Mourning their way
Creating rituals to honour the dead at long-term-care facilities.

**Pop Spot**
Fighting grief with punk rock.  
Page 14

**Showbiz**
Nandita trying to get Manto’s daughters to India for the premiere.  
Page 15
**PRAYER TIME**

- **Fajr**: 4.04am
- **Shorooq (sunrise)**: 5.21am
- **Zuhr (noon)**: 11.28am
- **Aar (afternoon)**: 2.55pm
- **Maghreb (sunset)**: 5.37pm
- **Isha (night)**: 7.07pm

**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
- **Hamad Medical Corporation**: 44392222, 44393333
- **Qatar Airways**: 44496000
- **Mowasalat Taxi**: 44588888
- **Hamad Medical Corporation**: 44845555, 44845464
- **Qatar News Agency**: 44594050
- **Centre**: 44593363
- **Q-Post – General Postal Corporation**: 44464444
- **Kahramaa – Electricity and Water**: 991

**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**: 40253364, 40253365
- **Qatar Airways**: 40253374

**Luis and the aliens**

**DIRECTION**: Christoph Lauenstein, Wolfgang Lauenstein

**CAST**: Callum Maloney, Dermot Magennis, Ian Coppinger

**SYNOPSIS**: An 11-year-old boy befriends three aliens after they crash their UFO into his house. The kid is Luis, a lonely 11-year-old who is ignored by the girl of his dreams, Jennifer, a reporter on the newspaper. Worse, the matron of a home for ‘problem children’ (she’s a cross between Cruella de Vil and Anna Wintour) swoops into his headteacher’s office one afternoon to cart off Luis. Will the aliens help repair Luis’s relationship with his dad? Will Jennifer discover his true value?

**THEATRES**: The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

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**Quote Unquote**

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest. ‘Til your good is better and your better is best.” — St Jerome

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**Community Editor**

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**Fax**: 44350474

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**THEATRE SELECTION**

**The Mall Cinema (1)**: Seema Raja (Tamil) 2.15pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 5.15pm; Final Score (2D) 7.30pm; The Nun (2D) 9.30pm; Shalaja Reddy (Telugu) 11.30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (2)**: Luis And The Aliens (2D) 2pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 3.30pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 5.15pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 7pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 9.15pm; The Predator (2D) 11.30pm.

**The Mall Cinema (3)**: The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2pm; Ranam (Malayalam) 4pm; The Predator (2D) 6.30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdhu) 8.30pm; U-Turn (Tamil) 11.30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (1)**: The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 2.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 4.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 6.30pm; The Predator (2D) 8.30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdhu) 10.30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (2)**: Luis And The Aliens (2D) 3.30pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 5.30pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 7pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 9.15pm; The Nun (2D) 11.30pm.

**Landmark Cinema (3)**: The Predator (2D) 2.30pm; Seema Raja (Tamil) 5pm; Manmarziyaan (Hindi) 8pm; Ranam (Malayalam) 10.45pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (1)**: Luis And The Aliens (2D) 3pm; Peter Pan: The Quest Of The Never Book (2D) 5pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 7pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 9.15pm; The Nun (2D) 11.30pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (2)**: The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 3pm; The Hows Of Us (Tagalog) 5pm; The Predator (2D) 7.15pm; The Nun (2D) 9.15pm; The Predator (2D) 11pm.

**Royal Plaza Cinema Palace (3)**: Seema Raja (Tamil) 3.30pm; Jawani Phir Nahi Ani 2 (Urdhu) 6.30pm; Manmarziyaan (Hindi) 10pm.
EVENTS

**Making Faces with Clay**
WHERE: Museum of Islamic Art, Education Centre
WHEN: Until tomorrow
TIME: 4pm – 5pm
Be there and learn clay sculpture using a Seljuk statue head as inspiration. By sketching through observation, Kids will learn about the Seljuk and the features that make their figurative art so distinct.

**Acrobal Tech Show**
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Mall Of Qatar
Enjoy the supreme aerial acrobatics skill show with an exceptional laser act and a haunting music soundtrack that promises to entertain the whole family.

**Free Activities**
WHERE: Swiss International School
The Swiss International School is opening its new HUB offering Zumba, Salsa, Yoga, Hip Hop, Football, Spinning, Boxercise, Drama, Piano, Violin and ABRSM music theory; enjoy a large range of activities for both kids and adults. No need for registration.

**Story time for kids**
WHERE: Virgin Megastore, Doha Festival City
WHEN: September 22
TIME: 3pm – 5pm
Experience the magic of getting lost in the wonderful world of books with Virgin Megastore’s Story Time session happening at Doha Festival City.

**Toastmasters Speechcraft**
WHERE: North Star Kindergarten, Al Khor
WHEN: Ongoing till September 28
TIME: 5:30pm – 5:10pm
Crush your fear of public speaking and learn to speak with confidence in stage by joining the Toastmasters Speechcraft at Al Khor. Speechcraft is a 4 session learn-by-doing workshop, designed to increase your public speaking and leadership skills. For further details, 70905639.

Weekly Knitting and Crochet Circle
WHERE: Qatar National Library
WHEN: Ongoing till September 27
TIME: 9am – 11am
Join the casual gathering of knitters and crocheters to work on projects and share skills in a friendly atmosphere. Participants will be welcome to bring their own supplies and projects or to borrow QNL needles and yarn. All skill levels are welcome including beginners who are interested in learning.

**Doha Women Forum**
WHERE: The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa
WHEN: September 26
TIME: 8am – 5pm
Doha Women Forum 2018: Press for Progress is a platform where women can learn from experts, get inspired by the experiences of other women, share ideas, and network. The forum will feature the stories of women who took steps to affect positive change in their workplace, their community and personal lives. The event will consist of empowering talks, group discussions and workshops.

**International Wedding Exhibition**
WHERE: DECC, West Bay
WHEN: September 26 – 30
TIME: 10am – 10pm
TWED 2018 is to stage a high-profile luxury wedding exhibition in order to position it in the calendar as a key appointment for the luxury market in the Middle East. This event also offers women, who are interested in fashion and luxury, the latest styles and trends in the market.

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 – 11pm.

