



WHAT ARE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR IN A SECOND HOME?



PHOTOS: HTCS

A second home helps people trade the chaotic tempo of city life for an accessible, nature-centric sanctuary where they can build relaxed, meaningful routines with family



THE INTERESTING PROPOSITION OF SWAY

Sway is planned as a farm community designed to encourage more time outdoors and a slower pace of living. Around 90 minutes away from Delhi-NCR, its accessibility shows how a second home does not have to be reserved for long weekends or annual breaks.

Specific questions arise when people begin thinking about a second home. It is rarely just, "Where should we buy?" More often, it is: What should weekends look like? Where can we go when we want to leave the city for a few days? Is there a place close enough to return to often, yet different enough to genuinely feel like an escape?

Those questions sat at the centre of the Aranyaka Estates exhibition held at Holiday Inn, Aerocity, New Delhi, on August 22.

WHY ARE SECOND HOMES RISING IN INDIA?

Infrastructure makes a destination accessible, but lifestyle makes it irresistible. India's evolving second-home market is driven by buyers seeking rich experiences, vibrant communities, and long-term liveability alongside smart investments.

NOT JUST A VACATION HOUSE

The modern second-home buyer is no longer just purchasing a vacation house. They are

investing in a complementary lifestyle. Shifts in remote work flexibility, wellness priorities, and urban burnout have fundamentally reshaped what people want from a secondary property. They seek functional, nature-centric sanctuaries that integrate seamlessly into their daily lives.

ACCESSIBILITY AND EFFORTLESS ESCAPE

The most sought-after second homes sit within a comfortable driving radius of a primary city. If an escape requires a flight or months of planning, it stays largely unused. Buyers are increasingly favouring gated farm communities, managed villas, or serviced residences, where they can relax.

CLOSE TO NATURE AND OUTDOOR-FIRST LIVING

Think expansive green spaces, private lakes, walking trails, and open views over sheer indoor square footage. That's what people want, along with wellness facilities like private yoga decks, infinity pools, organic kitchen gardens, and outdoor courts like pickleball.

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ARANYAKA EXPO '26

The exhibition brought together prospective buyers and industry experts to showcase the portfolio of one of India's emerging players in second-home living under one roof. These included Sway, its 63-acre gated farm community, and Twin Lakes in Naugaon, Rajasthan, and Socorro, its limited collection of 26 villas in Goa. These are different projects and different landscapes, but all are connected by one larger idea: a second home should be more than an address visited occasionally.



Founder Aditya Kakkar (left) introduces the property offerings to clients



Founder Biju Menon (left) personally interacted with clients at the event



Own the address that gives your life more space, more stillness and a reason to return.
For more details, call: +91 98102 06115



Scan for more information



BEYOND THE BROCHURE

Aranyaka Estates' Aerocity exhibition saw a room full of people drafting the next chapter of their lives, mapping out what their Saturdays would actually feel like once the keys were in hand

PHOTOS: HTCS



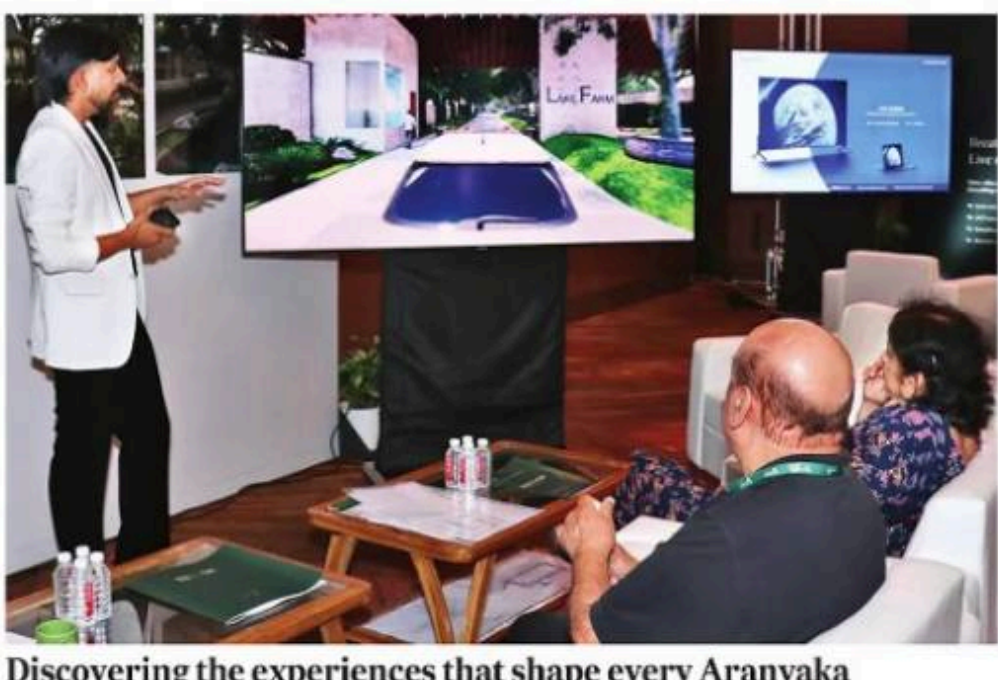
Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations about second homes

NOT JUST CONVERSATIONS
A floor plan or brochure doesn't always convey what an exhibition can. It allows prospective buyers to compare not only locations, but different ways of imagining life outside their primary homes. After the exhibition, approximately five acres at Sway had been committed, while interest in another 15 acres moved towards site visits in the week following the event, according to the organisers.

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WANT YOUR OWN SECOND HOME?
If you've missed the Aranyaka Expo, there is still an opportunity to experience its offerings Sway, Twin Lakes and Socorro through its representatives. The invitation remains open to those looking for a second home that can become a more meaningful part of how they spend their time away.

For more details, call: +91 98102 06115



Discovering the experiences that shape every Aranyaka community



A day of discovery, dialogue and new possibilities



Exploring lifestyles, landscapes and long-term perspectives



Visitors and the Aranyaka team in conversation



Raveena Tandon with Ranbirvardhan and Rasha

When mum isn't around, I am Ranbir's sister-mumma: Rasha

Akash Bhatnagar

Rasha Thadani and younger brother Ranbirvardhan Thadani may fight and tease each other like any sibling duo, but Raksha Bandhan is also a reminder that they will always protect one another. With the 18-year-old home from London for his summer break, actor Rasha, 20, is celebrating the festival with him today. "Earlier Raksha Bandhan used to be a means of getting together with family and celebrating, but now I understand the true meaning of it. It's about knowing we both would always be there for each other and protect one another, especially after him having moved to London for studies," says Rasha.

Their mother, actor Raveena Tandon, made that responsibility clear early on. "She told Ranbir (Ranbirvardhan) when she isn't around, I am his sister-mumma," Rasha shares.

In his first-ever interview, Ranbirvardhan admits, "Rasha has always been concerned and worried about me. She always tries to take care of me and solve all my problems. She is very protective of me." The sentiment comes with sibling leg-pulling too. Ranbirvardhan has started touching Rasha's feet on Rakhi. "It's a big part of the Indian culture but I do it as a bit of a joke, showing that she is growing so old," he laughs.

Rasha says she is proud of how independent her brother has become abroad: "The fact that he's even there studying abroad alone... I don't think I would be able to do that. But he's so independent and really strong."

Distance, however, has made Ranbirvardhan miss the little things. "I just miss having someone who I can go and sit with, and just talk about the little things without any consequences. I miss my sister." And his Rakhi gift for Rasha? "I think her favourite gift would be just another dog to add to the existing seven that we already have."

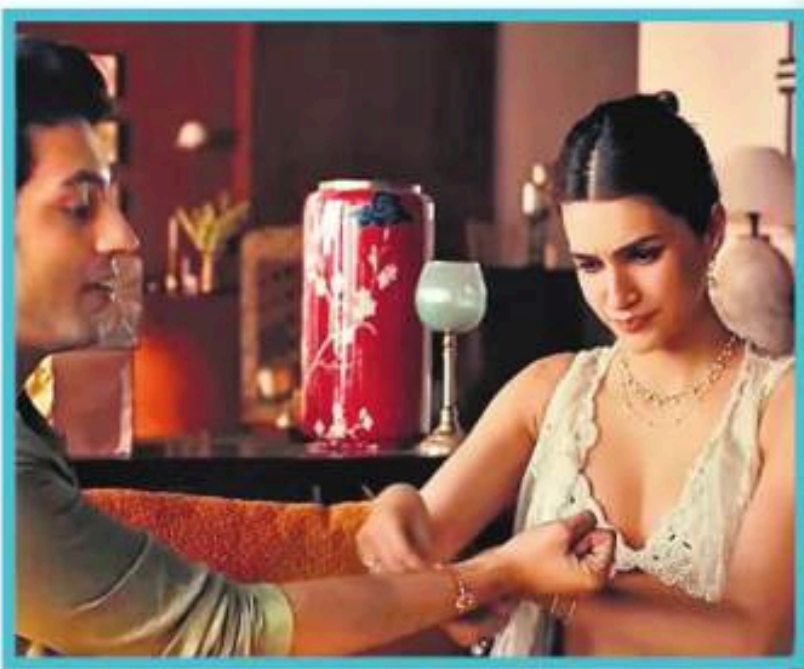
Itni buddhu soch: Kangana on Kriti's 'neckline' defence

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has hit back at Kriti Sanon's defence of her controversial Raksha Bandhan advertisement, questioning the argument that what a woman wears should not matter when the campaign itself is for jewellery.

