



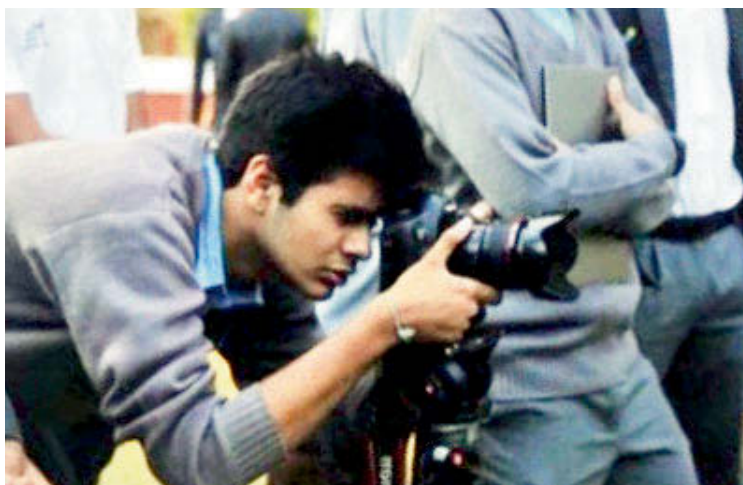
Priyanka Gandhi  
and Robert  
Vadra's son  
Raihan is  
creating his own  
niche, capturing  
tales of the wild

NIVI SHRIVASTAVA

At the age of 19, when most teenagers are still trying to figure out life, Raihan Rajiv Vadra is set for his first exhibition of stunning shots of wildlife and metaphysical abstract photographs he captured in the past few years. On International Tiger Day, both his parents Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra proudly shared some of his best works from Ranthambore National Park to raise awareness about the majestic animal and were proud to announce his first online venture.

Despite being born in one of the most well-known political families of India, Raihan prefers to stay away from the limelight and spend time in the wilderness to pursue his passion. He graduated from the Doon School in 2018 and is currently pursuing a BA Politics Degree in the UK. He agrees that coming from a family that is in the public eye comes with certain difficulties as well as great privileges. While managing life in a public domain, he says, "I feel it's important to respect those privileges and to understand one's place and value as an individual independent of them. I look up to my parents and the values they have in life, learning from them throughout my childhood. My parents are very supportive of my deci-

## Picture-perfect wildlife narratives by Raihan Vadra



Raihan prefers to stay away from the limelight and spend time in the wilderness to pursue his passion



**“In early 2017, I lost all vision in my left eye in a sporting accident at school. My world was literally divided into half. One half was vibrant and visual, the other was dark and still. When I began to take photographs two years later, my entire perspective had changed. My camera became my second eye, one that I could train to create images that returned my world to me**

sions whether they are related to my studies or my career. They have raised both me and Miraya, my sister, to be independent and self-sufficient.”

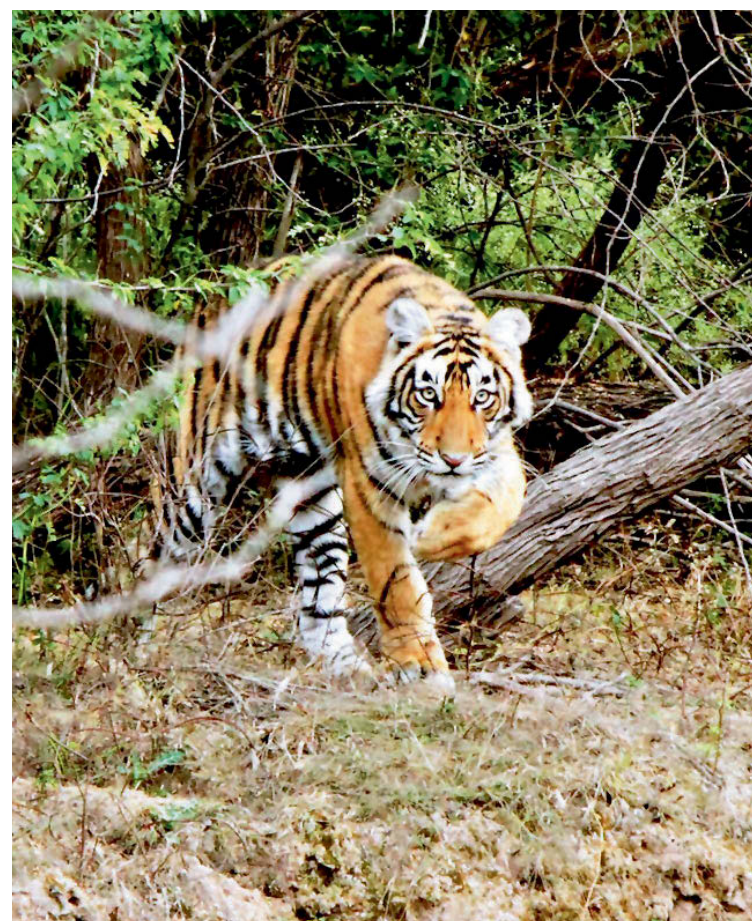
At this point, it's undecided if he wants to follow his family profession in the long run, but he adds with a certainty that “when it comes to the future, I would like to choose a profession about which I am passionate, whether it is photography or anything different.”

