

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 4, 2023

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



# A stroll down anime multiverse

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3,4 COVER STORY



After being bitten by the acting bug at 12 for a stage play, there was no looking back for Sarthak Bharadwaj Behera. His seven years of professional theatre experience recently helped him make debut in Odia family drama 'Shanti' on Star Kiran TV channel. Kalahandi-based Sarthak, a well known mimicry artiste, content creator and voice artiste, wants to become a linguist

# MY SUNDAY

## Day of creativity

Sunday for me could be any day when I am not working. Then, I focus on creative stuff like painting, watching plays, cooking and spending time with creative individuals.

## Sweet tooth

I cannot resist chocolates and ice cream. I have been unsuccessful in resisting myself from all sorts of sweets.

## Odia at heart

My forever preferred food is Pakhala and that is because I am an Odia. Apart from that I love South Indian cuisine for breakfast and North Indian for dinner.



With friends from theatre troupe



With family

## Non-planner

I'm an absolutely lazy adventurer and a non planner. I am somebody who jumps on unplanned adventures, such as travelling to Goa even as I have just 100 bucks in my pocket. I take lifts from trucks to reach my destination.

## Exploring unexplored

I am always in the mood to explore the unexplored; it could be food, culture, language, community or accents.

## Born farmer

I bond with my father pretty well when it comes to farming, him being a landlord we still practice farming. I lend a hand to help him with agricultural tasks and there I learn about farming.

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

## WhatsApp This Week

### Only on Sunday POST!

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

#### THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- A healthy sleep not only makes your life longer, but also shortens the workday.
- It's better to let someone think you are an idiot than to open your mouth and prove it.
- Never laugh at your girlfriends choices... your one of them.
- God gave us the brain to work out problems. However, we use it to create more problems.



## TRUE ROLE MODEL

Sir, It was enchanting to have Basanta Kumari Samanta in conversation with Sunday POST in the interview section. It is a great attempt at manifesting the worth of talent she possesses. She has evidently mentioned how her struggles were never the real ones and how wonderfully she has been able to overcome all of them to achieve everything she was passionate about. Going back in time, in the parallel universe, there were women who feared speaking up, let alone follow their passion. I acknowledge the female painter as an affirming example of her field and to the women today as well. Emphasising on making fine art a compulsory subject, she has sent her message to the Government for necessary inclusion in curriculum. Naming her gurus, Sarat Chandra Dev, Jita Charan Mohanty, Ajit Keshari Ray, and Rabi Narayan Nayak, she has brought art, craft and reads through the interview alive again.

SOUMYA SEKHAR BOSE, CUTTACK

## 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



# A stroll down anime multiverse

In an era of increasing consumption of social media, there is a cohort of followers of anime, a style of animation that originated in Japan, who do not hesitate to be loud and vocal about their viewing preferences



where both of them are right from their very own perspective. *Slice-of-Life*

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Anime, a style of Japanese animated entertainment, has been steadily gaining popularity among youth worldwide. With its unique storytelling, colourful characters, and stunning animation, anime has captured the hearts and minds of today's youth like never before. This growing popularity can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the rise of online streaming platforms that make anime more accessible, the increasing globalisation of popular culture, and the ability of anime to appeal to a broad range of audiences with its diverse themes and genres. Additionally, social media has played a significant role in amplifying the visibility of anime and providing a platform for fans to connect with each other and share their enthusiasm. Its influence has extended beyond entertainment to fashion, music, and other areas of popular culture.

With anime becoming an increasingly important cultural force among today's youth, a few weeb talk to **Sunday POST** about its popularity:

## Attack on Titan makes people question society

Samarpit Das, a fourth-year engineering student at Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR), believes that anime and cartoons are diametrically opposed mediums, with the former being similar to animation cartoons in Japanese style. Elaborating more, Samarpit said, "Anyone confusing cartoons with anime should watch *Attack on Titan* and then weigh in. There are shows, such as *Rick & Morty*, that depict numerous psychological and philosophical ideologies that only people with the guts



to grasp can watch. I believe that when discussing anime, people should keep an open mind and begin to watch them. Animes are essentially computer-generated animation with an age restriction."