The row began after jewellery brand GIVA released an ad featuring Kriti tying rakhi to her brother and pet dog. The campaign drew criticism over her bralette-style outfit and portrayal of the festival. Kangana had called the ad "intentionally creepy", while Kriti responded that culture and traditions are "in her heart, not in her neckline". GIVA withdrew the campaign on Wednesday.

Reacting to Kriti's statement on DECODE Live with Sudhir Chaudhary, Kangana said, "Jo bayaan aaya hai, itni buddhu soch kaise ho sakti hai? Aap ek sarvajanik ad shoot kar rahe hain, joki pehenne wali cheez ki ad hai, jewellery ki ad hai. Usmein aap humein ye gyaan de rahe hain ki kya pehenne hain, wahi matter nahin karta?" She went on to say her objection was not limited to Kriti's outfit, questioning the absence of elements she associates with Raksha Bandhan. "Where are the parents? Where is the home? There is no sign of halwa-puri, God, tilak, akshat, incense, or diya," she said.

Kangana added, "A festival is an aesthetic expression of a culture and a civilisation. Raksha Bandhan is religious expression of a civilisation."



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PHOTO: NAVEEN SHARMA/ANI

Yayoi Kusama, who made polka dots, pumpkins and infinity cool, dies

You may not immediately recognise the name Yayoi Kusama, but chances are you have seen her world: endless mirrored rooms, giant polka-dotted pumpkins or Louis Vuitton bags and stores covered in colourful dots.

Born in Matsumoto, Japan, in 1929, the artist, whose immersive works became some of contemporary art's most recognisable images, has died aged 97. Kusama died at a Tokyo hospital on August 14; her death was announced on Thursday.

Long before immersive art became a social-media phenomenon, Kusama was using mirrors, lights and repetition to create rooms that seemed to stretch into infinity. Her dots and pumpkins eventually travelled far beyond galleries into public installations and blockbuster fashion collaborations, including with Louis Vuitton. Paying tribute, the luxury house's chairman and CEO Pietro Beccari said she had left "an indelible mark on the art world".

Her longtime gallerist David Zwirner said her large-scale installations helped pioneer what is now called "experiential art", describing her as "without a doubt, the most famous living artist in the world" at the time of her death.

Kusama was also among the world's most commercially successful women artists. Her 1959 painting *Untitled (Nets)* fetched \$10.5 million at auction in 2022.

Michael Warburton @ForFilm_Fans

I'm absolutely convinced that long after I'm gone, the appeal popularity & standing of this extraordinary Artist is going grow to beyond enormous. Her life story is as amazing as her Art. RIP YAYOI KUSAMA (1929-2026)

Tim Cook @tim_cook · 6h

A true visionary who showed us the power of boundless imagination. Yayoi Kusama's creativity pushed the art world forward and left behind a brighter, more vibrant world for us all.

Actor Michael Warburton and CEO, Apple, Tim Cook expressed grief on social media



CELEBS RALLY FOR FLOOD-HIT NEPAL

Akash Bhatnagar
akash.bhatnagar@partner.hindustantimes.com

Singer Udit Narayan Jha says the devastation caused by the Nepal-Tibet flash floods "hits home", as several celebrities, especially those with ties to Nepal, joined calls for prayers and relief for those affected.

A catastrophic glacial collapse triggered flash floods across the Himalayan border region on Wednesday, killing scores and leaving hundreds, including foreign tourists and pilgrims, missing. Rescue operations remain underway.

Jha, whose father was a Nepalese national and who comes from the Mithila region along the India-Nepal border, says, "It's a very sad thing... Seeing this level of destruction just makes me feel like crying."

Actor Manisha Koirala, who hails from Nepal, urged followers to "pray for Nepal" and shared information on relief efforts. Actor Rohit Saraf, who has Nepalese roots, called the images "absolutely heartbreaking", adding, "Nepal will always be deeply close to my heart." Actor Sonu Sood also offered support, writing, "Nepal, you are not alone," while Nepal-born designer Prabal Gurung said he was "heartbroken" by the loss of lives, displacement and families searching for loved ones.

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Also speaking up

Hollywood actor Richard Gere also sent a message of support to those affected in Nepal and Tibet. "My heart is with the people of Nepal and Tibet today," he wrote on Instagram, adding that the Himalayas and their people "have been part of my life and my heart for many years."

Actor Arun Govil said he was saddened by the images coming from the affected areas and prayed for the safety and strength of the families affected by the tragedy. "The heartbreaking visuals reflect the immense challenges being faced by countless families. Praying for the safety, strength, and well-being of all those impacted," he wrote on X.

Actor Sanjay Dutt also took to his Instagram Stories and wrote, "My thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the floods in Nepal. I stand with you in this difficult time and will always be there to support you in whatever way I can. Stay safe and stay strong."

Helplines

- Indian Embassy, Kathmandu: +977 985 131 6807 / +977 970 910 7500
- Nepal Tourism Board: Toll-free 1234 | Hotline 1144 | Tourist Police 9851289445
- For Indians stranded near Tibet-Nepal border: Chinese officials: 0086 139 8999 0012
- Indian Embassy, Beijing (WhatsApp): 0086 185 1428 4905

STOP PRESS

Asin gives a peek into daughter Arin's Onam celebrations

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Actor Rupert Grint will return as Ron Weasley after 15 years in *Harry Potter* and the *Cursed Child* on Broadway, from February 2 to May 30, 2027. Calling the comeback "full-circle", Grint said, "Ron Weasley has been a part of me since I was 11 years old." He is the second film-franchise actor to reprise his role on stage after Tom Felton.

Actor Asin Thottumkal, who has largely stayed away from the limelight in recent years, marked Onam with a glimpse of her celebrations at home, sharing pictures of daughter Arin, 8, making a pookalam with her father, businessman Rahul Sharma. In the photos posted on Stories on Wednesday, Arin is seen dressed in a traditional yellow-and-orange outfit as she takes charge of making a colourful pookalam at home.

One picture captures her arranging marigolds and roses with Rahul by her side, while another shows the father-daughter duo playfully showering each other with flowers. The festive snaps also drew nostalgic reactions from fans, with several noting Arin's resemblance to her mother and one writing, "We miss you."

Asin was last seen in *All Is Well* in 2015 and later stepped away from films. She married businessman and Micromax co-founder Rahul Sharma in 2016, and they welcomed Arin in 2017.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ RUPERTGRINT



PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM/ SIMPLY.ASIN



HTC

PHOTOS:
INSTAGRAM AND X

NEWS IN BRIEF

Justin Baldoni to pay Blake Lively \$400K in legal fees

Actor Blake Lively will receive just over \$400,000 (approx ₹3.80 crore) in legal fees from actor-director Justin Baldoni, far less than the \$8 million (approx ₹78 crore) she sought, a federal judge ruled on Wednesday. Judge Lewis J Liman

said California law protecting sexual harassment survivors only entitled Lively to fees for defending against Baldoni's defamation claims, not all claims filed against her. The ruling follows the their legal battle over the 2024 film *It Ends With Us*, which they settled earlier. HTC

SRK, Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff yet to respond to FDA notice

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration is still awaiting a response from Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff, who received a notice over an advertisement allegedly promoting a banned pan masala brand earlier this month. FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe, speaking at a Meet the Press event on Wednesday, said the regulator had not received a response from any of the three actors so far. FDA issued a show-cause notice to the actors over their advertisement for Vimal Elaichi, claiming it prima facie amounts to "indirect or surrogate" promotion of prohibited pan masala and tobacco-related products. HTC



PHOTO: X



Tim Curry dies at 80

Actor Tim Curry, known for playing Dr Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975) and the smug concierge in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (1992), has died. He was 80. Curry, who suffered a stroke in 2012 that put him in a wheelchair, passed away at his home in Los Angeles, according to his manager and friend Marcia Hurwitz. However, the cause of his death has not yet been disclosed. HTC

PHOTO: X

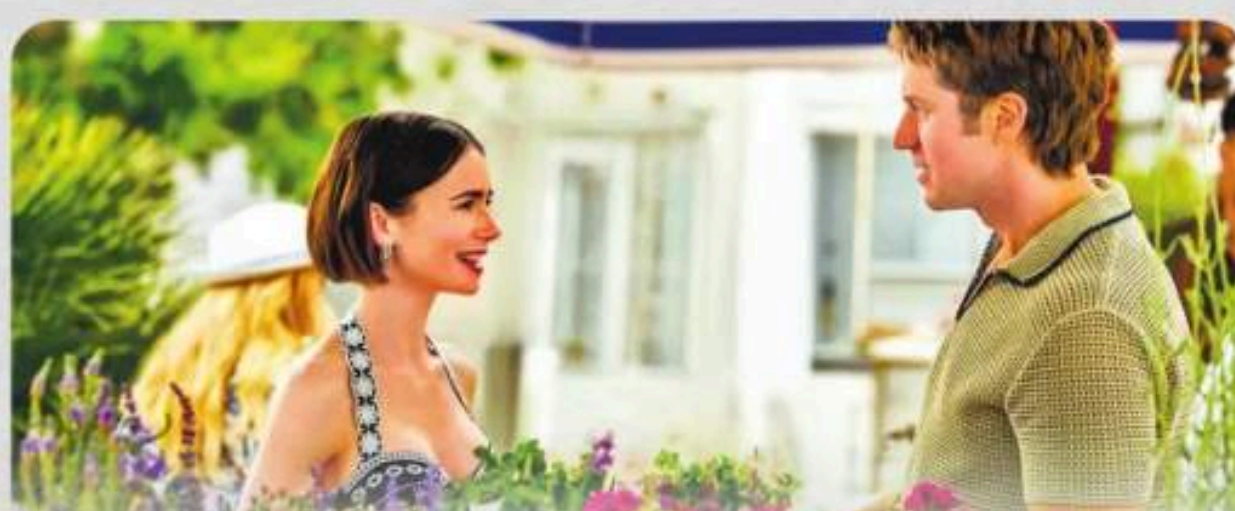


Samay Raina felicitated by Maharashtra CM

On Wednesday, Maharashtra Cyber unveiled its cyber-awareness short film *Digital Arrest* and 1930 Maharashtra Cyber Anthem in Mumbai, in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and celebrities including Ashish Vidyarthi, Pankaj Tripathi and Samay Raina. At the event, Raina, who contributed to both projects, was felicitated by CM Fadnis. Referring to his 2025 run-in with the cyber cell over the *India's Got Latent*

controversy, he joked, "The Maha Cyber Cell is very active. I can tell you this for sure, whether you are there or whether you are in India, they will catch you."

