

MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



A lost art

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COVER STORY





Popular actress Apsara Rani, a rare combination of looks and talent, is now a sensation of Telugu film industry. She also has appeared in a couple of Hindi and Odia movies. The Miss Bangalore first runners up of 2016 loves to spend extra hours in the gym on Sundays to maintain her fitness



With Ravi Teja

Busting stress with pets

Pets have the unique ability to ease loneliness and reduce stress. So, on my non-working Sundays, I spend as many hours as possible with my puppy. Besides, I also visit Lonavala and other nearby places with the family to share some quality time.



Odia at heart

I don't get too many opportunities to be at home. But when I don't shoot, I love to have fish and mutton curries prepared by my mom. Though I was born in Dehradun, my parents don't let me forget my roots by inculcating in me the culture of Odisha.

Party time

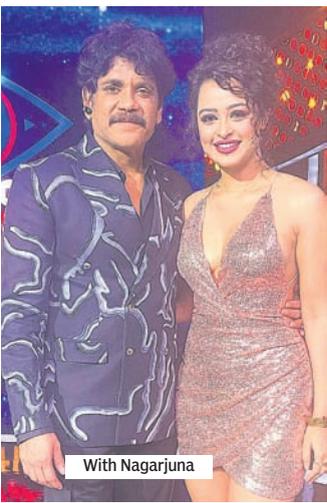
I usually don't do parties. But my brother and his friends are ardent party animals. Sometimes, they take me along and we have a blast.

Fitness freak

Hitting the gym and attending Yoga and dance classes are part of my daily routine. But on Sundays, I spend some extra hours at the gym to keep my weight under control.

Swamped with work

With back-to-back projects in the pipeline, I haven't got a free Sunday in the last couple of months. I am now shooting in Delhi and will move to Lucknow soon for my next schedule. There are some offers to do Odia films also.



With Nagarjuna



With family



ARINDAM GANGULY, 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

- Childhood urges 'Pepper mint' & Adulthood 'Paper mint'
- The new way of forgetting your past is deleting your chats.
- Never laugh at your wife's choices, you are one of them.
- I put my heart n soul into my work and lost my brain in the process.

GRIM REMINDER

Dear Sir, The book review of Faces of Inequality (May 22) was an illuminating read. It is a grim reminder of a 'not-so-shining India' with acute poverty, massive joblessness and the ever-widening rich-poor divide literally stalking the land. This is corroborated by the disturbing findings of the latest World Inequality Report 2022, which lists India as a very poor and unequal country, with ever-growing affluent elite, with the top 1% garnering 22% of the national income and the share of the bottom half of the population plummeting to 13%. Pradeep Baisakh's labour of love based on real ground reports certainly calls for thorough introspection among planners and the powers-that-be for appropriate policy interventions and radical redirection of poverty-alleviation measures to usher in a more egalitarian society. Nelson Mandela, the tireless crusader of human rights, had sounded a dire warning long ago: "As long as poverty, injustice and gross Inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

AMIT BANERJEE, NEW DELHI

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



A lost art

The joy of receiving a letter from a khaki-clad postman and the excitement to know its content can't be compared to the pop up texts on smartphones, says Adhyapak Biswaranjan, a noted litterateur, orator and critic of Odisha

the ex-change of letters between

Gandhi and Sarala

Devi Choudhurani with whom he had developed closeness. Even historical letters like the one written by Bhagat Singh to his mother on the eve of his hanging are part of the magazine."

Letter is so significant that some popular books like Godavarish Mohapatra's *Premapathe*, Padma Shri Laxminarayan Sahu's *Premika* and Krushnachandra Tripathy's autobiography are based on the letters they exchanged with various individuals, concludes Netajee.

Mode of fortifying bonds

Though *Chithi*, under the editorship of Netajee, aims to establish epistolary form as part of literature, his father Prof. Biswaranjan, also known as Adhyapak Biswaranjan, laid the foundation of the magazine. Biswaranjan who dons many hats- litterateur, orator, editor, and political scientist and has contributed to every genre of literature – says it was the exchange of letters between his parents which had drawn him into the world of literature.



here're a few people who continue to write letters even today. They share with **Sunday POST** their thoughts on the significance of letter writing and how snail mail is more meaningful than any mode of instant messaging.

