

AUGUST 14-20, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

FINDING **REAL FREEDOM**



P 3,4

COVER
STORY



Making people laugh is one of the toughest things that one can do. But Satyabrat Mohapatra, a standup comic credited for developing a culture of humour in Bhubaneswar, has been doing it for the last six years with great panache. The 28-year-old, who is all set to become the first Odia to perform at The Habitat, loves to spend time with his maternal grandparents

Weekends are Weekdays

My weekends are usually scheduled up with shows and performances away from home. So I find myself in different cities on weekends. Some Sundays I stay back after the shows and go trekking.

Food enthusiast

I use my 'me-time' in exploring different food hubs. I put out stories and people connect with me to share information about better food joints at underrated places. For me, weekends are food hopping and shows.

Away from family

As I have already mentioned I mostly find myself away from home on Sundays, so it's away from family as well. I give my family the best time by not being with them.

Selling smiles

I was an engineer turned MBA turned banker. I did everything society wanted me to do. And now I am pursuing what I want to do. At the moment, you'd get a very few souls who are not stressed-out. So, I sell smiles to those who want to escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

I do a lot of cleaning and dusting when I am home. I call in my friends for lunch on Sundays and ask mom to don the chef's apron. She's a foodie and an amazing cook.

Prep-up for shows

I watch a lot of standups to generate content. Besides, I spend time with my maternal grandparents. I listen keenly to grandpa, excerpts and funny incidents from his life and this is where my content for the next show comes from.

Social experimentation

I love socially experimenting with people; I start blogging with random people. Although I create videos, I never post them as they may invite unwanted controversies.



With actor Kuna Tripathy



With grandma

Time to pet

On Sundays, I isolate myself to my room with my dog and continue writing the content that I require for my next performances.

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 And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- I'm pretty sure my prayers go directly to God's spam folder.
- Great power comes with great electricity bills.
- Do You Want To Go Out With Me? (A) Yes (B) A (C) B.
- Teachers call it cheating, students call it teamwork.

ECO-FRIENDLY RAKHI CELEBRATION

Sir, The cover feature 'Promise Of Protection' (Aug 7) was a veritable trip through time, tracing the important events associated with this age-old festival. The interview with the transgender activist was interesting. However, there is a flip side to this festival. Every year, once the rakhis made from synthetic products are discarded, this results in enormous amounts of non-biodegradable waste and environmental pollution. In view of the growing consciousness for environmental protection and the ever-growing call for usage of sustainable products, it is of paramount importance that we adopt environmentally responsible practices and make a green switch by handcrafting rakhis using natural and eco-friendly materials like corn, pulses, air-dried clay, pressed flowers and leaves embedded with seeds, which can be later planted in the soil. Let us take a solemn pledge to celebrate this bond of sibling love in an environmentally sustainable way.

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

FINDING

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

REAL FREEDOM

It's a fundamental duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper, as laid down in the Indian Constitution. However, a large section of the society is far away from it even after 75 years of Independence, says Manas Mallick who encourages youths to think rationally



POST NEWS NETWORK

In a few hours from now the nation will be celebrating its 76th Independence Day. There will be speeches, flag hoisting, parades and re-telling of the contributions made by the revolutionaries. This year, the event is special as the government is commemorating the 75th year of Independence through *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* (AKAM), an initiative to celebrate the glorious history of Indian culture and achievements. Adding more colour to the celebration, yet another campaign titled *Har Ghar Tiranga* has been launched under the aegis of AKAM to encourage people hoist national flag at their homes. So, no stone is being left unturned to make 2022 a memorable year.

For the record, India became a sovereign nation in 1947. But has it really become free in the real sense? The land is liberated from the clutches of the British, but what about the thoughts. At a time when humans are planning to set up a colony on Mars, there are many among us who follow this age-old practice of not taking food during solar or lunar eclipse. Events are held to please the planets at medical colleges and goddess Carona Devi, believed to be the deity of coronavirus, is worshipped in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and

Assam. The list is endless. Therefore, we badly need to get rid of such blind beliefs in order to develop scientific temper, as mentioned in our constitution.

