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P7 Community
DPS-MIS girl students shine in second round of Qatar Schools Debating League.



P16 Community
Khaga Bahadur Khatri, a Nepali cyclist, speaks about the joy of living and working in Qatar.

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GULF TIMES

COMMUNITY



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Soul artist



Shreya Suraj, a self-taught Indian artist based in Doha, on encouragement as the driving force of art. **P4-5**

Photo by Jayan Orma

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PRAYER TIME

Fajr	4.45am
Shorooq (sunrise)	6.01am
Zuhr (noon)	11.47am
Asr (afternoon)	3.06pm
Maghreb (sunset)	5.35pm
Isha (night)	7.05pm

USEFUL NUMBERS



Emergency	999
Worldwide Emergency Number	112
Kahramaa - Electricity and Water	991
Local Directory	180
International Calls Enquires	150
Hamad International Airport	40106666
Labor Department	44508111, 44406537
Mowasalat Taxi	44588888
Qatar Airways	44496000
Hamad Medical Corporation	44392222, 44393333
Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation	44845555, 44845464
Primary Health Care Corporation	44593333
Qatar Assistive Technology Centre	44594050
Qatar News Agency	44450205
	44450333
Q-Post - General Postal Corporation	44464444

Humanitarian Services Office

(Single window facility for the repatriation of bodies)

Ministry of Interior	40253371, 40253372, 40253369
Ministry of Health	40253370, 40253364
Hamad Medical Corporation	40253368, 40253365
Qatar Airways	40253374

Quote Unquote

The eternal quest of the individual human being is to shatter his loneliness.

— Norman Cousins

Community Editor

Kamran Rehmat

e-mail: community@gulf-times.com

Telephone: 44466405

Fax: 44350474



Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety

DIRECTION: Luv Ranjan

CAST: Nushrat Bharucha, Kartik Aaryan, Sunny Singh Nijjar

SYNOPSIS: *Sonu ke Titu ki Sweety* explores the new age version of the same belief where 'Marriage' is a marriage between two friend circles. Sonu and Titu are childhood friends. Titu has always been a naïve lover, who falls in love easily and Sonu has always had to step in to save him. But Sweety is the perfect bride and Titu is head over heels in love

with her. Sonu's instinct to protect Titu at whatever cost, makes him feel that she is too good to be true. What ensues is a war between the best friend and the bride to be. While Sweety is trying to impress Titu and the family alike, Sonu is out to sabotage the utopian romance and Sonu doubts Sweety's character and tries to break the marriage while Sweety tries to do opposite, which leads to war between Bromance and Romnace.

THEATRES: Landmark, The Mall, Royal Plaza



Hey Jude - Malayalam

DIRECTION: Shyama Prasad

CAST: Nivin Pauly, Trisha Krishnan, Sidiqqe, Neena Kurup

SYNOPSIS: Two odd characters, a youngster named Jude and the other, a talented singer named Crystal. When

these two characters come together, their lives undergo several changes, leading to love, self-discovery, healing and transformation. Hey Jude celebrates the innate, beautiful things in human beings and life as a whole. For the world, Jude (Nivin Pauly) and his thoughts are

a puzzle. However, certain unforeseen incidents take him to places where he has never been and his experiences help him shed his inhibitions.

THEATRES: The Mall, Royal Plaza, Landmark

The Mall Cinema (1): *Aadhi* (Malayalam) 2:15pm; *Hey Jude* (Malayalam) 4:45pm; *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (2D) 7:30pm; *Mom And Dad* (2D) 9:45pm; *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (2): *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 2pm; *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 3:30pm; *Black Panther* (2D) 5pm; *Game Night* (2D) 7:30pm; *Welcome To New York* (Hindi) 9:15pm; *Wolf Warrior 2* (2D) 11:30pm.
The Mall Cinema (3): *Welcome To New York* (Hindi) 2:15pm; *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety* (Hindi) 4:30pm; *War Commanders China Salesman* (2D) 7pm; *Black Panther* (2D) 9pm; *Hey Jude* (Malayalam) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (1): *Aadhi* (Malayalam) 2:15pm; *Hey Jude*

cinema
 (Malayalam) 5pm; *Welcome To New York* (Hindi) 7:30pm; *Mom And Dad* (2D) 10pm; *Welcome To New York* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (2): *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 2:30pm; *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 4pm; *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 5:30pm; *Hey Jude* (Malayalam) 7pm; *War Commanders China Salesman* (2D) 9:30pm; *Black Panther* (2D) 11:30pm.
Landmark Cinema (3): *Game Night* (2D) 2:30pm; *Black Panther* (2D) 4:30pm; *Game Night* (2D) 7pm; *Hey Jude* (Malayalam) 8:45pm; *Wolf Warrior 2* (2D) 11:15pm.

Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1): *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 2pm; *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 3:30pm; *Mission Kathmandu: The Adventures Of Nelly And Simon* (2D) 5pm; *Black Panther* (2D) 6:30pm; *Hey Jude* (Malayalam) 9pm; *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety* (Hindi) 11:30pm.
Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2): *Welcome To New York* (Hindi) 2pm; *Aadhi* (Malayalam) 4:30pm; *Wolf Warrior 2* (2D) 7:15pm; *War Commanders China Salesman* (2D) 9:30pm; *Game Night* (2D) 11:30pm.
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Wind Tunnel, Disco Tagada, Meltdown, Surfing and much more to enjoy with family and friends. Come all and enjoy life.

Souq Waqif Spring Festival

WHERE: Souq Waqif
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: Evening

Souq Waqif is hosting Spring Festival events until April 25. The festival is organised by the Organizing Committee of the Private Engineering Office. This year's festival offers a range of family-friendly fun including parades, shows, plays, music featuring top stars and children's entertainment. Spring Festival will also present fine arts events in the various sections of Souq Waqif Arts Center, including workshops directed to all visitors.

B. Square Mall Grand Event

WHERE: Al Thumama, Doha
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 6:30pm

The only mall in Qatar dedicated to entertainment, B. Square Mall will occupy a total space of 26,000 sq.m and 250 car parking spaces, as well as provide a range of shopping, services, and entertainment options.

Torba Farmers Market

WHERE: Education City
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 9am

Qatar Foundation (QF) has partnered with Torba Farmers Market, a Qatar-based initiative that aims to deliver organic and locally-grown food and homemade products, to host a weekly market in Education City. Open to the public, the market be held at QF's Ceremonial Court, accessible from gate 2, every Thursday from 9am-4pm and every Friday from 8am-11am and 2pm-5pm. The name 'Torba' is derived from Arabic, and means "the pure soil that feeds, nourishes, and nurtures." A wide range of fresh, locally-grown items will be on offer, including organic fruits and vegetables, homemade preserves, syrups, and butters, as well as handicrafts and gardening supplies.

EVENTS

Pakistan Movie Fest

WHERE: Katara Drama Theatre
WHEN: Feb 27
TIME: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Cultural Village Foundation - Katara and the Embassy of Pakistan invites everyone to attend Pakistan Movie Screening. The film screenings will begin from 9:00 in the morning up to the evening. The inaugural movie is all time favourite 3 Bahadur, so be there and watch your favorite heroes on screen.

CIRQUE LE SOIR

WHERE: West Bay, Zone 61, Street 831, Building 262, Doha
WHEN: March 1 - 3
TIME: 9:00 pm - 2:00 am

Enjoy Cirque Le Soir live at Crystal this Thursday March 1 and March 2. The timings for the show will be 9pm - 2am. For reservation call: 4453 5135 / 3017 7049.

HEC Paris masterclass

WHERE: Tornado Tower
WHEN: Tomorrow
TIME: 6:00-7:30pm

Learn more about Judgement in Strategic Decisions with HEC Paris Affiliate Professor Olivier Sibony: a writer, educator and consultant specialising in strategy, strategic decision making and the organisation of decision processes. He teaches Business Strategy and Corporate Strategy courses in the MBA and Executive MBA programmes at HEC. Making strategic decisions is one of the key roles of a senior executive. But what do we really know about how to make these decisions? Decision theory and behavioural sciences shed some light on this question. In this class, we will explore some of the insights they provide, and their implications for decision makers.

Babies, Pregnancy & Parenting Workshop

WHERE: Wyndham Grand Regency Doha hotel
WHEN: March 10
TIME: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Starfish Lane Kids nurseries has joined forces with HUGGIES and Doha's maternal and paediatric experts to deliver the second "Babies, Pregnancy & Parenting" event in March 2018. Parent education is a key to building strong families and communities. "When parents know better, they do better". This non-profit community event is only possible through the support of our sponsors and partners and the speakers who will share their knowledge with parents.