Enriching literature

Writing a letter is like telling a story which makes you experience something that modern communication channels are unable to offer, says Netajee Abhinandan, Head, Department of Political Science, Ravenshaw University. He also is the Editor of *Chithi* (Letter), a quarterly literary magazine that publishes the letters which have some kinds of historical values, significance and a bearing on the way people live or evolution.

Netajee says, "*Chithi* basically wants to establish that like poems, novels, short stories, epistles are also part of literature."

Elaborating more on the significance of letters he adds, "We publish letters which have some universal significance like letters between litterateurs, having debate on literary issues or some kind of dialogues on literary problems, a letter written from a mother to a son or from a father to a daughter but that doesn't contain only the routine aspects of life but must have some universal values and significance. We also have published some letters which bring to the fore many facts of history like the hand written communication between Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhas

Chandra Bose or Maulana Azad and Gandhi and



BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Hindi blockbuster *Naam*, released in 1986, had set quite a few milestones. While it was the comeback vehicle for actor Sanjay Dutt who didn't look back after that, the movie propelled Mahesh Bhatt into the big league following his art house movies like *Arth* and *Saaransh*.

But the chief attraction of the movie was *Chithi Aayee Hai*, a number sung by ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, who also appeared on screen for the first time. The song became so popular that viewers in theatres would often demand for a rerun after the show. No wonder, it went on to be listed among the 100 songs of millennium by BBC Radio. Reason: The song resonated with people's feelings as the lines were more about human emotion, nostalgia and family values.

This was the time when communicating with loved ones using digital media was not even a part of people's thoughts. Letter writing was the ultimate medium for distant as well as intimate communication. But with the advent of the information age and its modern communication channels, letters have now become part of a lost past. Students at schools are taught about letter writing skills but with 'text me' fast replacing 'write me', they don't get a chance to communicate in real life through letters.

Perhaps we are not too far from a time when one can see the letters only in museums.

However,





Kendrapara.

“There were many elderly people in our village who could neither write nor read. So, I was an interpreter for them. While playing this role, I came to know about their life and emotions which helped me grow as a human being,” reveals Tapas who still writes letters to his select friends.



Talking more about the significance of letters, he adds, “Writing letters had won me quite a few pen friends across the state during my school and college days. I am still in touch with them and interact regularly. Though the medium now has become digital, decades back I could reach them through hand-written letters. I have preserved their letters and I get immense pleasure when I take a look at them.”

Tapas still feels the thrill that he experienced when he got his first love letter from a girl in Class IX. The tear-stained letter and those imperfect lines conveyed the state of mind his girlfriend was in and gave him a feeling as if she was in his arms, recalls Tapas who accumulated many scented letterpads from Archies and Hallmark galleries.



He also remembers how the motivating lines from his mother stood by him when he was struggling in life.

Pointing out the virtues of hand-written letters, Tapas says, “A letter is something which we can re-read and re-live. These days, we are deleting messages from our inbox when it is overwhelmed but earlier we used to preserve the letters. No matter how far we progress technologically, it is difficult to get rid of the charm of a letter. A letter worked as the glue for broken hearts while technology often plays a major role now to cause heartbreaks.”

“It is true that we have to move ahead with the time but the romance will remain little off-colour without those intense love letters,” he signs off.

LETTERS IN HISTORY, MYTHOLOGY

■ The first ever handwritten letter was thought to have been sent by the Persian Queen Atossa in around 500 BC.

■ After the death of Mongolian emperor Kublai in 1294, the grandson of Genghis Khan, whose territory included China; there was a network of 1400 postal offices and all the required huge logistics support, in China alone.

■ Homing pigeons have been regarded as an excellent choice for transporting letters from one place to another for thousands of years. This apart, different other methods including dogsled, ski, balloon, rocket, mule and pneumatic tubes have been used to post letters.

■ There is a sculpture of a beautiful lady writing a letter in Khajuraho Khandariya Mahadev temple.

■ Vidarbh princess Rukmini wrote a very beautiful love letter to Krishna asking him to take her away from the palace and marry her.