The talented young lensman, who usually prefers to be low-key, opens up about his personal life and passions.

### PHOTOGRAPHY, FIRST LOVE

**“My parents are very supportive of my decisions whether they are related to my studies or my career. They have raised both me and Miraya, my sister, to be independent and self-sufficient**

“As a photographer, I feel drawn to telling the story of the forests and animals. I thrived in a visual world as a child — I love to read, to take pictures, and to draw.



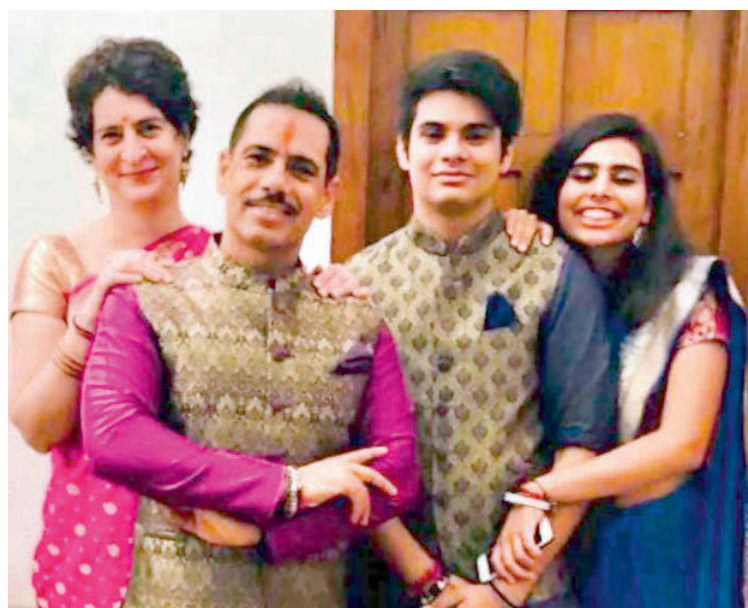
### Raihan's favourite forest story

A couple of years back, he went for a wildlife shoot to the Ranthambore National Park. After spending a long day in the jungle he spotted a rare sloth bear for 10-15 minutes. After moving a couple of hundred meters ahead, he chanced upon a leopard at a water hole and just a few hundred meters away they saw a huge male tiger. It was a rare sighting as they saw all the three coveted animals in a short span and came back with many interesting pictures.

Nature and wildlife have been a passion since I would spend weeks in the jungles of Ranthambore exploring their feral mysteries. I have spent many months tracking, photographing, and observing these unique and beautiful animals. Over the years as I grew older my work matured, I began to explore other forms with my camera, capturing our world in my perspective. In the past year, I have made my work more professional. I now do photoshoots and have expanded my body of street photography and abstract photography.”

### HIS EYE ACCIDENT

famous photographers Steve McCurry and Sebastiao Salgado while growing up. At the age of 16, he took a course in photography at the International Centre of Photography in New York and worked on a project called the ‘2nd Lens’, where he used the iPhone as an interlocutor, between an SLR camera and reality. Little did he know that this project would alter his photography views and become a significant turning point in his life. However, in a twist of fate, he soon met with an accident. “In early 2017, I lost all vision in my left eye in a sporting accident at school. My world was literally divided into half,” he shares.



Raihan with his parents Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra and sister Miraya

Raihan admired the works of

TURN TO PAGE 2





One of Raihan's favourite photos of tiger



Mother and cubs

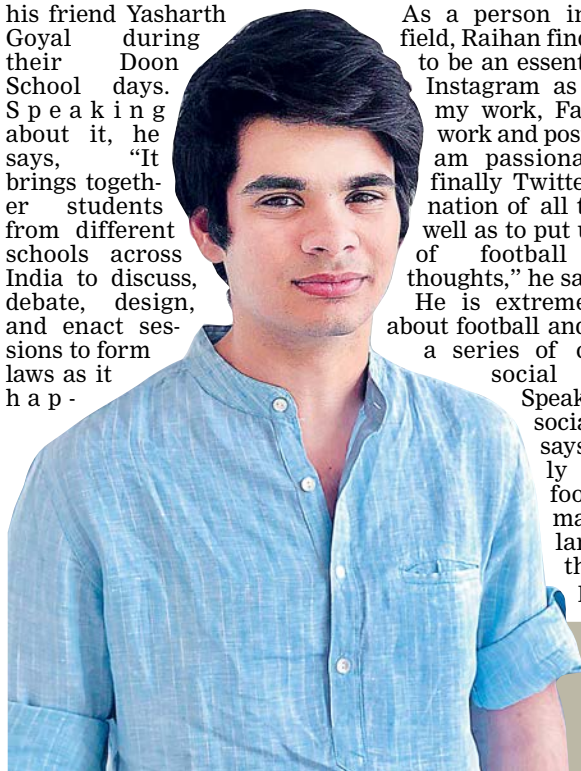
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One half was vibrant and visual, the other was dark and still. When I began to take photographs again two years later, my entire perspective had changed. My camera became my second eye, one that I could train to create images that returned my world to me.

