

DECEMBER 4-10, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



FIFA World Cup special

Fans through and through

P
3,4 COVER STORY



With friends



With actor Babushaan during a shoot

Until a few weeks ago he was just another young aspiring filmmaker of Odia film industry even though he has been in the showbiz for nearly two decades with over a hundred documentaries and shorts to his credit. But following the unprecedented success of DAMaN, writer-editor-director Debi Prasad Lenka is no longer a stranger. Moreover, he is now one of the most sought after names in the business. A promising prospect among newgen filmmakers, the alumnus of Biju Pattanaik Film and Television Institute loves to do a lot of 'gupshup' with his wife about sky, earth and everything in between



SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

No day off

Much like the tag line of Hindi movie 'Holiday - A soldier is never off duty' -, for me, there is no off / holiday. I always love observing and thinking about things in relation to making memories wherever I may go and whatever I may do irrespective of the days or time.

Four-legged baby

I have another baby at home. He is Bruno who loves me a lot and always waits to take a round and play with me.

My go-to cuisine

My wife and I love to eat varieties of food, particularly delicious Biryani. Though I don't get much time for cooking, whenever possible I love to make Dalma, Dal Fry, Dum Aloo, Dahi Bara, Onion Pakora, Chinese foods and of course Chicken Biryani.

'Gupshup' with no boundaries

I play with my 4-year-old son Dishu when I get a break from work. Besides, I love to spend time with my wife Sunanda, a Psychologist by profession. We do a lot of 'gupshup' with no boundaries.



Favourite pastime

First priority is watching movies of different languages and genres. I also love adventure activities but they have been reduced after the birth of Dishu.

WhatsApp This Week
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 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

- What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.
- So what if I don't know what "Armageddon" means? It's not the end of the world.
- My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
- I used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure.

A CREATIVE PURSUIT

Sir, 'Learning life skills from calligraphy' (Nov 27) was a highly educative read as it harped upon the importance of the pristine art form of putting pen to paper. The three Ps--practice, patience and persistence form the bedrock of the process by which mere words are transformed into beautiful visual images. Needless to add, calligraphy by its very nature has immense therapeutic value as it trains your mind and character to slow down, take a pause and analyze your acts, which adds to your mental wellbeing. In order to make an appealing piece of work, one is bound to think and brainstorm, which exercises the brain and way of thinking. Thus cognitive skills are constantly being sharpened which helps keep chronic age-related ailments like Alzheimer's at bay. Besides being a stress-buster & confidence-booster, this ancient art form has myriad benefits. It develops concentration skills and memory retention, broadens vocabulary, and enriches knowledge of language and designing skills, among others. As Joy Vanides Deneen puts it across so succinctly—"Calligraphy is the ultimate synthesis of what I love: language, art, and human connection."

AMIT BANERJEE, NEW DELHI

LETTERS

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
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FIFA WORLD CUP SPECIAL

Odisha, to become the sports capital, has to act at the school level, with every school having sports coaches across at least five disciplines. This will also be beneficial for retiring players who can join as coaches rather than working as clerks and constables, says Bhubaneswar-based Ardor Football Academy coach Jayadev Mahapatra aka JD who is on a mission to build an ecosystem that would produce players of international calibre

Fans through and through

ATRI PRASAD ROUT, OP

On Twitter, a user with the username Rizw4n, October 31, shared a 42-second video with the caption 'behind the scene' and a hashtag 'vamos argentina'. The video was of some eleven men carrying something large. The men passed through the village, holding in their hands what looked like metal bars, as it rained mildly over their heads. Many of them sported jerseys of the Argentinian football team.

Few days before, a picture from India had created a buzz all over the soccer world. As some fishermen cast their nets, a 30-foot-tall larger-than-life cut out of the Argentinian football player Lionel Messi stood on a mound in the middle of a river. The video Rizw4n had shared was of Argentinian fans from the Pullavoor village in Kerala's Kozhikode district carrying that cut out to be installed in the middle of the Kurungattu Kadavu river.

However, what unfolded after was a drama no one had anticipated. Fans of the Brazilian team, in competitive spirit, installed a bigger 40-foot-tall cut out of the star player Neymar Jr just some metres ahead of that of Messi's.