**Dual Inspirations**
WHERE: Fire Station Garage Gallery
WHEN: Ongoing till October 1
TIME: 9am – 7pm
Dual Inspirations explores the intellectual concepts that revolve around inspiration as a platform. Over a nine month residency programme 18 artists were engaged in rich monthly debates with curators and researchers that helped to shape a diverse assemblage of artistic approaches from inception all the way to their final form as artworks. The ultimate identity of the exhibition was formed according to these juxtapositions and similarities among the artists, as well as the exchange of ideas, methodologies, and visions.

**Inter-School Yoga Championship**
WHERE: October 5
WHERE: MES Indian School, Abu Humour
TIME: 1pm
Indian Sports Centre is all set to organise the second edition of ‘Inter-School Yoga Championship,’ sponsored by ‘The Children’s Place’. The championship has been expanded to include students of all nationalities residing in Qatar. Free training sessions can also be arranged to help schools prepare their students for the championship. Team and Individual Championship is classified into two categories of under-12 and under-18 for both boys and girls. Rolling trophy will be awarded to the champion school. Last date of entry is September 26th. For further details 55646693/55824194 or email at yoga.isdoha@gmail.com

**Med Food**
WHERE: DECC
WHEN: October 1 – 4
TIME: 3pm – 9pm
For international entrepreneurs, traders, manufacturers, suppliers, food technology companies, and hospitality services on food and beverage, MedFood will be an excellent platform to open new vistas to foray into the emerging markets of Qatar. While Qatar economy is rapidly progressing, the demand and supply of food is inevitable increasing due to the growth of local population, foreign worker and its tourism.

**Breast Cancer Awareness**
WHERE: InterContinental Doha
WHEN: October
InterContinental Doha – The City is organising several activities (especially at its various dining venues) that focus on highlighting the importance of early detection. Try the pink afternoon tea, the extravagant pink Bar Squared Brunch at The Square and pink-themed nights at Strata Restaurant and Lounge.

**TCA QATAR Music Competition 2018**
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: October 5 – October 13
Enroll for music competition in categories, including Sub Juniors (Grade 3-5), Juniors (Grade 6 – 8), Intermediate (Grade 9 – 12) and Seniors (above 17 years). Registration fee QR30. For further details, contact 66523871/44373259

**TCA QATAR Dance Evolution Competition 2018**
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: September 28 – October 5
Are you a dancer? Do you love to dance? If yes, then you can come and tap your foot steps on the your favorite dancing numbers and be a part of Qatar Dance Evolution Competition 2018.

**Gymnastics World Championships**
WHERE: Aspire Dome
WHEN: October 25 – November 3
Over 700 male and female gymnasts from over 80 countries, including three Team Qatar gymnasts, will compete across 10 days of competition in Doha’s iconic Aspire Dome. Experience the drama, emotions and excitement of gymnastics’ pinnacle event as global superstars go head to head in a bid to be crowned the best in the world.

**After School Activities**
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music & arts Activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing & Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

**Hobby Classes**
WHERE: Mystic Arts Centre behind Al Hilal Focus Medical Centre
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Mystic Art Centre, is a holistic performing artstistution and a one stop solution for adults as well as children looking to explore their talents in various art forms. We offer classes in Carnatic Music, Hindustani Music, Karate, Yoga, Zumba, Classical Dance, Salsa, Hip Hop, contemporary and Bollywood dance forms. For details, call 4723680/3380769.

**Dance and instrument classes**
WHERE: TCA Campus, Behind Gulf Times Building
WHEN: Wednesday – Monday
Learn the movements of dance styles in Bollywood, Hip Hop and also the musical instruments such as Piano, Guitar, Keyboard for adults as well kids and move in the world of music. For details, contact 66523871/3325749.
Coping with death

When feelings aren’t acknowledged, grief can go underground and lead to a host of physical and psychological symptoms, including depression, distancing and burnout.

One by one, their names were recited as family members clutched one another’s hands and silently wept. Seventeen men and women had died within the past year at Gray Health & Rehabilitation, a 58-bed nursing home. Today, their lives were being honoured and the losses experienced by those who cared for them recognised.

Death and its companion, grief, have a profound presence in long-term-care facilities. Residents may wake up one morning to find someone they saw every day in the dining room gone. Nursing aides may arrive at work to find an empty bed, occupied the day before by someone they’d helped for months. But the tides of emotion that ripple through these institutions are rarely openly acknowledged.

“Long-term care administrators view death as something that might upset residents,” said Dr Toni Miles, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Georgia. “So, when someone passes away, doors are closed and the body is wheeled discretely out the back on a gurney. It’s like that person never existed.”

At Gray Health’s memorial service on this warm, sunny day, a candle

COMFORT: Sylvia McCoullough wraps her arm around daughter Kim Kohlmayer as they mourn Sylvia’s father, Melvin Henry “Bo” Daniels, at an annual bereavement ceremony at the Gray Health & Rehabilitation in Gray, Georgia.

When someone passes away, doors are closed and the body is wheeled discretely out the back on a gurney. It’s like that person never existed.

— Dr Toni Miles, professor of epidemiology

By Judith Graham
was lit for each person who had died. Their images — young and vibrant, then old and shrunk — flashed by in a video presentation. “Our loved ones continue to live on in the memories in your hearts,” Rev Steve Johnson, pastor of Bradley Baptist Church, said from a podium.

Dozens of family members gathered outside, each holding a white balloon. At the count of three came the release. Cries of “I love you” echoed as the group turned their faces to the sky.

Miles wants to see bereavement openly acknowledged at facilities throughout Georgia to end what she calls “the silence surrounding loss and death in long-term care.”

Following in-depth discussions with more than 70 staffers, residents and family members at nine facilities in central Georgia, she has created two handbooks on “best practices in bereavement care” and is gearing up to offer educational seminars and staff training in dozens of nursing homes and assisted living residences across the state.

“For Miles’ work is incredibly important” and has the potential to ease end-of-life suffering, said Amanda Leis Newton, social services team leader at Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Fraught reactions to loss and death are common among nursing assistants and other staff in long-term-care facilities, research shows. When feelings aren’t acknowledged, grief can go underground and lead to a host of physical and psychological symptoms, including depression, distancing and burnout.

Joanne Braswell, director of social services at Gray Health, remembers a resident with intellectual disabilities who would stay in Braswell’s office much of the day, quietly looking at magazines. Over time, the two women became close and Braswell would bring the resident little gifts and snacks.

