

A BYTE OF LIFE

Tuesday, July 21, 2009



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Vol. 3 No. 136

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A promotional banner for "Smart Shoppers". It features a "Travel USB Tool Kit" with a 46% discount from Rs. 1200/- to Rs. 645/-, valid until 10th September '09. The banner also includes a "GUARANTEE" seal, a "Buy Now" button, and contact information: Call us for Best Deals 9025255222.

Freddie leads victory bid

England won their first Test against Australia at Lord's since 1934 on Monday when they defeated the visitors by 115 runs on the final day of the second Ashes Test. Andrew Flintoff led the English charge with a five-wicket haul in the final innings.

» PAGE 09



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Be part of city's birthday celebration

If you are a heritage enthusiast, food lover and like to know more about your city, Madras Week Celebration has always had something special for you. And like every year, this year too the week-long celebration will be held from August 16 to 23, or may be even longer. From 15 events in the first year, the event has grown to host about 75 programmes, including quizzes, exhibitions, and performances, all centred on the theme 'Madras'. As a run-up to the city's birthday celebrations, the coordinators are calling organisations/individuals/volunteer groups to plan their event. Schools with INTACH Heritage Clubs, city's leading clubs, hotels and cultural institutions have chalked out their programmes. Do you have something to tell, share or organise?

Write to editor@madrasmusings.com or Chennai Heritage, 5 Bhattad Tower, 30 Westcott Road, Royapettah.

Ergo Correspondent

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BABE HUNTING IN 3 FOUR EASY STEPS

STEP 1: TRY TO SPOT & MEMORIZE THE GIRL'S ID WITHOUT BEING MISTAKEN FOR LEWD CONDUCT...

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STEP 3: SEND HER A SILLY FORWARD... AND WAIT FOR HER RESPONSE...

PS: PRAY FOR A MIRACLE

New release

EarthSync has released its latest production, *Business Class Refugees*, which is an exclusive collaboration of local music from around the world with electronic beats that exemplifies the spirit of music. The album is priced at Rs. 395.

Play to win

It was a sporting weekend for corporate houses. The grand finale of Pergo Floors All Under Lights 2009 were conducted with volleyball, basketball and 5A side soccer as events. Wipro, Accenture, iSoft, Sify, Caterpillar, RR Donnelley, Kotak Securities, L&T Infotech and Consim participated in the event, organised under flood light at Nehru Stadium.



THE WINNERS

5A Side Soccer

Cognizant beat TCS

Volleyball

Cognizant beat Paypal 25-13, 25-23 in 2 straight sets

Basketball

Infosys beats Verizon



The winning volleyball and basketball team pose with their trophies

» The crafty crow



A crow weaving his nest at a traffic signal on Kamarajar Salai, near Gandhi Statue Junction, in Chennai. PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

Vodafone Tuesday

Vodafone Essar has introduced 'Vodafone Tuesdays'. On every Tuesday, Vodafone subscribers in Chennai can avail a 'Buy 1, Get 1 Free' offer at select multiplexes and restaurants. To avail the offer, download a mobile coupon by SMSing 'TUESDAY' to 56789. These coupons can be validated and redeemed at the Sathyam multiplex, Gallopin Gooseberries, Gangothri, Benjarong, China Town, Copper Chimney, Ente Keralam, Dominoes, Bike & Barrel and Zara.

Scrap the scrapbook, YouTube farewells are in VOGUE

Autograph books are passé and students have begun to make videos on their college life and upload them online on YouTube. Ergo speaks to the young alumni of Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering of Electronics and Communication ECE 2003 – 2007 batch and M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-07 batch from Anna university and SRM University, 2004-2008 batch, Bioinformatics about their videos.

DEEPA VENKATRAMAN

Four years of high and low moments, anecdotes during birthday celebrations, cultural day performances, picnics, industrial visits are no longer just penned down in autograph books or even slam books. The batch mates who have recently passed out from their colleges have made videos of their college life in order to relive those nostalgic moments for life long.

Dinesh Chandran from SRM University, Bioinformatics, 2004-2008 batch, says, "At first it was created just for fun and entertainment but later after

completion of studies, the video which has songs from the movie—Boys, has become like a slam book for everyone. We recall four years in the four minute single video."

The videos that reflect the nature of the batch and college life are set to tunes of various songs—Kal ho naa ho, gladiator theme and songs from the tamil flick—Boys. While SVCE's video is called 'college in nutshell', M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-2007 batch from Anna university is 'The 64' and SRM University's is 'Friends forever'. Karthikeyan from M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-2007 batch says, "All through we were known as the rebellious group and one of our

professors used to call us "The 64" and we became popular with that identity and hence the name."

Interestingly, the videos of Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering-electronics and Communication ECE 2003 – 2007 batch and M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-2007 batch have got more than 1,000 views. A lot of coordination and planning was involved behind the making of these videos. The creative minds got together and gathered photos from various friends and made the video with touchy songs of various movies. These

videos have become an integral part of the farewell day celebrations. "It was a last-minute preparation and the idea was kept as a secret. Hence we could involve only few friends. But we accomplished the challenge of covering almost all our batch mates in the video. Majority of the pictures were from our industrial visits and symposiums," says Siddharth Chyndalia of Electronics and Communication ECE 2003 – 2007 batch, from Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering.

Ginesh Gandhi from M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-2007 batch had this idea much earlier during the college-days itself. "We became very close to each other in the first few months of college life and I was sure that we will miss each other a lot. Hence from the initial days itself, I started to make a video and over a period of time, many of our friends joined in." ■



The videos of Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering-electronics and Communication ECE 2003 – 2007 batch and M.Sc Electronic Media (integrated) 2002-2007 batch have gotten more than 1,000 views each.



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We're really pleased both in terms of (YouTube's) revenue growth, which is really material to YouTube, and... in the not long, too-long-distant future, we actually see a very profitable and good business for us

Patrick Pichette, Google CFO

ooVoo takes on Skype in video conferencing



small businesses are looking to shave costs.

A few years ago, Cisco also bought firm WebEx, which lets people share documents and collaborate online.

"You're seeing people use more video because of the economy and the need to travel less," Schwartz said.

ooVoo's business service costs \$39.95 a month per person or less, depending on the number of users in a company, ad-free. The consumer service starts at no fee to as high as \$17.95 a month for six-way chats. Voice calls to phones are extra.

