

JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2023

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY - JULY 30

# FRIENDSHIP & ITS MYRIAD HUES

COVER STORY

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Comic content creator Swapnil Nahak from Angul is now a known face on social media thanks to his energy, genuine wit, and strong connection with the Odia audience. Influenced by Bhuvan Bam's success, Swapnil, who pursues his Masters in Commerce, aims to bring as much joy and laughter as possible to people's lives. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games and watching movies



Restless creator

I'm not the type to just sit around. Even on my vacations, I like to work on scripting, filming, or editing.

No to adventure

I don't like to go for adventure; instead, I want to take the safe route to lead life. I do, however, enjoy travelling a lot. I love to have a great time with my buddies.



With friends

Fan of Chinese cuisine

Chinese food is my favourite type of meal. I do, however, occasionally choose to hang out with my buddies at street food joints.



MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP



With Family

Happy family time

Family time has always been on my list of things to do. We enjoy viewing films together and having lively conversations about life.

In self-talk

I have a habit of talking to myself as if I were looking at my life from the perspective of someone else. This frequently aids in my ability to make wise life decisions.

**WhatsApp This Week**

**Only on Sunday POST!**

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes at: [features.orissapost@gmail.com](mailto:features.orissapost@gmail.com)  
And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- My love is like communism; everyone gets a share, and it's only good in theory.
- I'm glad to see you're not letting your education get in the way of your ignorance.
- My ex wrote to me: Can you delete my number? I responded: Who is this?
- A man walks into the doctors and the doctor says, "I've not seen you for a while." The man replies, "Yes, I've been ill."

**OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS**

Sir, A review of the USIS publication about the views of American journalists on India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made for very interesting reading (Sunday POST-July 23). Mrs Sudha Devi Nayak's chance find of the old book reveals an intense and critical appreciation of Nehru by the American journalists of the 1950s and 60s and Nayak presents an objective analysis of the dominant perceptions Americans held about India and Nehru's policies during his governance of Independent India. The review is a historical account of the time immediately preceding Nehru's passing away in May 1964. It is a gentle recall of the rise and decline of the Nehru era for all of us who were witnesses to the events that led to the Sino-Indian border conflict in 1962. We have yet to break free of that legacy.

**MSR SESHU, SECUNDERABAD**

**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. Feel free to send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to [features.orissapost@gmail.com](mailto:features.orissapost@gmail.com)  
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INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY - JULY 30



# FRIENDSHIP & ITS MYRIAD HUES

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

According to William Shakespeare, a friend is someone who knows you for who you are, understands where you have come from, accepts who you have become, and still gently allows you to grow. Friendship is a magnificent tapestry that weaves together people's hearts and souls, forming relationships that can be both strong and long-lasting. While traditional friendships are obviously meaningful, certain friendships stand out for their uniqueness, revealing that true connections know no bounds and can thrive even in the most unexpected circumstances.

They can blossom between affluent and poor, between men and women, and even between humans and animals.

**Sunday POST** celebrates International Friendship Day by highlighting a few outstanding connections that transcend all boundaries.

**'My friend liked chicken but could not recall the last time he had it'**

Debabrata Jena's tale of friendship is more about resilience and celebration of human spirit.



A sensitive young poet and a senior manager at a nationalised bank, Debabrata basks in the success of his friend Sibabrata (name changed). Deba refuses to identify him as he doesn't want others to show pity on him. Though Siba now works

as a top official with Railways, the two met when there was no commonality between them. Debabrata never knew what poverty was while his friend was a poster boy of penury.

"I met this dark and malnourished boy, with his body weight not exceeding 35 kilos, at Harekrushna Mahtab State Library in Bhubaneswar when he was preparing to get a job," Deba recalls.

"I was doing the same too. But my case was different because I came from a family with a sound financial background and knew nothing about poverty. I approached him when he was sitting alone in a corner, dis-

*True camaraderie can thrive even in the most trying circumstances and form between rich-poor, men-women, and even between humans and animals*

connected from others. Given my upbringing, I could have joined the other smart and presentable guys at the library. But I was drawn to this less-privileged youngster, and we gradually became friends," he adds.

