

MARCH 24 - 30, 2024

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

COLOURS AND CAMARADERIE

COVER STORY

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DHENKANAL-BORN BICKKY MISHRA HAS MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THE ODISIA AND BANGLA ENTERTAINMENT CIRCUITS, HAVING APPEARED IN NINE FILMS, 17 TV SHOWS, 25 PLAYS, AND HUNDREDS OF VOICE-OVERS. CURRENTLY BASED IN BHUBANESWAR, MISHRA LIKES TO PEN FICTIONS AND POEMS TO SATISFY HIS CREATIVE DRIVE

Love for theatre

Being a stage actor, I enjoy watching plays. So I don't miss out on any opportunities to see shows at nearby auditoriums. Otherwise, I go for new releases, followed by a scrumptious dinner.

BIJAY MANDAL, OP



At a studio

Music is my mood-maker

Nothing improves my mood like music does. It also gives me a sense of cohesiveness or social togetherness. So I take some time off to listen to bhajans and classic tunes in Odia, Hindi, and Bangla.

Movies and literature

As an actor, I religiously watch films in different languages on Sundays. I also watch popular web shows when I have the time. Besides, I enjoy writing fictions and poems to satisfy my creative urges.

Spiritual beginning

I get up a bit late on Sundays. After praying to my spiritual masters, the Goddess Durga, and my parents, I perform Sudarshan Kriya and pranayams. Be it Sunday or any other day, a 45-minute meditation is a must.

Treating my extended family

I indulge myself with a delicious breakfast. Since I regard my friends to be my extended family, I invite them to dine at my residence. I love to cook and pamper them with my favourite cuisines. I occasionally visit my cousins and engage in meaningful chats with them.



With co-actors

WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

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

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- What's the difference between a jeweller and a jailer? One sells watches, and one watches cells.
- What do you call the soft tissue between a shark's teeth? A slow swimmer.
- What did the blanket say when it fell off the bed? "Oh sheet!"
- What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator!



VOICE OF SOUL

Sir, Last week's cover story 'Expression of life' beautifully explains the poetry as a medium of expression through different forms and phases of life. Poets from all the religions have used poetry to express their emotions of love, anger, protest, satire, solitude, and happiness. It touches one's heart, and has healing powers to rejuvenate people's lives by doing wonders of magic. Poetry has connected the people across the globe. Poets from different languages have used poetry as a medium to express their feelings through the medium of poems in their own way since ages. It is a ray of hope and helps people sail through difficult times. Young poet Sumit Panda sums up the whole thing in his quote, "Without poetry, our planet would have been something else, but Earth. The globe owes its existence to poetry."

ABHILASHA GUPTA, MOHALI

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

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The festival of colours in twin cities Bhubaneswar and Cuttack is marked by a plethora of events - from intimate gatherings to grand events at hotels and clubs- that offer diverse experiences

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Colours & camaraderie

As the spring season unfurls its vibrant hues across the landscape of Odisha, twin cities Bhubaneswar and Cuttack come alive with the spirit of Holi, a festival that transcends boundaries and unites people in a colourful celebration of joy, love, and togetherness.

With its rich cultural heritage and diverse populace, Odisha plays host to an array of Holi parties that bring communities together in a riot of colours and camaraderie.

The festival is marked by a plethora of events, ranging from intimate gatherings to grand events at hotels and clubs, offering diverse experiences. Recently, there's been a rising trend of eco-friendly celebrations, prioritising natural colours to reduce environmental impact, and showcasing the city's commitment to sustainability. These parties are a spectacle of colours, with participants joyfully smearing gulal and splashing water amidst laughter and music. Moreover, many events incorporate charitable endeavours, like fundraising for NGOs, amplifying the spirit of giving and underscoring compassion towards the underprivileged. These aspects enrich the Holi festivities, embodying unity, joy, and community spirit.

Sunday POST takes a look at a few of them.

Rangrezza: A celebration of colours

Bighnesh Sahoo and Soumya Sourav Sasmal, founders of Dreamteam organisations, are organising a Holi party,

"Rangrezza", at Momoway Avenue at Infocity, Bhubaneswar.

Sourav said, "As an organiser, I have witnessed the city come alive with vibrant hues and infectious energy. From the meticulous planning to the execution, every detail is crafted to ensure a memorable experience for attendees. Our event, like many others, offers a spectrum of festivities, from



cosy gatherings to lavish affairs at the venue."

He added, "Ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for attendees is crucial, and thus, we prioritise smooth ticketing and entry processes. Our event offers passes for public participation, including Stag, Couple, and VIP categories.