With the intent to top them all, a few days later, fans of the Portuguese star Ronaldo brought up an even bigger cut out of their favourite player, measuring close to 50-feet.

It was a sight to behold, Ronaldo standing behind Messi, standing behind Neymar, each in a race to be the GOAT (greatest of all time), at least in the imagination of these fans who measured their adoration for them in square inches of cardboard.

But sometimes, these fan obsessions cross the limits of what can be considered civil and benign. Instances of fans of rival teams attacking each other in real life, and hurling abuses at each other on online forums, are now a common sight. In Kerala, KK Shajeendran, a football analyst, registered a complaint with the Palarivattom police as he started receiving abusive and threatening messages from fans of an international player he had criticised. "Modern football fans seem to be more fanatic followers of individual players rather than old school fans who supported a club or team. The players they worship are beyond criticism, and the ones who dare do it are singled out for abusive and hateful treatment," Shajeendran told The Hindu.

But the love for football, or any sport for that matter, when channelled in the right direction, can make people do extraordinary things. Biju Patnaik, a former CM of Odisha, played football with his elder brother George Patnaik, and his love for the sport led him to start a national football tournament in Odisha, the Kalinga Cup, which was quite extraordinary for its time.

As fans cheer for their chosen players in the FIFA World Cup 2022, **Sunday POST** sits down with some players and fans whose love for football has pushed them to go beyond their normal responsibilities and take up the larger cause of promoting the game and using it as a tool to bring change in society.

Through thick and thin

As far as fandom goes, there is no fan group more committed than the Juggernauts. They are the official fan club of Odisha FC, an Indian Super League (ISL) football team which has made Odisha its home base since 2019. The Juggernauts make it a point to

attend every game that the club plays at the home stadium and when the game is out of state, they make sure to have its public screenings. They have even planted 101 trees at Dharmashala, Jajpur, commemorating the goals, assists, saves, and clean sheets kept by their team in 2019.

"Fans are also stakeholders in the success of the team," believes Projjal Prajna Das, a founding member of the Juggernauts. "Odisha FC became the first ever club to come out vocally in support of the pride movement. And it's the first club to have a women's team," but even before that, "the Juggernauts have collaborated with organisations like Parichay to create awareness on trans rights."



They have a women's wing, and on International Women's day, they have held training camps and conducted drills and routines for young girls "to pique their interests in football."

Often these initiatives of the fan club surpass those of the team. Their research team produces podcasts that make the game more accessible and help the players connect with the people. During the lockdown, "when social media was flooded with people sharing their experiences with anxiety and depression," they held a seminar on mental well-being with the staff and players of Odisha FC participating. "We had to keep the flame alive, just couldn't let it extinguish," says Projjal, who is also a fan of the German club Bayern Munich.

The fan club, which now has a total of six chapters, not only in cities like Pune and Hyderabad, but also in the US and Canada, has given unwavering support to Odisha FC since the start. "But we haven't always found the team management to be responsive to our inputs and feedback, be it regarding marketing or in public outreach," Projjal says. "They should be more open to the local crowd and organising scouting and training camps will go a long way in earning them the much-needed goodwill," he suggests.



Rajendra Prasad Singh

Quantity yields quality

If fans are the devout followers who preach the religion of football off the field, players are the anointed monks who practise it on the field.

Football has never been as popular in Odisha as it is in the neighbouring state West Bengal. But Odisha has produced players who have gone to play for the national team and for clubs like Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan SC, and BNR. Among these players, **Rajendra Prasad Singh**, from Cuttack, has the most remarkable career.

Though Singh started late, in 1990, he quickly rose to become the captain of the Odisha team playing in the Santosh Trophy, arguably the most prestigious tournament in men's football in India. In 1994, under his captaincy, the Odisha team played the semi-finals, against Kerala. Coincidentally, the last time

Odisha had gone till the semis was under his father Deba Singh's captaincy in 1967-68, where it had lost to Mysore.

His career took off, when in 1997, while playing for SBI, he, by luck he says, was spotted by people from Mohun Bagan. "There I flourished as I played among better players," says Singh, who was a part of the club squads that won the National Football League (NFL) titles three times. Then he played in the Santosh Trophy for West Bengal.