Start-up ooVoo is hoping to take on everybody from Skype, the Internet telephone arm of eBay, to Cisco Systems with a new video conferencing offer for small businesses.

While Skype has the higher profile, New York-based ooVoo has quietly built up 7.5 million registered users in the last few years with a service that supports video chats between up to six people and up to six phone participants.

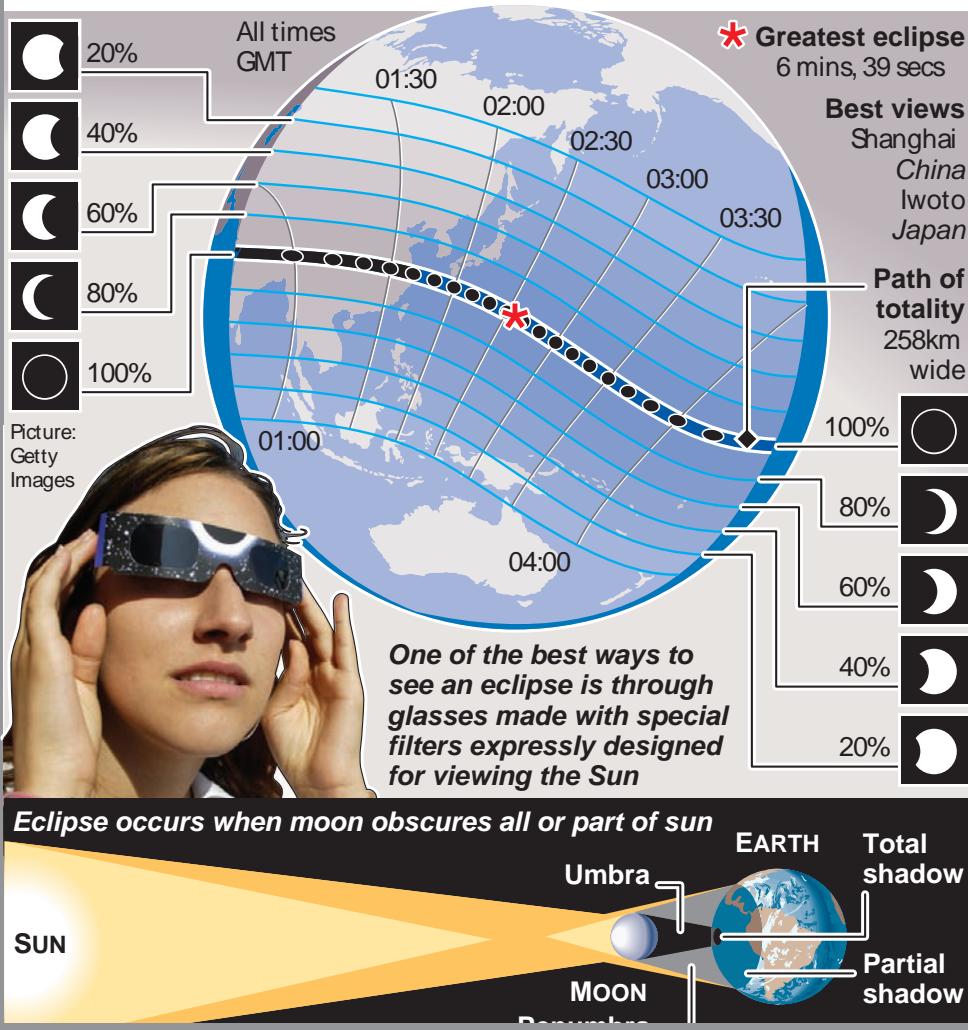
Now, the fledgling company is adding a desktop sharing option that will let business colleagues view each other's computer screens and enable remote collaboration. It will also block advertising for business users who pay a monthly fee.

"We took what we had with the consumer and packaged it with a business plan," said ooVoo CEO Philippe Schwartz.

Cisco's development of a telepresence video conferencing system, which uses large screens and shows life-like images, has created renewed interest in video communications in recent years. But such systems cost thousands of dollars to install, at a time

Total solar eclipse over Asia and Pacific

The longest total solar eclipse of the 21st century will be visible across most of eastern Asia and the western Pacific on July 22



An Ai Guru SV1 Skype videophone by Taiwanese computer giant Asus is on display at a high-tech fair.
PHOTO: AFP

But she said Skype would likely be a formidable rival.

"They also are starting to focus heavily on the business market, which leads me to believe more features and functionality are on their way," Swensen said. ■

Reuters

Enhance your digital pics

Before you edit your digital photos, create copies of them. That way, you can always revert to the original version if something goes awry in the editing process. This is especially important if you work with photographs in the JPEG format, as opposed to RAW. With JPEG, each time you save the image, a slight degradation occurs. Keeping the original is akin to keeping a negative in the old film days.

Movie studios try to harness Twitter effect



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Audiences are voicing snap judgments on movies faster and to more people than ever before on Twitter, and their ability to create a box office hit or a flop is forcing major studios to revamp marketing campaigns.

The stakes are especially high

this summer season when big budget movies like "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," which opened on Wednesday, play to a core audience of young, plugged-in moviegoers.

"Has everything speeded up? The answer is yes," said Adam Fogelson, Universal's president

of marketing and distribution. "Depending on how big your opening day audience is, word-of-mouth starts playing a factor immediately," he said.

Film marketers look at weekly declines in ticket sales to judge fan buzz. In recent years those "drops" have widened significantly as communication has speeded up thanks to the Internet and more recently social networking services like Twitter and Facebook.

This summer, which is the most lucrative movie season and can make up as much as 40 percent of annual box office, ticket revenues for new films have dropped 51 percent, on average, from week No. 1 to week No. 2, a figure matched only in 2007, according to tracking firm Box Office Mojo.

"If people don't like the movie now on Friday it can die by Saturday," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of tracking firm Hollywood.com Box Office.

Bruno gets Twittered

Last Friday, actor Sacha Baron Cohen's gay-themed comedy "Bruno," which was distributed

by Universal Pictures, made an impressive one-day debut of \$14.4 million at US and Canadian box offices, but the next day it suffered a large single-day drop, falling 39 percent to \$8.8 million.

Media reports speculated that "Bruno" suffered from the Twitter effect, meaning audiences reacted quickly online to raunchy scenes of sex and nudity, scaring people away.