■ Kalidasa, the greatest of the Sanskrit poets, his play *Vikrama Urvasyam* wrote king Pururavas falls in love with a celestial nymph named Urvashi. After writing her mortal suitor a love letter on a birch leaf, Urvashi returns to the heavens to perform in a celestial play. However, she is so smitten that she misses her cue and pronounces her lover's name during the performance. As a punishment for ruining the play, Urvashi is banished from heaven.

■ Ancient civilisations like India, Sumer, Egypt and Greece had the practice of letter writing. Mentions of the letter could be found in Homer's epic *Iliad*.



The joy of receiving a letter from the khaki-clad postman and the anxiety to know its content can't be compared to the pop up texts on smartphones, says Biswaranjan who conceived the idea of publishing the letters in the form of a magazine in 1970.

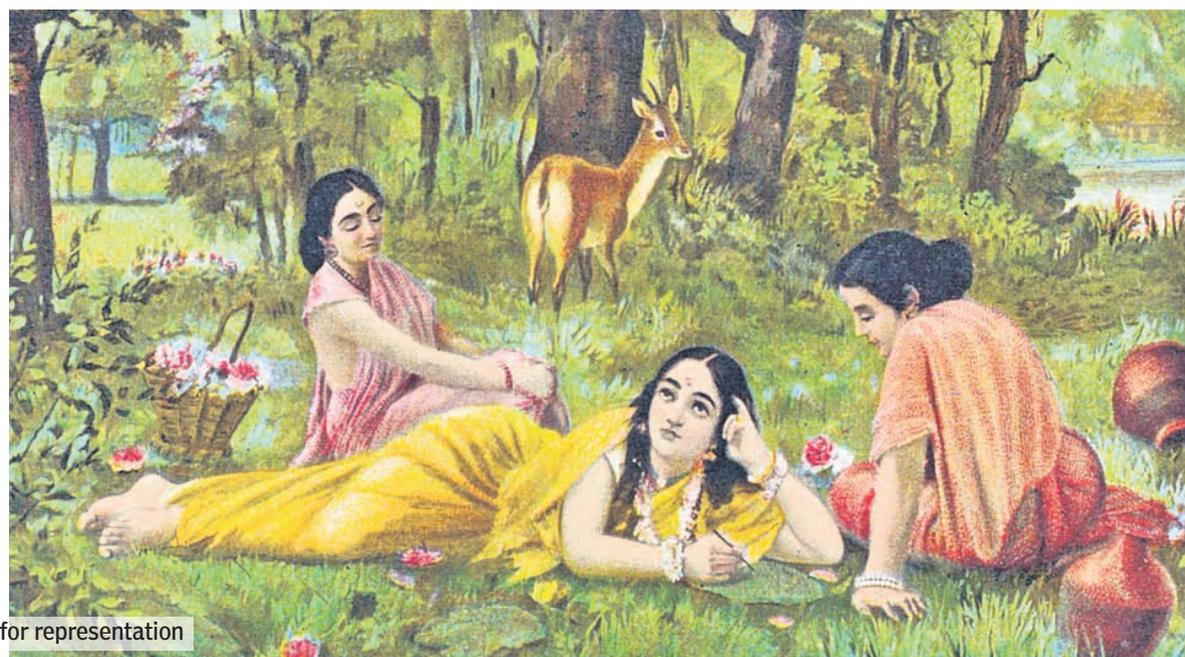
Narrating the role of letters in his life he continues: “Exchanging letters was the only medium to express love for your female friend at college in those days. The practice of girl-boy interaction on college campus or at a quiet corner was yet to begin. So, letters were

the last resort to escape the eyes of the social police. On the pretext of exchanging notebooks on the college corridor, personal notes too were changing hands. Letters from several lovely women and colleagues continue to enrich my life even when I was past my prime and led a fulfilling conjugal life. I have also received plenty of love from my students via letters. They continued to write to me after I got transferred from one college to another. Letter is a part and parcel of my life and it has no end.”

“I don't get the thrill that I experience after getting a letter, in those countless instant messages that I get on my smartphone,” he signs off.