On his attraction towards fandom, he said, "I believe I was into anime before anyone even realised what it was. When I was in fifth grade, I started watching *Pokemon*, *Digimon*, *Dragon Ball Z*, and *Naruto* with no idea that they were anime. After viewing them, I began to go deeper and discover more interesting anime with an evolved taste. My favourite anime genres are *Shonen* and *Slice-of-Life*. *Shonen* anime believes that they have evolved from showing good and bad as black and white to portraying it as a grey zone

where both of them are right from their very own perspective. *Slice-of-Life* animes are wonderful and dear to my heart because they accurately depict human emotions in everyday life. I became interested in this genre after receiving suggestions from friends. It has visualisation and diverse storylines that reflect reality. It entertains us and assists us in finding solutions to our own problems. Anime has popularised Japanese culture; youths and adults that watch anime are fascinated by its culture, cuisine, conduct, and way of life. Consider *Naruto*, the way the creators portray him, his conduct, and his manner of life. It made him an idol to many. They exposed all of us to a new culture. It makes us curious about and receptive to the same. Eren Yeager from *Attack on Titan* is my favourite anime character because he is willing to fight the world for his family, friends, and home. He is not the hero that everyone talks about who gives his life for the sake of others and watching his character development will make you question the society."





**One shouldn't rush in to watch popular shows**

Shibadatta Mishra, a private corporate employee, considers anime to be a stress reliever and was introduced to it in 12th grade by his younger brother, who was enthralled by it. Describing his interest, Shibadatta said, "Dragon Ball Z was my first anime, and I was lured into it by its character Goku. With an overpowering protagonist, the action genre was an added bonus for me. The main characters were Naruto Uzumaki from the *Naruto* series and Tyson from *Beyblade*, and their meticulous portrayal by the writers drew me in. I prefer Japanese animes to Chinese animes because Japan is the land of animes, and the language sparks vibrancy within me. I consider it to be my own. I sort of dove into their culture and attempted to adapt to it. When compared to Chinese anime, Japanese animation and graphics are superior. I disagree with those who perceive anime to be cartoons for children; they place more importance on this phrase than knowing what it truly is. I believe that people are more interested in adjusting to new cultures, and if you enjoy Japanese anime, you will be eager to learn about their culture. Animes are associated with culture; therefore, people are drawn to



them with their enthralled minds. I am fond of the *Isekai* genre, which means "from another world" or "parallel universe". A fantasy groping world that I believe only exists in anime and into which I am transported. I'd like to send a message to people who are just starting to watch anime: be patient and learn more about it. Choose the genres you want to watch thoughtfully, and don't rush into watching popular anime. Instead, explore them slowly and gradually. India is also growing in this field. Sooner or later, India will have its own followers since there are plenty of historical and mythological resources available."

**Anime offers an array of genres**

Ishita Sinha, a fourth-year engineering student at OUTR, began watching anime around the time she was in tenth grade in 2017. She started with *Clannad: After Story*, recommended by a friend, and described it as quite sad. Speaking about anime, she said, "Nanami from *Jujutsu Kaisen* is my favourite character because he is the most responsible and straight-up guy. Also, he appears harsh on the surface but is truly sensitive on the inside. Other characters I like are Tohru from *Fruit Basket*, who is so nice and selfless that she heals others just by being there, and Kou from *Ao haru ride*, who has a mysterious and chilling aura. My favourite genres are romance and slice-of-life stories. I was extremely fascinated by my first anime, *Clannad: After Story* and began watching similar animes such as *Angel Beats!*, *Plastic Memories*, *March Comes In Like a Lion*, and so on. I was really drawn by the beauty of it."