Soon after the movie's open-

ing, Twitter was awash with comments such as this from user Cathy Zhang: "Some scenes from 'Bruno' I'll never erase from my mind." On the flip side, many Twitter commentators raved about "Bruno."

Universal's Fogelson said even Twitter comments that seem critical can be good publicity because they show people are passionate about the movie and can spark discussion that increases attendance. He attributed "Bruno's" lopsided opening day not to negative fan buzz, but to an unusually large crowd of Cohen's fans rushing to see the film on its first day.

Using Twitter, actor Ashton Kutcher has raised his profile and that of his production company among the most tech-savvy, and he is not alone. Filmmakers and actors often tweet from the set with the blessing of publicists looking to create interest in a film.

"As much as it seems chaotic, it's not. It's just extremely quick and real-time," said online marketing consultant Gordon Paddison. ■

'Spammers using URL shortening services'

Services that shorten the length of long web addresses are tremendously helpful - including for spammers.

Spam watchers have observed an increasing trend of spam e-mail messages that use the short URL services to turn links into an innocent-looking combination of letters and numbers, warns MessageLabs, a provider of IT security solutions in Germany.

That allows spammers to hide what is behind the link. Clicking on those links can lead to malicious software installing itself instantly on the unsuspecting user's computer.

One decisive factor in the rise in the use of the URL shortening services are platforms like Twitter, which require their users to formulate their messages briefly, with no room for long links. ■

DPA

Box office watchers say Twitter is the latest weapon in an arsenal of cell phones and computers that audiences use to critique films quickly, often when they are still sitting in theatres

Reuters



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US author McCourt dead

US author Frank McCourt, whose 1996 book *Angela's Ashes* brought him world fame, died at the age of 78, the *New York Times* reported. McCourt's brother Malachy McCourt, also a writer, said his brother suffered from metastasized melanoma and had become gravely ill with meningitis. McCourt had been treated in hospital for melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer that can spread through the body, and his condition had deteriorated rapidly over the last two weeks. The Brooklyn-born Irish-American author had taught English for decades in New York City. His hard-luck family had gone back to Ireland after his birth, and he scraped together savings to return at age 19, in 1949.

DPA

Now, a love story book on panda

A book about a panda that went missing during last year's Sichuan earthquake in China and the Hong Kong woman who adopted the animal is to help finance a panda nature reserve, according to a media report.

The book, *In Love with Pandas - The Story of Qing Qing & I*, tells of the bond between Judy Chen Qing and the giant panda, Qing Qing, she adopted at Sichuan's Wolong nature reserve in 2007, the *Standard* newspaper said.

Chen, who is chairwoman of the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, said: "I will never forget the moment I first saw her - a little creature sitting on a baby chair, looking at us curiously, and weighing just 5.44 kilograms 100 days after birth. We simply knew that we belonged to each other, it was like love at first sight."

The book records Chen's concerns after the panda disappeared after the Sichuan earthquake in southwest China on May 12, 2008. The animal was later found injured and frightened. "I love her as I would my own child," Chen said.

DPA



Cops free man from suitcase locker

German police had to rescue a 20-year-old man from a train station suitcase locker after he shut himself in for fun and began to suffocate.

After a night out drinking with friends, squeezing into the locker had seemed like an amusing idea to the man, police in the southwestern city of Ludwigshafen said. But the laughter faded when he started to run out of oxygen and his companions couldn't open the locker. Police broke open the door and dragged the groggy man to safety.

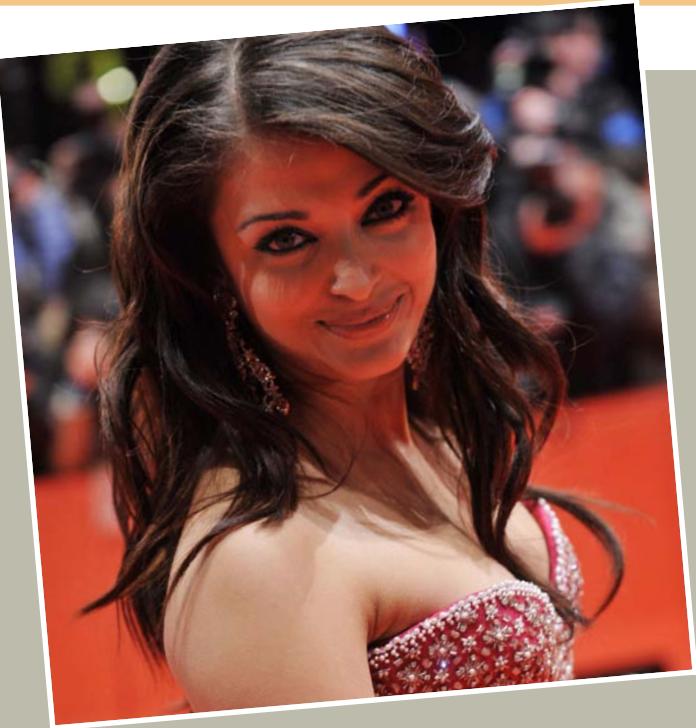
Reuters



MP fumes over 'A' for Aishwarya...

The names of film actors Aishwarya Rai and Hrithik Roshan are being used to teach alphabets in several schools using private publishers books, said a BJP member in the Rajya Sabha.

Through his Special Mention, Kalraj Mishra wanted the government to enforce strict regulation to control "confusing publications" brought out by



private publishers for children.

He said according to the private publications, the pupils are taught to remember the alphabets like 'A' stands for Aishwarya Rai. Roshan's name is also used in the alphabets.

Mishra said schools use private publishers' books on the pretext of shortage of NCERT books. ■

PTI

Milan pips NY as world's fashion capital

In a tightening battle for fashion kudos in Asia, Mumbai outdistanced Delhi. In Australia, Sydney outpaced Melbourne

Milan has ended New York's five-year reign as the world's top fashion city, while Hong Kong and Sao Paulo have sashayed into the top 10, according to an annual survey of top fashion cities.

The list was compiled by the Global Language Monitor, a US-based non-profit group that tracks the frequency of words and phrases in the media, on the Internet and throughout the blogosphere.

