

JUNE 19-25, 2022

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

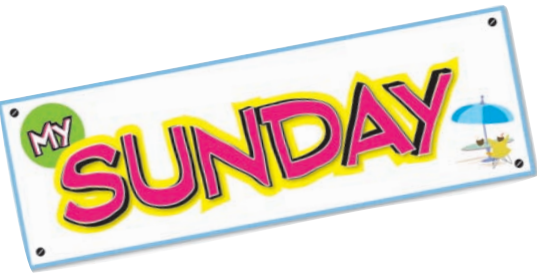


# Before it's too late

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COVER STORY





A prominent name in both film and television industries, actor Pritiraj Satpathy is once again in the limelight after landing a challenging role in Star Kiran's 'Shanti' which is on the air. He loves to spend time with family at some less explored destinations

### Early riser

I get up early and soon go out for walks and an outdoor workout session. On non-working Sundays I work on new business ideas. I only have a few friends and at times I hang out with them when I don't have a shooting schedule.

### Us time

Since my wife is a banker, we eagerly wait for Sundays to share some time together. I prefer to spend the 'us-time' at an isolated destination like a nearby hilltop, forest on city outskirts or riverside.

### Naturopath

I believe in the healing power of nature. Since I successfully battled a personal health crisis using naturopathy, I believe nature heals better than other medications. I am also passionate about organic farming.



With co-actor Naina Dash in Shanti



With family

### Food habit

Fruits and curries made from fresh vegetables are an important part of my daily diet. I prefer to eat naturally available food rather than the preserved ones. I also love home-cooked stuff though my elder son and I have a soft spot for fluffy red velvet cake.

### Future planning

Since I have a spiritual bent of mind, I plan to build a retirement facility for the senior citizens. I would love not just to take care of them but help them financially to get peace at the end of the day.



With his pet



SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

**WhatsApp This Week**

**Only on Sunday POST!**

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

**THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE**

- The new way of forgetting your past is deleting your chats.
- My secret talent is getting tired without doing anything.
- 3 horrible things in life: 1) Slow Internet. 2) Slow Internet. 3) Slow Internet.
- You're beautiful until your Photoshop 30 day trial has gone.

**A MOVING TRIBUTE**

Dear Sir, A Letter From Cupid (June 12) was a heart-rending piece, written with lot of love and emotions. The author's intimate bonding with her furry friend, the fond recollection of moments of togetherness, anguish and ecstasy, and the spontaneous outpouring of grief over losing a trusted friend cast a long-lasting impression on the reader's mind. Two memorable excerpts "... soul doesn't have an expiry date" and "...what is meant to be will be" will be forever etched in memory. Nandita Mishra deserves accolades for her exquisite penmanship and the sheer dexterity with which she recapitulates the myriad events, woven into a masterly tale in simple language. As the time-tested adage goes, "Dogs leave paw prints on our hearts."

**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](mailto:features.orissapost@gmail.com) B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948





While film-viewing is part of Odisha's Raja culture, this is perhaps for the first time in recent decades that Odia films have received such cold response from the cinegoers during Raja festival

# Before it's too late

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

If Eid and Diwali are the festivals when big-ticket films are released in Mumbai, back home producers wait for Raja festival to woo viewers to theatres. More often than not, movies set the cash register ringing if they are released on these festive occasions.

However, the way some recent releases like *RRR*, *KGF*, *Pushpa*, *Vikram*, *The Kashmir Files* and *Bhool Bhulaiya 2* fared at the box office, every weekend has turned into a week of celebrations for producers.

But what about the Odia film industry? The producers, after a pandemic-triggered lull of two-years, released their movies during last Raja festival expecting at least to recover their investment. Unfortunately, most cinegoers shied away from watching Odia films. While movie watching is part of Odisha's Raja culture, this is perhaps for the first time in the history of Odia cinema that the viewers gave such a cold response to the locally made films during Raja festival.

What exactly is that which is ailing the Odia film industry at the moment? There is no dearth of content, performers and expertise in filmmaking. Is it because of shortage of theatres that affects the business or the mindless copying of films of other languages that distracts the viewers?

