

NOVEMBER 26-2 DECEMBER 2023

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



# Timeless Tradition

P 3,4  
COVER  
STORY





# MY SUNDAY

After tasting success in plays, movies, and TV shows, Mihir Swain thought of becoming an actor as he majored in Music from Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya. But, as they say, fate had other plans. Mihir switched to direction and is now one of the most sought-after names in the industry. Odia mega serials 'Gayatri' (350 episodes), 'Asha' (620 episodes), 'Sahanai' (1050 episodes), and 'Nua Bohu' (1150 episodes) are among his most notable works. On a lazy Sunday, Mihir enjoys a delicious meal with his wife and children at a good restaurant



In play Natyottpati as an actor



**Hygiene freak**  
I prefer things to be neat and tidy, especially in my home. This approach, I feel, has also contributed to my professional success. Despite my tight shooting schedule, I manage to keep things tidy on my days off.

**Extended sleep**  
On a holiday, my son and I enjoy an extended sleep since he comes into my bed early in the morning to snuggle under the cover. An extra hour of napping with him helps me beat exhaustion and start the day afresh.



With wife and son

**Relaxing with buddies**  
I enjoy the company of my friends, mostly the alumni of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, till late evening. The joy we get from singing, dancing, and playing instruments on the campus of Rabindra Mandap can't be narrated in words.

**We time**  
Eating together is supposed to improve spousal love. Because my wife, who is also a teacher, is always busy, we make an effort to eat together whenever possible. We don't always cook and prefer to go out for a lunch to spend time together.

**Drama his first love**  
Even if I'm still shooting TV shows, there's nothing like being on stage. If I'm free in the evening, I try not to miss a good show. After all, it was my theatre training that helped me succeed in my work.

**Family tie**  
One of the things I do on a holiday is catching up with family members. My younger brother, his wife, my niece, and others visit my sister's resort and have a fantastic time.



On the set of Nua Bohu with the artistes

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

**WhatsApp This Week**

**Only on Sunday POST!**

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

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- What do you get when you mix a cheetah and a hamburger? Fastfood!
- Why did the student study in an airplane? He wanted a higher education!
- What do computers eat for a snack? Microchips!
- Why wasn't the vampire working? He was on his coffin break.

**OLD IS GOLD**

Sir, Last week's cover story 'A symbol of connection' highlights how television is still one of the main sources of entertainment for many Indians even as a section of viewers prefer OTT platforms over TV viewing. The rise of OTT platforms signifies a paradigm shift, providing viewers with unprecedented freedom and choice. While OTT viewing is on the rise, traditional television remains relevant, with over 82% of Indians still watching TV for daily amusement. Despite the growth of streaming platforms, traditional TV continues to serve as a constant source of entertainment, offering unique experiences and maintaining its significance in the multimedia era. One can also note that during the Doordarshan days, the quality of shows was of very high standard. Despite the rapid growth of technology, makers these days are yet to make clean shows like Nukkad, Buniyaad, Dekh Bhai Dekh and several others.

**PARSHURAM BARIK, 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. Feel free to 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.  
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WITH ONLY ONE DAY LEFT TO THE START OF BALIYATRA, ASIA'S LARGEST TRADE FAIR, LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE EVENT IS CRITICAL TO PLAN A VISIT AND BECOME A PART OF THIS SPARKLING CELEBRATION OF ODISHA'S GREAT MARITIME HISTORY



# Timeless Tradition

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Cuttack's Baliyatra, the largest fair in Asia held along the banks of Mahanadi, gets bigger and better every year. The oldest cultural and business trade fair in Odisha, which celebrates the state's rich maritime legacy, commemorates the trade ties of the Kalinga Empire (now Odisha) with Bali and other South Asian countries. It attracts a huge footfall not only from the different parts of the state but also from across the world.

Speaking about its significance, the Baliyatra, or voyage to Bali, marked the start of the journey of hundreds of traders or Sadhabas from Odisha to destinations like *Bali*, *Sumatra*, *Java*, and *Borneo*. It resulted in a cultural connection, too. To commemorate those journeys, a festival is observed each year on the day of Kartika Purnima, the full moon day of the Kartik month in the Hindu calendar.

This year, the festival is scheduled to last for eight days, starting November 27.

With just a day to go before the extravaganza, **Sunday POST** delves into the spectacle and highlights some of the newly incorporated features of the festival.



### Cuttack in Cuttack

Like last year, this year also presents the 'Cuttack-in-Cuttack' arrangement at the Baliyatra ground in Cuttack. This setup mirrors various prominent landmarks in Cuttack, featuring miniature replicas of structures such as the Odisha High Court, Dhabaleswar Temple, Qadam-e-Rasool,

Barabati Fort Gate, and others. The display encompasses 70 makeshift stalls, including an ORMAS stall and a tunnel aquarium. The Katak Artist Organisation (KAO) has curated an art exhibition in the pavilion for the amusement of the attendees.

In the current edition, 'Cuttack in Cuttack' will depict life in an Indian village. Spanning a six-acre area on the lower Baliyatra ground, the pavilion will showcase thatched houses, farms, shops, and various elements of a village. Approximately 50 thatched houses with cowsheds have been erected, and the landscape features hills and fountains. A pond has been built for fish farming in collaboration with the Fisheries Department, and a farm for livestock such as cows, goats, pigs, and poultry is in progress in association with the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

Additionally, the pavilion has included a temple, 'Bhagabat Tungi', a school, an Anganwadi centre, and a rural market place. Attendees can explore various vintage household items like 'Palanquin,' 'Dhinki' (a wooden tool for manually husking rice), 'Doli' (a large bamboo container for storing rice), and 'Ghuma' (a clay container for storing rice).

### Tunnel Aquarium

This year, a novel addition to the Baliyatra grounds is the installation of the Underwater Fish Tunnel, offering a distinctive experience alongside the annual trade fair. The tunnel features a spacious 2000-foot-long and 60-foot-wide aquarium adorned with vibrant and alluring



fish species. Approximately Rs 12 lakh worth of exotic, colourful fish will inhabit the aquarium, which is constructed with 16-mm glass. Holding an impressive 50,000 liters of water, the aquarium aims to immerse visitors in the sensation of strolling through the sea surrounded by fish. Admission to the Underwater Fish Tunnel Aquarium is priced at Rs 100 to Rs 150 per ticket.

### Culinary adventure



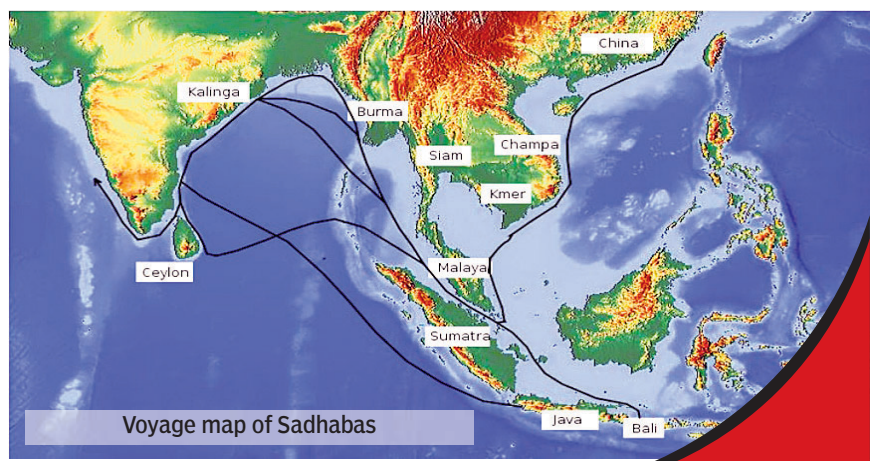
A trip to Baliyatra remains incomplete without indulging in the delightful Mathura cake paired with Lanka chop and savouring a mouthful of the delectable Thunka poori. This generously sized, deep-fried poori is accompanied by a rich serving of Chhenna curry and cauliflower fry, earning its reputation as a signature Baliyatra delicacy. The annual mega fair showcases Kendrapada's renowned

rasabali, Dhenkanal's biri bara, Cuttack's dahi bara, and Baripada's Mudhi mutton, maintaining their presence year after year. In addition to these beloved local flavours, visitors can explore a diverse range of tantalising dishes such as fried ice cream, smoked biscuits, chilli mushrooms with roti, bamboo chicken, and more.

### Joy rides



Baliyatra caters to diverse interests, ensuring there's something for everyone. For children and those seeking adventure, there are plenty of exciting rides available. Whether you want a break from your busy schedule to enjoy a panoramic view of the skyline on the giant wheel or seek amusing entertainment on the break dance ride, there are ample options. This year's fair boasts 41 rides, which include giant wheels, jumpers, and a variety of other rides, promising entertainment for all attendees.





Shop till you drop



Baliyatra is a haven for avid shoppers, particularly those with a penchant for acquiring showpieces and artefacts to adorn their homes. The event showcases an extensive array of both contemporary and antique home decor items. Whether you're interested in maple and pinewood cups, bamboo products, herbal toiletries, or handicrafts, Baliyatra offers a diverse selection that can leave you overwhelmed with choices. Additionally, the marketplace boasts a wide range of wooden products at reasonable prices. For those seeking authentic handicrafts at budget-friendly rates, a visit to the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) pavilion is highly recommended. Here, you'll find not only a variety of genuine handicrafts but also an assortment of junk jewellery, fashion accessories, and other stylish goods at the stalls within the ORMAS pavilion.

Cultural Jamboree

Similar to the previous year, two expansive stages will be constructed to host a series of events, highlighting the diverse cultures of both the state and the nation. A number of local artistes will perform in the evening in the presence of several celebrities who are expected to attend and contribute to the evening's entertainment.

What they have to say:

Nalinikant Sahu, the District Culture Officer (DCO), said, "This year, the number of stalls will be more as we expect a larger crowd than previous years. While the Tunnel Aquarium will be the main attraction this year, revellers can explore the Underwater Dwarka and encounter live animal statues at the Cuttack pavilion in Cuttack. To add to the overall experience, we've organised mesmerising laser light shows in the evening at the Gadagadia Ghat."

"Furthermore, specific initiatives are taken to reduce the scale of pollution. For example, attendees will get a cashback of Rs. 5 for each plastic

bottle returned at designated stalls. Travellers are encouraged to actively participate in these efforts aimed at reducing the environmental impact associated with the event," he informed.

Elaborating on the cultural events, the DCO added, "Every evening, Baishnaba Pani Mancha will see a vibrant display of cultural richness featuring folk dances, traditional music performances, and other entertaining activities that enhance the festive atmosphere of the celebration. Additionally, there will be a dedicated stage for children at the Cuttack Pavilion. Besides, celebs like Sachin-Jigar and Anu Malik from Mumbai are likely to attend the event."

Sharing his insights, Pramesh



Model: Chandrakanta Devanshi



Singhdeo, a local resident, said, "Baliyatra holds a special place in the hearts of every Katakia. Despite attempts by various regions in Odisha to replicate this trade fair, Baliyatra's popularity and essence have remained unblemished. The congested parking lots, leisurely strolls, irresistible ice cream

deals, enchanting announcements like 'Ohh ki madhur' 'Ohh ki swadish', thrilling amusement rides, tempting street delicacies, and enticing discounts on household items are enduring characteristics of Baliyatra. From my early years, I've witnessed renowned artists like Kailash Kher, Javed Ali, Sonu Mohapatra, Sukhwinder Singh, and more grace the Baliyatra stage with their performances."

Singhdeo ends, "For me, Baliyatra serves as a family reunion with my cousins. It's an annual tradition we eagerly anticipate, as they use it as a reason to visit and spend quality time with me and my family. During our time at Baliyatra, we indulge in exploring the festival's vibrant offerings and happily allocate our budget towards rides and delicious food, making the experience even more enjoyable."





# 'Voice artists should undergo theatre training'

For an extended period, voice artists operated in the shadows of recording studios. Only recently, thanks to the rise of social media, have they hogged the spotlight, says popular voice actor Sanket Mhatre

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

Sanket Mhatre stands out in the world of Hindi voiceover. He has breathed life into some of the most popular characters in movies and drama shows. His body of works includes giving voice to Ben Tennyson in *Ben 10: Alien Force* and Ryan Reynolds in *Deadpool*, playing Sasuke Uchiha in the Hindi-dubbed version of *Naruto*, and dubbing in Hindi for many prominent South Indian actors, including Allu Arjun. He recently made his mark in the Netflix live-action adaptation of *One Piece*, where he skillfully voiced Roronoa Zoro.

Mhatre was in Bhubaneswar to attend an event. On its sidelines, **Sunday POST** caught up with him for a breezy chat. Here are the excerpts:

**How do you prepare to act for multiple characters?**

Each character presents a unique challenge. Take *Ben 10*, for instance; it required me to elevate my voice beyond my usual range. Transforming into the aliens forced me to experiment with diverse vocal textures I hadn't explored before. *Deadpool* pushed me out of my comfort zone, compelling me to engage in acting and improvisation in novel ways. When approaching a new character, I maintain an open mindset, often allowing the character to guide me and reveal how its voice should manifest.

**What motivated you to pursue a career in voice acting?**

For the past 18 years, I've immersed myself in the world of Voice Artistry, a journey I stumbled upon by chance, finding myself in the right place at the right time. Despite the accidental entry, this path has proven immensely satisfying, shaping me into a better version of myself each day. Voice acting, discovered unexpectedly, has become a passion, akin to the thrill of performing on stage. It allows me to inhabit a myriad of characters, offering a unique opportunity to delve into diverse worlds and cultures. What drives me is the daily chance to embody someone new, transcending physical appearances and backgrounds—where the voice becomes the sole instrument of expression and storytelling.

**What were the challenges you faced as a voice actor in India?**

For an extended period, voice artists operated in obscurity, hidden in the shadows of recording studios. Only recently, thanks

to the rise of social media, have they stepped into the spotlight. Freelance voice artists in India find themselves multitasking as managers, accountants, and social media handlers. Navigating challenges like negotiating rates and ensuring timely payments is part of the journey. Yet, overcoming these obstacles opens the door to a profoundly fulfilling career. And at AniMetro, an event featuring voice artists as guests, experiencing love and appreciation from fans proves to be an unparalleled reward.

**How do you see anime influencing and impacting global pop culture, and what makes it so appealing to a diverse audience?**

Anime's profound influence on global pop culture is undeniable. Its universal appeal lies in catering to diverse tastes, offering intricate plots for enthusiasts and lighthearted moments for casual viewers. The lasting impact stems from the ability to create deep connections, as fans follow anime for years, forming an enduring bond. As this art form evolves, consistently aligning with changing preferences, it becomes ingrained in one's identity. Anime isn't just entertainment; it becomes a timeless companion, adapting to individuals as they grow.

**How was your experience at the anime event in Bhubaneswar?**

I was pleasantly surprised by the warm reception in Bhubaneswar. Having participated in two events prior to the Anime-Fest in Odisha, both in metropolitan cities, I approached with modest expectations, eager to connect with passionate Anime fans. To my delight, there was a substantial crowd of almost 350-400 people! Fans had journeyed from locations 60-70 kilometres away to join the festival. It turned out to be a fantastic event where we interacted with numerous fans, took countless selfies, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.



Receiving such love and appreciation for my craft is something every artist cherishes. Additionally, the event was exceptionally well organised, and I am confident that there will be many more such events in Odisha, likely on a much grander scale.

**Do you have a favourite anime character that you've voiced? If so, why?**

Lately, one of my most fulfilling accomplishments has been providing the voice for 'Roronoa Zoro' in the Netflix adaptation of *One Piece*. Having been a fan of the manga and admiring the character of Zoro for some time, I had envisioned a particular voice quality for him even before delving into the Anime. When auditions for the role came around, I seized the opportunity and was thrilled to discover that my voice had been accepted. Voicing Zoro was a truly enjoyable experience, and I took great pleasure in bringing the live-action version of this beloved character to Hindi-speaking audiences.

**Are there any anime characters you would love to voice in the future?**

I aspire to lend my voice to a plethora of Anime characters. Whether it's embodying the intensity of Eren Yeager and Levi Ackerman from *Attack On Titan*, capturing the enigmatic essence of L or Yagami Light in *Death Note*, or delving into characters like Roy Mustang in *FMA: Brotherhood* and Guts from *Berserk*, the list is extensive. The array of Anime roles I aspire to explore is vast and diverse, presenting an exciting

challenge that I eagerly look forward to undertaking.

**Did you get a chance to explore Bhubaneswar and experience the local culture?**

I extend my gratitude to my gracious hosts, Priyadarshan from DBS Chronicles, Funhub Odisha, and the Odisha Anime Club. Thanks to them, I had the opportunity to explore local attractions and savour the delightful cuisine during my brief visit. I plan on returning with more leisure time to fully immerse myself in the experience. While navigating the city, I was struck by numerous locations adorned with captivating graffiti, leaving a lasting impression. Additionally, the enthusiastic reception and boundless affection from fans were the perfect culmination of this visit, truly adding the finishing touch to the entire experience.

**What advice do you have for aspiring voice actors, especially in the anime industry?**

I think this is the best time for Anime in India, to enter this field or any field related to Anime would be an excellent choice. I always recommend aspiring voice actors take theatre training to help with character development and emotion building. Theatre also teaches the importance of language and guides you on using your voice with skill. Observing people around you and studying their voice and speaking pattern is also something you can do as an exercise.





## Kriti on Shahid's fashion sense

Actress Kriti Sanon, who will soon be seen alongside Shahid Kapoor in a yet to be titled film, insists that the latter's fashion sense is underrated. Talking about whose fashion sense she likes the most, she said, "Hrithik is someone whom I have loved always. I also love Tiger's fashion sense. But I feel Shahid Kapoor's fashion sense is so underrated."

"I think he is so well-dressed. He is one of the best dressed men today. He puts everything so effortlessly, and I have told this to him as well. I love that he wears colours. I am very excited for our film to release. We share great chemistry in the film. I am really fond of him," adds the *Mimi* actress.

On the work front, Kriti will be seen next in *The Crew* and *Do Patti*.

IAN S



# Top literary honour for Odisha author in Kolkata

Odia filmmaker Sanjoy Patnaik becomes the first Odia to receive the Chidananda Dasgupta and Supriya Dasgupta Award for Best Writing on Cinema for his book 'Of Reels, Romance, and Retakes'

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

**Bhubaneswar:** It's not every day that an Odisha author working in English is awarded with one of West Bengal's highest literary honours in Kolkata. So, when Odia filmmaker Sanjoy Patnaik was presented with the Chidananda Dasgupta and Supriya Dasgupta award-2023 for Best Writing on Cinema last week at GD Birla Sabhaghar in Kolkata, it was a matter of great pride for every Odia.

Instituted by the Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Trust, the honour is granted to authors every year for their writings that receive global acclaim. Sanjoy is the first Odia to receive the honour for his book *Of Reels, Romance, and Retakes: Social Narratives of Cinema in Odisha*.

The 200-page book attempts to acquaint the reader, particularly the non-Odia audience, to the progressive and original quality of Odia literature and cinema, which has mostly gone unnoticed. It is also a sociological expedition that gives a comparative analysis of Odisha's society, literature, and cinema after independence.

Expressing his gratitude after accepting the award from known writer and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor in the presence of eminent director and actress Aparna Sen, Sanjoy said, "I'm elated to get this honour, and I dedicate it to the people of Odisha and Odia cinema enthusiasts."

Continuing in the same breath, he added: "We need to recognise the films, especially those adapted from Odia classics, made in the first four decades of Indian independence to create a sense of nationalism."

This apart, the book, published by Routledge, an international publishing house, also highlights the works of



Sanjoy receiving the honour from Shashi Tharoor while Aparna Sen look on. Cover of the book (inset)

the artistes who came from remote areas, belonged to lower middle-class families, and strived hard to put Odia cinema at the top. The notable inclusions are Prashanta Nanda, Uttam Mohanty, Ajit Das, Mahashweta Roy, Aparajita Mohanty, Jharana Das, Dukhiram Swain, and Hemanta Das, to name a few, he further said.

There is also a need to revive the glorious days of Odia cinema, felt the author-filmmaker. Recalling a discussion he had with Sen over the past of Odia cinema, Sanjoy shared, "Aparna Sen told me that 'Baba (Chidanand Dasgupta) would have been very happy to see your book as he always wanted to write on Odia cinemas of the 60s.'"

For the uninitiated, Sanjoy Patnaik, a social development professional, worked extensively on forests and environmental issues in India. He studied International Politics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and also took a course on Film Appreciation in the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. He scripted and directed the award-winning Odia film *Shuka Asuchi* (2014), depicting the pangs of displacement and the predicament of the rural youth in rich mining belts of Odisha.

## Dunki Shah Rukh's lowest budgeted film in 6 years



Top star Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming movie *Dunki*, which also stars Taapsee Pannu and Vicky Kaushal, has been made on a reported budget of Rs 85 crore.

As per a media report, this makes it SRK's lowest budgeted film in the last seven years including *Jab Harry Met Sejal* which was made at a budget of Rs 90 crore, *Raees* made on Rs 90-95 crore, *Zero* made on a massive budget of Rs 200 crore, *Pathaan* made for Rs 240 crore and the most recent *Jawan* made for Rs 300 crore.

However, it should be noted that the reported figure of Rs 85 crore doesn't include the actors' remuneration. The media report states that the director of the film, Rajkumar Hirani is a cautious spender, and wrapped up the shoot of the film in 75 days of which SRK shot for 60 days. This pulls up *Dunki* in the profit zone even before its release.

Shah Rukh Khan shuttled between the sets of his last production *Jawan* and *Dunki* and spent more time on the sets of *Jawan* given its longer schedule. As for *Dunki*, the film is set for a Christmas release this December.

IAN S



Ever since actress Deepika Padukone appeared on the opening episode of *Koffee With Karan 8* with her husband Ranveer Singh, she became the talk of the town for her statement about dating 'multiple men.'

The actress was subjected to trolls and criticism for her misconstrued statement, which Twinkle Khanna has now defended. In her column, she wrote, "She had dated other men while also dating her future husband. The trolling she has received because of her admission is baffling. In fact, it has gone as far as students at Banaras Hindu University reportedly putting on a play where a girl plays Deepika and male students act as her past boyfriends." The *Mela* actress added, "Idea of making an informed choice may save a lot of women from marrying dogs, and more commonly, frogs in princely robes." *Mrs Funny Bones* author said that the Padmaavat actress' approach to finding a suitable man was rather logical. She cited an example of a couch and a couch potato and said people go to different stores to find the right couch with its touch and feel. But when it comes to couch potatoes, why should one compromise and pick one without testing out alternatives?

## Twinkle defends DP's dating controversy

AGENCIES



# Beauty purse for winter travel



If you have an affinity for cold weather, embarking on a winter journey could be an ideal way to relish your preferred holiday destination. Winter conditions often lead to dry skin, compounded by the fatigue induced by travel. Travelers, in particular, face additional challenges with the cold weather exacerbating their skincare woes.

To combat the impact of dry air, extended travel, and disruptions to routine, diet, and surroundings, it becomes imperative to pack skincare products that nourish and rejuvenate the skin, ensuring you maintain a radiant appearance:



but also help refresh your essential bodily functions. Winter, especially in snowy or mountainous terrains, demands a modified skincare routine. Traveling light is advantageous, prompting the need for compact and portable items. A well-organized shoulder bag with designated compartments for toiletries and makeup ensures easy access, allowing you to freshen up and disembark from your journey looking confident and attractive.

■ For manageable upkeep, consider a short hairstyle or, for longer hair, bring along a headband and hair clips to maintain tidiness. Additionally, a scarf proves valuable for protecting your hair from sun exposure, wind, and dust during various outdoor activities.

The makeup and clothing you



pack should align with the nature of your trip. Urban excursions may necessitate chic attire and evening makeup, while sightseeing trips may prioritize skincare products over elaborate makeup.

■ When preparing for a winter vacation, it's essential to include sunscreen, lip balm, moisturizers, and hair styling products in your luggage. These items not only contribute to your outward presentation

■ In sunny locales, sunscreen becomes a crucial component, particularly near reflective

surfaces like water and snow. Applying broad-spectrum sunscreen 20 minutes before sun exposure and reapplying every hour is recommended, with an emphasis on a high SPF of 30 and above for sensitive skin. Beyond sunscreen, essentials such as cleanser, mois-

lipsticks, with waterproof and long-lasting options recommended for beach outings.

■ Carrying pressed powder, powder blush-on, tissues, deodorant, and talcum powder further aids in maintaining a refreshed appearance. Travel, with its en-

riching experiences and refreshing breaks from the routine, adds a delightful dimension to life. Ensuring you address your travel needs allows you to unwind and savor the enjoyment of the journey.

*The author is international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India*



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

turizer, leave-on conditioner, and hair serum are vital. Makeup choices should include day-appropriate items like powder compact, eye-pencil, kajal stick, and



# Smrutirekha

