

JULY 3-9, 2022

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



A newly built chariot at North Carolina, USA

WORLD FAMOUS RATH YATRA

# BLURRING BOUNDARIES

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COVER STORY



After cementing his place as an independent editor in Mumbai film industry, Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalay alumnus Birenjyoti Mohanty went on to direct several music videos, commercials and corporate videos. The 'Luck' editor now looks forward to direct Hindi feature films



Firmly grounded

Though I live in Mumbai for many years due to professional reasons, my soul lies in Bhubaneswar. I love to cook Rajma or Dal Makhni for the family when I am in the City.

Dreaming together

My wife and I share a special bond, a bond based on passion and dreams. After marriage, we didn't give up our dreams but made them our strength. I aspire to be a filmmaker, while she's a professional Odissi dancer. There can't be a better day than Sunday to discuss our dreams.



Proud parent

This is the day when I get an opportunity to spend quality time with family. We usually take our daughter to a game zone, zoo or park to expand her vision. Hearts fill with joy watching her playing and enjoying.

In hang out zone

While people come to 'khati' for relaxation and socialising, I use it for productive work. Often I spend time with the DOPs, sound designers or assistant directors to learn from them.

Sunday & mutton

We, as Odias, have created a special connection between Sunday and mutton. Sundays seem incomplete if mutton curry is not included in the lunch menu. Getting up early and jostling at the favourite meat shop is part of the Sunday schedule.

Time to unwind

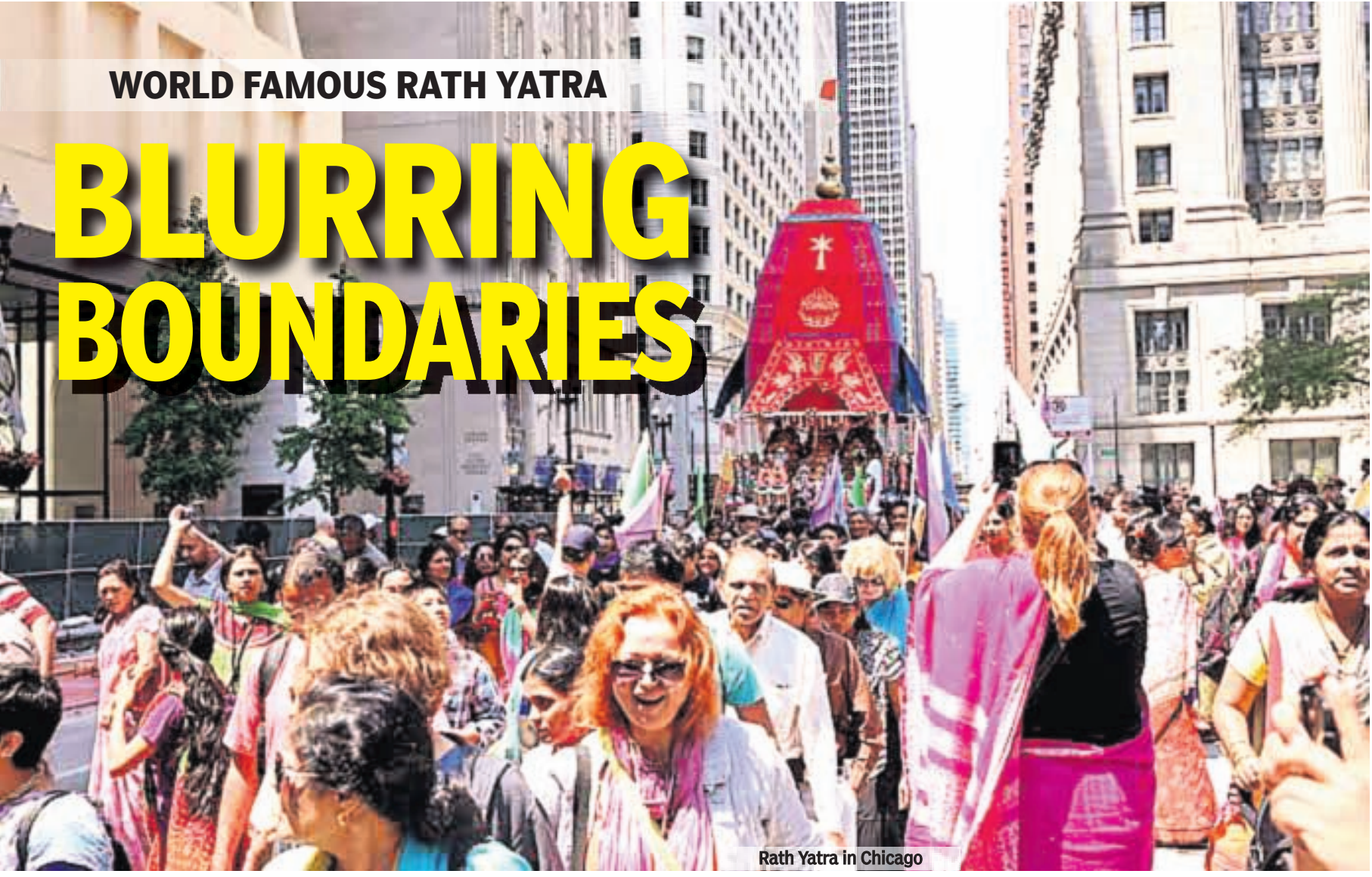
Sunday is the day when we unwind and gear up to face the hustle-bustle of next week.

