Thanneer Mathan Dinangal  
**DIRECTION:** Girish A.D  
**CAST:** Vineeth Sreenivasan, Mathew Thomas, Anaswara Rajan  
**SYNOPSIS:** Jaison is a higher secondary student, who initially gets admitted to the Humanities stream. But, he later switches to the Science batch and starts liking his new classmate, Keerthi. He is annoyed with Keerthi’s admiration for their new Malayalam teacher Ravi Padmanabhan. How Jaison wins Keerthy’s heart forms the crux of the story.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw  
**DIRECTION:** David Leitch  
**CAST:** Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idris Elba  
**SYNOPSIS:** Ever since brawling lawman Hobbs, a loyal agent of America’s Diplomatic Security Service, and lawless outcast Shaw, a former British military elite operative, first faced off in 2015’s Furious 7, the duo have swapped smack talk and body blows as they’ve tried to take each other down. But when cyber-genetically enhanced anarchist Brixton (Idris Elba) gains control of an insidious bio-threat that could alter humanity forever — and bests a brilliant and fearless rogue MI6 agent (The Crown’s Vanessa Kirby), who just happens to be Shaw’s sister — these two sworn enemies will have to partner up to bring down the only guy who might be badder than themselves.  
**THEATRES:** The Mall, Landmark, Royal Plaza

---

**Quote Unquote**  
“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”  
— William Shakespeare
**EVENTS**

**Art Lessons**
WHERE: Mathaf Manara Qatar Museums
WHEN: Ongoing till August 28
TIME: 4pm – 7pm
Join artist Ismael Azzam for Art Lessons at Mathaf and learn drawing techniques called portraiture using pencil, charcoal and paint. Lessons are offered to people with basic to intermediate sketching and drawing skills. For more information, mathaf_education@qm.org.qa

**The Comedy of Tango**
WHERE: Katara – the Cultural Village
WHEN: August 28
TIME: 8pm-9pm
With the support of Katara – the Cultural Village and embassy of Argentina in Doha Tango Pasión Doha presents Los Guardiola – “The Comedy of Tango” on August 28. A show consisting of seven scenes is inspired by famous tangos. Dancers, mimes and actors, Marcelo Guardiola and Giorgia Marchiori, known artistically as Los Guardiola, will project the audience into the fantastic world of their danced pantomime where comedy and tragedy merge into the rhythm of tango.

**Yoga Class**
WHERE: Lululemon, Mall of Qatar
WHEN: Every Saturday
TIME: 8:30am – 9:30am
Join the complimentary in-store yoga classes. No registration or mat is required. The class runs on first come first served basis.

**Career Guidance**
WHERE: Right Track Consultants, Al Sadd
WHEN: Sunday – Thursday
TIME: 6pm – 8pm
Career guidance for course, country, college and entrance for students of Grade IX-XII, of all curriculum. Career assessments administered for stream preference, career test, branch preference, personality, multiple intelligence and learning styles and productivity. For more information, 55448835.

**Artistic Gymnastic Classes**
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

**Ballet Lessons**
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

**Arabic Calligraphy Workshop**
WHEN: Saturday – Wednesday
TIME: 6pm
Arabic Calligraphy workshop is back. Come and learn the artistic practice of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy at Music and Arts Atelier. The lessons will take place every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. For more information, contact registration@atelierqatar.com

**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/ 31326749.

**Hobby Classes**
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults. Summer camp at Mamangam has become the children’s favourite centre for learning art and craft, drawing, and learning spoken English. The kids also enjoy Bollywood dance, contemporary and hip hop music. To develop health consciousness, we teach them kids yoga, karate etc. Mamangam has also come up with chess and robotics in the regular batches in an attempt to give a better learning experience.

The first batch of the summer camp began on June 26 continuing until July 25 from Sundays to Thursdays. The second batch will commence on July 28 ending on August 25. Registrations are open to kids between 5 to 16 years. For those who wish to register for more details, visit www.mamangamqatar.in

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

**Compiled by Nausheen Shakh. E-mail: gtlisting@gmail.com. Events and timings subject to change**
‘You know you love me!’

Muhammad Asad Ullah writes about how the hit television series, Gossip Girl, defined the modern television and since the reboot has been announced, can we expect original cast members again on the screens?