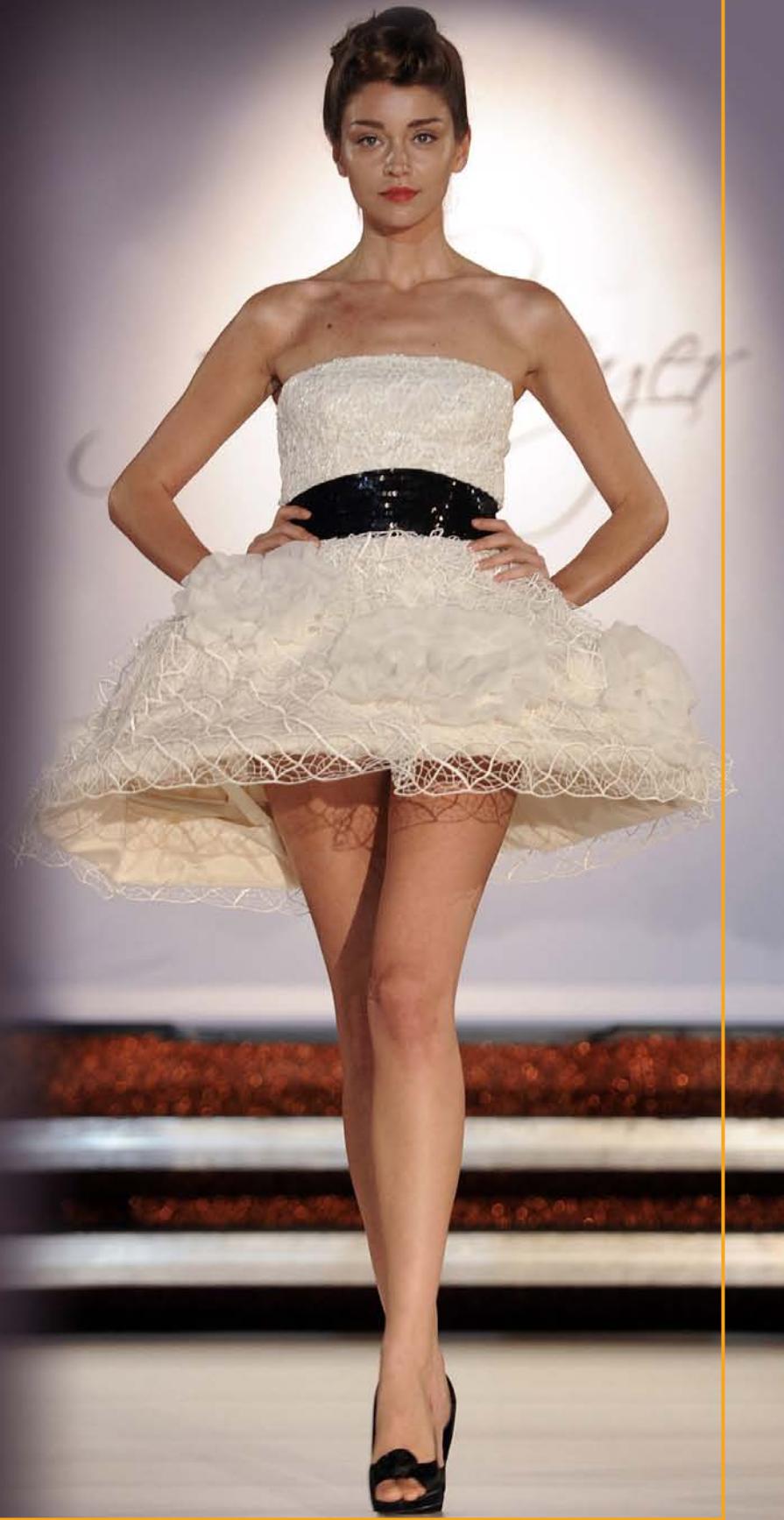
The world of fashion is dominated by five cities - New York, Rome, Paris, Milan and London - but New York had led the list for five consecutive years.

This year, however, Milan took the top slot followed by New York, Paris, Rome and London. Other big movers included Hong Kong and Sao Paulo, which broke into the top 10, while Barcelona and Miami surged.

"The global economic restructuring has affected the fashion industry just as it has touched everything else," said Millie Lorenzo Payack, a director at the Global Language Monitor.

"The catwalks were still crowded though with the lights dimmer, the hype a bit more restrained, and recessionists, of course, thriving."

■ Reuters



IN THE YEAR 2040 - 1.3 BN SENIOR CITIZENS

The world's population of older people is growing at the fastest rate ever seen and the old will soon outnumber the young for the first time, US researchers reported on Monday.

An aging population will push up pension and health-care costs, forcing major increases in public spending that could slow economic growth in rich and poor countries.

The number of people 65 and older hit about 506 million as of midyear 2008, according to the US Census Bureau. This will double to 1.3 billion by 2040, accounting for 14 percent of the total global population.

"People aged 65 and over will soon outnumber children under age 5 for the first time in history," said the report put together by Kevin Kinsella and Wan He of the US Census Bureau.

"Aging is affecting every country in every part of the world," said Richard Suzman of the National Institute of Aging, which commissioned the report. "While there are important differences between developed and developing countries, global aging is changing the social and economic nature of the planet and presenting difficult challenges."

The report found that people aged 80 and older are the fastest growing portion of the total population in many countries. Globally, this "oldest old" population is projected to increase by 233 percent between 2008 and 2040.

This could strain their children and grandchildren.

"Shrinking ratios of workers to pensioners and people spending a larger portion of their lives in retirement increasingly tax existing health and pension systems," the report said. ■

■ Reuters



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Athletes excel

Discus thrower Krishna Poonia and 400m hurdler Joseph Abraham, who have qualified for next month's Berlin World Athletics Championships, won their respective events in the Birmingham Games in the United Kingdom.

Abraham, who qualified for the August 16-21 Berlin World Championships in the third Indian GP in Chennai in May, clocked 51.50secs in the final ahead of compatriot Avin A Thomas (52.02) at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on Sunday.

Abraham's timing was though below his national record of 49.51secs. Poonia continued her fine form this season with a throw of 59.63m, way ahead of compatriot and national record holder Seema Antil (55.77m). India's top shot putter Om Prakash also won his event with a throw of 17.39m, even though it was much below his personal best of 19.20m. Saurabh Vij was second by clearing a distance of 16.60m.



