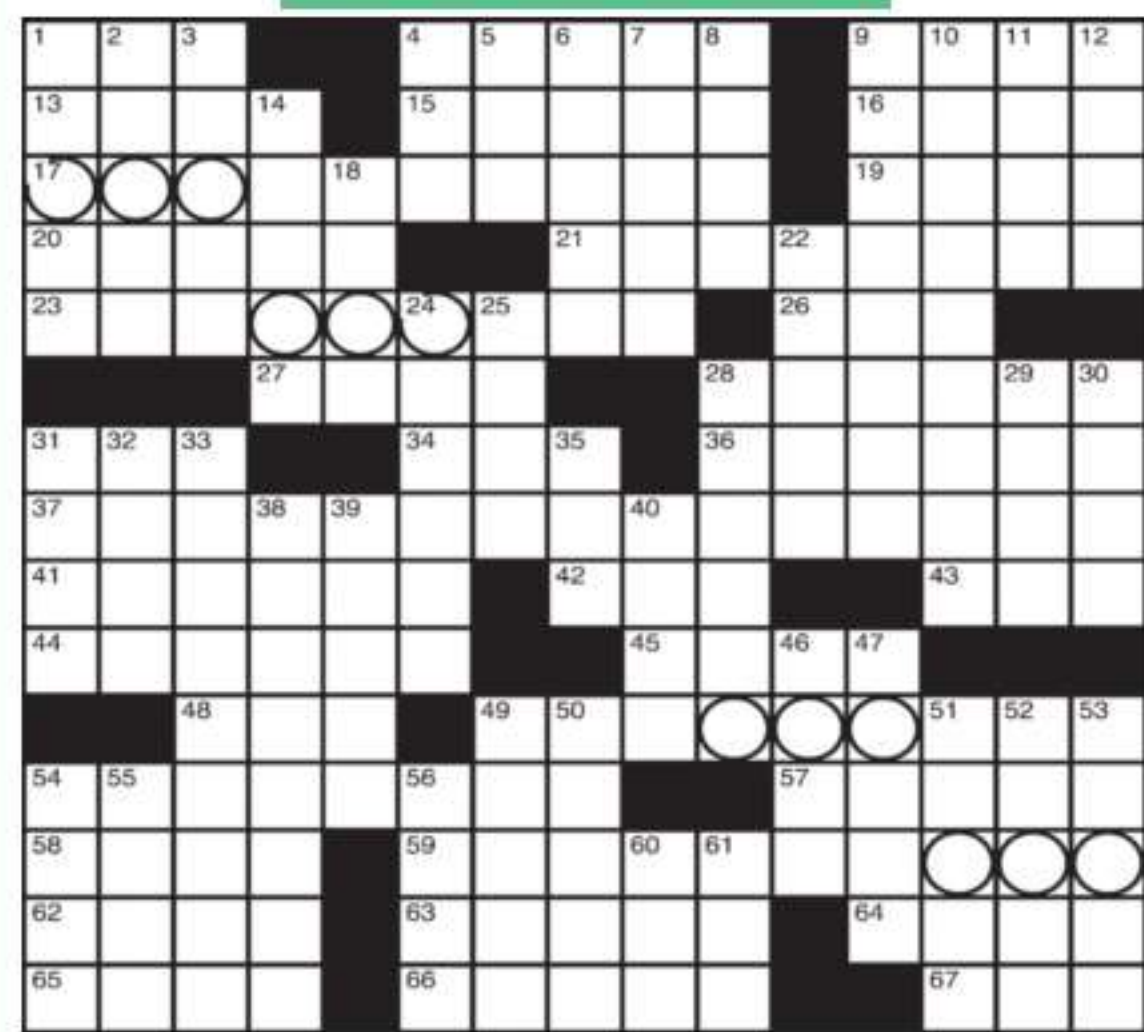
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THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Christina Bodensiek, Lydia Roth, & Geoffrey Schorkopf 13/01/2025