For Deba, Siba's past was no less than a fairy tale. His father was an alcoholic, and he was never his stepmother's favourite. Siba passed Class X despite enduring a great deal of hardship. After graduating from a college near his village, he moved to Bhubaneswar in search of a government job. An old tin box, some books, a pair of clothes, a cheap rubber sandal and a very

old bicycle (gifted by a villager) were all that one can say of his possessions. He lived in an asbestos room with street hawkers, gupchupwalas, and rag-pickers.

Deba recounts his friend's plight saying, "One day, while others were having their afternoon meals, out of curiosity, I enquired what he takes for lunch. He burst into tears at my query. I couldn't comprehend his reaction then, but later learned that he had been eating in his lunch a packet of 10 glucose biscuits, which cost Rs 3 at that time. After that, I began bringing lunch from home for us to share. I recall him hugging me tightly and crying after eating the chicken curry I shared with him. Reason: he loved chicken but couldn't recall the last time he had it."

Except for him, no one can ride his cycle which was in a miserable state. Surprisingly, the cycle he used to travel the 17 kilometres from Nandankanan to the library was stolen one day. He was devastated after losing his most valuable possession. But, to his surprise, the results of the Assistant Station Master exam were released the next day, and he was chosen. He cried again, this time with joy as his years of hard effort were rewarded.

"As promised earlier, Siba treated me to a meal at a fine city restaurant when he received his first pay cheque. It was the first time in his life that he was in a restaurant," recalls Deba.

Perhaps Deba, who has been in touch with his friend, found inspiration from Siba's unwavering determination to overcome hurdles in life and achieve success.

The friendship between the two most unlikely people helped them accomplish their life goals.





**A friendship like no other**

Many people feel that a girl and a boy cannot be friends without becoming romantically connected. This assumption is entirely debunked by Ritu and Rahul's friendship.

**Ritu Lenka**, from Cuttack, completed her journalism degrees and has a special bond with her childhood friend, Rahul.

"Rahul and I have been inseparable since we were children. Despite the fact that I had other friends from high school and college, he has been a constant in my life. Our friendship has always been peaceful, with no arguments, and we have always been quite close. Our families are also acquainted, as our fathers knew each other from their college days. Our camaraderie often sparked envy among others, who would comment on our contrasting personalities. While I may not be as close to my cousins, Rahul and I have an unrivalled bond," Ritu explains.



Ritu and Rahul

Ritu once withdrew herself from life after going through a difficult emotional upheaval. However, her mother took the initiative to contact Rahul, who, without a doubt, rescued Ritu out of the predicament.

"Whatever happened, we've always been by each other's side, and our unwavering support for one another has led some relatives to believe we were dating, but that's simply a misconception. We make fun of each other's differing personalities, with Rahul being an introvert and me being an extrovert. Perhaps it is this contrast that improves our friendship, as opposite tendencies appear to build a stronger

bond," she quips.

"Rahul was there for me from the beginning to the end of my wedding rituals. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have a friend like him, and I believe that I must have done something right in my past to earn such a treasured friendship," she finishes.

**Paws and palms**

Friendships may form between men and animals too and **Triman Sehgal** is a case in point.

Appalled by the mistreatment of stray animals, particularly stray dogs, Triman, a resident of Bhubaneswar, decided to fight for the cause of these voiceless creatures and befriend them. She primarily chooses to adopt dogs that have been ill-treated, abused, and are suffering from various diseases. Triman envisions creating a sanctuary of love, a temple of sorts, where all these creatures can find solace and rest.

Speaking from her personal experiences, she shares that her beloved pets are her closest companions. Despite facing criticism and verbal abuse from people who don't understand her passion for caring for these animals, she remains undeterred. In contrast, her four-legged companions take offense and protect her by confronting those who mock her.

Triman says that, "During the lockdown, I began providing food for stray animals, a compassionate act that I continue to this day. On one occasion, while feeding the strays late at night, my furry companion Kalu accompanied me back home, making sure I reached home



Triman with her furry friend

safely and soundly without any harm."