Asked about the dismal football scenario in Odisha in the context of the ongoing FIFA World Cup, he referenced the group stage match where the KSA team, to everyone's surprise, had beaten Argentina. "When the Saudis defeated Argentina, the UAE government declared the next day a national holiday, because they knew their players had achieved something beyond themselves. Likewise, given the quality of our players, we should also appreciate and reward teams who even reach the quarter final stages in national tournaments," he pointed out.

To the question of how we can get better quality players, Singh believes that quantity will yield quality. "We can make better teams only if we have better players. And better players will come up when we will have more people playing football, at more grounds, with more participation in tournaments." And "we can draw more people to the game when we can assure them of a secure future, like giving them jobs through sports quota."

Shradhanjali Samantray, who once captained the women's national team, agrees that tournaments and training will enhance the quality of players. "With events like the U-17 Women's FIFA World Cup, our girls are being exposed to the techniques and tactics of international players, which is helping them improve their game. And with tournaments like Odisha Women's



Shradhanjali Samantray

League and India Women's League, they are getting a chance to refine their skills while playing against quality footballers from other states," says Shradhanjali who mentors several women's football teams in the state.

But other than the government and the associations, RP Singh, who mentors the Sunrise Club in Cuttack, believes parents and media also have a role to



Jayadev Mahapatra with kids from Ardor Football Academy

play in football's success.

On the importance of media and documentation broadly, senior journalist and ardent football fan Samiran Mishra says that when it comes to football, "In Odisha, we haven't been great at record keeping." Giving an example he adds, "There's little to no recognition for Abdul Majid Bachan, from Cuttack, who went on to captain Mohammedan Sporting, eventually becoming the first India international from Odisha. There should be a conscientious effort from the state sports bodies and the government to preserve records of the legendary feats that athletes from the state have achieved."

From slums to stardom

In the state capital, football is adopting new trends after the pandemic. The football-playing crowd of the city has wholeheartedly embraced futsal, a football-like game that's played on a hard court with five or six players on each side. "There aren't simply enough grounds to hold matches with 11-player teams. Also we don't have enough time and now you have a couple of futsal turfs in the city that you can rent to host matches," explains Swagat Kumar Jena, 22, a player who fell in love with the game watching the 2010 World Cup through his neighbour's window.

But **Jayadev Mahapatra**, JD as people call him, is on a mission to build an ecosystem in the state that would produce players of international calibre. In 2012, with a coaching licence from AIFF, he started Ardor Football Academy (AFA). The goal was to scout the city slums for children with raw talent, and then turn them into professional players. When asked why slum kids, Jayadev says, "the kids of these slums, who often come from tribal communities, are more independent, smart, and very fearless. And slum kids have always been great players, take

Neymar for example."

Ardor, which now has some 22 centres and 32 coaches across Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, made headlines in Odisha when two of its cadets, Sunil Soren and Ranjan Soren, both from the Salia Sahi slum, were picked up by the Punjab FC. JD, who believes "Sports is a clear indicator of social development," has made two rules for his club: the students have to continue education, attend school regularly, and stay away from drugs and alcohol. "We have developed a kind of discipline in these kids. The game has kept them away from substance abuse and created among themselves a sense of camaraderie," says JD who has faith in the ability of sports to build good human beings.

As the academy doesn't charge any fees, JD has been running it with his own money. But that is beginning to change as Ardor has formed partnerships with private schools like ODM and Wisdom Tree to train their students. "Out of the 48 lakh of our annual operational cost, now only 20 per cent comes from these private schools, but we have a plan to develop a sustainable model," he adds.

Speaking on the state of football in Odisha, he says, "We haven't become the sports capital of the country, we are only the organising capital, we give the money and we have stadiums," but to really become the sports capital, "we have to act at the grassroots, at the school level, with every school having sports coaches across at least five disciplines, which will also be beneficial for retiring players who can join as coaches rather than working as clerks and constables."

Though the state of sports in Odisha is not too encouraging, JD, who preaches the idea of 'football for all', is confident that soon some of his players will shine at the international level, a dream that keeps him going.