The privilege of sharing them with others is what drives me to create and innovate with a sense of fulfillment. With the change in photography came a change in style, I adapted and broadened my work in the metaphysical and street photography genres, which apart from wildlife photography are my two favorites."

#### POLITICAL INCLINATIONS:

Although wildlife is Raihan's present passion, politics is an undeniable part of his lineage. To be involved in political matters and create awareness around similar issues, he co-founded a student initiative called I-Parliament with his friend Yasharth Goyal during their Doon School days. Speaking about it, he says, "It brings together students from different schools across India to discuss, debate, design, and enact sessions to form laws as it happens."



pens in a real parliamentary session. I-Parliament offers school students, for the first time, the possibility of conveying their ideas to the law-makers of the land, as all legislation generated during a session is reviewed by Members of the Lok Sabha. It has a strong policy-learning component. Students meet and interact with key national political leaders, policymakers, and policy experts. It is a student-run initiative that attempts to create a community in which young people are politically aware and have a voice that is heard by the leaders of their country."

#### SOCIAL SCENES

As a person in the creative field, Raihan finds social media to be an essential tool. "I use Instagram as a portfolio of my work, Facebook to network and post about things I am passionate about and finally Twitter for a combination of all those things as well as to put up my analysis of football and daily thoughts," he says. He is extremely passionate about football and also supports a series of causes on his social platforms. Speaking about his social interests, he says, "I occasionally write about football, analyse matches, and the larger picture that football paints. A few of



Golden eyes

my friends and I are starting a podcast called '18 Yards' to discuss the beauty of this game in all its aspects. While football remains a favourite, I also spend time to support some social causes like 'He For She', 'Extinction Rebellion', 'The School Strike for Climate Change', 'Movember: The Mental Health Awareness Campaign', 'CALM', and Project Tiger."

"These causes cover some of the issues I feel are very pertinent. The stigma around mental health problems must be removed and the awareness of these problems must be brought to the fore of the public discussion. I also feel climate change is a cause of high concern to the human race and the movements surrounding it must be supported and policies must be created to curb the impact," he says, ending the interview.



Tiger family at Ranthambore National Park



Capturing the wilderness

“I occasionally write about football, analyse matches, and the larger picture that football paints. A few of my friends and I are starting a podcast called '18 Yards' to discuss the beauty of this game in all its aspects. While football remains a favourite, I also spend time to support some social causes like He For She, Extinction Rebellion, The School Strike for Climate Change, Project Tiger...”



## All eyes on KCR-Jagan meet on Aug. 5

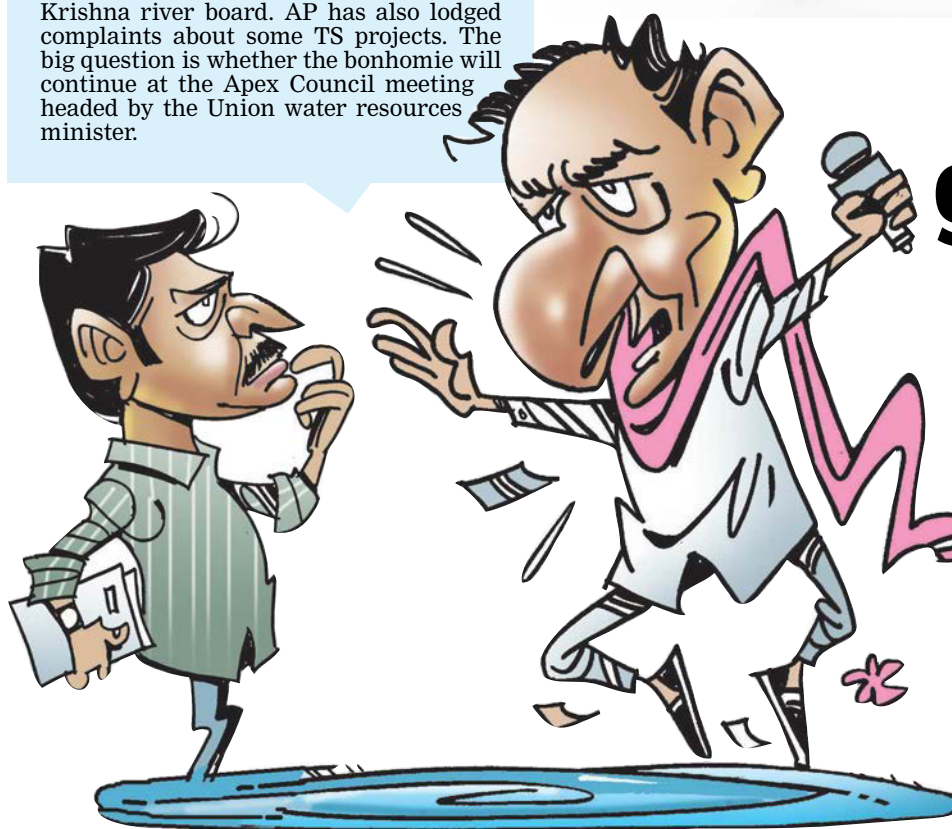
People of the Telugu-speaking states are curious to see how the proposed online meeting between Chief Ministers K. Chandrashekar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy goes off on August 5, if it is not postponed. The two CMs have met at least thrice along with their family members and exchanged pleasantries. Both have decided to settle disputes amicably and share the Krishna and Godavari waters for mutual benefit. But circumstances changed after the AP government decided to take up irrigation projects, especially one meant to use Srisailem water in Rayalaseema. The Telangana state government lodged a strong objection, and the project was halted by the Krishna river board. AP has also lodged complaints about some TS projects. The big question is whether the bonhomie will continue at the Apex Council meeting headed by the Union water resources minister.