With the Odia film industry at a crossroads, **Sunday POST** talked to some well known film personalities to delve deep into the issue.

### 'Need to do some soul searching'

National School of Drama alumnus **Manoj Mishra**, who has carved a special place in the heart of viewers, squarely blamed the film fraternity, especially the writers and producers, for their failure in drawing

the audience to the theatres.

"I also share the blame, it's a collective failure. For the sake of argument, we may say we lack sufficient number of theatres which is responsible for the poor performance of Odia films. But that's not true. If an *RRR* or a *Pushpa* can make business worth Rs 10 crore from the same number of halls, why can't our own movies. We need to do a soul searching and admit that we haven't produced content which would interest the viewers. We have stories, we have artistes



Manoj Mishra

but the way they present them on screen is not acceptable to many. We need to update ourselves in terms of presentation."

There is no need to compete with cinemas from south or those produced in Mumbai. It is difficult to match them they way the money they pump into their films for special effects. People will rush to theatres if the story is told in a manner which they can identify with, said Mishra who is known for his work in Odia, Hindi and Tamil film industries.

"Pick up a movie from Iran or South Korea. Their production value is not big nor do they spend generously on graphics. But their movies are liked across the globe. We may not make a *Baahubali* or an *RRR* but we can certainly make stuff like *Stree* (Hindi) or *Sairaat* (Marathi)," he added. Why a viewer should watch a poor remake of a lavishly made south Indian film when he has option to watch them directly on OTT with subtitles, asked the Samapaju Ra Raghuraj actor.







Sairaat didn't happen overnight, it took years of experimentation and hard work for the Marathi cinema to reach a stage where it is today. Odia film industry too has to undergo a similar process to elevate its status, concluded Mishra.

**'Mother tongue matters'**

Swastik Choudhury, a prominent name in parallel cinema for producing award winning movies like Adieu Goddard, Khyanikaa, said, "It is not right to compare Odia film industry with that of the south. They are a collection of a few separate industries and each has its distinct way of functioning. Some producers there make larger than life films, while some make path-breaking and edgy films. But one thing is common among all and it is their affinity towards their respective mother tongues. And this affinity is not just limited to the makers.



Swastik Choudhury

It's an ecosystem there. Their governments fund films in their own language while the exhibitors and distributors push these films for public consumption, media and qualitative criticism in their states and outside. There is a lot of clarity and willingness to come up with unique ideas by a certain section of makers and they find space and love amongst the regular content that gets made there. This co-existence makes any industry thrive due to multiplicity of viewership. All of these and a lot more needs to be imbibed and promoted within Odisha to enhance our quality of films."

"Big OTT platforms like Amazon Prime Video and Netflix have developed some sort of aversion towards Odia content. And it is baffling as to how there is no media outcry or government pressure on them (and also the theaters in Odisha) to showcase Odia films. It is true that Odia content has to really exert more weight in every department than what they are currently doing. But nonetheless we have had some very fine Odia films recently," added Swastik.

**'There is a need to upgrade ourselves'**

National award winning film director Amartya Bhattacharya said, "The good thing about the south is that they immensely value their culture and language. There is a sense of pride and ownership. That is missing in some of our cultures. They make large scale films because they know

that there is a dedicated viewership base. It didn't happen overnight, but investing in one's own culture is a very big lesson. Also, there is a lot of competence and technical skill. Quality has to be a parameter. Without quality, emotions won't bring success. I've seen several filmmakers around me who are extremely casual about the technical and aesthetic aspect of cinema. Look at the commercial films from south Indian languages.



Amartya Bhattacharya

They are crafted with a lot of care. It shows. Shortcuts don't work, we all need to know that."

Another important factor is producers of Odia cinema must invest in the right projects, added Bhattacharya.

"If you make lousy local products, you can't expect them to get global attention. That never happens, and that shouldn't happen. Whatever be the OTT or the theatrical scenario, the basic aspect is that we have to make good cinema. We have to educate and upgrade ourselves and our ecosystem continuously. There's no shortcut. Money or publicity can't be a motivation for making films, the love has to come from within," he further said.

