

SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2021

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

Beating the Odds

P
3,4 COVER STORY



**KENDRA
SANGEET NATAK
AKADEMI
WINNING CHHAU
EXPONENT
SADASIBA
PRADHAN TRAINS
SLUM KIDS AT HIS
LEISURE TO KEEP
THE DYING FOLK
DANCE FORM
ALIVE**



Keeping the Flame Burning

As the semi-classical dance form now faces an existential crisis, concerted effort is needed for its survival. I am writing a book on Mayurbhanj Chhau to popularise it and to pay tribute to my Guru Srihari Nayak, a legendary exponent of the dance.

Innovation is Key

I eat, drink and breathe dance which has been my driving force in life. On Sundays, I choreograph new steps for fresh presentations and prepare scripts for dance dramas.



Sadasiba Pradhan being felicitated by late President Pranab Mukherjee



With aspiring dancers during a training session

Pet Lover

I spend some quality time with my pet dog Naruto and a few winged guests who are regular visitors on my terrace. The pleasure of birds picking grains from my hand cannot be described in words.

Avid Gardener

Gardening is my favourite pastime. I have a big garden that houses plants such as pansies, petunias, impatiens and different types of rose and marigold. All are my prized possessions for the vibrant colour they add to the landscape.

Mentoring Young Talents

I love to train slum children free of cost. A few of them even showcased their talent at many cultural events under my tutelage. This I do to keep the dying dance form alive.

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

- When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.
- Smiles are contagious... Be a carrier!
- My wallet is like an onion, opening it makes me cry.
- I was born intelligent, but education ruined me.

MOST AWAITED BIOPIC

Dear Sir, It was heartening to learn that a biopic is being made on the eventful life of Sourav Ganguly, one of the most successful captains to lead the Indian cricket team. At a time when most fans had lost interest in the game, following the match-fixing fiasco in late 1990s, Sourav took charge. His aggressive style of leading and some great decisions in the greater interest of Indian cricket breathed life into the game in the subcontinent. Sourav Ganguly was a part of a legendary batting line-up that consisted of Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and VVS Laxman. They were called the 'Fab 4' back then as they held Team India together for a long time. I look forward to watching the biopic to know some little known facts of Sourav's life.