## It turned out to be a guided tour, after all

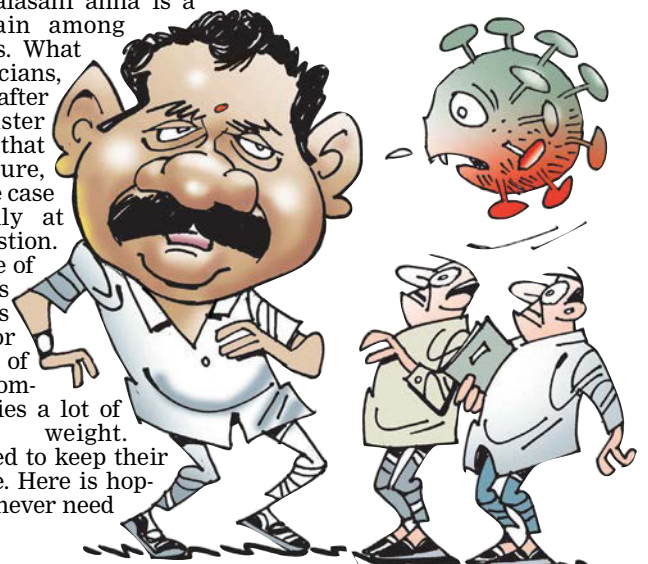
After facing the wrath of the Telangana High Court for not allowing the media to report on the demolition of structures in the Secretariat from the ground, the government took scribes and video journalists to have a first-hand look last week. Scribes and lensmen hoped that they would get a chance to walk around the premises they knew so well, both to get a story and to relive old

memories for one last time. All they got instead was a guided tour of the premises amid tight security. They were not allowed to head towards the site where the two mosques and a temple were demolished. The scribes quickly realised that the visit was only organised to show the High Court that the government had complied with its direction and that it had nothing to hide.



## 'Dada' Talasani prefers state hospital if struck by Covid-19

Talasani Srinivas Yadav, the feisty TS minister from Hyderabad, for whom no subject is off the table when it comes to talking about or holding official reviews, has been putting up a courageous act for a while now. He has been fearless in declaring that if at all he contracts Covid-19 and needs treatment, he will head to the government-run Gandhi Hospital. This is in stark contrast to his Cabinet colleagues, MLAs and MLCs rushing off to expensive corporate hospitals the moment they test positive. "Talasani anna is a 'dada'," is the refrain among many of his followers. What this makes other politicians, at least from the TRS, after the Chief Minister famously announced that irrespective of stature, every Covid-19 positive case must be treated only at Gandhi, is a moot question. All it took for a change of heart on this front was a couple of TRS MLAs testing positive. For Talasani, the promise of being one with the common folk clearly carries a lot of significance and weight. Politicians are expected to keep their promises to the people. Here is hoping that Talasani will never need to keep this one.



## AP babus teach docs on Covid-19 treatment

Government doctors in Andhra Pradesh are facing a piquant situation: They are being 'taught' by some officials on how to treat Covid-19 patients. This includes lessons on wearing the face mask, using the pulse oximeter, checking blood pressure, handling medical equipment and even what treatment is to be given to patients. These officials are mostly posted at the Covid Command Control Centre in Vijayawada as well as district-level units. Doctors caution that officials are giving the wrong interpretation in han-

dling equipment, which could cause trouble. While giving unwarranted lessons in medicine to doctors is one thing, officials back off when they are confronted. Some officials have set doctors the target of conducting 25 Covid-19 tests at each primary healthcare centre in a day. When a senior doctor who arranges for distribution of testing kits said he did not have enough of the kits, the official fell silent. Doctors only want to be allowed to treat patients as per ICMR guidelines. But try telling that to the babus.