**'Let's not celebrate failure of others'**

Akshay Parija, producer of many award winning movies blamed the shortage of halls for the present state of films in Odisha. Why should cinema lovers travel 50 to 60 kms to watch a cinema when a theatre is not available nearby, he asked. However, he was quite optimistic about the return of the golden days of Odia cinema.

"The poor performance of Odia cinema in theatres is a temporary phenomenon. Due to the pandemic, the producers couldn't plan for quality cinemas. No wonder, the films released during Raja didn't perform at the box office as per the expectation. It will soon become a thing of the past and viewers will return to the theatres like they used to do before the pandemic," said Parija.



Akshay Parija

Asked about the success of pan-India cinema in Odisha, he said, "They are made on high budgets to attract national audiences and let's not compare Odia cinema with them. In the past we have made good films which were appreciated and the trend will return. I admit we

have failed in recent times. But let's not celebrate the failure of others. Ours is a rich literature. Instead of criticizing others, let us make good cinema adapting the novels of some of our great authors like Pratibha Ray and I hope our cinema will thrive this way."

**'We refuse to learn from mistakes'**

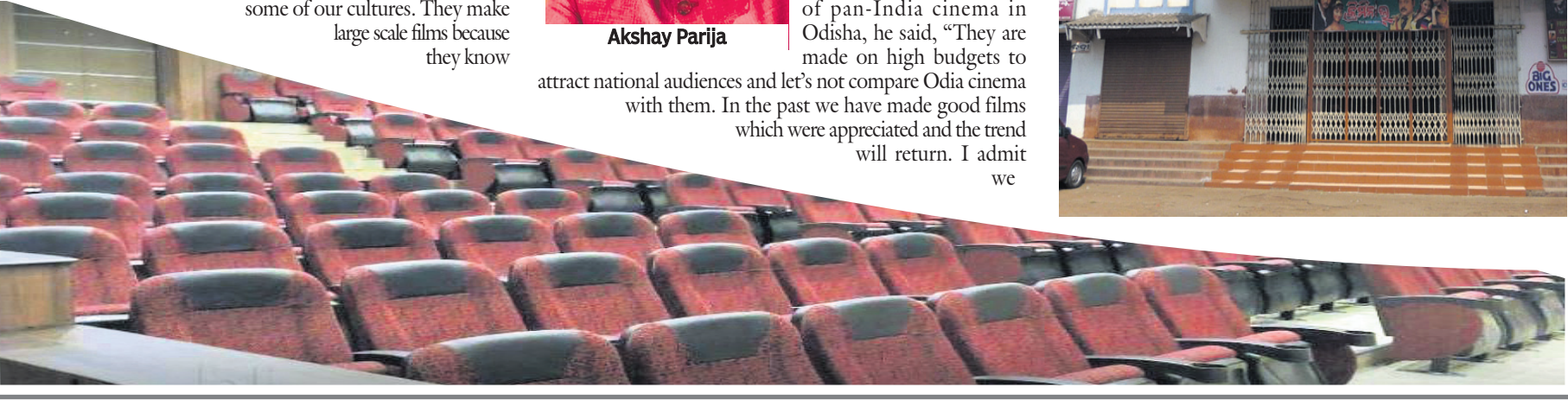
Actor Partha Sarathi Ray, who is part of many critically acclaimed movies, said, "We have to accept that we are nowhere near the movies made in Tamil, Telugu or Kannada languages. The Malayalam film industry was going through a similar situation in the early 1990s. But the saddest part is we refuse to learn from our mistakes and continue to stick to the copy-paste method."



Partha Sarathi Ray

Ray added, "While regional movies such as KGF, RRR and Pushpa earn crores of rupees from Odisha, Odia movies fail to even collect half of the revenue because audiences don't connect with the story shown in our movies."

The Hello Arsi actor said he will release his upcoming movies in streaming platforms because the distribution system here doesn't understand niche films which are less than two hours of duration.