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

WhatsApp This Week Only on Sunday POST! Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

CULT CLASSIC Dear Sir, Some names of the films discussed in 'Movies to watch this Rath Yatra' (TinselTown) made me travel down the memory lane. In fact, I became nostalgic to see the poster of Bhakta Salabega, a movie made on the life of Salbega, an ardent Muslim devotee of Lord Jagannath. Not many people know that the print of the movie was lost a few days after its release and thanks to the painstaking efforts of the members of Film Journalists' Forum, the film has been restored digitally. It is interesting to learn that Gulzar had penned the lyrics while Manna De lent his voice and Prayagraj had written the screenplay for the film, which is considered one of the best of Odia Superstar Uttam Mohanty. The whole page made for an interesting read. SAMPOORNA SAHOO, BHUBANESWAR

LETTERS Lord's own children A WORD FOR READERS Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



Rath Yatra in Chicago

### WORLD FAMOUS RATH YATRA

# BLURRING BOUNDARIES

From being attacked by outsiders several times in past centuries to being followed in nearly 200 cities across the globe celebrating Rath Yatra, Jagannath cult has turned a cosmopolitan philosophy assimilating in its fold, the influences of many religious creeds and sects

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Lord Jagannath and Puri Srimandir are synonymous with the Odia pride. Perhaps, this is one of the major reasons that the invaders in the past were more interested in destroying the temple and its main deities than conquering the kings and annexing the territories. Little wonder, then, that over the course of 12 odd centuries of the written history of the Jagannath temple, Lord's abode has been invaded a whopping 18 times by the Muslims, Afghans, Marathas and the followers of Mahima dharmas.

It entirely goes to the credit of the erstwhile rulers and the people of Puri, who sacrificed their lives to protect Srimandir and the idols, for transformation of Jagannath cult into a cosmopolitan and eclectic philosophy assimilating in its fold, the influences of many religious creeds and sects. From being invaded by non-Hindus in past centuries to being worshipped in nearly 200 cities across the world, Lord Jagannath has truly become the Lord of the Universe.

With Him and his siblings being on a nine-day annual sojourn, Sunday POST takes a look at some of the famous Rath Yatras taking place on foreign soils.

#### Rath Rolls at North Carolina, USA

The Jagannath Committee at HSNC (Hindu Society of North Carolina) of USA, have come together to build something extraordinary this year. They have built an impressive 26-ft tall Rath with a width of 13 feet. In these dimensions, it is one of the biggest chariots of the Americas,

claims the committee.

It has been a tremendous effort from the volunteers to be able to build something this huge combining the architecture and art work of original chariot Nandighosa from Puri, Odisha, says Sujit Mahapatra, a HSNC member and an IT Professional from New Jersey, USA.