On the eve of Independence Day, a few youths shared what they have been doing to make people free from superstitious thoughts and promote the spirit of science.

Free from foreign rules, but not free in thoughts

Priyadarshani Biswal, a health counselor at District Headquarters Hospital in Deogarh, says 75 years is a long time but unfortunately the span has proved inadequate to change



people's mindset in India.

She visits every ward of the hospital and makes the patients, the adolescent boys and girls in particular

who hold the keys of a better India, aware about superstitions.

Listing a few examples Priyadarsani says, "An event was held at Bolangir medical college to please the planets. People still consult the traditional healer instead of taking the patient to hospital in snake bite cases. How shameful is it to circulate booklets on Corona Devi, believed by a section to be the deity of coronavirus, to battle Covid-19 in Odisha and set up a temple of Coronaswari in Rajasthan."

She continues: "We are planning to set up a colony on Mars but the same planet is blamed for the broken marriages. A planet that is located millions of miles away from us has no business other than breaking Indian marriages!"

Even after 75 years of Independence, the nation is lagging behind several other countries in various aspects not because of those who are less-informed. It is because educated people don't carry others along, says Priyadarsani.

A science teacher after explaining to his students in classroom about the solar eclipse asks his family to not take food during this day. Since the sunlight is blocked, it helps grow more bacteria in the food, he explains to his family. Then what about the Nordic countries where the sun appears six months a year, do they keep fast for the next six months, asks Priyadarsani.

"It is a matter of great pride and pleasure that the country is celebrating the 75th year of Independence. We have made great strides in several spheres like women education, won battles against diseases like leprosy, polio and smallpox and made significant growth in space science. But let's not sit only on the past glory. This is the high time we stayed away from beliefs like ghosts and spirit and practices like sorcery. We shouldn't involve our children in practices like 'vrat' and 'mannat' because such practices gradually turn shackles for them. The teachers have a great role to play in this regard as children often believe them more than that of their parents. If the scientific spirit is not inculcated in kids from the beginning, they get confused and become mentally weak when they grow up," concludes Priyadarsani.

Need to overcome medieval mindset

Lopamudra Mishra, a science teacher and author, is also not very happy with the way people think after 75 years of Independence. She writes columns in Odia newspaper and is a humanist at heart. She says, "Apart from freeing India from colonial rule, our predecessors, who laid down their lives, also wanted a nation free of medieval mindset. Though developing scientific temper is part of our constitutional duty, it's a pity that highly qualified people are also not free



from superstitious beliefs. What is to be blamed is our system of education. Kids along with their curricular education should be changed and encouraged to think rationally and analyse scientifically in schools and also at home. Because the real scientific temper grows in the minds of our children which in later stages is transferred to the new generation. But unfortunately, we Indians are still not free from backward ideologies and superstitions even after 75 years of Independence."



Explaining the state the country is in, the rationalist continues: "In India, the most dangerous and alarming superstitions are witch hunting, occult practices to treat children, black magic, animal sacrifices, human (kids) sacrifices in new buildings, bridges among others. Reports of National Crime Records Bureau notified almost 2,500 Indians killed in apparently organised witch hunts from

2000 to 2016, several instances of children being killed as a result of being taken to witch doctors and getting mantras practised on them. These dangerous crimes are still being committed in many regions of our country. These superstitious beliefs should be immediately eradicated to make our society a healthy place to live in. Most religious people blindly follow their religious 'Babas' & 'Matas', but that is not the real problem, the main issue lies in fake people & their evil minds. These people mislead the innocents to believe in them.

It's not an easy task to convince those who don't want to come out of it, especially the older generation. Superstitions have been ingrained in their blood and they think those are the real truth and scientific. It is also difficult to create awareness among the masses nowadays, because they easily get influenced by the vested interest to engage in communal clashes.