*At a time when ardent followers are gradually shying away from watching mainstream Odia films, a team of young filmmakers managed to run a houseful show at their short film festival*

# Movies, Music & More

BIJAY MANDAL, OP



Do you remember when viewers were last seen standing in queue at a theatre to watch an Odia movie in Bhubaneswar? Given the kind of reputation mainstream Odia films have in recent years, it's difficult to recall. However, a group of young movie maniacs charted an unusual route to draw the audience to the theatres.

Last week, they presented a ticketed show comprising a series of six indie short films of different flavours at Idcol Auditorium in Bhubaneswar. The hall was chock-a-block with many enthusiasts waiting outside to get an entry. The event, titled *Kalpna Ra Collage*, said to be the first Film Mela of original movies, was a grand success with its hashtag #KRC2022 trending all over the social media even now.

The event was organised by Odians Originals in association with United Misfits and local streaming platform AAO NXT.

This was an attempt to revive the dying reputation of the Odia film industry, said Sumit Panda, one of the organisers.

"Organising a ticketed show of six indie shorts is no mean feat that too in Bhubaneswar and making it houseful is another level which requires a lot of belief and teamwork. Kudos and congratulations to the organizers," said actor, producer Swastik Choudhury who was present in the viewers' gallery.

Tapas Ranjan Rout, whose short film *Utsav* recently bagged the top honour at a Unicef-sponsored short film festival, was mightily impressed with the initiative.

"People who rue original films are not made in Odia language may have to eat their words,

had they been present at this screening. It was not just a collage, but a cocktail of movies, music, interaction and anecdotes," said Rout in his reaction.

Indeed, *Kalpna Ra Collage* was not just about screening of movies. The cast and crew of the movies came on stage to share their experience during the making of their films and responded to the audience queries.

That's not all. Popular playback singers Gaurav Anand and Bunny Mohanty, with their soulful rendition, regaled the audience between the screenings.

Asked what made them take such a plunge, Sidharth Goutam, a corporate film director and one of the key members of the team said, "Of

late, when people were a little unhappy with the commercial Odia cinemas, some young minds including a few of us attempted to present something fresh to the viewers through short films. Then we thought if a series of short stories compiled into a book can make a good read, why can't we knit some selected short films into a package to entertain the audience. We worked on the idea and the effort gathered steam. After making such film melas in cities like Bangalore and Pune, we attempted this in Bhubaneswar."

Sidharth, along with his team, is credited with over 50 digital contents.

When all these started, to this query, the ITER alumnus said, "When I met Anurag Kashyap on the sideline of an event at Bangalore in 2015, I asked him if there can be a market dedicated to the short films in India. 'If you can create one for yourself, then why not', he said. This was the stepping stone of what you watched today. Seven years of dream, six days' notice, five days' preparation and a houseful show. Now, we can safely conclude that Odisha is ready to watch and pay for good Odia content and welcome good makers," signed off the ITER alumnus.

Not only Sidharth, all his crew members are satisfied and obliged to the audiences' response to the event.

Sumit said, "We are really grateful to those who took their time off and came to the auditorium to support the initiative. I have no words to express my gratitude. The success of the event proved that good content always has a market. Today, we have screened six films. If we can conduct such an event every month and can screen 72 films then top streaming platforms like Amazon, Netflix or Disney Hotstar, who are now reluctant to stream Odia movies, will have little choice than launching their exclusive Odia platforms."

Well known actor Partha Sarathi Ray whose movie *Shadow* was screened at the event said, "The event's success is an answer to all those who say Odia audiences can't accept and understand original creative content. Everyone in this auditorium bought tickets and came to watch six simple short films made on a shoestring budget. They'll definitely come to the theaters if you stop underestimating them and focus on quality and originality. This is proof enough that it's the content that creates stars, not the other way round."

Apart from Sidharth and Sumit, others who contributed for the success of the event are Biraj Rath and Ashutosh Panda. Saswat Rath, Hari Shankar and Jugal joined the team as volunteers.



