

Shreyas Talpade



My father taught me to fly kites: Shreyas

Onkar Kulkarni

Shreyas Talpade is immersed in the festive fervour. On Makar Sankranti, the actor reminisces about his childhood days of flying kites and his annual Sankranti rituals. "My father enjoyed flying kites and collecting unique ones. He taught me to fly kites and there was no way I could match up to him. *Hum bachpan mein pech ladate thay aur agar kisi ki patang kat jaye, toh woh patang ko apne patang ke saath kaise connect karke lana hai woh bhi aata tha.* We lived in a joint family, so all the cousins would go on the terrace and fly kites all day on Makar Sankranti," he says. Talking about how he celebrates the festival, he shares, "Every year, my childhood friends and I try to meet in our old building to fly kites on this day. Everyone comes with their families, so it's like a big party with good food and kite flying."

Every year, my childhood friends and I try to meet in our old building to fly kites on this day. Everyone comes with their families, so it's like a big party with good food and kite flying



My mom-in-law is hosting a function on Makar Sankranti: Shrenu Parikh

This will be my first Makar Sankranti with Akshay (actor-husband Akshay Mhatre) after marriage, so my mom-in-law is hosting a *haldi-kumkum* function at home. Akshay and I will be wearing black outfits, and I will be wearing edible jewellery for this function. Basically, women will bless us, and delicious snacks will be served. After the function, everyone says, "Til gud ghya goad goad bola."

KITE FIGHTS, UNDHIYU PARTIES: TV CELEBS SHARE SANKRANTI PLANS

Soumitra Das and Kanksha Vasavada

The skies are all set to witness the battle of colourful kites today. And while there's a lot of excitement around flying kites on Makar Sankranti, the occasion is also about feasting on traditional delicacies like *tilgud*, *gulachi poli* and *undhiyu*. We speak to celebrities, who talk about their fond memories about Sankranti and how they're celebrating the festival today.

I miss celebrating the festival in Vadodara: Manav Gohil

It has been a while since I celebrated the festival in Vadodara, and I really miss it. The celebrations in Mumbai can't match up to the way we used to celebrate back home. Even my daughter Zahra loves celebrating in Vadodara and last year, she was there during the festival. While I was growing up, I would start flying kites in December itself. Uttarayan used to be a never-ending party with friends, good food and music.

CONTINUED ON 3

TURN TO PAGE 3 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KAI PO CHE CONTEST



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How to: Soothe a sore throat during winter

STAY HYDRATED

Drink plenty of fluids, such as water, tea and soup, to help thin out mucus and keep your throat moist.

HONEY, LEMON AND GINGER TEA

Mix a spoonful of honey with warm water or tea to create a soothing drink. You can also mix equal parts lemon juice and honey with warm water to create a soothing drink. Add sliced ginger for extra benefits.

SALT WATER GARGLE
Gargle with warm saltwater several times



a day to reduce swelling and kill bacteria.

AVOID SPICY OR ACIDIC FOODS

Avoid eating foods that can irritate your throat, such as spicy or acidic foods.

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 3 6)
6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

TIMES HITORI

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

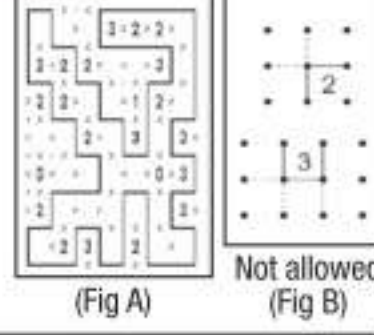
8	5	7	3	5	4	6
4	5	1	6	7	6	5
2	5	7	1	5	4	6
5	6	2	4	3	7	6
2	7	5	1	7	2	7
1	6	6	4	3	5	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	7
8	4	5	2	3	5	7

Example

LOOP THE LOOP

RULES

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

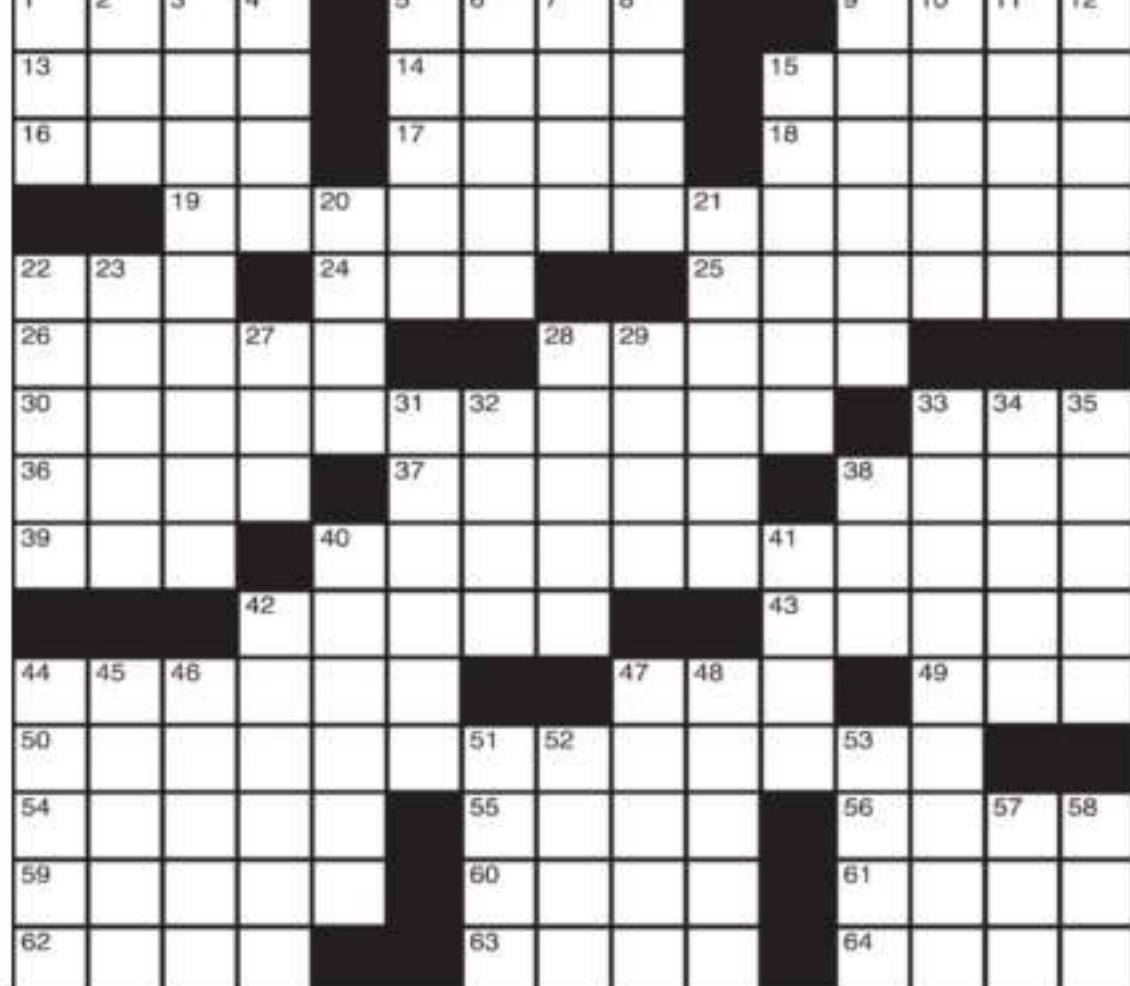


HOW TO BEGIN:

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).

THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By Michael Hobin

14/01/2025

ACROSS

- 1 Gyro bread
5 Letters that start some URLs
9 Sunny window spot for a cat
13 Japanese noodle
14 Toledo's lake
15 What "two" meant to Paul Revere
16 Barnes & Noble purchase
17 Levi's alternatives
18 Map detail
19 Venue where a fair trial is impossible
22 Mex. neighbor
24 Feedbag morsel
25 Overnight flight
26 Polite denial
28 Exchanges
30 Destinations for some bargain hunters
33 Fan setting
36 "Ghostbusters" director Reitman
37 1990s fitness fad
38 Peru's "City of Kings"
39 Vietnamese New Year
40 Half-baked scheme
42 French cap
43 Precipice
44 "Star Trek" character whose first name is Hikaru
47 Isn't without
49 Not great
50 Fried egg-and-bread breakfast dish
54 "Give me the car keys"
55 Ancient alphabetic character
56 Killer whale
59 Showers love (on)
60 Highlander of ancient Peru
61 Private nonprofits: Abbr.
62 Admin. aide
63 Gave the thumbs-up

Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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13/01/2025

- 64 Breakfast chain known for flapjacks, or what the first part of 19-, 30-, 40-, or 50-Across might say?
DOWN
1 Trivia night venue
2 Wedding promise
3 Couldn't stand it anymore?
4 Crooner Paul
5 Hagar the Horrible's wife
6 Special reward
7 Wedding cake layer
8 Mexican money
9 Religious councils
10 Time of the week?
11 Suspicious (of)
12 Hot drink with foam art
15 Muscles shown off by muscle tees
20 Standard
21 Memorable speaker
22 Ill-suited
23 Find a solution for
27 "The Vampire Diaries" actor Somerhalder
28 Shooting sport with clay pigeons
29 NASA telescope launched in 2021
31 Galloping
32 Like a steak with a very red center
33 "Gift From the Sea" writer Anne Morrow
34 Counterpart to alpha
35 Sauntered through the surf
38 Tell it like it isn't
40 Greek god of the sun
41 As well
42 Part of a financial plan
44 Crete peak: Abbr.
45 Caramel-filled treats
46 Seasons, as pasta water
47 Therefore
48 Winning
51 Group of three
52 Big piece
53 Actress
57 Murrum
58 Nile reptile

Level: Medium SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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

HOW TO PLAY

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

SCRAMBLE

SVAAE					
HORST					
AFIMNY					
EOOSPX					

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

Where facts are few, are _____ Donald R. Gannon (7...4)

SPELLATHON

Today's Ratings: 07-average! 08-good! 110-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.



DENNIS THE MENACE



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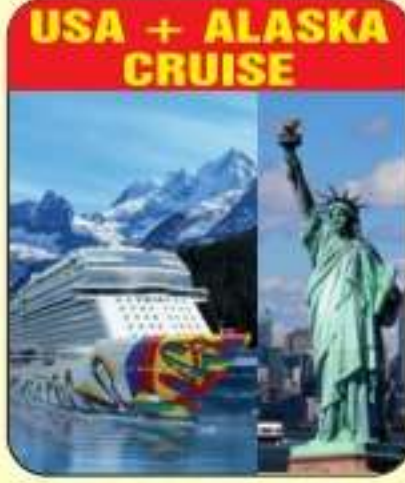
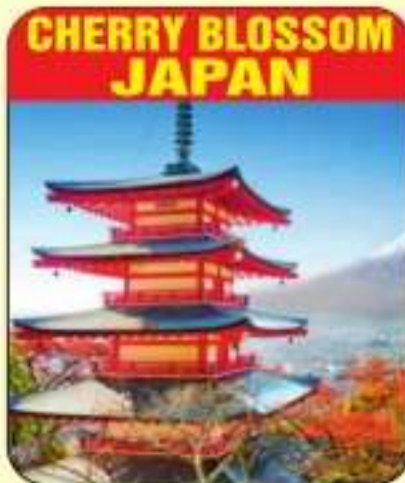
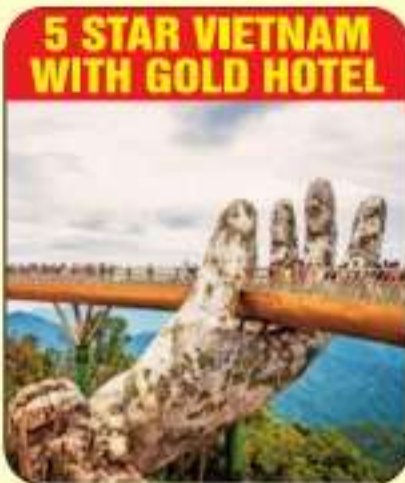
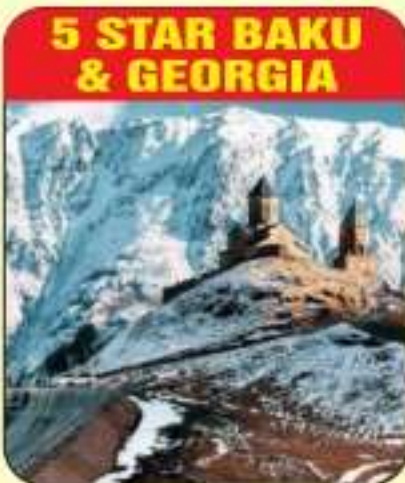
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FINOLEX FORTUNE



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

VIRGO: Pay attention to your health now, exercise and spend time on a fitness regime. Manage your responsibilities with a mix of creativity and careful planning. To truly understand others, observe more than speculate. Today is your day - your natural energy will shine through in conversations that spark new ideas.

LIBRA: Plan for a spiritual trip, it shall be quite relaxing. You may feel overwhelmed by your workload, but it's also a good time for relaxation and self-care. Big plans are on the horizon - it's time for action.

SCORPIO: It's time to start making changes. Focused and patient, you're ready to tackle work that demands attention to detail. Make grown-up decisions today and put your fresh ideas into action.

SAGITTARIUS: There's a surge of energy to push your work forward and you could make key connections. New ideas are waiting to be implemented, and a business strategy you've been planning looks set to succeed. It's also a good time for relaxation and fun.

CAPRICORN: You may feel a special connection with young people or feel inspired to create a work program for them. Communication is key today, so express yourself clearly. Listen to your body and take time to rest - your goals are within reach.

AQUARIUS: Use your energy to strike good deals today. Pay attention to intuitive nudges, as something beneficial is coming your way. You may feel stuck at work, but encourage your colleagues to see the positive aspects of their current tasks.

PISCES: Take charge of your schedule and focus on career matters. Intuition may guide you to comfort and reassurance in the midst of changes. Enjoy meaningful conversations, but don't let emotions take a back seat to logic.

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU

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

LOOP THE LOOP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13											
16											
19											
22											
25											
28											
31											
34											
37											
40											
43											
46											
49											
52											
55											
58											
61											
64											

TIMES HITORI

4	2	1	8	6	9
5	1	9	6	8	
6	6	7	2	9	1
7	1	9	7	8	
8	6	4	7	2	9
9	5	1	2	1	9
10	9	8	6	4	5
11	5	4	9	1	2
12	7				

SPELLATHON
Answer: Where facts are few, experts are many
- Donald R. Gannon

SCRAMBLE
Words: Eaves, short, infamy, expose
- Donald R. Gannon

Kite-flying, haldi-kumkum: Celebs set for Makar Sankranti

CONTINUED FROM C 1



I used to get my manjha made by an expert: Jay Soni

I take a day off for these two days whenever I am shooting. As a child, I lived in Navsari (Gujarat) and used to get my manjha made by a specialist. Puri raat jaag ke minimum 40 kites ke kinya bandhte the. Now I celebrate the festival in Mumbai and have continued my tradition of reaching the terrace early in the morning, with speakers, kites and manjha. My morning starts with fadfa-jalebi and khaman and then umbadiyu. Throughout the day, we keep munching on bor, chikki, mamra laddoo and til ke laddoo as energy sources to ensure that I shout "lapet" the loudest (laughs).

I get very competitive during kite fights every year, but mujhe sabse zyada maza luti hui patang udane mein aata hai

—Jay Soni

As I'm working on Makar Sankranti, I'll go with my dabba of tilguls for my friends on set

—Sai Tamhankar



I would help my friends make kites: Sai Tamhankar

While I hardly flew kites myself, I would help my friends make kites. We would dress up in traditional clothes and go door-to-door visiting neighbours and teachers to distribute tilguls. This year I am going to be working on Makar Sankranti, so I will go with my dabba of tilguls for my friends on set.

I visit Ahmedabad every year on Uttarayan: Manasi Parekh

For years, I have visited Ahmedabad to celebrate Uttarayan and we spend all day flying kites, having chikkis and til ke laddoo, which we continue even on Vasi Uttarayan (January 15). I enjoy the spirit of the festival in Ahmedabad as the entire sky is filled with colourful kites. This year, I am shooting on both days, so I shall miss the festival, but my mother and daughter Nirvi will celebrate it there.



Manasi Parekh says she'll miss celebrating the festival in Gujarat this year

I enjoy the spirit of the festival in Ahmedabad as the entire sky is filled with colourful kites —Manasi Parekh

I cherish the tradition of haldi-kumkum during Sankranti: Sonali Kulkarni

During my childhood in Pune, the tradition of flying kites wasn't as prevalent as it is in Mumbai. Instead, we celebrated Makar Sankranti with different customs. We'd distribute til-gud, and my mom would make til-gudachi wadi, kadak laddoo and soft ones, too. I enjoyed gulachi poli, a dish I've mastered thanks to my mother. Another tradition I cherish is haldi-kumkum, where women would host gatherings, exchange vaan — small, useful items like spoons, matchboxes or blouse pieces as tokens of appreciation. I still follow this tradition. What makes Sankranti unique is its celebration of the colour black... a rarity in Indian festivals.

—Inputs by Onkar Kulkarni



What makes Sankranti unique is its celebration of the colour black... a rarity in Indian festivals

—Sonali Kulkarni

Tiku Talsania recuperating post health scare

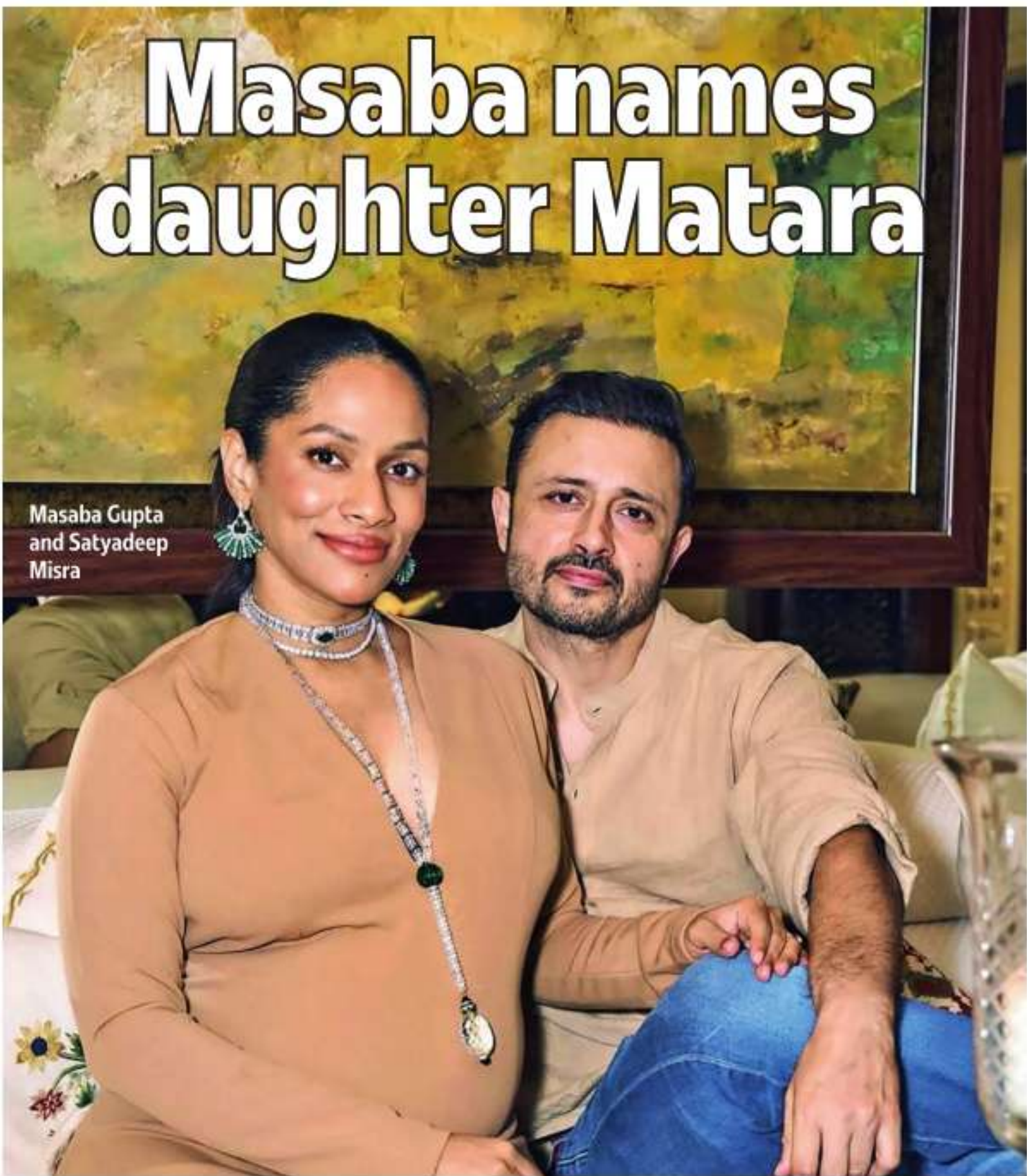


The actor was last seen in the 2024 family comedy Vichy Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video

Tiku Talsania is doing much better and recuperating well at a Mumbai hospital, his daughter and actor Shikha Talsania said on Sunday. Sharing an update about the Hungama actor's health, Shikha Talsania thanked fans and wrote, "It's been an emotional time for all of us but we are happy to share that dad is doing much better now and he is recuperating well. We are grateful to the doctors and staff at the hospital for everything that they have done and to his fans for all the love that's come our way in abundance."

PTI

Background: Reports of Tikur Talsania's hospitalisation started doing the rounds on social media on Saturday. Earlier, it was reported that the 70-year-old actor suffered a heart attack, but his wife Deepti Talsania later told the media that he had a brain stroke.






Masaba names daughter Matara

Masaba Gupta and Satyadeep Misra

Masaba Gupta, who recently welcomed her first child with Satyadeep Misra in October, revealed her daughter's name. In an Instagram post, the designer-actor wrote, "3 months with my Matara. The name embodies the divine feminine energies of 9 Hindu goddesses, celebrating their strength and wisdom. Also, the star of our eyes (sic)."










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Bollywood tunes in to the Sankranti vibe



RAJVAADI ODHNI, KALANK (2019)

Rajvaadi Odhni, filmed on Alia Bhatt in Kalank, and sung beautifully by Jonita Gandhi, has a Sankranti vibe to it. Written by Amitabh Bhattacharya and composed by Pritam, the song has a vibrant and upbeat tempo that makes you want to fly a kite.



UDI UDI JAYE, RAEES (2017)

Udi Udi Jaye, filmed on Shah Rukh Khan and Mahira Khan in Raees, and sung beautifully by Sukhwinder Singh, Bhoomi Trivedi and Karan Sagathia, has a festive vibe to it. The track portrays the tradition of kite-flying (in Gujarat) with colourful visuals, and it gradually proceeds into a garba session. The film also has an iconic dialogue by SRK: "Agar katne ka darr hota naa toh patang nahi udata, firki pakadta."



AMBARSARIYA, FUKREY (2013)

Ambarsariya, sung by Sona Mohapatra and composed by Ram Sampath, is a love ballad that went on to top charts. In the song, the kite plays an important role (that of a messenger) in Priya (Priya Anand) and Honey (Pulkit Samrat)'s blossoming love story.



MANJA, KAI PO CHE! (2013)

The film's title is based on the popular kite-flying catchphrase - kai po che. The chartbuster song Manja talks about how to rebuild faith in life. Penned by Swanand Kirkire, and composed and sung by Amit Trivedi and Mohan Kanan, it celebrates friendships and how to handle curveballs that life throws at you.



RUTH AA GAYEE RE, 1947: EARTH (1998)

In this song, Dilnawaz (Aamir Khan) teaches Shanta (Nandita Das) to fly a kite. In Deepa Mehta's period classic, set against the background of the partition, this celebratory number, sung by Sukhwinder Singh and composed by AR Rahman, captures the essence of Makar Sankranti perfectly.



DHEEL DE, HUM DIL DE CHUKE SANAM (1999)

This iconic Makar Sankranti track comes at a turning point in the film, right after Sameer (Salman Khan) kisses Nandini (Aishwarya Rai) on her hand. Giving due importance to the role of manjha in kite-flying, Dheel De De Re Bhaiya is the perfect track to challenge your buddies to a kite-flying war.

Ajith finishes third at Dubai racing event, celebs pour love

@ajithkumar_offil



Ajith Kumar re-started his motor racing career recently and debuted at 24H Dubai

Tamil actor Ajith Kumar, who is known for films such as *Valimai* and *Citizen*, finished third at the 24H Dubai racing event on Sunday. Last week, the actor had a crash during practice sessions, leaving fans worried. His recent win became a celebratory moment for fans and peers alike.

R Madhavan, who was present at the races, took to Instagram to share his excitement. The *3 Idiots* actor posted a picture of Ajith waving the Indian flag and wrote, "What a man... as he says 'DREAMS DO COME TRUE'... an incredible real HERO (sic)." Madhavan also shared a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the moment Ajith celebrated his win with fellow racers, calling it a "proud moment for India."

Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth also posted on X to congratulate Ajith. Meanwhile, Naga Chaitanya, who is a big racing fan, wrote on Insta, "Ajith sir!! What a journey what a win (sic)!"

TNN

Rajinikanth @rajinikanth
Congratulations my dear #AjithKumar. You made it. God bless. Love you.

What a man... as he says 'DREAMS DO COME TRUE'... an incredible real HERO
- R Madhavan

R Madhavan was present at Ajith's race and shared BTS pics from there



LA fires spark concern among Hollywood stars

My soul aches for those experiencing this devastation: Miley Cyrus



Beyonce to donate \$2.5 million to LA fire relief

Beyonce has come out to aid communities impacted by the deadly wildfires in Los Angeles. Her foundation has pledged to donate \$2.5 million (₹21.59cr approx) to help families rebuild after they've suffered devastating losses.

Miley Cyrus took to Instagram to share grief over the devastation that has consumed LA. In a post she wrote, "This image hits me hard in the heart today. This is a photo taken of my front porch in 2018 after losing our house in the Woolsey fires. It's a feeling you don't ever forget... My soul aches for those who are experiencing this devastation firsthand and I cry for my city. It's beyond heartbreaking. Los Angeles represents 'living the dream' but the reality today is wreckage and destruction."



Snoop Dogg gives out free clothes to wildfire victims

Snoop Dogg has stepped forward to support those affected by the wildfires. The rapper's clothing store has announced that it would offer free clothes to help victims. "We are devastated and send our condolences to those who have been affected by these fires. Please stop by and pick up some clothing that we have available to get you and your family through these trying times free of charge," the store's Instagram post read.