The root of the problem lies in various religious practices that are not backed by science. If such practices are not promoted in text books of schools and colleges, superstitions can largely be curbed, believes Lopamudra, who mostly writes on her social media handles and newspaper to dispel unscientific thoughts.

Have to identify the thin line between religious and blind beliefs

Manas Mallick is a former journalist who now works as the coordinator – School and Community Science Programme, South Odisha Initiative of Sikshasandhan, a resource centre for education in Odisha. The centre believes that education is a vital tool in the process of empowerment of poor and under-privileged sections of society.

Mallick says, "It's a fundamental duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform, as written in our Constitution. But, unfortunately after 75 years of Independence, we are far away from developing scientific temper. Unscientific thoughts lead to many superstitions and cause harm to mankind and society. Beliefs in astrology, ghosts and spirits, superstitions relating to child and



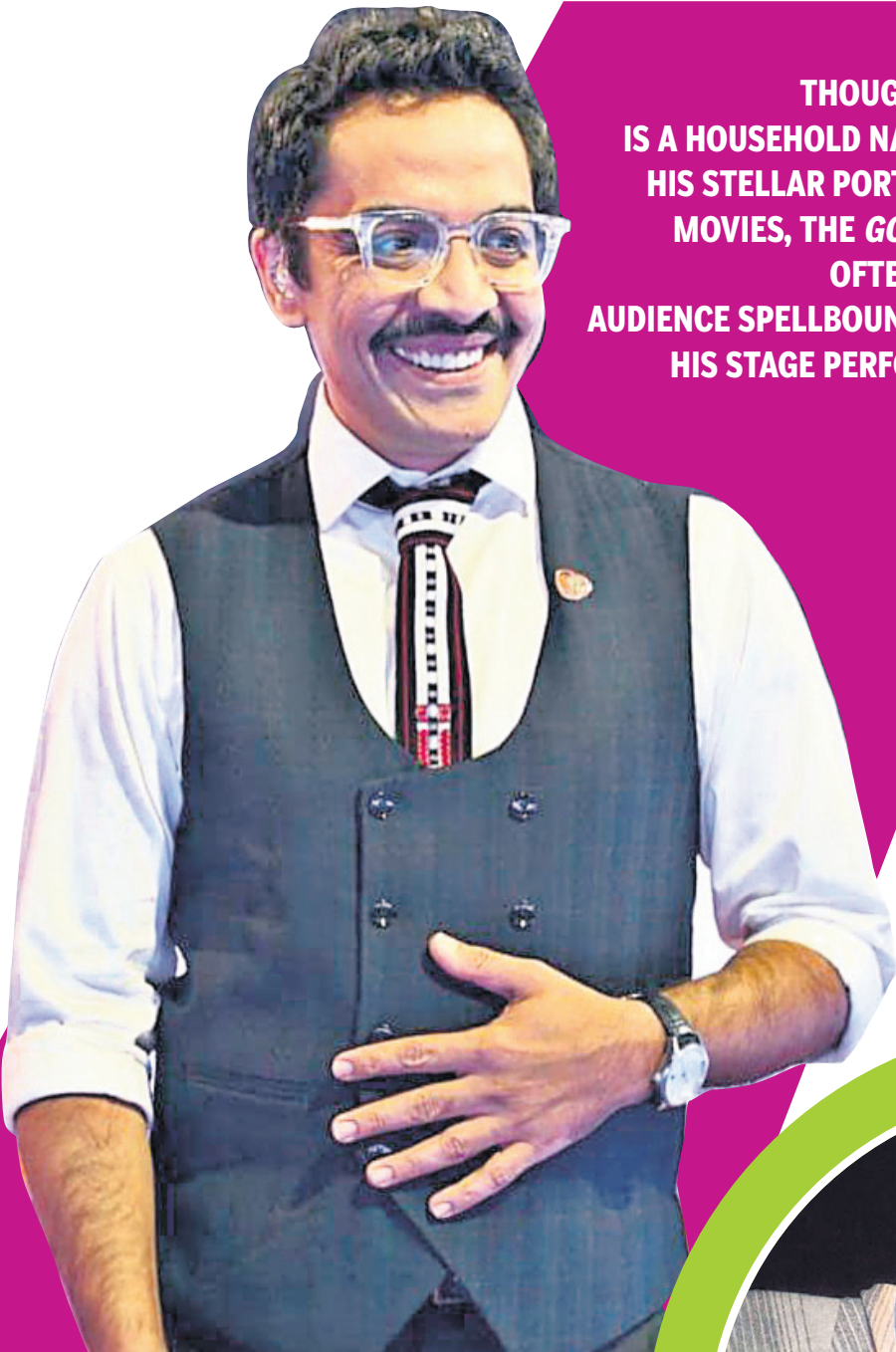
women folk, age old superstitions relating to caste-like social systems, and so many other superstitions originated from religious traditions are

major stuff that needs to be eradicated."

"People should learn how to be rational in day-to-day life. Every citizen should stop believing fairy tales written in their respective religious texts. All should read the Constitution as they read their so-called holy books. It's too difficult to convince people who are in their 60's and above. There is a very thin line between religious beliefs and blind beliefs or superstitions which we need to identify. Most people practice superstitions in the name of spiritualism and religious beliefs. I think it's too difficult to create awareness among the masses until they are able to differentiate superstitions and true religious beliefs," he adds.

Mallick advises his friends and people known to him to think and judge everything rationally. He also creates awareness through social media platforms.





THOUGH VRAJESH HIRJEE IS A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN INDIA FOR HIS STELLAR PORTRAYAL IN HINDI MOVIES, THE *GOLMAAL* ACTOR OFTEN HOLDS THE AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND THROUGH HIS STAGE PERFORMANCES

‘Accepted comic roles to keep the hearth burning’

Talking about films, do you think being typecast as a comic actor has hampered your career?

Yes, you are absolutely correct. I have done some serious roles too in a career spanning over two decades. But they are few and far between. People liked me for my funny characters and so the makers preferred me to play them repeatedly in their

Do you think it was only after the release of the dubbed version of Rajamouli’s *Baahubali* did the demand for voiceover artists increase in the Mumbai film industry?

I don’t think so. The voice actors are there from the beginning and in fact many are legends in their own rights. But people didn’t know much about them. But yes, after *Baahubali*’s rousing success and Sharad Kelkar’s performance in it as a voice artist, people became more aware about the voice work.

How much satisfaction do you get working in radio shows?

It’s been fantastic journey full of fun. On a radio show, you need to play a story in your mind as you don’t have a co-actor. So, it’s a different world and I am having a great time as RJ.

How do you strike a balance working in so many mediums— theatre, TV, films and radio?

It’s not something that you can plan, it just happened and I hope to continue all of them successfully like I have been doing.

What are your future projects?

Apart from *Cirkus* directed by Rohit Shetty, I am also doing a radio show for Big FM. I will also be hosting the new season of *Pro Kabaddi League* on Star Sports.



Vrajesh during a performance at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar

destinations of this beautiful state, known as India’s best kept secret. My family is also going to miss this trip. I’ll make sure that they are with me when I am in Odisha next time.

How much do you identify yourself with the character in the play *Game, Set(ing) & Match*?

I am a Gujarati and the character that I play in the drama is Gujarati too. So, playing the character was like a cakewalk for me. Also, I knew many Gujaratis who live in the USA and had seen them interact. So, it was not at all difficult for me to get into the skin of my character.

How was the experience of working with a theatre veteran like Rajit Kapur?

It’s fantastic to work with Rajit sir. The knowledge and experience he has is exceptional. He had directed the play so a lot of what you have seen in my performance was his input and visualisation.

films. At the beginning, I used to be upset over being typecast. But eventually, I had little choice than accepting those roles. After all I had to look after my family and keep the hearth burning.

How is your equation with Rohit Shetty with whom you have worked in multiple films?

He is a phenomenal director. He knows the pulse of the audience. He has great knowledge about both comedy and action. This is one of the reasons his films hardly fail at the box office.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

With more than 40 films and 20 TV shows to his credit, Vrajesh Hirjee, one of the most popular comic actors in Hindi cinema, needs no introduction to the readers. This versatile actor has also won millions of hearts as an RJ for his show *Mumbai Maska Maar Ke* on Big FM and voiceover works in animation film *Incredibles 2*. This apart, he is a known face in Mumbai theatre circuit and has mesmerised his audience in live shows on countless occasions.

The *Golmaal* actor was recently in Bhubaneswar to perform in a seven-play anthology *One on One*. Needless to mention, Vrajesh was in his element in Rajit Kapur directorial *Game, Set(ing) & Match* that left the viewers in splits at Rabindra Mandap.

On the sidelines of the event, he took some time off to speak to **Sunday POST** on a host of subjects.

Excerpts:

This was your maiden visit to Odisha. How was the experience?

It is too early to share my experience in Odisha. I’m planning to explore the famous



Ei Rakhi To Raksha Kabacha to be aired on Zee Sarthak Aug 21

Bhumi goes all praise for Akshay

For actress Bhumi Pednekar, whose film *Raksha Bandhan* released Thursday, it's a special day as the film was released on the same day as her *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* where she co-starred with Akshay Kumar. The actress shares that Akshay has played a huge part in her career as he has always backed her to deliver nothing but the best.

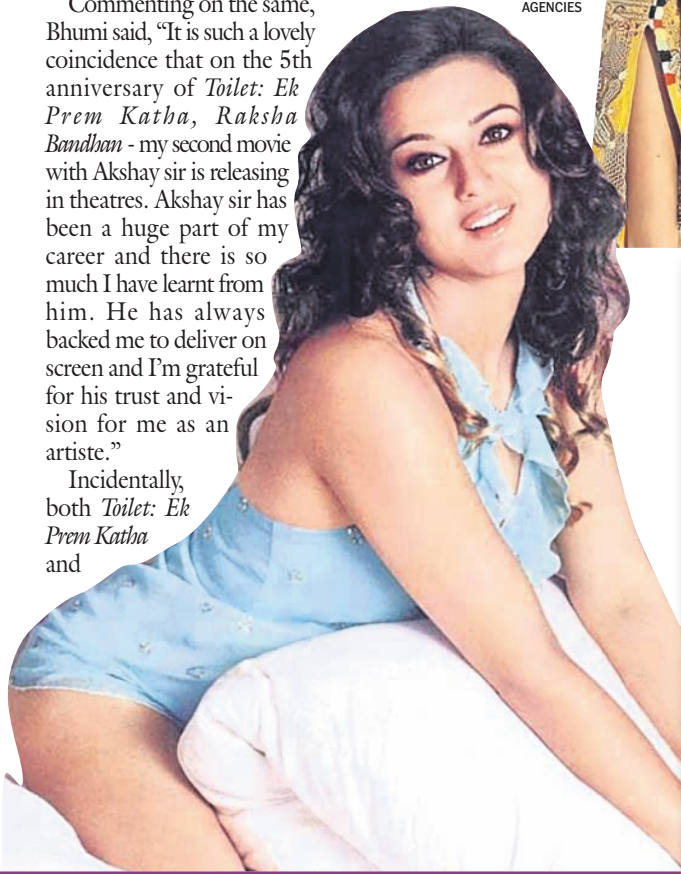
Raksha Bandhan have social themes at their core.

The actress is confident that *Raksha Bandhan* will strike a chord with every Indian living worldwide. She says, "I hope *Raksha Bandhan* touches the heart and soul of everyone because it has been made with so much purity and love by Aanand L Rai."

Commenting on the same, Bhumi said, "It is such a lovely coincidence that on the 5th anniversary of *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, *Raksha Bandhan* - my second movie with Akshay sir is releasing in theatres. Akshay sir has been a huge part of my career and there is so much I have learnt from him. He has always backed me to deliver on screen and I'm grateful for his trust and vision for me as an artiste."

Incidentally, both *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* and

AGENCIES



Yet another movie on sibling love will be released next week.

Titled *Ei Rakhi To Raksha Kabacha* and directed by Sanjay Nayak, the film will be aired on Zee Sarthak next Sunday at 6.30 pm.

The movie, produced by Khirod Patnaik and co-produced by Lipsa Mishra, had an audio release event Wednesday. Ananya, Rishi, Bikram and Rajdeep play pivotal roles in the movie.

Talking to **Orissa POST** director Nayak said, "Rakhi is more than just a thread and getting gifts from a brother. The movie will showcase the true meaning of *Raksha Bandhan*."

Nayak had earlier made a movie on brother-sister love titled *Rakhi Bandhili Mo Rakhiba Mana* starring Mihir Das, Sidhanth Mohapatra and Anu Choudhary.

Nayak said, a lot of changes have taken place since the movie, which was his directorial debut, was made and this time the audience will get to see something fresh on the subject.

The lyrics of the movie have been written by Nihar Priyashish and Shuba Das while Baidyanath Das takes care of the music. Humane Sagar, Neha Niharika, Kumar Bapi, Antara Chakraborty, Sheetal Kabi and Subashish Sahoo have lent their voice to the songs. PNN

Preity takes trip down memory lane

Actor Preity Zinta posted a note as her film *Dil Chahta Hai* clocked 21 years of its release. Taking to Instagram last week, Preity also shared a brief clip from the film that also starred Aamir Khan. The video showed their characters Akash and Shalini meeting on a flight to Sydney. *Dil Chahta Hai* is a coming-of-age romance film written and directed by Farhan Akhtar.

Sharing the clip, Preity captioned the post, "*Dil Chahta Hai* turns a year older today. A film where there was no place for a hero or heroine - just relatable characters that we could reach out and touch and laugh out loud with."

She also added, "It will always have a very special place in my heart. Thank you to the entire cast n crew & the audience for all the love #ting #21yearsofdilchahthai @faroutakhtar @aamirkhanproductions #AkshayeKhanna #SaifAliKhan #DimpleKapadia @sonalikul @shankarehsaan-loy @ritesh_sid @excelmovies."

Earlier, Farhan shared a clip from the film and wrote a note on Instagram. He said, "The film that started it all, turns 21 today. Thank you to the cast and the crew who believed in it. Thank you to the audiences who continue to give it so much love. Love you all." AGENCIES

Kiss Miss set for a Ganesh Puja release

Jhilik Motion Pictures will have their first release *Kiss Miss*, a beautiful love story, this Ganesh Puja, August 31.

Film's story revolves around Neha, played by Sivani Sangita, who wants to be a model but she is diagnosed with skin diseases and Siddharth, portrayed by Swaraj Barik, an aspiring cricketer who happens to be blind. The viewers will get to see how they help each other to get their dreams realised.

Produced by actress Jhilik Bhattacharjee, the film is directed by Susant Mani.

"Sivani-Swaraj is a fresh pair

and the audience will have fun watching their chemistry," expects Mani.

The screen couple earlier had worked in *Dil Mora Manena*.

Jhilik, on the other hand, said Mani has given many cult movies to the audience in the past and every one expects the same this time also.

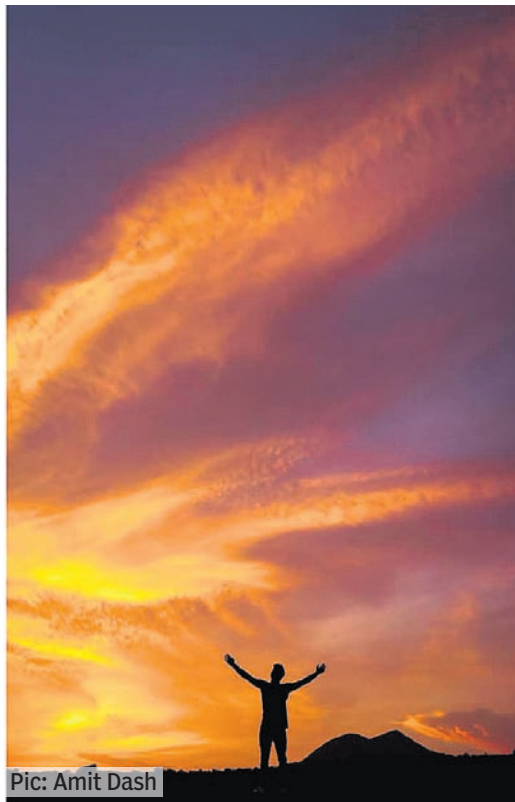
Abhijit Majumdar scores the music for the film while the lyrics are written by Nirmal Nayak.

Pritiraj, Somen Pujari, Neetu Singh, Linkan Patnaik and Dharitri play other important roles in the movie. PNN





Pic: Pratik



Pic: Amit Dash



Pic: Partha Sarathi

WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY - AUGUST 19

Freezing in memories

The best part of being a shutterbug is what one captures now, turns into a precious document in future, says lensman Amit Dash who loves to record raw human emotions in his camera

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

There is hardly a more important medium than photography that can tell a story and convey emotions more effectively. Sometimes, complex and multiple ideas can be expressed through a single image. No wonder, it is said and believed that a picture is worth a thousand words. So, to celebrate this craft, its nuances, science and history, August 19 is celebrated as World Photography Day every year.

Ahead of this day, a few passionate shutterbugs share some of their prized works with **Sunday POST** and reveal what photography means to them.

Bhubaneswar based **Partha Sarathi** started off as a solo wedding photographer in 2016. But he now leads a team of 10 photographers to run Juxtapose Memories, a name to reckon within City's photography circle. He even bagged the second prize at a state-level competition organised by Government of Odisha and felicitated by none other than CM Naveen Patnaik.

Asked what photography means to him, Partha says, "For me photography is storytelling. The images always tell a story of their own."

When most people prefer to click nature, landscapes or wildlife what made him choose wedding photography? To this, he explains, "Though it seems like just clicking some routine wedding images, there is more to it than people think. We can get several opportunities to click nature, wildlife or landscape. At times, we get even better opportunities than the previous ones. But wedding photography is all about capturing one of the most important events in a person's life. We create everlasting memories that families treasure



for a lifetime." It has been more than five years since Partha has been freezing moments in his lens and making them into lifetime memories to be cherished forever by many. Wedding photography helps him run his family but he also loves to travel and click beautiful landscapes and scenic beauty of nature.

Meet photographer **Amit Dash** who neither clicks nature nor events of marriage. The passionate lens man loves to arrest various human emotions in his camera.

"The best part of being a shutterbug is what gets captured now, turns into a precious document for future," says Amit who loves to record raw human emotions in his camera.

He says photography for him is an adven-



ture. "I get to know a lot of people, and I make their portraits having varied emotions," adds Amit who started photography when he was in junior

college. He used to get his pocket money by doing shoots for his friends at that time.

But after his 12th, he trained himself and started working as a freelance photographer for professional assignments.

Photographer **Pratik** is adventurous in true sense as he loves traveling, trekking and most of all, watching the sky and being with nature.

His photography is therapeutic for him. "I've a hell lot of hobbies and photography is one such hobby & profession for me which is so therapeutic for me as it gives me freedom to create something from my point of view and freeze it. Capturing landscapes and nature is my favourite genre in photography, because you've to wait for nature to show its colour and magic."



Pratik disclosed that he belongs to a family where everyone is good in academics and he is the only one to have photography as his profession.



Pic: Pratik



Dibyashree



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP
COSTUME: BENORITA DASH, LADYBEN