Online ticketing system: We utilise online ticketing platforms to streamline pre-sale ticket purchases.

Early bird and regular ticket options: To encourage early registration, we offer early bird tickets, creating a sense of urgency among potential attendees.

VIP and VVIP Entry: Attendees opting for VIP or VVIP packages enjoy dedicated entry lanes or lounges for an enhanced experience. VIP perks may include expedited

entry, access to premium seating, complimentary drinks, and personalised services."

Bighnesh said, "For entertainment and activities, we have planned a live DJ and music by rapper Muzik Aay Swag, Siddharth Aryaman aka Shidz, and a special DJ by Vykyboy from Zimbabwe, a colour play zone, traditional dance performances, a water play area, a Holi-themed photo booth, food and beverage stalls, and interactive games and contests for the participants. We have also ordered organic Holi colours from Beyond Waste Company, keeping in mind the environment."

He concluded, "Managing waste and post-event clean-up are crucial for environmental sustainability and community accountability following the Holi festivities. Our plan includes using eco-friendly products like compostable dinnerware and promoting natural colours to reduce their environmental impact. We'll strategically position labelled waste bins throughout the venue for easy disposal, ensuring availability in high-traffic zones. A dedicated volunteer team has been equipped with cleaning supplies and will monitor bins, aid attendees, and conduct periodic clean-up sweeps. By implementing these measures, we aim to maintain cleanliness, minimise waste, and uphold our commitment to eco-conscious practices and community welfare."



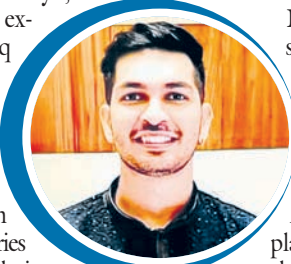


Rang Ishq De-Holi Fest 2024

Agnaye Ventures is organising a Holi party, "Rang Ishq De", at Dream Resorts, Patia.

Archisman Acharya,

representing Agnaye, expressed that Rang Ishq De-Holi Fest 2024 stands as Odisha's biggest Holi concert, promising an unparalleled celebration where attendees can forge enduring memories with loved ones while im-



mersing in the vibrancy of Holi. Featuring a stellar lineup of celebrity artists and DJs, coupled with engaging activities and delectable cuisine, this event is deemed unmissable.

Aryan elaborated on the event's attractions, highlighting performances by renowned artists such as LOST STORIES (known from Tomorrowland) and KICKAT (famous from Sunburn), alongside DJs Aman Deep and Chckmate. "The Holi Fest encompasses a concert featuring over five artists delivering non-stop music, complemented by organic dry colours, sheesha experiences, mist spray, thematic Holi décor, and selfie booths. Attendees can partake in diverse activities, including Punjabi dhol and female dance troupes, and relish a variety of appetising snacks and beverages. Exciting elements like colour blasts, CO2 guns, pyro, and ribbons further enhance the festivities. Premium amenities like mobile toilets, security arrangements, seamless box-office services, and VIP cabanas ensure a memorable and hassle-free experience," he said.

He signed off by highlighting the environmental considerations to be adopted by them. He said, "We're proud to say that we're actively implementing environmental initiatives to minimise our ecological footprint. This includes emphasising the use of natural and organic colours and encouraging attendees to refrain from bringing materials that could harm the environment, such as plastic water balloons or non-biodegradable packaging. We have also ordered biodegradable colours all the way from Mumbai, which will not be harmful to the kids or adults."

Lions Club of Cuttack Petals' vibrant Holi celebration

Like Capital City Bhubaneswar, Cuttack

also holds its Holi festivities in a lively fashion. Known for its sense of community and rich cultural heritage, Cuttack, through the Lions Club of Cuttack Petals, an exclusively female club, is organising the vibrant Holi event "Balam Pichkari" at the Bellissimo Convention in the city.

Kumud Agrawal, a member of the club, said, "As a social cultural group, our usual focus has been on organising dandiya nights. However, this year, we have decided to expand and promote our culture and festivals among the youth by hosting a Holi celebration in the city. As an all-female club, we have meticulously planned and curated an exciting Holi celebration party for the city's residents."

She mentioned, "Commencing from the entrance system, we've organised passes for the event. These passes come in two varieties: gold and silver. Gold passes grant access to the VIP lounge along with unlimited snacks and lunch, whereas silver passes only allow entry. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 9 am and will extend into the evening."

When questioned about the entertainment and activities, she mentioned, "At the event, we'll feature live music and a DJ, typical of any party. Additionally, we'll have an artificial pool, a selfie booth, water cannons, rain dance, and much more. As for food and beverages, we'll offer exotic dishes and specially flavoured thandais."