Date festival

WHERE: Souq Waqif
WHEN: Ongoing till March 15

The festival "Souq Al Tumor Al Musami (Seasonal Dates' Market) started from February 15 and would continue till March 15, 2018, said

a release. The registration is free for local and international companies producing, importing and supplying dates. The venue of the festival, Souq Waqif is a destination for visitors and tourists from Qatar and abroad and is highly popular among citizens and expatriates, for its activities, exhibitions and festivals throughout the year. The seasonal market for dates will provide a platform for companies to showcase varieties of dates, and the products made of dates.



Halal Qatar Festival

WHERE: Katara Parking Area 01
WHEN: March 2 to 10

The theme of the festival centers on a distinct feature of our heritage, one that is drawn from deep within the deserts of Qatar sheep and goat breeding. The festival will present specific methods that help in breeding and raising sheep and will also showcase numerous traditional events along with educational and recreational activities. Here is an opportunity to revive the Qatari heritage and relive their simple lives amidst the dunes, at Al-Mazain, Al-Mazad Auction, and sheep barns presentation at Katara.

The Katara International Beach Volleyball

WHERE: Katara
WHEN: March 6 - 10
The Katara International Beach Volleyball Cup 2018 will be held at Amphitheater in Katara from 6 to 10 March 2018. Be there and experience the beach volley ball

Qatar Running Series

WHERE: MIA Park
WHEN: ongoing till April 13
TIME: 7am
Get ready for Qatar Running Series at MIA Park. The events will take place in MIA Park and comprise of distances ranging from 3k to 10k. All events will be run on accurately measured short courses with multiple laps and will be restricted to a maximum of 130 participants.

Mall of Qatar Fun Fair

WHERE: Mall Of Qatar
WHEN: Until April 15
The Mall of Qatar has expanded to bring you "Doha's best outdoor theme park". Come with your family and friends to enjoy the new rides and attractions - Trampoline, Giant Slide,

Foodex Qatar 2018

WHEN: May 3 - 5
WHERE: Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre

Qatar is the most urbanised nation among the GCC states. Urban lifestyles have raised the standard of living of individuals and changed their eating pattern, resulting in a shift in the diet towards protein rich foods as well as packaged and fast food. Consumption of such premium products has contributed to the growth of the food industry. FOODEX will strengthen the Qatari food industry to meet the standards of rising expatriate population, tourism, and developing tastes of Western foods.

Remote-controlled car racing track

WHERE: Aspire Park
WHEN: Thu, Fri, Sat
TIME: 4pm-10pm

Aspire Zone Foundation has created a custom-made track specially designed for remote-control car racing, for car lovers across Doha. Interested motorsport enthusiasts can try the race track opposite the Aspire Academy, from 4pm to 10pm on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Outdoor and five-a-side football pitches

WHERE: Aspire Zone
WHEN: Daily
TIME: 7pm-11pm

Aspire Zone's five-a-side football outdoor pitches opposite Al Waab Street are available every day from 7pm until 11pm from Sundays to Thursdays, and on Fridays and Saturdays from 7am-11pm.

Mahaseel Festival

WHEN: Thu, Fri, Sat
WHERE: Katara
TIME: 9am-10pm

Visitors to the festival can expect a variety of products from local vegetables, flowers, honey and meat, poultry and dairy items. For those of you looking for traditional Qatari food, there will also be stalls selling homemade foods such as Machbous. Farm-grown goods include aubergines, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, courgettes, cauliflower, herbs, and chillies. There are also animal products such as chicken, milk, cheese and eggs from Qatari companies like Baladna and Al Waha Poultry Company.



Breakdance Classes

WHEN: Sunday-Wednesday
Breakdancing is part of the Hip Hop culture that originated in New York and has since spread all over the world. Breakdancing is an athletic and acrobatic style of dancing, which can often appear to defy the laws of physics. This extreme dance-sport uses tremendous upper-body strength for tricks and poses and a great way to get into shape and have fun. Register now by calling 33003839 or e-mail registration@atelierqatar.com

Zumba Session

WHERE: Bin Omran
WHEN: Sundays
TIME: 7pm - 8pm
Participate in Zumba Sessions (Adults) every Sunday. For more information call 33003839 or registration@atelierqatar.com

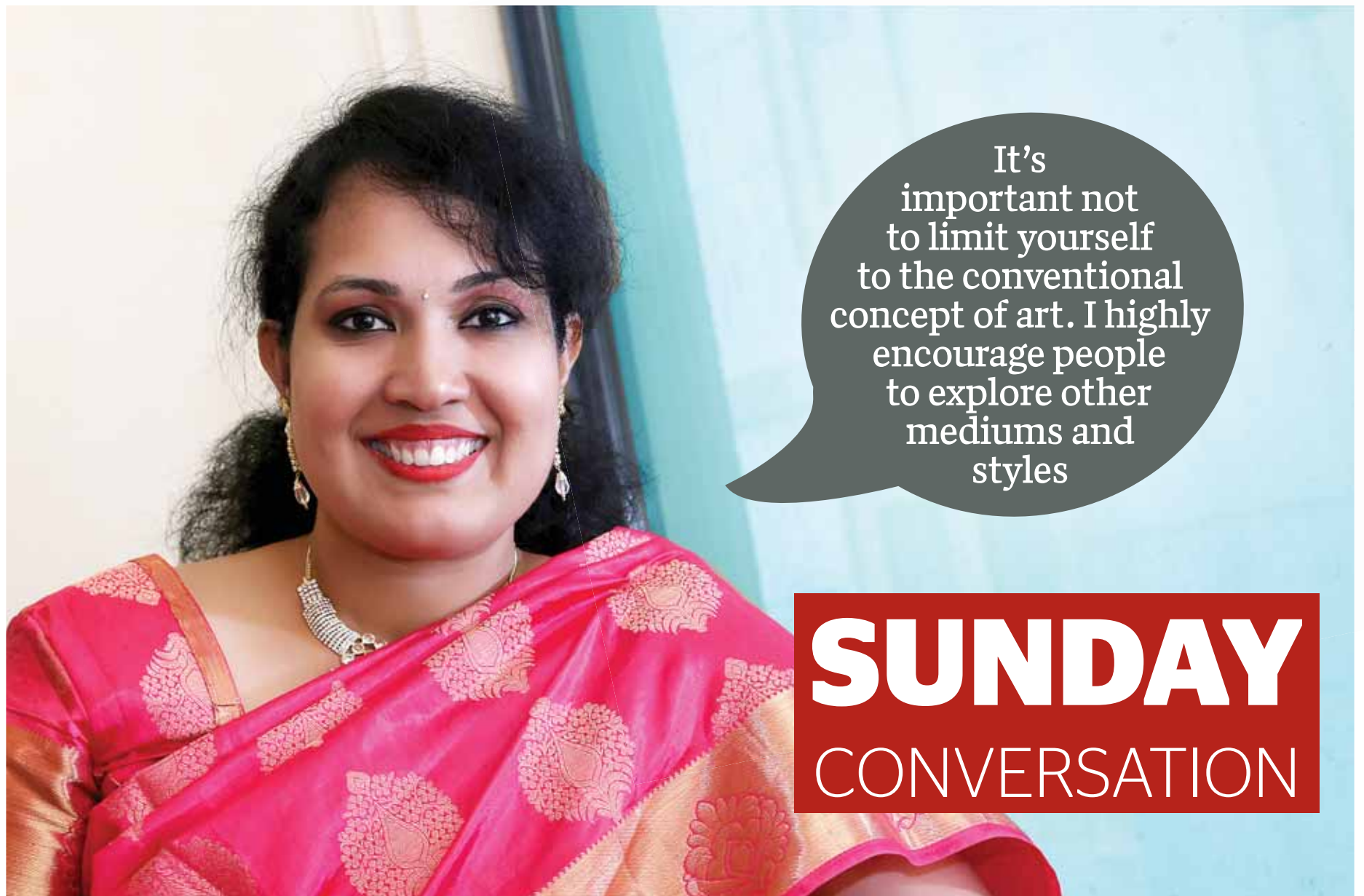
Off - Road biking tour

WHERE: Zekreet
WHEN: Fridays
Blue Pearl Experience Qatar is offering the country's first off-road biking tour. Ride in the desert on a fat bike to explore the local flora and fauna spot desert wildlife, hike up jebels, chill in the magic of the Richard Serra statues and this unique landscape. Participants will get to cross the desert riding fat bikes from Zekreet to the Richard Serra statues, on a route of approximately 13kms. The route is easy to ride and suitable for people with average fitness. You must be able to ride. Kids aged 9 and older are also welcome. The fee is QR 220 (QR190 for ages 9-14) and includes bike and safety equipment. The activity lasts about 2.5 hours.