According to her, anime offers an array of genres ranging from melodramatic to complete, slow paced animes. She described *Perfect Blue*, as the best psychological horror movie, while *Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid* was the prettiest. Adding further, she said, "Another aspect that distinguishes anime is its variety of art styles. It has a superb art style, which is a visual treat for the eyes. I believe anime has clearly influenced popular culture; for example, if you go on any social media platform, you will discover tons of accounts regarding anime as well as growing comic cons hosted across the world. In my opinion, one of the most popular misconceptions regarding anime is that it is mainly for younger audiences under the age of 15, which is completely incorrect because most anime include powerful plotlines and mature topics, such as *Attack on Titan*, which features gore. When asked about favourite genre she commented, it's like a daily medication for someone who watches a lot of anime and obsesses over romantic anime. Instead of viewing the same mainstream anime, I would advise the viewers to choose the content that they find befitting. There are various websites where you can look up anime classified by genre and rating. I am a *Shoujo* anime enthusiast, while I do appreciate *Shonen* animes occasionally. I believe the anime audience grew in recent times as people had plenty of time, resulting in an affinity for the same. I do not believe the anime market will be declining anytime soon. Technological advancement has also benefited the studios greatly."

**When it's a stress reliever**

Bijay Kumar Jena, a fourth-year engineering student at the Silicon Institute of Technology, believes that anime is an extreme fantasy with a lot of emotions. He started watching anime series with *One Piece* and *Naruto*

when he was in ninth grade, at the suggestion of a friend. Talking about his favourite character, he said, "I like Zoro from *One Piece* because he is the future pirate king's teammate and he has demonstrated devotion. He aspires to be the finest swordsman and has a highly active, strong-willed, and determined demeanour. I appreciate romantic-comedy animes because of the portrayal of duality in a relationship. It has chattiness, beauty, ups and downs on one side, and complete craziness on the other. I believe there are no limitations to fantasy, and it is unique in its own way, capable of elevating any circumstance to a high level of intensity. I believe that anime has produced an environment in which people attempt to adapt to Japanese culture by learning their language and accepting their foods. People have incorrect assumptions about anime because of the graphics involved in depicting the storytelling. The narratives involved in anime are more complicated and psychological than cartoons. Anime is a great stress reliever for me."

It can be safely concluded that the popularity of anime is on par with Korea's K-pop, and China's TikTok. The anime universe is divided into several genres, including *Shonen* (young men who often strive to be the best at what they do, to right a terrible wrong, and/or to protect those they love), *Shoujo* (a plethora of romance series with an emphasis on relationships), *Seinen* (stories that can depict R-rated levels of violence and sexuality, murkier morals, and dark characters), and *Josei* (relationships examined beyond the initial kiss, lives after graduation, and much more). Anyone who is interested in the content can find it on OTT platforms and websites such as Netflix, Crunchyroll, Hulu, and others. To conclude, anime has become a cultural force that shows no signs of slowing down, thanks to its distinct art style, engaging storytelling, and vast spectrum of genres.



Though he has so far bagged a National and two State film awards, there are enough room for improvisations and that needs to be taken care of, says 'Srikhetra Ru Sahijata' showrunner Ashutosh Patnaik

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

When many of his friends opted to try their fate in commercial movies, Ashutosh Patnaik, an alumnus of Cuttack-based Biju Pattnaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha (BPFTIO), preferred to work hard on non-feature films, a category which is not very popular among the viewers. His sincerity paid off and he went on to bag a national award for his documentary Srikhetra Ru Sahijata followed by two State Film Awards last week. The Puri-born writer, director and producer took some time off from his busy schedule to speak to **Sunday POST** on a host of topics.

Excerpts:

- Why made you drawn towards the non feature category while many others of BPFTIO pursued careers in mainstream/commercial movies?
- The genre excites me because it is based upon facts and figures, life, truth and land's tradition. Besides, I feel that I have it in me to document those for the upcoming filmmakers to provide a backhand support so that they can carry the legacy forward. I want to explore the areas and make an archive of them which are fading into oblivion due to lack of research and documentation.
- You've always said that you wanted to pursue your passion. How important is it for you to turn passion into a profession?
- It is believed that passion and profession are two different things but when you get to follow your passion with your profession and both are equally balanced, one can't ask beyond that. Yes, I am blessed to have that. But let me tell you, before filmmaking my passion was photography, from there I developed a keen desire towards writing. For me, writing plus photography equals filmmaking, so my passion became my profession.
- As you are into direction, which directors do you look up to for inspiration?
- I can think of Sushant Mishra, Nirad Mahapatra and Raju Mishra in the regional circuit and at the national and international level I love the works of Anurag Kashyap, Satyajit Ray and Quentin Tarantino.
- And the actors you would love to collaborate with?

# 'Learn before you earn'

- In Odisha, there are some passionate performers like Partha Sarathi Ray, Hara Rath, Samresh Routray, Manoj Mishra and young artistes like Prasanjeet and Abhishek Giri, I would love to work with. At national level I have huge respect for people like Manoj Bajpayee, Rajkumar Rao, Piyush Mishra and several others.

- Earlier, you had mentioned in an interview that you wanted to bring global recognition to the heritage of Odisha, can we expect more such ventures on Puri? If yes, which area would you like to explore?

- Holy City Puri is an ocean of heritage. There are art, culture, sculpture, artists, and various other fields that need attention. I would like to work on lesser known subjects and traditional things like the sevayats and the mutts 'mathas' and other Srimandir traditions and portray Odisha as the beautiful state that it is. I want to make the resources available on the internet so the upcoming generations don't miss out on the historical remains.

- Being from Puri, do you think the popular Odia web series *Gangs of Puri* is a true reflection of your home town and its culture?

- *Gangs of Puri* is not exactly the reflection of Puri and its culture. The local dialects are missing. But for Odia entertainment industry and for us, it's a game changing project and a well made crime series. Kudos to the effort of its makers - Anupam Pattnaik and Jagdish Mishra.

- With awards comes the responsibility. Now that you have five of them including a National Award, what should the viewers expect from you next?

- I always set goals to achieve and I still think that there is enough room for improvisations and that needs to be taken care of. So in my next work, I will make sure that I don't repeat the past mistakes. But the awards and recognitions are just motivation to take a step ahead for anybody who has a passion towards working.

- If you ever think of switching your genre in filmmaking, what would that be?

- It is difficult for me to even think of switching the genre which has all my interest and dedication. But if I were to change ever it would be crime drama and psychological thriller. I'm an ardent follower of Anurag Kashyap and Ram Gopal Verma for whom content is the hero.

- Year 2022 is viewed as the turning point in the history of Odia cinema with movies like *Daman* and *Pratikshya* drawing crowds to

the theatres like never before. How do you think the new age filmmakers should capitalise on the changing mood of viewers?

- They should feel the changes and accept the audience's dissatisfaction towards the repetitive content in the movies and rampant copying of films of other languages.

- Even as non-feature/documentary films continue to get recognition at various festivals, mainstream viewers are still not exposed to this genre. What do you think should be done to reach out to the viewers to popularise the culture of Odisha?

- I have always felt that it is our problem and inefficiency in fetching their attention and never their problem to add our work to the watch list. Just like people are entertained by commercial movies and have appreciation for that, the same should happen with documentaries as well. The transition from DD to Netflix has given us a platform to showcase our work and we shouldn't miss the opportunity.

- There is a feeling that Odia audiences are quite stranger to documentary films. What will be your message to make them more excited about documentary films?

- There's only one thing that I would like to do is request everybody to watch and love documentaries. Be a critic of our work which will help us create something that you expect us to. The mindset of the audience towards documentaries needs to be changed; they think that documentaries are boring. But documentaries can be entertaining as well if they are well-shot and well-edited and having good music.

- If you could advise the upcoming and to be filmmakers from your own experience, what

would it be?

- Only thing I would suggest is learn before you earn. If you are earning from filmmaking then first go for learning. You learn the basics, the history, and observe the works of your predecessors as experience is what speaks. And there is nothing old and nothing new, nothing commercial and nothing art. So you have to explore both of them and then you choose what you want to do.



# Saiyami to play real life heroes

Actress Saiyami Kher, who was most recently in the streaming series *Faad*, is set to portray real life heroes in her upcoming releases.

In director R Balki's *Ghoomer*, she will be seen playing a specially-abled cricket prodigy. She will also be playing the role of a firefighter in the action drama *Agni*, which stars Pratik Gandhi.

Talking about her roles, Saiyami said: "I believe all heroes don't wear capes and there are many unsung heroes. I am looking forward to 2023 because I get to play a few such characters".

She further mentioned how these characters have been a learning curve for her as an actress: "A sportsperson, who, even after losing a hand, didn't lose her spirit or a lady firefighter, who is hardly spoken about: these characters don't just give you perspective on life as an actor but also as a human being," said the *Wild Dog* actress.



## Vidyut's unique gesture

Action hero Vidyut Jammwal turned out to be a real-life hero as he gifted his school his maiden win -- the Best Debutant performance trophy as a token of respect.

Vidyut was feted with the honour of Best Male Debut for his debut Hindi movie *Force* in 2011.

As part of one of his school's special celebratory events, he was invited back to Army Public School in Dagshai, Himachal Pradesh.

"I carried along my very first award so that I could respectfully offer it to the principal and teachers as a token of my sincere appreciation and gratitude," he said.

"I've always believed in giving gifts that have value and mean the most to me. And my trophy is just that -- incredibly memorable and exceptionally meaningful! I'm so happy to now see it grace the special showcase in my school now as a shared experience," added the actor.

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## She was once a Madhubala lookalike, claims Kangana

Actress Kangana Ranaut found herself to be a replica of a young Madhubala in her early days. On the death anniversary of legendary actor Madhubala, Kangana shared a collage of her own pictures and that of Madhubala to put across her point.

Writing on her Instagram Stories Thursday, Kangana said, "As people want me to play cinema goddess Madhubala on screen, when I started out I was replica of Madhubala's younger days not sure about it now". Madhubala was one of the biggest superstars of the film industry in 1940s, 50s and early 1960s. Her 1960 film *Mughal-e-Azam* opposite Dilip Kumar is one of the biggest films made in India.

Among her other very memorable films are *Neel Kamal* (1947), *Amar* (1954), *Mahal* (1949), *Badal* (1951), *Tarana* (1951), *Mr. & Mrs. '55* (1955), *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi* (1958) and *Half Ticket* (1962), *Howrah Bridge* and *Kala Pani* (both 1958) and *Barsaat Ki Raat* (1960).

AGENCIES



# Soundarya clears air over dating Sajid

Former *Bigg Boss 16* contestant Soundarya Sharma is making headlines these days about her relationship with the director Sajid Khan. However, she termed all those talks as rumours, adding they are not dating each other.

Soundarya said: "I'm deeply hurt and disappointed by these false stories linking me with Sajid. I have always admired him as a friend, mentor, and elder brother. It's upsetting

that even in this day and age, women are subject to link-up stories. It's time that society stops looking at us through the narrow prism of who we are dating and focuses on what we are accomplishing."

She requested the media to not spread such news which affects her and her family.

The actress made her acting debut with *Ranchi Diaries* and she also made a cameo in *Thank God*.

Soundarya was also seen in the web series *Country Mafia* starring Ravi Kishan, Anshuman Pushkar, Anita Raaj, and Satish Kaushik. IAN S



*It is always better to be wheelchair dependant than depending on someone for entire life, says Jitendra Kumar Biswal, an actor, activist, astrologer and filmmaker*



INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR DAY - MARCH 1

# Making life easier

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

A wheelchair is often associated with chronically sick people or those who have hardly anything left to contribute to society. Such negative views about people with limited mobility lead to discrimination in their daily life. We must understand that a wheelchair is just an assistive device and a user is not always 'bound' to it. An able person is not called 'bicycle bound' or a car user 'car bound' when he or she uses a cycle or car to commute. But people, more often than not, tag a wheelchair user as 'wheelchair bound'. Simply put, a wheelchair is a device that helps a person to get around. Several other myths are also attached to wheelchairs and to bust that International Wheelchair Day is observed March 1 every year. This is also a day to celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has in the lives of the users.

Ahead of this day, SundayPOST got in conversation with a couple of wheelchair users who have excelled in their areas of expertise to set an example for others.

**'I'm a proud wheelchair user'**

Wheelchair is like a part of his being, says Jitendra Kumar Biswal, an actor, activist, astrologer and filmmaker.

Talking about the time when he realised his limited mobility, Jitendra says, "I remember using it since I began knowing things. I was suffering from measles and medications had an adverse effect on me which led to loss of senses for over two days. But when my senses returned, my body was not much active. And as I was just seven months old then, it was difficult for

my parents to notice my reduced physical activity. At one point of time when they noticed me not throwing around my hands and legs, they took me to a doctor who briefed that due to adverse impact of medications, there were some irreparable damages in the nervous system."



Elaborating the value of the wheelchair in his life, he adds, "Independency is the dignity that I never thought of giving up and gradually with time, the wheelchair became the companion of my life. It is with the wheelchair that

I have grown most of my life. It is absolutely okay to be wheelchair dependant than depending on someone for all your life. I will never say that I am a wheelchair bound person, but I will say that I am a proud wheelchair user."

A physically sound person doesn't realise the value of wheelchairs. But for someone who has a physical impairment, wheelchairs make life a lot easier. How will you see a physically challenged individual moving without a wheelchair? Responding to this he quips, "Holding a stick to walk or crawling on the ground is an absolutely unpleasant sight. I will say that life has become much easier after I have started using a wheelchair and upgraded to an automated wheelchair, by which I am able to travel myself anywhere I want to without always depending on somebody.

Wheelchair has given me stability and provided me the dignity of being an independent individual. Because when you use a stick or a support, there's always a risk of tripping and falling down, whereas wheelchairs are a safe and ensure balanced movement of a differently-able person."

**'I've enjoyed both pre and post- wheelchair lives'**

Ashok Kumar Sar, 59, who has over 20 years of experience in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited as an executive and nearly 18 years experience in academics at KIIT University. Sar, an MBA having a doctoral degree, loves to design small



homes and does peer mentoring.

Ashok, who has been using a wheelchair since 1986, on the importance of the device on his life says, "I use three types of wheelchairs: standing

wheelchair, shower-commode wheelchair, and normal-duty wheelchair for my daily activities. Wheelchairs do have a positive impact on the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of its user."

He continues: "Services on supporting education, disease-care, leisure and entertainment can make life a lot better for wheelchair users and I think they have the rights for a wheelchair and the media should carry stories of such deprived people regularly to sensitise the authorities and society about the problem."

Recalling his pre-wheelchair life, he says, "I was pretty active and independent living and work-

**WHEELCHAIRS AND FAMOUS PEOPLE**

**Franklin D Roosevelt**

Roosevelt, when 39, became ill and the sickness caused him to become paralyzed from the waist down. His wheelchair history is yet to be found, as he never used any in public and reportedly went to great lengths to conceal his wheelchair use due to the discrimination against those with disabilities at the time.



**Frida Kahlo**

Known for her infamous, vibrant self-portraits, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo was involved in a bus accident at 18. The crash would leave her with a likely spinal cord injury, physical ailments and mobility issues for the rest of her life making her another famous wheelchair user.



**Stephen Hawking**

At 21, Stephen was diagnosed with ALS and given just two years to live. He challenged that morbid diagnosis by living to be 76 and learning to communicate despite suffering from near total body paralysis making him one of the most famous wheelchair users.



**Christopher Reeves**

Christopher Reeves, a famous actor with over 45 acting credits to his name, following a horse riding accident, was left paralyzed and wheelchair-bound. However, this did not dim his enthusiasm, and he went on to found the Christopher Reeves Foundation, which raises money for people with spinal cord injuries and the research of stem cells.



**Barbara Jordan**

Barbara Jordan, the first black Texan in Congress and the first black woman elected to the Texas State Senate, was no stranger to adversity. Jordan suffered from multiple sclerosis and was largely confined to her wheelchair, but decidedly kept the public focus off of her illness throughout her life.



ing. I see it as one phase of life and the wheelchair-mobile life to be just another phase. Both are different and I have enjoyed the pre-wheelchair phase and I am getting pleasure in this phase too."

# Payal



PHOTO: ODISHA FASHION VILLA