“We’ve reached out to all of them (original cast members) to let them know it was happening, and we’d love them to be involved if they want to be involved, but certainly didn’t want to make it contingent upon”

— Josh Schwartz, Executive Producer of Gossip Girl

While some derides the pop culture, it won’t be erroneous to say – we wouldn’t be who we are today, without deriving an inspiration from it, one way or another. From a television show, to a movie, book, or a cultural phenomenon that has taken over the face of stereotype over the years, there have been episodes that have inspired us profoundly.

“Hey there, Upper East Siders. Gossip Girl here. And I have the biggest news ever.”

The first words spoken on television series, Gossip Girl, were by the mysterious Gossip Girl, voiced by Kristen Bell, star of Veronica Mars, back in 2007 when the pilot episode aired; these three sentences sparked a massive following of an entire generation of digital age kids. The show’s narrative is told through the eyes of the eponymous, always anonymous ‘Gossip Girl’ – a blogger in the midst of its well-heeled characters, who relays the what-they’re-wearing, who-they’ve-been-dating details about their lives with an eyebrow arched as high as ours.

The series lasted six seasons before coming to an end in 2012, and since then, largely thanks to Netflix
The show allowed us to live vicariously through the characters and their outlandish adventures. It allowed entry into the most vulnerable and relatable time of these characters’ lives – the end of high school and the beginning of college, adulthood, and everything else.

Jenny were too glamorous and scandalised to be true, loads of us were still hooked. And once you got past the Chanel bags and private jets, the characters were actually kind of relatable; relatable in the sense that even the rich have problems too. We all can recall ourselves behaving in a similar way or struggling with a similar battle at some point in our lives which allowed us to sympathise with the characters. Despite all their flaws we still rooted for them. Gossip Girl had many protagonists that all had their own timelines.

I’m back, Xoxo!

We are living in the age of the reboot, with shows like Charmed and Will & Grace finding their way back to television. And while some of these reboots and revivals flop, others excel, combining nostalgia of when they first aired with relevance to today’s culture. But not all shows that were popular in the past are able to be reflective of the time we currently live in. We had seen this moment coming for quite some time now: the reboot of Gossip Girl. It has been officially announced recently, that show will be making a comeback. The fans like myself, were rooting for it – but it all depending whether it will hit the right relatable chord or not.

Xoxo! The high heels of Constance Billard School Manhattan, from where the Gossip Girl started, seems to tip off again! It seems that those phantoms halls, prowled by the likes of Serena van der Woodsen and Blair Waldorf, will once again halo the tolls of Manhattan, from where the Gossip started, seems to tip off again!

The characters’ passions also included the harassment of fellow students, multiple up-town parties, glamorous tiaras and total slandrous scheming, but the show allowed to live vicariously through the characters and their outlandish adventures. It allowed the entry into the most vulnerable and relatable time of these characters’ lives – the end of high school and the beginning of college, adulthood, and everything else.

Fashion and film have been inextricably linked for the past century, with designers drawing inspiration from the silver screen and auteurs going to great lengths to secure the perfect costumes for their characters. Would Blair Waldorf have become a sensation without Valentino and Givenchy’s sophisticated designs? And what would the blonde Serena be without Balenciaga or Harry Winston?

From the moment Serena stepped into the frame in a natty brown jacket, with bags in hand at Grand Central NY, GG had us totally beggin’. Although the lavish lives of Serena, Nate, Blair, Chuck and even poor (literally) Dan and Jenny were too glamorous and

**DIRECTOR’S CUT:** Leighton Meester, left, with Blake Lively during the shoot of Season 1 of Gossip Girl.
Serena, because we’re obsessed with them. And perhaps most importantly, what will the cast wear this time? Because we certainly remember what the original characters wore — giving major glitzy goals. In order to reboot Gossip Girl for today’s viewers, so much would have to be altered and changed. Is that possible? Maybe.

In the first series, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump were brought in for cameos on the show, who would be making this time. Would someone agree — knowing the reach of the show and media now? But apart from that, the biggest question remains — will original cast members return on the screen? Helmed by original executive producers Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, and one-time showrunner Josh Safran, the reboot will focus on a new generation of high-school students who are ‘introduced to the social surveillance of Gossip Girl when the old site is mysteriously restored.