The controversy erupted last year after an inappropriate question by panellist, podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia in one episode triggered backlash as well as FIRs, leading to multiple legal proceedings, and Raina appearing before Maharashtra Cyber during investigation. HTC



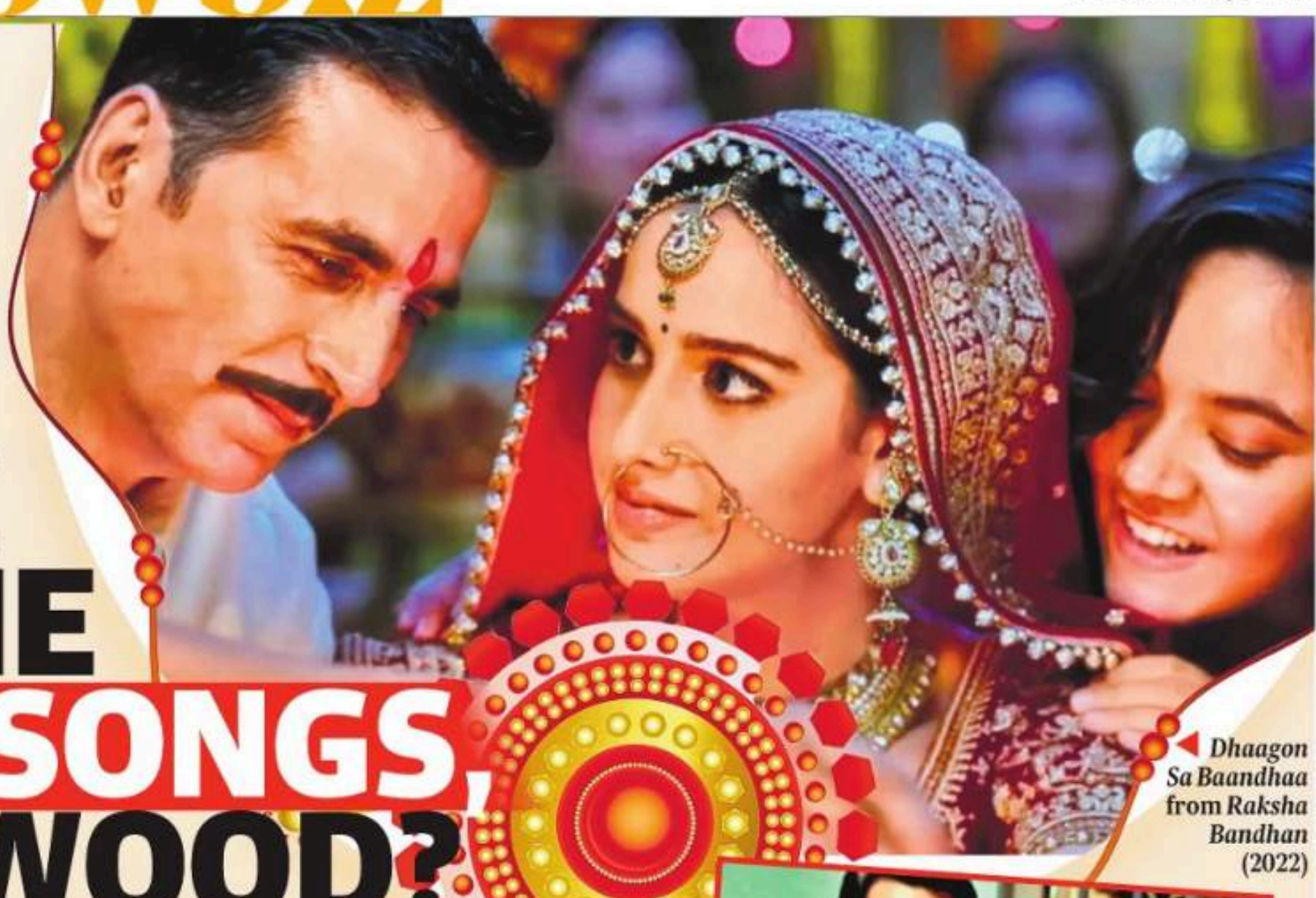
Emily In Paris season 6 first look unveiled

Actor Lily Collins is returning as Emily Cooper for the sixth and last time as the makers of the show, *Emily In Paris* unveiled the date of its final season. The announcement came with the

release of new pictures from the upcoming season featuring the regular cast members including Ashley Park and Lucas Bravo. The series is set to premiere on December 24. HTC

When it comes to Raksha Bandhan songs, Bollywood's musical repertoire remains surprisingly limited, musicians agree

WHERE ARE THE RAKHI SONGS BOLLYWOOD?



▲ Dhaagon
Sa Baandhaa
from Raksha
Bandhan
(2022)



Amit Mishra
with his sister
Sushma

AMIT MISHRA, SINGER

"Until now, I haven't had the chance to sing or work on a brother-sister song, but I would love to do that someday. It's true that we have fewer songs on the subject," says the singer who has delivered hits such as *Bulleya* (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil, 2016). He adds, "Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan (Chhoti Bahen, 1971) is a cult classic and liked by everyone, but if I think about a modern song, I find the Raksha Bandhan (2022) title track truly amazing. Arijit Singh's Dhaagon Se Baandhaa from the same film is also excellent; lyricist Irshad Kamil has written it so well."

Deep Saxena

deep.saxena@htlive.com

Raksha Bandhan is one of the few festivals that celebrates the bond between a brother and sister. Yet, despite its popularity, Bollywood has produced surprisingly few songs around the occasion. While classics such as *Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko Nibhana* and *Behna Ne Bhai Ki Kalai* continue to resonate with fans, there are only a handful of such memorable tracks. As we celebrate Rakhi today August 28, we speak to musicians who agree that Bollywood has produced limited songs celebrating the sibling bond, discuss why this is the case and revisit their favourite Raksha Bandhan tracks.

► Behna Ne Bhai Ki
Kalai from Resham
Ki Dor (1974)



SUNDEEP GOSSWAMI, SINGER-COMPOSER

Known for the 2023 devotional track *Ganga Dharay Shiv Ganga Dharay*, Sundeep agrees, "Unfortunately, very few songs come to mind. I am now seriously considering this; I have discussed with my wife, singer Kanchan Srivas, that we will work on a song about the brother-sister bond." He adds, "We have so many songs about fathers, mothers, and other relationships, but those about siblings are few and far between. Besides the two or three classics, I can only think of Dhaagon Se Baandhaa from Raksha Bandhan (2022)."

▼ Phoolon Ka Taaron Ka from Hare
Rama Hare Krishna (1971)



SHIBANI KASHYAP, SINGER

The singer, who has delivered hits like *Zinda Hoon Main* (Zinda, 2006) and *Sarfira* shares, "In modern-day music, I can't really think of many songs that celebrate the brother-sister bond. Probably, situations are less." She adds, "Personally, I can only remember Phoolon Ka Taaron Ka and Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko Nibhana. I like the former more, as it may not be directly a Raksha Bandhan song, but it beautifully describes the bond."



HARSHIT SAXENA, SINGER-COMPOSER

Known for songs such as *Hale Dil* (Murder 2, 2011) and *Mahe Jaan* (Hate Story, 2012), Saxena says, "There should be more songs that we can play on Raksha Bandhan," adding, "Personally, since I was a kid, my favourite song has been *Dekh Sakta Hoon Kuch Bhi Hote* from *Majboor* (1974). It's not directly related to the festival, but it highlights the brother-sister bond with Bachchan sahab (Amitabh Bachchan) on screen, and Kishore Kumar's singing. That song is very close to my heart."



Dekh
Sakta
Hoon
Kuch
Bhi Hote
from
Majboor
(1974)



Malini Awasthi with
brother Pushkar
Awasthi

▲ Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke
Bandhan from Chhoti Bahen
(1959)

MALINI AWASTHI, SINGER

"In films, there are very few songs that come to mind, my favourite being *Phoolon Ka Taaron Ka* (Hare Rama Hare Krishna, 1971), which conveys emotions beautifully and is very close to me and my brother, Pushkar Awasthi, from when we were growing up," says Malini, known for songs such as *Chakka Jaam* (Bhaiyya Ji, 2024) and *Holi Aayi Re* (2025), adding, "Raksha Bandhan is a special occasion, but it's true that there are few film songs dedicated to it. However, in folk music, there are plenty of songs that celebrate this bond. These include traditional songs like *Amma Meri Mera Bhaiya Ko Bhejo* by Amir Khusrau and *Bhaiya Luhane Aaye Hain* among others."