PTI

Somdev climbs ranking ladder

Courtesy his semi-finals appearance at the Aptos Challenger, Somdev Dev Varman jumped eight positions to achieve his career best singles ranking of 127 on Monday. After a long time, Somdev achieved desired result on the circuit and was rewarded in the latest ATP rankings for his brilliant run.

Prakash Amritraj, however, continued his slide as his ranking dipped further to 264, a loss of 10 positions. Leander Paes (6) and Mahesh Bhupathi (8) had their doubles rankings unchanged. In the women's rankings, Sania Mirza marginally improved both singles and doubles rankings. She rose two rungs to get to 83 in the singles and gained three position to be 39 in the doubles.

PTI



Driver dies in F2 race

The 18-year-old son of former F1 world champion John Surtees died after an accident during a Formula Two race, the hospital treating him said. Henry Surtees was knocked unconscious during the race at the Brands Hatch circuit in Kent, south of London, and was airlifted to hospital with head injuries on Sunday.



Spanish teen makes history

Spanish teenager Jaime Alguersuari becomes the youngest ever Formula One driver after Toro Rosso announced on Monday he will replace sacked Frenchman Sébastien Bourdais until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old reigning British Formula Three champion will make his debut for the Italian outfit at the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 26. "I know I'm facing a difficult challenge," admitted

Alguersuari. Team principal Franz Tost said he wouldn't be expecting too much from the youngster initially.

"I'm not expecting anything special from him for the first three races he competes in, which will allow him to get to know his team," said Tost. "While Formula One will be very new to him, as a driver who has come up through the ranks of the Red Bull Junior Team young driver programme, he knows his new team-

mates well."

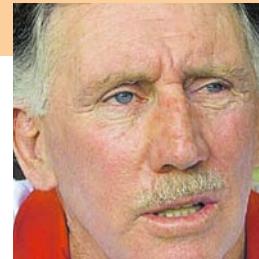
Toro Rosso added in a statement. Alguersuari has competed in 118 races from junior karting to Formula 3 and Formula Renault. He has had 17 victories and 36 podium finishes. Bourdais was sacked last week following lack-lustre performances in this year's Formula One campaign. The 30-year-old Frenchman scored just six points from the 27 Grands Prix in which he competed. ■

AFP

Alguersuari to become youngest F1 driver

IThe main barriers to improving the image of Test cricket have been erected by the ICC (International Cricket Council) itself. It has done the most to devalue Test cricket. Diminishing crowds at tests in all countries barring England and Australia is a worry.

Ian Chappell



End of long wait

Flintoff bowls England to victory after 75 years at Lord's

England won an Ashes Test at Lord's for the first time in 75 years as they beat Australia by 115 runs in the second Test on Monday to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Australia, set a record 522 to win, were bowled out for 406 on the fifth and final day with all-rounder Andrew Flintoff taking five wickets for 92 runs and off-spinner Graeme Swann chipping in with four for 87.

England, who clung on for a draw in the first Test in Cardiff, made a sound start with captain Andrew Strauss scoring 161 in a first innings total of 425. Swing bowler James Anderson then took Test-best figures against Australia of four wickets for 77 runs as the touring team were bowled out for 215 in reply. Strauss decided against enforcing the follow-on and, thanks to brisk fifties from Paul Collingwood and Matthew Prior saw England make 311 for six before Strauss declared their second innings before start of play on Sunday.

Australia were then left needing to set a world record for the highest fourth innings total to win a Test, surpassing the 418 for seven made by the West Indies against Aus-

tralia in Antigua in 2002/03, to win. England, aided by some favourable umpiring decisions, reduced them to 128 for five before a sixth-wicket stand of 185 between Michael Clarke (136) and Brad Haddin (80) revived Ashes-holders Australia's hopes.

But Flintoff removed Haddin with his fourth ball on Monday morning session and from then on wickets fell steadily before Swann bowled Mitchell Johnson (63) to wrap up the match shortly before lunch. The third Test of the series starts at Edgbaston on July 30.

"To win an Ashes Test match at Lord's

feels very special but we're not going to get carried away," England captain Andrew Strauss insisted. His Australian counterpart Ricky Ponting was magnanimous in defeat. "We are obviously disappointed to lose in this type of venue but we were outplayed from the first ball to the last ball. Now we have to bounce back, regroup and hit the ground running for the next Test at Edgbaston."

Brief scores

England 425 (A. Strauss 161, A. Cook 95; B. Hilfenhaus 4/103) and 311/6 declared (M. Prior 61, P. Collingwood 54) beat Australia 215 (M. Hussey 51; J. Anderson 4/55) and 313 for 5 (M. Clarke 136, B. Haddin 80; A. Flintoff 5/92, G. Swann 4.87) by 115 runs.

■

Agencies

England players celebrate their first Test victory in 75 years at Lord's against Australia. PHOTO: AFP





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Elizabeth Taylor out of hospital

Hollywood legend Dame Elizabeth Taylor has been released from a Los Angeles hospital after undergoing surgery. Taylor (77) had been admitted to a medical centre near her home in Beverly Hills on July 13. "She is in for standard tests and a minor, though painful, surgical procedure. That's it. No drama, no shrieking, no sedation required. Nobody on her staff is worried. Period," the *Daily Star* quoted her representative as saying.

Blake and 'Back to Black'

Amy Winehouse's ex-husband stakes claim to 6 million pounds

Grammy-winning singer Amy Winehouse's newly divorced husband Blake Fielder Civil has demanded 6 million pounds as part of the divorce settlement, which is more than half of her fortune.

The 'Rehab' hit-maker is infuriated by former jailbird Fielder Civil's claim that he is entitled to the money because he inspired her superhit album *Back To Black*, reported *Sun* online.

The couple, who were married in 2007, were granted a 'decreet nisi' on Thursday after Winehouse (25) admitted to committing adultery while on holiday in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia and now Fielder Civil has demanded that the singer part with more than half of her 10 million pound fortune as compensation.

While claiming his share of his ex-wife's earnings, the former on and off drug addict will argue that he was the inspiration behind her chart-topping album which spoke of heartbreak.

The album was written when Fielder-Civil (26) broke up with Winehouse briefly before the couple's marriage.