“One day, I came in to work and they told me she had died. And I wanted to cry, but I couldn’t,” Braswell recalled, reflecting on her shock, made more painful by memories of her daughter’s sudden death. “Me and him, we were two peas in a pod;” she said, recalling the man’s warmth and sense of humour.

Over time, the old man confided in Braswell. “He would tell me all kinds of things he didn’t want his family to worry about,” Jackson said. “In a way, I became his friend, his nurse and his confidant, all in one.”

One morning, she found his room was bare: He’d died the night before, but no one had thought to call her. Jackson’s eyes filled with tears as she recalled her hurt. “I’m a praying person, and I had to ask God to see me through it,” she said. “I found comfort in knowing he knew I genuinely loved him.”

Jan Peak, 81, was dealing with grief of a different sort in mid-May: Her husband, David Reed, who had rapidly advancing Parkinson’s disease, had recently moved to Carlyle Place’s assisted living section from their independent-living apartment — signalling the end of their time living together.

Like other residents at Carlyle Place, Peak had a lot of adjusting to do when she moved into the facility five years ago after her first husband had died. “I was dealing with a severe head injury after falling and died. “I miss him greatly as we were very happy together,” Peak wrote in an email. “I am doing as well as I can.” — Kaiser Health News/TNS
Nepali community celebrates Teej with zest

Non Resident Nepalese Association-National Coordination Council (NRNA-NCC) in collaboration with 50 other community organisations recently celebrated Rishi Panchami, the third day of Teej festival at Gulf Paradise Hotel. Prof Ramesh Prasad Koirala, Ambassador of Nepal, was the chief guest at the event. The event was chaired by Nabin Pokharel, President of NRNA-NCC, and attended by over 500 members of the community.

The day of Rishi Panchami is dedicated to Sapta Rishis (Seven Sages). The married women worship and offer prayers to the seven sages, bathe with mud and brush their teeth with a herb, 365 times to purify their bodies and minds as part of the culture and beliefs.

While speaking on the event, Prof Koirala stressed on encouraging Nepali women to raise voices for equality. Sarita Gurung, Female Co-ordinator of NRNA-NCC, hoped the festival to unite women of Nepali community with wellbeing and prosperity. She said that celebrating Teej is a way to bring women together on a single platform.

The cultural programme kicked off with a performance by Non Resident Nepalese Tamang Society (NRNTS) artists. Rit Kumar Shrestha, a local singer, also performed two folk songs at the event. Silu Bhattarai, a Kathmandu based artiste, while performing at the event said, “The festival marks the freedom of expression for women who escape the mundane and everyday chores.”

Kaski Welfare Society (KWS) also organised a Teej programme. Hari Devi Koirala, a classical folk singer, performed at the event for a crowd of over 300 people. Dang Deukhuri Welfare Society (DDWS) organised another Teej event recently to raise funds for poor and hardworking students of Dang, western district of Nepal.

Doha College announces its new leadership team

Doha College (DC) has become the first school in the world to be accredited as a High Performance Learning (HPL) school along with another record round of examination results. The new Al Wajba campus of DC is also under construction. Doha College (DC) has recently announced its new leadership team to help strengthen its pivotal role in the international education in Qatar.

The new leadership team, includes James Conly, Vice Principal of Student Welfare; Grant Gilies, Senior Vice-Principal and Head of Primary Section; Nicola Melke, Assistant Principal (Transition); Uzma Zaffar, Assistant Principal of Assessment and Admissions; Dr Steffen Sommer, Principal; Neil Thomas, Vice Principal of Teaching and Learning; Ruth Sanderson, Senior Vice Principal and Head of Secondary Section; and Ian Thornhill, Business and Development Director.

Dr Steffen Sommer welcoming the new team said, “I am delighted that Doha College has identified such a broad range of talent and experience, and that we have found a way to put it all together in a group that is strong, motivated and will work resolutely for the benefit of our students and the wider community here in Qatar.”
MES wins big at ‘SIS Inter School Polemic Challenge’

MES Indian School recently bagged Best School Team Award at ‘SIS Inter School Polemic Challenge’. The team included Ria Elsa George and Fahad Mohammed Sajid, students of MES. Ria also won the title of Best Speaker. A total of 16 students from eight Indian schools in Doha participated in the challenge to speak for and against the motion ‘Today’s children are deprived of the love and affection that they deserve’. The judges of the competition included, Rammohan M Rai, Founder and General Manager of Burgeon Learning, Anupama, a representative of toastmaster fraternity, and Bhavyata Bendre, an educational consultant and internationally certified career counsellor. Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES, congratulated the winners and the teachers for their significant accomplishment. The competition was coordinated by Asma A Aziz and Semeer Hameed, Department of English at MES.

Hakkasan Doha celebrates ‘Golden Week’ with exclusive dining experience

Hakkasan Doha, award-winning restaurant, has recently announced to celebrate ‘Golden Week’, China’s biggest national holiday with an exclusive dining experience between September 24 and October 7. According to the press release, celebrating the week, Hakkasan Doha will be serving a limited time signature menu that caters specifically to the traditional Chinese palate. ‘Golden Week’ is considered to be China’s biggest annual national holiday, spanning seven days in October where all workers are given three days of paid time off. Consequently, it is a popular period of time when the Chinese travel significantly around the world to experience luxury offerings.

The Golden Week menu is priced at QR398 per person for a minimum of 2 guests and includes a welcome cocktail or mocktail. Dishes from the signature menu will include the famous peking duck with soy braised quail egg, five spice beef ribs, steamed hamour with saffron sauce, spicy prawn with almond and gold dessert. Traditionally Golden Week takes place between 1st and 7th October, however Hakkasan Doha will be offering the dedicated menus for a longer period of time to accommodate all travellers.

For Golden week, Hakkasan Doha has carefully selected and integrated traditional Chinese dishes into its exclusive menu, presenting the original appearance, aroma, and taste with an innovative twist, for customers to enjoy the taste of Chinese tradition in a one-off dining experience.

DESS welcomes Foundation Stage 1 students

Doha English Speaking School (DESS) has reopened after summer vacations. The students of Foundation Stage 1 were welcomed by the management for their first full day at school. The students are expected to enjoy activities throughout the year including swimming and music. The students will also be given an insight to ‘DESS Golden Rules’ of using kind words, sharing, listening, waiting for the turn and trying hard.