Shibani
Kashyap with
brother Ashish
Kashyap



I will always
make time for
Raksha
Bandhan:
Eisha Singh

S Farah Rizvi

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For actor Eisha Singh, known for her stint on *Bigg Boss 18*, Raksha Bandhan is more than a festival; it is a tradition that keeps her connected to family. Despite their packed work schedules, Eisha and her

younger brother, actor-director Rudraksh, make sure distance and deadlines never come in the way of their annual ritual.

"If it's Raksha Bandhan, I will always make time for it," Eisha affirms, adding, "Since childhood, this festival has been close to my heart. My brother is younger, so it's like revisiting my childhood. No matter how busy

we are, we will be together."

Looking back on her childhood in Bhopal, she laughs as she recalls how her brother would often sleep through the celebrations. "My brother is six years younger, so he used to sleep through most of the formalities. I would tie the Rakhi while he was completely knocked out! That's one of my

It is a beautiful
occasion to celebrate
and cherish our bond...
Me and my brother
have celebrated Rakhi
every year without fail.

EISHA SINGH, Actor

funniest childhood memories. But we have celebrated Rakhi every year without fail."

From childhood squabbles to becoming each other's biggest support system, their sibling dynamic has certainly evolved. Recalling their early banter, Eisha says, "We used to fight so much over the TV that we barely had time to trouble anyone else, though we definitely pranked the neighbours and occasionally broke their windows playing cricket."

Reflecting on how their relationship has changed over the years, Eisha says, "Being older or younger doesn't really matter. We are always there for each other when it counts. Our relationship has evolved, but our love and support have only grown stronger."

And when it comes to what she expects from her brother this Raksha Bandhan, Eisha says she isn't looking for anything extravagant. "I don't have anything on my wishlist for this Rakhi; having him around is enough."

Rudraksh, however, has a nostalgic surprise in mind. "I'm likely getting her a digital camera," he says, adding, "She loves those retro, 2010-2015 aesthetic pictures, so I think it's the perfect gift for her this Raksha Bandhan."

PHOTOS: HTCS/RAAJESSH KASHYAP



Chunky Panday



L-R: Nushratt Bharuecha, Sonam Bajwa and Ajay Chaudhary



Pratap Singh Rathie

STAR-STUDDDED NIGHT IN DELHI AS ACE GROUP UNVEILS ACE ARTE

Bringing the theme Art Meets Architecture to life, the high-octane evening brought together

Bollywood stars, high fashion, live music, and real estate leaders for an unforgettable night



Rahul Gupta

Delhi witnessed a celebration of luxury and style on Friday as ACE Group unveiled ACE ARTE, marking a major milestone as the group's 25th project launch. Bringing the theme Art Meets Architecture to life, the high-octane evening brought together Bollywood stars, high fashion, live music, and real estate leaders for an unforgettable night.

Host Sonali Gupta set the stage before artist Shivanshu Soni — The Fusionist kicked off the evening with a high-energy performance. Guests were taken through ACE Group's decade-long growth across the NCR, after which Founder, Chairman

& MD Ajay Chaudhary joined the stage to highlight the vision driving the brand forward. The glamour quotient peaked when Bollywood favourites Sonam Bajwa, Nushratt Bharuecha, and Chunky Panday stepped out to join the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony.

The highlight of the night was a dramatic fashion-meets-architecture runway show. As models walked the ramp, a striking red drape was pulled back to reveal the official ACE ARTE crest and lion emblem. Adding a personalized touch, key channel partners were honored during an exclusive ACE ARTE blazer presentation.

Guests then explored an immersive

walkthrough of the new Sector 150, Noida development. Designed as expansive 3 & 4 BHK Neo-Classical residences, ACE ARTE spans nearly 15 acres and features 784 exclusive, three-side-open homes. With nearly 80% open spaces, a 9-acre resort-style green expanse, and a 50,000 sq ft signature clubhouse, the project combines timeless luxury with prime connectivity along the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway.

Following the project preview, powerhouse singer Sonu Mohapatra took over the stage with an electrifying live performance, before DJ Sonik spun hits to keep the celebration going late into the night.

HTC



Akash Choudhary and Vikas Choudhary



Artist Shivanshu Soni — The Fusionist kicked off the evening with a high-energy performance



Designed as expansive 3 & 4 BHK Neo-Classical residences, ACE ARTE spans nearly 15 acres and features 784 exclusive homes in a three-side-open plot. With nearly 80% open spaces, a 9-acre resort-style green expanse, and a 50,000 sq. ft. signature clubhouse, the project combines timeless luxury with prime connectivity along the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway



As models walked the ramp, a striking red drape was pulled back to reveal the official ACE ARTE crest and lion emblem



The high-octane evening brought together Bollywood stars, high fashion, live music, and real estate leaders

Entertainment & Promotional Features

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ MAGNUS CARLSEN



NO BIG DEAL, SAYS THE GEN Z CHESS PLAYER WHO DEFEATED WORLD NO. 1

Delhi-based Vandan Alankar Sawai has become an overnight sensation after beating Magnus Carlsen

Karan Sethi

karan.sethi@hindustantimes.com

For a typical 15-year-old chess player, playing against and beating the current world no 1 and former world champion Magnus Carlsen is the kind of moment that changes everything. But for Vandan Alankar Sawai, it's a just matter of fact. A week after

defeating the Norwegian chess giant during a Title Tuesday event on Chess.com, Sawai seems far less impressed by his own achievement.

"I play chess every day of my life, and all this limelight and praise doesn't mean I will ignore that I did not defeat Magnus comprehensively. That's why I went to sleep after winning," he tells us.

Perhaps what keeps him

grounded is the fact that in his own mind he did not exactly outplay Carlsen: "Somewhere in the midst of the game he made an error, which I can tell is because of a mouse slip. Maybe if I had outclassed him completely, I would be happier."

The feat, or even playing against Carlsen, has no grand sense of occasion in his mind, but mere acceptance of what he thought was inevitable.

Sawai explains, "I was surprised that I was playing Magnus. And then I knew. It doesn't matter if I

play solid or aggressive, I will lose anyway as Magnus will find a way to beat me. So yes, to register a win against such a big player is always good, but it's not that big a deal for me. The goal is still to first become an International Master then a Grandmaster and keep going."

The attention, however, has begun to affect the one thing that the teen actually cares about: his game. The sudden spotlight has made it harder for him to get back into his usual rhythm. He says, "All this feels like an alternate reality. I kind of forgot how to play chess because I haven't been playing my best lately and have been making

Registering a win against such a big player is always good, but it's not that big of a deal for me. My goal is still to first become an International Master (IM), then a Grandmaster (GM) and keep going.

Vandan Alankar Sawai, Amateur chess player

blunders."

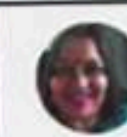
This is not the first time such attention has affected him and Sawai recalls, "Anytime I have defeated some strong player, I would get very happy, and then, I'd forget how to play chess and just end up losing. Now, I would much rather just avoid this and focus on my game."

On becoming a 'celeb' at school

Though he does not consider the e-victory a grand achievement, Vandan Alankar Sawai has become the celebrity of his batch at Sardar Patel Vidyalaya. "It's blowing up much more than I would want it to. People are making it such a big deal about it that it's quite hard to forget," he shares sheepishly, adding, "Random students in my school who I don't even know are coming up to me and asking me, 'Are you the one who beat Magnus?'"

divinedevil11 • 1d

The younger they are, the more dangerous they are 🤖



Smita Deshmukh @smitadeshmukh • 2h
I'm late to this story and read it twice to be sure!

Beating Magnus Carlsen in 50 moves, casually saying "I'm done for the night," and going straight to sleep without bragging to your parents is elite-level ice in the veins.



Vishweshwar Bhat @VishweshwarBhat • Aug 26
Beating the GOAT Magnus Carlsen online and casually going straight to sleep without even waking your parents is absolute peak teenage nonchalance.

A journey across generations through six sculptors



▲ One of the works on display is Latika Katt's portrait head of Mahatma Gandhi



◀ Sojwal Samant's Seismic represents a practice shaped by globalisation

The landscape of sculptural practice is often considered dominated by men, where women practitioners are portrayed as exceptions rather than core participants. Proposing an alternative genealogy of Indian sculpture, the ongoing exhibition Sculpting Lineages: Women Across Generations serves as a counter-narrative to the premise.

The exhibits trace nearly seven decades of sculptural

practices through the works of six women: Ira Chaudhuri, Latika Katt, Shambhavi, Sojwal Samant, Radhika Agarwala, and Poojan Gupta.

Curator Nainvi Vora explains, "The exhibition unearths the profound ways in which women have shaped the development of sculpture in India, tracing not a linear progression of styles but a network of affinities, continuities, ruptures, and reinventions that connect sculptural practices across time." PTI



◀ Radhika Agarwala draws from Nature for Every Bit Of Earth Is A Bit Of You II

CATCH IT LIVE
What: Sculpting Lineages: Women Across Generations
Where: Gallery Espace, Trimurti Building, New Friends Colony
On till: September 26
Timing: 11am to 7pm
Nearest Metro Station: Sukhdev Vihar (Magenta Line)

▼ Ira Chaudhuri's works challenge conventional divisions of art, craft and sculpture in ceramic pots

{ DAILY HOROSCOPE }

Friday, August 28, 2026

Dr Prem Kumar Sharma (Astrologer & Vaastu 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

PREMASTROLOGER

ASKPREMASTROLOGER

ARIES

MAR 21-APR 20

Financial gains take time to materialise. Personal marketing strategies may help strengthen industry presence and attract wider recognition. A sibling's news may not directly affect you, but your support means a great deal.