Her objective is to present melodies based on meaningful lyrics and contemporary socio-cultural issues, says singer Susmita Das who has recently been selected for Sangeet Natak Akademi honour

'Music has always been a therapy'

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

She lent voice to *Prithvi Manthan*, the first song in India to be backed by a United Nations body. Her album *Aigiri Nandini*, celebrating womanhood, ranks among the most sensational pieces of audio-visual work. Then, it was her mellifluous voice which forced eminent poet and lyricist Devdas Chhotray, who had decided to give up writing after the demise of great Akshay Mohanty, to drop his retirement plan.

With over 500 live performances and multiple national and international awards to her credit, famous singer Susmita Das has been ruling the hearts of millions of music lovers over the years.

It is little wonder then that she has recently been selected for prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi honour.

The versatile singer took some time off to speak to **Sunday POST** on a host of topics.

Excerpts:

■ **How important an honour or an award is for a creative person and what's your reaction to Akademi honour.**

■ Awards are perceived to be recognition of one's efforts and creativity. However, it necessarily doesn't mean that all deserving efforts are rewarded. But awards certainly make one feel good. But getting recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi is something out of the world. When the award was announced I couldn't believe it, I went numb. It never occurred to me that I would be picked up for such an honour. For me it is like attaining salvation.

■ **What remains your priority before you choose a song?**

■ I have always believed in the quality of my songs; you may even say I am quite fussy about it. My objective is to present melodies based on meaningful lyrics and on contemporary socio-cultural and traditional issues. My desire has been to touch the chords of sensibility in my listeners and leave an impact. That is why I am so particular about the lyrics. I have also tried to make songs on folk tunes and based on tribal themes. I have also tried my hands on complex

subjects like Tantrik Buddhism and a different interpretation of Yoginis of Odisha.

■ **Who are your inspiration and the reason thereof?**

■ There are many. In my childhood my mother was my inspiration. She, a student of legendary musician Balakarushna Das, was herself a very good singer. But for a middle class family getting into music was a taboo at that time. So, after marriage she never had any scope. But she encouraged me to sing, although I never received any formal training. Then, after marriage my mother-in-law encouraged me to sing and I started getting formal training from Sunakar Sahu. When I decided to become a professional singer, eminent poet Devdas Chhotray inspired me. I was impressed by the way he seamlessly conveyed the essence of his writings in a language that touches the hearts of the listeners. He became my mentor. I even drew inspiration from young composers like Abjijit Mishra, Pankaj Jal, Biswajit Mohapatra and Somesh Satpathy. And of course, Akshay Mohanty has always been my inspiration. He is the God of modern Odia music.

■ **Yes, you often have mentioned that you were close to him (Akshaya Mohanty). Could you please share your experience?**

■ As a child I was greatly influenced by Akshaya Mohanty who used to visit our school to mentor us. We were participating in an All-India chorus competition under his guidance. He was a master in this field and a legend. I sort of, was in love with his songs and his style of singing. I could actually feel the emotions in his songs.

Listening to his songs took me

to a different level; to a different world. I was his Ekalabya.

■ **Akshaya Mohanty's most creations are in and about the vibe of Cuttack. In fact, most of Devdas Chhotray's work has been given music to by him, how is your understanding with him?**

■ I was born and brought up in Cuttack, therefore, I strongly relate to both of them. However, my professional singing career started after Akshaya Mohanty passed away. I met Devdas Chhotray by chance during the making of *Maya Darpan*. He was very impressed that I was attempting to sing the classic poems of Mayadhar Mansingh, the ultimate romantic poet. He volunteered to guide me through the journey of *Maya Darpan*. The title was in fact coined by him. In the album he has introduced each song in his own inimitable style. Devdas Bhai particularly liked the clarity in my pronunciation. All that I am today is due to his inspiration. He once told me "I had decided to stop writing lyrics after the death of 'Khoka Bhai' but now I will write for you".