Bunny Mohanty

## COMPONENTS OF THE COLLAGE

**Raasta**  
Genre -Experimental  
Story - Sumit Panda  
Direction- Sidharth Goutam  
Producer- Sidharth Goutam  
**Cast** : Zeeshan, Sukriti, Sachin, Banisa, Sangram, Parag Behera

**Byaase Sunucha**  
Genre - Drama  
Story, Lyrics- Sumit Panda  
Direction- Sidharth Goutam  
Producer- Odians Originals  
**Cast** : Dipanwit  
Behind the screen - Biswajit Kuldi, Bunny Mohanty

**Avisaara**  
Genre-Lyrical  
Music- Binay Rath  
Singer - Biraj Rath  
Direction- Biraj Rath  
Producer- Biraj Rath  
**Cast** : Dipanwit,Sheetal, Priyanka & Biswajit Kuldi

**Chaya Brutanta**  
Genre - Thriller  
Story - Bunny Mohanty  
Direction- Mahesh DLeo  
Producer- Black Magic  
**Cast** : Dipanwit, Prem, Shruti

**Pade Adhe**  
Genre - Romance  
Story - Biswajit Kuldi,Himagni  
Direction- Biswajit Kuldi  
Producer- Amara Muzik  
**Cast** : Sovan, Himagni, Abhishek, Parag

**Shadow**  
Genre - Suspense  
Story - Subhashree Pattanaik  
Direction- Abhishek Swain  
Producer- AAO NXT  
**Cast** : Partha Sarathi Ray, Kalki Krishna



The organisers of *Kalpna Ra Collage*



An interactive session underway





# Sudha Chandran turns anchor

**Mumbai:** Actor and dancer Sudha Chandran is seen in an all-new avatar. She is the anchor of *Crime Alert*. This is the first time she is hosting a show.

“Initially, when I took it on, I was a little apprehensive because this is one genre that I have not touched at all. I have tried out acting but anchoring I always thought was very different and would also be difficult because your command of the Hindi language has to be very strong.”

“Relatively I do speak Hindi quite well but nevertheless, there are certain words which have to be said with precision. So I was a little doubtful.”

“Also when you’re the anchor of a crime show, you become a social messenger, you are conveying what is just and right to the audience. So that conviction is very important. A lot of questions were going on in my mind but nevertheless, I have always accepted challenges. I said to myself ‘Sudha don’t give it up. You have to give it a try’, so here I am,” she adds.

AGENCIES

# Bilingual *Maya Darpan* to be screened in July

**Bhubaneswar:** *Maya Darpan*, a bilingual movie (Odia-Hindi) will be released in July in theatres across the state. Directed by Rajeeb Mohanty, the film is based on a mother-son relationship and it shows how the son abandons his mother once he grows up.

The Hindi version will be released in the first week of July while the Odia version will be screened in the last week, said producer Jharana Samal.

Culture minister Ashwini Kumar Patra and principal secretary Madhusudan Padhi recently attended the poster and audio release event of the film. Bikash Shukla has scored the music while the Hindi dialogues have been penned by Udayan Supakar. The cast includes Kuna



Tripathy, Jeevan panda, Pradyumna Lenka, Ratan Meher, Ankit, Pooja and Prativa Panda who is also the executive producer of the film. PNN

# *Bidyarana* gets a release date

**Bhubaneswar:** Babushaan and Shivani starrer *Bidyarana* will be released on Rath Yatra, informed the makers at the audio release event recently.

The movie, directed by Jyotee Dass, is being made under the banner of Tathya Productions banner.

“We have packed the movie with action and romance and we expect it will get the audience’s support,” said Dass.

Baidyanath Dash has scored the music while the lyrics are written by Nirmal Nayak and Babu Goswami. The songs were sung by

Babushaan, Asima Panda, Swayam Padhi, Ananya and Humane Sagar.

Apart from Babushaan and Shivani, veteran actor Uttam Mohanty, Saheb Singh, Raja, Pupul Bhuyan and Priyanka, Manyata essay important roles in the movie. PNN

# Will be a 'free bird' in a month: Chhavi

**Mumbai:** Popular TV actress Chhavi Mittal has been quite active on social media about her fight with cancer.

Now she took to her Instagram handle to share that she is finally done with all her radiation therapy sessions and will be fully cured after almost 30 days.

She posted a few pictures and wrote a long message to share about her happiness of getting rid of all the restrictions and attending the last radiation therapy session recently.

Chhavi wrote: “I can’t keep calm coz my radiation is FINALLY OVER!! I only recover from this point onwards. I have to follow all restrictions for 30 more days and then I’ll be a free bird!”

“I had to hold my breath while the radiation was being given & when I would get breathless and breathe, the machine would stop. So just to make the whole process fun & build on my breath-holding time, I would always count on my mind *Mississippi 1, Mississippi 2,*” she added.



AGENCIES

# Shooting in two languages exciting: Amitabh

**Hyderabad:** Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently in Hyderabad shooting for the upcoming Prabhas-starrer *Project K*, has talked about shooting in two languages. He says it’s exciting but monitors apprehension.

The cine-icon took to his blog, where he also talked about getting not much sleep due to ‘load of work’.

He wrote: “ace.. 9 hrs .. up and down a few winks .. work in consolation .. the dual language excites but monitors apprehension and the load of work that contends and runs away.”

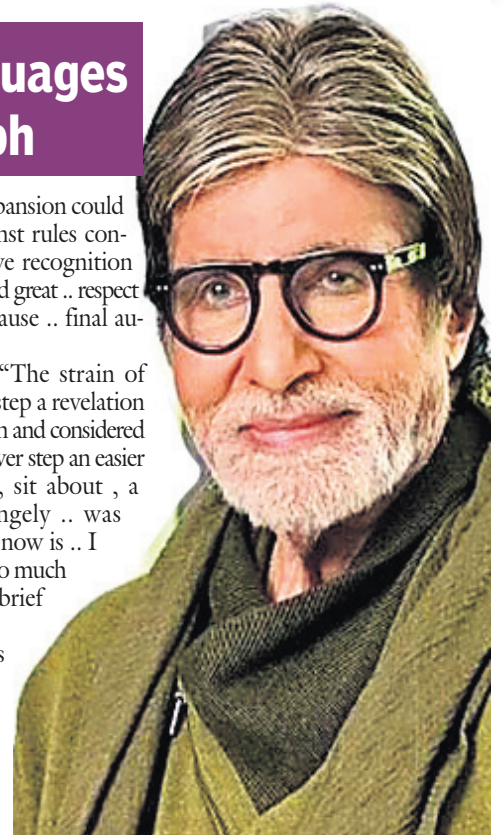
The face the design the trials of its occurrence .. every time a determined decision, 'never again' and there we are .. at it

and in huge expansion could show but against rules contractually .. give recognition .. law is huge and great .. respect and find due cause .. final authority ..”

He added: “The strain of work, at each step a revelation .. needs attention and considered concern .. a slower step an easier climb .. stand, sit about, a consider, strangely .. was never before .. now is .. I complain far too much .. I need to be brief in the brief ..”

*Project K* is directed by Nag Ashwin. It also stars Deepika Padukone.

AGENCIES





WORLD MUSIC DAY - JUNE 21

# The healing touch



Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife

KAHLIL GIBRAN | FAMOUS LEBANESE POET

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Be it Classical, Pop, Rock, or Jazz, music remains a part of all human cultures and societies since eternity. Music not only pacifies the problems of a person, it keeps the mind and soul cheerful. It also has been a crucial component in all forms of entertainment. However, the biggest contribution of music to human civilisation is its healing power.

Ahead of World Music Day, June 21, **Sunday POST** caught up with a few music therapists who shared their views on the magical power of music.