The new series promises to address how social media has changed in the intervening years, but surely social media is what killed Gossip Girl in the first place? By the time the show ended, the idea of one blogger had ceased to be a concept. The power had already been redistributed to the masses, who were taking to their laptops to post anonymously on public platforms and share every aspect of their lives themselves. Gossip Girl, which practically predicted the rise of the internet troll, can no longer claim to be “your one and only source to the scandalous lives of the Manhattan elite”.

“We’ve reached out to all of them (original cast members) to let them know it was happening, and we’d love for them to be involved if they want to be involved, but certainly didn’t want to make it contingent upon (them being involved),” said Josh Schwartz, Executive Producer of Gossip Girl, in a statement.

“They played these characters for six years, and if they felt like they were good with that, we want to respect that, but obviously...It would be great to see them again,” he added.

According to Variety, the series will address “just how much social media — and the landscape of New York itself — has changed in the intervening years.”

Schwartz went on to explain how Gossip Girl — as a character — would change as well, “So we thought there was something really interesting about the idea that we are all Gossip Girl now, in our own way; that we are all purveyors of our own social media surveillance state and how that has evolved, and how that has mutated and morphed, and telling that through a new generation of Upper East Side high school kids. We felt that a version with our cast grown up, regardless of what the challenges would be of assembling those actors again...it didn’t really feel like a group of adults that would be patrolled by Gossip Girl would make a lot of sense.”

In December, Crawford told Us Weekly that he would “be open to talking about something.” Though he is open to the idea of playing Nate Archibald again, he thinks that the cast might be too old to reprise their former roles. “I don’t know what it would look like with us being in our 30s now, but I always say, because it was such a big part of my life.”

Penn Badgley also took a ‘never say never’ approach towards a Gossip Girl reboot. “I suppose you should never say never,” he told Variety ahead of the premiere of his new pscho-thriller series, You.

When Westwick sat down for an interview with Radio Times in May 2017, he said that he feels that his character, Chuck Bass, is “played out.” “Nah, that’s not gonna happen,” he told the interviewer. “It feels like we only just finished! And I haven’t done enough in between yet to feel like I could comfortably revisit it. And I did so much with that character — it’s played out, man. It’s done.”

In an interview with E! News, Kristen, who narrated the hit CW series, was asked whether or not she’ll return to deliver all of those iconic lines. Her response? “Maybe. I’ll never tell.” That said, Kristen has a suggestion for a replacement in the event she doesn’t lend her voice-over skills to the highly-anticipated reboot. “James Earl Jones,” she announced. “It’s gotta be, yeah.”

Both Leighton and Blake are open to scandalous Manhattan life again

The two queen bees of the show, headband-wearing, school-ruling, uptight Blair Waldorf and her free-spirited glamazon BFF/rival, Serena van der Woodsen, provided compelling viewing thanks to their love/hate relationship.

Lively spoke to Variety in April 2017, saying that she’d be fairly open to doing Gossip Girl with the original cast. “It sort of all depends,” Lively said. “Would I do seven years of the show? No, because it’s hard work and I’ve got my babies, and I don’t want to be away from them that much. But I’ve just learned in life you never say never. We had so much fun shooting and living and working in New York City.”

And when Meester spoke to Vanity Fair about a possible reboot in August 2017, she seemed somewhat open to the idea of re-enacting the role of princess Blair Waldorf, but approached the topic with a fair amount of hesitation. “I guess I hear that [reunion talk] in fits and starts here and there, but it’s hard to say,” she said. “If everyone was into it and if the timing was right, you know? I don’t want to say, ‘No, never…”

After the news dropped that a reboot was a possibility, Meester was asked by E! News recently if she would be open to doing Gossip Girl again. “No one’s ever asked me,” she responded. “No one’s ever talked to me about it except for in interviews, and I always say the same. I never say never. So, I don’t know. No one’s sent me that information, it’s coming from you.”

Kelly Rutherford’s all up for it

The actress, who played Lily van der Woodsen, mother of Serena, recently told in an interview to Hollywood Life that she’d love to sign for the reboot. “It was exciting to hear the news. It was such a beautiful time in my life and such a great role, and working with all these people was such a gift and such a joy. Ofcourse would love to return!” she said.