Asked how such a big task could be completed considering the work culture in the USA, Mohapatra adds, "Jagannath committee headed by Sakti Singh worked mostly on the weekends under the leadership of lead architect Loknath Patro and art lead Pallabita Patnaik. There

were different types of volunteers working as carpenters, mechanical engineers who worked on the brake system of the chariot, Patta Chitra artists, stitching volunteers. The project took around nine months to complete from November 2021 till June 2022. Great care was taken in the chariot's design and artwork to reflect Odia tradition.

Though the Rath Yatra here has been organised since 2015, the devotees are quite excited this year as the deities will appear in the newly built chariot this year. Unlike in other cities, the festival will be held here July 9, 2022.



Front view of a chariot at North Carolina, USA



Rath Yatra in Dublin, Ireland



A scene from Rome

**Festive fervor at Alpharetta, Georgia(USA)**

Jagannath devotees at Alpharetta, Georgia, USA celebrated Rath Yatra here Saturday, a day after the festival was celebrated in Odisha and elsewhere in India.

“Rath Yatra is a flagship event of our community and this year more than 1,500 people including kids gathered to enjoy the festivity and have a holy glimpse of deities on the chariot. It was not just an occasion to touch and pull the chariot; it has been an opportunity to inculcate the universal culture of brotherhood, the central theme of Rath Yatra, in our children. Like every year, we also organised cultural events where devotees from our local community performed. Odia style Prasad was cooked which was relished by the families,” said Gayatri, based in USA

The members also took part in ‘Netrostsav’ June 29th following the rituals practiced in Puri. The participants included an American yoga group, Hindu temple members, Hindu and Odia families settled in America.

Narrating about a miracle involving Lord Jagannath and Rath Yatra, Gayatri recalls, “A few years back the high-tech Meteorological department here predicted heavy showers on the day of Rath Yatra. But from the grace of Lord not a single drop of water fell from the sky when Jagannath, the creator of this universe was on his royal sojourn.”

**Juggernaut on Paris streets**

Based in Paris, Mahina Khanum is a renowned Odissi and Bollywood style dancer and choreographer. Her work centres on the promotion and transmission of Odissi dance, music and Pattachitra.

Talking about the celebration of Rath Yatra in Paris, she shares, “A four-hour-long procession is taken out in Paris every year on the day of Rath Yatra. A stage is erected on the culmination point of the procession where artistes showcase their skills including different Indian arts, dances and bhajan singing. My students in the advanced classes also perform on the occasion.”

Speaking on how Rath Yatra is different in this part of the world, she continues: “People in the Paris metropolis are used to witnessing festivals from many different parts of



the world being celebrated. But they are intrigued by the big chariot of Jagannath when it passes by in the streets and they are genuinely curious to understand what is happening around. And for me, it is always a lovely opportunity to tell them about Odisha and its rich tradition and culture.”

**Rome’s Rath Yatra**

Rossella Rukmini Lozzi, a devotee and an English teacher in Rome, speaking about the annual Rath Yatra in her city, says, “Ratha Yatra has been held here every year since 2015. The procession starts from Piazza Del Popolo, one of the largest urban centres and goes through Via Del Corso, a main street of Rome which resembles the Grand Road of Puri for its width. Deities are brought from Florence temple which is called Villa Vrindavana. This year Rath Yatra was celebrated on May 28, 2022. Hare Krishna devotees distribute sweets and fruits as prasad while devotees come from other cities to participate in Harinam Sankirtan and dance in the honour of Lord Jagannath. Another Rath Yatra will be organised on July 1, the official Indian date, by the Hindu Bangla community of Rome.”

Lozzi also took part in a Rath Yatra at Dublin in Ireland and was quite excited to share her experience.

“It was an amazing experience to watch the Mayor of Dublin participating in Rath Yatra rituals. He not only dressed like Puri Gajapati, but swept the soil with a broom

like Gajapati does on the chariots. The Hindu community was really impressed with his humility,” concludes Lozzi.

**Car festivals in Islamic nations**

Karachi-born Shyam Chandra says, “Inspired by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who started the Hare Krishna Movement in America, some people migrated to Pakistan and carried the custom of Hindu mythology and spoke about Bhagavad Gita and Rath Yatra. Though the Hindu population in Pakistan is just around one per cent of the total population in Pakistan, they celebrate Rath Yatra in different parts of the country. The main Rath Yatra is organised at Swami Narayan Temple in Karachi where elaborate security arrangements are made by the administration to conduct the festival. More than 4,000 devotees participate in Rath Yatra held in Karachi.”