She carried on: "We will be utilising natural and organic colours derived solely from

various flowers, ensuring the absence of any chemical dyes, as every celebration involves the use of coloured powders. Additionally, we've implemented security measures such as assigning bouncers and installing CCTV cameras to ensure safety."

Satragi - Har rang mein hai fun

Rajeev Lochan Bhoi, the head of digital marketing, mentioned that, just like in previous years and at every festival, the picturesque Holi celebration takes place at Wonder World



elaborates, stating, "This extravagant celebration is expected to bring together notable figures from both Bollywood and Ollywood, ensuring a grand affair. "Satragi" will see the attendance of respected personalities from the entertainment industry, including artists such as Traique Aziz, Arindam Chakraborty, DJ Waseem, Bhagyashree Mohanty, and Soumyajit Mahakud. Their electrifying live performances and DJ sets are poised to create an ambiance of pure joy, embodying the spirit of Holi."

He goes on to explain that Satragi is a four-day festival that set to commence March 23 and conclude March 26, coinciding with Holi. The event features a range of activities, with the pool party being the highlight, along with thrilling water slides. Attendees can enjoy a diverse array of meals, including multi-cuisine lunches and delectable snacks, accompanied by refreshing beverages such as fruit punch, mocktails, and thandai. To maintain an eco-friendly atmosphere, unlimited organic gulaal is provided, and luxurious air-conditioned rooms and romantic cottages are available for VIP guests.

He ended up stating, "We've organised two categories of tickets for our guests: one for families and another for students. Tickets can be purchased from our website for any day of their choice to attend the event. Additionally, we've arranged a competition prior to the party, with prizes being distributed to the winners at the water park amidst the festivities."



Waterpark.

He said, "The water park is preparing to host an impressive Holi celebration called Satragi, guaranteeing an unforgettable experience for all participants. It is hailed as the largest wave pool Holi event in Odisha. The organiser



World Theatre Day – March 27

Catching them YOUNG



A scene from children's play *Baji Rout*, a workshop production by Satabdira Kalakar

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

In a couple of days, theatre enthusiasts and practitioners all across the world will celebrate World Theatre Day.

There will be seminars, padayatras, drama fests, and other events to commemorate the occasion.

This is the day of the year when people celebrate all types of theatre.

However, there is one form that appears to have been neglected over the years, notably in Odisha: children's theatre.

In the 1990s, Bhubaneswar hosted regular children's theatre festivals. But these days, they are things of the past.

Ahead of World Theatre Day, a few professionals express their thoughts on the importance of children's theatre and what measures can be taken to resuscitate it.

'Children's theatre creates a strong audience base'

Satabdira Kalakar is one of Bhubaneswar's oldest theatre troupes, having developed a reservoir of talent over the years. The group took the initiative to establish children's theatre in the city.

Asked about the importance of children's theatre, the troupe's founder, Dhirendranath Mallick, stated, "The survival and growth of theatre

are difficult unless the form is strengthened at the grassroots level." When a youngster participates in theatre or plays on stage, his or her parents, friends, and relatives all become engaged. There could not be a more effective way to promote theatre. There is no doubt that children's theatre attracts a large audience.

Besides, theatre boosts a child's confidence and helps in building his or her personality. Apart from character building, theatre training helps one in all other spheres of life, adds Mallick.

INVOLVING STUDENTS IN THEATRE FROM SCHOOL DAYS WILL NOT ONLY PREPARE THEM TO BECOME BRILLIANT FUTURE PERFORMERS, BUT WILL ALSO HELP THE YOUNGSTERS BECOME RATIONAL CITIZENS, SAYS ODISHA SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI SECRETARY PRABODH KUMAR RATH



Actor-director Ashok Kar with school students during a theatre training session

These are only a few of the reasons why theatre is taught in many foreign schools and colleges, he explains.

Satabdira Kalakar organised children's theatre festivals for 12 years beginning in 1986.

According to Mallick, those who took part in the activities at that time have made careers in a variety of disciplines of art and culture.

Quizzed why children's theatre has taken a back seat these days, he says, "A big factor is a lack of playwrights. Many of them who used to write only for children's plays have recently transitioned to TV series or films."

Srujanee Theatre Group and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) used to host theatre events for children. However, they ended following the death of Surajane's founder, Narayan Roy Mohapatra, and with OSNA getting involved in other activities, Mallick further says.

However, all is not lost for the veteran theatre person. Mallick is planning to organise a children's theatre festival from next year as the troupe is all set to celebrate the 50 years of its formation.