Obituary

Indian expatriate dies while on vacation in India

Saji Melathil Cherian Rajan, 59, a long time resident of Doha and Indian expatriate working with Apex Fire Engineering and Trading, passed away after a heart attack in India on September 16. He has been in Qatar for more than 30 years and was admitted to a hospital in Kollam, India, a few days ago after he suffered a cardiac arrest and breathed his last while undergoing the treatment. The deceased is survived by his wife Kunjumole and three children Akhil, Anita and Ashish. He came from Kundara in Kollam district of Kerala. He will be sorely missed, his friends said. According to family sources, the funeral will be held in his native place tomorrow.
Savvy ways to stay charged on the road

Factor in a GPS misfire, a flat tire or an unexpectedly long meeting can amplify the situations significantly. Myscha Theriault shares her strategies for keeping battery woes at bay.

HASSLE: A traveller uses a power, WiFi and information kiosk while visiting the Big Apple.

Juggling appointments, project deadlines and video conferencing from the road with a constant ticking clock on battery power is problematic to say the least. Factor in a GPS misfire, a flat tire or an unexpectedly long meeting, and the situation is amplified significantly.

During the past year, a few new options have floated across my radar for fighting this dilemma with as little frustration as possible. Following are my favourite strategies.

Combos
Carrying a separate battery backup and charging cable to keep your phone topped off can be a real drag when you are already running short of space in your gear bag. Finding a spot to plug in both devices along with your laptop at a crowded airport gate can be a frustrating feat as well. Recently, my husband and I discovered the existence of battery cases for our smartphones.

As with the cases mentioned above, the size of any piece of technical travel equipment is of specific concern. Bulky gear is always a bore, but portable battery rechargers can be exceptionally frustrating when it comes to finding luggage room. This is why my husband and I were so excited to find a miniature one by Nuon on the Batteries Plus website recently. Previously, we always switched between regular and rechargeable batteries whenever we transitioned between fast-paced travel to stationary periods where we slow down to work on more time-consuming projects. For 30 bucks, we now have a space-efficient option for recharging the batteries we use most often on the road for things such as specialized astronomy binoculars and red light headlamps.

Another go-to piece of charging equipment for our household is a world power travel adapter by Targus. While the $20 price we paid was certainly right for our budget, what we really love most about it is the fact it all fits in a compact tube shape that’s easy to pack. So many similar products can be enormous by comparison, and make working while abroad more frustrating than it needs to be, particularly on days when we need to change locations with all of our bags in tow. We’ve been using this power adapter for several years now, and it continues to work seamlessly whenever we need it.

Infrastructure
Any digital nomad who routinely uses fast food establishments and bookstore coffee shops to crank out some work between highway stops can attest to one highly inconvenient truth. Free Wi-Fi doesn’t necessarily mean free electrical access to go with it. For those living out of a carry-on bag with limited space, one multi-plug adapter and a single extension cord will only get you so far, particularly if you need to go for long stretches of time between traditional charging options. In addition to in-flight power ports and more charging stations showing up at airports these days, some interesting new options are starting to show up in major cities.

LinkNYC, for example, offers power charging and Internet access at free-to-use kiosks throughout the Big Apple. Visitors needing to charge their mobile device can do so via a USB port connected only to power for security purposes, while still accessing the Internet via a touch screen and keypad for free calls and information searching as they wait to power up. Residents and tourists alike can utilise these free stations as they search out eateries, transportation, polling locations and more. The kiosks even have ports to plug in your headphones so you can have privacy for any calls you need to make while you await a full charge. These same types of kiosks are also available throughout the UK in England, Wales and Scotland. Similar devices are coming soon to both Philly and Newark, NJ.

Making your life work from the road can be challenging, but not impossible. With a few precision product purchases, planned access to infrastructure and a commitment to pay attention to power-hogging background apps, you can remain as charged as necessary for most situations. – TNS

ADDITIONAL: Since the battery is located inside the protective case you place on your mobile anyway, you receive additional functionality out of an item you were already using.

Size
While we’ve been using the Targus charger for years now, and it continues to work seamlessly whenever we need it, it’s still necessary to have a space-efficient option for recharging the batteries we use most often on the road for things such as specialized astronomy binoculars and red light headlamps.

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Making your life work from the road can be challenging, but not impossible. With a few precision product purchases, planned access to infrastructure and a commitment to pay attention to power-hogging background apps, you can remain as charged as necessary for most situations. – TNS
His **Heart** is in the right place, has right pace

Like a good doctor humours his patients, Dr Sandeep Jauhar leaves a trail of humour you cannot miss, writes Mayabhushan Nagvenkar

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**DEDICATED TO THE BEATING HEART, DR. SANDEEP JAUHAR'S LATEST BOOK** *Heart - A History* **PROVIDES A THUMPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE**

Dedicated to the beating heart, Dr Sandeep Jauhar’s latest book *Heart - A History* provides a thumping historical perspective on cardiovascular disease. The book is extremely relevant in the modern times, with medical professionals like Daniel Hale Williams, an African American doctor who performed the world’s first open-heart surgery in Chicago; and C. Walton Lillehei, who connected a patient’s circulatory systems to a healthy donor’s paving the way for the heart-lung machine — legends who redefined heart treatment, to the reader.

Through the book, the writer also introduces medical innovations which tried to arrest and cure heart ailments, to medical professionals like Daniel Hale Williams, an African American doctor who performed the world’s first open-heart surgery in Chicago; and C. Walton Lillehei, who connected a patient’s circulatory systems to a healthy donor’s paving the way for the heart-lung machine — legends who redefined heart treatment, to the reader.

**THE ‘TAKING CHARGE OF THE HUMAN HEARTBEAT’ WAS A SEMINAL MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, ACCORDING TO JAUHAR, BECAUSE ‘FROM ANTIQUITY TO MODERN TIMES, PHILOSOPHERS AND PHYSICIANS HAD DREAMED OF TAKING CHARGE OF THE HUMAN HEARTBEAT.’**

The “taking charge of the human heartbeat” was a seminal moment in the history of science, according to Jauhar, because “from antiquity to modern times, philosophers and physicians had dreamed of taking charge of the human heartbeat.”