■ **Which genre of music will always be your first in the priority list?**

■ My first choice is to go for expressive and decent

poems that touch the heart. Most of my songs are written by Devdas Chhotray and quite a number by Hara Prasad Das. Besides, I have enjoyed singing poems written by Kulamani Biswal, Mohit Chakraborty, Manaroma Choudhury, Asima Sahu, Sachchi Mohanty, Sangram Mohanty and so on. I have sung only one song written by Dr. Pratibha Ray and I have a desire to sing some more of her songs. I also like to make songs on contemporary issues like Environment, Women's Empowerment, Cleanliness, self-respect. *Prithvi Manthan* a unique creation on Climate Change and Sustainable lifestyle has got recognition at international platforms. *Yogini*, a film on women's pride which comprises 28 songs sung by me and written by Hara Prasad Das has been awarded in international film festivals. I wish someday people in Odisha will see and appreciate this unique film which is beautifully directed by Biyotprajna Tripathy. Shortly I am going to release nine songs based on tribal tunes from different parts of the state, which have the flavour of the soil.

■ **Of all your renditions, which one till date is your favourite?**

■ I guess since I had always gone for the quality of songs even at the expense of quantity, all my songs have been accepted by the listeners. It all started with *Maya Darpan* and I feel my first impression on my listeners is still alive and green in their hearts. I think *Ei Sabakara Tale*, the greatest contemporary romantic poem as Devdas Bhai puts it, is my favourite. *Prithvi Manthan*, the song on climate change took me to the next level. I was over-



Susmita Das

whelmed when Wetland International approached me to produce a song on Wetland Conservation to create global awareness. My song on Environmental conservation with school children of BJEM School is also very close to my heart.

■ **Has music ever been a therapy to you?**

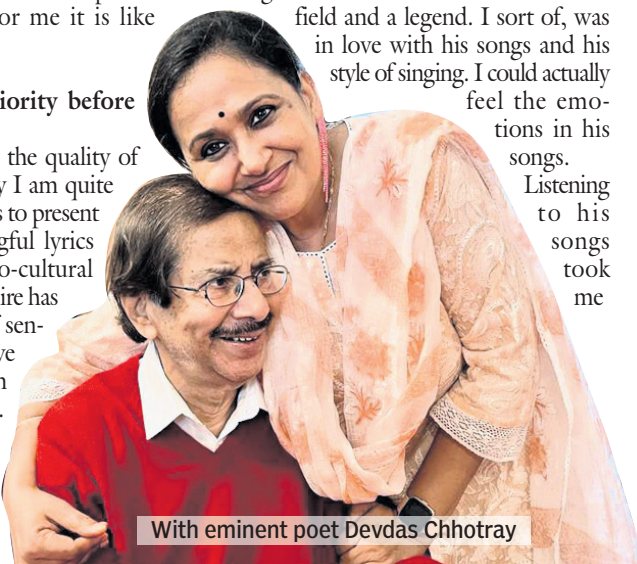
■ In my late twenties I had gone through severe depression due to an unfortunate incident in the family. Music pulled me out from the depths of the trauma. It has become my life. It has always been my therapy; when I am in a good or blue mood.

■ **How supportive is your family towards you as a singer?**

■ My husband has not only encouraged me, but my two daughters also to vigorously chase our passions. He unconditionally supports me to pursue music, my elder daughter to build a career in a foreign country and my younger daughter to become a basketball player. My daughters are also very accommodative. They never complained about anything. This gave me a free hand.

■ **And finally, if you had to collaborate with somebody from the Indian music industry, who would that be and which piece would you like to recreate with that person?**

■ I identify myself more intimately with the music of the golden era. In my dream I wish to sing sitting at the feet of Lata Mangeshkar!!!! I also like music of the current days. Maybe I would like to sing compositions by Shantanu Moitra.



With eminent poet Devdas Chhotray

Palak can't wait to share screen with Sanjay Dutt

Debutante Palak Tiwari, daughter of TV star Shweta Tiwari, recently wrapped up the shoot of *Kisi ka Bhai Kisi ki Jaan* starring Salman Khan. She will be seen in a very different role in her next project *The Virgin Tree*, which also features Sanjay Dutt. Helmed by debutant director Sidhaant Sachdev the horror-comedy film's cast includes Sunny Singh, Mouni Roy, apart from Palak and Sanjay. Speaking about starting a new film shoot the young actress whose first film is awaiting release, described it as a surreal experience.