“In the original series particularly, you didn’t really see social media. So now, I’m excited to see how they’ll advance that,” she added.
NNFIN marks 25th International Day of the World’s Indigenous People

Nepal Non-Resident Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NNFIN) recently organised an event to mark 25th International Day of the World’s Indigenous People at Al Dallla Driving school and Academy. Shiva Bhujel, President of NNFIN, chaired the event. Siya Ram Chaudary, Adviser at NNFIN, along with the members of different Nepali organisations in Qatar, including Tamu Society, Tamang Society, Sunuwar Society, Newar Pucha, Tharu Welfare Service, Kirat Rai Yakthung Chumlung, Majhi Welfare Society and Non-resident Nepalese Bhujel Society attended the event. NNFIN has been celebrating the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People since 2006.

The event featured a cultural show, demonstrating the traditional attires of indigenous Tamu community along with ethnic music. The show featured six male and six female artists. Other performances, included Chambung and Bijuwo dance, by artists from Kirat Yakthung Chumlung - Qatar (KYC); Dhime dance, Newa Pucha - Qatar; Ratauli - a comic folk dance, Majhi Welfare Society; and Nepali cinematic and Jhakri, Sunuwar Service Society. Artists from Tharu Welfare Society also performed on the occasion. All the artists carried ethnic musical instruments with them.

-J Text and photos by Usha Wagle Gautam

Jollibee Qatar organises annual basketball tournament

Jollibee Qatar recently organised its annual basketball tournament. A total of eight teams participated in the tournament, stated a press release. The teams included staff from Al Mansoura branch, Jollibee Bin Mahmoud, Jollibee Ezdan Garaffa, Jollibee Matar Qadeem, Jollibee Al Sadd, Jollibee Dar Al Salam and Jollibee Ezdan Wakrah. Company drivers along with repair and maintenance staff, IT, call centre and administration departments of Jollibee Qatar took part in the tournament.

Jollibee Support (TRM) bagged the championship title, which was followed by Jollibee Bin Mahmoud with the first runners up title. Jollibee Mathar Qadeem and Jollibee Al Sadd bagged second and third runners up positions, respectively. Alvin Tabora was awarded the title of Finals Most Valuable Player, and Aljohn Buenconsejo, Rookie of the Year. The selection of Mythical Team, included Lester Saranillo, Adrian Dayanghirang, Manny Con******************or, Richard Espinosa and Alvin Tabora. Jollibee Al Meera bagged the Best Uniform award.

Mon Pedraya and Paul Bautista, Head of league organisers, extended their gratitude for the support of Ali al-Shami, Sunrise Trading and Food Staff General Manager, through Deepa Golash, HR Senior Officer.
They destroy sweaters, carpets and even wall insulation – and their population has tripled in five years. But there are ways to quell these insatiable insects, writes Emine Saner

When Janine Christley moved into her new house, she thought buying woolen carpets would be the sustainable option. She had the stairs and two floors of her cottage carpeted, at a cost of thousands of pounds. Then the moths moved in. She first noticed them about four years ago, just a few at first. But then they started devouring the carpets, creating big bare patches. Gradually, Christley has had to rip them up and replace them with synthetic carpet. “I’ve still got woolen carpet in my room and the front room, but there are big holes where they’ve eaten it away,” she says. To a family of moths, it turns out, a wool-carpeted house “is the perfect place to breed, and they are almost certain to lay their eggs inside”, says Pinniger. “Wool insulation is great environmentally, but if you stick it into your ceiling, it’s a great harbinger for the pests.”

There has also been a shift back to natural fibres in carpeting and clothing, which has created food for the pests. “One of the things that worries me is the push for natural fibres for insulation,” says Pinniger. “Wool insulation is great environmentally, but if you stick wool up in your attic you’re going to get moths in it. Even worse, I know one house where they blew wool in cavities. They can’t get it out and they’ve got moths – they’re going to have to live with moths the whole time they live in that house.”

The previous owners of Emma Harrison’s house warned her there is a peak of moths in August and September. “Wool insulation is great environmentally, but if you stick wool up in your attic you’re going to get moths in it. Even worse, I know one house where they blew wool in cavities. They can’t get it out and they’ve got moths – they’re going to have to live with moths the whole time they live in that house.”

There are a range of reasons for the rising numbers. Hotter winters mean “there is a peak of adult emergence usually in April and May, and often another one in late August/early September when you get another generation through. Some of the museums I work with, there are moths all year round because the temperatures are constant, and we’re getting at least three generations a year. Each female can lay 100 eggs. That’s a pretty big potential increase.”