**“THE ‘TAKING CHARGE OF THE HUMAN HEARTBEAT’ WAS A SEMINAL MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, ACCORDING TO JAUHAR, BECAUSE ‘FROM ANTIQUITY TO MODERN TIMES, PHILOSOPHERS AND PHYSICIANS HAD DREAMED OF TAKING CHARGE OF THE HUMAN HEARTBEAT.’”**

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**DATE-TIMED PACEMAKERS TO BEAT THE RHYTHM OF HEART DISEASES**

While also combining personal anecdotes and keeping you hooked with interesting personal anecdotes, factual historical nuggets, humorous narrations, and remaining healthy, the book also provides a thumping historical perspective on cardiovascular disease. The book is extremely relevant to India, where deaths due to heart disease have risen by as much as 34 per cent over the last 26 years.

**THE BOOK IS EXTREMELY RELEVANT TO INDIA, WHERE DEATHS DUE TO HEART DISEASE HAVE RISEN BY AS MUCH AS 34 PER CENT OVER THE LAST 26 YEARS.**

The book is extremely relevant to India, where deaths due to heart disease have risen by as much as 34 per cent over the last 26 years.

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**COMMUNITY BOOK REVIEW**

**By Mayabhushan Nagvenkar**

**GULF TIMES**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

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Faked video faces look authentic

When a movie is “dubbed” into a new language, computer processing can change the images of actors’ facial motions and expressions to accurately match the new words.

Simple cut-and-paste of video superimposes the man’s expression on the woman’s face. Example shows single frames from video editing.

Using powerful ‘artificial intelligence’

New video editing method realistically transfers head position, expression and eye movement.

Editing how a person looks when speaking

Experimental video processing software teaches itself to edit all the components of speech.

‘Benjamin Button’: State of the art

Today’s feature films already make wide use of computer-edited faces, with trained video artists working for many weeks on the changes. In nearly every frame of “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” Brad Pitt’s face was replaced with a modified computer graphics version.

Source: “Deep Video Portraits,” a project of Max Planck Institute for Informatics, University of Bath, Technicolor, Technical University of Munich and Stanford University; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Business travel a social status for millennials, says survey

Almost 60 per cent of the people between 19-34 years of age consider business travel a status symbol and also an upward movement in life, reports the OnRoute survey by technology-driven budget hotel franchise brand FabHotels. “OnRoute - the Business Edition” is FabHotels’ first consumer survey which highlights that millennials today benchmark business travel with success. As many as 92 per cent of millennials nowadays eagerly look forward to their next business trip making it the most coveted business perk while 46 per cent business travellers spend their leisure time during business trips in exploring the destination, said a statement.

As per the survey, in the past six months, 4 out of every 10 respondents have travelled more than five times on a business trip. Also, slightly more than 45 per cent respondents travelled to meet their teams in other cities, while around 42 per cent travelled to sign up new business. The pan-India survey saw the participation of 5000 plus respondents who are frequent business travellers. The cities that participated were Delhi/NCR, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Chennai.

Some of the respondents were also from Goa, Ahmedabad, Kerala, Chandigarh, Raipur, Bijnor, Meerut, Jammi, Lucknow, Cochin, Vadodara, Nasik.

Business trips are also apparently a great opportunity to catch up with some ‘me’ time. More than 45 per cent respondents like to carry their favourite books while on the go while 22 per cent carry their work-out gear with them while travelling.

Infact 33 per cent of the respondents also said that they would like to meet someone romantically on a business trip.

Commenting on the survey findings, Vaibhav Aggarwal, Founder and CEO, FabHotels said, “We are thrilled to have received a great response with users participating across tier 1 and 2 cities. The OnRoute findings reveal the changing psyche of Millennial travellers who are open, social and love to travel!” — IANS

**COMMUNITY**

**LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES**
March 21 — April 19

The effect from the planetary aspects will bring an end to any lethargy you’ve been feeling, Aries. It’s an excellent day to get up and head into the open to do something active. Walking, running, or going on a hike can make great use of both your energy and creativity. Fresh air and physical exertion will lend much to your health as well, so make the most of this.

**CANCER**
June 21 — July 22

It’s the perfect day to get up and head outside, Cancer. You’ll likely find yourself feeling positive and energetic, and some fresh air, sunshine, and physical activity may be long overdue. Even if this is a workday for you, make the most of your breaks and lunch hour by walking. This evening may be the opportune time to get together with some friends for coffee or a favourite sporting event.

**LIBRA**
September 23 — October 22

If you’re lacking a regular exercise routine, Libra, today’s a great day to turn that around. Exercise doesn’t have to wear you out or hurt. Even relaxing activities like walking or yoga are excellent ways to keep you in good shape. Participating in a sport that appeals to you like volleyball or bowling combines fun with exercise. Heck, even dancing is a recognised form of exercise! See about finding something that will work for you.

**TAURUS**
April 20 — May 20

Take charge of your overall health today, Taurus. You’ll likely wake up feeling energetic and well. Seize this opportunity to be active in doing things that will help continue your good feelings. Consider all aspects of your health, including emotional and spiritual. If you can, sit outside in the sunshine and fresh air to consider the areas of your life that could use a workout.

**GEMINI**
May 21 — June 20

If there’s something crafty or artsy you’ve had your eye on and would really like to get but can’t afford, Gemini, consider making it. Even if you don’t consider yourself artistic, you may surprise yourself if you give a project half a chance. There are numerous websites that cater to novices and can give you the support and instruction you need. Don’t dismiss your ability.

**LEO**
July 23 — August 22

It won’t be surprising if you find yourself getting frustrated with a close friend or partner today who is far less ambitious than you, Leo. The energy in the air can really emphasise your “go, go, go” way of reaching goals and achieving success. Others who are passive or fearful in this area may be difficult to understand. Yet each person has to do things in ways that are best for him or her. Try to be patient.

**SCORPIO**
October 23 — November 21

Put your ambition into action today, Scorpio. The day’s planetary aspects should find you feeling energetic and positive. Make the most of this by taking steps toward your goals. As you know, if you don’t actively pursue things, nothing will happen. The years can pass by so quickly and you wouldn’t want to be sitting on a rocker wondering “what if?” Trust yourself and do what it takes. Everything starts with a single step.

**VIRGO**
August 23 — September 22

See about using your good relationships with friends and loved ones today to get some group activities going. Virgo. Chances are you’ll feel pretty good and the idea of socialising will appeal to you. See about inviting people over for supper or a game of cards. If you’re especially lively, some sports may just be the ticket to get you out and moving. Do whatever it takes to have some fun and get some fresh air today.