# August brings a turning point


**OSCAR CAINER**
**YOUR HOROSCOPE  
FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING  
19 JULY 2020**
**ARIES**

*March 21-April 20*

Although you have many potential routes to choose between, most of these won't take you to where you want to be. They only look appealing because you're making your way along an obstacle-strewn path. No wonder you're thinking about a past decision with a sense of regret. Yet you always knew this journey would bring challenges... and a diversion will just distract you from your ultimate goal. August brings a chance to renew your commitment. Significant gains are both possible and probable.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Don't persuade yourself you are making a mistake. You are doing no such thing. Keep the upside in mind at all times.

**TAURUS**

*April 21-May 21*

Since money doesn't keep our planet spinning around, neither is it going to bring it crashing to a halt. Although it's tempting to make it the villain of the piece, it's our love of it, not the thing itself, that causes problems. This month, rather than looking for something to blame, you'd be much better off focusing on all the amazing things people are doing. Although your material situation isn't guaranteed to improve in August, with the right attitude, you'll become spiritually and emotionally enriched.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** You need to get a move on. Don't panic, but do keep plugging away at that most important objective.

**GEMINI**

*May 22-June 22*

We all enjoy tucking up on the sofa to watch a good drama. We identify with the characters and relate to their problems so effortlessly that we find ourselves glued to the TV. It's not so easy when we have intense issues to deal with in our own lives. Starring in our own soap opera is a different story altogether. When someone you care about faces a challenge this month, you're tempted to jump in to help. Although this implicates you in a dramatic situation, events throughout August ensure a happy ending.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** It is time to stop being afraid. Refuse to be intimidated. Stand your ground and you'll enjoy shining success.

**CANCER** *June 23-July 23*


You have a highly prized skill; the ability to make a little money stretch further than most other people. Yet you can also spend it fast too! It's a good balance. After all, if we don't need something, why should life give it to us? Over August, the cosmos brings the chance to create the right environment to improve your financial situation. As long as you have faith in your ability to create positive change in your world, with Venus in your sign, there's a strong likelihood that it will manifest.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** New facts oblige you to rethink, making for apparent inconsistencies. But you're right to react in this way.

**LEO**

*July 24-August 23*

The start of August finds you on the front line, in the midst of the action. The responsibilities resting on your shoulders are adding to the challenges you face. Well... that's how it feels. Could the cosmic forces have erroneously placed you in charge of so many different people and situations? Even though you're a confident Leo, the tasks ahead seem daunting. Fortunately August brings much-appreciated assistance your way. If you add your power to someone else's, the benefits will touch many lives.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** As you reorganise emotionally, you can sort out a jumble. A little irritation may remain. Be glad it's not a big one!

**LIBRA**

*September 24-October 23*

How will we recognise heaven when we get there? Will it resemble a slick TV ad; sunshine, pina coladas, and hammocks to swing on as we watch the sun setting over an azure ocean? Does everyone have an ultra-bright smile and perfect hair? Will you be able to afford anything and everything you desire? Come to think of it, how will we know that we're not in hell? Watch out for easily-jumped-to conclusions this month. As long as you look below the superficial, you'll get heavenly results.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Sometimes you wonder what life are here for. The answer is: to experience happiness. A real taste of that is coming.

**VIRGO**

*August 24-September 23*

Children know what they want when they're tiny, but they don't know what they need. Although we grow wiser as we grow older, we tend to ignore the fact that we suffer from the same traits, even when we've grown up! We weave complex, intricate excuses to justify debatable decisions; and, struggle to identify our self-pretences. There's no guarantee that August will bring you what you really want... but you might find that you don't need it. And that might make you feel very good indeed.

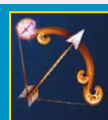
**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** You yearn to take an important course of action. Don't bother thinking too long and hard. Just trust that instinct.

**SCORPIO**

*October 24-November 22*

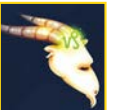
The Full Moon at the start of August is a sign of hopefulness. It's time to have more faith in your future, which is preparing to welcome you with open arms, and to have more confidence in who you are and where you're going. If there's an issue that causes you to doubt yourself this month, reevaluate its importance in your life. There's a chance that you're still holding onto parts of your past that are no longer relevant. Focus on your vision of what 'could' be possible and you'll embrace the future you deserve.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Actions sometimes backfire. There's a lot of stress. Just when you think that all is hopeless, something will come along.

**SAGITTARIUS** *November 23-December 21*


You can't move a mountain with will power alone. You need to have a strategy. And, unless you've got all the time in the world, some support wouldn't go amiss either. The process you're engaged with requires team effort. Fortunately, when you find yourself out of your depth, you won't have to look far to find people with the skills you need who are ready and able to assist you. They appreciate your vision... and they share your enthusiasm too. Transformation is possible this month.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** After excitement comes calm. After every calm comes more excitement. Your challenge is to learn to enjoy both

**CAPRICORN**

*December 22-January 20*

If you'd like life to be filled with serendipitous moments, picture yourself fishing in the river of good fortune. Every time you make a catch, you win a prize. Even a piece of junk from the bottom of the riverbed will have its uses. Either someone will need it, or you'll be able to transform it, or it might contain hidden treasures. If you're not sure how you're going to be able to identify this particularly abundant river from a normal one, just activate your most positive expectations. They'll take you there.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Those clouds are just dust settling. Confusion in your life is not the problem you imagine it to be. Clarity is coming.

**AQUARIUS**

*January 21-February 19*

Is the Full Moon in your sign at the start of August is a good omen? Aren't you starting to feel happier? Or are you still entangled in recent issues and challenges? You've successfully protected yourself from feeling too overwhelmed by creating a series of protective barriers. The challenge is that as well as keeping trouble at bay, they're keeping good people and things out. As the month progresses and you find the confidence to lower your defences, your social life, and your mood will greatly improve.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Finding life awkward? Carrying too much weight? There are some tasks you can pass on. Delegate. Offload a little.

**PISCES**

*February 20-March 20*

There's no simple fix to the dilemma you face in August. Even if you find a situation so tiresome that you want to walk away, your involvement makes it hard to extricate yourself. Focusing all your attention on it won't provide you with the answer either; you've already tried that, to no avail. Yet the Full Moon, at the start of the month, is a clear signal that you have the wherewithal to regenerate a sense of perspective. Once that's established, you'll know exactly what to do and how to do it.

**IN YOUR LOVE LIFE:** Your fantasies are becoming real. You fear it could all go horribly adrift at any moment. But that is not going to happen.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

The late Jonathan Cainer's nephew Oscar, will bring you your weekly zodiac forecasts over the weeks and months to come. For more from Oscar, visit [cainer.com](http://cainer.com)



Going beyond his love for hip-hop, the actor gave his fans a peek into his interest in varied rock genres



## Ranveer's rock and roll

DC CORRESPONDENT

It's no secret that Ranveer Singh has a knack for music. The music aficionado, who gave a stellar performance in hip-hop based *Gully Boy* and even owns a music label, has a varied taste in music. And this time, the *Band Baaja Baaraat* actor went beyond his love for hip-hop and gave his fans a peek into his world of rock and roll.

Taking to Instagram, the actor posted a selfie in which he is seen wearing a popular American rock band *Red Hot Chili Pepper's* vest. Posting a verse from the band's song *Otherside*, Ranveer wrote, "I gotta

take it on the other side....what's your favourite @chilipeppers track?" In another post, the '83 actor paid a tribute to the legendary British rock band *Queen*. Posting a photo, in which he is replicating Freddie Mercury's classic pose next to his statue, the actor wrote a verse from the band's song. "I want to break free...@officialqueenmusic," he captioned. Later, the actor went down a memory lane to reminisce the time he attended the British electronic band *The Prodigy's* concert in Milan in 2012. "World's On Fire...#throwback to Milan 2012 @maxim...@theprodigyofficial," he wrote alongside pictures he clicked at the concert.

The *Gully Boy* actor took to Instagram to discuss some of his favourite bands such as RHCP, Queen and The Prodigy

OFF THE WEB

## Hardik's delight

Hardik Pandya's girlfriend Natasa Stankovic gave birth to a son, and he shared his happiness with fans on Instagram. The cricketer shared a glimpse of his son.



## Alia turns into a pap

DC CORRESPONDENT

Last month, actress Alia Bhatt became a cat mother to a beautiful black cat named Juniper. The actress, who already has three more cats, loves her feline clowder and is often seen sharing their photos with sister Shaheen Bhatt. This time again, the *Shaandaar* actress became a photographer for her babies. Taking to Instagram, the actress posted portraits of Juniper and Edward. The actress even joked about ditching acting to become a paparazzo for cats. "When all else fails turn cat paparazzi (sic)," wrote the star. Extending the joke, a well-known celebrity paparazzo commented on the picture, inviting the actress to join his team.

On the work front, the actress has been spotted making rounds to a dubbing studio in the Mumbai city.



## Rihanna gets real

DC CORRESPONDENT

After conquering the music world, singer Rihanna had made waves in the cosmetics industry with her inclusive make up line called Fenty Beauty in 2017. Moving ahead, the *Umbrella* singer has now launched a line of skin care products called Fenty Skin.

Rihanna opened up about her trio of gender-neutral products — a cleanser, toner and moisturiser — with *E!*

Talking about the inspiration behind the products, she revealed how she suffered from skin issues. "I kind of got that, like, messed up moustache from the sun," the 32-year-old star explained. "And you don't want to wear makeup, but then you have a moustache because it's just

dark," she said, before adding that she started using toner. "I finally started to believe in toner. Because I didn't understand what toner did besides strip my skin all the time....It always felt really dry after, like I just cleaned it with something really harsh, and I don't like that feeling," she said.

She further opened upon the skin issues she has had to deal with in the past. "I've been through several stages of skincare issues, whether it started with acne or products that were too harsh and discoloring my skin, to hyperpigmentation...to getting older, being on a plane all day all night. There's so many things that affect the performance of your skin," she said.





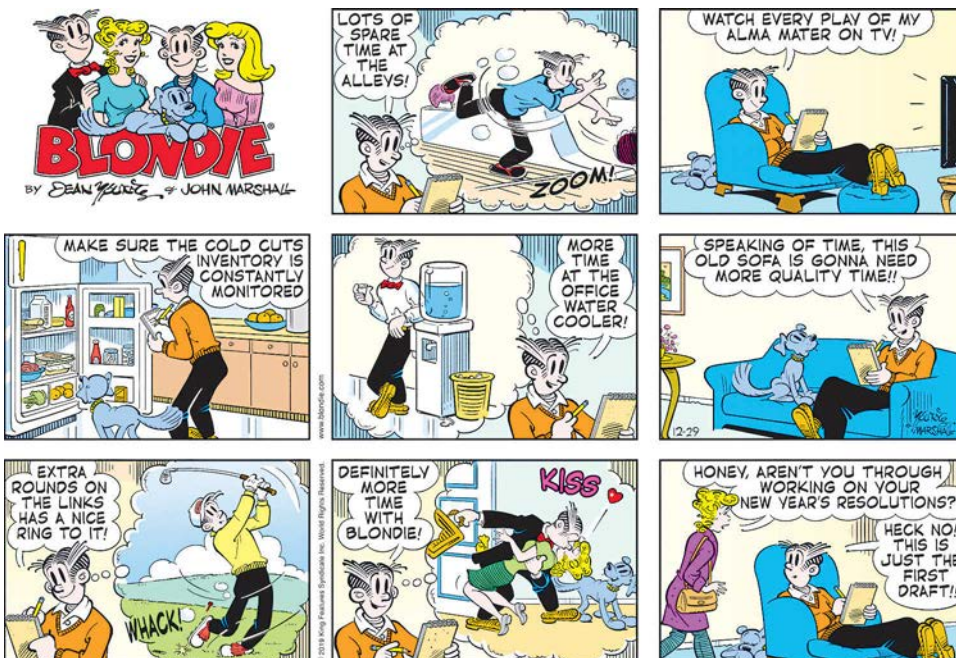
PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



FUNDAMENTALS SENJAM RAJ SEKHAR

Rahul Dravid is nicknamed Jammy because his father used to work in Kissan Jams. Find out more such stories on nicknames of cricketers this week.

Write with your suggestions, questions (with answers) to senjam@gmail.com.

On Jammy and Tugga 1. Steve Waugh is called Tugga, a play of words on Tug of War. Why was he also called Drobe?

2. Why was Aussie cricketer Jason Gillespie nicknamed Dizzy?

3. Mark Waugh was nicknamed "Junior" as he is younger than his twin brother Steve Waugh by a few minutes. Why was he also nicknamed Afghan?

4. In South Africa, insect is called Gogga. Which South African spinner was nicknamed Gogga by his captain from Western Province evoking reaction from the spinner's father "My son is not an insect."?

5. Kiwi bowler Garvin Larsen played three world cups for New Zealand. Why was he called 'The Postman'?

6. Australian cricketer Terry Alderman was nicknamed Clem after Clem Jones, a long standing mayor of Brisbane. Why?

7. Which Australian bowler is nicknamed Sarfraz after the Pakistani cricketer Sarfraz Nawaz?

8. English bowler Chris Old's had a knack of acquiring injuries on the eve of matches. In fact, the first bowling machine installed at Lord's was nicknamed Chris Old because it kept on breaking down! Chris himself

FUNDA OF THE WEEK

There is the only film in Bollywood where Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Saif Ali Khan shared a frame. Name the film. (Dr Shanu Chandran, Vellore)

ANSWERS: Pehla Nasha

was nicknamed Chilly. Why?

9. Kiwi cricketer and former Indian cricket coach John Wright was nicknamed Shake by his team mates. Why?

10. English spinner Phil Tufnell was nicknamed "The Cat" because he was often found sleeping in the dressing room. After retirement, he was named 'King of the Jungle'. Why?