"Amy did write *Back To Black*



Amy did write *Back To Black* when Blake left her, but why on earth should he be getting a dime for making her feel so bad? It's like saying that the man who writes a book about his murdered wife should give the murderer some of the profits

when Blake left her, but why on earth should he be getting a dime for making her feel so bad? It's like saying that the man who writes a book about his murdered wife should give the murderer some of the profits," said a source close to the singer.

Fielder-Civil has six weeks to negotiate the financial settlement or walk away from the high-profile marriage with nothing.

The source added that Winehouse does not want to give away a single penny of her fortune to her ex-husband.

"Blake has made it clear to Amy privately he wants millions. She believes she's right and Blake has no real case for a stake at her money. Amy is furious and doesn't want to negotiate," added the source. ■

PTI



Russell Crowe buys film crew worker new car

Actor Russell Crowe, who plays Robin Hood in an upcoming film, seems to have been influenced by the famed generosity of his character as he gave a film crew member 5,000 pounds to buy a new car.

The *Gladiator* star, who is playing the folk hero who famously robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, gave Denise Yarde 5,000 pounds so she could buy a new car after her old one went up in flames, reported *Mirror* online.

The 45-year-old actor had initially made a joke of the accident but later apologised by giving her the amount in cash so that she could buy a new car.

"But at one point, after she said about him never having to worry about buying a new car, Russell went quiet and everyone thought that was the end of it. Then later in the afternoon he sought Denise out and gave her the five grand," a source on the sets told the newspaper. The Academy Award-winning actor who earns between 15 to 20 million pounds per film is shooting in England for the film which is being directed by Sir Ridley Scott and stars Cate Blanchett as Maid Marian. ■



Madonna visits family of dead stage hand

Madonna won hearts in France on Sunday as she visited injured survivors and the family of a stage hand who died during an accident which saw her concert date in Marseille cancelled.

The black-clad US pop star landed at Marseille-Marignane airport at 1615 GMT and sped off with a bodyguard in a black Mercedes to the house where Criscenzo lived, where a security perimeter had been set up to keep media away.

Two men, Criscenzo and 23-year-old Briton Charles Prow, were killed on Thursday with eight more workers injured in the accident when part of the stage being built at the city's Stade Velodrome collapsed.

The accident happened when a crane toppled over as they were preparing the venue for Sunday's concert, which was immediately cancelled.

The US pop star, who was warming up for a concert in Udine, Italy when she heard of the accident, paid an emotional tribute to the two men as she performed there later Thursday night.

"Two men lost their lives, which is a great tragedy to me," Madonna told her fans as she choked back tears. ■



PTI

He became popular right after his hit debut, but his last film *Kidnap* didn't do him much good. Now Bollywood's latest heartthrob Imran Khan is hoping to hit bull's eye with the edge-of-the-seat thriller, *Luck*, which releases Friday.

The film is important not only for Imran but also director Soham Shah and its debutante leading lady Shruthi Hassan.

It revolves around mafia don Musa (Sanjay Dutt) whose only ambition in life is to revolutionise the betting industry. For him life is a gamble, and what better way to manipulate the odds than play with those with luck on their side.

The gripping saga has a host of characters from different parts of the world, each with Lady Luck in their favour. With millions at stake, how far each of them go in courting danger and deceit is what will lead the narrative to its climax.

The audiences can look forward to some daredevilry by Imran – he has gone underwater with sharks and has jumped from a helicopter on to a burning train.

In fact, while shooting one of the stunts, Imran injured himself, but he is unfazed. "Shooting an action film can lead to plenty of injuries. The film required a lot of action stunts, jumping, running, kicking, etc. I got to do a variety of stunts. There was an underwater sequence where we had to shoot with sharks and a cage. For that we were trained in scuba diving. Then there was another one where I had to jump on to a speeding train that was on fire and fight on the train – those were exciting," Imran said.

While Shah's *Kaal* was shot in the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, he went to Namibia to shoot *Luck* and the final output is said to be a visual delight.

Composer siblings Salim and Sulaiman Merchant have churned out the music for *Luck*. One of the numbers from its soundtrack, 'Aazma', sung by Shruthi, is already topping the charts. ■ IANS



Imran Khan (R) and Shruthi Hassan pose during a news conference to promote *Luck* in Mumbai in this July 1 photograph.

Riding on Luck

on
Luck

Winslet stressed out by Oscar

Ever since she has won the golden Oscar statuette for her performance in *The Reader*, British actress Kate Winslet feels she can't be herself and is forced to "look composed" all the time. *Imdb.com* reports that the 33-year-old also admits she is now forced to live up to an impossible standard, and can't be true to her free spirit.

Cine City •••



Kamal out of 19 Steps

Actor Kamal Hassan has opted out of *19 Steps*, in which he was supposed to play a martial arts guru to Asin's character. Now the news is that actor Vikram will replace 'Ulaganayagan' in the movie. The movie directed by Bharatbala will have music scored by A.R. Rahman. *19 Steps* will also have Japanese superstar Tadanobu Asano in a prominent role. Walt Disney produces the film, which is being written by M.T. Vasudevan Nair. Kamal Hassan has reportedly opted out of the project as he wanted his role to have a few changes.



Tamanna to pair up with Jeyam Ravi

Director Jeyam Raja, who has bought the remake rights of super hit Telugu film *Kick*, starring Shaam, Ravi Teja and Illeana, is planning to rope in Tamannah to play the female lead in the Tamil remake. She will be paired opposite Jeyam Ravi in the movie. It is said that Shaam will be taking up the role he did in the original.

Partners in crime



Sandeep Kumar Kuzhyil from Wipro Technologies has nominated his friends as Partners in Crime. This Photo was taken during their team outing at Blue Lagoon Resort, ECR.



Arun Kumar G. from TCS, Siruseri has nominated his AD TEAM members as Partners in Crime. This pic was clicked during thier team outing to Kodaikanal.



Arunashri V. from Perot Systems has nominated her team (Magesh, Sharmila, Jayshree, Vishva, Deekshitha, Geetha, Ramesh, Karthick, Karthick, Sairam, Vivek, Josthana, Aruna, Suganthini, Udaykumar) as Partners in Crime. This pic was clicked during their trip to Kodaikanal.



Gajendran from Infosys has nominated his friends as Partners in Crime. This pic was clicked at Puri, Konark road during their trip to Puri Temple, Bhubaneswar.