**SAGITTARIUS**
November 22 — December 21

Don’t hesitate when it comes to taking on a project or making plans today, Sagittarius. Extra energy will complement your organisational skills, making the perfect combination to handle almost anything. Be sure to write down your goals and plans to help keep you focused. If you decide to tackle any cleaning today, get rid of the things you never use.

**CAPRICORN**
December 22 — January 19

Today should go well for you, Capricorn. Expect to feel a renewed energy and perspective on things, especially those that are work related. Make the most of this by working toward finishing projects that are waiting for you or by cleaning and organising your desk or bedroom closet. Feel confident that you’ll be able to handle most any task in no time.

**AQUARIUS**
January 20 — February 18

Today you may notice that you’re feeling very creative and ambitious, Aquarius. You might want to use these strengths to work directly on an artistic project. Or you may choose to channel that energy into activities like organising your home or workspace. If you plan it out, there should be plenty of time to get to both if you have a mind to. Make the most of the day!
Wordsearch

Puzzles courtesy: Puzzlechoice.com

Stamp Collecting

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on 9 x 9 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3 x 3 squares. You are given a selection of values and your task is to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3 x 3 square contains the digits 1 to 9 exactly once.

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.

Garfield

Bound And Gagged
**PUZZLES**

**Super Cryptic Clues**

ACROSS
1. Brownish-grey river in Scotland (6)
4. Drinks preventing them putting things together properly? (8)
10. Dressage? It's rubbish (7)
11. It turned ultra-revolutionary, but only in name (7)
12. Some of the chords resound (4)
13. So a number put in calls for the music-makers (10)
16. Little creature returning to make a hole in the ground (6)
17. Disparagement of agreement about King Charles I (7)
20. Team never lacking in fire-power (7)
21. It might be earned at home with an expression of reproof (6)
24. Generous mixture of bleach the girl put in (10)
25. A soldier on the way? That's the substance of it (4)
27. Shrinks back from about a hundred paintings (7)
29. Account for team being involved with panel (7)
30. Swells did carry gun at one point (8)
31. Forced to have praised article left out (6)

DOWN
1. Silly verse about pet animals? (8)
2. And not Tom taking up the tune in the Borders (11)
3. Cut up first of motorists in test (4)
5. Suffering electoral defeat? (8)
6. Killing a tradesman in the middle of the night (10)
7. Measure equivalent, initially, to a couple of pounds (3)
8. The emotional strain with which the sewing-woman finishes (6)
9. A hold-up for the Spanish within twenty-four hours (5)
14. A plain stone design for the Italians (11)
15. Hesitating, although device is in order (10)
18. Worried by the donkey having run out (8)
22. The son minded being frightened (6)
23. Parts of vessel showing up as smooth and shiny (5)
26. Pole in a Belgian town right to the end (4)
28. Island counties (3)

**Yesterday's Solutions**

Across: 1 Capture; 5 Insipid; 9 Rapid; 10 Cut and run; 11 Saturn; 12 Lovelies; 14 Irene; 15 Stiffener; 18 A bit thick; 20 Rocks; 22 Opposite; 24 Stream; 26 Abstainer; 27 Alter; 28 Endorse; 29 Treadle.

Down: 1 Christina; 2 Pipette; 3 Underwent; 4 Each; 5 In two ticks; 6 Since; 7 Portion; 8 Denis; 13 Assistance; 16 First-rate; 17 Rose Marie; 19 Imposed; 21 Created; 22 Abate; 23 Stair; 25 Trot.
Fighting grief with punk rock

By Geoffrey Rowlands

Being labelled as punk rockers is not something which is particularly appreciated by IDLES. The Bristol-based quintet firmly believe there is rather more to their music than the generally accepted image of British punk bands. The validity of this viewpoint is clearly evident in the songs on their UK top five sophomore album, Joy as an Act of Resistance.

“Don’t think there are many traditional punk rock bands whose songs cover the wide range of subject matter you hear on our new album,” affirmed singer and frontman Joe Talbot. “We deliberately attempted to be vulnerable to our audience and encourage vulnerability in others.

“We have stripped back the songs and lyrics to our bare flesh to allow each other to breathe, to celebrate our differences and to act as an ode to communities and the individuals who forge them. Without our community, we’d be nothing.”

Although the band may not care for their punk rock tag, it is difficult to fit them neatly into any other category. IDLES are certainly not a pop group.

“We actually wrote a song that we thought might make us more popular because it was a bit poppy,” Joe recalled. “This was a few years ago before we released our debut album. That was how desperate we were to become successful. But we thought the song was so bad. Even though there were very few people interested in us at that time, we just didn’t want to play the song. We couldn’t do it ourselves.”

This was during a period when Joe, bassist Adam ‘Dev’ Devonshire, drummer Jon Beavis and guitarists Mark Bowen and Lee Kiernan actually considered giving up on their band. They had released a couple of not particularly well-received EPs and seemed to be going nowhere.

“It took us a long time to become productive,” Joe admitted. “Dev and I had met at college in Exeter. We started hosting club nights in Bristol. We tried to do something a bit more interesting than your standard indie night. Somewhere along the way, we decided to start a band. We didn’t really know what we were doing. We were terrible for a long time.”

It was a catalytic event in Joe’s life which set IDLES on the road to success.

“Everything stemmed from the illness and eventual death of my mum. I was a mess. I was furious that she was dying. I felt so much anger and misery. I was drowning in drugs, anything to try to ease the pain of watching my mum die.

“My anger was distancing me from the band. We weren’t getting on even though I loved being with them. The time came when I realised we had to start afresh and we started working on the songs which would make up our first album, Brutalism.

“I was still really struggling at this point but writing the songs was a catharsis for me. The whole writing process made it cathartic for everyone because we became a unit again. The album helped us to solidify our personal bond.”

A photograph of Joe’s mother adorned the cover of Brutalism. It is accompanied by a sculpture made by Joe and his father.

“The idea was to take something which had been demolished and turn it into something beautiful. It’s supposed to be like a headstone for my mum. The whole album is meant to sound like a big, car park-sized headstone.”

The album is rather more than a headstone for Joe’s mother. IDLES had a run of 100 vinyl copies made which contained some ashes from her cremation pressed into the record. These were sold from the band’s online store.