Moths don’t eat clothes; their larvae do. They hatch within a few weeks of being laid. “When they first hatch, they’re only a millimetre long and they burrow into your clothes, so you don’t see them. It’s not until they get bigger that you see the evidence,” says Pinniger. In ideal conditions, he says, hungry larvae will take three months to mature into moths, but it could take up to nine months. That is a lot of munching time. “They don’t eat quickly, but when you’ve got a lot they can produce some quite nasty damage.”

“It is believed that case-bearing moths have been in the UK since at least Roman times. “We don’t know whether the Romans brought them over when they invaded, although we know they have been around a long time in the UK and northern Europe,” says Pinniger. The webbing clothes moth is thought to be a much more recent arrival; it is not described in scientific literature until the Victorian era. “The theory at the moment is that it probably came over from South Africa in Victorian times when they imported a lot of skin and feather.” They like the warmth – they thrive in heated buildings and aren’t normally able to complete their life cycle outdoors in the UK. “Whereas we know the case-bearing clothes moth can live in birds’ nests,” adds Pinniger.

Clothes moths can’t fly very far, so it is unlikely that they come into houses through open windows, although this is possible in urban areas. They are almost certainly introduced to a home on something such as a vintage blanket, an antique rug or a sweater from a charity shop. “In the natural world, they live in
numbers boom, can they be stopped?

INTRODUCTION: Clothes moths can't fly very far. They are almost certainly introduced to a home on something such as a vintage blanket, an antique rug or a sweater from a charity shop.

LARVAE GAME: Moths don't eat clothes, their larvae do. They hatch within a few weeks of being laid.

RECOMMENDATION: The TV presenter Kirstie Allsopp recommends freezing clothes to kill moths' eggs.

DETERRENTS: Natural deterrents include lavender sachets and cedarwood blocks.

The idea that in the absence of a moth infestation your clothes are “clean” is wrong. “All of your clothing is covered with smaller species that you don’t see,” says Dunn of the microbes that live on your clothes, especially those made from natural fibres. “They’re busy living on your clothes, slowly breaking it down. So, even when you don’t have moths, the idea that your clothes last for ever is an illusion. You’ve also got your skin bacteria that wait for you to put clothing on and then they metabolise your sweat. With that motley crew, the clothes moth is the most charismatic of the bunch.”

He suggests that, instead of reaching for the insecticide, we pay attention to moths. “They remain incompletely studied. See if you notice something that nobody has seen before. In and of themselves, they’re pretty fascinating species that have figured out a way to eat stuff that other species can’t eat. They’re beautiful, they fly around ephemerally; learn to enjoy that. You don’t want them devouring all your clothes, but once they’re there, it’s worth a moment to reflect on their cleverness.” Can that really make up for a treasured cashmere sweater that has been lost, gobbled by the beasts? He laughs. “Maybe not.” -- The Guardian

things like birds’ nests and they’d be eating feathers and the remains of birds,” says Blades. “If a bird falls down a chimney, or you’ve got a birds’ nest in the chimney, that can be a source.” They may have lived for years in your house without you noticing. “And then suddenly the conditions are right and you get a population explosion,” says Finniger.

The National Trust uses pheromone traps as part of its monitoring programme – this doesn’t control the population, but gives an indication of the scale of the problem. The main approach for controlling numbers is regular cleaning. “Often that can be enough,” says Blades. “In some cases where we need to go beyond that, we use a commercial product called Constraing, which has a residual effect for a number of months. We use that to treat nooks and crannies where moths might like to hide away. The National Trust has done a trial using tiny parasitic wasps, which seek out moths’ eggs and lay their own inside, hatching new wasps. (These wasps aren’t harmful to humans, don’t live long and are so small that you would barely notice them among house dust.) This was carried out in one property, but Blades says it isn’t yet clear how effective it has been.

When an object such as a rug or costume has been affected, it is treated in a commercial chest freezer, where it is cooled to -30C. Mobile heat chambers are used for furniture with upholstery, where pieces are heated to about 50C.

Dee Laudar, a pest control manager at English Heritage, has noticed a significant increase in moths in the past 10 years and particularly in the past five. “The best way of keeping on top of it is very good management and housekeeping,” she says. “We have collection-care assistants who are trained to go into the houses and carry this out all the time for us. These are increasingly the things you need to concentrate on in the average home as well. It’s not a case of running a vacuum over the carpet and thinking that’s done – at least once a month, and particularly during the spring and summer months, you need to thoroughly go round the edge of the carpet with a nozzle on the vacuum. Take out items in your wardrobes and give them a shake out because moths don’t like disturbance.”