A trip down memory lane

Being born and brought up in a rural setup, I have an emotional bond with hand-written letters and they will remain a pleasant memory in my life, says Tapas Ranjan Rout, who works as the branch manager of The Oriental Insurance Co Ltd at



Pictures for representation

BORN TODAY IN 1865, RAMANANDA CHATTERJEE, A TEACHER-TURNED-JOURNALIST, PUBLISHED THE WRITE-UPS OF A GALAXY OF GREAT PERSONALITIES INCLUDING SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, MAHATMA GANDHI, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, SISTER NIVEDITA, LALA LAJPAT RAI, CF ANDREWS AND JABEZ T SUNDERLAND IN HIS ENGLISH JOURNAL 'THE MODERN REVIEW' WHICH WAS KNOWN FOR ITS INDEPENDENT STAND IN COLONIAL INDIA

Reminiscing an icon

thored "Towards Home Rule" in 1917. During the first half of the 20th century, his unequivocal contribution in the amelioration of Bengali literature cannot be denied.

Association with Tagore

Ramananda Chatterjee is considered the most influential Indian Editor during the colonial era. His monthly Bengali journal *Prabasi* earned tremendous popularity from its inception with the circulation of around 7500 in early 1920s. Literacy rate in the country was then woefully low. Rabindranath Tagore, one of the most prominent contributors, was associated with the journal for about four decades. His novels, poems and essays would be published in *Prabasi* regularly. A substantial amount was paid in advance to Tagore for his serialized fiction *Gora*, the fifth and longest novel of his. Naturally, a sweet bonhomie was established between Tagore and Chatterjee.

Besides Rabindranath, hundreds of eminent writers including Bhibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Premendra Mitra, Nirod C. Choudhuri, Sarasibala Basu et al contributed different types of writings in the Bengali periodical. Not only literary figures but also great historians and scientists like Rakhaldas Bandyopadhyay, Jadunath Sarkar, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy and others elevated the standard of the monthly journal to an enviable position. The journal catered to a variety of tastes and choices of its readers covering articles on science, history, sociology, economy, politics philosophy, archaeology, arts and so on.

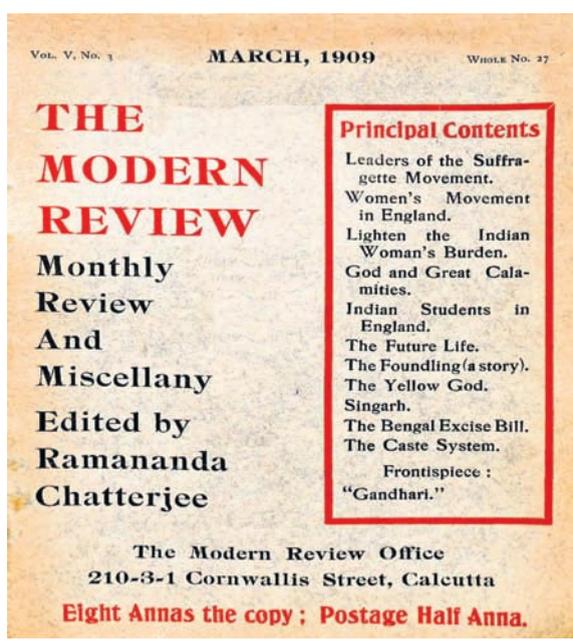
Anti-colonial voice

Another highly esteemed publication of Chatterjee was *The Modern Review*, an English-language journal. The monthly magazine with a broadly nationalistic outlook emerged as an important forum for the Indian Nationalist intelligentsia. Besides essays on politics, economics, sociology, the magazine would be replete with literary elements including poems, stories, travelogues and sketches. The English-knowing elite Indians were the targeted readers of *The Modern Review*.

A galaxy of great personalities contributed their articles regularly in *The Modern Review*. They were Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sister Nivedita, Verrier Elwin, Lala Lajpat Rai, C.F. Andrews, Rev. Jabez T. Sunderland and others. The historic essay entitled "Rashtrapati" emphasising on the importance of questioning the motives of leaders and checking the power they held written by Jawaharlal Nehru under the pseudonym Chanakya describing himself as "some triumphant Caesar passing by" who might turn dictator with "a little twist" was published in *The Modern Review* in 1937.