“One thing it felt was appropriate. My mum was the album. That’s why her photograph was on the cover. The whole process of creating Brutalism was based around losing my mum. I wasn’t afraid or ashamed to lay my grief out there in raw form. It seemed right to have her ashes effectively become part of the album she inspired.”

Surprisingly, the album title had nothing to do with Joe’s mother.

“It was brutal that I lost her too early but the title actually comes from the style of architecture which was prevalent after World War II. I’m fascinated by architecture. It’s what I like looking at and reading about. I became obsessed with brutalist architecture, something fast and quick which helps a community whose homes and cities have been destroyed.”

There is more introspection in the songs on Joy as an Act of Resistance. One track deals with the death in childbirth of Joe’s daughter.

“My grief about this doesn’t dominate the new album. But I couldn’t remove my personal emotion from other songs which have completely different subject matter. We were actually going on tour three weeks after my daughter’s death. I had to almost become a different person when we were performing. I’m also now practising Mindfulness. I started this meditation before my daughter died and it helped loads in my trying to get through what happened.”

Having written a number of songs for the new album, IDLES decided to scrap all but two. They created every other track during an intense four-month period of work.

“We didn’t feel like the scrapped songs were good enough. We’d also moved on as a band and as individuals. The new album represents who we are at this time. Not so much the songs themselves but our performance of them is all about celebrating your flaws. It’s an exercise in honesty.”

SMASH HIT: The new album, Joy as an Act of Resistance by IDLES has gone straight into the UK chart at number five.

Mac Miller

The recent death of American rapper Mac Miller left the hip hop community stunned but not particularly shocked. Having been heavily into drugs since the age of ten, the only strange aspect about his death is that it was caused by an overdose. One would have thought he was such a practiced drug-user that he could have always avoided taking too much.

Of course, we can never know exactly what happened. Mac was scheduled to shoot a video on the day he died. Who knows if he might have accidentally overdosed preparing for what he could have expected to be a long day of filming.

Mac had recently met and become friends with singer/songwriter Charlie Puth. An emotional Charlie was aware of his friend’s drug habit but hoped he might have been able to help.

“I had only known him for about six months,” Charlie remarked. “But we had become really close friends. I always thought I could be the one to help him get clean and to lead him on to the path of a good, clean, sober life.”

Mac’s drug taking had already cost him the love of singer Ariana Grande. The couple had dated from August, 2016, until this past May. But having given him chance after chance to get clean, Mac’s continuing drug use eventually caused Ariana to end their relationship. His addiction has now cost Mac his life.

David Bowie

Late July brought news of David Bowie’s first recording being rediscovered in an old bazaar basket when David Hadfield was clearing out the loft in his house. David had been the drummer in a band called The Konrads. Another member was a 16-year-old saxophonist then known as David Jones.

The future David Bowie was chosen as the band member who could give the best vocal interpretation to a song called Never Dreamed which The Konrads recorded as part of a demo tape. This was submitted to Decca Records in the hope of landing a recording contract.

Decca rejected the band and returned the demo tape to David Hadfield who David Jones left The Konrads shortly afterwards. The tape was forgotten until the loft clearance but then offered for sale at Omega Auctions in Newton-Le-Willows, Merseyside.

The auction catalogue estimate was £30,000. But what was described as a ‘bidding frenzy’ among Bowie fans saw the hammer eventually fall at £39,360, almost quadruple the estimated sale price.

The winning bidder is likely to be interested in a forthcoming box set called Loving The Alien (1983-1989). Released on October 21, it features eight Bowie albums, including live and remixed albums, plus previously unreleased music. Full details of the various packages can be found at www.davidbowie.com/blog/2018/7/18/david-bowie-loving-the-alien-1983-1989-due-october.

Eminem

Eminem might have upset a good many people with the songs on his latest album, Kamikaze. But his British fans are not among them. Their support has given Eminem his ninth successive number one on the UK Albums chart.

This success has earned Eminem a new UK chart record. Nine straight chart-toppers has pushed him one ahead of Led Zeppelin and ABBA with whom he had previously shared the mark.

The video for his new single, Fall, is posted at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfTbHITdhEI

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Swift acquires 'stay-away' order for dangerous fan

Singer Taylor Swift has been granted yet another restraining order against an obsessed fan, who wants to rape and kill her.

She has been awarded with a string of court-ordered stay-aways following a series of run-ins with stalkers.

Swift claims 26-year-old Eric Swarbrick has been sending her written threats for over two years, boasting that no one can stop him from ending Swift's life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

According to documents, his letters to Swift have included lines like: “I want to rape Taylor Swift. This is why I hate Taylor herself...This is how I know I am Taylor's soulmate” and “I have learned to absolutely repress the metaphorical monster in me, but, very soon, I will become completely responsible for myself... What logical conclusion is there other than death?”. 

Swarbrick has also stated he will not “hesitate to kill her”, ending one letter with the chilling: “Remember who I am.”

According to the “Love story” singer's lawyers, his letters have become increasingly alarming over the last few months, and many people close to Swift fear Swarbrick is a danger to her, according to tmz.com.

A judge has ordered him to stop contacting the singer immediately, and he's not allowed to go near her or her properties. — IANS

Underwood learnt German phrase during hospitalisation

Country singer Carrie Underwood cancelled two festival appearances in the UK last week because she was hospitalised in Germany for three days and learnt one phrase during her treatment.

The Before he cheats singer was set to perform at The Long Road country music festival in Leicestershire, England and BBC Radio 2's Live in Hyde Park here last weekend, but officials from her record label announced she had to pull out due to ill-health, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Underwood opened up about her sickness for the first time on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on September 13 and explained that she came down with a viral bug while in Germany.

“I don’t cancel shows, like I will drag myself out on stage to perform if I have the flu or whatever,” she said.

“In the UK, we had to cancel a couple of shows. Basically I got like a viral thing. And I woke up, I had vertigo and I could not stand up and it was crazy. I ended up in a German hospital for three days,” she said.

She praised the “sweet and so nice” medical team who looked after her and joked that she tried to learn some German so she could communicate with them better.

“I didn’t learn anything, I learned one phrase, ‘kein fleisch bitte’ (which means) ‘no meat please!’ I don’t eat meat. That’s all I got,” she said. — IANS

Nandita trying to get Manto’s daughters to India for the premiere

Aclaimed actress-filmmaker Nandita Das is trying to get late Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto’s daughters, Nighat Patel, Nuzhat Arshad and Nusrat Jalal, to India for the premiere of her film Manto.