“Like an ocean, art too is limitless!”

— Shreya Suraj, artist



CANDID: “If I can inspire others and bring more colour and happiness into their lives, I would consider myself to be successful as an artist,” says Shreya Suraj.

Photos by Jayan Orma

By Rubina Singh

If you have ever wanted to delve into the world of art but held yourself back because of a lack of artistic talent, think again!

“One does not necessarily have to be accomplished at sketching, painting or anything for that matter to be able to create and enjoy the pleasure that art can bring. Everybody is an artist,” says Shreya Suraj, a self-taught Indian artist based in Doha.

“Each one of us has the ability to

relate to a different style of art that expresses what is within us. Just as all five fingers are not the same, all arts and artistic talents are not the same either. We just need an accessible platform to display our work and the right encouragement to support us in our journey to discovering our hidden artist.”

It is this belief that inspired Shreya to form an online group called ABCD-ANY BODY CAN DRAW, using Facebook as a gateway to connect and motivate anyone interested in art.

The community promotes the work of artists regardless of academic background in Fine Arts.

“Through this group I have created a platform that enables people of all ages, anywhere in the world, to post their art work on my website and I personally respond to each post with words of praise and encouragement.” A quick visit to the group’s webpage demonstrates the impact sharing and caring can have in encouraging art.

“I started the group in October 2016 with the purpose of inspiring people to discover themselves, as I had been able to, through the medium of art, especially children, housewives, old people...anyone who has ever felt or been made to feel that they lack artistic talent,”

she says reflecting on her own journey.

“Even though I was interested in art right from my childhood I limited myself to just doodling and drawing cartoons. Back in those days, where I grew up, encouragement towards fine arts wasn’t considered important and academics were always given more priority, so access to art coaching was also meager. I used to see the labels and stickers on my friend’s books and draw those cartoons with ordinary pens, colour with colour pencils and fill up my diary. My friends used to love my creations and they still remember it fondly.”

Even when Shreya introduces herself, vibrant metaphors and colours are woven into her imagery, providing an insight into how she thinks of everything in colour and graphics. “I come from the beautiful country India, which is famous for its rich heritage and diversity. My childhood was in the City of Joy, Calcutta, followed by a few years in Garden City, Bangalore, and then almost a decade in the coastal city of Chennai. This tenure in culturally rich places has paved my education as well as my interest in art. Now, I am a post-graduate in Mathematics and I have great passion for art.”



WORKS OF ART: A collection of Shreya Suraj's work.

“My first professional training in art was at 18, when I learnt how to do Tanjore Paintings under the guidance of an extremely talented teacher. Tanjore painting involves many hours of hard work and involves working with semi-precious stones and a gold leaf. As this form of art requires considerable investment of time and money, I eventually had to discontinue due to paucity on both counts.”

“Thereafter, marriage and motherhood kept me busy and art took a back seat. I used to think that painting was the only form of art possible in this world and always waited for the perfect time, perfect theme and the perfect ambience to start my painting expedition, which was never possible. I managed to do some occasional art work just to keep in touch with my passion but nothing that was soul satisfying,” she says, continuing with her story.

“With the passage of time, I felt that art should be encouraged in everybody and I started researching diverse artistic techniques. My own yearning for artistic expression led me to learn Glass Paintings and Fabric Painting and some other forms along the way, which I now teach others.”

“Not long after, I realised, that like an ocean, art too is limitless! The more I explored, the more interested I became and the more variety in form and style I discovered. This revved up my interest further and sucked me deeper into the world of art.”

“I discovered lesser known forms of art like Chevron Painting, Salt painting, Bubble Painting, Coffee Painting.....and Indian forms of art like Warli, Madhubani, Kalamkari art.... It was like a whole new universe had opened to me and I wanted everyone to be able to enjoy the feeling, and the freedom, which I had been able to experience and discover the

artist in them. The realisation that everyone has a creative side and an element of artistic orientation was an eye opener for me. I believe it's important not to limit yourself to the conventional concept of art as drawing and painting only or to shackle yourself to commonly known forms such as oil colours or water paints which may not necessarily be everybody's cup of tea and I highly encourage people to explore other mediums and styles to find the one that inspires you.”

“My mission is to reach all kinds of people, all over the world and hence I chose to start a group in the virtual world. Everybody has a smartphone and clicking a photo has become very easy now. Uploading too has become easy with high speed internet and that makes it possible for people to connect with other likeminded people anywhere in the world.”

The group members are also allowed to post links to their personal art pages, so that a lot more people notice their art work and ‘like’ their page, which in turn boosts them further. Seeing pictures of their art pieces

exhibited, inspires a deeper interest and encourages others to explore their passion.

Quiz competitions on various topics related to art are conducted every month to develop general knowledge and broaden awareness. Time lapse videos, how-to-do videos are encouraged, too, so that members can learn from each other.

“At the end of each month, all the participants receive personalised certificates which give them a sense of appreciation, excitement, and recognition and boosts them to participate repeatedly by posting more art works, thereby continuing to inspire their commitment to art,” she adds. And true enough, a visit to the webpage will have umpteen thankyou messages from recipients of the certificates jumping out excitedly, exuding exhilaration of a very special kind!

Today ABCD - ANY BODY CAN DRAW has 5100+ members from all parts of the world. The group now has talented artists from six continents and almost 50+ countries and can proudly be called an international online art group. Every day, the group

members post different varieties of art varying from professionally done oil paintings, simple cartoons, optical illusion art ...to even simple, colourful Rangoli.

Artistic creations on various media; stone, canvas, glass bottles, umbrellas, suitcases, dresses, garments, realistic forms, portraits, cartoons, mandala art, 3-dimensional creations, hyper-realistic art, landscapes, geometric designs, abstracts, optical illusion, glass paintings, Rangoli, perspective drawings, paintings of birds and animals, quilting works, embroidery are all displayed in the group daily.

This common platform for showcasing art has helped in discovering newer forms of art and, members learn from each other, too. “According to latest statistics, the group has seen a 467% growth in a month. Every month sees more than 700-800 posts by various artists,” Shreya says, beaming with joy. “For me, ABCD is a just a stepping stone in my path to encouraging people to enter the gateway to discovering their artistic side. As an artist, I

conduct art classes for kids where I teach drawing, colouring, painting, perspective drawings, Zentangle, Warli and more. I want children to incorporate art as a part of their life and not as a burdensome subject. I teach them to mix 2-3 forms of art and bring more variety, vibrancy and uniqueness to their work.

This mix and match excites their imagination and motivates them to do better.” She has often been invited to judge art competitions and conduct workshops. “One such project was a workshop I was invited to conduct in Chennai Customs Office especially for ladies on ‘How Mandala Art can be used to deal with stress and gain happiness’ and I look forward to more opportunities in the future.”

“If I can inspire others and bring more colour and happiness into their life, I would consider myself to be successful as an artist. I want art to become an important part of everyone's life, in school and college curriculums, even in hospitals or clinics, because art is not only beautiful, but also very therapeutic and relaxing for the mind, body and soul!”





CMU-Q honours 134 students for academic achievements

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) recently recognised 134 students for outstanding academic performance in the fall 2017 semester. The students have been named to the Dean's List, a biannual ceremony to celebrate academic achievement. CMU-Q Dean Michael Tricksaid, "The academic programmes at Carnegie Mellon are very demanding. We challenge our students to think creatively, delve deep, study and review, and work

very, very hard. The students who are on the Dean's List have risen to the challenge in each class over the course of a semester. This is no small feat, and we recognise their hard work." There were 55 seniors, 32 juniors, 23 sophomores and 24 freshmen on the list, representing CMU-Q's four academic programmes: biological sciences, business administration, computer science and information systems.



Two Indian businessmen honoured for social services

Four different organisations of Indian community recently organised a felicitation function in honour of two prominent businessmen in Qatar, Hassan Chougule and M S Bukhari, for their services to Indian expatriates in the field of culture, education, and community services. The function was held by organisations namely A M U Alumni Association-Qatar, Anjuman Muhibban Urdu Hind Qatar, Bhopal Association Qatar and World Bihar Organisation. Chief co-ordinator of the event was Mohd Habibun Nabi. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, former Indian ambassador to Qatar, was especially invited to the event as chief guest and Indian Ambassador P Kumaran was a special guest on the occasion. A good number of prominent figures from Indian community were also present on the occasion.