ACROSS

- 1 U.K. TV network
- 4 More than capable
- 9 Leave damaged
- 13 Hard to find
- 15 Old-school, but cool
- 16 Like takeout meals
- 17 Defiant retort to a vague threat
- 19 Regrets
- 20 Peak performance on the field
- 21 Superficially attractive thing
- 23 Compilations of acting clips
- 26 That fella's
- 27 Costco rival, familiarity
- 28 Many a business on a Napa Valley tour
- 31 Female pig
- 34 Pro's opposite
- 36 Pilot Earhart
- 37 Experimental music genre, and what can be found in this puzzle's circled letters?
- 41 Country singer Underwood
- 42 16th pres.
- 43 Hi-__ monitor
- 44 Nondairy milk source
- 45 Coup d'__
- 48 Possessed
- 49 "Out of the office" email message, often
- 54 Attention-grabbing advertisement
- 57 Chronic struggle
- 58 New Haven Ivy
- 59 Quality-over-quantity axiom
- 62 Billie Eilish's "Happier Than __"
- 63 Weak-__: cowardly
- 64 Mark on a dalmatian's coat
- 65 Detective Monaghan in Laura Lippman

DOWN

- 1 Covering a wide scope
- 2 Canal vessel
- 3 Alfredo sauce ingredient
- 4 "___ you serious?"
- 5 Dawn droplets
- 6 Neighbor of Lucy and Ricky
- 7 Performs salah, e.g.
- 8 Canvas bag
- 9 Kitchen colander
- 10 Summer camp staffer
- 11 ___ like milk: looked bad in hindsight
- 12 Flushed
- 14 "___ World": "Sesame Street" segment
- 18 Repeated word in a Doris Day hit
- 22 Doorbell sound
- 24 Roasted, hosted, or toasted
- 25 Spanish "those"
- 28 Greet from afar

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

LAURENCE ENCAGED
AIRBALL
TRIUMPH
SHANT CENAC ZIN
TAC SHARE STOPS
SIAM EKED ROSE
ROOKIEMISTAKES
BOSTONPOPS
TECHSTARTUPS
UGLI STENO NSA
LOOTS STAR SPOIL
ITS EFILER EDNA
PRESTON SEALEGS
SITTING TEDTALK
POUNDS LESLEA

novels
66 T-bone, for one
67 Pt. of GPS

29 ___ and beans
30 Chatters on and on
31 "Adopt, don't shop" org.

32 Like some thermometers
33 Hypothetical space-time shortcuts
35 Org. that oversees a cryptologic museum
38 Dad jokes, often
39 Melon discards
40 Skeptical scoff
46 Upper limbs
47 Is life (with)
49 Professional dealmaker
50 "Ugh, I'll never be able to ___ that!"
51 Sits (down)
52 "Sleigh Ride" composer Anderson
53 Throws away, slangily
54 Russian refusal
55 Roof overhang
56 Varieties
60 Poseidon's realm
61 "No clue," for short

Planning to go kite-flying? Follow these skincare tips



Pics: iStock

Shikha Shah

Makar Sankranti is all about fun, food and spending hours under the open sky, but your skin often ends up paying the price. "Sun protection is essential. A lightweight, non-comedogenic, sweat-resistant sunscreen with at least SPF 50 is a must-have. The breeze during Makar Sankranti can be harsh as well, so keep a cooling mist handy for quick hydration," suggests Mehr Broca, founder of a skincare brand.

Using aloe vera gel is a good option as it is a rich source of vitamins A, C, and E and acts as an excellent natural skin conditioner

- Dr Rinky Kapoor, skincare expert

Choose a sunscreen with broad-spectrum protection. Don't just stop at your face, cover every exposed area

- Abhishek Yadav, director of a luxury skincare brand

Post-Makar Sankranti care

Once the celebrations wind down, focus on repairing the damage. "Start with a gentle cleanser to remove dirt and sweat. Follow it up with a hydrating sheet mask or serum packed with hyaluronic acid or aloe vera. They help soothe sunburns and restore moisture. If your skin feels extra sensitive, skip the heavy-duty exfoliators for a few days," suggests Abhishek Yadav. Broca adds, "To soothe your skin, wrap an ice cube in a soft cloth and massage your skin gently. It'll leave you fresh and ready for another day of celebrations."