Sharing his Rath Yatra experience in Dubai, Chandra recalls, “Abiding the rules of the local government, we do not celebrate Rath Yatra at public places. We usually book a hall or a school where devotees from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman and other cities of UAE assemble to celebrate the festival. We do kirtan and take out a procession inside the campus while 56 varieties of ‘bhog’ are served to the deities like the way it is done in Puri. Later, they are distributed among the attendees.”



An Odissi recital during Rath Yatra in Paris



Rath Yatra procession in Karachi



A chariot being pulled in Paris

# LET'S LISTEN TO THEM

*There is a need to take all suicidal threats, gestures and attempts seriously and keep lethal objects like ropes, drugs, firearms and sharp items out of reach of a person who is suspected of committing suicide, says psychiatrist Bijayalaxmi Dash*



## WARNING SIGNS

- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide
- Making comments about being hopeless, helpless or worthless
- Increased alcohol intake and/or drug misuse
- Withdrawal from friends, family and community
- Dramatic mood changes
- Talking about feeling trapped or being a burden to others

## Busting myths

- **Myth-** People who talk about suicide, do not commit suicide.
- **Fact-** Nearly 80 per cent people, who commit suicide, give a definite indication about their intentions.
- **Myth-** Suicidal persons are fully intent on dying
- **Fact-** Most suicide persons are undecided about dying or living
- **Myth-** Once a person is suicidal, he/she is suicidal forever
- **Fact-** Suicidal person is suicidal only for a limited period of time.

i.e. listen to the need of the moment. Try to listen to the voice of their silence, if not all at least some lives could be saved,” signs off Dash.

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

**S**ushant Singh Rajput, Jiah Khan and Pratyusha Banerjee in Hindi and now Rashmirekha Ojha and Raimohan Parida in Odia film industry. Apart from their acting skills, one more thing they had in common. All of them committed suicide failing to cope with the pressures of life.

Since, these people were in the showbiz, their sudden exit hogged the limelight. However, it is not just the celebrities, people across professions including the schoolkids are also becoming victims after suffering from depression. But these cases don't get highlighted. Of late, it seems to have become a trend of sorts.

Nobody can say what happens to those who end their lives. But it is certainly painful for the people who are left behind.

With the trend of committing suicide is going up, Sunday POST talked to a few survivors and an expert to ascertain whether these unfortunate incidents could be averted.

### 'Spot the suicide signs'

Rojalin (name changed), an Odia television and film actress who earlier had made a suicide bid by consuming sleeping pills, says it was neither an easy nor an overnight decision. No person can think of leaving this beautiful world unless she is pushed to the wall, she adds.

Sharing her experience,

rience, Rojalin says, “I was in an abusive relationship and life couldn't possibly get any worse. At that time death seemed a much better option than living the rest of my life with such a person. So, one night I swallowed quite a few sleeping pills thinking that the drug overdose was the easiest way to bid adieu. But unfortunately, it didn't work as I couldn't accumulate enough tablets. However, it had harmful effects on my health and I continued to suffer from multiple health disorders after that. But I didn't lose hope and started thinking about other methods.”

Though Rosalin was trying to find new ways to end her life, in her subconscious mind she desperately wished to share her ordeal with someone before saying goodbye. But things took a dramatic turn when she came in contact with a man who was not only all ears to her personal issues but also tried to pull her out from the mess, she recalls. With him around, Rojalin managed to overcome her bitter past and the suicidal tendency. Eventually, they tied the knot and lived happily ever after.

Talking about the lessons she learnt, Rojalin says, people who have suicidal thoughts often want others to listen to them. So, it is very important to spot the signs and talk to them, she adds.

### 'Could have talked to family'

About a decade ago, 35-year-old Smita (name changed) consumed pesticide to kill herself. Reason: She married the man of her choice against her family's wish. But unfortunately, she had a major fall out with her husband soon after the marriage. Being immature, she couldn't share her problems with her family and found committing suicide easier than to take the pressures of life.