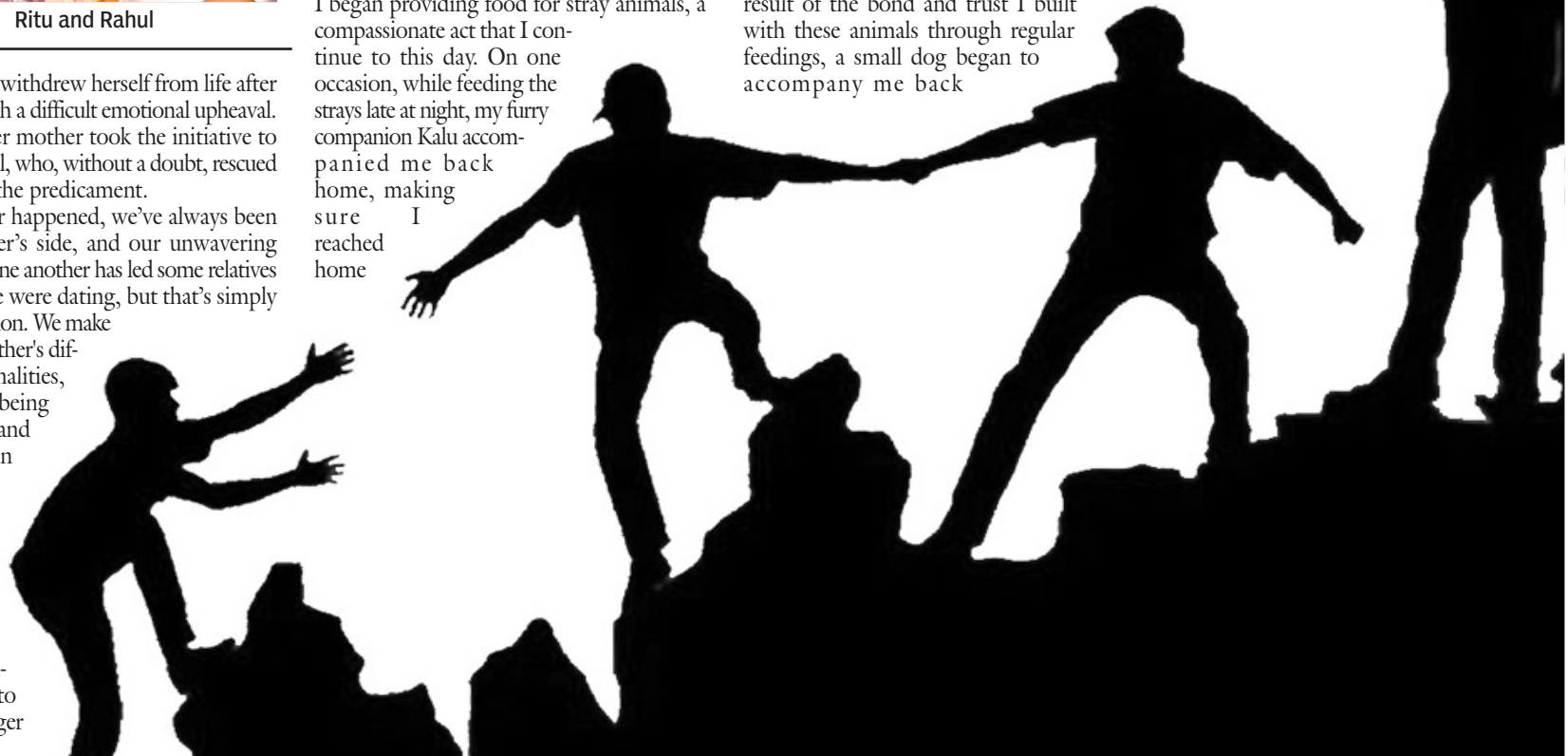
"In the past, during my time in Pune, I would frequently visit a farm to obtain milk and also took the opportunity to care for the dogs there by feeding them. As a result of the bond and trust I built with these animals through regular feedings, a small dog began to accompany me back

home," she recalled.