Aloe vera gel is a great natural skin conditioner



Use a sheet mask to soothe sunburns

Apply a moisturiser before going to bed

Healthy skin is the result of a proper skincare routine. "Applying a moisturiser or gel before sleep allows the skin to heal overnight and become less susceptible to harsh weather conditions. Use natural remedies that are harmless. Fruit and vegetable peels can help moisturise your skin without damaging it. Even showering with mild soap can protect your skin," says skincare expert Dr Rinky Kapoor.

It's reunion season and everyone's invited

Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino, playing twin losers in the road-trip classic *Romy And Michele's High School Reunion*, borrow a Jaguar sedan and tell their batch mates a bizarre lie - that they invented the Post-It note. It's just one of the many desperate things they do to fit into the universe they would have happily left behind.

It's a sentiment that feels familiar. After all, it is that time of the year, when many of us will either face our worst fears or relive our fondest memories. Depending on how we spent the most colourful years of our lives.

High school and college reunions, almost always, elicit mixed responses. From the incredulous: 'Are you mad?' to 'Of course, I will!' And everything in between. And while there is no official data on this, it could be safe to assume that even for those who do RSVP in the affirmative, there would be a fair amount of panic attacks mixed with jovial all-encompassing joie de vivre as D-Day draws near.



There has always been a certain anxiety about school reunions (more so over the college ones). On one hand, there is that pervasive need to hold up our lives against that of celebs, friends, peers, even family. On the other, there are those awkward moments as spouses and exes meet, and notes exchanged on chapters that you would rather not revisit.

The most daunting aspect of reunions is the possibility of being 'judged' based on past selves, and an assessment of recent 'achievements' - a busy LinkedIn profile, an up-scale home, a startup to your name and kids doing summer camps in Europe perhaps? It is a report card which many of us could do without.

But then again, this could be the exact therapy we need: to face these fears, once and for all. Like farewells, reunions tend to be bittersweet. The bitter bit cannot always be changed. The sweetness lingers in the carrying-on, in the despite-whatever, in the right spirit.

If nothing else, there would always be those silly, laugh-aloud moments, blurry group photos and the sweet mist of nostalgia to hold on to.

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

SCRAMBLE

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

SSAIO
GYILN
IKTGHN
EEOVW

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

Marriages, like careers, need constant nurturing... the secret of ___ it all is ___ it all - Joyce Brothers (6,6)

FINOLEX FORTUNE

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

ARIES: People will enlighten you, making a significant impact on your life. Be cautious, however, as you could be misled about what is rightfully yours, leading to potential losses. Financial matters may feel restrictive, but a shift in attitude could lead to positive transformation.

TAURUS: Fun and enjoyment are on the way, but be mindful of self-destructive behaviours disguised as fun. Question your values and rights, and take this time to organise your affairs.

GEMINI: You may face challenges in both your personal and professional life. However, this is an ideal time to plan for the future and get organised, particularly in your communications. This could be one of the more difficult days, but it's an opportunity to lay the groundwork for progress.

CANCER: Bold, decisive action will help you consolidate your aspirations and achieve impressive results. This is an excellent time for creativity and exploring new leisure activities. Spiritual connections could also play a key role.

LEO: Change is constant, and you may soon realise that decisions made earlier were based on incomplete information. New insights will allow you to reassess your situation and lay a stronger foundation for future security.

VIRGO: Beware of knee-jerk reactions that could prevent you from seizing

lucrative opportunities. Now is a time to reflect on how certain people have impacted your life, and whether those influences have been beneficial or not. Focus on finding the ideal job and improving your health.

LIBRA: Take your opinions seriously today - your silence or overly diplomatic remarks could inadvertently endorse something you don't support. Financial opportunities may arise, especially if you collaborate with a business partner.

SCORPIO: You'll instinctively know you've found your life's purpose. Focus on improvements in your work and health, and take time to rest when needed. You'll be able to identify what changes are necessary for better fulfillment.

SAGITTARIUS: A timely call or email could bring practical, helpful advice. You may feel more comfortable as changes occur, especially in your work life. You may have to confront your tendency to see the darker side of things, but the new path will feel right.

CAPRICORN: Lingering dissatisfaction with authority figures may reach a turning point now. Unexpected financial surprises may arise, encouraging you to take some risks. A deeper understanding of your life's purpose may also emerge.

AQUARIUS: Honour your duty in work-related situations, even if they're uncomfortable. Stand your ground and let others express their emotions. This is a time to make bold career moves and consider innovative approaches to your direction.

PISCES: It's your last chance to address any boundary issues in your relationships. Reflect on whether the dynamics are helping or hindering your goals. Take responsibility for your role in these relationships, and decide if you need to make changes.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

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

HOW TO PLAY

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

TIMES HITORI

HOW TO PLAY

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

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

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 dead end (Fig B).

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GARFIELD

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY IMPROVE A DAY LIKE TODAY?

ARCHIE

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FINAL BELL TO RING EACH DAY!

NEITHER CAN I!

IT MEANS I CAN GET HOME AND START STUDYING!

FOR THE SMARTEST KID IN SCHOOL, THERE ARE SOME CONCEPTS HE JUST DOESN'T GRASP!

SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings:

- 14-average!
- 16-good!
- 18-outstanding

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

C L
E I M
T A

DENNIS THE MENACE

"NOW IF YOU COULD JUST PILE IT ALL IN THE SHAPE OF A SNOWMAN... THAT'D BE GREAT!"

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

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

LOOP THE LOOP

TIMES HITORI

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

SPELLATHON

Words: mil, mile, time, life, time, mile, mile, tail, life, time

SCRAMBLE

Words: basis, lying, knight, evolve, the secret of having it all is loving it all - Joyce Brothers

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Lohri is a feast that brings everyone together: Shehnaaz

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CONTINUED FROM K 1

'IT'S ABOUT TRADITION AND TOGETHERNESS'

"Lohri marks the end of the winter harvest season for people in the villages of Punjab," Shehnaaz shares. "It's a time when friends, family, and neighbours gather around the bonfire. We dance, laugh and share special food like *til ke laddoo*, *bugga*, *gajak*, *revadi*, popcorn and peanuts. It's a feast that brings everyone together. Circling around the bonfire, enjoying traditional dishes like *sarson ka saag* with white butter, often prepared by my mom or *maasi*, and everyone taking part in the preparation of the food – that is how I have celebrated Lohri since childhood," she adds.

'LOHRI IS ABOUT GROWTH'

"Lohri, to me, is like the New Year," she says, adding, "The bonfire symbolises more than just warmth; it represents a cleansing fire where we let go of past grievances and negativity. As an artiste, I

strive to surround myself with positivity and carefully consider the projects I take on. So, Lohri signifies growth and embracing new beginnings."

'PATIENCE IS MY MANTRA NOW'

Looking ahead in her career in 2025, Shehnaaz, whose last Bollywood project was the sizzling dance number *Sajna Ve Sajna* from the film *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, shares her newfound perspective and says, "I am getting a lot of offers, but quality is of utmost importance to me now. I've learned to be patient, waiting for the perfect script that aligns with my vision. I am running a marathon and aiming for longevity in the industry with meaningful work. I am in no rush to get somewhere."

She adds, "In this journey, I have time on my side. I'm here for the long haul, making deliberate choices that resonate with my aspirations and values, and with my film, you will get to see that. This Lohri is renewing me in every way, personally and professionally."