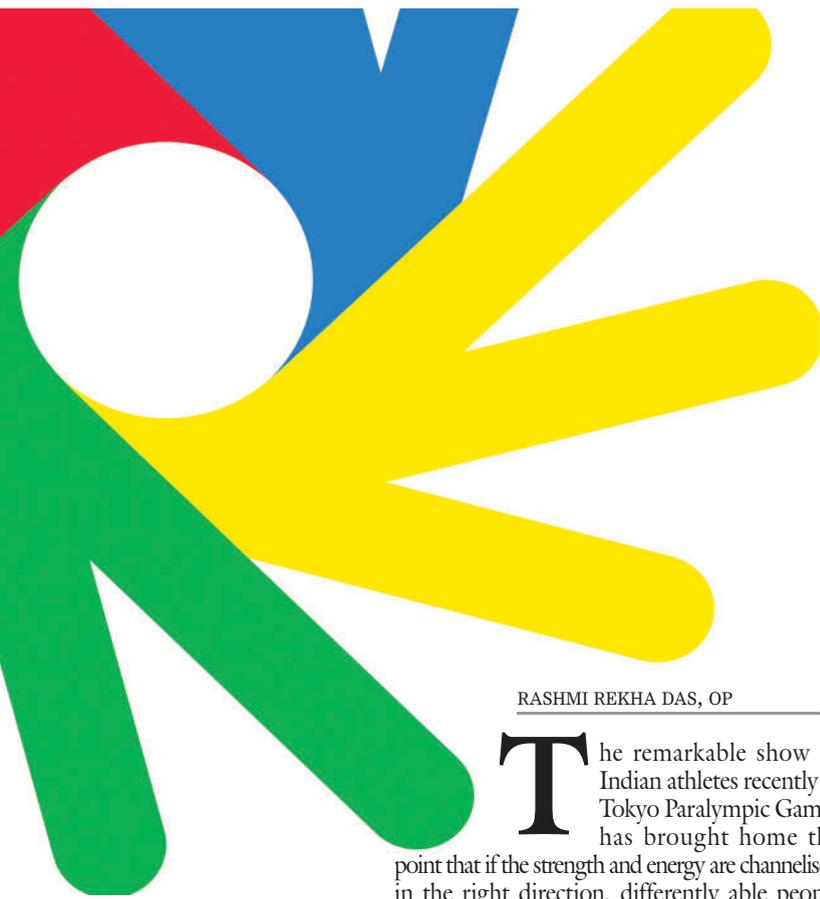
JITENDRA GOCHHAYAT, KOLKATA

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



It is not only a Pramod Bhagat or a Krishna Nagar, who reaped golds at Tokyo Paralympics, there are quite a few challenged sports personalities in Odisha who haven't let 'dis' come in front of their 'ability'.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

Beating the Odds

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

The remarkable show of Indian athletes recently at Tokyo Paralympic Games has brought home the point that if the strength and energy are channelised in the right direction, differently able people can achieve astonishing feats that non-disable ones can only dream about.

People like Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar have turned role models for many who believe in themselves despite their physical disability.

Like Pramod and Krishna, there are many amazing sports personalities in Odisha who too have proved that they are not less able.

Ahead of International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf), **Sunday POST** profiled a few stellar performers for whom disability is just a state of mind.

Loma Swain

Girls with disabilities often suffer from psychological trauma and are subjected to discrimination. It's not easy for them to fight with physical shortcomings. But Loma Swain was made of sterner stuff. Despite being deaf and mute, the girl from Bhutamundai village in Jagatsinghpur district, has so far bagged 14 gold medals by representing India in karate, judo and wrestling.

The Plus III final year student of Satyabhama Devi College for Hearing Impaired in Bhubaneswar, has made the state proud by winning two gold medals under 'Kata' and 'Kumite' categories of karate at the 14th International Karate Championships held at Kandy in Sri Lanka, May 8, 2016. However, Loma's journey



Loma Swain



Loma her gold medal at a state-level competition

was not an easy one.

Her father Sanjay Swain, a social worker, says "When Loma was found deaf-mute at the age of two, we were devastated. It was quite depressing when neighbours and some relatives made fun of her impairment. She was not allowed to play with their kids. So, I made up my mind to help Loma create her own identity to earn the respect of others. She used to take a lot of interest in karate. So, I encouraged her to take up the sport as a career. I was a state-level wrestler and that enabled me to help her at the beginning."

"Then I hired a trainer who took her karate classes at home. Later she joined Sriharsha Mishra School for Deaf & Dumb in Bhubaneswar for high school education and also took admission in Utkal Karate School.

It was famous coach Hariprasad Patnaik who took her in his fold and encouraged her to take part in state level competitions. Then there was no looking back for her."

Despite being physically challenged, Loma takes part in competitions in the general category. Besides, she has also won state-level wrestling championship twice in the general category. In 2019, she also bagged a gold medal for judo in the senior category at a national-level judo competition.

Loma, the second daughter of Sanjay and Jyotirmayee was also selected as the icon by the Khurda district administration to encourage physically-challenged voters to exercise their franchise in the general elections.

Sarita Routray

Despite her physical limitations, Sarita's athletic achievements often give complex to the able-bodied sportsmen and women. She has represented India in cycling (the only one from the state) at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Los Angeles, USA and in floor hockey at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, helping her team clinch the bronze medal. Besides, she is very good at floor ball and beach volleyball. She participated in Unified Beach Volleyball event organised by the World Summer Games Organising Committee in 2015, and grabbed the individual medal.

Apart from her international appearances, she has bagged scores of gold, silver and bronze medals at several district, state and national level tournaments in athletics, bocce, cycling, floor hockey and floor ball. That's not all. She is an exponent of Odissi also.