She has approached the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to facilitate the visas so that they can attend the India premiere of the film, which traces the life of the writer.

“Throughout the journey, I have had the generous support of the Manto family who have shared many stories and much material without which I would not have been able to show the man, the father, the husband that he was. So it would mean a lot to me to be able to share the big day with them,” Nandita said in a statement.

“The special screenings are scheduled in Delhi and Mumbai, the two cities their father lived and has inspired some of his greatest worlds. I am just keeping my fingers crossed,” she added.

According to a source, the film’s premiere is scheduled for September 17 in Mumbai and September 19 in Delhi.

The film follows the most tumultuous years in the lives of the iconoclastic writer and those of the countries, India and Pakistan, which Manto lived and chronicled.

Nuzhat says it is important for her to experience the film.

“Nandita worked very closely with the family in terms of the intricacies of Manto. On a personal level, her frequent communication with me over email and phone as to how he was, his practices etc. She ensured the depiction of Manto would be as accurate as possible,” Nuzhat said.

Nuzhat added: “I wish Nandita’s film every success and I hope it will make people on both sides of the divide think and absorb. There are lessons to be learnt from the brutality and ugliness of what happened in 1947.”

The film, co-produced by HP Studios, Filmstoc and Viacom18 Motion Pictures, stars Rasika Dugal as Manto’s wife and Tahir Raj Bhasin, Rishi Kapoor and Divya Dutta in key roles.

Manto will also be screened at the 62nd BFI London Film Festival.

“Since Five, my first film 22 years ago, I have shown my film at the London Film Festival. Over the years, many of my films have been screened there. I love the multilingual audience of London,” Nandita said in a statement earlier this month.

“BFI has had repeated screenings of Firaaq apart from showing at their festival. I am very much looking forward to taking Manto to the festival this October,” she added.

The fest will go on from October 10-21. And Manto will be screened at the festival on October 11-12.

Manto, co-produced by HP Studios, Filmstoc and Viacom18 Motion Pictures, will feature Rasika Dugal as Manto’s wife and Tahir Raj Bhasin, Rishi Kapoor and Divya Dutta in key roles. — IANS

Supergirl movie may be set in 70s

Entertainment company Warner Bros has reportedly shifted its focus on a Supergirl movie, which may be set in the 1970s and feature fictional character Brainiac as the main villain.

According to publication SuperBroMovies, Brainiac is set to antagonise the titular character in the upcoming movie. The publication noted, though, that might change as they wrote on Twitter: “The plan (for now) is that Brainiac will be the main villain,” reports aceshowbiz.com.

Brainiac is one of Superman’s deadliest enemies in DC Comics lore. He is typically depicted as an extraterrestrial cyborg or android with “twelfth-level intellect,” which allows calculation abilities, enhanced memory and advanced understanding of mechanical engineering, bio-engineering and physics among other super powers.

Meanwhile, another publication titled The Playlist reported that the Supergirl movie is eyed as a period piece set in the 1970s, long before the era of Henry Cavill’s Superman. — IANS
Australian scientists are releasing new tech robots in the hopes of controlling an epidemic of coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish that are hurting the world’s largest coral system, the Great Barrier Reef. **By Subel Bhandari**

The outbreak of coral-eating poisonous and thorny starfish is among a multitude of things currently damaging one of most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet - the Great Barrier Reef. The crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS), which is native to Australia, is one of world’s largest seastars, measuring up to 1 metre. The name is due to the venomous thorn-like spines that cover its upper surface.

The COTS preys upon coral polyps and could devastate large tracts of coral reefs if in outbreak numbers. Scientists say there are millions of them attacking the corals at the Great Barrier Reef, the world’s largest coral system, covering almost the size of Germany, and a top tourist spot in Australia. Researchers at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), in partnership with Google and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, have recently invented 'killer robots’ to tackle the starfish epidemic. Dubbed the ‘RangerBot,’ the underwater robotic device is fitted with high-tech real-time vision technology that allows it to navigate complex coral reefs in order to survey their health and detect COTS.

When it spots one, it fires off an injection of vinegar or bile salts to kill the starfish, with no harm to the reef. Matthew Dunbabin, the inventor and a professor at QUT, said the underwater hunter is able to identify the starfish with 99.4 percent accuracy. "We've trained RangerBot to detect crown-of-thorns starfish and only these coral-destroying starfish in much the same way as people learn to differentiate between various forms of sea life." The little yellow submarine, weighing 15 kilograms and measuring 75 centimetres, operates with the help of a smart tablet. The robot is highly manoeuvrable, works for up to eight hours with a single charge and can operate at night and in shark- and crocodile-infested waters.

"RangerBot can stay underwater almost three times longer than a human diver," Dunbabin said. He said the robot reef protector can also be equipped for surveillance of reef health, including monitoring for coral bleaching, water quality, pest species, pollution and siltation. "It can help to map expansive underwater areas at scales not previously possible, making it a valuable tool for reef research and management," said Dunbabin, who first made the prototype in 2015. "The high-tech, low-cost ‘drone of the sea’ has the potential to revolutionise the way we manage our oceans," said Anna Marsden, managing director at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. "More than a billion people depend on coral reefs for their food and livelihood, they stand to lose the most if those important ecosystems are not protected." she said, adding that "effective management of the Great Barrier Reef is a mammoth and expensive task" due to its sheer size and complexity.

Stretching some 2,600 kilometres off Australia’s north-eastern coast, the Great Barrier Reef an assembly of 2,500 individual reefs is home to millions of marine lifeforms. It draws more than 2 million visitors and generates some $6.4 billion dollars a year. But in recent years, it has suffered from numerous problems, including sedimentation, water quality degradation, ocean acidification, back-to-back coral bleaching events in 2016-17 and a crown-of-thorns starfish epidemic.

According to a study, the Great Barrier Reef lost half its corals between 1985 and 2012 and COTS were responsible for more than 40 percent of that shrinkage. Sven Uthicke, Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, said that only climate change is more responsible for the coral loss today than the COTS outbreak. The "exact number of COTS in the Reef region is currently damaging a multitude of things including many animals, including COTS, to protect Great Barrier Reef from deadly starfish.