Yami Gautam in a still from *Uri: The Surgical Strike*

Pallavi Sharma was a dream come true role for me: Yami on six years of Uri

Yami Gautam is marking six years of the hit film *Uri: The Surgical Strike*. In a post, the actress talked about the character she played and wrote in a post, "*Uri: The Surgical Strike* celebrated more than we can think – the valour of the Indian army, the spirit of our

nation and the power of cinema. It was an honour for me to be a part of a gem like this which continues to be celebrated. Pallavi Sharma was a dream come true role for me and to be able to portray another fine female character was truly a blessing. Beyond grateful for all your love."



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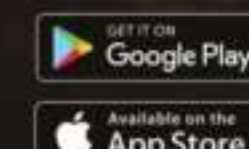
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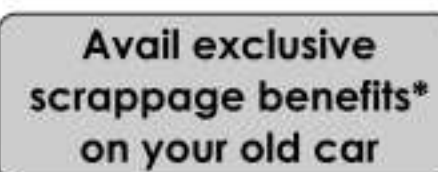
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Pics: Tejas Kudtarkar

Location: Papa Pancho Da Dhaba, Bandra West

I CAN'T DO GIDDA, BUT I CAN DO BHANGRA: RAKUL

RAKUL PREET SINGH



Jackky is a dilkhush Punjabi... he is more like khule dil khaana peena. I have also taught him some Punjabi words like khota, siyapa and meesana. That has become our language



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

'EVERY FESTIVAL IS ABOUT GETTING THE FAMILY TOGETHER'

Rakul says, "Every festival is about getting the family together and enjoying the festivities. Today, on Lohri, I am looking forward to spending time with my family. I am going to miss my *maa ke haath ka khaana*. There is some magic in mom-made food. Every time I visit my parents in Delhi, I tell my mom what to cook for breakfast, lunch and dinner, so I can relish it to the fullest," says Rakul, who loves indulging in *garma-garam sarson ka saag* and *makhi ki roti* on this occasion.

'JACKKY IS A DILKHUSH PUNJABI'

The *De De Pyaar De* actress shares that her husband Jackky, who is Sindhi, is more Punjabi than she is. "My brother (Aman Preet) always jokes that Jackky is Punjabi and I am Sindhi. I, too, think that Jackky is a *dilkhush* Punjabi... he is more like *khule dil khaana peena*. I have also taught him some Punjabi words like *khota* (silly), *siyapa* (problem) and *meesana* (cunning). That has become our language when we have to communicate something when others are present," she says.



There is some magic in mom-made food. Every time I visit my parents in Delhi, I tell my mom what to cook for breakfast, lunch and dinner

'LOHRI REMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD CELEBRATIONS WITH MY GRANDPARENTS'

Rakul gets nostalgic and fondly remembers her childhood memories of celebrating Lohri in her Delhi home. She recalls, "On Lohri, I always remember the celebration we would have as kids with our grandparents. We used to sing songs like *Sunder Mundriye*, and in return, they would give us gifts and money. My brother and I would compete to see who gets the most gifts. We would have a big bonfire on the terrace or lawn, which was perfect as it would be very cold in Delhi."

'REMEMBER SHOOTING FOR AIYAARY ON LOHRI'

During all these years, even with a busy working schedule, the actress has mostly tried to be home during the festival. However, she recounts the time when she celebrated Lohri on a film set. "I remember shooting for *Aiyaary* (2018) on Lohri. We had a bonfire on set and threw *moongfali*, *gud* and other things into the fire as offerings," she says. Talking about the custom of dancing around the bonfire, she adds, "I can't do *gidda*, maybe I can see others and copy a step or two, but yes, I can do *bhanga*."

Tiku Talsania suffers brain stroke, admitted to Mumbai hospital



Tiku Talsania, known for his comic roles in movies like *Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin*, *Andaz Apna Apna* and *Raja Hindustani*, is has been admitted to a hospital in Mumbai. Earlier, reports had suggested that the 70-year-old actor had suffered a heart attack, but now it has

been revealed that he suffered a brain stroke. Talsania was attending a film screening on Friday night when he started feeling unwell and was rushed to the hospital. The actor was last seen in *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, which also featured Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri.

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