"I can't wait to share screen space with Sanjay Sir. There is so much knowledge he can impart to all of us. Sunny is such a delight to work with. He is so naturally funny and charming on-screen. The whole cast is brilliant," Palak said. The movie is being shot in Pune. IANS



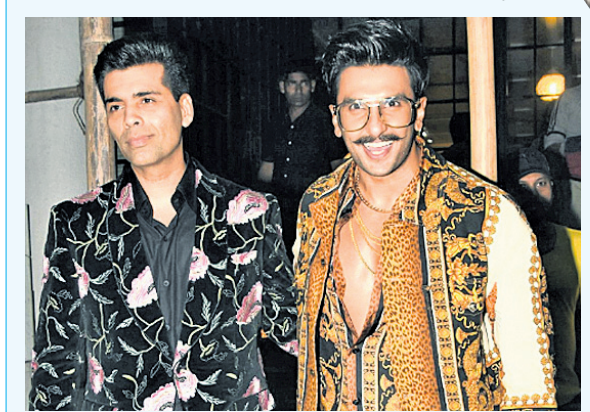
Huma looks fiery in red



A lavish party for the success of *Monica O My Darling* was hosted in Mumbai by the production company Matchbox Shots and Netflix. Celebrities like Anurag Kashyap, Radhika Apte, Huma Qureshi, Sanjay Rautray, Diksha Rautray, Huma Qureshi, Sonakshi Sinha. Although they were all as glamorous as ever, Huma Qureshi was the centre of attention as the complete cast of the film came out in full force. The actress made a bold fashion choice that caught everyone's attention.

Huma played muse to fashion designer house YAURA and picked a sultry cutout gown from the shelves of the designer house. Except for the striking colour, of course. Diamond-shaped cutouts ran the length of her torso, from the top of her long arms to her waist. The length of the dress then ended in a cinched-up slit across the front. Her dress was paired with strap heels and it matched the colour of her dress and. Huma Qureshi had her hair neatly pulled up and her face was framed by large gold hoops. Her face was framed by thick brows, which she styled with a neutral-toned lip and a hint of bronzer on the cheekbones. The attire is perfect for the party season and should be on your mood board. AGENCIES

KJo wants Ranveer to play his biopic



Filmmaker Karan Johar said that he wants actor Ranveer Singh to be part of his biopic as he can play his part perfectly. Apart from this he also revealed that he wants his childhood to be depicted on-screen because he has amazing childhood memories and his parents taught him a lot of good lessons.

During the live show on Roposo, when the *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* director was asked who can portray his part best in his biopic, he said: "I think Ranveer Singh. He is like a chameleon, and he will do his best."

Karan was born to film producers Yash Johar, and Hiroo Johar and made his directorial debut with *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. Later, he also directed *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, *My Name Is Khan*, *Student Of The Year*, and many more.

Karan also revealed that even though he is called KJo, he dislikes the nickname and would like people to call him Karan. He shared his wish to have international stars Ellen DeGeneres and Meryl Streep as guests on his talk show someday.

You can't compete with my outfit: Uorfi to Sunny



Bigg Boss OTT fame Uorfi Javed is known for her unusual fashion statement. Her unique outfits often grab eyeballs. From choosing ropes, wires, stones, broken glasses, or flower petals, she keeps experimenting with her dressing style.

In fact, the host of *Splitsvilla X4* Sunny Leone also complimented her for her short black dress with two swans covering her bust.

Sunny, who is seen as a host on the show, says: "Uorfi your outfit is amazing and absolutely perfect as beachwear. I love your choice of outfits and this looks fab."