Shahid from Allsec Technologies has nominated his friends from Health Care Process as Partners in Crime. This photo was clicked at Kishkinta.



Jothipazhani Nagarajan from HCL Technologies Ltd. has nominated his NG-EMS team mates as Partners in Crime. This pic was clicked in Yercaud.



Office Angel

Velmurugan Natarajan from MPHASIS has been nominated as Office Angel by CBA Windows Design Team (Kumaran, Senthil Kumar, Jegan Fernando and Ram Prabhu).

Velmurugan is a perfect attitude personality, he is down to earth person and approachable all the time. He is very charming but is a serious person during working hours. The secret of his success is the tremendous effort he puts in and the commitment he shows from the time he gets projects. We all proud to nominate him for office angel.



S.Mohandass
from Satyam
Computer
Services
Limited
doodled this.



Doodle Corner

This is your space to go crazy or even become Da Vinci. And when you are done with your masterpiece, scan it and send to my.ergo@goergo.in to get it featured



Mokkai of the day

1. A boy wrote his father's name in a paper and kept it inside the fridge. Guess why?
Because appa peru Ketupogama iruka..
2. Vadivelu : Hello enna idhu? Rs.601 kadan vankitu Rs.106 thareenga?
Parthiban : Ithu than kadana THIRUPPI tharathu...!
Vadivelu : Aaha..!
3. Manager : Yemma ! Typist velaiku interview vanthirukiye unnaku evlo speed varum ?
Girl : Nimisathuku 50 perukku SMS type pannuven sir.
Manager :!?

A.R.Shanthi, SBS



sticky@goergo.in

■ Hi Vadivelan N.

May this special day be filled with sweet memories and happy hours. Wishing u all the fun and excitement that only birthdays can bring!

With Cheers, Human Resources,
Coastal Training Technologies
India (P) Ltd, Chennai

■ Dear Anna (Dirty Boy)

I know ur cho cho lazy and dirty boy ... I want u to take bath @least on ur birthday So tht I can give my hand to wish u "Happy Returns of the Day :-)" Eventhough u don't take bath, I wish u, Good Health & Success in ur way in Life Tummy Boy, I want laddu 4m Thirupathi Ur name is Hari and U like Pori, I will make & give it d day I start cooking :-)

Urs Sweet Sister,
Kavitha.S, Infosys

■ Hi Anand,

Kick off ur shoes, take a break, Crank the tunes, Dance & Shake, light the candles, cut the cake. Make it a day, that's simply Great!!! Happy B'Day... We are sure u'l give us treat in a big hotel (Rain Forest). So we shall talk to u in person there, coz we dunno to xpress our feelings through greetings.

(Note : We haven't brought lunch today)

Regards Siptech Delphi Team
SIPTECH Solutions Limited

■ Dear Uthra,

It's you B'day time again; So for you, the birthday person, Here's what we want to say: We hope this birthday's the best one yet, In every delightful way. So happy birthday to you. Have lots of birthday fun! May your birthday wishes all come true, Even if you have a ton.

Love, Praveen,Rama, (Wipro)
and Siva (CTS)

■ Dear Siddhartha,

A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun.
Enjoy the trip. Wishing you a Happy Birthday.

From Projects Team Chennai
Financial Software & Systems (P) Ltd

Belated Wishes

■ Dear Sonia,

All of US are joining to say Tons and Tons of Belated Birthday wishes to YOU!!! Hope it added some special pleasure, To the hours of Ur day.... To know U are being thought of, In the very warmest way.... And when Ur birthday is over, Hope U will remember too(even though we dint celebrated it).... The same warm thoughts as always, Will stay in Ur Sweet memoirs.... So let the drums roll and horns toot for the up coming surprise 4 U.... May Gods blessings be with u all through the Life.... Hope all UR DREAMS will come true, just the way you U Imagined.... We all lov U so much dear!!!!!!

With lov, Indu, Meera, Greeta,
Vineetha, Nima, Sumi & Elizabeth



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28576691



Mail us
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Chennai-600 002

CLICKPICK



Bharath B.J.
from EDS,
Tidel Park has
shot this photo
in Bangalore
using Canon
Power shot S5
IS camera.
Hobbies:
Painting,
photography,
tennis

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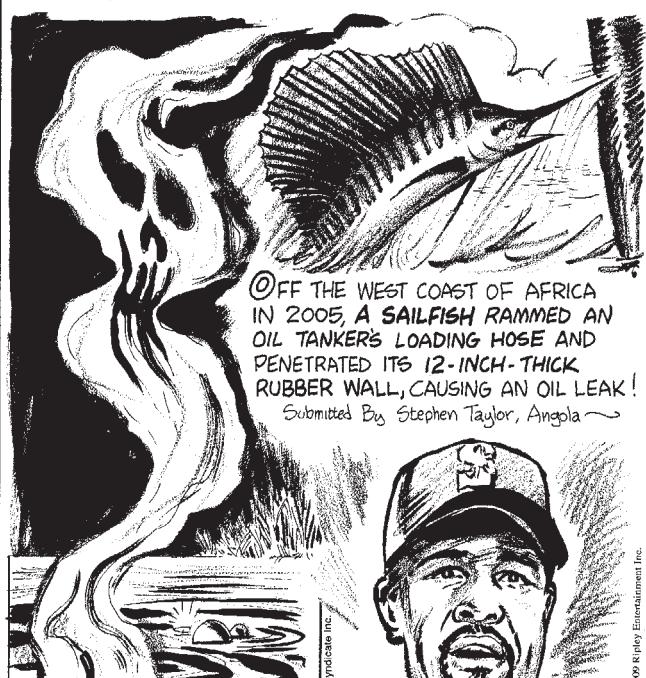
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PENETRATED ITS 12-INCH-THICK
RUBBER WALL, CAUSING AN OIL LEAK!
Submitted By Stephen Taylor, Angola ~

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Dick Turpin e-fit released

Police have released an e-fit of notorious highwayman Dick Turpin
- 270 years after he was hanged for murder, burglary, highway
stealing and horse robbery.

