

AUGUST 4-10, 2024

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

NATIONAL
BOOK LOVERS
DAY - AUGUST 9

Constant Companions

COVER STORY

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Salipur-born Bishal Mohanty's dream came true when he signed up for Komedly Countdown Odisha as a stand-up comic. During free time, the post-graduate scholar from a Bhubaneswar-based varsity likes to read books and watch action web series



With family



Lazy Sunday

Sundays usually begin for me in the afternoon when I get up, around one o'clock. I always start my day by having a delicious lunch.

Love for sports

I love playing cricket on most of the holidays. I've recently added working out at the gym to my list of things to do on Sundays. The sport is truly enjoyable for me.

Books and shows

I'm a voracious reader, and I'm reading the *Mistborn* trilogy right now. In addition, I'm also fond of TV shows; after finishing *The Boys*, I'm currently watching *House of the Dragon*.

Switching to creativity

I love idling at home, but I also transition to creative activities when I grow weary of it. I also don't miss out on opportunities to hang out with friends in the afternoon.

Celebration everyday

I was raised in an extended family where each day was a holiday. I genuinely like spending time with my family, unlike many of my age. We make an effort to engage in house activities, play games, and dine together.

MADHUMSITA SAHU, OP



WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

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

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- How did the reporter kill himself? Noosepaper.
- When do people start using their trampoline? Spring-Time.
- Where do zombies like to go swimming? The Dead Sea.
- What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.

SHATTERING MYTHS

Sir, Last week's article 'Sleep & longevity' shattered quite a few myths surrounding ideal sleep hours. It's interesting to learn that Sleeping six hours every night on a consistent schedule is associated with a lower risk of early death than sleeping eight hours with very irregular habits. However, the study didn't evaluate the effects of extremely short sleep. So, it is possible that people who get less than three or four hours with consistent bedtimes might fare worse than people who get eight hours with inconsistent bedtimes. Notwithstanding the research results, at the end of the day the body works according to certain mechanisms and it is widely believed that the inner engineering works well and get recharged when the body gets proper rest.

RAMA RANJAN SAHOO, NAYAGARH

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
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NATIONAL BOOK LOVERS DAY – AUGUST 9

There is no better friend than a good book as it expands a person’s horizons and empowers one with wings to explore the world, says Tapas Ranjan Rout who has multiple Reader of the Year awards in his closet



Constant Companions

OP DESK

In an era where digital screens dominate people’s lives, there remains a steadfast sanctuary for the soul—the humble book. From the scent of a rare first-edition book in an old collection to a crisp, fresh book at the local supermarket, the mere sight of a book can evoke delightful memories, if you are an ardent lover of books.

In order to celebrate the joy of learning, reading, and the curiosity that books create in the minds of people, August 9 every year is celebrated as National Book Lovers Day. This day is not just a tribute to the written word but a celebration of those who find solace, adventure, and knowledge within the pages of a book.

Ahead of this day, **Sunday POST** caught up with a few bibliophiles who shared their love for books and how reading has

enriched their lives.

‘Books are a vehicle for one’s thoughts, dreams, and desires’

Meet Tapas Ranjan Rout from Bhubaneswar. He eats, drinks, and breaths books, opine those close to him. Books are part and parcel of his life. Tapas is perhaps the only one from the state to be feted with multiple honours as a reader.

“As they say, if you want to live many lives in a single birth, then read as many books as possible. Books expand your horizons, and there is no better friend than a good book. A good book never deceives you,” says Rout, who works as a deputy manager of a state-owned insurance company.

Talking about his journey as a reader and how it helped him evolve as a person, he shares, “I have had an inclination towards reading since I was a kid, and that made me stand out among my friends and colleagues. They consider me a well-read person and often seek my suggestions on several issues.”

Elaborating more on other benefits of reading, he continues: “From books, I have acquired life and behavioural skills. A good book is just like meditation; it refreshes you. It empowers you with wings to explore the world around you. They are the vehicle for your thoughts, dreams, and desires. It’s because of my reading habit and passion for books that I could connect personally with many eminent authors in Odisha.”

Tapas, who also pens novels and makes issue-based shorts during his free time, won many awards as a reader, including the Favourite Reader of Jnanpith Award-winning writer Pratibha Ray and eminent novelist Bibhuti Pattnaik. He is the only one from the state to achieve such

honours.