Triman also talks about her midnight routine of feeding strays near Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar. "On one occasion, some troublemakers followed me, mistakenly assuming me as a sex worker. In that moment of danger, my furry kids sensed the threat and bravely scared the miscreants away, proving their loyalty and friendship."

She believes in the teachings of Sikhism's holy scripture, which emphasizes that those who love unconditionally can truly find a connection with the divine. Triman has learned valuable lessons about life and humanity through her bond with these animals, whom she refers to as children of God. She encourages others to embrace friendship with animals, adopt these angelic beings, and discover the true meaning of love and friendship on Friendship Day. By doing so, she hopes to minimise cruelty towards animals.

Triman Sehgal's story highlights her compassionate efforts to befriend and care for stray dogs, promoting kindness and empathy towards all living beings on this Friendship Day.





# Easter Island's 'walking' statues

According to the American TV show *Ancient Aliens*, powers from beyond the Earth may have played a part in carving these structures as relocating such mammoth stones is not feasible using human strength

OP DESK

No matter the location—Puma Punku in Bolivia, Gobekli Tepe in Turkey, or the statues of Eastern Island in Chile's special territory in the southeast Pacific Ocean—huge monolithic stone structures at these sites have long baffled archaeologists, scientists, and historians because of their craftsmanship and transportation.

According to American stone sculptor Roger Hopkins, it is impossible to carve such a building, even with the most cutting-edge technology now available.

How did people do it thousands of years ago, then? Is it possible that extraterrestrials played a part in the construction of these megalithic monuments, or are they simply ancient technical marvels?

According to the American TV show *Ancient Aliens*, powers from beyond the earth may have played a part in building such constructions because relocating such enormous stones is not feasible using human strength.

For instance, it claims that the 30-foot-tall statues of Eastern Island, which weigh around 70 tonnes, 'walked' themselves onto the platforms.

True, ever since the Europeans first discovered the isle on an Easter Sunday in 1722, the enormous statues, known as Moai, have been the subject of tremendous curiosity.

This week's **Sunday POST** examines how the inhabitants of this little island could have constructed and transported such structures.

## The Mystery

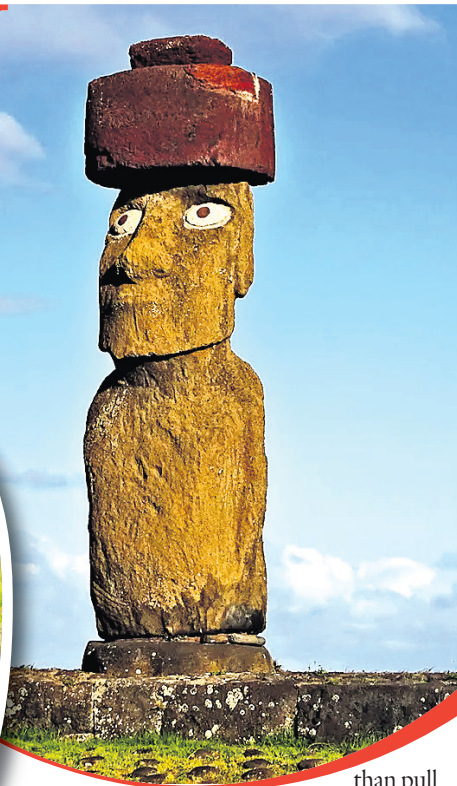
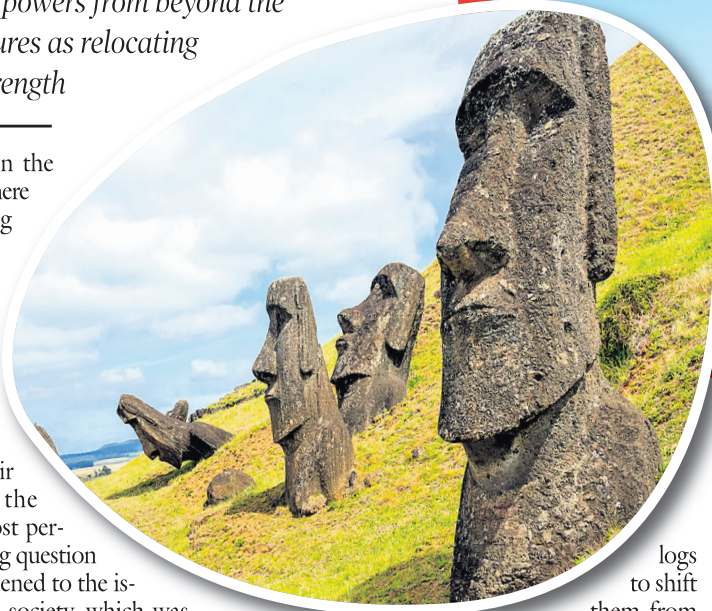
Nowhere else in the Pacific region are there such astounding quantities of large statues. How were so many multi-ton monoliths transported by the islanders from the volcanic quarry where they were carved to their positions along the coastline? The most perplexing and exciting question of all is what happened to the island's once-proud society, which was advanced and clever enough to have created such magnificent structures. Why did the island that the Europeans encountered have such a low population density?

## The myth

Legend has it that a chief with 'mana,' or supernatural power, assisted the Moai to walk. According to the island's oral history, the Moai walked from their place of creation to their ultimate resting place atop the alters. In the past, the only ways history was transmitted on the island were through songs, chants, sports, and poetry. The Moais are described as walking in numerous ancestor ballads and tales.

## First theory

Archaeologists believe that the Polynesians who had set up the Easter Island at least 800 years ago rolled the statues on



logs for practical reasons. The sculptures' weight would have caused the logs to be crushed, and transporting such massive Moais would have required a tremendous amount of labour, explains Lipo.

## More evidence

Walking statues are a feature of Rapanui oral traditions, according to Ellen Caldwell, an art history professor at Mt. San Antonio College in California. The Rapanui word 'neke neke' translates to 'walking without legs' in English. When asked how the Moai were transported across great distances without the use of any machinery, she claims that Rapanui elders and descendants recollect this saying and other oral histories. Childhood nursery rhymes in Rapanui also have tales of the statues moving.

## Structures represent the dead ancestors

As the Moai were utilised in rituals for the deceased and to honour the chiefs, the Rapanuis placed great importance on having a human-like look. They thought that the worlds of the living and the dead were interconnected. Moais statues are the faces of the deceased ancestors because they desired physical representations of them rather than just symbolically remembering them, it is believed.

Despite scientific research answering many of the most puzzling questions about the moai, the lack of oral and written history keeps Rapa Nui shrouded in myth.

logs to shift them from the quarry. This argument lends credence to the hypothesis that the settlers' obsession with statue construction led them to clear the island's palm groves in order to build mechanisms for transporting ever-increasing numbers of statues.

## Statues 'walked' out of quarry

Several explanations have been put forth, including rolling the statues with logs and even the improbable idea of extraterrestrial assistance. However, Carl Lipo, an archaeologist at California State University, says the secret appears to lie in the union of brilliant design and flawless sculpting, which allowed these human-like statues to stand upright and rock forward and backward while being propelled by ropes, giving the statues the ability to 'walk.' The Moai were 'walked' by the Rapa Nuis by swaying them from side to side like one would move a refrigerator, each side moving forward one at a time. Rapanuis were quite clever because they sculpted the bases of the statues and added specific angles to make them more mobile.

Rapanuis chose to walk the statues rather



20 YEARS ON

# Ameesha's acting skills are still under scanner

Actress Ameesha Patel who reprises the role of Sakeena in *Gadar 2* revealed that even after two decades, there were many people who had their doubts whether she could pull off the role of a mother in the sequel.

Recounting those comments without taking any names, the *Race 2* actress said, "When I was initially offered *Gadar*, a lot of people from the film industry, big names, had asked how I will be able to pull off the role. People also called *Gadar* 'gutter' before its release."

