

PANKAJ TRIPATHI

On Indian cinema's worldwide reach

HT

When we incorporate our culture in stories the right way, it goes global.

#Lifestyle

WHAT IS LIMERENCE AND WHY IS EVERYONE SUDDENLY TALKING ABOUT IT?

p 08

#Showbiz

MIDNIGHT MUSINGS

Cricketer Rishabh Pant's unfiltered midnight land plea sparks meme fest, evoking a response from Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dhami

p 01



#Lifestyle

BOOK LOVERS DAY: LITERATURE IS NOW A LUXE FASHION STATEMENT

p 08



Libra

A compatible match may enter your life unexpectedly.

p 08

#HTMS2026

DELHI GOES STYLISH

The who's who of cinema, fashion and politics arrived in style at the HT Most Stylish Awards

p 01



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Rishabh Pant's unfiltered midnight land plea sparks meme fest; CM responds



Rishabh Pant appears to have played a rather different kind of innings late on Friday night. In a string of unusually candid, typo-filled posts on X, the India wicketkeeper-batter appealed to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami for help in finding a piece of land in the state so he could shift his base from Delhi. Posting around 12.46am on Saturday, Pant said he had been trying for nearly three years to find suitable land in Uttarakhand. Expressing his desire to return to his roots, he said he wanted to live among his "Pahadi people" and contribute to the state's development.

It was his follow-up, however, that gave the internet plenty to work with. Pant said he was willing to buy the land, before cheekily adding that "a gift would be lovely". The late hour, loose phrasing and spelling errors quickly turned the exchange into meme fodder.

"Bhai, phone rakhi aur so ja," wrote one user, while another joked, "Bottle rakhi de Pant bhai, subah baat kar lena." Several others wondered what had prompted the unusually unfiltered midnight posts.

Dhami later responded to Pant, calling him the "pride of Uttarakhand" and saying officials had been directed to get in touch with him and provide assistance as per rules.

Rishabh Pant @RishabhPant17 · 11h
A gift would be lovely for representation out states at the highest level internationally stages but if you allow me I wanna buy it from Government and on there rates at least I can have my first house built in my own state and our state please be helpful. Seriously didn't know how to do it

Pushkar Singh Dhami @pushkardhami
Translated from Hindi Show original
Dear Rishabh, you are the pride of Uttarakhand. With your splendid performance and achievements, you have illuminated the name of Devbhoomi in the country and the world. Your love for your motherland and your sentiment of returning here to contribute are highly commendable.

STOP PRESS



Mumbai Police constable Ganesh Raite, 41, who was deployed outside actor Salman Khan's residence at Galaxy Apartments, died after suffering a suspected heart attack while on guard duty on Friday. According to the Free Press Journal, Raite was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. His body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, which will determine the exact cause of death.

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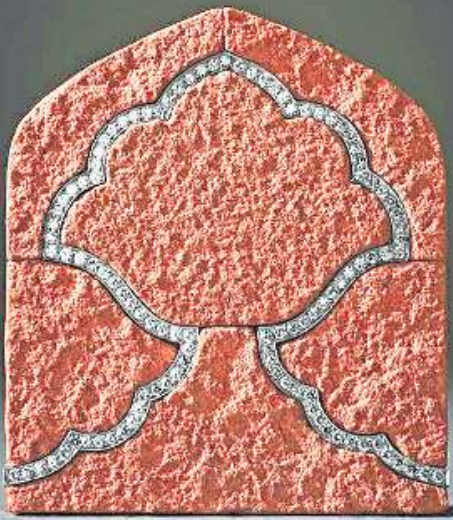
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Entertainment & Promotional Features

PHOTO: HTBS

Indian jeweller Bhagat's masterpiece finds a home in Houston



An original masterwork created by Indian jeweller BHAGAT, one of the world's most influential contemporary jewellery artists, has been acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA, as part of its permanent collection.

The one-of-a-kind Sandstone and Diamond Brooch designed by Viren Bhagat who runs the brand with his sons, Varun and Jay, blends Indian Mughal era architecture with European Art Deco jewellery design.

Crafted in Mumbai over eleven months, the brooch features a 2.5mm-thick slice of red sandstone sourced from Rajasthan, hand-carved into a Mughal arch, pierced by a precise

diamond-set platinum flower motif.

This marks the third time a major international museum has acquired BHAGAT's work, following similar acquisitions by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2024 and London's Victoria and Albert Museum in 2025.

Viren Bhagat says: "I have always been inspired by the richness of Indian architectural history and have a special affection for the colour and texture of red sandstone. It was a fascinating challenge to create a precious jewel using this humble material."

Gary Tinterow, director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: "As we have been fortunate to acquire some stunning examples of historical Indian jewellery, we felt that it was important to add to our collection a work created by India's top jeweller working today. The red sandstone, the shape of a jali, and the Mughal flower work together to create an unexpected evocation of India in miniature."

The brooch demonstrates how even non-precious materials can be elevated and rendered precious by a combination of brilliant design and exquisitely executed craftsmanship.

VIREN BHAGAT, Jeweller

PHOTO: HTCS

Shahnaz Husain attends India Couture Week 2026



Shahnaz Husain with designer Rahul Mishra

Shahnaz Husain, founder, chairperson and managing director of the Shahnaz Husain Group, marked her presence at the India Couture Week at Taj Palace, New Delhi, where she attended the much-anticipated showcase by couturier Rahul Mishra. The veteran beauty mogul appreciated the designer's visionary collection. She also interacted with leading designers, celebrities and industry luminaries at the event, which celebrated India's creative legacy.

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Chilean kiwis are available across India through leading fruit retailers and e-commerce platforms.



PHOTOS: HTCS

PHOTOS: SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA/HT

Tribal weaves take centre stage in Delhi

Aadrika Sominder

In a room filled with designers, craft practitioners and textile enthusiasts, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in association with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), marked the 12th National Handloom Day at the RISA flagship store in Delhi on Friday.

Inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Ranjana Chopra, the event brought together designers, craft practitioners

and textile enthusiasts from across the country.

The panel discussion themed 'What Makes Tribal Weaves Timeless?', explored how traditional knowledge can be preserved while creating contemporary design and new market opportunities.

