

MARCH 21-27, 2021

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



WORLD POETRY DAY

Capturing Creative Spirit

P
3,4 COVER STORY



Popular anchor and RJ Rojalin Mohanty has carved a space in the literary world for her short stories 'Cactus', 'Mudhibala', 'Abisapta Maa', 'Bada Dina Cake' and poems 'Asha Baitarini', 'Luha' and 'Shaba'. She reads eminent authors Manoj Das and Pratibha Ray in her leisure time

A Hrithik fangirl

Being a diehard Hrithik Roshan fan, I make sure to watch at least one of his movies on each Sunday. That apart, I also watch web-series of thriller genre on streaming platforms



With husband

Burning calories

On Sundays, I force myself to take an hour-long brisk walk in the morning to maintain a good level of physical fitness.

Chef by choice

I love to treat my hubby with something special and there can't be a better day than a Sunday to do that. I mostly try different varieties of biryani and kebab which he loves them.

Literature lover

The Sundays are incomplete if I don't read my favourite authors like Manoj Das and Pratibha Ray. Now, I am reading Manoj Das' *Sesha Tantrika Ra Sandhana Re* and Sushil Pradhan's *Andhara Re Thau Kichhi*.

Couple time

I love to spend time with my husband, a physician. We often go on a drive to Puri beach in the evening to start the week afresh.



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

- Last night my girlfriend was complaining that I never listen to her... or something like that.
- May be if we start telling people their brain is an app, they'll want to use it.
- People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.
- It was an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tears.



FIRE IN PARADISE

Sir, I liked last week's cover article on forest fire. It's a matter of concern not only for the green crusaders and wildlife experts but also for the entire human race. I agree with Prakash Mardaraj's opinion that the authorities need to focus on checking the fire instead of attempting to douse it. The spread can for instance be contained by digging earth boundaries. The priority is saving lives. Instead of waging a tug of war against the forest dwellers, the government should chalk out plans to ensure their safety.

SOUMYA SEKHAR SAHOO, KOLKATA

MAGIC ON CANVAS

Sir, I thoroughly enjoyed last week's My Sunday column featuring painter and actor Chintamani Biswal. I can't say about his feelings, but I am excited to learn that former Indian President Pratiba Patil had bought his painting *Indian Monalisa* during her visit to the state. I wish Chintamani had disclosed the amount he had been paid by the President for his painting. I wish him best for his upcoming painting series.

CHANDRASEKHAR NANDA, BOLANGIR

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

WORLD POETRY DAY

Capturing Creative Spirit

Knowledge and information are updated but poetry is the eternal glow and flow of perennial wisdom, says bilingual contemporary poet Swapna Behera whose poems have been translated into nearly 70 national and international languages.



BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Vande Mataram. These were not just two words from Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Bengali fiction *Anandamath*, they proved to be the most potent weapon of India's Independence Movement. They could unite the freedom fighters irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and the region they belong to. While Vande Mataram inspired the rebels, it evoked terror in the British Empire. People who gave this slogan were lodged in jail.

This is not a solitary incident. Poetry has played a decisive role in revolutions across the globe. But what role poetry really plays in a common man's life or why a peasant sings loudly while working in the field? Why poetry is a medium to express the feelings of love and pain? What would have happened had there not been poetry?

On World Poetry Day, a few powerful contemporary poets tell **Sunday POST** about the purpose of poetry and what is that poetry and poetry alone can do.

'An eternal pilgrimage'

Pabitra Mohan Dash, a well known poet, novelist and critic, says writing poems is a spiritual practice for him. Over the years, he has been transformed from a firebrand romantic poet to a wordsmith whose works reflect the reality of his time and living.

The English lecturer of Shastri Smruti Degree Mahavidyalay, who commands



a strong fan base, says, "Poetry has no purpose. It only holds and reveals the multiple dimensions of existence. It acts as a catalyst to celebrate life. Poetry is an eternal pilgrimage having no destination. It starts with words and goes beyond. Information and knowledge have their own place in this world but poetry relies upon wisdom."

The *Bajravamshee* poet who has seven anthologies to his credit continues: "Once American-English poet TS Eliot had rightly said 'where is the knowledge we have lost in information?'. So issue of information being mistaken as knowledge is not new. Our focus should remain on poetry. The key role of poetry is to communicate and connect. By means of communication it can convert the language of bigotry and intolerance in to that of harmony. It can convince us that life is undivided so we shouldn't destroy each other."

However, poetry claims no direct responsibility. It can silently help in flowering of human mind. It can provide people the required strength to fight for dignity of life. Poetry can generate the language of protest but poetry alone can do nothing except radiating its own brightness, adds the *Dandibruta* poet.

'Poetry alone can save us from becoming zombies'

Nikhilesh Mishra is a powerful voice in the literary circuit of Odisha. In his upcoming poetry anthology *Kabitie Marigala Pare* (After a poet dies), he blends 'what is' with 'what could have been' to test the potential of poetry. One can find the glimpses of grief, vulnerability, loss, anger, love and joy in his poems.

On what poetry can alone do, he says, "In poetry, pauses are as important - if not more - as words are. Anyone reading/listening/writing/living poetry is well-acquainted with pauses, both literally and metaphorically. Now in our age, not only information, but misinformation is also being accepted as knowledge. That's because we are all obsessed with speed, with getting everything readymade at our finger tip. The dangers of such a way of life are all too evident.

We have become less empathetic and more reactionary, less

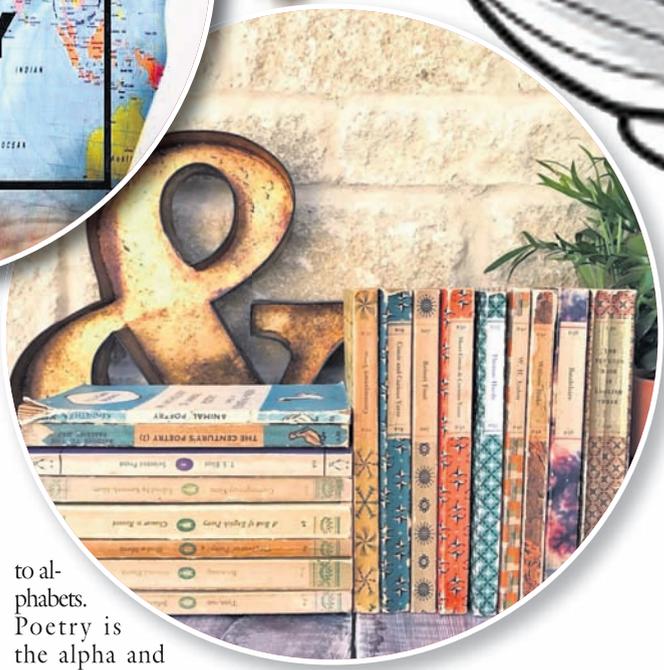
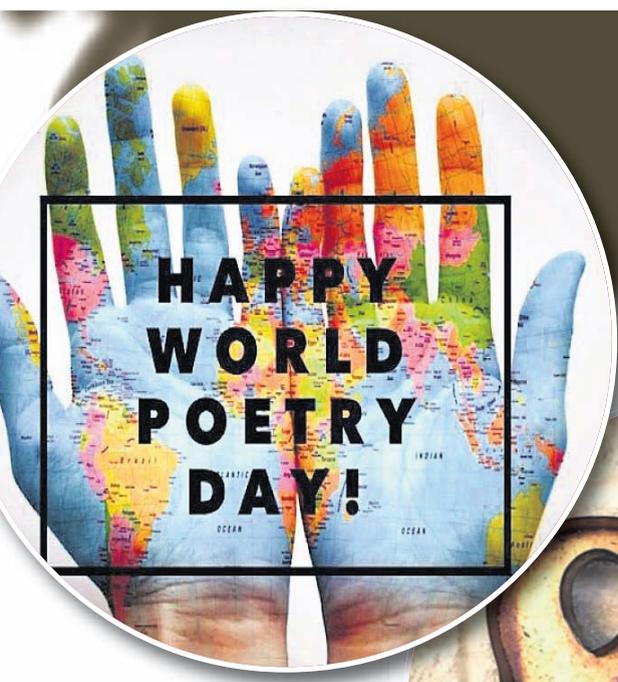


bothered about facts (or opinions for that matter), and much more about the shrillness of any voice that suits our own prejudices. In these terrible times, poetry - and poetry alone - can make us pause."

The poet of *Keji Jane Kejani Kouthi*, a book that made to the final shortlist for Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2020, continues: "And once we pause, even if for a moment, poetry offers us the scope of reflecting upon the world and ourselves. Once we pause, there is time enough for all the little joys and sorrows of life; there is time enough for empathizing with another human being in agony; there is time enough for actually living life and not just enduring it."

Poetry alone can save us from becoming zombies.





Poetry alone has the potential for keeping alive the humanity in all human beings, adds Mishra, an alumnus of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi who is now a student of Direction and Screenplay Writing at Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata.

'A song of the soul'

Bilingual poet **Swapna Behera** is also an educationist and the Cultural Ambassador for India and South East Asia of Inner Child Press, the United States. She has not only participated in several national and international seminars on literature, her poems have been translated in nearly 70 languages across the globe.



Asked about what poetry means to common man, she says, "Poetry assimilates and flies beyond borders. It crosses the boundaries of culture, religion, caste, colour and deletes all discriminations. It is the logical logistic of millions of expressions. Knowledge is the information and digital footsteps in the brain but poetry is the radiant dances of the heart, by the heart and for the heart. Poetry can break the geographical boundaries. Poetry is just like the pollen grains, the first monsoon for a farmer, breast milk for a baby, dreams of a child. Yes, I do believe poetry can lead the aesthetic movements. Poetry codifies the sojourn journey of the soul from eyes

to alphabets. Poetry is the alpha and omega .

Poetry heals inner wounds, protects values, germinates, rejuvenates, explores and deletes the stigmas, taboos and also detoxifies. Above all, poetry is the voice of an orphan, widow and the environment."

She goes on to add that poetry is the strongest medium to delete the segregation, divisions, inconsistencies, ambiguities, contradictions and manmade concoctions. Today a man is imprisoned in his own cage. Nature is the paramount poetry and great Love Guru. Poetry creates the ruminations, purifies the inner self with innumerable fragrances.

Knowledge can argue with the collected information but poetry is the song of the soul, a gift of the cosmic energy. So poetry can stand alone to speak for itself. Poetry is 'bliss' with its own aura, she further says.

On the relevance of poetry in today's time she points out, "We talked of information explosion in the late 1980s, the information superhighways through the 1990s .We are so much engrossed to leave our digital foot prints today but the Greater Peace is always hash tagged with poetry of love, humanity and core values. Knowledge and information are updated but poetry is the eternal glow and flow of perennial wisdom."

POETS ON POETRY

Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, ENGLISH POET

Poetry lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY, ENGLISH ROMANTIC POET

Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood

TS ELIOT, AMERICAN-ENGLISH POET

All poets, all writers are political. They either maintain the status quo, or they say, 'Something's wrong, let's change it for the better'

SONIA SANCHEZ, AMERICAN POET

Poetry and beauty are always making peace. When you read something beautiful you find coexistence; it breaks walls down

MAHMOUD DARWIS, PALESTINIAN POET



'Readers are the best judge of my works'



BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Essayist Chandrasekhar Hota needs no introduction to those who take interest in Odia literature. The 35-year-old has already four books to his credit while three others await their releases. He also commands a sizeable fan following for his attractive write-ups in various vernacular dailies. But not many people know that writing is not his profession but passion as he serves in the police department. Chandrasekhar's love for literature coupled with an investigative mind often leaves a lasting impression on the readers. No wonder, he has been conferred with several honours by many literary and cultural organisations across the state. But the jewel in the crown is his recent selection for annual Kendra Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2020 for his essay compilation

Chetanara Anwesana.

In an exclusive talk with **Sunday POST**, the Deputy Superintendent of Police in Nabarangpur, spoke on a host of subjects.

Excerpts:

■ **Congratulations for bagging the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar. Let us begin with this award. An award evaluates the talent of a writer or it just helps him/her to do better in future. Your thoughts please.**

■ Thank you very much for creating a space for me in Sunday POST. I believe, an award has certainly no capacity to evaluate either a litterateur or his/her works. Creative writing is a spark which flows like a fountain and meets its own destiny. Some legendary writers haven't received any award in their life time but have been immortalised by their works and they continue to inspire generations. Do we have any award that can evaluate the works of legends like 15th Century poet and scholar Sarala Das, Atibadi Jagannath Das and Saint Bhim Bhoi? But yes, an award, in the present day, sometimes stimulates the creativity and innovativeness of a writer. It helps him/her to grow and glow. It also gives the much-needed recognition that helps a writer to compete with himself. Therefore, it is only the readers whose evaluation matters the most. They are the best judge of my works.

■ **Youths writing in essay genre in Odisha are getting recognised only in last two years. How optimistic you are about them who write essays?**

■ Yes, it is true that our works haven't been recognised on too many occasions in the past. No wonder, only a few young minds are

getting into the essay genre. Even as the Akademi (Kendra Sahitya Akademi) has recognised essay writing in past two years, it is something we all should be proud of. At the same time I must say, we have a great tradition of essay writing in Odisha and these back to back awards by the Akademi will definitely inspire many young writers to carry forward the legacy. Following these recognitions, I can see many students of Odia literature getting into essay and literary criticism. However, they need to study a lot to reach a certain level as the arena of this genre is quite widespread.

■ **Being a top police officer you mostly face extreme situations and deal with the law-breakers of the society. How could you nurture a soft emotion like literature?**

■ Maintaining law and order is part of my profession while literature is my passion. I am happy that I have so far managed to strike a fine balance between the two. But it has not been an easy journey for me. I generally read and write from 5.00 am to 7.30 am so that my profession is not affected. Though my primary duty is to protect the life and property by enforcing laws, I always wanted to be identified as a good writer as well as a sensible police officer. In fact, I believe that all police men should possess a bit of softness in their hearts for the victims, for the women, children and senior citizens in particular.

■ **What is your process of writing? I mean to say how do you get the elements for your works?**

■ Whenever an idea strikes my mind, I start reading a lot about it before writing. I ponder over and think whether a new dimension can be given to that idea. The issues that are less discussed generally fascinate me. I also work on those things which I believe can educate and enlighten the readers. Then a mental structure takes shape in the mind which

is later decorated with flesh and blood (words and narrative). Though I write essays, deep inside there is a poet in me also. Expectedly, the language of my essays is mostly poetic.

■ **Tell us something about your award winning book *Chetanara Anwesana*.**

■ It is my second book which has a collection of ten essays. The subjects of all the essays are different – from sorrow of silence to pleasure of pain, to the search of dignity and to deriving love. There are also essays on legends like Saint Bhima Bhoi, Mahatma Gandhi, poet Mayadhar Mansingh and author Khushwant Singh in my book. Essay is not at all a dry subject for me, moreover, it is addictive like a Mahua flower. I believe, from here my sailing begins for a search, a search without knowing the truth and ultimate destination. Hope, *Chetanara Anwesana* will continue to get the required patronage of the readers.

Chandrasekhar's Fact File

Born July 1, 1985, the recipient of Akademi Yuva Puraskar worked as a Commercial Tax Officer for six years after doing his M.Phil and PhD from JNU. Besides writing thought-provoking columns in several vernacular dailies for the last 12 years, Chandrasekhar has also taught students of University of Delhi for a brief period. So far, he has been felicitated by several literary and cultural organisations with honours like Gokarnika Samman, Saraswata Samman, Mahuri Samman, Akhila Jagannath Das Samman and Krushnendu Smruti Samman.



Riteish turns hairstylist for Genelia



Actor Riteish Deshmukh turned hairstylist for his injured wife Genelia, who currently has her left hand plastered. She shared an Instagram video recently that shows hubby Riteish tying her hair. "I need somebody who can love me at worst," Genelia captioned the video, quoting American singer Pink Sweats from his song "At my worst".

The song also plays in the video as Riteish takes care of Genelia's hair. After he is done, the actress pulls him close to her and plants a kiss on his cheek!

Earlier this month, Genelia injured her left arm while trying to learn skating with the intention of accompanying her kids. She shared the story on Instagram saying even though people use the platform to share success stories, but she wants to open up about "the times we fall". IANS

My daughter thinks I'm ridiculous: Leah



Actress Leah Remini says her daughter Sofia thinks she is ridiculous. The Hollywood star, who rose to fame as Carrie Heffernan on the long-running sitcom *The King Of Queens*, made the confession on the *The Drew Barrymore Show*.

Actress Drew Barrymore was seen talking about Remini's nail. She said: "I know that you are a nail enthusiast... wow your nails are so extraordinary."

Remini replied: "They are really inappropriate for my age, but these are like lips with a grill. Like I don't know why, I just love nails. I love hair and makeup. I love the whole thing and my daughter thinks I'm ridiculous. She's probably right but I love them. I enjoy them."

Remini disclosed that her daughter Sofia does not find it interesting about being 16, when Barrymore asked her daughter's age. IANS



'I had become a little complacent'

Actress Parineeti Chopra says her recently-released OTT film *The Girl On The Train*, taught her a lot. She feels the film gave her 'second life' as an artiste.

"I had become a little complacent and carefree and I used to do things the same way. So it (being part of the film) was so amazing, I really feel like this was my second life, almost. I really don't want to make dramatic statements, but I do feel new again and I feel like a new version of me," she said.

Parineeti also added that being part of the film was a satisfying experience for her.

"I think school was an understatement, it was like Gurukul, it was like acting ka boot camp for me! I had to literally unlearn everything, and in the process of that I discovered what I really liked and wanted, and my work ethic and what I wanted to do. I found love for films and acting again," she said. IANS

When Radhika was kept in dark

Actress Radhika Apte had no idea whether Laxmi, her character in the upcoming web series *OK Computer*, was male or female at the time she was offered the role!

"When I was first offered the role of Laxmi, the makers told me that it was undecided whether my character was male or female, and I soon realised that this was also the case with the other characters. There was so much flexibility and massive room for improvisation in terms of the nuances of her character which were all explored and developed on the go. This made the entire process of portraying this character and working on this series, extremely satisfying," she said.

Throwing light on her character in the show and her similarity with Laxmi's thought process, the actress added: "Laxmi is the head of People for the Ethical Treatment of Every Robot (PETER) and an ardent supporter of the ideology that artificial intelligence cannot harm humans." IANS



Gourmets' delight



VEGGIE BURGER

Ingredients

- French beans (strung, blanched and chopped fine): 120 gm
- Cabbage, grated: 120 gm
- Cauliflower, grated: 120 gm
- Carrots, grated: 1/2 cup
- Potatoes boiled and mashed
- Coriander powder: 2 tsp
- Salt to taste
- Turmeric powder: 1/4 tsp
- Boiled peas: 1/2 cup
- Eggs: Two, slightly beaten
- Maida: 1/4 cup
- Bread crumbs
- Oil

Procedure

Heat oil in a pan and add all beans, carrots, cauliflower and cabbage to it. Stir over high heat. Add coriander powder, salt, turmeric powder and mix well. Turn off the heat. Keep aside to cool. When cool mix with the boiled potatoes and peas. Make thin rounds so as to match the bun. Dust with maida and dip into the beaten egg. Coat with bread crumbs. Heat oil and deep fry till they turn golden brown in colour. Slit the burger roll and place the patty in it along with mustard and mayonnaise. Serve hot

VEG MOMO

Ingredients

FOR DOUGH:

- Maida / plain flour: 1½ cup
- Salt: ½ tsp
- Water for kneading
- Oil for greasing

FOR STUFFING:

- Oil: 3 tsp
- Garlic (finely chopped): 3 clove
- Ginger (finely chopped): 1 inch
- Chilli (finely chopped): 1 inch
- Spring onion: 4 tbsp
- Carrot (grated): 1 cup
- Cabbage (shredded): 2 cups
- Pepper (crushed): ½ tsp
- Salt: ½ tsp

Procedure

First, prepare the stuffing. Heat 3 tsp oil and put 3 clove garlic, 1 inch of ginger and 2 nos of chilli in it and saute. Also, add 2 tbsp spring onion and saute on high flame. Further, add 1 cup carrot and 2 cup cabbage. Stir fry on high flame. Now add ½ tsp pepper and ½ tsp salt. Additionally, 2 tbsp spring onion and stuffing mixture is ready. Further, pinch a small ball sized momos dough and flatten. Now dust with some maida and start to roll using a rolling pin. Roll to almost medium thin circle around 4-5 inch in diameter. Make sure you roll from sides and keep the centre slightly thick. Now place a heaped tbsp of prepared stuffing in the centre. Start pleating the edges slowly and gather everything. Press in middle and seal the momos forming a bundle. Heat a steamer and arrange the momos in the tray without touching each other. Steam the momos for 10-12 minutes or till a shiny sheen appears over it. Finally, veg momos are ready to be enjoyed with chutney.





Lipsa

PHOTO: CHANDAN, OP