If you have carpet underneath your cupboards, you might want to think about getting rid of it, she says. “If you’ve got heavy items of furniture, and sofas, you need to be pulling them out at least once a month and thoroughly vacuuming underneath. This is how we keep on top of it in historic houses.”

She recommends people store seasonal clothes in vacuum-sealed bags. “You can’t really do that with historic costumes. We’ll keep them boxed up and the conservators check them once or twice a year and make sure nothing is in them. Because of the significance of the collections, you cannot start spraying chemicals on them, which could cause more damage than the larvae themselves. Our approach has always been trying to do it in the most natural ways possible.” It is constant, she adds. “We never get a chance to relax.”

Is there any way we can reframe our relationships with clothes moths? “I would suggest avoiding the chemical blitzkrieg that we tend towards whenever we notice something alive around us, which we never tend to win,” says Rob Dunn, a professor of biology at North Carolina State University and the author of Never Home Alone, a book about all the tiny beings with which we share our homes.

The Guardian
1 WEEK OF Meal Replacement Smoothies

**Protein Power Crunch**
- Protein: 32 g
- Fiber: 7 g
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup hemp granola
- 1 banana
- 1 scoop protein powder, soy, rice, hemp or whey (approx. 2 tbsp)
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 450 calories

**Spinach Banana**
- Protein: 16.9 g
- Fiber: 7.9 g
- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup spinach
- 1 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 1/4 cup unsweetened soy milk
- 330 calories

**Chocolate Peanut Butter**
- Protein: 12 g
- Fiber: 5 g
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/2 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 banana
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 360 calories

**Go Green**
- Protein: 18.8 g
- Fiber: 20.3 g
- 1 cup fresh kale
- 1 cup almond milk, unsweetened
- 1 cup berries
- 1/2 banana
- 1 tbsp almond butter
- 2 tbsp rolled oats
- 306 calories
Appetite for online retail sites among kids grows threefold

More children are taking to e-commerce sites for looking at products (and sometimes buying) as new research by cybersecurity firm Kaspersky has found that the interest of children in online shopping has more than tripled in the last 12 months – from two per cent to nine per cent.

According to the statistics, youngsters’ growing interest in e-commerce sites is a global trend, however the extent varies depending on location, said the Kaspersky Lab’s annual report on kids’ safety.

At 23 per cent, the largest share (and also biggest growth) in online shopping searches has been seen in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the findings showed.

While there are clearly some regional differences, the most searched for retailers by children across the globe include AliExpress, Amazon and Ebay. When it comes to Chinese retailers in particular, kids’ queries are growing steadily year on year. Sports apparel (Nike, Adidas), electronics (Apple, Samsung), and fashion brands (Gucci, Vans, Supreme, Zara, Bershka) are the most searched for sites among this young consumer audience, said the report.

But searching for goods online, as well as visiting specific retailers’ pages does not necessarily imply actual spending.

Kids might just be looking at things they want or compiling ‘wish lists’ to share with friends and family.

“The Internet offers a lot of opportunities for kids, and we are now seeing many children becoming a key audience for online retailers,” said Anna Larkina, a web content analysis expert at Kaspersky.

“Whether they spend money or not, they need support and guidance from adults who can help them avoid inadvertently coming across inappropriate content, suffering money loss or unnecessarily sharing their personal data,” Larkina added. – IANS
**Wordsearch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R D I B I B S L B I U V L B</td>
<td>M E U C A R R B O B B N E E E B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y H H W O B B L E B L L R A</td>
<td>Y F S T U B B L E B E E W G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H L P A B B B H O B S A B A R</td>
<td>E B P B B I H B I I I I B B A Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R B H B A N B U B L U B B E R</td>
<td>A O T A G I Q I D I B I L E V I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**Sudoku**

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

**Pooch Cafe**

If a giant meteor made of kibble hit the Earth, would we have time to eat some of it before we died?

**Garfield**

I am a house cat.

Otherwise known as a sunbeam devotee.