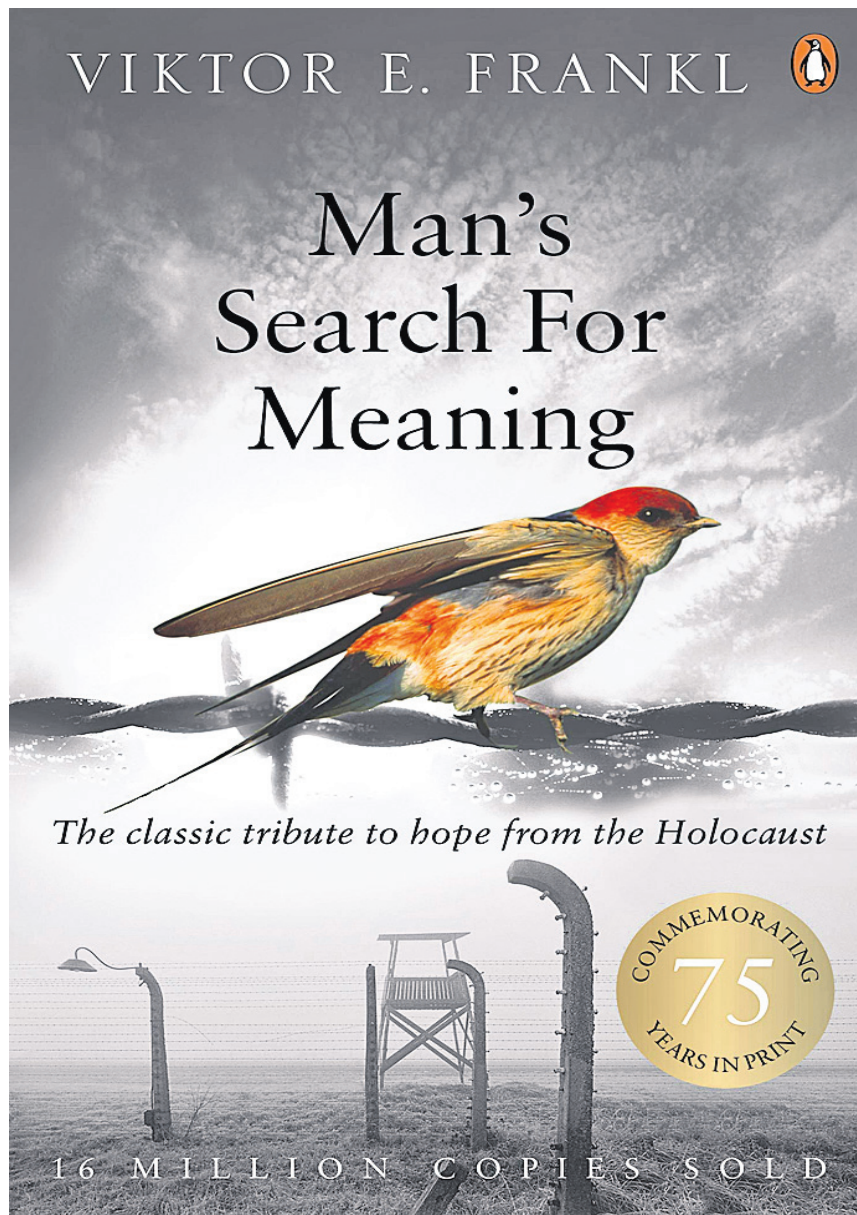
Uorfi replies: "I am known for my unique dress sense. You can compete with me, but you can't compete with my outfit, as it is always out of anyone's imagination." Looking at the outfit and the two swans, Arjun Bijlani just started singing *Chalo Ishq Ladaaye*.

Moreover, in the coming episode, Uorfi will be having a huge fight with her connection Kashish Thakur.

Both will decide to part ways and are seen crying on the show.

Hosted by Arjun Bijlani and Sunny Leone, the dating-based reality show *Splitsvilla X4* airs on MTV. IANS

A hymn to man's indomitable spirit



love and in love. Love goes beyond the physical person of the beloved. It finds its deepest meaning in his spiritual being, his inner self whether or not one is actually present whether or not still alive at all, ceases somehow to be of importance.

Not everybody is capable of such spiritual heights and to those who despised their circumstances at the camp and questioned life Frankl says, it did not really matter what we expected from life rather what life expected from us. We needed to stop asking about the meaning of life and instead think of ourselves as those who were being questioned by life—daily and hourly. Life ultimately means taking responsibility, to find the right answer to its problems and to fulfil the tasks which it constantly sets for each individual. No man's destiny is like that of another and each individual's response would be different. Either he makes the effort to change his fate by action and where it is beyond his control he

accepts and tries to transcend his circumstances through positive thought and conduct. One could make a victory of painful experiences, see them as challenges and opportunities and rise above the present or simply ignore them and vegetate as most prisoners did.

Frankl maintains that Man can preserve a vestige of spiritual freedom, an independence of mind even in extreme conditions of psychic and physical stress. There were those in concentration camps who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread which shows how man can be brutal or noble by exercising a choice. When Frankl earns his liberation from the horrors of the Nazi camp, in thanksgiving he kneels and repeats the line of the psalm "I called to the Lord from my narrow prison and he answered me in the freedom of space". The homecoming was wonderful in the sense that after all that he suffered there is nothing he need fear except his God.

The horrific experience of the concentration camp led to his discovery of logotherapy, a school of therapy called by some The Third Viennese school of Psychotherapy which focuses on the meaning of human existence and man's search for such a meaning. Less retrospective and less introspective than Freudian psychoanalysis and Adler's psychology, it focuses on the future, on the meanings to be fulfilled by the patient in his future. Responsibility as logotherapy says is the very essence of human existence and the main motivation in life is not pleasure or power but meaning. The aim of logotherapy is an existential analysis of the person and in so doing to help him uncover or discover the meaning of life. There are many who live in an existential vacuum which prevents action from being taken and meaning from being found.

Man needs to live for something beyond himself, for a loved one, for an ideal, a creative pursuit or self fulfilment which gives purpose and meaning to mere existence. Often we are led into depression when there is a mismatch between our lived experience and our desired experience, between the meaninglessness of everyday life and the innate drive to find meaning, inability to self actualize, to be all that we can be. The experience of depression teaches us to be aware of our mortality and freedom and challenges us to exercise the latter within the framework of the former. By meeting this ultimate challenge we can break out of the cast that has been imposed on us, discover who we truly are and in so doing give a deeper meaning to our life. Happiness or success doesn't happen in active pursuit but they ensue out of meaningful efforts.

It is not to say that suffering is indispensable to the discovery of meaning of life but if it is impossible to remove the cause of suffering and we cannot change a situation that causes suffering at least man is free to choose his attitude. Frankl at the end says in ominous terms "For the world is in a bad state, but everything will become still worse unless each of us does his best. So let us be alert in a twofold sense: Since Auschwitz we know what man is capable of. And since Hiroshima we know what is at stake." A quotation from Albert Einstein would be appropriate. "The world would not be destroyed by those who do evil but by those who watch them without doing anything". The cruellest lies are told in silence.



SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

Is there Meaning in suffering? This is the eternal question that man has tried to find answers to ever since civilisation set us through the evolutionary process. And it is this question that Dr Victor Frankl, psychiatrist and neurologist fields in his book *Man's Search for Meaning* and leads us through a rewarding quest. Having survived the horrors and iniquities of the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Dachau he has lived to tell the tale of man's triumph against overwhelming odds and taught generations of men how to live through suffering and find meaning. An enduring work of survival literature, it is a hymn to the indomitable nature of man, the phoenix rising in each of us who choose life before flight. This is not the story of great men and women, of intellectual or artistic ability or other distinguishing markers but ordinary people who try to find meaning in suffering. This is an autobiography on reading which we realise that we have nothing to lose except our ridiculously naked life in circumstances where all that is familiar and loved is snatched away.

There is the initial cold detached curiosity about one's fate but there also come strategies to preserve the remains of one's life even through remote chances of survival. "Hunger, humiliation, fear and deep anger at injustice are rendered tolerable by closely guarded images of beloved persons, by religion, by a grim sense of humour and even by glimpses of the healing beauties of nature— a tree or sunset". These moments of comfort do not establish the will to live unless they help the prisoner make sense out of his apparently senseless suffering. Here we encounter the central theme of existentialism: to live is to suffer, to survive is to find meaning in the suffering. If there is a purpose in life at all, there must be a purpose in suffering and dying. Each man must find out his own purpose and must accept the responsibility that his answer prescribes. If he succeeds he will continue to grow in spite of all indignities. Frankl quotes Nietzsche more than once "He who has a 'why', to live can bear with almost any 'how'".

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing, the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given circumstances, to choose one's own way." This is the spiritual freedom, the way he takes up his cross, the chance to make use of or forego the opportunity of attaining the moral values that a difficult situation may afford him, and this decides whether he is worthy of his sufferings or not. Frankl believes in the transcendental power of love. Recalling the image of his wife in the direst of his moments he comprehends the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth is, love is the ultimate and the highest goal man can aspire. The salvation of man is through

Priyanka



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