The article stirred across India. All these indicated the high stature of the magazine. Under his masterly guidance, both the periodicals not only promoted the stature of Indian journalism but also symbolised the pillars of strength in the cause of Indian struggle.

Ramananda Chatterjee's journals gained popularity for his staunch criticism of the injustices of the British government without any political bias. Needless to say, he had to pay a price as a result of his criticism of the government. He had



to leave Allahabad as he was directed to stop publishing *The Modern Review* by the British authority in 1908. Chatterjee was arrested on charges of sedition for the publication of the book "India in Bondage: Her Right To Be Free" written by the American Unitarian Jabez T. Sunderland, an outspoken activist for human rights and anti-imperialism.

Chatterjee was an ardent nationalist and liberal as well. His nationalism was not tainted with casteism, communalism or any sort of parochial prejudice. He endeavoured to break the myths that the colonial rulers had ingrained for centuries that they belonged to 'superior races' and 'superior civilizations'. Therefore, he took special initiatives to promote Indian culture, art and literature that were then regarded as grotesque and without aesthetic values. Therefore, Chatterjee sought the help of the renowned Ceylonese art critic and art philosopher Ananda Coomaraswamy to defend Oriental art. Besides, the paintings of renowned artists including Nandalal Bose, Asit Kumar Haldar and Debi Prasad Roy Choudhury would be reproduced in *The Modern Review* and *Prabasi*. The cover of the journal *Prabasi* contained geometrical blocks of India's architectural marvels including Taj Mahal, Gate of Sanchi, Qutub Minar, Buddhish Vihar of Bodh Gaya, the Golden Temple, the Lingaraj Temple and the Burmese Pagoda,

Commitment to freedom of expression

Ramananda Chatterjee was not a man of compromise. When he visited Europe on an invitation from the League of Nations, he declined to accept the monetary assistance of Rs 6,000 for his unwavering commitment to freedom of speech and expression. He did not support the Gandhi-Ambedkar pact of 1933 as he thought it was "detrimental to the broader interest of the country". Despite his close friendship with Tagore, he diametrically opposed him in the Vande Mataram controversy.

Our country feels the need of editors like Chatterjee when India's ranking in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index has plummeted to 150 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog, *Reporters Without Borders*.