Sarita at 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games (File photo)



Sarita Routray

Celebs With Hearing Loss

RAJEEV BAGGA

He is an Indian born deaf badminton player, who represents Britain. He was Indian national champion, and reached the main stage of the 1990 All England Open Badminton Championships, the only deaf person to do so. He has won 12 golds and been singles champion at the Deaflympics from 1989 to 2001, and was named 'Deaflympian of the Century' by the International Committee of Deaf Sports in 2001. In 1991, he won India's highest sports honour, the Arjuna award.



VIDISHA BALIYAN

She is an Indian female deaf model, beauty pageant winner and a retired tennis player. She has represented India at the 2017 Summer Deaflympics and also represented India at the 2019 Miss & Mister Deaf World contest. In 2019, she won the Miss Deaf World Contest and became the first ever Indian to be crowned as a Miss Deaf World.



Bill Clinton

The former US President has had high-frequency hearing loss for most of his life. It makes it harder to make out the voices of children and women. At age 51, Clinton was fitted with two hearing aids after his 1997 physical.



Halle Berry

Academy Award winner Halle Berry, who has starred in a multitude of blockbusters, suffers from hearing loss, having lost 80 per cent of hearing in her right ear. This was a result of domestic violence from an abusive former partner. Berry has since become a champion of domestic violence reduction.



Whoopi Goldberg

This Academy Award-winning actor wears two hearing aids. Goldberg blames it on years of listening to loud music. She has trouble making out low-pitch sounds, which is less common than hearing loss in high frequencies.



Her mother says, "At the age of seven, Sarita was diagnosed with mild intellectual disability and hearing impairment. At the age of nine, we admitted her to the Centre of Special Education for Children with Multiple Disabilities of Open Learning Systems (OLS). After a short stint there, she was enrolled in a general school. However, she stopped going to school after a couple of years as she felt uncomfortable and isolated there. She had no friends. She came back to OLS where she started learning Odissi, tailoring and chocolate making."

Her special talent in sports was discovered by Arpita Mohapatra, National Coach of Special Olympics Bharat (SOB) and Limca Book of Records holder in Mountain Biking (cycling) from Odisha. Sarita was sent to participate in various competitions organised by SOB in different parts of the country. Her talent in cycling was fine-tuned by Arpita, Sarita's coach, mentor and confidante. Under her tutelage she demonstrated her skills, says her mother who runs a grocery shop for sustenance as her husband is too sick to support the family.

Anuskhya Acharya

Anuskhya's speech and hearing disabilities couldn't stop her from achieving sporting excellence at national level. She bagged two bronze medals at the VIIth National Badminton Championship for the Deaf in Uttar Pradesh and another at 20th National Games at Hyderabad. She also won silver at the 4th National Junior Games. The same year, she became the first deaf and mute girl to win the State School Games. Later, she



Anuskhya Acharya

participated in State School Badminton Championship (senior) at Damanjodi and finished third. For her sporting achievement, Anuskhya was conferred with Best Sports Person of the Year in 2019 by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. That apart, she participated in the Inclusive Fashion Show by Inclusive Talent Society Trust held in January 2020 and bagged first position and went to Delhi to represent

Odisha.

Despite her achievements, some people did not approve of her playing the sport, says her father Pravat Acharya, an engineer at Doordarshan. "But I am confident that through this, my daughter will have a secure future and she will become independent," he adds.

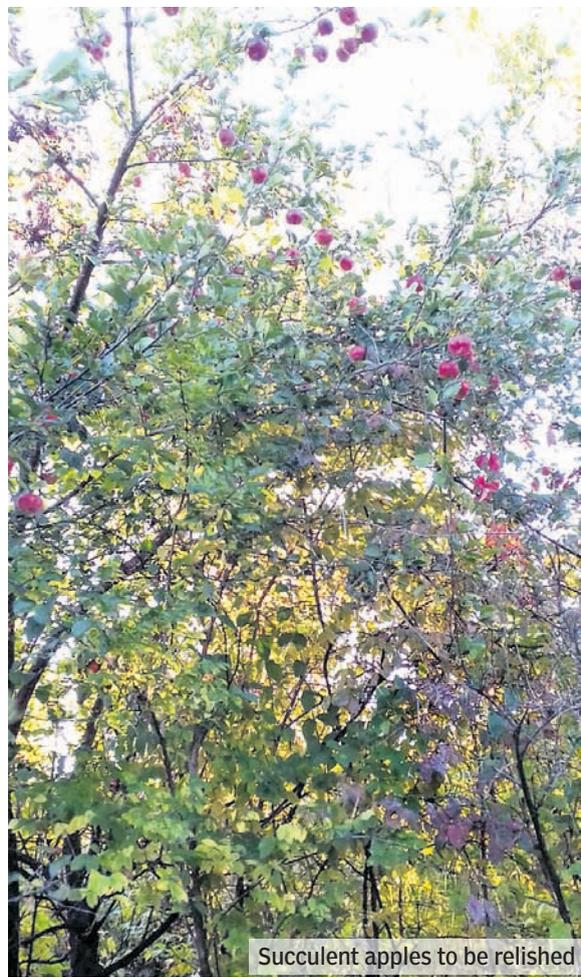
About Anuskhya's tryst with badminton, Pravat says, "She started showing a liking towards badminton after watching a match on television. It was then I took her to Sahid Nagar-based Indoor Hall where she played badminton. However, neighbours and relatives asked us not to give too much attention to her interest in sports and send her to a hostel. They never allowed their children to play with Anuskhya. In the meantime, she started playing badminton matches and enjoyed them. She didn't look back after that. She has already brought laurels for the state and we are confident she will one day make her presence felt at the international level.



Anuskhya sharing diya with winners at Inclusive Fashion Show



Houses of Parliament



Succulent apples to be relished

SUJATA PATNAIK

Pronounced AHT uh wuh, the Canadian capital is a scenic city, resplendent with unparalleled natural beauty. Luminous lakes, sparkling springs, gushing rivers, lush green tree-lined parks and myriads of flower beds lend picturesque majesty to the panoramic landscape.

With the advent of fall, the green leaves of the ubiquitous maple and other deciduous trees change colour, first into golden yellow, then light crimson and other stunning shades to finally transform into flaming red. A sight to behold! Autumnal leaves shed to reveal dark frames of skeletal branches whose silhouettes can be equally enticing during scarlet sunsets. The change, a gradual process, is unevenly spread across the encompassing foliage. Hence the season lends a unique tapestry to the parks, woodlands and cityscape. Visitors to the city during September-October, when there is a nip in the air are greeted to this riot of colours as Nature bursts

A MEMORABLE Autumn in Ottawa

forth in all its kaleidoscopic glory.

The first glimpse of Ottawa, that's considered one of the world's most attractive capitals reveals wide, open spaces with a cosmopolitan population spread out, freely displaying a symbiotic relationship between nature and human beings. Long walks by the banks of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers during crimson sunsets can be a tranquil out-of-the-world experience that is highlighted by changing hues of maple, English oak, elm and other trees. The ground is replete with yellow, brown, orange and red leaves shed from woody trees.

Walking through spick and span tree-lined streets with appealing houses featuring manicured lawns, perennial flower beds, huge trees laden with leaves in Fall hues sans boundary fences or walls instils a sense of soothing pleasure. With Halloween round the corner, decorated pumpkins and stuffed Jacks-in-trowsers, shirts and hats are often displayed outside residences.

One of the major highlights in Canada is its exceptionally well-maintained public transport system that's perhaps the best in the world. A day's bus pass allows you to board any bus or train throughout the day any number of times. And if you happen to be a senior citizen above 65, Wednesdays are free! The sophisticated luxury buses with only a driver to oversee the tickets or passes are always punctual. No waiting time as the movements of buses or trains can be monitored on the mobile phone. Uber cab owners, often immigrants from countries like Sudan, Turkey, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and occasionally India are highly educated professionals who drive their cars around to earn an extra buck. "It's the best way to develop your communication skills," opines Shalom whose boss advised him to drive around for six months in order to hone his presentation skills. Most of the cab owners or drivers are very informal and love to talk about the regimes and countries they have migrated from.

The immaculate trains, slick escalators, underground metro connectivity services are something one has to experience to believe. For senior citizens, Wednesday offers exclusive discounts on purchases in selected shops. Posh apartments for retired persons who can afford 3500 Canadian dollars a month are available to foster bonds of companionship and camaraderie amongst senior citizens.

One of the most happening places in Ottawa is the Parliament Hill. A lot akin to Britain's Houses of Parliament in London, the Gothic style Canadian Parliament Buildings comprising

the Senate, the House of Commons and Library are located on Parliament Hill. Green roofs of the three buildings with graceful spires jutting out remind you of London. The lighted clock on the Peace Tower stands out imposingly. Many national festivals, public ceremonies are celebrated on the grounds here. Canadian Independence Day July 1st every year is marked by amazing parades and fireworks.

To be continued...

The writer is a retired principal of Chatrapur Women's college, Ganjam



Carpet of maple leaves in Rideau Hall Gardens

Tabu reunites with Vishal Bhardwaj

Tabu and filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj make for a hit pair. The duo has worked together in blockbusters like *Maqbool* and *Haider* and a third film seems to be in the offing. According to a news portal, Vishal has roped in Tabu for his next directorial venture, an action packed entertainer.

Interestingly, Vishal's son Aasmaan Bhardwaj is all set to debut as a filmmaker with *Kuttey* which also stars Tabu as one of the leads. *Kuttey* also features Arjun Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah, Konkona Sen Sharma, Kumud Mishra, Radhika Madan and Shardul Bhardwaj in pivotal roles.

Vishal said, "*Kuttey* is extremely special to me as it is my first collab-

oration with Aasmaan and I'm excited to see what he does with it. Luv Films and Vishal Bhardwaj Films are also coming together for the first time and I am immensely excited about this association. I have worked with Naseer Sahab, Tabu, Konkona and Radhika on different films throughout my career and Aasmaan has brought them all together in one film itself. We cannot wait for the audience to witness this captivating thriller on the big screen."

AGENCIES



Kriti's revelation about sister Nupur

While Kriti Sanon has been winning applause through her performances, her younger sister Nupur is set to follow suit. While she began her journey as an actor through a music video and is hoping to land a role in an interesting film project, Kriti opens up about how much her sister's loves to be in front of the camera.

In an interview, Kriti, said that Nupur loves posing for camera and puts in extra effort every time she's getting clicked.

"Nupur likes to get clicked. When there are festivities at home she sees to it that she's dressed

well as per the occasion before she gets snapped," reveals the Mimi actor.

Sharing an example, Kriti further adds, "Like, say during Rakshabandhan she was all dressed before she came on camera to tie rakhi. On the other hand, I don't bother so much. I can tie a rakhi in my pajamas also."

To this, Nupur replies saying, "We are celebrating Indian festivals toh we have to dress up that way, right? Also *pura lockdown nikaala hai* without any celebrations and excitement, *ab mauka mil raha hai to dress up toh kyu na kare?*"

IAN S

Shimmy's plot touched me deeply: Pratik

As his short film *Shimmy* released September 17, actor Pratik Gandhi shares how deeply he is connected with the story in which he plays the father of a teenage daughter.

Talking about the film, Pratik said, "I feel blessed that *Shimmy* found me. The story touched me deeply. As an actor I have always believed in experimenting and with *Shimmy* I got to play around a lot internally as an actor. Amol is a very relatable character going through an unknown curve as a parent of a teenage daughter. Disha is a very talented writer and director who can add her magic to the simplest of moments."

The film is directed by Disha Noyonika Rindani, produced by Guneet Monga of Sikhya Entertainment.

IAN S



Anushka calls Madhuri 'Queen'

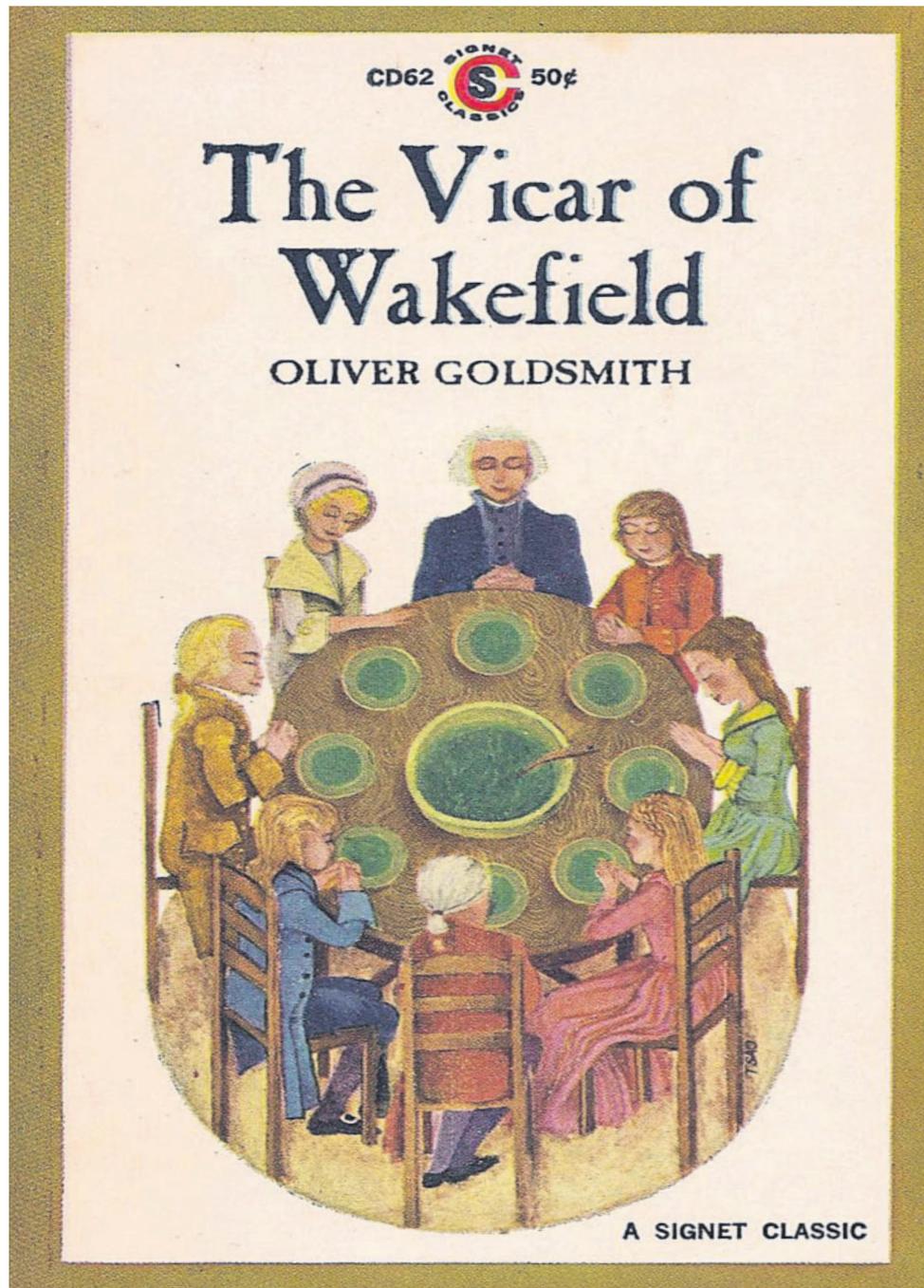
With the advent of reels, many celebs have actively been taking part in trends and creating fun videos from their daily lives. One such celebrity who has actively been doing so, is Madhuri Dixit.

The actress recently took part in a viral Instagram reel trend — 'Showing off your model face'. Having said that, she dropped a video of herself along with her make-up artist Florian Hurel executing the trend.

While the post was liked and shared by several fan clubs, actress Anushka Sharma too, acknowledged her video by resharing on her Instagram handle, and called her 'Queen'.



Making goodness respectable



The Vicar of Wakefield, by Oliver Goldsmith, one of the best loved novels of the Victorian age, has been eulogised by no less a literary figure than Walter Scott “We read Vicar of Wakefield in youth and age and return to it again and again and bless the memory of an author who contrives so well to reconcile us to human nature”.

It is a gentle fable with philosophical depth and emphasis on the theme of fortitude and the time honoured values of faith, hope, love, humility and loyalty. No critique or comment on the novel can do more justice to it than the author’s own “Advertisement” at the beginning “The hero of this piece unites in himself the three greatest characters upon this earth; he is a priest, a husbandman and the father of a family. He is drawn as ready to teach and ready to obey; as simple in affluence and majestic in adversity.” Though he heroically endeavours to fulfil these roles he fails at them owing to a lack of prudence and therein lies the twists and turns of the novel and its ultimate lessons.

It is also a satire on the cultural mores and class distinctions of the day and on the wide eyed piety and innocence of Dr Primrose compromised by rascals who rob him of everything he valued and held dear. The loss of his modest wealth, the seduction of his daughter, the abduction of another, the incarceration of himself and his son, the fire that engulfs his house rendering him homeless, his enforced fellowship with criminals and felons teach him divine patience and continued faith in the almighty. In the end through a series of incredible coincidences, the “deus ex machina” all evil machinations are defeated, the wrongs are righted and the just and righteous are honoured. Doctor Primrose, gullible though he is, falling prey to deceit, maintains his moral superiority in the face of the odds that would have broken a lesser man.

The first half of the novel is a pastoral idyll whereas the second half is of catastrophe and misery of a respectable family. Though it is the domestic portrait of a pastor’s family it is largely affected by external circumstances, the microcosm of the family struggling against the macrocosm of an unkind world. The underlying idea of the story is that vanity and imprudence leads to disaster and prudence leads to happiness. The vicar is the narrator, reviewing the story of his life as it were, chewing the cud of his memories and arriving at a wisdom that gives him peace. Whether we choose the pathetic, digressive or lighter parts of the novel we find the best and truest sentiments expressed in beautiful language. Perhaps few characters in literature have been described with purer dignity than that of the excellent pastor rising above sorrow

and oppression and labouring for the reformation of felons into whose company he had been thrust by his villainous creditor.

The novel has been admired by sages like Goethe, for the way it makes goodness respectable. It has been widely referenced in British literature- Dickens in David Copperfield, George Eliot in Middlemarch, Jane Austen in Emma. Dr Johnson, a great admirer of Goldsmith wrote the epitaph for his monument in Westminster Abbey “Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit”- “He

touched nothing that he did not adorn”. Though Goldsmith achieved fame scores of years after writing his novel it has since come to be read with appreciation and respect by millions of readers. The adage “handsome is that handsome does” which has attained common parlance was uttered by the pastor’s wife when she received compliments for her children. When the pastor was critical of a flamboyant neighbour and his intentions he forewarns his daughters but desists from pursuing the matter with his brilliant comment “That virtue which is required to be ever guarded, is scarcely worth the sentinel.”

In his efforts to reform the criminals he had been incarcerated with, the good pastor’s philosophy draws from the heart of the Bible “Heaven we are assured is much more pleased to view a repentant sinner than ninety nine persons who have supported a course of undeviating rectitude”. Advocating the fact that in law a punishment should be commensurate with the magnitude of the crime and the law should be a protector rather than a tyrant for the people, he says “that few minds are so base as that perseverance cannot amend; that a man may see his last crime without dying for it.” In the grand finale of the book, the Vicar after all his travails, never losing sight of righteousness in the arduous journey of life, is restored his cheerful home, hearth and family and happily reflects “I had nothing now on this side of the grave to wish for; all my cares were over; my pleasure was unspeakable. It now only remains that my gratitude in good fortune should exceed my former submission in adversity.” In today’s world beset by several ills there is much to learn from the good vicar’s equanimity and forbearance.



SUDHA DEVI NAYAK



Abhipsha