'Students can carry theatre's glorious past forward'

When asked about the importance of theatre for children, particularly students in schools and colleges, OSNA Secretary Prabodh Kumar Rath states, "The development of theatre has an immediate connection with the involvement of students in it. They are the ones who can carry the theatre's glorious past forward and emphasise its importance to society."

He goes on to say, "If the students get involved in theatre from their school days, it will not only pave the way for them to become good actors in the future but also help them become rational citizens."

What does he think about children's theatre, whether it's by the children or for the children? Rath explains, "Theatre for children is different. We should focus on theatre with the children, which will have a

greater influence than the former. For example, if we involve children in a play about Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das, they will gain firsthand information of the great man's life and times, preparing them to be responsible citizens in the future."

He acknowledged that there is a shortage of scriptwriters for children's plays. "Most playwrights nowadays prefer to write plays for senior theatrical groups. Some young writers have expressed an interest in children's theatre, and the Akademi will nurture their abilities," the OSNA secretary noted.

Rath said the Akademi has been hosting state children's theatre festivals and workshops throughout the state, and there is a proposal to expand the project to colleges and institutions in the coming days.

'We have to reach out to the students in remote regions'

Ashok Kar is one of the most committed theatre activists of Koraput district, who has been popularising Odia theatre for the past several years on social media. He is also an actor, director, set and light designer, and many more.

He says, "For the past 62 years, we have celebrated World Theatre Day with grandeur to disseminate the message of peace and friendship. However, we have overlooked the importance of including schoolchildren in the art form's development. This is the single most important reason why we struggle to find good performers in the theatre circuit."

Except for a few organisations like OSNA, Kalakar (Balasore), Spandan (Rourkela) and Sangam (Bhawanipatna), children's festivals are not organised anywhere else, lamented Kar who has been instrumental in involving tribal students of Koraput in theatre.

According to him, "Theatre practitioners must reach out to children at schools located in remote areas of the state. As theatre is believed to be a mirror of society, we must teach them and shape their character via plays because this is the only medium that can make them frank and fearless."

He goes on to say that it should be a collective objective to put the kids' skills to greatest use through theatre.



Not sure what means to be part of A-list

A dah Sharma, who has been in the industry for 16 years, was reportedly the highest-grossing actress for a female-led film last year. Despite receiving numerous accolades for her work, she remains uncertain about her status in the A-list.

"When I was working on *The Kerala Story*, my director informed me that it was a small, intimate film intended for film festivals and might not have a wide release," the *Commando 2* actress recalls.

"Nevertheless, I gave it my best effort without worrying about whether ten people or millions would watch it. Now people consider it a big A-list film, but at the time of production, I wasn't sure what list we belonged to," she told a media portal.

"I'm not sure what being A-list means anymore. For me, A-list is in my list. Fashion designers used to overlook me, but now they want to dress me. I thought I would join the A-list soon after 1920 because it was well-received by both audiences and critics, and it was a hit. So, I'm unsure about what it truly means to be part of that list," she concludes.

AGENCIES



Anurag, Mira praise Jajabara 2.0 trailer

Bhubaneswar: The trailer for the new Odia movie *Jajabara 2.0* was appreciated by several top filmmakers from Mumbai, such as Anurag Kashyap and Mira Nair.

In his Instagram story, Kashyap said, "An Odia film trailer I came across, so aesthetically shot and so intriguing... Is it releasing in Mumbai?"

Similarly, Mira Nair wrote, "Thrilled to see Odia Noir."

Thanking the filmmaker and director of the movie, Abhishek Swain said, "The OG has appreciated the hard work that the team of @jajabara 2.0 has put in till date!! Thank you so much for the appreciation, @anuragkashyapro sir."

The film was released in cinema halls across the state March 22 and will later be streamed on the AAO NXT OTT platform.

This film, set in a fictional city of the late 1990s, is about three nomads: Jagat, who seeks redemption from his past; Satya, who seeks redemption from his own self; and Manini, who seeks redemption from the wicked city, and how all of them are interlinked. Produced by Kaushik Das and Ram Patnaik, the movie stars Devesh Ranjan, Prasanjeet Mohapatra, Sonali Sharmistha, BM Baisali, Choudhury Bikash Das, Sweta Acharya, and Manas Ranjan in important roles.

The movie, an Aaonxt original, is presented by Kaustuv Dreamworks Studios. It travelled to different film festivals and screened recently at the Jagran Film Festival.