Tapas has also made it a habit for many years to gift books by his favourite authors to his friends on their birthdays. He also presents comic books to children.

Coming back to the advantage of book-reading, he says, “Whenever I undergo stress or have anxiety issues, a good book comes to my rescue. It rejuvenates me. I never go to bed without reading a few lines from a book.”

Apart from Ray and Pattnaik, Hiranmayee Mishra, Tarunkanti Mishra, Sumit Panda, Debabrata Das, Suryasnata Tripathy, Amish, Chetan Bhagat, Aswin Sangvi, Dharamveer Bharti, Amrita Pritam, Harivansh Ray Bachchan, Paolo Cohelo, Sidney Sheldon, and Robin Sharma feature in his list of favourite authors. There is no second opinion that the readership is on the wane due to massive social media consumption.

On this, the 41-year-old says, “Social media can never give the scent of a book. Emotions attached to holding a book can’t be evoked by consuming social media. Moreover, this addiction may spoil many promising careers. On the contrary, you will never hear that a youth gets spoiled by reading good books.”

Signing off, the writer of *Bidaya Belara Surya* has a suggestion for the authorities: “These days, many organisations are conferring awards on readers. That motivates people to read more and more. The government should sponsor such initiatives in order to create more readers in the age of social media.”



Tapas Ranjan Rout



'I completed reading over 50 books during COVID lock down'

For her, a book is more than just a physical object; it's a gateway to new worlds, experiences, and perspectives, says another book lover, **Riyalee Makadam**. She shares, "When I was in 7th grade, I read my first book, *I Too Had a Love Story* by Ravinder Singh. As a teenager who believed in fairy tales and happy endings, this sparked my interest in more fictional stories and characters. I devoured one novel after another, finding comfort in the stories. Reading books helped me think creatively

and expand my imagination." Makadam goes on to add, "Despite a busy schedule, I made time to read daily. This initial spark grew into a deeper appreciation as I explored the diverse ways authors craft their stories and the unique experiences each book offers. I can confidently say that reading brings me joy."



manage stress, set personal goals, and offer a sense of connection and understanding through shared experiences and insights. The spiritual books, in particular, changed my perspective and helped me cope with my thoughts. Finding solace in reading during this time was one of the best decisions I made for my mental health." She signs off, saying, "The book that made me fall in love with reading even more was *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover. This story made me realise that our past, present, or future are not dictated by our belief systems. The novel explores themes of love, resilience, and breaking the cycles of abuse, emphasising self-worth and the courage to make tough decisions for one's well-being."

'Reading has broadened my understanding of human experience'

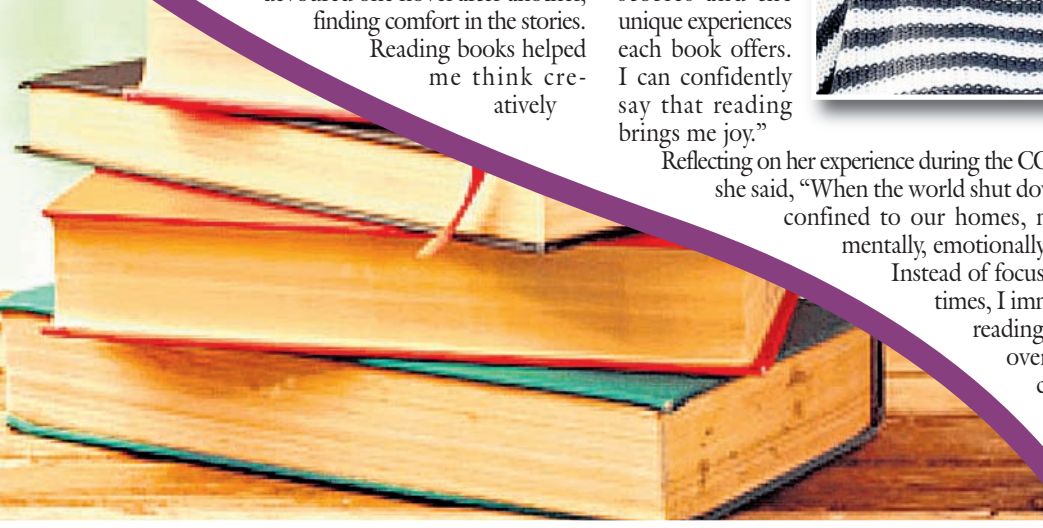
Sidharth Rath, a PhD scholar from Berhampur, says, "As August 9th approaches, bibliophiles have a special reason to celebrate National Book Lovers Day. For those who have always been captivated by the written word, this day is a treasured opportunity to reflect on the profound influence books have had on our lives and to share our passion for reading with others."

He carries on, "My love for books began quite serendipitously one lazy summer afternoon when I discovered an old, dusty copy of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in my grandfather's attic. The cover was worn, the pages yellowed, but as I immersed myself in Tom's mischievous adventures, I was completely enchanted. That book opened up a new world for me—a world where imagination had no limits and adventure was just a page away."

Talking about his favourite book, Rath says, "One of the most cherished books from my childhood is *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling. Mowgli's adventures in the Indian jungle resonated with me, connecting my reality with thrilling tales of wildlife and survival. As I grew older, my reading preferences expanded. In my teenage years, I discovered JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. Hogwarts became my second home, and I found solace in the trials and triumphs of Harry, Hermione, and Ron. These books not only fueled my imagination but also taught me valuable lessons about friendship, bravery, and standing up for what is right."



"Now, as a young adult, I find myself drawn to the works of Indian authors like RK Narayan and Jhumpa Lahiri. Narayan's *Malgudi Days* offers a delightful glimpse into life in a fictional South Indian town, while Lahiri's *The Namesake* explores the complexities of identity and belonging in the Indian diaspora. These stories, rich in cultural nuances, have deepened my appreciation for my heritage and broadened my understanding of the human experience," concludes Rath.



'You can learn a lot about people from their reading lists'

Another book lover, **Adyasha Patnaik**, a working professional from Gurgaon, says, "My love for books began in childhood; it was a cherished tradition in our family, passed down from my father and his father before him. Reading was a delight encouraged at home, and it evolved from kids' read-alouds to 'Tinkles', the 'Panchatantra', and 'Children's Digests'.

"In my early PTA meetings, most complaints were about me reading too many story-books and too few textbooks. Reading had become more than just a habit; it was an obsession! As a Potterhead, the wizarding world had a strong hold on me, and I was among the many who eagerly awaited a letter via owl post. When I started exploring more mature reads, I stumbled upon the first book that brought me to tears: *Love Story* by Eric Segal. The 'Thanks, Ollie' was as impactful then as 'Always' still is today. Later, nothing was more fulfilling than turning my passion into my studies."



collect books whenever I can, especially second-hand ones. You can learn a lot about people from their reading lists, and second-hand books often contain quotes or messages. I've added books to my collection that were once cherished gifts to lovers, siblings, kids, and friends. *Read The Best Christmas Present in the World* by Michael Morpurgo, and you'll understand," adds Patnaik.

"Here are two of my favourite quotes from *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, respectively. *'There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft. When you kill a man, you steal a life. You steal his wife's right to a husband and rob his children of a father. When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth. When you cheat, you steal the right to fairness... There is no act more wretched than stealing'* and *'Be with me always—take any form—drive me mad!*

Only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you... I cannot live without my life! I cannot live without my soul!" The first is a principle I strive to live by, but the second describes my essence," she concludes.



"Finding someone who has read the same book and is willing to discuss it has become rare these days. I don't read as much as I used to, but I still

In a file photo Carlos is seen at a war front in Vietnam



The White Feather sniper

Though it has been over 25 years to the death of American daredevil sniper Carlos Hathcock, his missions and accomplishments continue to captivate both military enthusiasts and history buffs

OP DESK

With a record of 93 confirmed kills, the legacy of Carlos Norman Hathcock II, a United States Marine Corps sniper, has left an indelible mark on the annals of military history. Hathcock's daring escapades in the Vietnam War won him a Purple Heart and he had the honour of having a rifle named after him.

Here's a look at the life and accomplishments of the legendary sniper.

Early life

Born May 20, 1942, in Little Rock, Arkansas, Hathcock was passionate about outdoor activities, hunting, and guns. His passion was born out of the need to provide for his financially strapped family. He would take his dog into the forests and lose himself in imaginative games, acting out the parts of a soldier hunting Japanese soldiers. His father had brought a German Mauser from World War II, which was his preferred weapon. He wanted to be a US Marine like his father when he was young. Carlos joined the US Marine Corps at the age of 17, realising his childhood ambitions.

Training

As a skilled marksman, Hathcock had earned a name before he was deployed in South Vietnam. His remarkable shooting skills had been acknowledged in numerous contests. When Hathcock was first sent to the Vietnam in 1969, he worked as a military policeman. But a turning point came when Captain Edward James Land decided to place snipers in every platoon to increase the Marines' sniping proficiency. Captain Land was looking for Marines who could shoot very well. He didn't have to look far to find Hathcock.

The Vietnam War

Hathcock conducted multiple sniper missions in Vietnam that would secure his position in the annals of military history. Because of his daring tactics, he was frequently in close proximity to hostile troops, allowing him to precisely remove prized targets. He once assassinated an opposing commander by crawling inch by inch across 1,500 yards of open field. It took four days and three nights without sleep to complete this task. Carlos Hathcock is most known for his ability to take down an enemy sniper using the

scope on his own rifle. In this incredible episode, Hathcock was in a tight chase with his spotter, John Roland Burke, after the enemy sniper known as Cobra in the thick forests near Hill 55. Several Marines had already lost their lives at the hands of the Cobra. It was assumed that his primary mission was to take out Hathcock, who by this point had gained a well-deserved reputation as a fearsome marksman. In the thick underbrush, Hathcock observed the telltale glimmer from the enemy sniper's sight while he was waiting in his cover, according to his own narratives. He shot with incredible accuracy and the bullet pierced into one of Cobra's



eyes. Hathcock became a famed marksman with this one shot, earning him the nickname White Feather from the North Vietnamese for the white feather he always carried in his hat.

Daring acts

Hathcock's sniper career ended September 1, 1970, when the armoured truck he was riding on crushed an anti-tank mine under its wheels. The truck caught fire, trapping his companions inside. Hathcock jumped back into the flames to save his fellow soldiers, displaying his bravery. He was unaware of his own wounds

since he was so focused on saving the lives of his buddies. A fellow Marine had to pull him away from the fire. His legs, arms, and face suffered third-degree burns. Hathcock received the Purple Heart for this incredible act of bravery.

Post-war life

Hathcock's wounds made him live in almost continual pain after the war. He nevertheless contributed to the founding of the Marine Corps Scout Sniper School in Quantico, Virginia. After receiving a multiple sclerosis diagnosis in 1975, he was eventually let go from the Marine Corps. He did not meet the requirements for regular retirement benefits because he was only 55 days away from reaching his 20-year service milestone. Instead, he was given

Carlos once assassinated an opposing commander by crawling inch by inch across 1,500 yards of open field. It took four days and three nights without sleep to complete this task.

a 100% permanent disability pension due to his medical conditions. This was a significant amount more than he would have gotten had he served the full 20 years. Hathcock felt deeply rejected by the Marines' choice, despite his stable financial situation. He had always wanted to serve in the military for twenty years. It bothered him that he had not reached this goal. He felt abandoned and that his commitment had gone unfulfilled as a result. He consequently slipped into depression. But there was one positive aspect of his voyage. Hathcock turned to shark fishing, an unusual pastime, for comfort. In the end, this turned out to be a really effective cure for his depression.

Legacy

The US Marine Corps still regards Hathcock as a legend, perpetuating his legacy. His influence is honoured with important honours and accolades. The National Defence Industrial Association presents the Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock Award each year to recognise those whose efforts have had a major influence on the tactical and operational use of small arms weapons systems. His end came at the age of 57, February 22, 1999, as a result of complications from multiple sclerosis.

Ridhima shares her 'secrets'

Actress Kriti Kharbanda, who will be next seen in *Risky Romeo*, is expressing her love for her husband, actor Pulkit Samrat through poetry.

Recently, she took to her Instagram Stories and shared a picture of herself with her husband. She wrote on the picture: "Neend is coming, neend is going, husband is amazing."

Kriti and Pulkit tied the knot at Delhi NCR's ITC Grand Bharat in March this year. As per reports, they specially curated a food menu filled with delicacies from different parts of the country for their guests.

Later, they took to their Instagram accounts and shared a joint post along with a sweet note. The two dated for a couple of years before tying the knot. Pulkit was previously married to Shweta Rohira.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Pulkit was last seen in the comedy film *Fukrey 3*. Kriti will be next seen in *Risky Romeo* in which she shares the screen with Sunny Singh.

The actress recently completed 15 years in cinema and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the audience and her peers for making the journey memorable.

IAN S

Actress Ridhima Pandit dropped a fun prank video with her Aaji (grandmother), revealing her 'secrets,' alongside her 'biggest cheerleader.'

Ridhima took to Instagram, where she has 2.3 million followers, and can be seen wearing a pink shirt, and is sitting on the floor of her house. While, her

grandmother is sitting behind her on the couch.

In the video we can see Ridhima saying: "Aaji, I am recording a video about myself. Aap thoda bahut dikhooge to chalega na?"

To this her granny replies: "Chalega."

She then went on to say in the video: "Hi everyone, today I am going to tell you all some things about my life which I have never shared with anyone before. I wake up daily at 5 a.m. and do Yoga for one hour. Then I prepare a meal for my entire family."

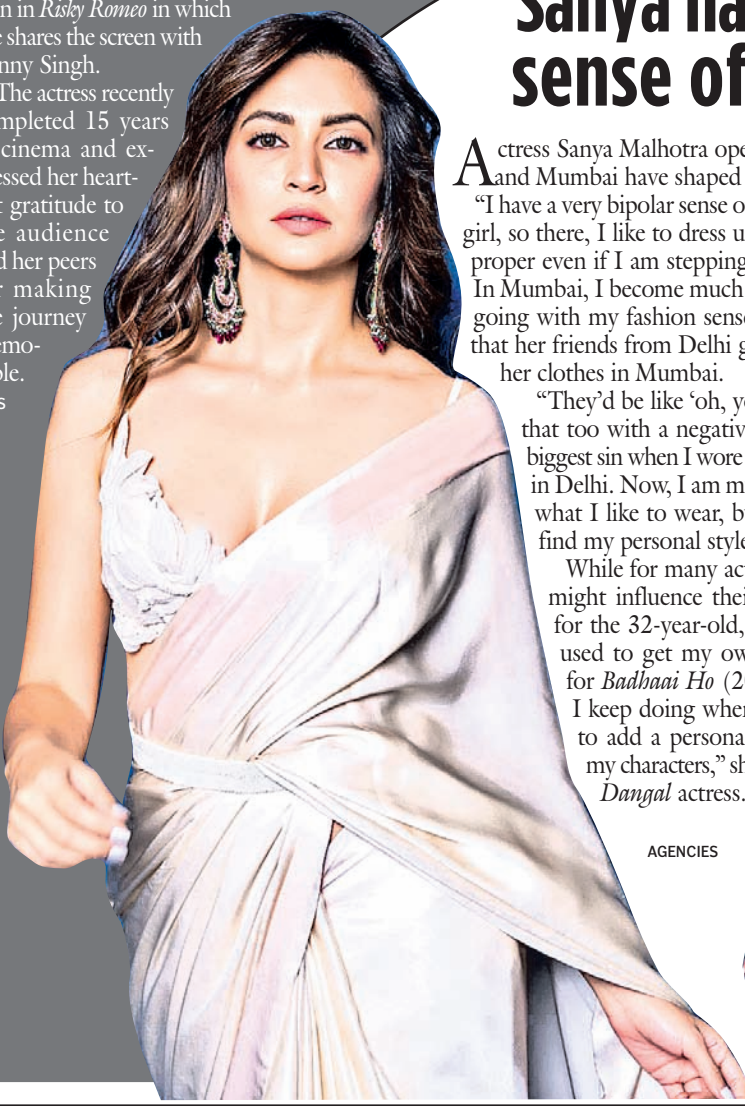
The actress further added: "I don't like to spend money at all." The video ends with her grandmother laughing on all the 'secrets' revealed by Ridhima.

The post is captioned: "My biggest secret keeper n cheerleader, should I make more reels with Aaji?? #partnerincrime #prank #humour."

The video has garnered 131K views. IANS



Kriti's poetic eloquence



Sanya has bipolar sense of fashion

Actress Sanya Malhotra opened up on how Delhi and Mumbai have shaped up her fashion sense.

"I have a very bipolar sense of fashion. I am a Delhi girl, so there, I like to dress up, do make up and be proper even if I am stepping out for five minutes. In Mumbai, I become much more relaxed and easy going with my fashion sense," she shared, adding that her friends from Delhi got a huge shock seeing her clothes in Mumbai.

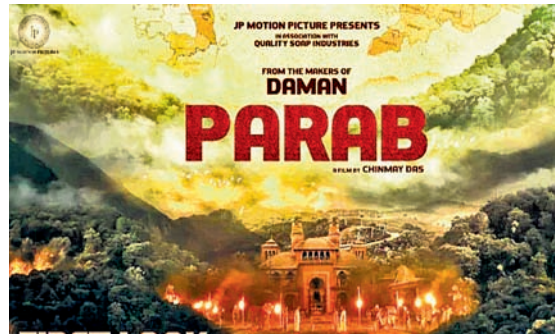
"They'd be like 'oh, you look very simple', and that too with a negative connotation. I did the biggest sin when I wore chappals to Khan Market in Delhi. Now, I am much more aware, I know what I like to wear, but I am still trying to find my personal style," she said.

While for many actors their characters might influence their style in real life, for the 32-year-old, it's the reverse. "I used to get my own clothes on set for *Badhaai Ho* (2018), and that I keep doing whenever I want to add a personal touch to my characters," shared the *Dangal* actress.

AGENCIES



OLLYWOOD ROUNDUP



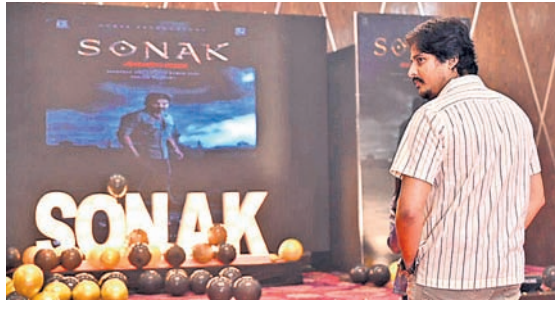
Parab: First look out

Bhubaneswar: The makers of the critically acclaimed movie *Daman*, JP Motion Pictures released the first teaser of their new movie *Parab*. The movie deals with issues of land and water between Odisha and its neighbouring states and their effects on local populace.

The film has Sidhant Mohapatra, Anu Choudhury, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Suryamayee Mohapatra, and Pranab Prasanna Ratha in important roles. The movie is co-produced by Anu Choudhury and written by Chinmay Das and Amit Kumar Dash.

Produced by Deependra Samal and directed by Chinmay Das, the movie promises to be a thrilling ride from start to finish. After the huge success of the movie *Daman*, makers expect this new project to impress the viewers.

PNN



Babushaan's next titled Sonak

Bhubaneswar: Actor Babushaan Mohanty's new movie title is *Sonak*. It was announced at a special function held here recently.

Sonak is produced by Sargam Tripathy under the banner of Gurvi Productions and directed by the director duo of Sisir Kumar Sahu and Peenakee Singh. This is the first venture of Gurvi Production. The music for the film is scored by Gaurav Anand.

A new heroine is finalised for the film, and the name will be revealed soon, shared the makers.

Other key roles are played by Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Choudhury Jayaprakash, Krishna Kar, Bobby Mishra, Rabi Mishra, and Bhaswati Basu.

Talking to *Sunday POST*, director Sahu said that the film is a fantasy thriller in which you will see Babushaan in a different avatar. The shooting will start in September, he added.

Babushaan was last seen in Ashok Pati's *Pabar*, while Sisir and Peenakee's last movie was *Phalguna Chaitra*. PNN

THOUGH ANCIENT CULTURE HOLDS CONTRASTING PERSPECTIVES IN TERMS OF HOW MODERN SOCIETY LOOKS, THE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP WILL REMAIN UNALTERED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Epic Camaraderie

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY - AUGUST 4

through difficult times, guards you from harm, and acts as your compass when you're feeling down. There are plenty of examples in the modern world of people going above and beyond to support their friends. However, what about Indian mythology and sacred texts?

Sunday POST explores the complex sterility of friendship found in Indian mythology and history, which illuminates the significance of allies in the ancient world.

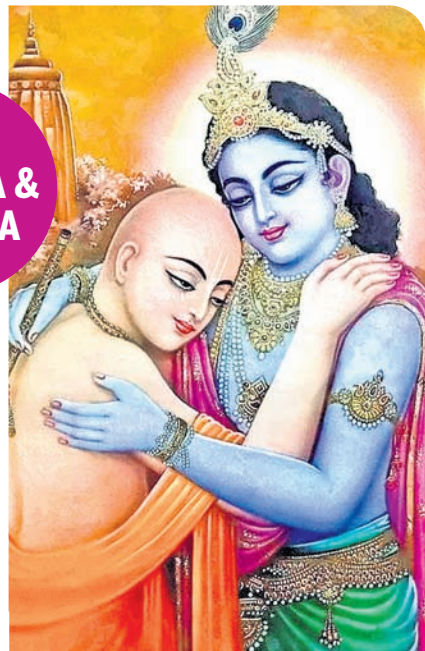
The pure and lovely friendship between Lord Krishna and Draupadi broke the notion that a male and female cannot be friends. There is no comparison to the way Draupadi would refer to Lord Krishna as 'Sakha' or how dependent she was on him.

In order to tend to Lord Krishna's cut finger,

Draupadi sliced a piece of her clothing,

demonstrating her concern for Krishna. Later, during the game of dice, the Pandavas lost their kingdom to the Kauravas, their cousins. As a result of their defeat, Draupadi was dragged into the assembly hall, and Dushashan, one of the Kaurava brothers, attempted to disrobe her in front of the entire court. However, Draupadi called out to Lord Krishna for help. Krishna, who was her dear friend and devotee, heard her prayers and came to her aid. It is believed that as Dushashan tried to disrobe Draupadi, her saree garment seemed to have no end, and Krishna miraculously protected her modesty by ensuring that the saree never ran out.

LORD KRISHNA & DRAUPADI



LORD KRISHNA & SUDAMA

Today is that day of the year when bonds between two friends are celebrated with pomp and show. A friend in need is a friend indeed is a proverb that says a true friend is someone who supports you

Krishna and Sudama were childhood buddies. Sudama once ate the butter on his own because he was the tall friend who was responsible for stealing it from the pot and would end up getting a less share. He eventually got poorer. So much so that at one point of time he had little to eat.

On being repeatedly asked by his wife, Sudama finally arrived at Krishna's kingdom, Dwarka to get some assistance. However, the palace guards forbade him from entering, but Krishna saw him as a childhood friend and invited him inside. After seeing his condition, Krishna assisted his buddy in constructing a mansion for himself. With his approval, Sudama amassed wealth and led a contented life. In the face of any relationship, their friendship teaches us the value of unconditional love.



LORD KRISHNA & ARJUNA

Krishna and Arjuna were cousins. The latter's mother was Kunti, Krishna's aunt. However, their bond went beyond just kinship. Their friendship had been intimate. One's gestures made the other person easier to understand. The Mahabharata claims that Krishna and Arjun are the human and divine forms that, when united, are capable of defeating evil. The highlight of their friendship story is when Krishna reads Arjun the Bhagavad Geeta. Even though Arjun was a strong warrior, he

was moved to tears when he saw his family at the battlefield. He objected to the triumph being achieved at the expense of

millions of lives. Arjun wanted to leave the battlefield. Krishna, however, encouraged him by saying that it was possible if the battle hadn't happened.



KARNA & DURYODHAN

Karna, although born a Kshyatria, was raised by a charioteer and his wife, so he was considered a Shudra's child. The Pandavas humiliated this warrior as he attempted to participate with Arjun.

Despite being presented as bad for the most part, Duryodhan here stood for justice.

He eventually loses in his attempt to have

Karna compete, but as a

token of his goodwill, he grants Karna the throne in the Anga province of his empire. Karna always treated Duryodhan as a true friend, despite the possibility that he intended to use Karna to accomplish his evil scheme against the Pandavas. He helped Duryodhan in whatever he did, even going so far as to continuously protect the life of his one and only friend. O' wonder, when Kunti asked him to switch sides, Karna argued that he could never leave Duryodhan because he only had one true friend.

Lord Rama received assistance from the monkey king in his search for Debi Sita. Following Sita's abduction by the demon king Ravana, Rama was forced to search the woods for his spouse. Then, in the course of this search, he came across Sugreev. Given that Sugreev was half human and half monkey, it is unlikely that anyone could have guessed that Rama would make friends with a monkey. And because of their peculiar affinity, he first kept Sugreeva safe from Bali, and the latter later demonstrated his loyalty by standing shoulder to shoulder with Rama to bring his wife back.

LORD RAMA & SUGREEV



STENNY



WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
Send us your photographs at
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