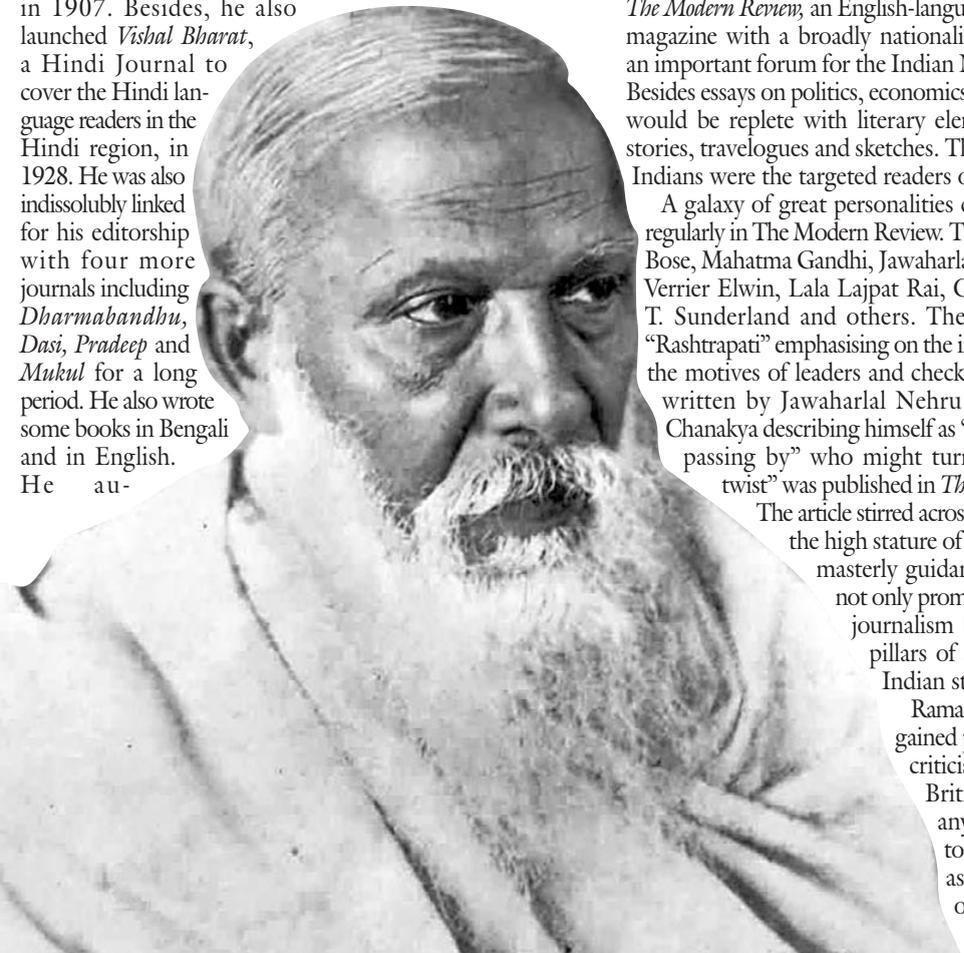


Buddhadev Nandi

A venerable Brahmosamaji gentleman with white flowing beard during a session of the General Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva was mistaken for Rabindranath Tagore. He was none other than Ramananda Chatterjee, veritably the most influential editor during the colonial rule in India. The teacher-turned-journalist regarded as the 'Father of Indian Journalism' for his oceanic and versatile erudition and landmark contribution in the field of honest, intellectual and courageous journalism.

The beginning

Heramba Chandra Maitra, the editor of *Indian Messenger*, appointed him as the assistant editor of the mouthpiece of Sadharan Brahma Samaj in 1890 paving the way of his career in journalism. From then on his journey as an editor, journalist and writer continued unabated. He earned much acclaim for his two journals *Prabasi* in April 1901 and *The Modern Review* in 1907. Besides, he also launched *Vishal Bharat*, a Hindi Journal to cover the Hindi language readers in the Hindi region, in 1928. He was also indissolubly linked for his editorship with four more journals including *Dharmabandhu*, *Dasi*, *Pradeep* and *Mukul* for a long period. He also wrote some books in Bengali and in English. He au-



Anushka shares her ordeal



Mumbai: Anushka Sharma, who is currently sweating it out on the field for her upcoming film *Chakda Xpress*, recently shared her ordeal, courtesy the physical training for the film.

The actress shared a selfie from the downtime of her practice session on the story section of her Instagram. The selfie showed her in a white T-shirt with her hair tied at the back.

She wrote on the picture, "Kaash bachpan mein kuch toh cricket khela hota toh aaj haalat aise na hoti (I wish I had played some cricket in my childhood, perhaps then I would not have suffered like this today)."

Chakda Xpress, directed by Prosit Roy, is based on the life of Jhulan Goswami, who became the second Indian woman cricketer to receive the Padma Shri in 2012.

The film marks Anushka's comeback to acting after four years.

Bhubaneswar: A fashion event organised recently by Blenders Pride in Bhubaneswar saw none other than actress Diana Penty walk the ramp wearing Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy designed collection in the show.

In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group of Berhampur.