I'm not as pretty as my mum: Palak



From showcasing her dancing prowess alongside Harrdy Sandhu in her debut music video *Bijlee Bijlee* to embarking on her acting journey with Salman Khan in *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*, actress Palak Tiwari is making her way into the entertainment industry. However, she often finds herself compared to her actress mother Shweta Tiwari.

Referring to the comparisons, the actress told the media, "I never considered it a problem because what can one say? 'You're not as beautiful as your mother,' yes, okay, I'm not, I know. I think no one is more beautiful than her. I am my mother's biggest fan, so what will you say to me? You can say that I'm not as good of an actor as her. Sure, but it's only been two years, give me more time. I don't think anything they say is that bad."

"I am very happy that I get to learn so much from my mother and not just about acting. She is such a sorted woman; I want to learn how to be a woman from her," she expressed.

On the work front, Palak will soon share the screen with Sanjay Dutt in their upcoming project *The Virgin Tree*.

AGENCIES

Babushaan's Pabar to release in Raja

Bhubaneswar: The shooting of Babushaan and Elina starrer *Pabar* was completed in Phulbani. Sharing the news with a video maker, the actress said, "And it's a wrap to a PABAR-ful schedule. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the people of Phulbani for their support, and love. See you in theatres this Raja." Directed by Ashok Pati and produced by Tripti Satpathy, the movie is a family entertainer. The story is written by Amit Kumar Dash and Pranab Rath. The first look of the movie was released by the makers on the occasion of Mahashivratri. The movie is being made under the banner of Babushaan Films.

PNN



World's top destinations for solo female travellers



When you're ready to explore the world, there's no need to wait until you find the perfect traveling companion. More and more travelers are opting to travel alone. Significantly, about 85 per cent of lone travellers are women, reveals a report. The main reasons women go solo are freedom and flexibility, and an opportunity to enjoy their own time. **Sunday POST** lists five of the best global destinations for women travelling alone this year.



Antarctica

As one of the most isolated and pristine environments on Earth, Antarctica is becoming an increasingly sought-after destination. With strict tourism regulations, it's a great option for women going it alone. The continent's growing popularity among tourists is a testament to its rugged landscapes, diverse wildlife and unparalleled sense of remoteness. Solo female travellers can join organised expeditions, navigate the icy waters and witness wildlife in their natural habitat, from penguins to seals and walrus.



Galapagos Islands

This Ecuadorian archipelago offers an extraordinary experience for solo adventurers, with fascinating natural beauty protected by strict tourism regulations. This year, it has been named one of the top destinations for solo travel by Flash Pack, a tour company that specialises in organising adventure trips for solo travellers. The Galapagos are home to an extraordinary wealth of marine life and offer unique biodiversity on land and underwater. Small group tours are also ideal for anyone looking to enjoy their independence while making friends along the way.

Iceland

The land of fire and ice has secured the top spot on the Global Peace Index for 17 consecutive years, as Iceland's commitment to safety creates an environment where women can explore alone with confidence.



The country's low crime rates foster a sense of security making ethereal landscapes such as geysers, waterfalls and volcanoes easy to explore. There are also plenty of chances to discover its fascinating culture and mingle with friendly locals. Drive around the Golden Circle, which is easy to navigate, head into the depths of the wilderness in a campervan or simply relax in the hot springs around Reykjavik, where a combination of upmarket restaurants meet cool museums and artisanal boutiques. Iceland also keenly focuses on gender equality and responsible tourism.



The UAE

The UAE's cities have often been ranked among the safest, especially Abu Dhabi, which has held online cost-of-living database Numbeo's title of world's safest city since 2017. It offers a deep and culturally rich experience with attractions such as Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and Louvre Abu Dhabi. Dubai also stands as a beacon of security, offering travellers a taste of cosmopolitan luxury in some of the planet's most famous landmarks. For adventure seekers, there's Ras Al Khaimah, which has plenty to offer outdoors, and Fujairah is great for keen divers. This combination makes it one of the most popular destinations among solo female travellers.

OP DESK

Sri Lanka

Ranking fourth on Flash Pack's list of top solo destinations this year is Sri Lanka, where ancient history meets natural beauty and some of the warmest hospitality you'll come across. The island nation, nestled in the Indian Ocean, has a rich blend of temples, tea plantations, hikes and coastal wellness retreats. There are seaside towns such as Galle, bohemian escapes in the mountains like Ella and a bustling city vibe in Kandy. The country's climactic warmth extends to its people and the welcoming atmosphere for tourists.





Zoya & Sonia

WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
 Send us your photographs at
features.orissapost@gmail.com

PHOTO: KUMAR SHARAT, OP