ANYTHING GOES

1. 'Sita Theke Shuru' by a Bengali author tells the stories from Ramayana and Mahabharat from the perspective of women protagonists like Sita, Shakuntala etc. Identify the author? (Bikram Keshari Jena, Nayagarh)

2. What did Douglas Engelbart invent in the 1960s which became a regular feature of people's lives after the 1990s? (Soulati Mohammedi, Secunderabad)

3. In Hindu mythology, Arjuna is known by several other names. One of them is Sabyasachi. Why? (M. Vislesha, Secunderabad)

ANSWERS

1. Agnani - a play on words - Wardrobe
2. After the famous jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie
3. Mark lived in Steve's shadow for most of his career. This led to Mark's nickname 'The Shadow'.
4. Paul Adams. Despite his father's protest the name stuck
5. Because Garvin was a bowler who always delivered
6. Clem Jones was once the curator of the Gabba cricket grounds, a favourite hunting ground of Terry Clem Jones was also an Alderman, meaning a member of the municipal assembly
7. Stuart Clark. The name was given by Mark Waugh when Stuart started playing for New South Wales because he reminded Mark of Sarfraz Nawaz
8. Because Chris Old was C. Old (Cold)
9. Because he kept his cricket gear in a very poor shape, which they thought would just shake out of his bag
10. He was named after he won the real-ty show 'I Am a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here'. Incidentally, Phil retired from professional cricket in 2003, so that he could participate in that reality show.

ON JAMMY AND TUGGA








**Rasika Dugal** enjoys experimenting as an actor. She says her primary goal is to explore different types of characters

# 'I like muddled characters'

PRIYANKA CHANDANI

 Rasika Dugal, who forayed into Bollywood in 2007 with a small character role in *Anwar*, followed by *Tahaan*, has come a long way, thanks to her exceptional acting skills. She made the audience sit up and take notice in 2018 with her performance in web shows *Mirzapur* and *Delhi Crime* and in films such as *Hamid* and *Manto*. And now the *Out of Love* actress is making headlines with her role in *Lootcase* which was released on July 31 on Disney+ Hotstar. Rasika is also riding high with the positive reviews she has received for Mira Nair's television adaptation of Vikram Seth's novel 'A Suitable Boy', which was released on BBC One on July 26.

In an exclusive interview, she talks about her craft, her tryst with comedy, and off-beat characters. **Excerpts from the chat...**

**After several offbeat roles, *Lootcase* is your first commercial film. How was the experience?**

It was exciting. Comedy is a different genre for me. I was excited to be a part of this film as I wanted to experiment with comedy for a long time. I try doing different things. When I got the script for *Lootcase*, I was shooting for *Delhi Crime*, which was very intense, so I wanted to do something light-hearted. I enjoyed doing this film thoroughly.

**You play a domineering housewife who is also a god-fearing woman. Do you resonate with this character in your personal life?**

Well, I was brought up in a family which follows some religious practices and they have stayed with me, but I would definitely not call myself a very god-fearing woman. Lata (character in the film) is different from me. I find confused and muddled characters challenging. It was exciting to play something that I am not.

**You once told us that as an actor you only want to work on your craft and better it. Did you need to prepare for this role?**

Yes, I believe that as an actor you just have to work on your craft. For this role, I had to work at being on the same page as my director and writer. I needed a little bit of preparation because both the writer and director have their individual sense of humour, so I had to match their expectations. We rehearsed on the set, which helped me get the timing right, and that's a luxury; you don't have that with every project.

**You have played some brilliant roles in a short span of time. How do you select the scripts?**

I don't think there is anyone for whom everything worked well. There are bound to be roles which you pick up with confi-

dence only to find they didn't work for many reasons; and there are roles which you might not be sure about, but they do wonders. I think the journey of an artiste won't be interesting if you take that fear away. My primary goal is to experiment and explore; it doesn't work if you are too cautious.

**Do you feel a kind of responsibility when selecting scripts?**

Sometimes I do think about that. But mostly I think about my own standards and what is important for me. I don't say I ignore people's views and what they want to see. I try to see if the two will go hand-in-hand. And I have one person in the family (husband Mukul Chadda) who keeps giving me inputs, and this motivates me to try new things. It's important to focus on the idea of doing new rather than doing well. You have to be relevant while choosing projects which challenge you.

**Over the years, how has your graph evolved as an actor?**

I think a tremendous move has happened since 2017. I have a lot of work and a variety of work, so both are positive. From June 2017 to December 2017 I shot for *Manto*, *Hamid* and *Mirzapur* and all the characters were different from the other. After *Manto* I found doing *Hamid* difficult. I find it difficult to move from one project to another and do justice to every character. I am still finding out what I am comfortable doing. As an actor you have to find time to learn something for yourself.

**How was it to work with Kunal Kemmu, who is comfortable with the comedy genre?**

It was good and interesting. He is good with comedy and happy to have a co-actor who is comfortable with the genre. It brings a good energy to the set.

**Your other web series by Mira Nair is also getting good reviews. Did you expect this?**

I am really excited. There are so many talented actors from across the globe who bring their experience to the show. We all got along well as actors and I want to see that energy on screen.

**There is so much trolling of stars on social media. Do you think stars are easy targets?**

Yes they are. But they have the choice of not responding. Having said that, when someone says something on social media, you need to decide whether you want to respond or not; it doesn't matter whether you are a star or not. You have to ask if that's a meaningful conversation or not. Are we contributing something beneficial or not? Everyone has the right to speak, but everyone has the right not to speak as well, and I choose that right.

"As an actor you have to find time to learn something for yourself and this lockdown is helping me to do so."