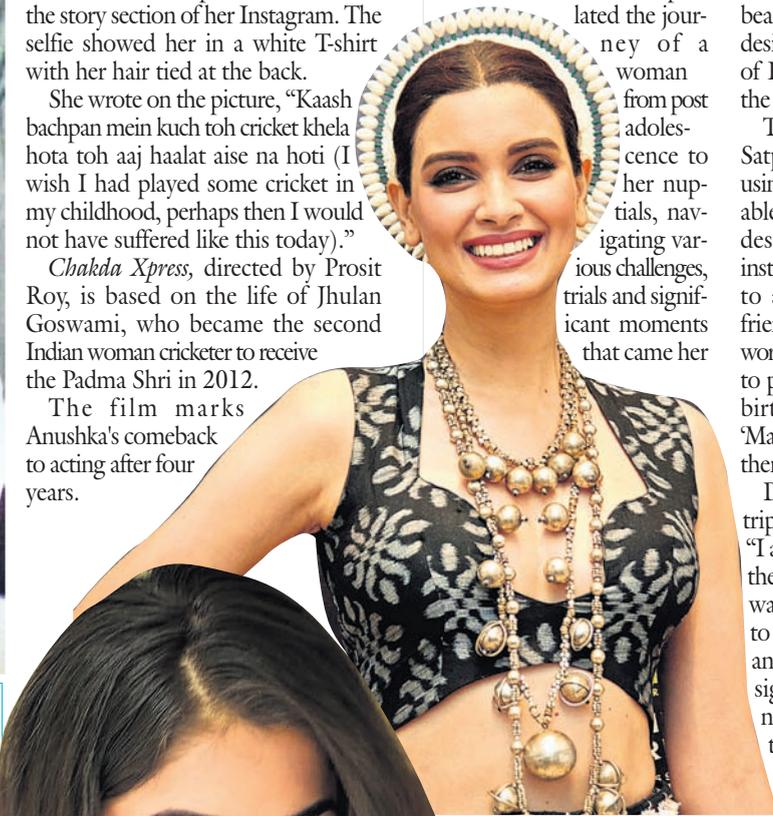
The show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post-adolescence to her nuptials, navigating various challenges, trials and significant moments that came her way.

Diana impressed with Odisha culture

The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer.

Talking about his curation, Satpathy said, "I believe in using traditional and sustainable methods to curate my designs, and I hope I can instill Pride among the youth to adopt environmentally friendly choices through my work. It gives me great pleasure to present my designs at my birthplace and narrate my 'Made of Pride' story through them."

Diana, who was on her first trip to the Temple City said, "I am highly impressed with the culture of Odisha and it was an enriching experience to wear the traditional gear and jewellery of Odisha designed by Satpathy as I had never been a part of something like this before."



Jackie to play Slow Joe in int'l production

Cannes: Jackie Shroff will play the lead in a Singapore-France-India co-production titled *Slow Joe*, which will be released in French, English and Konkani, reports *Variety*.

The film, a biopic, will be produced by Shreyasi Sengupta for Darpan Global (Singapore), it was announced at the Cannes Marche du Film.

The Hero star will play the late Goan musician, Joseph Manuel Da Rocha, who was known as Slow Joe, a former heroin addict and drug dealer born in Mumbai, disowned by his family, heartbroken at 50, and who moved to Goa and cleaned up.

On a trip to Goa in 2007, according to *Variety*, Lyon-based

French musician Cedric de la Chapelle met Joe, then a frail 64-year-old making ends meet as a hotel room broker. Joe, who was also a poet and musician, sang for de la Chapelle. The Frenchman was captivated by his voice and recorded some of his a cappella songs.

Back in France, de la Chapelle played Joe's songs to music producer Olivier Boccon-Gibod of Horizon Musiques, who was also sold on it. Over trips to Goa, de la Chapelle and Joe set up the music group Slow Joe & The Ginger Accident which went on to produce several chartbusting albums and performed at more than 250 concerts, but Joe had a fatal heart attack in May 2016, when he was 73.



Wamiqa Gabbi talks about experience of her first kiss

Mumbai: Actress Wamiqa Gabbi, whose recent romantic web anthology *Modern Love Mumbai* is getting a lot of positive response, has shared how she perceived the idea of love as a teenager and also spoke about her experience of her first kiss.

In the anthology, Wamiqa is a part of the episode directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, titled *Mumbai Dragon*, which tells the story of love beyond the boundaries of culture and traditions.

The actress shared, "I have always been a romantic soul - a firm believer in love stories, or even so, filmy love stories."

Talking about her first kiss, she said, "I still remember being kissed for the first time when I was a teenager and not washing my face for two days. I was nervous yet excited and totally in love with the idea of being in love at the time."

She further mentioned, "Fuelled by preadolescent hormones, this beautiful 'puppy love' phase in my life lasted for quite some time before I grew older and started to look at love stories through a more mature lens and all of this came rushing back to me recently, during the shoot of *Modern Love*. But it made me realise that you can fall in love more than once. You can fall in love over and over again. We have the capacity and we have the heart to do that."

KEYS TO WEALTH-BUILDING

TO BE AMONG THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRES, ONE NEEDS TO FOCUS NOT ON THE FIGURES, BUT THE EFFORTS AND TIME THAT THEY PUT IN TO EARN THAT FORTUNE

You open YouTube and you find dozens of videos with titles like, *You know what the income of this celebrity is? Do you know how much this billionaire makes per day?* Well, the numbers may be very enticing but is it the real thing to focus on is the question.

There is a Forbes listing of the richest people around the world and you just go wow going through it. But, if you aspire to be one of them what you need to focus on is not the figures, but the efforts and time that they put in to earn that fortune.

Every billionaire that you see is a result of unwavering faith they had in what they believed they can achieve. Every billionaire is a result of loads of perfection at every level right from what they think to what they eat and drink. A billionaire is a person who believes that they can uplift other people along with themselves by investing their energies in the right direction. If you pay attention to the lives of those people you will know the factors that helped them to achieve their stature.

Time: Every second of your life is valuable, a second gone is gone forever, so where are you investing your time? Have you planned your day? Do you follow a schedule? Well, the greatest investment that every billionaire makes is spending their time wisely. They have a goal and a vision and they plan every minute how they are going to spend. This is the most important lesson you can learn from them, utilizing the time you have to achieve what you want.

Discipline: The first and foremost important quality of a businessman or bil-



lionaire is knowing the value of their life, their energy, the value of their resources and utilizing every element for their growth.

Health: It is rightly said that health is the real wealth. If you have good mental and physical health you can achieve anything you want under the sky. What you eat, drink, everything matters, so the first thing to invest in if you want to be successful is in your health. Know what intake helps you to stay fit and keep going all day long, before you eat or drink something think for a second what kind of result it will have and then proceed and this is not a one-time business it has to be a continuous process.



Planning Finances: As any other resource money is also valuable, a lot of effort and time goes into earning it and if you want to increase it you have to know where and how much you are spending. You also need to have a plan as to what you will do when you earn a billion or whatever the amount is. In what way you want to spend the amount? What is it that you want to buy? The clarity in spending money is very important and planning is a must.



People In Your Life: "Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are"

is not just a quote it is a fact. For a plant to grow and to bear fruits you need to provide it with the right kind of environment. Same with humans the kind of people you live with and surrounded by, the people with whom you interact all have an impact on you. So you need to be very careful in choosing a person's, your social circle, private circle etc. Try to associate yourself who have the same kind of thinking as you or achievers or people who are successful, their association helps you to grow.



counselors, and the most patient of teachers."

A book can be your role model, your guide, your friend what not? So make it a habit to dig the treasure and choose those jewels, Daily make it a habit that you spend at least one hour of your time reading a book.



Thoughts and Thinking Process:

"Man is what he thinks he is" a great truth we are very careful with our words when we interact with others but seldom do we pay attention to what we think about ourselves and our capabilities. We are very generous with ourselves when it comes to underestimating our capabilities.

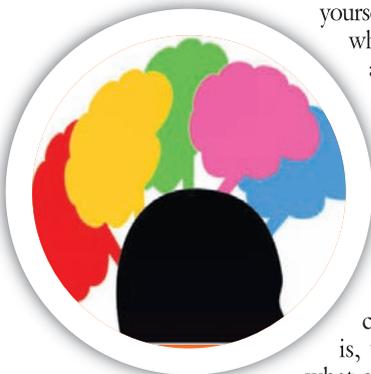
Next time when you think of yourself just pause and watch what you are saying "You are your greatest friend and you are your greatest enemy" the ancient wisdom says. Affirm positive statements about yourself. Don't allow even a single person that tells you that you cannot be. The question is, why I cannot be and what can I do to be?

It will be difficult, to begin with, but it will be the greatest good you can do to yourself.

To conclude:

Best tips from Warren Buffett

- Never depend on a single income
- Make investments to create a second source
- If you buy things you don't need, soon you will have to sell things that you need
- Do not save what is left after spending, spend what is left after saving
- Never test the depth of the river with both feet



PARITI. GAYATHRI

Reading: "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of

Bijayini



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP