

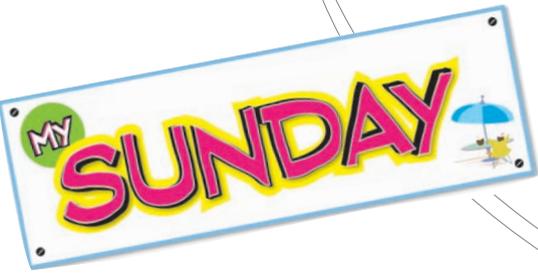
DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 2, 2020

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2021

Celebrations on hold



Known for her works Mo Jharaka Ru Dise Nai, Aou Kebe Kuhani Se Katha, Aei Thikana Re Ghara Nahin and Sanja Hele Barsha poetess Bijayalaxmi Parida has won multiple awards for her poem anthologies. On Sundays, she loves to spend time on her terrace garden.



With family

Yoga Addict

Doing yoga and pranayam is a must for me on Sundays. I spend hours doing yoga to keep myself fit and fine.

Child Therapy

I love to counsel kids suffering from mental disorders on Sundays. I try my best to sort out their issues so that they can lead a healthy lifestyle.

Quiet Sunday

With works piling up, I keep my Sunday menu simple. I prefer to have Poha for breakfast and fish curry with rice for lunch.



With husband

Family time

Once in a while, I organise a rooftop party with my husband and children. We go for roasted potato, roasted tomato with rice. Doesn't it sound different?

Committed gardener

My terrace garden, for me, is like paradise. I have grown varieties of vegetables in the garden. I take care of my plants and spend quality time with them.



At a workshop in Delhi



RASHMI REKHA DAS, 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

- The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- When I say, 'The other day,' I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.



FASCINATING MYTHS

Sir, Though I celebrate Christmas every year, the legends surrounding the birth of Jesus were not known to me. I was completely clueless of the fact that Joseph, the human father of Jesus, was a carpenter and contractor by profession. Joseph's lineage is traced through King David. But Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus. I appreciate Sunday POST team for coming up with such an interesting article.

DIPAK SWAIN, RAYAGADA

GREAT EXPECTATION

Sir, I was delighted to read the cover story 'History and Myths' published in the last edition of Sunday POST and became aware of various myths surrounding the Christmas celebration in the world and the reality. It was interesting to learn that Christmas, the most followed religious festival in the world was banned once by the Puritans. I hope many more stories highlighting the truth on various aspects of human life will adorn the pages of Sunday POST in future.

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2021

Celebrations on hold

Despite restrictions on public gatherings owing to the pandemic, one can still bid farewell to outgoing 2020 in style, say a few avid party-goers.

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

New Year calls for celebrations and parties. Every time people across the globe celebrate the year's last day with fervor and in the company of family and friends. It is this time of the year when we bid farewell to the past and look forward to a brighter future. People celebrate the occasion doing a host of things - house parties, staycation, clubbing, bar hopping and strolling through the streets to witness fireworks. All want to make it an occasion to remember for a long time. However, this year it will look a lot different than previous years' celebrations. Needless to say, 2020 was a year full of unexpected challenges, hardships, and stress due to the outbreak of coronavirus and we cannot celebrate New Year eve like any other year of past. But that doesn't mean it can't be a festive, celebratory and fun-filled affair. **Sunday POST** talks to a few party animals who are of the view that despite all restrictions, one can say goodbye to outgoing year 2020 in style.



Mumbai-based actor **Priyanka Mitra** says "This New Year will be a little different from every year. I am not exactly a party animal, rather want to keep things simple and quiet. Owing to the lockdown and recently imposed night curfew in Mumbai, I may make a quiet getaway to the hills of Mahabaleshwar/Lonavala and rejuvenate. If not, then I would prefer to get cozy on my couch sipping hot chocolate, with a scented candle lit and read my favorite book or binge-watch my favorite show.

Basically, making a quiet exit from the tragic 2020, with silent prayers for a happening 2021."

Odisha-born anchor and actress **Leslie Tripathy**, who has now shifted base to Mumbai, says "I used to host parties on New Year eve. But this year, I am not going



to do it due to covid guidelines. So, we (friends) have planned to meet through the zoom app at 11.45pm and greet each other to ring in the New Year. That apart, I will be celebrating the first day with my family. So I have no regrets. Instead of regretting we should welcome the government's decision and be part of the protocol."

For **Babool Das**, a businessman from Bhadrak, it is unthinkable to welcome another year without partying hard. "For the last 10 years, I have never missed celebrating zero night on the eve of New Year. Though I am a resident of Bhadrak, I celebrate zero night at clubs, hotels and restaurants in Bhubaneswar because they invite popular celebrities to entertain people.





I am disappointed that this year I won't be celebrating zero night because of covid guidelines. However, I have decided to celebrate it with fanfare, but at home. I would dance the night away with music on full volume, with my siblings and some close friends giving me company."

Pabitra Priyadarshini, who resides in Singapore, loves to ring in the New Year by letting her hair down to the tune of Hindi film songs.



"Being a hardcore party animal, I dress up myself to the best. I would like to wear my favorite holiday attire and put on some bold makeup. That's not all. I would stand with neighbours in a circle while sticking our heads together and take a series of selfies. I love taking the same picture every year. I would host a treasure hunt round by putting clues under the couch, chair or tables."

She continues: "In Singapore, there is a tradition of climbing up a chair and jumping off it as the clock hits 12. I have decided to do this with my husband and children while watching the clock. That's not all. I work on our New Year's resolutions. I have decided not to yell at my kids this year. Let us see how long I can keep my cool."

Soumya Rath, a Bhubaneswar-based banker, says "I make sure to do a couple of things so that I can enjoy the carnival to the fullest. Last year I was in Delhi to

celebrate the occasion. I went to Kitty Su in The Lalit Hotel, one of the finest nightclubs of the city. Besides, with the choicest alcoholic beverages, I had a blast dancing to one of the best music in town. It is that time of the year again when we bid farewell to all things old and embrace the new. Also, in Delhi, it is all about a good night out. The cold Delhi weather plays the perfect host and everyone comes out wrapped in warm clothes, ready to welcome the New Year. I am going to celebrate the event this year in Bhubaneswar. I would make a big bowl of popcorn and finish it all by myself, while watching my favourite movies because no one will be there to celebrate the occasion with me. However, I make sure to visit Astaranga with my friends to see the sunrise and begin my year with a positive note."



Baldev Prasad, an engineer by profession, feels that performances by artistes, DJ shows, live orchestras, concerts and dazzling displays of fireworks marks zero hour celebrations at various party hotspots in the twin cities



as residents ushered in the New Year. But this year, we are going to miss them due to government restrictions to contain the spread of coronavirus. Last year's celebration was worth remembering. I enjoyed a zero night celebration at Hotel Swosti. The decibel level at the party hit fever pitch as people let their hair down and enjoyed the year's last night to the fullest. I along with my friends danced our way to welcome the New Year. This year, I have decided to enjoy delicious dishes made by my mother as part of New Year eve celebration with my family. The morning after, however, I have decided to visit a few temples to pray for a perfect start to the New Year



Celebs' 2021 goals



Archita Sahu, one of the foremost actresses of Odia film industry, says "Year 2020 has made us believe that health is certainly the wealth. If we remain fit everything else will fall in place. Earlier, I used to focus more on career and tend to neglect health. So, my 2021 resolution is to work on my fitness more seriously than ever. I have also taken a decision to do more women-centric movies in 2021. I feel quite blessed to be shooting on the New Year."



Chhabirani fame Aman who is busy shooting for the movie *Oye Guitar* says, "I don't make resolutions as I believe they are meant to be broken. But I will pray for global peace and wellbeing of every living being. I would like to see a corona-free world in 2021 where no one would be deprived of basic amenities."

Renowned singer **Abhijeet Mishra**, whose music video *Mu Sei Kalinga* was quite a rage, says, "I would like to sing only original songs. There will be no more covers and no mashups. I will also try to present songs from different genres to my fans. Most importantly, I would like to settle down in life. After all marriage is all about sharing and caring and needless to say they are integral parts of life."



Top star **Swaraj Barik**, a heartthrob of millions, says "I will have no resolution for 2021. For 2020, I had set quite a few goals and planned many things. But the pandemic poured cold water on my plans. Who knows what will happen in 2021? I have decided to live in moments and welcome whatever comes my way."

Actress **Suramayee** says, "New Year's eve has always been a time to reflect on the past, but more importantly, to plan for the future. So my first resolution of 2021 is to take healthy food. Then, the second one is to work on my fitness which is extremely important in present scenario. Getting organised is the next in my list."



Sivani Sagita, who appeared in blockbuster movie *Babu Bhaijan* opposite Arindam, says, "2020 was a dismal year for me. My resolution for 2021 is to give more importance to my fitness. That apart, I have decided to work on content-driven films than signing run of the mill stuff."



'Working with efficient co-actors enhances your work'

Actress Sanya Malhotra believes that teaming up with efficient co-actors improves the quality of one's work.

Since her debut in Aamir Khan's 2016 blockbuster *Dangal*, Sanya has shared the screen with many reputed actors including Ayushmann Khurrana, Vidya Balan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Amit Sadh.

She particularly exuded a special on-screen bond essaying a mother-daughter relationship with Vidya Balan earlier this year, in *Shakuntala Devi*.

"The best part of *Shakuntala Devi* is the unique portrayal of the mother-daughter relationship that sets it apart from other conventional stories. I don't think I have ever seen such an on-screen portrayal in Hindi cinema," said Sanya. IANS



'3 Idiots is the visiting card to any industry I go to'

Actor R. Madhavan says the 2009 blockbuster *3 Idiots* is and will always be the most important film of his life and career for its relatability and impact on the viewers, especially students. The actor turned nostalgic as the film will complete 11 years of release date on Christmas Day, and shared how much he is respected even today for being a part of the cast.

"*3 Idiots* will always be the most important film of my career and my life because of the impact it has with the youth world over. *3 Idiots* for me is the visiting card to any industry I go to, they all look at me with reverence and respect because of that one film all over the world, irrespective of whether they understand Hindi or not. I don't think any other film has touched that level of importance in my life," he said. IANS



WFH is difficult for America Ferrera

Actress America Ferrera says work from home (WFH) model is difficult as a mother, adding that she discovered raising two children amid the pandemic a tough deal.

Ferrera has a seven-month-old daughter Lucia and a two-year-old son named Sebastian. The actress said her daughter 'bursts into tears' around new people as she has spent all of her life in lockdown and is not used to meeting people, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Whenever there is an occasion for a new face, she just bursts into tears. She doesn't know what to do with new faces, so hopefully she's young enough that this will all start to get better before it can really start to stick with her," she said.

America found raising two children and working from home amid the pandemic 'overwhelming'. IANS



RAKUL
clocks 16mn fans on Instagram

Actress Rakul Preet Singh has garnered a fan following of 16 million on Instagram. She thanked her fans for all the love.

Rakul posted a clip on Instagram, celebrating her 16 million following.

"And we turn SWEET 16 !! cannot thank you all enough for all the love and support... here is to making sure I give my best every day to never disappoint you. Promise to keep working hard . Lots and lots of love to each one of you. stay safe," she wrote as caption.

Rakul recently had tweeted on her verified account that she tested positive for Covid-19. She added that she quarantined herself.

The actress had just started shooting for the film *Mayday*, a thriller drama, alongside Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn. The film is directed and produced by Ajay Devgn. IANS



Devika Rani was an enigma to most - but not anymore

Author Kishwar Desai of *The Longest Kiss* (Westland), the biography of India's first international superstar in the 1930s and 1940s says, "I hope that I have managed to establish who Devika Rani really was. A rebellious and unusually talented and beautiful woman, a great actress and studio head who changed the course of Indian cinema in many ways, despite her intense personal suffering. A pioneer then and now."

"I hope this book will be of help to others who care to study this very important phase in Indian cinema, with its passion, idealism and entrepreneurship, in the days before it became a business like any other," adds Desai, whose husband, Lord Meghnad Desai is a lifetime member of Britain's House of Lords.

Astonishingly beautiful, prodigiously talented, and a great-grand-niece of Rabindranath Tagore, Devika Rani (1908-94) earned rave reviews for her first film, *Karma* (1933), a bilingual in Hindi and English. It elicited interest in England for a prolonged kissing scene featuring the real-life couple of Devika Rani and actor-producer-director Himanshu Rai, one of the pioneers of Indian cinema whom she had married in 1929, but bombed in India.

Together, Himanshu and Devika set up India's first truly professional studio, Bombay Talkies in 1934. Over the next few years, the studio became the launch pad for some of India's best-known talent, including Ashok Kumar, Leela Chitnis and Dilip Kumar.

After Himanshu's controversial death in 1940, Devika Rani took over Bombay Talkies. She ran the studio with a steel hand, squashing all rebellion and constantly walking a tightrope when it came to the men around her. Then, in 1945, she met the handsome and reclusive Russian-born painter Svetoslav Roerich, and, just like in a Hindi film, nothing was ever the same again as the couple eventually settled down in Bangalore (now Bengaluru), where they are buried in the tranquility of the Tataguni estate on the outskirts of the city.

"Devika died as she had lived, in the middle of controversy and refuses to be forgotten. Even now, when one visits the ruins of Bombay Talkies or the chalet at Naggar, (in Himachal Pradesh that Svetoslav's father Nicholas Roerich had

built), where a rough-hewn stone spreading banyan tree in Tataguni, one can sense her spirit, wild and free, and her desire to create beauty all around her," Desai writes.

"She wanted her ashes to be kept both at Naggar and at Tataguni, where she lies next to Svetoslav, the only man to understand her and give her the freedom

she needed to be herself. He was the 'reward' she believed she had been given for keeping faith in spite of all the abuse and humiliation she had suffered. And her restless passion seems to still hover the graves.

"In both places, the tombstones stand next to stone idols symbolising Shakti. A strange energy emanates from the

idols - their sturdy, gray bodies, with their vivid red bindis and the shining zari on their dupattas" Desai concludes.

Devika Rani was a recipient of the Padma Shri (1958) and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1969). In *The Longest Kiss*, for the first time, through her letters and documents, Desai pieces together the life that she kept away from the world. The romance and the abuse that characterised her marriage with Himanshu, the struggle of being a woman at the helm of a hyper-male domain, the circuitous ways in which cinema found its feet in Bombay, and the soaring happiness and tragedy of a life lived on the edge, always.

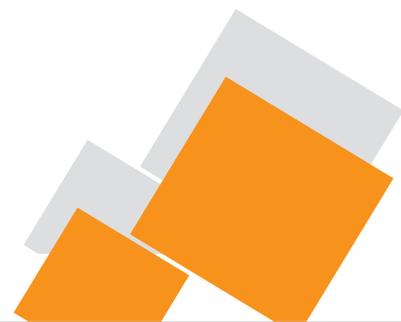
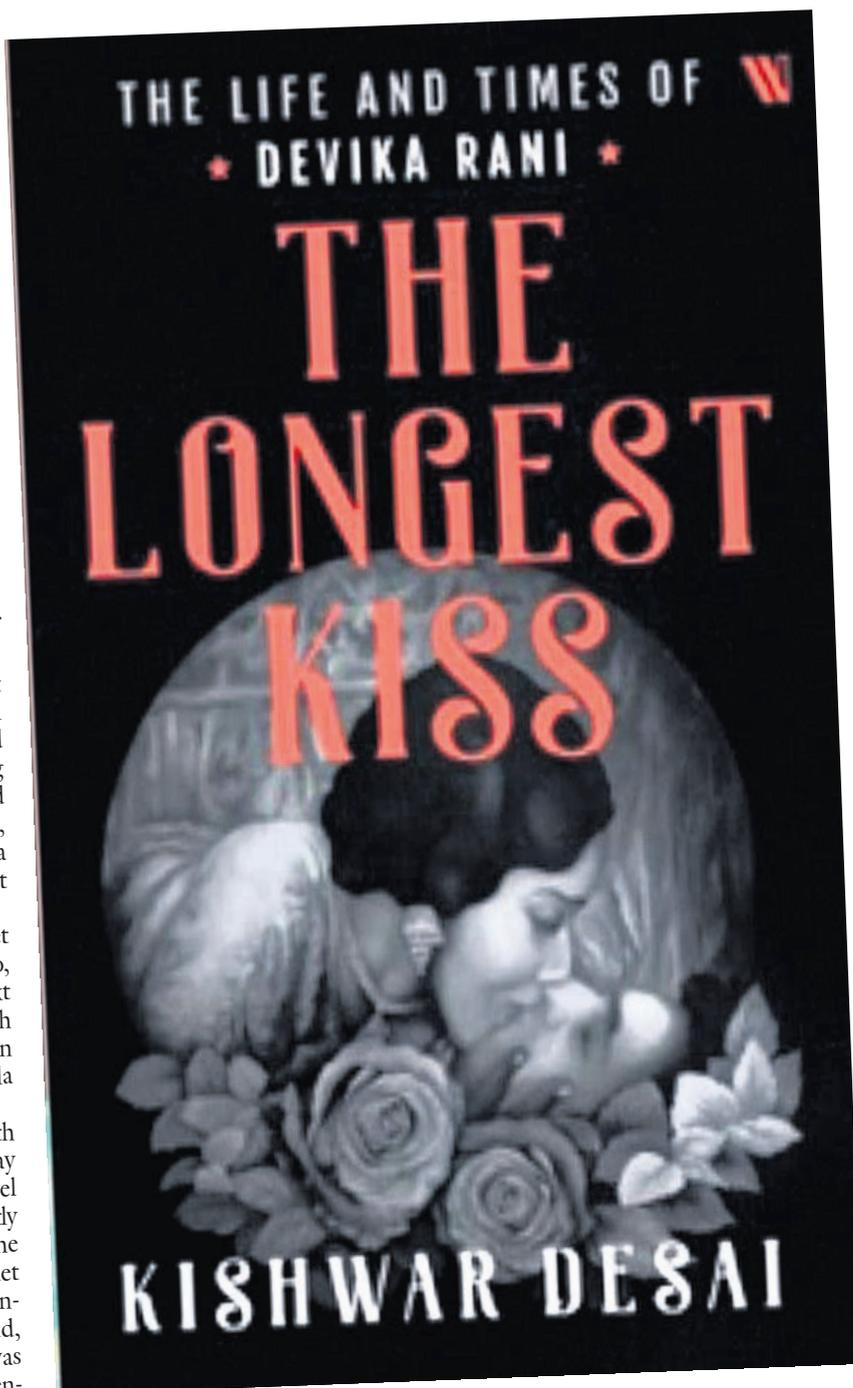
Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author and playwright who writes both fiction and non-fiction. She worked in television as an anchor and producer for over 20 years before becoming a writer. She is the chairperson of The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust that set up the world's first Partition Museum at Town Hall, Amritsar. She also helped her husband to install the statue of Mahatma Gandhi outside Westminster in the UK.

Desai is the author of *Darlingji: The True Love Story of Nargis and Sunil Dutt* (2007).

Her novel *Witness the Night* won the Costa First Novel Award in the UK, in 2010, and was followed by two others: *Origins of Love* (2012) and *Sea of Innocence* (2013). The trilogy featuring has since been optioned for a web series.

Desai's first work of political non-fiction, *Jallianwala Bagh: The Real Story* (2018), won critical acclaim and inspired exhibitions on the massacre in India, the UK and New Zealand. She also wrote a play, *Manto!* which won the TAG Omega award for Best Play in 1999. Most recently, in 2019, her play, *Devika Rani: Goddess of the Silver Screen*, was successfully staged in venues across India.

IAN S



Ashima



PHOTO: CHANDAN
MAKEUP: PRASHANT