The showcase further featured GI-tagged Kotpad cotton, Tussar, Eri and Muga silk, Toda and Dongria embroidery, alongside designer collections from Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla and Anju Modi, Warli and Gond art demonstrations, and a felicitation of tribal master artisans.



Ranjana Chopra and M Rajamurugan



Gaurang Shah, Gaurav Jai Gupta and Ramesh Menon



Jaya Jaitly and Anju Modi



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- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



Vidut Jammwal, Reshma and Bharat

Neil Nitin Mukesh and Siddharth P Malhotra

BHARAT AND RESHMA LAUNCH LUXE STUDIO IN MUMBAI



Manish Paul and Seema Singh

Designer duo Bharat and Reshma Grover, in collaboration with entrepreneur and philanthropist Seema Singh, have launched their new luxury menswear studio in Mumbai.

The studio's opening was attended by celebrities including Vidut Jammwal, Manish Paul, Karan Kundrra, Taha Shah Badussha, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Siddharth P Malhotra, Stebin Ben, Lakshmi Raai, and Salim Merchant.

The designers noted, "Mumbai has always celebrated creativity and luxury. We are excited to bring our couture journey to the city and offer designs that combine heritage craftsmanship with contemporary elegance."

The label already has a retail presence in Delhi, Gurugram, Bengaluru and Toronto, Canada.

For more details visit: www.bharatreshma.com; Instagram: @bharat_reshma



Lakshmi Raai



Karan Kundrra



Drishti Grover and Taha Shah Badussha



Stebin Ben and Suhana Grover

PHOTOS: RAAJESSH KASHYAP, MANOJ VERMA, SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA AND ANURAG MEHRA/ HT



Jacky Bhagnani received the 'Most Stylish Entrepreneur' award from Amit Goyal (L), MD, India Sotheby's International Realty



Riddhima Kapoor Sahni received the 'Breaking The Mould' award from industrialist Rahul Sharma (L)



Rakul Preet Singh received the 'Queen of Style' award from Sunil Sethi (L), Chairperson, FDCI



Shikhar Dhawan and Sophie Dhawan received the 'Most Stylish Couple' award from HGS Dhaliwal (L), special commissioner, Delhi Police, a former winner himself



Dhruv Oberoi received the 'Most Stylish Chef' award from journalist Vir Sanghvi (L)

Dr Jyotsna Suri, Chairperson & MD, LaLiT Suri Hospitality Group received the 'Most Stylish Hospitality Legend' award from Samudra Bhattacharya (L), CEO (Print), HT Media



JJ Valaya received the 'Most Stylish Forever' award from Aishwarya Bansal (R), Co-Founder, Smartworld Developers and former diplomat-author Lakshmi M Puri (L)



Shane and Falguni Peacock received the 'Most Stylish Couture Style Icons' award from Dr Payal Bansal Kanodia, Chairperson & Trustee, M3M Foundation and Chairperson, Paralympic Committee of India, along with model Sonalika Sahay (L)



Ambassador of Switzerland to India Maya Tissafi was announced as the winner of 'Most Stylish Diplomat' award. Sonja Isella, chargé d'affaires at Embassy of Switzerland received it on her behalf from communications consultant Dilip Cheria and Devi Cheria



Mannu Dosaj, founder, Gallerie Alternatives received 'Most Stylish Art Curator' award from designers Asha Gautam (C) and Renu Tandon (L)



Isha Jajodia, Founder and Creative Director, Roserom received 'Most Stylish Designer' award from designers Pawan Sachdev (C) and Payal Jain (L)



Designer Vidhi Singhania received 'Most Stylish Heritage Artist' award from golfer Neelam Pratap Rudy (L) and Neha Sharma (R), National Resident Editor, HT City



Isha Boran received the 'Most Stylish Content Creator' award from fashion designer Rina Dhaka (L)



Manish Malhotra received the 'Czar of Style' award from Sonal Kalra (L), Chief Managing Editor, Hindustan Times



Sudhir Chaudhary received the 'Most Stylish Media Personality (Male)' award from Anurag Thakur (R), Member of Parliament



Dr Ambarish Satwik received the 'Most Stylish Medic' award from fashion designer Leena Singh (L) and Dr Anupam Sibal (R)



Textile designer Sarita Handa was awarded the 'Most Stylish Textile Artist' award by designer Rahul Mishra (L). The trophy was received by her daughter, Suparna Handa

HT MOST STYLISH AWARDS
LUXURY PARTNER
India Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
An Initiative by HT City

HT Most Stylish 2026, with Luxury Partner India Sotheby's International Realty, brought the focus on panache and penchant of leading personalities from diverse fields

STYLE STEALS SPOTLIGHT



Amit Goyal, MD, India Sotheby's International Realty, with Riya Goyal, entrepreneur Vinamra Shastri, actor-producer Jacky Bhagnani, and actor Rakul Preet Singh

Fashion Design Council of India Chairperson Sunil Sethi with cricketer Shikhar Dhawan and Sophie Dhawan (C)



Communications consultant Dilip Cherian with Devi Cherian (L)



Author-journalist Seema Goswami and columnist-TV presenter Vir Sanghvi



Designers Manish Malhotra, Shane Peacock and Falguni Peacock

PHOTOS: RAAJESSH KASHYAP, MANOJ VERMA, SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA AND ANURAG MEHRA/ HT

BETWEEN AWARDS AND APPLAUSE

It was a star-studded Sunday at Taj Palace, New Delhi as titans from fashion, cinema, politics, sports, and business gathered to honour high style. Here's a look at the behind-the-scenes moments



Political commentator Shehzad Poonawalla and Member of Parliament Anurag Thakur



Designer Rahul Mishra

Emcees of the evening, actors Abhilash Thapliyal and Payleen Gujraal

Designer Payal Jain, businessman Manish Mehta, former Miss India Ruchitra Malhotra Makhni, designer Rina Dhaka, tech guru Rajiv Makhni, and artist Subodh Gupta



Decor stylist Swati Pandya curated a stunning ambience that defined the evening

Mother-son designer duo Gautam Gupta and Asha Gupta

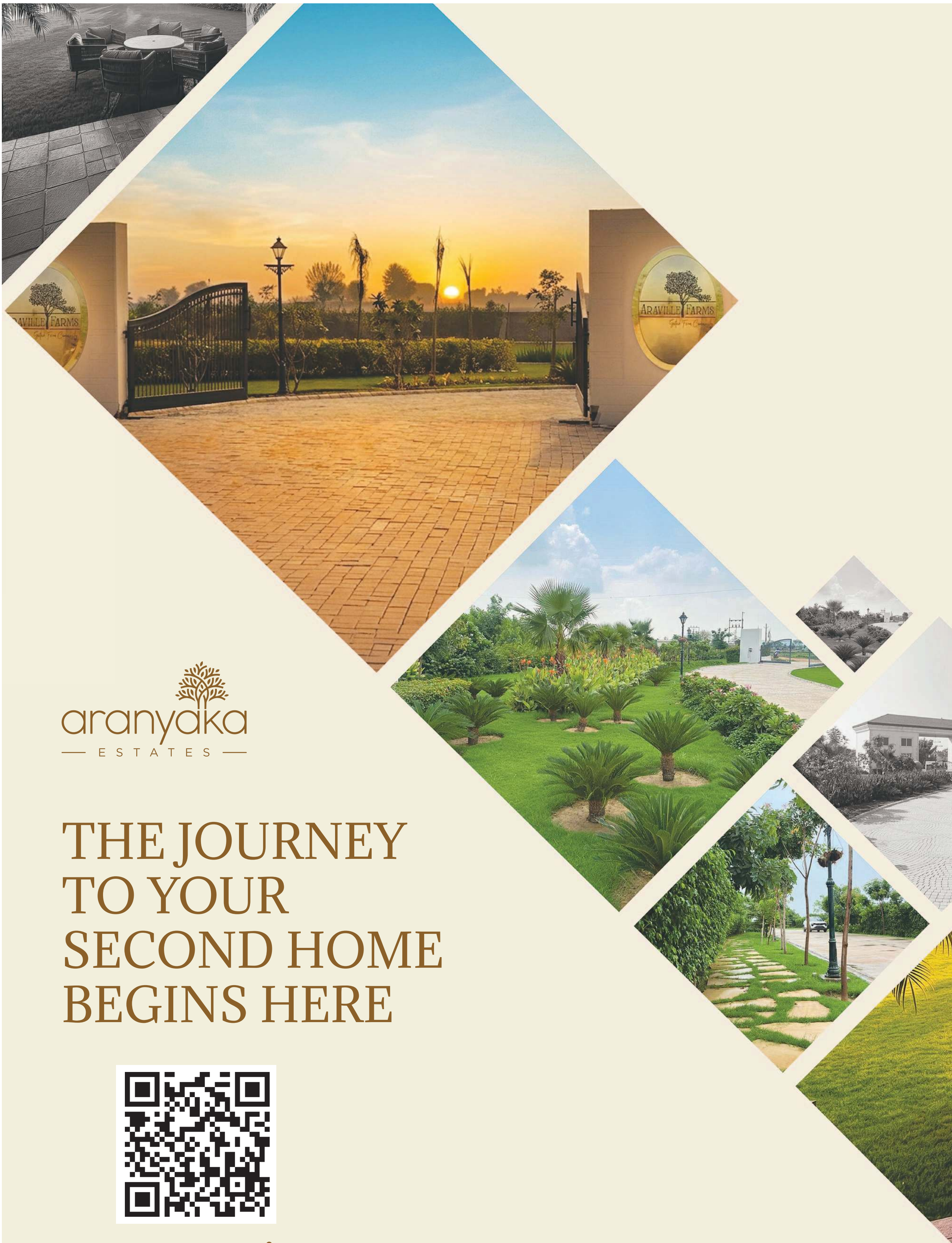
Designers Renu Tandon and Pawan Sachdevaa

Lawyer Safir Anand

Industrialist Nidhipati Singhania with Sanaa Singhania

Entrepreneur Devaang Sibal and Dr Anupam Sibal

Industrialist Sandeep Jajodia and designer Isha Jajodia



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YOUR TAROT THIS WEEK

Manisha Koushik



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August 09-15, 2026

Manisha Koushik is a renowned tarot card reader and astrologer. She can be contacted at: +91-9650015920 Email: support@askmanisha.com; Website: www.askmanisha.com



Suniel Shetty
AUGUST 11, LEO

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ SUNIEL.SHETTY

ARIES

MAR 21-APR 20



Kangana Ranaut

Love: The Fool **Mood:** The Moon
Career: Judgement
This week may bring a chance to make a strong impression at work, where your ambitious yet grounded approach could help you handle challenges with ease. Maintaining open communication can help resolve issues with a romantic partner. A spontaneous trip with close friends may lift your mood.
Lucky Number: 18 **Lucky Colour:** Brown

CANCER

JUN 22-JUL 22



Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Love: Three of Wands **Mood:** The Chariot **Career:** The Hanged Man
After a brief period of uncertainty, professional matters may stabilise and bring fresh clarity. Recent gains may improve financial standing and allow you to consider long-delayed purchases. Romantic energy may be strong, making it a good time to enjoy lighter moments with your partner.
Lucky Number: 6 **Lucky Colour:** Coffee

LIBRA

SEP 24-OCT 23



Nargis Fakhri

Love: Hierophant **Mood:** Justice **Career:** Strength
Your generous and selfless approach may keep you admired and appreciated. An unexpected encounter may initiate a promising romantic connection. Be cautious when entering partnerships or signing contracts. A scenic getaway with your partner could bring delight and deepen understanding.
Lucky Number: 15 **Lucky Colour:** Royal Blue

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 21



Deepika Padukone

Love: Five of Coins **Mood:** Ace of Wands **Career:** Six of Swords
Proving your capabilities at work may require extra effort, but the results may justify your determination. Even with rising expenses, financial balance is likely to be maintained. Property evaluations may take up mental space, so consider thorough research before deciding.
Lucky Number: 1 **Lucky Colour:** Pink