LOVE FOCUS: Try to understand your partner's expectations.
LUCKY NUMBER: 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Purple

LEO

JUL 23-AUG 23

Finalise property deal with the help of a reliable agent. If using homeopathy, be sure to seek guidance from an allopathic doctor as well. Managing outstanding dues through a structured plan may reduce pressure.

LOVE FOCUS: Calm response can prevent any misunderstanding.
LUCKY NUMBER: 9 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Baby Pink

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Expand financial knowledge to help strengthen money management and decision-making skills. Your competitor's strategy could offer useful ideas for refining business model. Stay focused while driving.

LOVE FOCUS: You may notice a few changes in your partner.
LUCKY NUMBER: 4 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Peach

TAURUS

APR 21-MAY 20

Gratitude for loved ones makes the day feel rewarding. Spa therapy may help restore physical comfort. Brand collaborations could put your work before a wider audience. Delayed repayment of loaned money may test your patience.

LOVE FOCUS: Express affection to strengthen mutual feelings.
LUCKY NUMBER: 22 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Green

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEP 23

Revisiting important concepts may prove more valuable than rushing into new topics. Rising household expenses require thoughtful budgeting. Achieving a legacy project could leave a lasting professional business impact.

LOVE FOCUS: Avoid rushing; make decisions thoughtfully.
LUCKY NUMBER: 7 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Saffron

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 21

Any credit-related obligations deserve careful management to protect future borrowing capacity. Remote work opportunities continue expanding, although discipline remains essential. A trip with children will be enjoyable.

LOVE FOCUS: Don't take things further without family consent.
LUCKY NUMBER: 3 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Golden

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUN 21

Strong financial planning could help preserve and grow existing resources. A parent's advice may carry more wisdom than it first appears. Property matters deserve a closer review before major steps are taken.

LOVE FOCUS: Make a handmade gift for your partner.
LUCKY NUMBER: 8 **LUCKY COLOUR:** White

LIBRA

SEP 24-OCT 23

Maintaining strong client base might strengthen business. An elder may revisit a past issue, requiring patience. Financial stability comes from consistency than dramatic gains. Minor travel adjustments are needed before plans settle.

LOVE FOCUS: A quiet moment with partner brings fulfillment.
LUCKY NUMBER: 6 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Blue

AQUARIUS

JAN 22-FEB 19

A sibling bond can remind you of the importance of your family. Rising costs can place pressure on business profitability. Online banking security deserves continued attention. Kids learn something new through fun activities.

LOVE FOCUS: Try to learn from past mistakes in relationship.
LUCKY NUMBER: 2 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Brown

CANCER

JUN 22-JUL 22

Try to understand financial patterns to improve awareness of opportunity costs. A meaningful conversation with relative brings both clarity and happiness. Release any negativity to gradually create a lighter and peaceful mindset.

LOVE FOCUS: Partner helps you rediscover joy in simple things.
LUCKY NUMBER: 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Red

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Business endeavour seems promising; careful management of finances remains advisable. Time spent with family today will be filled with joy and laughter. You are likely to explore some property options online.

LOVE FOCUS: When shared, responsibilities are easier.
LUCKY NUMBER: 5 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Beige

PISCES

FEB 20-MAR 20

Try to give equal time and attention to all family members. Minor fluctuations in investments are possible; no need to worry. Entrepreneurial leadership could support the long-term sustainability of a business venture.

LOVE FOCUS: Relationship may benefit from fresh perspective.
LUCKY NUMBER: 1 **LUCKY COLOUR:** Grey

weekend planner

AUGUST 29-30

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SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Where: In theatres
Time: All day

TOXIC

Cast: Yash, Huma Qureshi, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria

TONY

Cast: Dominic Sessa, Antonio Banderas, Emilia Jones, Dagmara Domińczyk

BHAI AUR BEHEN.
POPCORN
AUR CINEMA.
KUCHH ATOOT
BANDHAN.

PVR • INOX

PHOTO: HTCS

bitestop



SATURDAY-SUNDAY

RAJASTHANI FOOD FESTIVAL

Where: Food Exchange - Novotel New Delhi, Aerocity
Time: 7pm to 10.45pm

playdate

SATURDAY
LOVE, DEATH &
KETCHUP FT. VARUN
GROVERWhere: Kedarnath Sahni Auditorium, Press Enclave, Ajmeri Gate
Time: 8pmPARABOLA OF DANCE -
PERFORMANCE &
PROCESS 2026Where: The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
Time: 7.30pmSUNDAY
LENNY PEARCE'S KID'S
CONCERT TOURWhere: Talkatora Indoor Stadium, President's Estate
Time: 4pm

grooveit

SATURDAY
EKKA INDIA TOUR FT. NILADRI
KUMARWhere: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Sector 25, Dwarka
Time: 7pmCHAAR DIWAARI & DHANDA
NYOLIWALA LIVEWhere: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Sector 25, Dwarka
Time: 5pm to 11pmTHE RAGHU DIXIT PROJECT
LIVEWhere: South Side Story, KD Jadhav Stadium, Indira Gandhi Arena, Ring Road, Indraprastha Estate, ITO
Time: Noon onwards

powerhour



Catch It
Live: Scan
the QR Code
to plan your
weekend

SATURDAY-SUNDAY
GIRLS-ONLY PLAY
PARTYWhere: Dace Athletic Club, Sector 4, RK Puram
Time: 8am to Noon

Want your event to get featured here?
Email us at: htcityweekendplanner@gmail.com



PHOTO: X

Homer, Kaia serve looks @ US Open

American supermodel and actor Kaia Gerber turned heads at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City recently, bringing a high-fashion twist to the stands at the US Open. She was joined by her *The Shreds* co-star Homer Gere, 26, for the outing. Kaia, 24, stepped out in a sleek, body-hugging midi dress by Yana Matkivski, channelling pure '90s glamour with dark oversized shades, a gold Cartier watch and a tiger-striped Fendi Baguette bag.

The duo share an interesting Hollywood connection through their parents. Kaia is the daughter of supermodel Cindy Crawford and businessman Rande Gerber, while Homer is the son of actor Richard Gere and Bond girl Carey Lowell. And here's the fun part: Cindy and Richard were married from December 1991 until their divorce in 1995.

HTC

Celebrating the judicial journey

The Alliance for Corporate Counsel and Company Secretaries (ACoS) recently hosted a dinner for over 150 legal professionals to honour the judicial career of Supreme Court Justice JK Maheshwari.

The event brought together a broad cross-section of the legal community, including senior advocates, Supreme Court Bar Association members, and corporate General Counsels. Notable guests included former Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, alongside other sitting and former judges from the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court.



L-R: Parvesh Kheterpal, Founder, ACoS; Govind Vijay, Sachin Kalra, Ranju Goyal, Sampada Narang and HMJ JK Maheshwari

PHOTO: HTBS

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ BTS.BIGHITOFFICIAL



BTS' V opens up on single-sided hearing loss: What is it and when to see a doctor?

BTS member Kim Taehyung, aka V, recently revealed that he has been living with 70% hearing loss in his right ear for over two years. ENT specialists help break down unilateral hearing loss, and explain why it warrants timely attention

WHAT IS UNILATERAL HEARING LOSS?

"It refers to when hearing is significantly poorer in one ear and can range from mild impairment to complete deafness," says ENT specialist Dr (Maj) Rajesh Bhardwaj at MedFirst ENT Centre.

The causes can range from relatively simple problems to conditions affecting the inner ear or hearing nerve. Some causes are treatable, like earwax buildup, infections and middle-ear fluid, to a perforated eardrum or damage to the inner ear. Loud noise, head injuries, certain infections, autoimmune conditions, Ménière's disease and some medicines can also affect hearing. A rarer cause is vestibular schwannoma, a usually benign tumour that can cause one-sided hearing loss, tinnitus or imbalance.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

An ENT evaluation and hearing test (audiogram) can help identify the problem, but some may need an MRI. As per Dr Meena Agrawal, Senior Consultant, ENT Surgeon at PSRI Hospital, treatment depends on the cause. For sudden sensorineural hearing loss, doctors may use steroids. In some cases, hyperbaric oxygen therapy may be considered. If significant hearing loss remains, CROS hearing aids can help send sound from the affected ear to the better-hearing ear. For those with severe hearing loss, a cochlear implant may be considered.