But that's not to be. One of her acquaintances rushed to the hospital after finding her lying unconscious in her room. The condition was so critical that she was put on a ventilator and she gained her senses after 45 days. Ironically, it was her family who stood by her and carried the hospital expenses. She survived because she fought for life in her subconscious mind.

Smita, realising her mistake, regrets, “I could have shared my difficulties with my family, especially with the parents who love me so much.”

### 'Listen to their silence'

**Bijayalaxmi Das** works as a psychiatrist and social worker at District Mental Health Programme, Jajpur.

Asked about the possible reasons behind suicidal mindset, she says, “Certain life events



such as loss of loved ones or separation, academic failures, legal difficulties, financial difficulties, bullying, substance abuse, depression, bipolar disorder, chronic physical illness and in some

cases medicine side effects may create suicidal ideation. Committing suicide is a crime and people often do this to escape from life or to punish self or others.

Asked about the preventive measures, Dash says, “We need to take all the suicidal threats, gestures and/or attempts seriously. Besides, we need to consult a psychiatrist and keep all the lethal objects such as sharp objects, ropes, drugs, firearms away from the person for risk reduction. We can also involve him/her in activities like yoga and meditation and several other forms of physical activities.

“If ever you come in contact with someone who is thinking about suicide don't be hesitant to ask or discuss over the matter. If possible be there with them, physically, morally and psychologically



# Disha to play grey in *Ek Villain Returns*

**Mumbai:** All set to be seen in a negative character on the big screen for the first time in her career, Disha Patani is enjoying one of the most interesting phases of her career. She will be seen along with John



Abraham in the forthcoming film *Ek Villain Returns*.

Asked if switching over to a negative character called for some preparation, the actress said, "I just followed my director's advice. I also remember watching a lot of these negative movies and there was a point I was like sir I can't watch it anymore because it's making me into a different human but I just followed what he told me, Mohit sir really knows what he wants and he just makes everybody's life easier."

Disha Patani has previously been noticed for her performance in Mohit Suri's *Malang*. This is the second time she has been roped in for a project by him.

Talking about his experience working with Disha, John said: "I think with Disha, it was a fantastic experience to work with.

It's only rare when you get on screen, and you feel that the chemistry is working, we felt the same with Disha."

# PC gets a shout-out from Mindy Kaling

**Los Angeles:** Priyanka Chopra Jonas recently launched her homeware line in the US and got a shout-out from Hollywood actress Mindy Kaling.

The *Aitraaz* actress recently took to her Instagram handle to share a video featuring some of the products from her new venture as she tries to bring a piece of her Indian heritage to homes in the US. Sharing the video, the actress wrote, 'In addition to being inspired by India, there are many personal tie-ins to this collection, like the lampshades are made using vintage Saris.'

Soon after coming across the video, Mindy took to the comments section and praised the home décor collection. She commented, 'Omg need! They're gorgeous' to which Priyanka responded by writing, 'Thank you!!,' adding a red heart emoji.



# Pushpa act gets Rashmika role in Ranbir movie

**Mumbai:** Actor Rashmika's performance as Srivalli in *Pushpa - The Rise* has made her an overnight sensation and she has been unstoppable ever since. The star's famous *Saami Saami* step remains the trendiest step on social media.

Thanks to her impressive performance in *Pushpa*, Rashmika Mandana has been roped in for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal* alongside Ranbir Kapoor.

Talking about the same, Rashmika says, "The makers of *Animal* approached me for the film after they saw my performance in *Pushpa*. I did not think twice before saying yes to the film because I was confident that the audience would get to enjoy a new

side of me."

The Allu Arjun starrer, *Pushpa - The Rise* was the surprise hit of 2021 and have a fresh impetus to pan-India movies made in Tollywood.

Rashmika played the role of a rural girl in the movie with great conviction and came out with a natural performance that made her a household name as India's 'national crush'.

In *Animal* Rashmika stars opposite Ranbir Kapoor, and in *Mission Majnu*, she stars opposite Sidharth Malhotra and Varisu.



# Zeenat unspools her memories

**New Delhi:** All that is simple is not devoid of a wondrous depth. Speaking at an Interactive session titled *Stories That Matter: With Zeenat Aman*, organised by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in the Capital, Zeenat opened up about her food choice and said: "I am a vegetarian and my favourite food is dhal-chawal."

The actress who gave several hits such as *Satyam Shivam Sundaram*, *Have Rama Have Krishna*, *Qurbani*, *Dhund*, *Don*, *Manoranjan* and *Yaadon Ki Baarat*, was known for doing unconventional roles and breaking the on screen image of traditional Indian women with her bold and bindaas persona.

She said: "I was bold enough to take up roles that other celebrities were hesitant to take up. When I pause and look back, I feel blessed that I had so many opportunities."

While talking about her favourite director, she took the name of legendary Raj Kapoor and called him a perfectionist.

On the question of trolling that many have to face today, she said: "For several personal reasons I am not on social media but trolling was done during our times also in different ways."

IANS





World Kebab Day – July 9

# Kebab Cravings

*Considered one of the many culinary wonders of the Mughal era, Kebabs travelled from Turkey to India towards the end of 14th Century and gained popularity due to its great taste, juicy flavour and enticing aroma.*

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

In a world full of innumerable junk, Kebabs are most prized for their taste and health benefits. Originating in the Turkish kitchen, brought to India by the Afghans and later popularised by the Mughals, the Kebab is one of the most sought after cuisines of the global kitchen.

It gained popularity because of its great taste, juicy flavors and great aroma. No wonder, fans of this dish felt that there should be a day dedicated to celebrate the international love for kebabs. Therefore the world celebrates Kebab Day on the second Friday of July every year.

Ahead of this day, **Sunday POST** takes a look at its origin and what the foodies have to say about this versatile dish.

Kebabs are a healthier fast food option because they are not deep-fried and include bread and salad. The word kebab means ‘to roast’. The term can also be referred to as a meat patty mixed with spices. Kebabs are considered to have originated in Turkey when soldiers used to grill chunks of freshly hunted animals skewered on swords on open field fires. One of the most versatile dishes ever, Kebabs, with the passage of time, have managed to find a very significant place in modern day cuisines.

**Raj Mohanty**, a graduate from KIIT School of Management and Finance also an ardent food lover shares “Kebabs for me are perfect party starters; whenever I visit a restaurant they are a go-to starters from the menu.”

This Bhubaneswar resident is also a passionate food blogger and lists his favorite from the varied kinds of Kebabs on streets.

He says, “My favorites are Pahadi Kebab and Murgh Malai Kebab which are (accompanied with mint chutney) soft and moist bite sized chicken pieces that have been lightly charred to give it a tandoori taste cooked on charcoal grill or sigri.”



**Ankita Tripathy**, a Bachelor of Agriculture, has a fervent love for exploring the streets of Bhubaneswar for food. Sharing her fondness for Kebabs, she says, “When it comes to street foods of Bhubaneswar, Kebabs are my

favorite. And if I go to any restaurant, ordering kebab as a starter is like a ritual. I am a huge fan of Kebabs. Reshmi Kebabs, Achari Kebabs, Seekh Kebabs, Galouti Kebabs and Shammi Kebabs are a must try. I love the way they are cooked and I have always preferred grilled stuff over deep fried and Kebabs are the best option for it. That mélange smoky flavour of Kebabs and its melt-in-mouth texture always makes me crave for more. You can also add veggies like onion, tomatoes and capsicum to your Kebabs to make it more delectable”, she adds.



Speaking to **Sunday POST** she says “I am on a journey of flavours and stories and nothing says delicious like the smell of Kebabs”. This 20-year-old, who now pursues Bachelors in Culinary Arts, School of Hotel Management in Ajeenkya DY Patil University, is also a Food Blogger. She adds, “I have always been a fan of Kebabs since my childhood but the more I have them, the more I love them. The reason of me being a die-hard Kebab lover is not due to the variety of spices or the types of marinade used, but because of the deep enchanting layer of tradition that adds an earthly redolence and an ineffable taste that lingers on.”



Rourkela-based **Aditi Biswal** is always exhilarated when the art of work is food.





Dibyashree

PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP  
 COSTUME: BENORITA DASH, LADYBEN  
 MAKEUP: PRIYANSHU