TAURUS

APR 21-MAY 20



Anushka Sharma

Love: The Chariot **Mood:** Devil **Career:** King of Wands
Speaking up confidently at work may draw positive attention from seniors. Your body may need more rest than usual, so prioritising adequate sleep could help rejuvenate you. Property-related discussions, especially regarding family land development, may take a favourable turn.
Lucky Number: 9 **Lucky Colour:** Maroon

LEO

JUL 23-AUG 23



Sara Ali Khan

Love: The Tower **Mood:** The Hermit **Career:** Five of Coins
Your competitive drive may help you maintain strong control over academic or professional responsibilities. Even with better earnings, it may be wise to stay mindful of spending to maintain balance. A busy and exciting week may surprise you with a potential romantic development.
Lucky Number: 3 **Lucky Colour:** Saffron

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Ananya Panday

Love: Nine of Wands **Mood:** The Chariot **Career:** Temperance
Taking charge of a key project may place you in a promising position professionally and could usher in future opportunities. Those considering a career switch may find better-than-expected options emerging. Financial planning with expert advice may help you make profitable decisions.
Lucky Number: 7 **Lucky Colour:** Peach

AQUARIUS

JAN 22-FEB 19



Preity Zinta

Love: Three of Coins **Mood:** The Magician **Career:** The World
This week may bring a shift in your personal or professional path, encouraging you to embrace change with confidence. Your efforts may soon yield tangible benefits. Romantic connections may deepen, especially if you nurture warmth and passion. Avoid impulsive decisions regarding money and property.
Lucky Number: 9 **Lucky Colour:** Saffron

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 21



Suhana Khan

Love: Two of Coins **Mood:** The Sun **Career:** Death
Your rising prominence at work may attract the attention of key decision-makers and open doors for new opportunities. Financial gains from more than one source could significantly uplift your stability. Social gatherings later in the week may prove enjoyable and strengthen bonds.
Lucky Number: 1 **Lucky Colour:** Cream

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23



Kareena Kapoor Khan

Love: The Star **Mood:** Two of Wands **Career:** Knight of Swords
Seeking wise guidance before making a major professional decision may prove invaluable. New investment opportunities may arise but acting with caution rather than haste will serve you better. Balancing your schedule to make more time for a loved one may strengthen personal connections.
Lucky Number: 5 **Lucky Colour:** Green

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Alaya F

Love: Devil **Mood:** Three of Cups **Career:** The Tower
You may discover an important insight at work, allowing your abilities to shine and attract recognition. A sudden improvement in finances may help you manage pending expenses. Meeting an old friend may revive cherished memories. Property disputes among siblings may get sorted amicably.
Lucky Number: 17 **Lucky Colour:** Dark Turquoise

PISCES

FEB 20-MAR 20



Sanya Malhotra

Love: The Fool **Mood:** The Magician **Career:** Three of Swords
This may be a favourable time to plan a long-dreamt adventure trip, promising excitement and revitalisation. Minor disagreements with your partner may arise, so maintaining calm and finding middle ground will be important. Financially, unexpected gains may help improve ongoing commitments.
Lucky Number: 11 **Lucky Colour:** White

Luxury gets a literary touch

From Chanel's fable-inspired runway to Dior's ₹3.25-lakh Book Tote, luxury fashion is putting literature back in vogue. On Book Lovers Day, we take a look at fashion's newest status symbol

Fashion turns the page



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

From the runway to wearable accessories, books are officially fashion's favourite flex, as major luxury houses tapped into literature for their new collections. Matthieu Blazy leaned into fairy-tale enchantment for Chanel's Spring/Summer 2026 show in January, where the runway was

inspired by an antique book of fables from Coco Chanel's library. Miu Miu, meanwhile, took over major global capitals with its Summer Reads pop-up libraries, gifting curated classics by female literary voices such as Jane Austen. At Coach, a team-up with Penguin Random House for the Explore Your Story campaign turned novels into fully-readable purse charms.

Compiled by Aadrika Sominder

Literary luxuries to invest in



▲ Starting at ₹1 lakh, Olympia Le-Tan's clutches turn the covers of classics into collectible accessories with hand embroidery, silk-thread appliqué and brass detailing



▲ The Dior Book Tote, retailing for ₹3.25 lakh, features intricate embroidery and bold typography



▲ Prada's Cahier charms, starting from ₹1 lakh on resale platforms, feature antique-finish metal corners, leather detailing and classic strap closures



► Smythson brings luxury to the reading desk with leather-bound book weights and elegant journals made with gold-gilded paper, priced at ₹23,400 onwards



DAILY HOROSCOPE

Sunday, August 09, 2026

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer and Vastu expert) can be contacted at: Delhi: 011-47033152, 40532026 (Sat to Mon); Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 09716145644 (Last week of every month)

PREMASTROLOGER

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ARIES

MAR 21-APR 20



A business expansion idea or growth strategy may reveal stronger potential than initially expected. A sibling could benefit from guidance. Practical concerns need attention before property plans move forward. **LOVE FOCUS:** A spontaneous moment may reveal hidden feelings. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Navy Blue

LEO

JUL 23-AUG 23



Strong commitment may help you stay ahead of important academic deadlines. Reviewing schedules, staffing, or workload distribution may deserve attention in business affairs. **LOVE FOCUS:** Being appreciated may bring quiet happiness. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Grey

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Confidence may grow as the results of your efforts gradually become visible. Weekend spending habits could require greater discipline than anticipated. Hosting visitors may require adjustments. **LOVE FOCUS:** A meaningful compliment may uplift you. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Maroon

TAURUS

APR 21-MAY 20



Yoga supports flexibility while bringing a welcome sense of inner calm. Adjusting to a family member's changing priorities needs patience. Unexpected interruptions could test adaptability during travel. **LOVE FOCUS:** A gentle approach may restore balance. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 17 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Peach

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23



Strong organisational skills may help you manage responsibilities efficiently and stay on top of commitments. Shared expenses require clear communication. New surroundings could replace stress. **LOVE FOCUS:** Avoid assumptions without clear evidence. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 6 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Green

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 21



Spending time outdoors may improve both mood and motivation while helping you feel more energised. A structured routine could strengthen academic performance and consistency. **LOVE FOCUS:** Your caring attitude helps deepen an existing connection. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 3 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 21



An unexpected detour may lead to an interesting experience. Refining your professional presentation creates advantages. Conversations about property need attention. **LOVE FOCUS:** Friendship may gradually deepen into more. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Off White

LIBRA

SEP 24-OCT 23



Additional focus could help prevent avoidable mistakes in educational pursuits. Encouraging feedback may arrive regarding a pitch during a business meeting. **LOVE FOCUS:** A compatible match may enter your life unexpectedly. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 18 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Pink

AQUARIUS

JAN 22-FEB 19



A fresh perspective could help unlock the solution to a lingering academic challenge. Home-related matters may require additional review before decisions are made. **LOVE FOCUS:** Understanding partner's perspective maintains harmony. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 2 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Saffron

CANCER

JUN 22-JUL 22



Recreational spending may place some pressure on available resources. Misunderstandings about responsibilities might create some confusion when it comes to professional matters. **LOVE FOCUS:** Allow relationships room to develop naturally. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Magenta

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A profitable transaction or well-timed financial move may deliver better results than expected. Valuable advice from an elder may provide a useful perspective. Flexibility is likely to prove useful while travelling. **LOVE FOCUS:** Emotional maturity may ease tension. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 5 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Purple

PISCES

FEB 20-MAR 20



Working together on domestic improvements may create a rewarding sense of accomplishment. Tracking smaller expenses more carefully may reveal useful financial patterns. **LOVE FOCUS:** Emotional warmth may strengthen security. **LUCKY NUMBER:** 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Beige



What is limerence and why is everyone suddenly talking about it?

From Instagram explainers to dating podcasts, limerence has become the latest relationship buzzword, with a 500% increase in Google searches. Coined by psychologist Dorothy Tennov in the 1970s, it describes an intense fixation on another person, with intrusive thoughts and a strong need for reciprocation. As per Jeff Guenther, Portland-based counsellor, "Your whole dumb brain gets hijacked by one person you're really into. You're not just thinking about them. They're like living in your head rent-free."

HOW TO GET OVER IT

- **Notice their flaws:** You're not obsessed with who they actually are, but the idea of them.
- **Cut off the supply:** Stop feeding into the obsession by lurking on their socials or replaying the last interaction in your head.
- **Find the vacancy:** Limerence rushes to fill the empty spots in our life. Figure out a healthy way to fill the gaps.

Debapriya Bhattacharya



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Type-B 3 BHK + 3T 1/4th Basement 1/4th Terrace	1450.17	134.73	1st Floor	₹ 31,000	₹ 19,13,950	₹ 38,27,900	₹ 95,69,749	₹ 38,27,900	₹ 1,91,39,498
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Kushal Tandon

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/
THEREALKUSHALTANDON

WHAT DID KUSHAL SAY?

During one of the episodes, when Zaid asked Kushal for something, the actor made a comment saying, "Tuihe saari meri cheezein pasand aati hai." The remark was widely interpreted as an indirect, disrespectful dig at Gauahar, with whom Kushal was in a relationship until 2014, after participating in a reality show.

Later, Gauahar married Zaid in 2020 and shares two sons, Zehaan and Farwaan.

Zaid says Kushal apologised for remark about Gauahar

Vishakha Pandit

vishakha.pandit@hindustantimes.com

Even after the end of the reality show *Alliance*, choreographer Zaid Darbar's equation with co-contestant and actor Kushal Tandon continues to make news. Zaid is married to actor Gauahar Khan, who was previously in a relationship with Kushal.

After Kushal's remark (see left) seemingly referencing to Gauahar,

Zaid apparently remained silent, leaving fans wondering why he did not defend his wife. Now, Zaid tells us that he did confront Kushal, but that conversation never made it to the episode. "I actually spoke to him (Kushal) inside. Woh toh aapko ek ghante mein I don't think so dikha hoga, kyunki baaki 23 ghante mujhe hi pata hai andar kya hua," he says.

He shares he chose to address the issue calmly. "Aisa nahin tha ki maine baat nahin ki. Maine bahut

acche se ki. Zaroori nahin hai ki aap anger ya frustration se baat karoge toh hi samjhega samnewale," says Zaid, adding, "I've always tried ki peacefully samajh aaye kisi ko aur repeat na ho," he adds.

According to Zaid, Kushal understood his concerns. "Kushal apologised and said, 'I'm sorry. Zaid ki family ko main bahut respect karta hoon, aisa humara kuch thought process tha hi nahin'," he reveals.



Zaid Darbar and Gauahar Khan



Scan the QR code to watch the full conversation



Shreya Vashistha breaks down how trendsetters across the capital are elevating everyday Western style using relaxed denim textures, tailored tops, and versatile indigo accessories.



Upgrade Your Everyday Wardrobe With Trendy Denim Essentials

Denim has officially expanded far beyond the classic pair of jeans. In modern Western fashion, this durable fabric has taken over every layer of street

style, offering structured jackets, chic tops, statement skirts, and functional accessories. Building an outfit around varied denim textures allows you to craft effortless, high-fashion

looks that handle daily wear with ease.

LIGHTWEIGHT DENIM JACKETS & CROPPED TOPS
For warmer weather, skip heavy trucker

jackets and opt for lightweight, cropped denim jackets or unbuttoned denim shackets paired with simple cotton tanks. Meanwhile, denim tops especially button-front waistcoats, fitted bustiers, and sleeveless halter tops have become standalone fashion statements.

STRUCTURED DENIM BAGS & ACCESSORIES
Oversized denim tote bags, structured baguette shoulder bags, and utility crossbody bags with silver hardware details have replaced basic canvas totes. A medium-wash denim shoulder bag adds a cool, relaxed edge to a plain white shirt and black trousers, effortlessly tying together neutral outfits with subtle indigo accents.

When shopping for these denim essentials, look for sturdy cotton weaves, inspect hardware like zips and press-buttons for smooth function.



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Husband Milind praises Avika Gor's dedication as she works through dengue

Actor Avika Gor has been diagnosed with dengue and has been hospitalised after battling a high fever for five days. On Friday, Avika's husband and entrepreneur, Milind Chandwani, took to social media to reveal that the actor is struggling with her health and praised her for continuing to honour her professional commitments despite being unwell.

Updating fans on the 29-year-old actor's health, Milind shared a video on Instagram. "Avika has been in the hospital since last night. She has had a fever of 103-104 degrees for the past five days. And guess what she did during those five days? She first went to a project where two days of shooting were still pending.... They managed to wrap up the shoot in just one day," Milind said.

Sharing her struggles, he added that she was unable to eat. "She got a two-day break and spent the entire day in bed, taking medicines, unable to move or even eat properly. But because she had made a commitment, she travelled to Delhi with the same fever and shot an ad," he added.

A member of Avika's team who travelled with her to Delhi for the ad shoot also revealed that the actor "wasn't able to stand properly."

"The amount of respect she has for her craft and the value she places on other people's time and resources, I don't think many people in this industry do that," he further added.

Milind concluded the video by asking fans to pray for her speedy recovery.

HTC



Harshvardhan Rane shuts down dating rumours with Sanjeeda Shaikh

Actor Harshvardhan Rane has addressed the ongoing speculation about his rumoured relationship with actor Sanjeeda Shaikh, making it clear that he has no interest in commenting on his personal life. "My focus is to do profitable films that are beneficial for my producers and directors. Stories about personal life don't add to ticket sales. Hence, no one would ever get my reaction," he says.

His response comes after their latest social media posts sparked buzz. Rane recently shared pictures from a getaway in Panshet near Pune, where he was seen making tea and cooking eggs amid nature. Around the same time, Shaikh posted pictures of herself enjoying tea, with two cups visible on the table against a similar backdrop.

The striking similarities led fans to wonder if Shaikh had accompanied Rane on the trip, adding fuel to the rumours.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ CHETAN_HANSRAJ

Meet the actor who plays seven roles in Ramayana

association with the film expanded beyond Raja Mali. "After my part was wrapped, I was offered six motion-capture characters, including one of Ravana's brothers and a demon," he reveals.

At a time when a large number of audiences prefer to watch films on OTT, the actor says that *Ramayana* is made for a big-screen experience. "It's for IMAX, at least the silver screen. Watching it on small screens and mobile phones kills half the effort," he says.

After the trailer launch, social media erupted into comparisons with previous adaptations of the Hindu epic such as *Adipurush* (2023) and Ramanand Sagar's TV series, debating CGI and demon creature designs. Addressing the debate, Hansraj says, "We have the best action directors from Hollywood and Bollywood, and technicians on board, like Terry Notary... Makers today want to give the best cinematic experience, and that's a vision we should understand. People who once see it on the right medium will forget all these comparisons, I am sure."

The actor also reveals that his

S Farah Rizvi
farah.rizvi@htlive.com

With the trailer of director Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayana* already generating buzz, actor Chetan Hansraj, 54, sees the project as a defining chapter in his career. The actor, who plays Raja Mali, the maternal grandfather of Ravana, says the experience has been unlike any other in his career.

Speaking about his role and working alongside actor Yash (who plays Ravana), he says, "Raja Mali is an important character that went down in history, and my scenes with Yash are pure fire. He is such a delight on screen, and these two characters complement each other wonderfully. It was huge for me."

Chetan Hansraj; (Inset) a still from *Ramayana*

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Take it slow, say Delhi's young readers

On Book Lovers Day, we explore how book enthusiasts across the Capital are embracing slow reading and hitting the pause button

Karan Sethi

karan.sethi@hindustantimes.com

If you walk into a quiet Delhi cafe or a secluded studio on a weekend, you might spot a group of young readers sitting together in complete silence, books in hand.

There are no reading targets and no pressure to discuss what they are reading. It's just how the young are taking to the trend of slow reading.

At its core, slow reading is all about intentionality. Rather than rushing through chapters, it encourages readers to savour every word. Khushi Bagariya, a member of The Librarians Coven, the book club at Delhi University's Gargi College, shares, "It allows new readers to pick up a book without feeling intimidated." She adds,

"People often feel anxious joining traditional book clubs where everyone seems like an expert. Our slow reading sessions take that anxiety away. You bring whatever you're currently reading and go at your own pace."

Beyond inclusivity, slow reading is emerging as an act of mental self-care in a hyper-fast city. "This is because it is rooted in mindfulness," says Priyanka Sachdeva, founder of the West Delhi-based reading community Brewed Tales, which hosts weekend slow reading sessions. Sachdeva adds, "When you try reading slowly, you notice that your overall mental well-being gets a boost."

The setting, too, plays a vital role in these quiet retreats. Anushree Malik from Lodhi Reads explains how their location at the Lodhi Gardens helps create an ideal slow-reading sanctuary: "When it rains, we move indoors to quiet remote spaces. When the weather clears up, we sit amid the greenery of the gardens."



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/LODHIREADS

Uttarakhand woman with world record shares her haircare secrets

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/GUINNESSWORLDRECORDS



Maintaining hair that stretches almost nine feet long is no easy feat, and for content creator and YouTuber Renu Dhariyal, it has been a decade-long commitment. Her beautiful long locks, measuring an unbelievable 271.50 cm (8ft 10in), recently earned her the Guinness World Record for the longest hair on a living person (female). Hailing from Uttarakhand's Haldwani, her raven tresses are just a smidge shorter than the height of Robert Wadlow, the tallest man ever, who stood at 272 cm (8 ft 11.1 in).

Renu has been growing her hair since 2015, inspired by the cultural significance of long hair in India. She told Guinness World Records, "In Indian culture, long hair is considered a symbol of extreme beauty and tradition, which is what inspired me to grow it so long. I have never cut my hair since 2015."

But keeping hair this long, healthy and manageable is no easy task. Renu explained, "It takes a lot of patience to maintain long hair. I spend hours washing and detangling my hair. My secret is completely natural. I stay away from chemical products and also share the secrets of chemical-free homemade hair oils and homemade shampoos I make on my YouTube channel."

I have been growing my hair continuously since 2015. It takes a lot of patience to maintain long hair. I spend hours washing and detangling my hair. My secret is completely natural, I stay away from chemical products. I want to give a message to the world that with determination, consistency and connecting with your natural beauty and culture, you can achieve any big milestone.

Renu Dhariyal, Content creator

Her record-breaking hair length was verified in Haldwani back in April, and Renu now hopes her achievement will help put her local community on the global stage. "With such long hair, whenever I step out or come on social media, people are surprised and I get a lot of appreciation and attention. I want to give a message to the world that with determination, consistency and connecting with your natural beauty and culture, you can achieve any big milestone," she said.

HTC

#bookreview

Innocence meets intolerance in this tale told between kites and questions

At first glance, *Allah Miyan's Workshop* seems to be about 14-year-old Gibran, whose only interest lies in flying kites, running away from the burden of studying at the madrasa, giving the animals around him monikers that fit their personality, and generally causing mischief like any other teenage boy. But beneath the veil of his childlike enthusiasm lies the honey-coated knife of the human condition, piercing through the wonder with a harshness that is both heartbreakingly ruthless yet flamboyantly unattached.

Originally written in Urdu by Mohsin Khan and translated into English by Maaz Bin Bilal, the novel is set in Awadh, where Gibran lives with his sister Nusrat and deeply religious parents, who want him to join the Islamic community to spread the word of the prophet. But their world is undone when Gibran's father is arrested on suspicion of being a terrorist.

Gibran's lens of innocence examines how politics and religion can subvert the very spirit of childhood rather than protecting it. The young protagonist accepts the

sheltering by overprotective adults. The translator is careful to maintain the lyricism of the original Urdu. Gibran's questions for Allah Miyan touch topics that are far harsher than what a child should be accosted with. But it is this same honey-coated blade that leads to the answers that jaded adult readers may have sought.

Had the story been narrated through the voice of adults, it would have been a far darker tale. But the narrative decentres the conflict by tracing it through Gibran, and its message stays

rooted in the human condition of resilience and hope. This innocence does not make the world around Gibran less cruel; it makes that cruelty more visible.

Title: Allah Miyan's Workshop

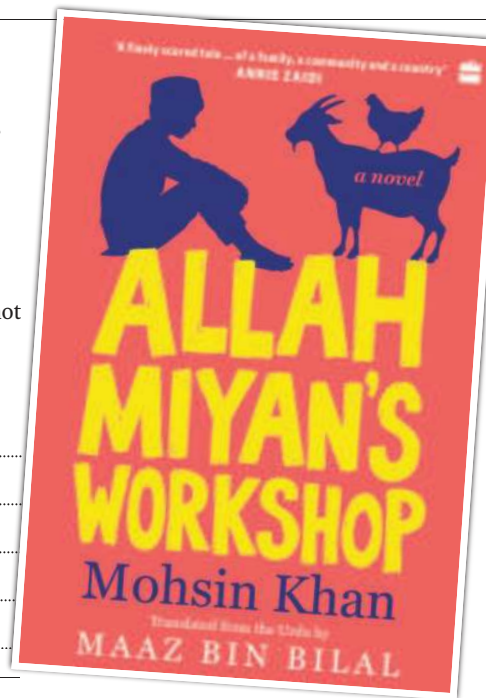
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Want a monsoon-friendly style? Avoid these common mistakes

With Delhi-NCR witnessing heavy rainfall during the week, along with humidity levels hovering between 75% and 95%, the monsoon is making dressing for the day a little more challenging. While cooler temperatures can feel cosy, high humidity can make clothes cling to the body, while puddles and unexpected showers can make choosing the right footwear tricky. Fashion designer Niti Bothra highlights some common monsoon styling mistakes and shares tips to navigate the season with ease.

Compiled by Adrija Dey

Sticking to heavy fabrics
Cotton and linen fabrics absorb water and can take a long time to dry.

During the monsoon season, fast-drying polyester, blended crepes, and light georgette are ideal solutions to cope with the dampness and heavy showers.

Wearing light, wash-prone colours
Pastels and whites show water stains instantly.

Switch to deeper, muddier tones like olive, rust, and indigo, which help conceal splashes and mud marks.

Overloading on accessories
Heavy rainfall and strong winds can make it difficult to carry glamorous jewellery, oversized bags and long dupattas.

Use minimal accessories, choose waterproof bags and opt for shorter, shorter dupattas instead of long ones.

Ignoring layering options
A single outfit may not be suitable for changing levels of rain and humidity throughout the day.

Your monsoon wardrobe checklist

- Choose fast-drying fabrics such as polyester blends
- Go for deeper shades like olive and indigo to conceal muddy splashes
- Complete the look with practical footwear, such as flat, block heels or rain boots and functional accessories, including waterproof bags

Carry a lightweight jacket, bolero, or waterproof poncho that you can easily add or remove as needed.

Choosing the wrong footwear
Suede, leather, and fragile heels do not fare well against puddles.

Choose block-heel shoes, flats, or chic rain boots.

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK (FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

In this fortnightly column, renowned paediatrician Dr Anupam Sibal helps young parents resolve dilemmas. In today's guest column, reputed child and adolescent psychiatrist, Dr Deepak Gupta, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, addresses autism in children

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK (FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

WHY EARLY INTERVENTION CAN TRANSFORM A CHILD'S FUTURE



Growing Pains

DR ANUPAM SIBAL AND DR DEEPAK GUPTA

My two-year-old hardly speaks, doesn't respond to his name and prefers to play alone. Everyone keeps telling me to 'wait and watch'. Could this be autism, or am I worrying unnecessarily?

Every parent remembers their child's first smile, first word and first step. These milestones become cherished memories. Yet, when a milestone is delayed, many families are advised to 'wait and watch'. While every child is unique, even a slight developmental concern deserves attention, not assumptions. The better approach is to watch, and, at the same time, keep qualified professionals in the loop.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects how a child communicates, interacts socially, behaves and experiences the world around them. It is called a 'spectrum' because every child is different. Autism is not caused by poor parenting, vaccines or a lack of affection. Research shows that it results from complex genetic and biological factors influencing early brain development. A family history of autism, certain genetic conditions, prematurity and advanced parental age may increase the likelihood, although in many children there is no single identifiable cause.

Autism is also more common than many families realise. Although India still lacks robust

nationwide data, recent estimates suggest that nearly 2 million children in the country are living with autism spectrum disorder, with available studies indicating that approximately 1 in 65 children may be on the autism spectrum (1). As awareness improves, paediatricians across the country are seeing more children being referred for developmental evaluation, underscoring the importance of recognising developmental differences early.

The early signs of autism are often subtle and vary from one child to another. Parents may notice delayed speech or language development, limited eye contact, poor response to name, reduced interest in social interaction, repetitive behaviours, unusual play patterns or an insistence on routines. No single behaviour confirms autism, which is why a comprehensive developmental evaluation by trained professionals is essential.

As professionals working with children and families, we have learned one lesson over the years: when it comes to child development, timely intervention is of the essence. Decades of research have shown that the developing brain is remarkably adaptable during the first few years of life. There is no blood test or brain scan that diagnoses autism. It is instead done through a detailed developmental

assessment conducted by qualified professionals. Today, early intervention remains the gold standard for supporting children showing signs of developmental delay or neurodivergence. Rather than attempting to change who a child truly is, the focus is on strengthening communication, learning, emotional regulation, adaptive functioning and social participation. The goal is not to make a child 'appear normal', but to help every child achieve their fullest developmental potential.

The most important message we can offer parents is this: trust your instincts. If something about your child's development feels different, do not wait for certainty or rely on myths. Seek professional guidance early. An early developmental evaluation does not label a child; it opens the door to understanding, timely support and informed choices. Sometimes, the greatest difference in a child's future begins with a parent's decision to act early.

1. Uke P, Gaikwad S, Vagha K, Wandile S. Unraveling the spectrum: A comprehensive review of autism spectrum disorder in India. Cureus. 2024;16(6). doi:10.7759/cureus.62753.

Dr Anupam Sibal is a leading paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist with over three decades of experience and five books to his credit, including the national bestseller *Is Your Child Ready to Face the World?*

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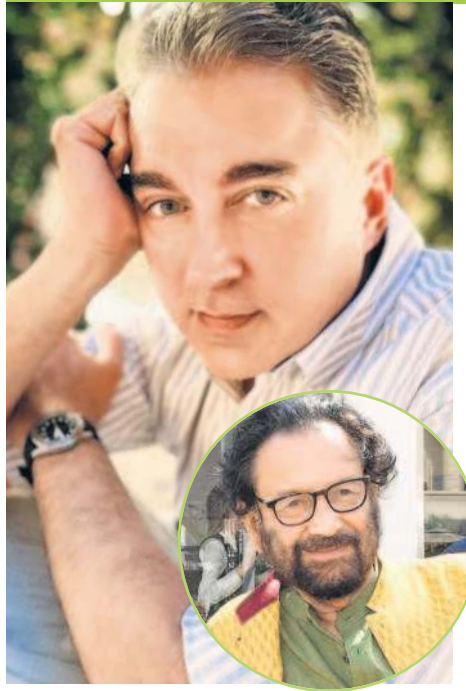
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Jugal Hansraj to reunite with Shekhar Kapur for Masoom: The Next Generation



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM AND AFP

Shekhar Kapur

Akash Bhatnagar

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Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur is revisiting his 1983 classic *Masoom* with its sequel, *Masoom: The Next Generation*, bringing back original actors Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi. Now, we have exclusively learnt that Jugal Hansraj, who played Rahul, Shah's onscreen son in the film and made his acting debut as a child artiste with it, has also joined the cast.

Speaking about reuniting with the OG team after more than four decades, the director says, "There is something profoundly beautiful about coming home, and to a story that has stayed alive in people's hearts for decades. Jugal was just a young boy when we made *Masoom*, and today, welcoming him back as an accomplished actor is both

Shekhar Kapur with Jugal Hansraj on the sets of *Masoom* (1983)

emotional and deeply fulfilling."

Hansraj says Kapur's call felt like a full-circle moment: "Masoom has been a part of my life, my identity. I'm still that 'Masoom boy.' People still remember the film with so much affection. I often get stopped by people, even here in New York, and I'm told that their kids or grandkids listen to *Lakki Ki Kathi*. They meet me like I'm their family member. I'm glad that I can be a part of this special family again."

{ MOVIE REVIEW }

Himansh Kohli's slice-of-life film is a two-hour trip to nowhere

ARYABHATT KA ZERO

Direction: Kamal Chandra
Cast: Himansh Kohli, Sonnalli A Sajjani, Gopal Dutt, Ravi Kishan
Rating: ★★

We have had films that motivate you to study harder, work harder, or be a better person. And then there are films like *Aryabhata Ka Zero*, which are as aimless as their lead character.

Directed by Kamal Chandra, the film follows Baggu (Himansh Kohli), a good-for-nothing guy who has always been bad at studies. When his girlfriend Rinku (Sonnalli A Sajjani) is married off to an SDM (Gopal Dutt), Baggu, in a fit of rage, decides to take the

UPSC exam and become a DM.

What begins as a story about fulfilling one's duty towards parents and finding motivation soon derails. After a personal crisis, Baggu takes up the first job that comes his way and finally begins taking life seriously. But by the climax, the film suddenly starts preaching that success has little to do with hard work.

The two-hour film gets its setting right. Shot across Delhi and the hills, cinematographer Yogesh Jani captures both beautifully.

Acting wise, Himansh, who is present in almost every frame, delivers a hit-and-miss performance. The character needed more spunk, but he often brings down the film's energy.



Sonnalli puts in a decent performance, while Ravi Kishan as Chhanu bhaiya deserved more scenes. Shilpa Shinde is effective, and Neeraj Sood as Aryabhata, Baggu's father, stands out. Manan Bhardwaj's music, however, fails to impress.

Overall, *Aryabhata Ka Zero*

is undone by confused writing. Baggu's journey could have made for an affecting watch, but the film keeps taking detours, only to land at a conclusion that feels less like a culmination and more like a different film taking over.

Rishabh Suri



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