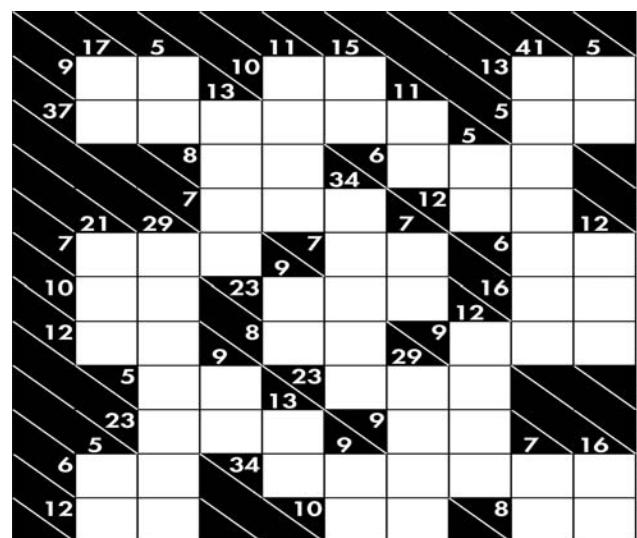
sudoku

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| | 1 | | | 2 | | 6 | 7 | |
| 6 | | 3 | | 5 | | | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | | 1 | 8 | 2 | |
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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WORD WARP

1/30/09

Find the word held in common by the three words in each puzzle.
The three solution words will form a fourth puzzle. The numbers indicate each answer's length, and the + tells you its position.
Example: The solution to +flower, Wailing+ and Berlin+ is Wall.

prison+
security+
body+

5 → _____ +

+frequency
+Tokyo
+station

5 → _____ +

chess+
wall+
grandfather+

5 → _____ +

FINAL ANSWER 5

SWIMMING POOL CLOAKROOM CLOAKROOM CLOAKROOM

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7-ft card stack destroyed

A man accidentally destroyed a seven foot high model of Big Ben that had been made out of cards when he went to congratulate the creator

Word's worth

Deodand (dee-o-dand) an object that has been the direct cause of the death of a human being (such as a boat from which a person has fallen and drowned) and has been given to the King to be used as an offering to God.

B.C



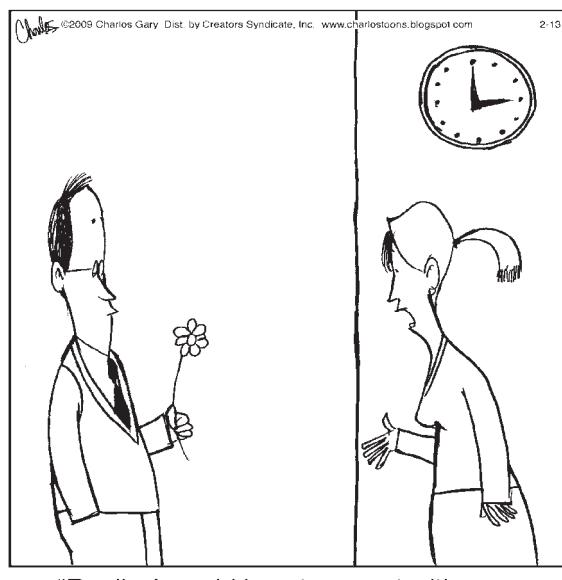
BORN LOSER



FREE RANGE



WORKING IT OUT



PREVIOUS ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS



Ganesha speaks™

astrology by bejan daruwalla

www.ganeshaspeaks.com

ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

An average day on the professional front, says Ganesha. Mundane tasks may consume a lot of time and energy, despite that your concern for quality work will remain high. Later in the day, you may be worried about pending work.

TAURUS APRIL 21 - MAY 20

The day will start chaotically. You will have a lot of work piled up on your desk and you will have to sweat it out at work, irrespective of the temperature outside. As the day progresses, you may feel worked out and tired.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUNE 20

You will get a couple of lessons in doing well in the professional world during the first half of the day. The second half will be about implementing the lessons learned. The day will demand maximum use of your brains.

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 20

Ganesha predicts you will enjoy your time at work today. The day at office will be all about you flaunting your skills. Time is good for working on new assignments. You may be able to strike a better level of understanding with your sweetheart.

LEO JULY 21 - AUG 20

Ceaseless thinking may keep you preoccupied the entire day. Be it home or office, you will be contemplating something or the other. All this thinking will be mostly about matters related to your personal life, especially your love life.

VIRGO AUG 21 - SEPT 20

In the first half of the day, you will talk more and work less. But things will dramatically turn around in the latter part of the day. You will be busy exchanging sweet nothings with sweetheart in the evening. A nice romantic dinner is on the cards.

LIBRA SEPT 21 - OCT 20

At the beginning of the day, you will focus on yourself but as the day progresses, you may start thinking about money matters, job responsibilities and job security. Your relation with your loved one may strengthen up because of a positive event.

SCORPIO OCT 21 - NOV 20

The day may not begin with any good news. But don't worry. The latter part of the day is entirely in your favour. You will be duly recognised by your peers and superiors for your decision-making skills and ability to read a situation well.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 21 - DEC 20

Ganesha predicts that you will be very busy with a wide range of activities at the office. Your colleagues will constantly seek your guidance and suggestions. The latter part of the day is slightly unfavourable for important professional decisions.

CAPRICORN DEC 21 - JAN 20

You may be brimming with energy during the first part of the day but lack of favourable results will eventually lead to a burnout. You may want to get a little more organised and disciplined at work. Your loved one may demand a lot of attention.

AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 20

You will share your views and plans with your team members and even your superiors. It might get slightly difficult to convince all of them on every issue, but will eventually succeed if you persevere hard enough.

PISCES FEB 21 - MARCH 20

Ganesha confers you as the Sultan of mood swings today. In the beginning, you will be bored, lax and lethargic. The work will be routine and boring. But in second half, you will take up the mantle of motivating others.

Predictions by Bhavesh N. Pattni



▲ Models display swimsuits from a collection by Japanese apparel giant Sanai, at a Tokyo shopping mall to celebrate 'Marine Day', a Japanese national holiday. PHOTO: AFP

Victoria Beckham (C), her son Romeo (L) and actor Tom Cruise (R) attend the friendly game between Los Angeles Galaxy and AC Milan in Carson, California. PHOTO: AFP



▲ Children look at a fish on display in tank in Tokyo's Ginza fashion district. PHOTO: AFP

One look is all it takes

NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS IN PICTURES



A Sri Lankan model shows off a bridal creation during a fashion show in Colombo.

PHOTO: AFP