She said, "Now ahead of *Gadar 2*, people are still asking how can I pull off a mother's role after doing a song like *Lazy Lamhe* from film *TPTM*." *Gadar 2*, the sequel will be released in cinemas on August 11. AGENCIES



# When nepotism hurt Kriti badly

Actress Kriti Sanon, who made her debut with the 2014 film *Heropanti*, in an old interview had spoken about how being an outsider with no filmy connections affected her career and revealed that she had been replaced by stardoms in movies.

Speaking about her career, the *Adipurush* actress had told media in

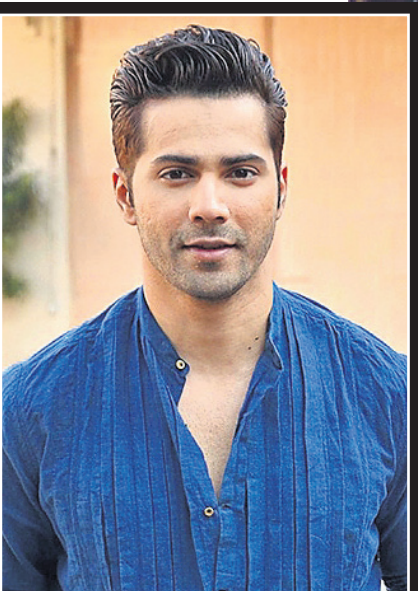
2020, "I possess a strong drive for success and believe in my untapped potential. Collaborating with esteemed A-list directors is my aspiration, and though I've had good opportunities, there are specific ones I yearn for. Despite not having connections in the film industry, I don't mind reaching out to directors. Ultimately, one's success is determined by their

work, which may take time and several successful projects to achieve recognition."

She had further said, "I'm uncertain whether they made the phone call or not, but on some occasions, I was replaced by someone with a film background or more publicity. Although it's frustrating and disheartening, I can't pinpoint the exact reason behind it. The director might have genuinely preferred that person, and it has happened a few

times. Beyond a certain point, there's little one can do. Everyone faces ups and downs, and sometimes, missing out on a desired film might have turned out for the best."

AGENCIES



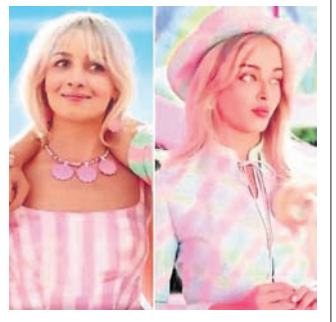
# Varun opens up on handling criticism

Actor Varun Dhawan, whose recently released film *Bawaal* with co star Jahnvi Kapoor is receiving praise from all quarters, acknowledged that dealing with criticism remains an ongoing battle.

Talking about how he handles it, the *SOTY* actor shared, "The cool thing right now would be to say I take it in my stride, it doesn't affect me, but it does affect me. I have some sleepless nights, I irritate my wife. She gets irritated and I get stuff like 'it's okay'"

The actor went on to share valuable advice that the late singer KK shared with him. "KK told me this, agar aap ko mein ek glass du jisme aadha paani hai and you say, ye mein pakad sakta hu. It's like handling criticism and you hold on to it because you're strong, and you keep holding on to it. After some time your hand is gonna hurt, so the idea is to let go. It's what he had told me, and I agree."

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, *Bawaal* was released July 21, on a leading OTT platform. AGENCIES



# Aishwarya wins AI's Barbie race

As the *Barbie* fever has made the world go pink, an AI version of Indian actors as Barbies has surfaced online. The video was shared on a Reddit page with the caption 'What if Barbie was made in Bollywood'. It shows Aishwarya Rai, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Rashmika Mandanna and Kareena Kapoor's faces in place of Margot Robbie who plays Barbie in the recently released Greta Gerwig film.

As per the reactions on Reddit, Aishwarya Rai seem to be the clear winner for the role of Barbie. Kareena Kapoor is said to be the most unsuitable for role of Barbie.

A comment said, "Aishwarya Rai shall always be the OG Barbie." A comment also read: "I don't see any competition, Ash is the clear winner for me." A fan also wrote, "Nobody looks good as Barbie except for Aish that too somewhat in comparison to others." "Ash is looking more like Barbie than Margot herself," read a comment.

Alia Bhatt seem to be their second choice for Barbie. A fan wrote, "Ash is obviously the real barbie. Also Alia could make a really good one too."

AGENCIES



# MAKING LIFE EASIER

THESE DAYS ASTONISHING INVENTIONS, SMART TECHNOLOGY, AND PORTABLE, INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT ARE ALL AROUND US. FROM HYDRATION BIOSENSORS TO WIRELESS SPEAKERS TO ULTRA SMART WATCHES, MANY AMAZING DEVICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT OUR FINGERTIPS. THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF SUNDAY POST LISTS OUT FOUR SUCH UTILITY GADGETS THAT ARE NOW ENJOYING THE RISING POPULARITY

## ROBOT VACUUMS

iRobot, the top manufacturer of robot vacuums known for its Roomba series, has introduced a new model, the Roomba J7+, which cleverly combines vacuum and mop functionalities. What sets it apart is the new self-retracting mop feature, which lifts the mop when the device approaches carpeted areas, allowing it to focus on mopping only where needed. With this advancement, the robot vacuum becomes more autonomous, leading to humorous speculation about the start of a robot uprising.

## SMART RING

Noise introduces Luna Ring, its first smart ring in India. The wearable tracks 70+ metrics and is available for pre-booking through Priority Access on Gonoise.com. The device comes in seven sizes and five colours and is powered by Philips Biosensing. Priority Access passholders get exclusive discounts and benefits. Luna Ring monitors sleep, readiness, and activity with advanced sensors and algorithms. The ultra-lightweight ring is water-resistant and offers a week-long battery life on a 60-minute charge.

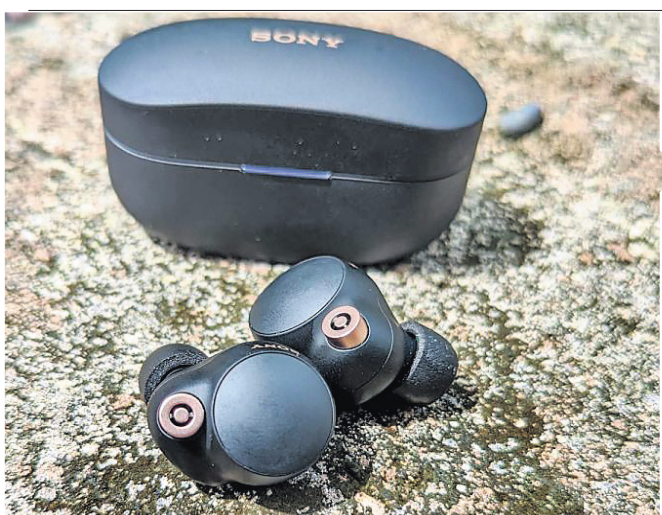


## SMART WATER BOTTLE

It goes without saying that staying hydrated is one of the most important things for someone trying to lose weight. But did you know that drinking enough water helps you keep your metabolism in check? The Hidrate Spark TAP Smart Water Bottle is one gadget that can help you keep track of your water intake. With its smart technology, it allows you to monitor your hydration goals as well as your consumption. With durable construction, a long battery life, and a convenient and stylish look, this bottle can help you improve your daily water intake, helping you lose weight.

## SONY WH-1000XM5

Sony launches the WF-1000XM5 wireless earbuds, boasting improved noise cancellation, audio quality, and call performance. The new earbuds are 25% smaller and 20% lighter than their predecessors, with 24-bit audio processing and bone conduction technology for clearer speech and reduced background noise. They offer 8 hours of playback with Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) on and 12 hours with ANC off, and come with multipoint connectivity and Spatial Audio support. Priced at \$299.99, the WF-1000XM5 is available in black and white colours.



# Lipsa



PHOTO: KAMAL PHOTOGRAPHY