The two businessmen were felicitated as they were recently included in the list of 25 global Indians transforming the world in 2017. The list is published in a book by Diaspora World Media Network. The event was held at Radisson Blu hotel.

Hasan Abdul Karim Chougule is managing director of Emadi Group of

Companies and Syed Muhammad Sabih Bukhari is managing director of SATCO Group.

They have also been running some other businesses, schools and patronising a number of Indian community's social organisations in Qatar.

The book highlighting the latest 25 global Indians transforming the world is an annual publication that profiles high achievers who have never been highlighted before.

Ambassador P Kumaran in his address said, "About one and a half year I have been here in Qatar. I have worked very closely with both and have benefited a lot from their pieces of advice in the matters related to the community." Chougule is also the chairman of the advisory council of Indian Culture Centre and Bukhari is the chairman of Indian Business and Professional Council.

Former Indian ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa said, "This kind of recognition to the members of the community will encourage more people to join this list of eminent Indians who changed the world."



Obituary



Pakistani expat Mohammad Ejaz Khan dies

Pakistani expatriate Mohammad Ejaz Khan passed away yesterday at Heart Hospital. The funeral will be held after Asr prayer at Abu Hamour graveyard today. Khan hailing from Lahore had been in Qatar since 1958. He worked in Ministry of Public Health till 1997. He introduced cricket in Qatar back in 1959 and formed a team called Young Cricket. He left behind wife, two sons and four daughters. For further information, please contact: Muhammad Asim Khan on 55591192.

Bhavan's Kindergarten holds story telling session for children

With an objective to enhance and reinforce the language proficiency, Bhavan's Kindergarten recently organised a story telling session in all three campuses. The day witnessed the children and the teachers, enacting as the story characters, stimulating the imagination of the audience. The repertoire comprised of three stories with moral values in which little raconteurs articulated

with ease and flair. The artistically bedecked dais made the stories more realistic and effective. Principal M P Philip, Director Administration Anjana Menon, Headmistress Shailaja Krishna Kumar and Asha Shiju, academic co-ordinators and activity co-ordinators graced the occasion, interacted with the tiny tots and applauded the teachers and students for their hard work.



IIS Class-X, XII students receive examination hall tickets

The students of Ideal Indian School (IIS) appearing for Class-X and XII examinations recently received their examination hall tickets. Principal Syed Shoukath Ali distributed the hall tickets in a special morning assembly held recently. The outgoing batch of Class-XII comprises of 211 students from the science, commerce and humanities streams appearing for All India Senior School Certificate Examination (CBSE) and 385 students are appearing for Class-X examination received their hall tickets. The exams will commence from March 5 and 6. In his speech, the principal wished the students all the best for their exam.



DPS-MIS girl students shine in second round of QSDL

A batch of nine debaters from DPS Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently participated and excelled in the second round of QSDL (Qatar Schools Debating League) held in Sherborne Qatar. The school team was accompanied by Jaya Majumder and Somasundaram, who actively participated in the league as judges. The battle of words were on the recent conflicts of Jerusalem, monitoring Internet activity, celebrities supporting charity campaigns anonymously and requirement of special needs schools for special needs children. At the end of the day, the team of Sandra, Kangha and Nakshatra came first winning all four debates followed by the team of Priyal, Najah, and Arya in the second place who too won all four debates. The team of Arooj, Saumya and Sneha won two debates and secured eighteenth place among 52 teams. In the individual category, among 155 debaters, Nakshatra stood first followed by Sandra and Najah at fifth, Arya 12th, Kanaga 17th, Priyal 21st, Sneha and Saumya 28th and Arooj at 44th position. DPS-MIS topped among all 31 schools by earning the highest cumulative points and qualified for the national championship 2018.





SAK-Qatar wins Expats SportEv 2018

Sports Association Kerala (SAK) Qatar won the overall first position in recently held Expats SportEv 2018. The three-day sports extravaganza was organised by Cultural Forum at Qatar Sports Club. Youth Forum bagged the second position and Calicut Sports Club got the third place. In the women's category, Youth Forum stood first with SAK-Qatar and Calicut Sports Club winning the second and the third positions respectively.

Different individual championships were won by Nihal Abdul Rahim (SAK-Qatar), Kannan (Thrishur Youth Club), and Neenu Sreekanth (SAK-Qatar). As many as 16 community teams participated in 18 sport items under four categories. The event was held under the patronage of Qatar Sports for All Federation at the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The other venues of the event were Hamad Aquatic Centre at Aspire Zone and Al Sadd Sports Club.



Team Feroke wins Chaliyar Sports Festival

Team Feroke won recently held Chaliyar Sports Festival scoring 44 points. The festival was held at Al Wakrah Sports Club to mark Qatar National Sport Day. The team won overall winner trophy. Team Kodyathur secured the second place with 29 points and was followed by Team Kadalundi with 28 points. Chaliyar Doha is a sports and environment organisation working in the name of a river in Kerala. Expatriates from 24 local panchayath teams of Chaliyar Doha participated in many sports activities. Indian Sports Centre President Nilangshu Dey and Chaliyar Doha Chief Patron Shoukath Ali Taj had felicitated the winning team.



GCC qualifies for next round in Qatar Workers Cup

Gulf Contracting Company (GCC) finished runners-up in Group-A for the Qatar Workers Football Cup 2018 and qualified for knock-out round. The team will face Taleb Group at the knock-out stage today at Al Duhail Stadium.





ICAI Doha Chapter elects new managing committee

Doha Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) recently elected new managing committee for the year 2018 at the 36th annual general meeting. More than 100 members representing various business institutions attended the meeting. Rupalakshmi Setty was elected as the chairperson. The other members of the new executive committee are

Rukkaiya Pachisa as vice chairperson, Sandeep Chowdhary as secretary and Nirlep Bhatt as treasurer along with Jithu Koshy, Ankit Agarwal, Abdul Nassar and Jason P T as members of the committee. It is a proud moment for the Doha chapter as both the chairperson and vice chairperson are women. The outgoing Chairman Gaurav Kakkar presented the chapter's report for 2017.

MOTORING

Hyundai, Aurora to make autonomous vehicles

Hyundai Motor Company and Aurora, a leader in autonomous vehicle technology, have announced a strategic partnership to bring self-driving Hyundai vehicles to market by 2021.

This partnership will incorporate Aurora's self-driving technology into Hyundai vehicles, starting with models custom-developed and launched in test programmes and pilot cities. Over the longer term, Hyundai and Aurora will work to commercialise self-driving vehicles worldwide. Hyundai vehicles are available in Qatar at Skyline Automotive, official distribution partner for the Hyundai Motor Company in Qatar.

To start, the partnership will focus on the ongoing development of hardware and software for automated and autonomous driving and the back-end data services required for Level 4 automation. Level 4 autonomous vehicles, defined by SAE, can operate without human input or oversight under select conditions. The goal of the partnership is to deploy autonomous driving quickly, broadly, and safely.

"We know the future of transportation is autonomous, and autonomous driving technology needs to be proven in the real world to accelerate deployment in a safe and scalable



manner," said Dr Woong Chul Yang, Vice Chairman of Hyundai Motor. "Combining our advanced vehicle technology that embeds the latest safety features with Aurora's leading suite of Level 4 autonomous technology will advance this revolution in mobility with Hyundai in a leadership position."

Hyundai and Aurora share the common vision of improving safety and mobility on the world's

roads, and together bring the skills and experience required to successfully introduce this technology at scale. For nearly 50 years, Hyundai has been a leader in vehicle design, safety, and manufacturing, catapulting the company to become one of the world's largest vehicle manufacturers together with its Kia Motors Corporation affiliate.

For the past two decades, Aurora's founders have

spearheaded the self-driving revolution, building teams and pioneering modern machine learning techniques now on the cusp of transforming transportation. Together, Hyundai and Aurora will move quickly to bring self-driving technology to market around the world.

"Aurora is excited to partner with Hyundai Motor to make the social benefits of self-driving available globally," said Dr Chris

Urmson, CEO of Aurora. "This partnership combines Hyundai's strengths in vehicle design, safety, and manufacturing with Aurora's expertise in self-driving technologies to make a positive difference in the world."

Hyundai Motor's partnership with Aurora is part of the company's ongoing efforts towards realising fully autonomous driving. Hyundai first began testing autonomous vehicles on public roads of the USA in 2015, having been granted a license by the state of Nevada. Last year, at the 2017 CES, Hyundai advanced its trials in urban environments, demonstrating self-driving technologies to the public with its autonomous IONIQ models.

Hyundai's latest new-generation fuel-cell vehicle, which made its official global debut at CES 2018 earlier this month, will become the first model to be utilised in the test processes starting this year. The fuel-cell powertrain will offer an ideal platform to implement autonomous driving technologies, which requires a massive amount of power to support the large amount of data communication as well as the operation of hardware such as sensors. Hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles will be able to provide a stable electric power supply without concerns about driving range.



Lifestyle affects your heart health



KEEPING TRACK: Lifestyle, like diet and exercise, plays a major impact on your heart health.

Heat disease can be improved — or even prevented — by making certain lifestyle changes. The following changes can help anyone who wants to improve heart health:

Stop smoking

Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, especially atherosclerosis. Quitting is the best way to reduce your risk of heart disease and its complications.

Control your blood pressure

Ask your doctor for a blood pressure measurement at least every two years. He or she may recommend more frequent measurements if your blood pressure is higher than normal or you have a history of heart disease. Optimal blood pressure is less than 120 systolic and 80 diastolic, as measured in millimetres of mercury (mm Hg).

Check your cholesterol

Ask your doctor for a baseline cholesterol test when you're in your 20s and then at least every five years. You may need to start testing earlier if high cholesterol is in your family. If your test results aren't within desirable ranges, your doctor may recommend more frequent measurements.

Most people should aim for an LDL level below 130 milligrams per decilitre (mg/dL), or 3.4 millimoles per litre (mmol/L). If you have other risk factors for heart disease, you should aim for an LDL below 100 mg/dL (2.6 mmol/L). If you're at very high risk of heart disease — if you've already had a heart attack or have diabetes, for example — aim for an even lower LDL level — below 70 mg/dL (1.8 mmol/L).

Keep diabetes under control

If you have diabetes, tight blood sugar control can help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Move

Exercise helps you achieve and maintain a healthy weight and control diabetes, elevated cholesterol and high blood pressure — all risk factors for heart disease. If you have a heart arrhythmia or heart defect, there may be some restrictions on the activities you can do, so talk to your doctor. With your doctor's OK, aim for 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity most days of the week.

Eat healthy foods

A heart-healthy diet based on fruits, vegetables and whole grains — and low in saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium and added sugar — can help you control your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Maintain a healthy weight

Being overweight increases your risk of heart disease. A BMI of less than 25 and a waist circumference of 35 inches (88.9 centimetres) or less is the goal for preventing and treating heart disease.

Manage stress

Reduce stress as much as possible. Practice techniques for managing stress, such as muscle relaxation and deep breathing.

Deal with depression

Being depressed can increase your risk of heart disease significantly. Talk to your doctor if you feel hopeless or uninterested in your life.

Practice good hygiene

Stay away from people with infectious diseases such as colds, get vaccinated against the flu, regularly wash your hands, and brush and floss your teeth regularly to keep yourself well.

Also, get regular medical checkups. Early detection and treatment can set the stage for a lifetime of better heart health.

You may feel frustrated, upset or overwhelmed upon learning you or your loved one has heart disease. Fortunately, there are ways to help cope with heart disease or improve your condition. These include:

Cardiac rehabilitation

For people who have cardiovascular disease that's caused a heart attack or has required surgery to correct, cardiac rehabilitation is often recommended as a way to improve treatment and speed recovery. Cardiac rehabilitation involves levels of monitored exercise, nutritional counseling, emotional support, and support and education about lifestyle changes to reduce your risk of heart problems.

Support groups

Turning to friends and family for support is essential, but if you need more help, talk to your doctor about joining a support group. You may find that talking about your concerns with others with similar difficulties can help.

Continued medical checkups

If you have a recurring or chronic heart condition, regularly check in with your doctor to make sure you're properly managing your heart condition. — Mayo Clinic News Network



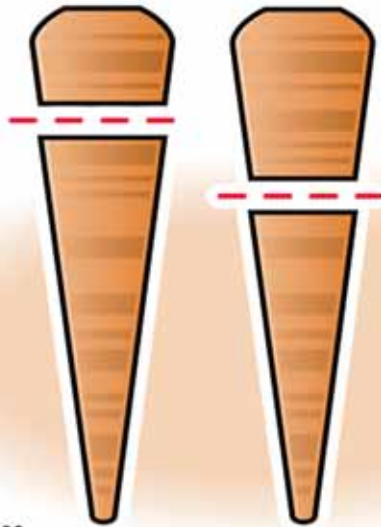
Upside-down gardening

You can test whether a plant knows which way is up and which way is down.

You'll need

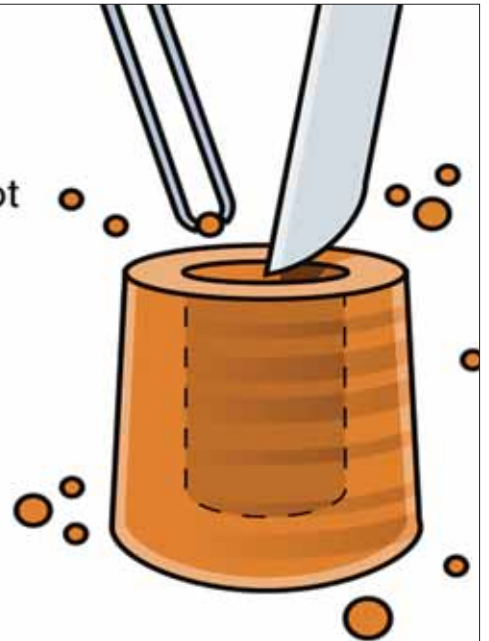
- Two large, fresh carrots
- Toothpicks
- Small sharp knife
- Small bowl
- Large glass
- Tweezers
- Adult helper

Try This



1 Cut one carrot 1 in. (2 cm) from its large end

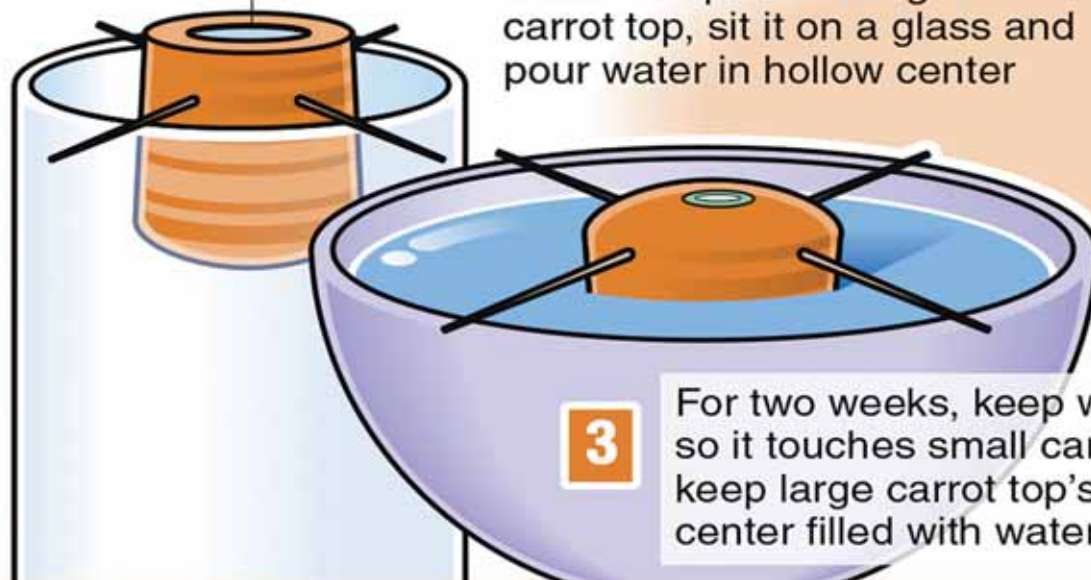
Cut other carrot 2 in. (5 cm) from its large end; ask helper to hollow it out with knife and tweezers



Fill hollow center with water

2 Stick toothpicks in smaller carrot top and sit it over bowl with cut end in water

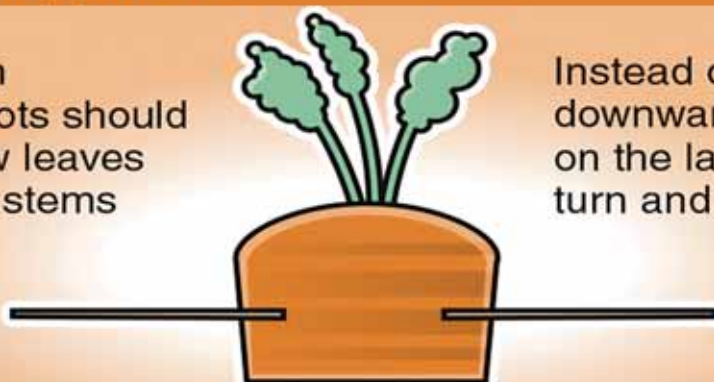
Stick toothpicks in larger carrot top, sit it on a glass and pour water in hollow center



3 For two weeks, keep water in bowl so it touches small carrot top; also keep large carrot top's hollow center filled with water

What happened?

Both carrots should grow leaves and stems



Instead of growing downward, the leaves on the large carrot will turn and grow upward





Wordsearch

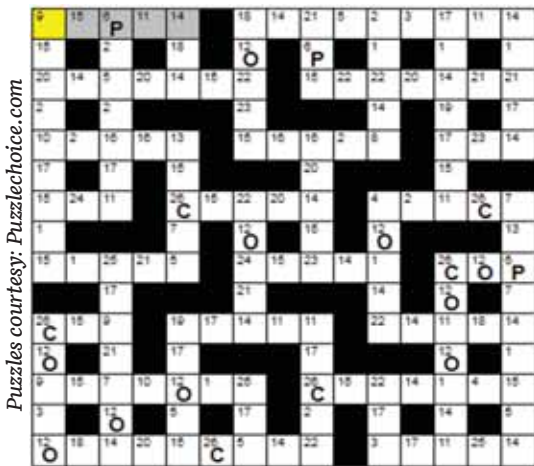


Chicken

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| BARBECUE | CORN | GRILL | SOUP |
| BOILED | CRISPY | LEGS | SPICY |
| BREADED | DARK | LEMON | STUFFING |
| BREAST | FRIED | PEPPER | THIGH |
| BROTH | GARLIC | ROAST | WHITE |
| BROWN | GIBLETS | SALAD | WING |
| BUTTER | GRAVY | SKIN | |

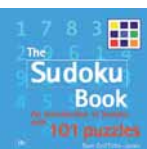
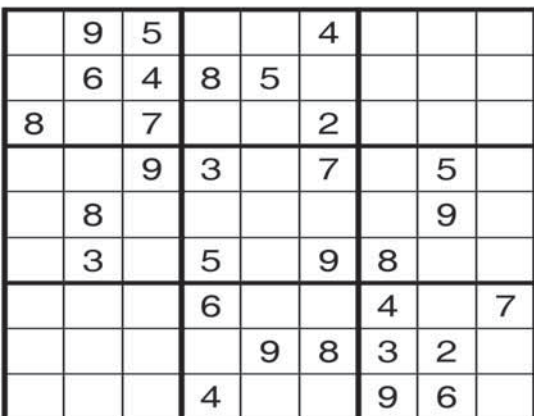
Codeword

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.



Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

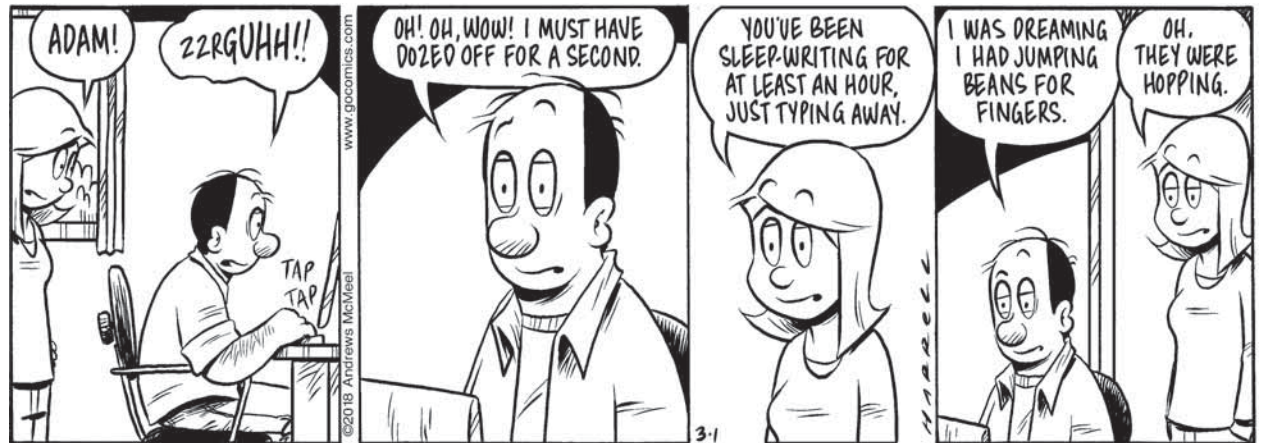
Sudoku



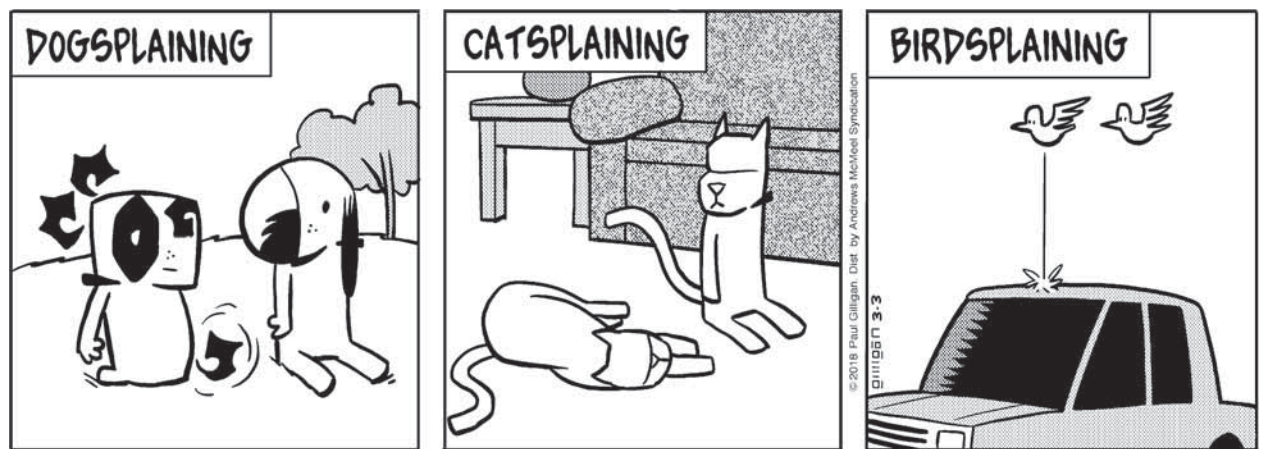
Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is also divided into nine (3x3) boxes. You are given a selection of values and to complete the puzzle, you must fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.



Adam



Pooch Cafe



Garfield



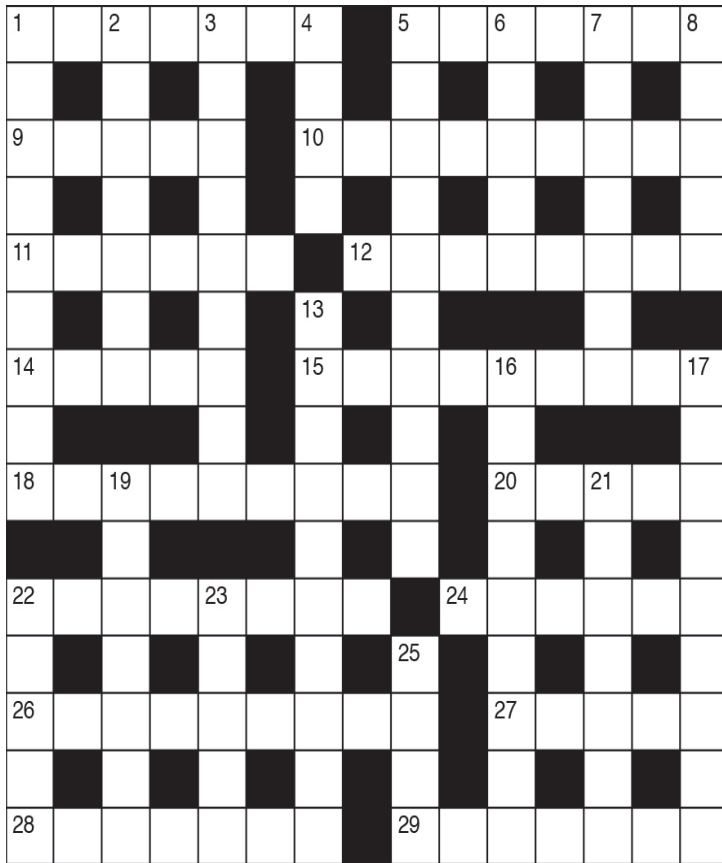
Bound And Gagged



PUZZLES

COMMUNITY 

Super Cryptic Clues



ACROSS

1. Showed up, once one sat beside (7)
5. The servants want, yes, to have freedom (7)
9. It makes one feel better but puts weight on, I figure (5)
10. Chucks a net in with the shells (9)
11. Open up to find the said item of jewellery (6)
12. Stand up for the best man (8)
14. I had a little bit of a holiday in America (5)
15. It's by no means new, but would be useful when you're busy (5-4)
18. Wasn't straight-backed, as one suspected (3,1,5)
20. A set-back for the Greek (5)
22. Gives a funny shout and goes inside (5,3)
24. Hit and be out (6)
26. Somehow, forced everybody to go in when it was necessary (6,3)
27. Waits for the book outside (5)
28. The son, a rotter, will provide you with a seat (7)
29. Gentle and tender, falsely, you make out (7)

DOWN

1. Found out the stable that his had been trained by (9)
2. She came back with an arm rest (7)
3. The pillaged material? (9)
4. For a good swimmer, it's nothing (4)
5. Drop holes foolishly: a number (4,6)
6. That's lucky: cold would be detrimental to it (5)
7. She's foolishly naïve about the Spanish (7)
8. A name in southern and northern America (5)
13. Support and give your seat to? (5,2,3)
16. Item of furniture suitable for the card-room? (4,5)
17. Unhappy when the journalists get into the act (9)
19. Depended on getting Father Glen to move in (7)
21. Do come first in the sled race (7)
22. Chops with an axe, we're told, for the Cockney (5)
23. Mean, for the reader, enchantment (5)
25. The role is reversed when you make a capture (4)

Yesterday's Solutions

Across: 1 Overnight case; 8 Genoese; 9 Visitor; 11 Aflame; 13 Fine rain; 15 Erase; 16 Seville; 18 Reserve; 19 Ruing; 21 Enlacing; 23 Legato; 25 Testate; 26 Pension; 28 Spirit writing.

Down: 2 Vanilla; 3 Rye; 4 Item; 5 Have in view; 6 Caste; 7 Situate; 8 Grave accent; 10 Running down; 12 Meets; 14 Astringent; 17 Large; 18 Rolls up; 20 Italian; 22 Chair; 24 Spar; 27 Nut.

Colouring



Answers

Wordsearch



Codeword





Bosses blamed more for negative outcomes than employees: Study

Bosses, take note. You may receive considerably more blame for the negative consequences of your actions than employees, according to a new study.

Theories to date had assumed that praise and blame were determined by the extent to which an individual is able to exercise causal influence over something.

"That means the reason why the boss is criticised more severely than the employee is because it was he who made the decision and, therefore, his causal influence over the situation was more significant," said Kai Kaspar from the University of Cologne in Germany.

However, the study, published in the journal *Philosophical Psychology*, demonstrated that, unlike previously assumed, the acting person's social status plays an important role when it comes to the distribution of praise and blame, rather than the extent to which an individual has influenced a given situation.



"In real life, a boss receives considerably more blame for the negative consequences of his actions than an employee," added

Pascale Willemsen, researcher at the Ruhr-Universitatt Bochum in Germany. On the other hand, an employee

receives significantly more praise if his actions result in positive consequences than his superior, the findings showed.

According to this theory, his social role as the boss is irrelevant.

To test this assumption, the team conducted an online study with 209 test participants.

The participants were asked to state their position on the following situation: rather than the boss, an employee makes an important decision in the company.

Both employee and boss are aware that, while the decision is in the best interest of the enterprise, it will have a negative impact on the environment as a side-effect. Both explicitly state that they do not care about this side-effect.

In the experiment, the boss received more criticism than the employee, even though he did not personally make the decision.

"We now have ample reason to assume that the social function plays a significant role in determining how much praise or criticism we allocate to a person for any negative consequences of their actions," the researchers explained. — IANS



ARIES

March 21 – April 19

Your creative nature will no longer be repressed, Aries! As you look around your home, you realise you feel the need to spruce it up a bit. Motivated by a desire to give dinner parties and invite family members who live far away to come for a visit, you get to work repainting, wallpapering, and maybe even sending that sofa out to be reupholstered. The final result will be fantastic, Aries. You'll be proud.



CANCER

June 21 – July 22

There is passion in the air, Cancer, and you're convinced that you're the one electrifying the air around you. Perhaps it's a result of working too hard for too long and not taking the time to indulge your sensual side. Well, there's no time like the present. Why not invite a certain special someone for a home-cooked meal?



LIBRA

September 23 – October 22

You've been working especially hard and you're beginning to wonder if all your effort has been for naught. A restructuring at work leaves you wondering just exactly where you fit in or if you even fit in at all. You may have a troubling few days, Libra, but will be relieved to learn that the higher-ups have big plans for you in the newly organised, streamlined company.



CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 19

A new relationship is likely to form soon, and it will probably be with someone who's already in your life. Perhaps it's someone you knew in high school and you just recently got back in touch with, or perhaps a colleague at work suddenly begins to pay you a lot of attention. Romance is definitely in the air today, Capricorn, so keep your eyes open for subtle cues from the people in your life.



TAURUS

April 20 – May 20

You've always had psychic ability, and today it's at a peak, Taurus. Perhaps not coincidentally, you're likely to be contacted by a close friend or lover from your past. He or she isn't calling to renew your relationship but rather for advice. Your heightened abilities today make you the ideal confidant. Listen closely and advise what your heart tells you is right.



LEO

July 23 – August 22

You have an innate psychic ability that only needs some fine-tuning and strengthening for it to develop into a formidable power. Even now you sometimes find yourself reading other people's thoughts. This sensitivity gets you into trouble sometimes, but mostly it works to your advantage. In relationships, especially, you're able to put an end to hurt feelings before they evolve into something irreparable.



SCORPIO

October 23 – November 21

You're bubbling over with confidence and enthusiasm, Scorpio. Not surprisingly, those around you respond in kind. Your smile is contagious, and you have people joking and laughing with you throughout the day. You'll have much success in whatever you do today, although group efforts will likely prove more rewarding. Romance figures prominently in the evening, so make the most of it!



AQUARIUS

January 20 – February 18

Your head is somewhat in the clouds today, Aquarius. This isn't necessarily a bad thing; it just means that it's difficult for you to get any work done. Much as you'd rather be elsewhere, you really do need to stay focused on the projects at hand. By all means, plan an exit strategy from the mundane routine of your day-to-day life, but don't expect to make your escape today.



GEMINI

May 21 – June 20

Prosperity is just around the corner, Gemini, if it isn't here already. All your efforts are about to pay off and in a big way. It may be that a big proposal gets accepted at work, or perhaps a manuscript that you've penned lands you a publisher. Your innate talent and good fortune combine to bring wonderful things your way. Enjoy this welcome change of events!



VIRGO

August 23 – September 22

You surprise yourself by signing up for a group lesson rather than a private one. This is unlike you; nevertheless, you find you enjoy the social interaction. Besides, whether you're learning cooking or rock climbing, it's always much more fun to learn with others. That way, you can learn from their mistakes and they from yours. It's bound to be a fun, adventurous day, Virgo. Enjoy it.



SAGITTARIUS

November 22 – December 21

Your natural intuition and sensitivity will be heightened today, Sagittarius. You're able to read the thoughts and feelings of others and interpret them accurately. Alas, you can't use this skill as effectively on yourself. Some old issues have re-emerged, causing you some distress. These issues are blocking you in some way. You won't be able to move forward with your life until you resolve them once and for all.



PISCES

February 19 – March 20

Your heart and intuition will rule today much more than your mind. Trust what your instincts tell you, Pisces. If you're in a sales profession, you can expect the orders to come rolling in today, as your extrasensory perception helps you know your clients' needs almost before they do. Plan a romantic encounter with someone you love.



How he goes about trying to stop the impending marriage, forms the crux of the tale.

Written by Ranjan and co-written by Rahul Mody, the script which is taut and racy has enough meaty and engaging character material to effectively showcase its plot premise. While the mood is that of a gentle and affectionate comedy, the film makes some extremely sharp misogynist points and sexist remarks.

The dialogues are witty and peppered with cuss words. The often bleeps, enforced by the Censor Board, mars the viewing experience.

Though the characters are one-dimensional, they are well-constructed and thoughtfully brought to vivid life by its players. Kartik is charming as the impish Sonu. His misogyny is palpable and he has the best punch lines which he delivers in his inimitable, breathless style with panache.

Sunny as Titu is endearing with his lost puppy-look torn between his best friend and the girl he desires to marry.

Nushrat is an extremely competent performer. With her triumphant look and determination she slips into her character with natural ease. Ishita Raj as Titu's ex-girlfriend Piyu is equally attractive and delivers efficiently.

The rest of the supporting cast which includes Alok Nath as the patriarch Gashitaraam, Madhumati Kapoor as his wife, Ayesha Raza Mishra as Titu's mother Manju, Virendra Saxena as their family friend, are strikingly noteworthy in their respective roles.

The film has moderate production values and is astutely mounted.

Overall, this film is definitely a light-hearted entertainer worth your ticket price. — IANS

A light-hearted tug of war

By Troy Ribeiro

FILM: *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti*
DIRECTOR: Luv Ranjan
CAST: Kartik Aaryan, Nushrat Bharucha, Sunny Singh Nijjar, Alok Nath, Deepika Amin, Ayesha Raza Mishra, Virendra Saxena, Pawan Chopra, Rajesh Jais, Sonu Kaur
RATING: ***/1/2

This is director Luv Ranjan's fourth film and like his previous films, this one too pivots on gender skewed comedy. It engages you and generates enough laughs to keep you hooked till the end.

As the title suggests, the film revolves around the relationship of the three eponymous characters.

Sonu (Kartik) a near orphan after the death of his mother and with

his father gone abroad, has been living with Titu (Sunny) the scion of the Sweetmart 'Gashitaaz' and his family since childhood.

Sonu and Titu's mothers were friends and so are Sonu and Titu. They share a close brotherly bond, with the cocky Sonu being the protective figure of the two, especially when it comes to Titu's choice of girlfriends. He feels the girls are conniving beings trying to

take advantage of his naive friend.

So when, Titu after his recent break-up with his girlfriend Piyu decides to go in for an arranged marriage with Sweety (Nushrat), Sonu is aghast. He thinks that Titu is marrying on the rebound.

Despite Titu and his family being convinced that Sweety is the perfect match for Titu, Sonu makes no bones to pinpoint that Sweety is too good to be true.

Wonder Woman is the exception to Hollywood's male dominating world

By Meg James

Galvanised by Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan and others in the #MeToo movement, women seized the narrative in Hollywood in 2017. But on screen, it was a different picture.

Women claimed just 24 percent of leading roles, or protagonists, in the top 100 films last year, down from 29 percent in 2016, according to a new report from San Diego State's Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film.

Audiences in 2017, the report found, were almost twice as likely to see male characters on screen as female characters.

For example, women made up 37 percent of major characters — a broader category that includes actors who were not central protagonists — in those top-grossing films in the US and Canada. That percentage did not budge from 2016, according to the report, titled

It's a Man's (Celluloid) World.

Major characters were defined as those that appeared in more than one scene and were important to the film's plot. Male characters accounted for nearly two-thirds of the major roles — a disparity that probably will be noted next month during the 90th Academy Awards.

The study, which was produced by professor Martha Lauzen, covered 2,361 characters portrayed in the top-100 grossing films domestically. It highlighted how Walt Disney/Lucasfilm's *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and Warner Bros' *Wonder Woman* — which combined produced more than \$1.5 billion in domestic ticket sales — were the exceptions.

"Despite the visibility of female leads in the top three grossing films of 2017, the overall percentage of female protagonists declined," Lauzen said in a statement. "The numbers do not yet reflect claims of a tectonic or massive shift in the film industry?"

For example, only 32 percent of the films boasted 10 or more female characters with

speaking roles, compared with 79 percent of films that featured 10 or more male characters with speaking parts.

Men also were more likely portrayed in work settings than women — and as leaders.

The dismal statistics were not surprising. For more than a decade, Lauzen has painstakingly documented Hollywood's gender imbalance in a series of studies. She's not alone. USC professor Stacy Smith, founder of the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, separately has assembled statistics that reveal a lack of women in such key behind-the-scenes roles as directors, producers, cinematographers and music composers.

Statistical improvements may not be evident for years because it typically takes two or more years for a film to get made.

Modest progress, however, was made among women of colour. Among characters with speaking roles, the percentage of black females increased to 16 percent in 2017 from 14 percent in the year before. Latinas in the top-grossing films more than doubled to 7 percent, up from



THE EXCEPTION: Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman.

3 percent. And the percentage of Asian females increased to 7 percent, up from 6 percent. Still, about 70 percent of all speaking roles went to white female and male actors. — *Los Angeles Times*/TNS



HONOUR: Non-Resident Nepalese Association, National Coordination Council Qatar, honours Khaga Bahadur Khatri.

Nepali cyclist enjoys working in Qatar

By Usha Wagle Gautam

Khaga Bahadur Khatri, (also known as Yassem Mama Cyclist) destined to become a world cyclist, is from Nepal. He however abandoned his idea of gaining fame through cycling and settled in Qatar. His travel was economically constrained after he toured 15 countries. He chose Qatar as his place of work. *Community* recently caught up with Khatri and talked about his cycling tour and his work in Qatar.

Why did you choose Qatar as a foreign employment destination after being forced to abandon world cycling tour?

Qatar offers diversified opportunities to workers. All the people are working here happily, contributing to their families, societies and countries. Qatar is a peaceful country and respects people of all the nationalities living here. Prior to coming to Qatar, I was in Kuwait in 1996. However, I settled here to work because of many good reasons including peace.

Can you tell us about your upbringing in Nepal?

Since my childhood, I was keenly interested in a number of hobbies – photography, music, travelling and sports. I learnt martial arts. Even while I was a child, I was driven to peace and tranquillity. I had respect for all religions and their messages of peace and harmony. Later, I took cycling with an aim to spread the same message of peace and harmony across the world.

How did you come up with an idea of becoming a world cyclist?

I was selected in the Nepali Army, but quit the army during the training. Instead I went trekking around Annapurna circuit in west of Nepal – across the Himalayas. I was thrilled by the beauty my country offered. These two ideas conflated – serendipity of kaleidoscopic mountains and peace – with idea of tourism promotion in the country. After I was talking about my plan, I was introduced to Nepal's first world cyclist – Laxmi Prasad Sapkota who at that time had already travelled as far as 27 countries. With this, I got some financial support from Nepali government in an exchange to promote tourism in the country through the cycle tour. I started the touring in 2000.

Can you tell us about your experience of world tour?

I began my tour from Gaidakot, my birthplace, and travelled to Jhapa, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. While travelling, I came to know that each country has its own culture and customs. I had a real interaction with people from each country.

How many countries you travelled and why you left in the middle of the tour?

I travelled 17 countries including Qatar, Burma, Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to mention few more. I stopped cycling after of high profile massacre in 2001.

You have been to many other countries, why did you choose Qatar for work?

Qatar is a peaceful place and the country respects and provides expatriates with unmatched professional space. There is no discrimination at work places. I left my job in Japan to come here. I compare Qatari environment to those of Europe and Americas.

Do you have any future plan to resume your cycling tour?

It's a matter of great pleasure that Qatar will be hosting FIFA World Cup 2022. I have planned to do cycling tour marking this event by taking joint flags of Nepal and Qatar. This will say a lot about Nepal-Qatar bilateral relations.

What is your impression of Qatar over a period of time?

Qatar has changed a lot since I came here 20 years ago for the first time. There is too much happening these days because of upsurge in media and social networks in recent years. I converted myself to Islam during Qatar visit. This, I think, is the remarkable achievement for me. I enjoy the month of Ramadan here. I am a driver by profession. With my income, I have brought my family here. I have been able to fund quality education for my kids.

Are you happy with your Qatari job?

I was selected by Qatar Police and Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation. I work in the latter department. I am the first Nepali to work in the corporation. I work eight hours a day and enjoy two days as weekly off. I enjoy my free time for social work. I have been involved with Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) – a global network of Nepali people. I am also former vice president and adviser of Nepali Muslim Association (NMA). I am happy to both – my job and my stay here.

Can you share your future plan?

My future plan is to promote tourism in Nepal. Nepal should build infrastructure friendly to Arab tourists. If we could attract tourists from the Arab world, we would benefit a lot. I am sure the people from Qatar will visit Nepal.



CYCLIST: Khatri on his cycle.