**Bound And Gagged**

Lose the drone, Harry.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Impeded deer? Poor deer! (8)
6 Used to be a revolutionary tool (3)
9 Record left by girl (5)
10 Very young cat I lost in ancient city (7)
11 An unequal share? Certainly! (3,4)
12 Irritable youth leader on trial (5)
13 Is getting in support to put up a fight (6)
15 Some postcodes, say, in port (6)
19 Hat seen at Epsom? (5)
21 Ancient city as opposed to old church (7)
23 Awfully isolated, having dismissed fifty yes-men (7)
24 Races round island to see wrecks (5)
25 American uncle plays a major part (3)
26 Pointers initially seem unnecessary (8)

Down
2 Lights that fused singe it (7)
3 Greek letter taken up? Cheers! (5)
4 Check polish once more (6)
5 Action about night filler may be discussed (7)
6 County loses its vigour (5)
7 Like some beaches in Skegness and Yarmouth (5)
8 Bet about northern composer (6)
9 Nasty giant, somewhat gloomy (7)
10 Accounts signed initially by politicians (7)
11 Appalled — but helping to make Branagh a star (6)
12 Bother with false lashes (6)
13 The fruit of engagements (5)
14 Province in actual centre of Germany (5)
15 Some postcodes, say, in port (6)
16 Beginner has left mountainous area (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
The bold and beautiful

Mehwish Hayat has had a fantastic last few years: whatever part she’s played in different media has been successful. Be it Aisam-ul-Haq’s drama serial Meray Qaftan (2015), or the hit feature film Jawani Phir Nahi Ani (2015) directed by Nadeem Baig — that went on to become one of the highest-grossing Pakistani films ever — followed by the same director’s Dil Lagi (2016), on entertainment channel ARY Digital, that saw her return to TV, and then Punjab Nahi Jaungi, feature film in 2017, or Nabeel Qureshi and Fizza Ali Meerza’s Actor In Law (2016) or Load Wedding (2018), it seems she can’t put a foot wrong. Mehwish Hayat has been riding the wave of success for the last few years. It won’t be erroneous to say that she is one of the most sought-after actresses in the country today.

Even before Mehwish did a substantial role in Jawani Phir Nahi Ani, she had done a cameo in another film in Nabeel Qureshi’s Na Maloom Afraad (2013), and since then a lot has been said about Mehwish Hayat. About her string of successful films, about her screen presence, her singing, dancing, her style, her being outspoken, bold and most recently, her Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, a state-organised honour of Pakistan. It is given to any civilian in Pakistan based on their achievements.

Hayat while receiving the ‘Pride of Performance’ award recently at an awards ceremony in Oslo called upon the stereotypical misrepresentation of Pakistanis and Pakistan in general in international cinema. Later, when asked if art should be politicised? Or should art not know any boundaries? Hayat said, “Art and politics have been intertwined for as long as art has existed. Even the plays of Shakespeare were very political in their time. Art should reflect society as a whole and should always be challenging and thought provoking. We have to question, we have to provide a mirror, we have to praise when we see something good and condemn when we see something wrong. Art without that social conscience is gutless and soulless. It is through entertainment that we can make the greatest change in our society!”

The Load Wedding star few days ago, also penned an op-ed for CNN, calling out faux celebrity activism and the responsibility that comes from an influential position.

A few days ago, Bollywood actor, Priyanka Chopra was called out for her aggressive tweet by Ayesha Malik, a young woman from Pakistan,洛杉矶 during an event, to which Chopra was haughty, saying, “Whenever you’re done venting. Got it, done? Okay cool.”

PHILANTHROPIST: The.Load.Wedding actor will be taking part in the annual London Marathon to help raise the funds for rebuilding 5 schools in Sukkur. She’s aiming to raise £100,000 for the project.
**A Soldier’s Play finally comes to Broadway after 35 years**

**By Ashley Lee**

A Soldier’s Play, the Pulitzer-winning work by Charles Fuller that helped to launch the careers of Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson, is finally headed to Broadway. Tony-winning director Kenny Leon is commanding the charge, and David Alan Grier and Blair Underwood will star. Additional casting will be announced later.

Preview performances for the Roundabout Theatre Company production's limited run will begin at the American Airlines Theatre on Dec 27, just two weeks before opening night on Jan 21.

Set in 1944, the military drama begins with the mysterious murder of Sgt Vernon C. Waters (Grier) on a Louisiana Army base. Capt Richard Davenport (Underwood) is tasked with solving the crime quickly, at the request of his white superiors.

At first glance, the flashback-filled piece appears to be a conventional whodunit or courtroom drama. But at its core, it’s what The Times previously called a “harrowing study of self-negation,” especially within the African American male identity.

“The play is not designed that it should be a salve for all racial problems that operate in the United States – I don’t think anyone knows the answers to those kinds of questions – but it might touch on some things,” Fuller told The Times of the forthcoming Broadway staging. “I hope people enjoy it, and walk away from the theatre understanding more about the country than when they walked in.”

Leon — who most recently directed Shakespeare in the Park’s bold staging of Much Ado About Nothing, starring Orange Is the New Black breakout Danielle Brooks — considers the Broadway debut of A Soldier’s Play an urgent one.

“I think America needs to hear the newness and the freshness of this play, even though it was first produced in the mid-’80s,” he said. “To me, the play is a deep investigation of the impact of racism on a specific race and culture. For example, in the play, how does the racism in our country affect the black soldiers dealing with other black men while serving the country?”

“If you’re looking at our country now, what is the racism toward the Latino and Hispanic community now doing to that community within itself? Fuller doesn’t take the easy way out; he deals with all the resentment and self-hatred that comes from that.” A Soldier’s Play premiered off-Broadway in 1981 with Washington, Jackson, Adolph Caesar, Larry B. Riley, Peter Friedman and Charles Brown among the original cast of the Negro Ensemble Company production (with Grier rotating in later in the run). Fuller directed the work, which went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama. Subsequent stagings have featured Anthony Mackie, Mike Colter, Taye Diggs, Wood Harris and Steven Pasquale, among others.

Fuller adapted his play into the 1984 film A Soldier’s Story, with Washington and Caesar reprising their stage roles onscreen. Directed by Norman Jewison, the movie also featured Grier and Patti LaBelle in the ensemble cast. It was nominated for three Academy Awards. The new production’s design team will include set designer Dede Ayite, sound designer Dan Moses Schreier and lighting designer Allen Lee Hughes. Fuller said the new production’s design team will include set designer Dede Ayite, sound designer Dan Moses Schreier and lighting designer Allen Lee Hughes (who worked on the original staging of A Soldier’s Play).

Roundabout also announced on Monday the Broadway transfer of Caroline, or Change, from the West End. Sharon D Clarke will reprise her Olivier-winning performance in the Tony Kushner and Jeanine Tesori musical, directed by Michael Longhurst and choreographed by Ann Yee. It will begin performances on March 15 and open on April 7 at Studio 54. — Los Angeles Times / IANS
Modern technology brings the joy of learning to kids in Qatar

By Mudassir Raja

The Summer in Qatar (SiQ) campaign proved to be one of the biggest success stories that kept the residents and tourists entertained this summer.

With the collaboration of over 30 public and private sector partners in hospitality, retail, and entertainment, the SiQ has demonstrated the commitment across sectors to further evolve to build a sustainable tourism sector, the Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC) has said.

The campaign that ran for over three months included numerous activities to entertain and educate families and particularly children. Special arrangements were made for the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha when the residents of Qatar enjoyed utmost indoor music shows, comedy shows, theatre plays, summer camps, and different community activities in major shopping malls.

During the SiQ campaign, multiple activities arranged for children proved to be the most engaging attractions. Among many summer camps and entertainment festivals, the kids enjoyed different play areas, theme parks and virtual reality gaming.

Kidzania at Aspire Park proved to be the most engaging activity for the children. The theme park that ran for about two months remained open for 12 hours every day. It was the place where learning and fun, were combined perfectly. Kidzania taught the school children about careers, money management and life outside a school in a way that perfectly complements their curriculum.

Every activity inside KidZania was designed by educators and developed to match school curricula in Qatar to help bring learning to life. Whatever activity they chose, all the visitors were able to enjoy a full learning experience as they worked, earned and played in an interactive and safe environment.

The activities the children learnt about were; teamwork, communication, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, digital literacy, emotional intelligence, and global citizenship. Having birthday parties at the theme park was another excellent feature of KidZania.

Snow Dunes at DC however attracted people in crowds. Qatar’s first-ever indoor snow theme park opened its doors to the visitors on the second day of Eid al-Adha. Spread over more than 9,500sqm, the park offered a variety of rides and attractions suitable for the whole family, as well as food and beverages outlets, retail store, and party rooms. E-sports Gaming Festival also attracted young adults at DC during the Eid days.