Aadrika Sominder

WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

- Muffled hearing in one ear
- Frequently turning head to hear better
- Ringing or buzzing in one ear
- A feeling of pressure or fullness in the ear
- Dizziness or balance problems
- Difficulty understanding speech
- Sudden hearing loss is a medical emergency. See an ENT specialist immediately
- In children, watch for delayed speech, not responding when called from one side, turning up the TV or struggling to follow conversations in noisy places

Delhi hotels, eateries face heat over food safety

FSSAI recently issued notices to Aerocity's JW Marriott and Andaz over hygiene and compliance lapses. Meanwhile, a video of a cockroach inside The Big Chill Cakery in Khan Market was circulated online. These have sparked fresh food safety concerns in the Capital

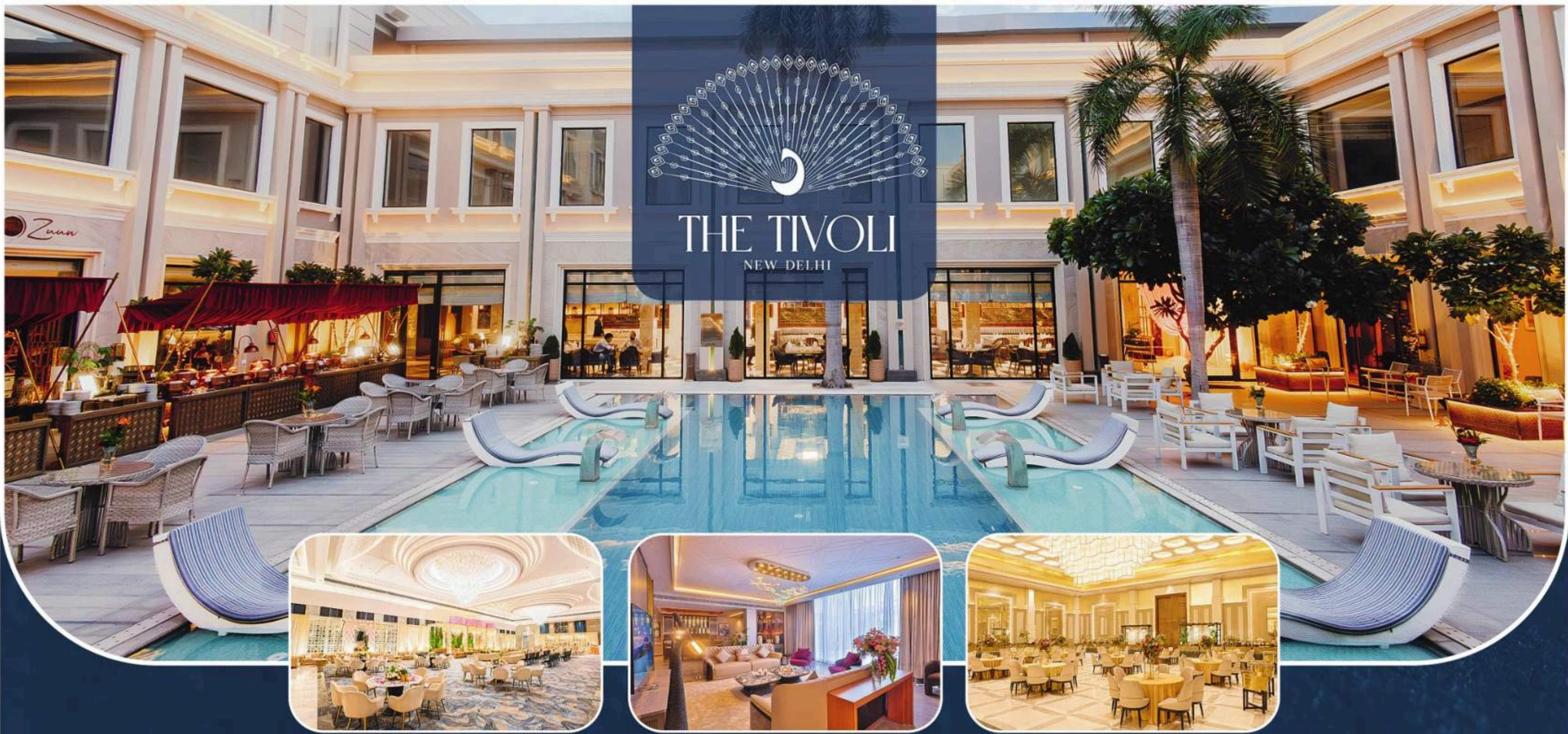
At JW Marriott, inspectors flagged 59 non-compliance points across the hotel's Indian, Chinese, Italian, and bakery kitchens. The team noted issues such as spoiled produce, uncovered food storage, unclean equipment, and floating particles in drinking water samples. The audit also highlighted pest sightings in certain kitchen sections and unauthorised re-labelling of retail food products under the hotel's brand name. In response, representatives stated they are cooperating.

During the inspection at Andaz Delhi, officials disposed of approximately 87 kg of expired sweets, along with outdated cake bases and bread items. The report also pointed out improper storage practices, including re-labelling dates on packaged bakery items, and noted the presence of pests in utility areas. Concerns were also raised over kitchen sanitation and the shared handling of vegetarian and non-vegetarian preparation areas. Representatives from Andaz too said they were working to address the findings to ensure adherence to safety guidelines.



PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK (FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

A video showing a cockroach crawling inside a display refrigerator near the brownies at The Big Chill Cakery in Khan Market, Delhi, has also drawn attention recently. Food vlogger Kenny (@giantgrubs) shared the video on Instagram on Tuesday after spotting the insect. It has since clocked over 177K views. He said he tried contacting the popular bakery privately to flag the hygiene concern but received no response before sharing the video. The incident comes shortly after a similar food safety controversy at PAUL in Gurugram, adding to growing concerns over hygiene standards at popular eateries.



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PHOTO: HTCS

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Price: ₹1,399
Availability: E-commerce platforms

A CHOCOLATE TWIST TO TEMPLE PRASAD

At Thekkan Palani Balasubramania Temple in Thalavady, Alappuzha, an unusual offering is distributed among devotees as prasad. Content creator Reha Adani recently shared a video of the tradition believed to have begun when an ill child offered a Munch to Lord Murugan and later recovered. Since then, devotees have continued offering the chocolate to the deity.



INDIAN FOOD HAS A NEW SUPERFAN
US-based YouTuber Ed Nathanson says Indian food has "ruined" other cuisines for him, after discovering dishes such as pani puri, chicken vindaloo and Gobi Manchurian. Calling his obsession a "problem," the self-styled "World's Greatest Snack Detective" said he discovered Indian cuisine about five years ago. Recalling his first taste, Nathanson said it felt as though "the heavens opened".



PHOTO: GEMINI(AI GENERATED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

A Delhi café encounter has triggered a ₹2.05-crore legal notice to Meta and an Instagram creator, putting covert recording, consent and venue rules under scrutiny

■ Snigdha Nalini Orey



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK(OR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

WHAT HAPPENED

A Delhi man has sent a legal notice to Meta and an Instagram creator, alleging he was covertly recorded at a Khan Market café on July 24 using Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses. He alleges the creator approached him, questioned him and followed him after he moved seats. He says he did not know he was being filmed. The footage was posted as an Instagram Reel on July 26. According to the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), which is assisting him pro bono, it had crossed 4.19 lakh views, 15,700 likes and 500 comments by August 6. The notice seeks removal of the video, an apology, preservation of evidence and ₹2.05 crore in damages.

WHY DOES IT MATTER

Unlike a phone, can you tell when smart glasses are recording? Not always. Ray-Ban Meta glasses have a front-facing white LED designed to indicate when the camera is capturing, but the wearer can record hands-free without visibly pointing a device at someone. That has already prompted restrictions overseas. UK restaurants, theatres and pubs have moved to restrict camera-equipped smart glasses, while cinemas are considering similar measures over privacy and piracy concerns. However, multiple British entertainment venues have clarified that their existing rules against covert filming apply to smart glasses rather than imposing a blanket device ban.

SHOULD INDIAN RESTAURANTS BAN THEM

Not necessarily, say hospitality operators. Kanishk Tuteja, founder, Mido House, Delhi, says, "We don't think the technology itself is the issue; it is how it is used." If guests continued recording diners or staff after being asked to stop, he says, staff would intervene. Varun Khara, National Restaurant Association of India's Noida chapter head, puts the onus on users: "People need to be sensitive to how they use" evolving technology. Content creators, he adds, need to understand "what to record and what not to record".

HOW TO USE SMART GLASSES SAFELY

- **Ask first:** Get consent before recording people
- **Respect a no:** Stop if asked
- **Check the LED:** It signals when the camera is recording, but isn't consent
- **Think before posting:** Recording doesn't automatically mean you can publish
- **Follow venue rules:** Comply with recording policies

WHAT DOES META SAY

Meta says the glasses are designed to signal recording. The capture LED lights up when a photo or video is being taken, and Meta says safeguards are in place to prevent recording if the indicator is tampered with. Instagram head Adam Mosseri has also said: "We can't stop people from filming other people, but we can try to make sure that that light is on if they are filming." He added that Meta does not want people "surprisingly taking videos of other people and harassing them" before posting the footage. Meta told us its Bullying and Harassment policies apply "regardless of the device used to capture content" and that reported material is reviewed and removed when it violates those policies.

CAN SOMEONE LEGALLY RECORD YOU IN PUBLIC

Being in public does not mean you have no privacy rights. Supreme Court lawyer Sana Raees Khan says the expectation of privacy is lower in a public space, "but not eliminated". The context, purpose and use of the recording can matter, particularly if publication causes harassment, humiliation or reputational harm. That does not, however, mean every public recording is automatically illegal. Tech expert Anirudh Suri, founding partner, India Internet Fund, says the glasses create a new consent challenge because recording can be less apparent. "Safeguards will require a clear set of guidelines for sale and use of this technology in India." Section 66E of the Information Technology Act deals specifically with capturing, publishing or transmitting images of a person's private areas without consent. It is not a blanket ban on filming people in public. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 also forms part of India's emerging privacy framework, but its substantive obligations are being brought into force in phases; the government notified the Rules in November 2025, with key compliance provisions scheduled for May 2027.

SKIP THE GIFTS, GIVE YOUR SIBLING POWER



PHOTOS: GEMINI(AI GENERATED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

This Raksha Bandhan, ditch the predictable gifts and hand your sibling the power to call the shots. From winning every argument to escaping chores, these passes cost little but promise maximum sibling satisfaction

Compiled by Aadrika Sominder



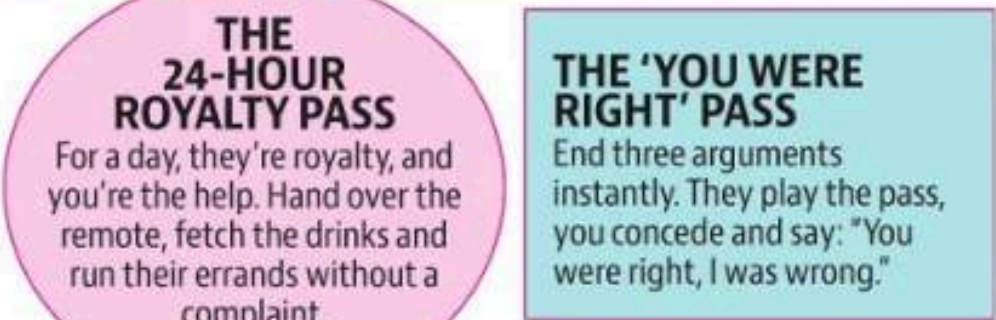
THE GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE PASS

Take the blame for one of their mistakes, whether it's a broken vase or a dented bumper. No conditions, no payback.



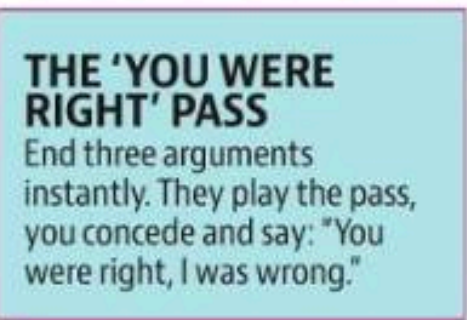
THE DESIGNATED DRIVER PASS

Valid for 30 days. Whenever they need a late-night ride home, you show up. No questions, no lectures.



THE 24-HOUR ROYALTY PASS

For a day, they're royalty, and you're the help. Hand over the remote, fetch the drinks and run their errands without a complaint.



THE 'YOU WERE RIGHT' PASS

End three arguments instantly. They play the pass, you concede and say: "You were right, I was wrong."



THE OPEN-SEASON PASS

Let them raid your wardrobe, jewellery stash, shoes, headphones or gaming gear for a week. No permission needed.



THE MIDNIGHT MASTERCHEF PASS

Cook whatever they're craving, however specific, whenever they want. Bonus points for cleaning up afterwards.



THE CHORE EVICTION PASS

Give them a week off their most hated chore, from dishes and trash to dog walks. You take over, no reminders required.



PHOTO: THOMAS PETER/REUTERS



La Tomatina festival paints Spain red

Thousands of revellers descended to Buñol, Spain, on Wednesday for La Tomatina, the annual food fight that turned the small town red with up to 165 tonnes of overripe tomatoes. Around 22,000 people took part, with international tourists making up a significant share. For about an hour, participants pelted each other with tomatoes from passing trucks as music blared and white clothes quickly turned pink and red. The festival dates to a food fight in 1945 and has since become a global attraction. Visitors from India have grown notably since the 2011 Bollywood film Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara recreated the event, inspiring many to experience it firsthand. Similar tomato-throwing events have taken place in Florida, London, Amsterdam, the Colombian town of Sutamarchán and Hyderabad, India. Non-local attendees paid €15 (approx ₹1668) for a ticket. The main rule is to squash tomatoes before hurling them to avoid injuries, while many participants wore swimming goggles and earplugs for protection. A cannon signalled the finish after an hour, following which participants washed off and Buñol's streets were hosed clean.



PHOTOS: JOSE JORDAN/AFP



A reveller covered in tomato pulp takes part in the messy festivities

Participants scramble for tomatoes as the food fight gets underway

A party in Dolly Parton's honour

PHOTOS: RONALDO SCHEIDT/AFP

Dolly Parton fans in Houston turned grief into celebration on Wednesday, gathering for a tribute night at Dan Electro's Guitar Bar, a day after the country music icon died aged 80. The event featured live music, a DJ set and sing-alongs, with more Dolly-themed events planned across the city through Labor Day weekend. Parton's death sparked tributes worldwide, including a US presidential order to fly flags at half-staff through September 1 and a performance of 9 to 5 by the King's Guard outside Buckingham Palace.



Fans pose beside a life-size cardboard cutout of the pop icon at the celebration

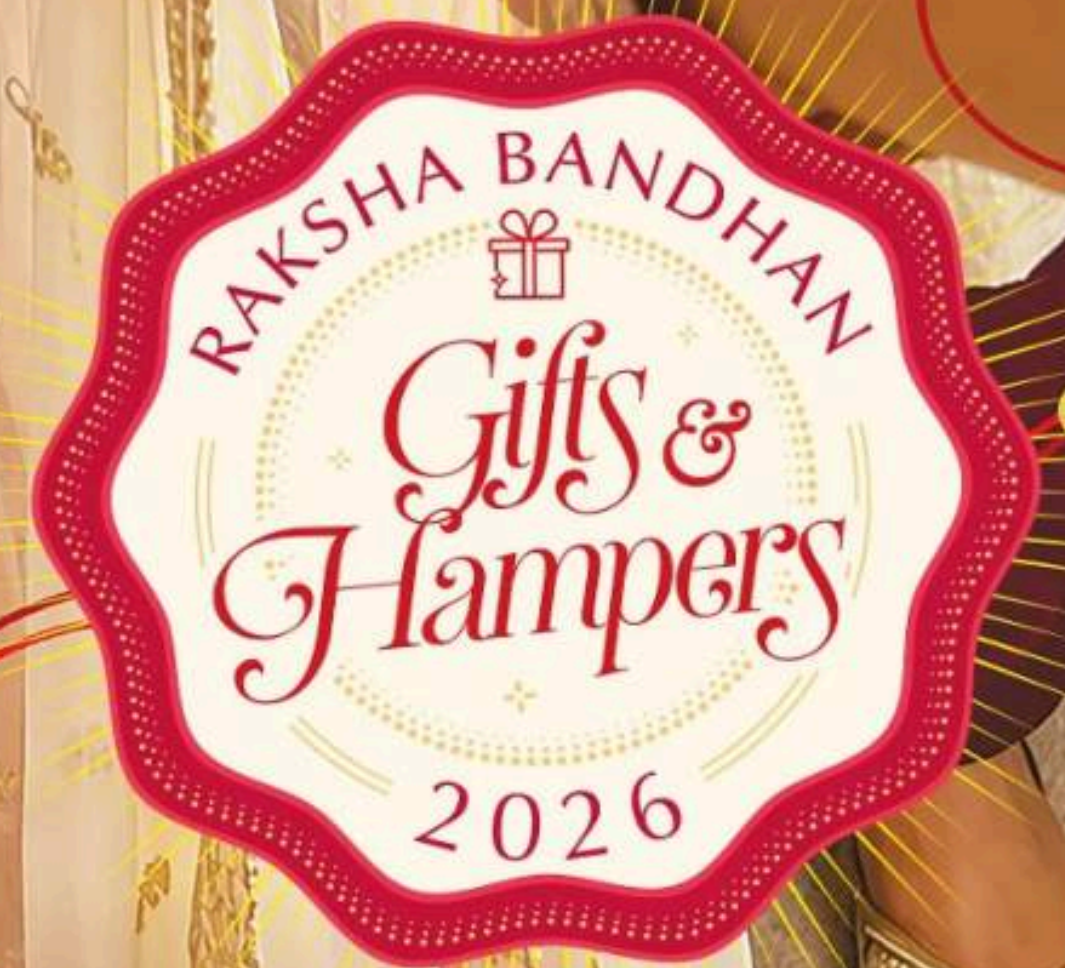


A fan displays a calf tattoo bearing Parton's likeness while attending the Houston tribute night

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MAHIMA'S DELHI FIX: ART AND CHAAT

From the cultural buzz of Mandi House to her favourite palak patta chaat, actor Mahima Makwana on what keeps drawing her back to Delhi

Medha Shri Dahiya
medha.dahiya@partner.hindustantimes.com

For actor Mahima Makwana, Delhi is as much about soaking in its rich cultural landscape as it is about indulging in its food. Even on a fleeting visit, the actor, recently seen in *Musafir Café*, tries to make her way to Mandi House, drawn by the neighbourhood's theatres, art spaces and the creative energy that surrounds it.

"The whole area around Mandi House has such a cultural vibe. It has many auditoriums like Sri Ram Centre, Triveni Kala Sangam, Kamani Auditorium... There is always an interesting art exhibition or a thought-provoking play happening. For an artist, this is the stuff of dreams!" she tells us.

The 27-year-old is particularly fascinated by the legacy of the area and its role in nurturing the arts. She shares, "All these prestigious platforms for showcasing and promoting arts and culture make this area my favourite hangout."

The presence of the National School of Drama (NSD Delhi) makes the neighbourhood even more special. "It is where some of the stalwarts of our industry walked. The vibes are worth catching," Makwana gushes.

Of course, no Delhi visit is complete without some chaat. "Even if it is just a pit stop, I make sure I indulge in some Dilli ki chaat," she says. The palak patta chaat at Triveni Kala Sangam has a special place on her Delhi food map. "I tried it on my friend's recommendation a few years ago, and it was so delicious!" she says, smacking her lips.



PHOTO: SHANTANU BHATTACHARYA/HT

I love the Mandi House area; it is such a cultural hub and a nurturer of arts. Imagine all the art exhibitions, plays, recitals one can catch here.

MAHIMA MAKWANA, Actor

BONDING OVER BHAJANS AND SPIRITUALITY

ILLUSTRATION: ADOBE STOCK

On Raksha Bandhan today, Raghav and Prachi Agarwal aka Backstage Siblings share how music and spirituality anchor their bond

Karan Sethi
karan.sethi@hindustantimes.com

For the regulars at bhajan jamming in the city, brother-sister duo Raghav and Prachi Agarwal are a name they would certainly be aware of. They jam together onstage as Backstage Siblings, but come Raksha Bandhan, and they forget their differences, creative and otherwise. "We've not spent one Rakhi apart. We always make sure we're together," says Prachi, adding, "Raksha Bandhan has always been my favourite festival as I feel it's my annual fixed income, even before I started working or before I started performing together with Raghav!"

Though now they travel together for shows and celebrate most life's moments in transit, the duo shares that offstage they are like any other pair of siblings, bickering over the smallest of things. "But the moment we step on stage, our rivalry melts into a deep, spiritual harmony," says Raghav, who is gearing up to perform in the city on September 5.

Meanwhile, Prachi, 23, who is the younger of the two, laughs and adds, "We keep fighting over everything. Before our shows, before we step on stage, we fight all the time. That's why our manager is more into controlling both of us than managing us." And Raghav, 26, agrees: "Before Backstage Siblings, we are siblings. Right from the colour of our outfits to the choice of songs, siblings don't really need a reason to fight!"

That chaos, however, vanishes as music infuses harmony in their sibling rivalry. "Music and spirituality serve as our ultimate anchor. So when on stage, no matter whatever fight was happening before, we sing bhajans together and forget about everything," shares Prachi. Raghav adds, "If you see, there's an unusual connection between Prachi and me on stage where we understand each other without speaking."



We've not spent one Rakhi apart. We always make sure we're together.

PRACHI AGARWAL, Singer

Adopt A PET

This week, two doggos and two cattos are looking for their forever homes and loving pet siblings and parents. Adopt, don't shop for pets!

Jimmy is an year-old female Labrador mix currently in Beta 1, Greater Noida. She was abandoned by her owners after getting pregnant. Despite that, Jimmy is extremely friendly with both humans and other dogs. She is also comfortable being left alone for a few hours. Her vaccination status is unknown and she has not yet been sterilised.
To adopt: WhatsApp on +91 99973 55666

Sweetie is a 2.5-month-old female kitten, rescued from a park in South Delhi's Saket. Vaccinated and dewormed, she is playful, gentle and has a fondness for both dry and wet treats. Sweetie is at the perfect age to settle into a new home. If you're looking for a little companion in your life, she might just be the one. **To adopt:** +91 8802827522

Chiku is a three-month-old female kitten currently in Pitampura. Friendly, playful and affectionate, she loves being around people and is always happy to curl up for a cuddle. A lover of creamy treats and gravies, her playful antics and gentle nature will sure bring plenty of warmth and joy to the family that brings her home. **To adopt:** WhatsApp on +91 88267 79850

Damru is an eight-year-old male Beagle, rescued from West Delhi streets and currently staying at a shelter in Najafgarh. He is friendly with humans. Damru has recently recovered from kidney issues and is currently on oral medication. His vaccinations are yet to be done. He happily eats what is served, with rice and chicken being his favourites. **To adopt:** WhatsApp on +91 95607 20817

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PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM

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PRIYA SINGH, Influencer and pet parent to Simba

Pet Set Go's Dog Rakhi: ₹149

With All My Paw's (WAMP) Sock Thief Pet Neck Rakhi: ₹799

A paw-fect Rakhi

From bone-shaped crochet threads to themed neckties, these quirky designs are stealing the hearts of pet lovers

Tonoto by Shivi Bist's Rescue Baby Pet Rakhi: ₹499

Boof by Bella's Green Fetch Ball Rakhi: ₹399

Little Tags' Custom Pet Line Art Rakhi: ₹400

Tann Trim's Tann Paw Vegan Leather Band: ₹850

Tilting Heads' Bone Crochet Rakhi: ₹349

Wrapin'fur's Dog Pink Paw Rakhi: ₹179

Anshita Jain
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This Raksha Bandhan, it's not just human siblings who are getting pampered. New and quirky designs in pet rakhis are wooing parents to ensure their fur babies feel loved, too!

"Initially when we started making rakhis for pets about three years ago, no one ordered them much and even our own family laughed at the concept," recalls Kalkaji-based Chaitali Abrol, founder of Boof by Bella, adding, "This year, in the past two months itself, we have sold around 400-500 rakhis for pets. Many buyers, even from abroad such as Canada, ordered in bulk for all the furry friends in their family... Guess the demand for pet rakhis have increased because people are including their pets in every festival just like family functions."

Shoppers in this specific realm have developed a keen eye for quirky concepts. "We have rakhis with fun slang such as Tricks for Treats, Top Dog, Bed Hog, and Rescue Baby," shares Noida-based Ruchit Dugar, co-founder and CEO of Tonoto by Shivi Bist. He adds that pet rakhis are one of their top-selling categories. "All our rakhis are hand-embroidered to ensure they don't irritate the skin. These are mostly in pastel colours, majority in blue, as pets, especially dogs, understand and see blue colour better."

Some brands are offering a more wearable spin by creating rakhis like pet necklaces. "We launched festive neckties this year and among the 500 rakhi orders that we have delivered so far, just five have been regular pet rakhis. The rest were Rakhi-special neck-ties," informs Sidhi Goel, co-founder, With All My Paw.

'MUSICIANS AREN'T TAKING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS'

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With Euphoria's ninth album having released on August 19, Palash Sen is looking back at the band's nearly three-decade journey while also reflecting on the place of musicians in the industry today.

Questioning why musicians, particularly in Bollywood, often remain behind the scenes despite being at the heart of the music audiences connect with, he shares, "In Bollywood, you become the voice of someone else. This is not my criticism of the system. It's just that I am not comfortable with it. I've always believed that a singer should be a 'play-front' person instead of playback. Eventually, when you sing the same songs on stage that you were doing as a playback, then why not do it from the beginning?", adding, "I don't know why musicians are not taking what is rightfully theirs."

The 60-year-old believes that musicians know how to tell a story through their talent, but feels the art has been slowing down. "There is no pursuit in music videos today. There is no journey and it's all instant gratification. I can only say that I will not be a sellout. I will always have clean stories in my songs," he says, a sentiment that also runs through his latest album, *Doomsday*.

Applauding director Aditya Dhar for putting musicians in the spotlight during the release of *Dhurandhar* (2025), he adds, "If you see all Bollywood releases, you never get to see the musicians. You only see the actors or directors. The only time, of late, that I've seen the musicians on stage was for *Dhurandhar*, and hats off to Aditya for it, for giving their respect not only to Shashwat Sachdev but to all those who worked on the music."



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PALASH SEN, Singer-composer

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ INSTADHOOM

Camron Jones to play Tupac Shakur in Snoop Dogg biopic

Actor Camron Jones, known for the web series *Panic*, is set to portray late rapper Tupac Shakur in *Snoop*, the upcoming biopic about Snoop Dogg. The film will chart the 54-year-old rapper's journey from Long Beach, California, in the 1990s to becoming one of rap's biggest names.

Actor Jonathan Davis was previously announced to play Snoop Dogg. Myles Bullock will portray Dr. Dre, who discovered Snoop and produced his debut studio album, *Doggystyle*, in 1993. Lauren Londston will play Snoop Dogg's late mother, author Beverly Tate. Directed by Craig Brewer, Snoop is produced by Brian Grazer and Allan Mandelbaum, alongside Snoop Dogg and Death Row Pictures. The film is also

expected to feature music from Snoop Dogg's catalogue.

Shakur was one of the most influential rappers on the West Coast. He also appeared in films such as *Juice* (1992), *Poetic Justice* (1993) and *Gridlock'd* (1997). In 1995, he had served eight months in prison after being convicted of first-degree sexual abuse. He was killed in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas in 1996 at the age of 25.

Snoop Dogg and Shakur were both signed to Death Row Records and collaborated on tracks including 2 of *Amerikaz Most Wanted*. Their relationship later became strained amid the escalating East Coast-West Coast rap rivalry, with Shakur urging Snoop to take a side in the feud.

HTC

PHOTO: X

Jennifer Aniston, Jim Curtis' night out with Friends co-stars

PHOTOS: X

Actor Jennifer Aniston and her boyfriend, author Jim Curtis, were spotted enjoying a double date with her *Friends* co-stars Courtney Cox and Lisa Kudrow on Tuesday. The group met at California's Sunset Tower Hotel, where they were also joined by actors Jason Bateman

Aniston, 57, and Curtis, 50, have

kept their relationship largely low-key since they began dating in July last year. The two had earlier been spotted together in California as well as on holiday in Spain.

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