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SUNDAY POST

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Summer Camps

Making kids future-ready

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COVER
STORY

MY SUNDAY

Growing up in Baripada, a sleepy town in Mayurbhanj, couldn't prevent well-known travel photographer Satyam Bhuyan from becoming the brand ambassador for global brands like Adobe Lightroom and Nikon at a very young age. An alumnus of the KIIT School of Management, Satyam has bagged multiple awards with his photographs, earning appreciation at national and international shows



With parents

Early bird

I wake up early and head to nearby places to take pictures. Afterward, I spend time watching movies, going for a short ride, and enjoying free time editing pictures.

Cultural explorer

I love travelling to different locations in India and immersing myself in their cultures and festivals.

A gourmand

There is nothing I like more than Italian cuisine when it comes to eating out. Though I am a foodie, I make sure to burn those extra calories to remain in shape.

Antique collector

When I get a break from my busy schedule, I love to collect rare and unique coins and watches, which I'm passionate about.

Homesick

Since my dad had a transferable job and I pursued my bachelor's degree in Punjab, we didn't enjoy enough family time. So, when we get together at Baripada, we make sure to have a blast.

MADHUSMITA SAHU, 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

- The adjective for metal is metallic, but not so for iron which is ironic.
- Justice is a dish best served cold because if it were served warm, it would be justwater.
- Dream carefully, because dreams come true.
- Don't be irreplaceable - if you cannot be replaced, you cannot be promoted.

DISTURBING STATS

Sir, The Sunday POST's cover story from last week, 'A wake-up call', April 30, was truly an eye-opener. It's disturbing to learn that over 2,000 students have ended their lives in just three years over various issues. If this was the number reported by an agency, I wonder, how many students would have died in reality, as many such cases go unreported in rural areas of the country. It was rightly highlighted that social media is playing a big role in the rising stress levels of schoolchildren. Social media is not only a distraction for the students; the content therein often incites the young minds to take such extreme steps. The parents also don't help the cause by putting additional pressure on their wards to outperform their friends in educational institutions. It's about time to teach the students that failure is part of life and there is no shame in it. The amount of effort put in is what matters most.

PRITHVI BEHERA, BHUBANESWAR

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 B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

Summer Camps

Making kids future-ready

Summer camps for kids and youngsters not only provide them an escape from their non-monotonous days of summer vacations, but can also act as a platform to be engaged in life enriching co-curricular activities

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

The 1998 film *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* showed millennial kids at a dreamy summer camp. It was a bunch of fun and unlimited sports for kids from various schools on an outskirts retreat for the summer season. While millennials were not able to materialise it, kids and youngsters from this generation, specifically from Odisha, can surely do so. With the mercury soaring up steadily, schools have announced their summer holidays early. And this is that period of the year when students can break their day-to-day monotony and engage in more fun-productive activities. Many organisations and schools have armed themselves to provide this holistic experience of providing physical, emotional, intellectual, adventurous and exciting activities that can enable the kids' overall growth while steering clear of the heat.

This summer, Sunday POST takes a look at a few schools and organisations that have been conducting summer camps for years and are now adding various other activities to keep their students engaged during this break.

SUMMER SCAPE 2.0

Empires Hotel Bhubaneswar, in association with Delhi Public School Kalinga, is once again coming up with the second edition of Summer Scape 2 (summer camp 2023) with fun filled learning activities for students like singing, dancing, yoga, swimming, a magic show and a little master chef session this year.

Sanjay Mishra, Vice President of Empires, says, "The objective of this summer camp is to provide an extra-mural activity-oriented learning platform for school students to dive into the deep ocean of worldly activi-



Ramp show of a mother-daughter duo at Empires Hotel



Sanjay Mishra

ties outside their academic curriculum. During the summer vacation of 2023, the aim is to enhance and enrich the hidden potential of kids by expanding their capabilities. All we want to do is bring out their quintessential God-gifted intrinsic hidden talent." Narrating the perks of the camp, Mishra adds, "Students from classes 1 to 7 can participate and will receive 'Summer Scape' t-shirts on the first day of the camp. As we all know, prizes and tokens are always motivational and give a chunk of happiness to the youngsters. Hence, we have trophies, certificates and gifts on Grand Finale Day from the celebrity judges".

"We believe parents' involvement in the activities with their kids is equally important and for that, we have a ramp show on the Grand Finale Day, the Parent-Kid Duo. The finale will showcase extravagant performances including Odissi dance, music performance, yoga performance, master chef session and magic show by the instructor/gurus along with respective category participants," Mishra informs.

SAI SUMMER FIESTA 4.0

SAI International, the leading education group, began a pioneering revolution in the K-12 educational scenario in Odisha. SAI Summer Fiesta, which is in its fourth edition, entails the most cherished ten days that not only help kids develop 21st century abilities and learning skills but also give them a much-needed break from their monotonous routine schedule. "Our continual goal has been to make sure that learning never stops and has a lifelong, profound impact. Encouraging the children to utilise the

long summer vacation not in the sun but indoors, enjoyably learning new skills and engaging in immersive activities that develop kinesthetic, creative, communicative and critical thinking skills," says Sr. Principal Nilakantha Panigrahi.

He further adds, "The school is fully equipped to propagate hybrid learning (both online and offline) via engaging, immersive teaching and



Nilakantha Panigrahi

learning processes. However, owing to the government's announcement of an early summer vacation due to the heat wave, we have organised a twelve-day virtual Summer Fiesta for our students this year. We have

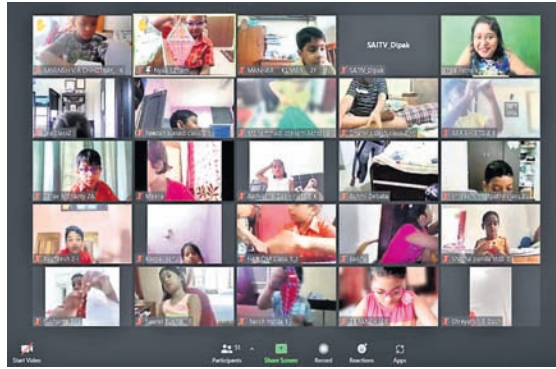
invited luminaries from national and international forums representing different segments to make the sessions more engaging, intellectually stimulating and productive."

This Summer Fiesta will have participation from students in Standard III to VIII.



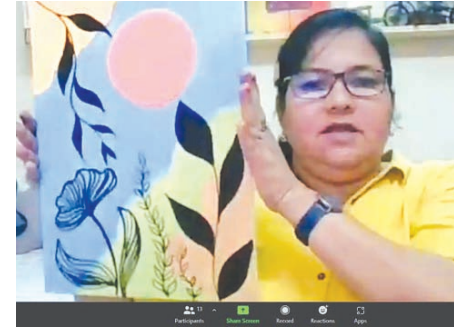
Virtual craft making sessions at SAI International





Online participation

coding, magic with science, storytelling, puppetry, communication workshops and expert sessions on leadership, motivation, emotional well-being and a lot more. We try our best to inculcate pedagogies that involve art-integrated learning and music-integrated learning to foster socio-emotional learning amidst young minds, thereby unlocking every child's inherent potential by making learning a pleasant activity to participate in."



The institution believes it is necessary to provide the children with physical and emotional wellbeing through immersive and joyful learning. The school's virtual infrastructure for the so-called "New Normal" is instrumental in catching up with the uncertain future possibilities. The call of the day is to 'reorient', 'reinvent', 'relearn' and

're-process', in order to build the Gen Z human resource. This camp aims at augmenting experiences and opportunities that help make the enrolled students future-ready and armed with a new set of life skills that focus primarily on developing the spirit to fight against adversities, strengthening resilience, building confidence, understanding

and self-introspection.

Elaborating on the curriculum for the programme, Panigrahi adds, "For SAI Summer Fiesta 4.0, we have hands-on learning sessions on art and craft, diverse dance forms, musical instruments, cooking, indoor plant decorations, interior designing, web designing, photography, video editing,



Kids prepping their projects at Unmukt Foundation

BREATHING LIFE INTO EDUCATION

Unmukt Foundation started functioning in 2013 with a small act of kindness: distributing traditional oil lamps during Diwali. Soon it was on the way to achieve its goal of providing education to children in need while also keeping environmental sustainability a priority.

Like many other organisations involved in educating kids, the Foundation also conducts an annual summer camp to teach hands-on skills to the growing up children.

Describing about its three-day camp, Founder Shweta says, "Our summer camp is based on Unmukt's flagship model, PEACE. We



Shweta Agarwal

offer a diverse range of activities over three days, including martial arts, coding, painting, dance, meditation, journaling, and more. Our camp is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn new skills, explore their interests, and get ready for the upcoming

academic year. We also invite external guests to conduct sessions and provide wholesome, healthy food for the children."

She further adds, "At Unmukt Foundation, we believe in providing a holistic experience to children at our summer camp. Instead of just focusing on fun, we aim to help children develop their physical, emotional, academic, and creative skills while also encouraging environmental action. We work with underprivileged children between the ages of 7 and 15 in Bhubaneswar. We group the children according to their age and understanding to ensure they have a meaningful and enjoyable experience."

Asked about the need for such events, she says "Summer camp is an essential opportunity for children to learn new skills, open up, and explore their interests in a non-judgmental and pressure-free environment.

"We focus not only on academic learning but also on important human skills such as collaboration, communication, and leadership. We provide a loving, safe and nurturing environment for children to learn, grow, and have fun. We also offer creativity kits, journals, and gifts to help children start the new academic year with positivity and hope," concludes Shweta.

HAVING FUN WHILE LEARNING

Ashani Abacus is a complete brain development programme that started its operations in Bhubaneswar in 2005. It has garnered a name for child skill development in the state of Odisha. Founder-Director Gitanjali Gouda says that the programme was set up by women entrepreneurs in order to develop the mathematical and brain skills of young children using the magic tool of the abacus.

Detailing about it, Gitanjali says, "Ashani Art and Abacus is affiliated with Ashani Abacus Trust. We provide mental arithmetic (abacus) to 4-14-year-old children. It is an off-time course for children. We also provide the Kalfun math tool, an abacus/mental arithmetic course, a vedic mathematics course, fine art, a handwriting

course, robotics for students from standard 3 and spoken English. Due to the heat, Summer Camp 2023 has been scheduled for the second week of May. Apart from the activities mentioned, we have a delightful time with nature. Crafts, painting, plantation and snack preparation are also included for the involvement of kids."

"Summer camps enable children to develop confidence, independence, social skills, leadership skills and physical fitness. Summer camp is a specially crafted programme designed for children and teenagers during their summer vacation holidays as they come together and have fun while learning lifelong lessons," claims founder Rabintra Nath Gouda.



Gitanjali Gouda with Rabintra Nath Gouda



Founder-Director with participants of Ashani Abacus

Batting for marriage equality

Though the government has agreed to confer some rights to same-sex couples in the just-concluded Supreme Court hearing, gender specialist Hiranmayee Mishra says it is important to allow people in such relationships to have legal and societal recognition and to live with dignity

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Though it has been nearly five years since the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality in India in a historic decision, the community still battles to get the rights to equality of marriage. This is despite having generous mentions about non-heterosexual relationships in Hindu mythology and Indian history. There are also expressions of multiple orientations of sexualities and eroticism in the sculptures of Khajuraho and Mughal miniature paintings.

It remains a long-drawn struggle for the LGBTQ+ community but one could see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with the government finally agreeing to some rights of its members following a fortnight-long hearing in the apex court. However, it still opposes to solemnization of same-sex marriage under Special Marriage Act.

With less than a month to go before LGBT Pride Month, **Sunday POST** sat down with an expert and a couple of members of Queer community.

Here's what they have to share.

Need to create a culture that embraces different choices

Hiranmayee Mishra | Gender specialist

Noted author and gender specialist Hiranmayee Mishra is of the view that the society is in a state of transition and that people seem to be uncertain about their opinions and preferences regarding same-sex marriage.

"There are a few who oppose it in whispers, while others have fluctuating views. The lack of progressiveness and global awareness among decision-makers has created new obstacles to the legalisation of same-sex marriage in India. However, I'm optimistic as it is important to allow people in such relationships to have legal and societal recog-



nition and to live with dignity," says the writer of Megha Pakhira Geeta.

She believes that the media can play a significant role in this matter.

"I think the media should play a sensible role in spreading awareness about same-sex marriage by featuring panel discussions and well-articulated articles by people with the right orientation. I don't want to comment on the religious values related to same-sex marriage, but I believe that culture is dynamic, and it is important to create a culture that is liberal, progressive and accommodating different choices. I do not see any challenge in this and feel that by not legalising same-sex marriage, we are creating a challenge for innocent people who want to live a happy married life," says the Political Science professor of Udaynath Autonomous College, Niali.

Legalising same-sex marriage does not mean that everyone will engage in it, just as not legalising it will not stop people from living with their preferred partners, concludes Mishra.

You don't fall in love with the gender, but with the person

Aroop Anand | LGBTQ+ activist

It's frustrating that a larger section of the society doesn't take queer marriages too

kindly, says Aroop Anand, an out-of-closet.

Society was not ready to give up dowry (and still isn't), even when it was made illegal by the law. After the NALSA court judgment, many did not and still don't recognise transsexual people, he laments adding that it's the societal collective conscience that should change, when it comes to such sensitive issues.

"We have violence, abuse, discrimination, and even death because we rely on majoritarian societal morality to manage the lives and liberties of a minority community," Aroop mentions.

He says, "Marriage for same-sex will not make much of a difference to many people, but the package of rights that comes with it is what makes the real difference. A culture obsessed with affinal partnerships and their sanctioning will never recognise the ties between two individuals who are not married. The shift in thinking must begin somewhere, and laws and judicial declarations can help influence that mindset to some extent. The

danger of viewing society as a homogeneous group is imminent. The human race is diverse. To portray majoritarian feelings as social morality is incompatible with the concepts of a constitutional democracy and an equitable society."

Aroop further points out, "It's about time we educated people that using terms like 'chhakka', 'gandu', 'faggot', 'gay', and 'hijra' is quite derogatory. Society is evolving. Gender identity or sexual orientation are no longer grounds to offend people."

He goes on to explain, "You don't fall in love with the gender, but with the person. I believe that India is welcoming the LGBTQ+ community, but at the same time, I've seen people in India who don't embrace it too easily. It is heartbreaking to see families disowning their children for being who they are, and it only adds to the struggles that the LGBTQ community already faces."

It is important to create a safe and accepting environment for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, Aroop signs off.

Human rights should always prevail over religious beliefs

A Law student

Under the condition of anonymity, a law student from Bhubaneswar, who comes from a traditional middle-class family declares that although he does not place much importance on labels, he is bisexual. Like many other queer people in India, he is keenly following the proceedings of the Supreme Court on the validity of same-sex marriage, and hoping that one day he will be able to marry a man of his choice and be recognised as his husband.

"The just-concluded legal proceedings on same-sex marriage are distressing and dehumanising for me and other queer individuals. The Solicitor General and the government's arguments and comments lack basic decency and respect, and the language used to refer to queer people is insensitive and degrading," he says.

Batting for the benefits of legalisation he clarifies, "Marriage equality would allow queer couples to be legally and socially recognised, and it would provide them with the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples. The lack of legal recognition for queer couples not only violates their dignity but also makes their daily lives more difficult. Marriage equality would also pave the way for other positive changes for the LGBTQ+ community, such as anti-discriminatory laws and adoption rights."

He expects stiff resistance of same-sex marriage in India due to the country's strong religious beliefs. At the same time he also believes that human rights should always prevail over religious beliefs.



Photo credits: Google images

'Will learn from my mistake'

Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan debutant Palak Tiwari made a comment that Salman Khan had a rule about how women should dress on the sets of *Antim*. Salman, in another interview, addressed her remarks and shared that women's bodies are more precious and should be covered. Since the comments about the dress code for women have blown up, Palak addressed them again where she stressed that she didn't mean to imply anything inappropriate about Salman and his methods on set.

Palak later clarifying the misunderstanding, said, "It's part and parcel of what we do. Also, I'm not really taken aback by it, since I know Salman sir is an extremely understanding individual and he knows me. He knows that I would never say anything malapropos about him, ever. I take this as more of a learning experience. This is the best way to learn, making a mistake (since) I never want to be in that position again. I think it's the most conducive way to learn. I made a mistake, I'll learn and it's something I'll keep in mind for the rest of my life now".

AGENCIES



Yami elated over audience reaction

Lost actress Yami Gautam Dhar has been delivering quality content since her very first film, *Vicky Donor* with Ayushmann Khurrana, or her latest film, *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* with Sunny Kaushal. With time, she has managed to carve out a niche audience for herself.

In an interview, Yami shared how ecstatic and grateful she is for the faith audiences have shown towards her. She said, "Audiences have started developing this faith that if Yami is a part of a film, it must be something interesting. Even before the pandemic, *Uri* and *Bala* were the last two theatrical releases I had and I was fortunate that they were an amalgamation of not just successful films but good films".

Yami has given

multiple hits recently, including *A Thursday*, *Dasvi*, and *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga*, among others. While her performance in these films was critically acclaimed, *A Thursday* was one of the most-watched pieces of content on the OTT platform last year and *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* was the most-viewed Indian film globally on Netflix, having earned more than 46,000 votes.

Apart from this, Yami also has an exciting slate of upcoming films, including *OMG 2* and *Dhoom Dhaam*.

AGENCIES



Dimple on changing attitude of viewers

Veteran actress Dimple Kapadia, who plays a drug lord in the upcoming web series *Saas, Babu aur Flamingo*, feels that the audience is now open to badass female characters on the screen and that the cinema in India largely has evolved for the good.

The series will showcase women taking charge of the story with guns, drugs and badassery at their disposal.

Talking about the changing attitude of the audience, Dimple said: "I think while these themes have always been present in cinema, it seems that audiences are becoming more accepting of them and seeking out content that pushes the boundaries. It's important to recognise that cinema is a reflection of society, and that society itself is becoming more accepting of these themes".

She added: "We cannot ignore the fact that there is a growing appetite for content that explores darker and more taboo subjects. As artistes, it's our job to navigate this landscape with care and sensitivity, while still pushing the boundaries and exploring new grounds. Ultimately, it's up to the audience to decide what they want to watch, and as artistes, our job is to create content that resonates with them".

IAN S

Anupam to play sexagenarian triathlete in his 537th film

National Award-winning actor Anupam Kher, who is known for his roles in films such as *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, *Lamhe*, and several others, will headline his upcoming 537th film *Vijay 69*.

The film will follow the life of a sexagenarian man, played by Kher, who decides to compete in a triathlon contest at the age of 69. It will be directed by Akshay Roy, who has previously helmed *Meri Pyaari Bindu*.

Making the announcement, Kher tweeted: "It's good to be 69 years young! Super excited to be starring in @yrfentertainment's #Vijay69 in the lead: a quirky slice-of-life film for OTT about a man who decides to compete in a triathlon contest at the age of 69. Let's put the show on the road! Jai Ho! My #537th."

Vijay 69 is being produced by YRF Entertainment and Maneesh Sharma, who has directed *Band Baaja Baraat* as well as produced *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* and *Sui Dhaaga: Made In India* in the past. He's now also helming YRF Spy Universe's next offering *Tiger 3* starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif.

IAN S



Memnon: The Greatest African Warrior

To understand Memnon's role in the saga of Troy, it's worth revisiting the story and what made him such a captivating figure

Memnon was known to the ancient Greeks as the greatest African warrior who ever lived. Born of a goddess and a prince, he grew up to become king of the land of Ethiopia.

When he brought his vast army of warriors to Troy to aid in the defence of the city, the beleaguered Trojan king welcomed him with open arms. They hoped that if anyone could put an end to the destructive Greek siege, it would be him.

In the end, that hope was misplaced. Out on the battlefield, Memnon met his match against Achilles, whose near-complete invulnerability allowed him to slay his rival.

But centuries later, Memnon's legacy lives on in the story of the Trojan War and the magnificent stone monuments that the ancient Greeks called the Colossi of Memnon.

In Greek mythology

According to Greek legend, Memnon was a powerful warrior whose mother was Eos, the goddess of the Dawn.

He appears in the saga of Troy as a would-be saviour. He is ultimately killed by the even more powerful Achilles. To understand Memnon's role in the saga, it's worth revisiting the story of Troy and what made Memnon such a captivating figure.

The Trojan War had its beginnings in a beauty contest. What happened is that Paris, the handsome son of the King of Troy, had the honour of judging a beauty contest between three of the most beautiful Greek goddesses: Aphrodite, Athena, and Hera.

Aphrodite, hoping to be declared the winner, promised to provide Paris with the most beautiful woman on earth if he chose her. When he obliges, she brings him to Helen, a stunningly beautiful woman who happens to be the wife of the King of Sparta.

Paris and Helen soon elope together and run off to Troy. Now, if you know anything about the war-like Sparta – or, for that matter, jealousy – you know that the King of Sparta wasn't too happy about his wife being stolen from him. And he didn't take any half-measures.

Instead of negotiating, he sent an army to conquer Troy and bring his wife back.

What followed was a ten-year siege that became the subject of Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*. Homer's description of the final year of the war is perhaps the most famous war story in history.

But it's another work, the *Posthomerica*, in which the Ethiopian warrior Memnon appears. Just as Troy is losing hope, the Ethiopian king arrives with a vast army of warriors to help liberate the besieged city.

Memnon comes to the rescue

In the *Posthomerica*, written by Quintus Smyrnaeus sometime in the 3rd century AD, Memnon reaches Troy just as the city's leaders are discussing surrendering to the formidable Greeks.

Up to that point, the Trojans suffered terrible losses at the hands of their enemies, particularly Achilles. He had slain both Hector, the king's oldest son, and Penthesileia, the Amazonian daughter of Ares.

With the death of Penthesileia and her fierce Amazonian maidens, the Trojan King Priam was despondent. As an Amazonian warrior, Penthesileia was one of the only people who could have stood a chance against Achilles. Still, the king held out some hope that Memnon would prevail, even though deep down he realised that it was probably too little, too late.

When Memnon finally arrived, the Trojans received a much-needed boost to their morale. King Priam offered to hold a feast in his honor, but Memnon refused, saying he'd prefer to be well-rested for the next day's battle. At that, Memnon gets up, excused himself, and goes "to a bed that was his last."

The next day, the combined army of Trojans and Ethiopians rushed out of Troy's gates and confronted the Greeks in bloody, close-combat fighting. Memnon slays several important Greek warriors, including Archilochus, the son of Nestor. The killing of Nestor's son sets off a chain of events that will ultimately result in Memnon's demise.

Achilles is moved by the death of Archilochus and so he and the equally formidable



Ajax go out to the battlefield to search for Memnon. They found him near the water, cutting a path through the fleeing Greeks who were heading toward their ships.

The final battle

According to the myth, as soon as the pair confront Memnon, Ajax leaves Achilles on his own, sure that Achilles' skill and strength will win out against the Ethiopian king.

Ajax has good reason to be confident. Though both Memnon and Achilles have parents who are gods, Achilles was dipped in the River Styx (the mythological river of the underworld) when he was a baby. This made him invulnerable wherever the water touched him.

The only part of his body that remained vulnerable were his heels since that was where his mother, the goddess Thetis, held onto him while submerging him in the water.

Later on in the battle, Paris would eventually strike him in the heel with a divinely-guided arrow, killing him. But against Memnon, Achilles' invulnerability meant that for all the prowess of the great Ethiopian king, Memnon stood little chance against his adversary.

During the duel, the gods watched in fascination as Zeus imbued both men with superhuman size and strength. So fierce was the fight between these two warriors that

they paid little heed to the slaughter that was going on around them. The two giants fought tirelessly, driving their spear points into one another's shields and drawing blood again and again. The fight might have lasted forever if it weren't for the Fates, who intervened on behalf of Achilles.

With the mothers of both warriors looking on in fearful anticipation, a bright Fate took Achilles' side while a dark Fate invaded Memnon's heart. With the fight all but decided, Achilles finally dealt Memnon a mortal blow by plunging his sword straight through Memnon's chest.

Memnon's legacy

Long before the *Posthomerica* was written, two monumental statues were built that would later become associated with Memnon in ancient Egypt. These two statues, built outside of Amenhotep III's mortuary temple, were originally meant to honour the great pharaoh who was buried there.

Centuries later, however, as Greek immigrants and travelers came into the country, they saw a striking resemblance between the statues of Amenhotep III and another great African – Memnon.

Over time, the statues became known to the Greeks as the Colossi of Memnon. According to the Greek historian, Strabo, who lived from 65 BCE to 23 AD, the statues were at some point damaged in an earthquake. Thereafter, they made noises every dawn that resembled singing.

While the Colossi of Memnon no longer "sing" since they were repaired by a Roman emperor, they still fascinate tourists from all over the world.



Purnima

PHOTO : KAMAL PHOTOGRAPHY