### Miraculous ragas

The practice of music therapy has helped **Dr. Sucheta Rakshit** save quite a few lives. Rakshit, the first person in Odisha and only the second in India after Dr Bhaskar Khandekar of Jabalpur, to have a doctorate in Music



Therapy on Neurology, says she has seen miracles happening before her eyes. People, who lose their senses in accidents, have immensely benefited after undergoing music therapy.

With the therapeutic treatment, they not only have gained sense but also have overcome the memory loss, she states.

An advisor to Indian Board of Alternative Medicines, she claims, there are cases when people have recovered from depression, headache, migraine, blood pressure, diabetes and post-operative recoveries, infertility and natal handicaps if treated with required 'Raga' for their respective ailments.

While music therapy sessions help people overcome critical illnesses, certain 'ragas' can tame wild animals and trigger agricultural growth, say experts

Dr Rakshit has successfully treated neuro patients and their corresponding ailments with different musical 'Ragas'.

"Raga Sarang is applied for headaches, Raga Malhar is mostly used as stress buster, Raga Bhairavi cures asthma/ sleeplessness, Raga Darbari for cardiac ailments, Raga Pancham eases stomach ailments and Raga Shivranjani is applied to address memory loss. The variations of frequency in different ragas can stimulate the dying tissues," adds Balasore-based **Rakshit**, a former producer of Doordarshan who has bagged multiple honours for her contributions to the society in various forms.

### Impact on plants, animals

**Aurosish Pani**, a classical vocalist in Odisha shares his understanding of application of 'Ragas' to heal illness. The Associate Professor at Shankar Mahadevan Academy acknowledges how people are embracing music therapy both globally and in India.

"This is beyond genres of all kinds of music. It acts as a

big time catalyst in assisting people to accept the medication" says Pani.

"There is no dearth of instances when experimentation of music on flora and fauna yielded amazing results. Studies also suggest how music has stimulated growth in plants when they are exposed to classical music and how humans have been able to tame the wild with melodies", he states.

### Power of music

Sharing the profound effect of music on individuals, eminent Hindustani Vocalist

**Pandit Debendra Narayan Satapathy** says, "Music therapy that is emerging now in medical science has been in the Vedas since ages. The Adivaasis adopted the approach and compiled phonetics and mantras since the inception of civilization."

"Raag or raga is a series of musical notes on which a melody is based and it expresses different moods for different times of the day", he adds.

Speaking about the amazing power of music, he continues: "Bhairava, an ancient raag, cures cold, cough, sinusitis and that has been tested. Similarly, Brahma Kamal, an extinct flower species found in the Himalayas, could be abloomed in our climate using Ginguti Raga and Misra-Pahadi. Raag Puriya Dhanashree is used worldwide as a



stress buster and for insomnia issues. There are other ragas also that trigger agricultural growth."

"The miraculous effect of all the ragas has been traced back to the Samveda era. Listening to good music has always enhanced the growth and development of not only humans but also plants and animals", concludes Satapathy.

### Music and psyche

Eminent psychiatrist **Dr. Amrit Pattojoshi** shared his profound knowledge and experience in music with **Sunday POST**.

"Music Therapy is an efficient form of alternative therapy treating major psychiatric disorders. History has witnessed various aspects that describe the relationship between music and psychiatry" says Dr. Pattojoshi. "Brain can be permanently modified by musical training" he adds.



"Music has numerous applications within a psychiatric setting in the form of creating background and group singing sessions. It has a positive effect on therapeutic environments like positive alteration in moods, improved concentration, developing coping and relaxation skills, self-esteem, enhancing self-awareness and engaging in more social interactions," he says.

### Best companion

**Sambit Nanda**, a distinguished psychologist in Odisha, says music is the best companion of a human being.

"A study reveals when a person is downhearted, he relates to the lyrics with his life and when he's joyful he rather enjoys the music of the song" says Nanda.



"It creates a balance, raises hope and is a mood lifter. Ghazals, sufi music, classical and instrumental music are the most powerful ones. This includes our everyday experience in workplaces. Music builds an environment for sustaining motivation for daily activities. Children with special needs are one of the beneficiaries of music therapy through soothing and sensory music," adds Nanda.







# Pratik



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP