

AUGUST 1-7, 2021

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

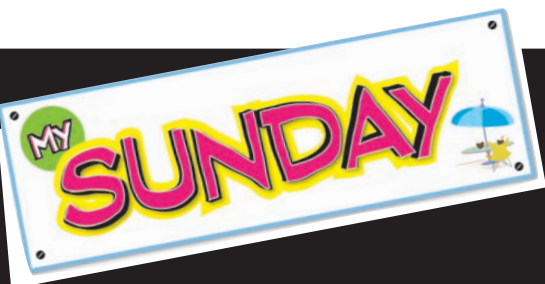


INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

Incredible Tales

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COVER STORY



Singer Anuradha Panigrahi, set to headline Odia movie 'Dil Re Achhi Tori Na' opposite Sambit Acharya, loves to compose Hindi shayari and English quotations at her leisure



RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

Weekend fun

I take time off from my medical studies at Srikakulam and return to my birthplace Rayagada to enjoy its scenic beauty. I call up my cousins and go on long drives to brighten up the weekends.



With actor Sambit

Art enthusiast

I love painting which I do from my heart. I enjoy drawing sketches of Barbie dolls at my leisure and often make them look real by adding colours.

Donning chef's apron

Though I am not good at cooking, I manage to make a few snackables with the help of YouTube food videos. Prawn Malai, hot chocolate and brownies made by me are all-time favourites of my cousins and parents.

Creating fun videos

I love making fun Instagram reels videos for my fans and followers. Due to hectic work schedules, I do them mostly on Sundays.



With her cousins

Passionate writer

Like painting I also write from the heart. I take time off from my daily schedule to write Hindi shayari and English quotes that happen spontaneously to me.



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

- Women's apology: I'm sorry, but it was your fault.
- I'm not crazy I prefer the term mentally hilarious.
- If Plan A fails, remember that you have 25 letters left.
- I was born to be a pessimist. My blood type is B Negative.



THOUGHT-PROVOKING PIECE

Dear Sir, Rashmi Rekha Das must be complimented for her thought-provoking piece 'Staring at extinction' (July 25). The captivating photographs of the majestic beast by C.K.Patnaik and Aditya Panda are literally a visual delight. It is indeed very tragic that the Odisha's tiger population has virtually remained static between 2014 and 2018, which makes it direly imperative for making all-out efforts to develop quality tiger habitats, enlarge and significantly improve the prey base, fix accountability for lax supervision and above all, to create sufficient awareness for conservation efforts among the local populace of the tiger regions in the state. A positive intent backed by time-bound implementation of achievable plans will definitely help in ameliorating the situation in the Simlipal, Satkosia and Debrigarh sanctuaries.

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



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

Incredible Tales

At a time when reports on man-animal conflicts often make headlines, **Sunday POST** takes a look at a few cases of unlikely friendship between animals and humans that can't be explained in words

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

Friendship is one of the purest and most special bonds in a person's life. To promote camaraderie and fellowship among all human beings, regardless of race, color or religion, the World Friendship Crusade, a foundation, was formed in 1958 and International Friendship Day has been celebrated on the first Sunday of August ever since. However, this special bond is not just restricted between humans. At times, stories on the relationship between man and animal make hearts melt.

When reports on man-animal conflicts often make headlines, **Sunday POST** takes a look at a few cases of unlikely friendship between animals and humans on International Friendship Day.

'Peacocks saved my life'

Be it freezing cold, sweltering heat or incessant rain, Kanhu never forgets to feed some 132 peacocks at 5 am every day. Today, Peacock Valley in Naraj in Cuttack, which is home to these birds, is a tourist attraction thanks to Kanhu's grandfather Pannu Behera who took the initiative in 1999.

Recalling his grandfather's last wish, he says, "My grandfather spotted three peacocks at Naraj, which is under the jurisdiction of Odisha Police Firing Range, after the Super Cyclone devastated the state. He started feeding them leftover food. However, the birds got scared and ran away. The next day, Pannu who was working as a home guard, on his way back home noticed that the peacocks had finished the food. The very next day, my grandfather was surprised to find the birds waiting for him for food. This is how it all started. I was close to my grandfather. Though I was reluctant to look after the peacocks, my grandpa entrusted

me with the responsibility to take their care before his death. In no time they became my friends."

Kanhu's love for the National Bird has seen its population grow substantially over the years. Taking the population from three to 132 is no mean feat.

About his bonding with peacocks, he says, "I love them like anything. During my graduation I bought food for them with the money meant for buying books because I couldn't leave them hungry. They are also very loyal to me. Once while feeding them, I almost stepped on a banded krait. But I was saved by my peacock friends. They jumped right in front of my leg and picked up the reptile before it could react."

'Furry friends chased down chain snatchers'

Appalled by the way people treat stray animals, especially stray dogs, Bhubaneswar-based Triman Sehgal had decided to fight for the cause of mute creatures and make them her friends. She mainly adopts ill-treated and abused dogs and those suffering from diseases. She has 12 dogs at her place and they share the food and rooms with Triman.

Triman now dreams of setting up a temple of love where all the creatures can come and take rest.

Sharing her experience, she adds, "It was not easy for me to make my family understand my feelings for my children.



Kanhu feeding peacocks at Naraj, Cuttack



Debabrata with his BFF squirrel

I had to face stiff opposition when I wanted to stay with them and share my room with them. She continues: "My children are my best friends. People call me mad and hurl abuses at me for staying with them. But I don't pay heed.

On the other hand, my four-legged kids take offence and charge at people who make fun of me."

Triman recalls, "I usually go to a Sai Temple at Tankapani Road, Bhubaneswar. A few months ago, some miscreants followed me and tried to snatch my purse. My furry kids sensed the imminent danger and charged at them who fled the scene. They are my true friends."

'My squirrel alerted me to snake'

Animal rescuer Debabrata Parida once got a call from Nayapalli to save the life of a baby squirrel who got injured after falling from a coconut tree.

"I rescued the palm squirrel and took it to the treatment centre on the campus of Orissa University of Agricultural Technology. There the doctor, who happened to be my friend, advised me to feed the animal glucose water for 5-6 days. The squirrel started opening its

eyes after about five days. As per doctor's advice, I started giving him milk and then baby food. In no time, the squirrel started running. Subsequently, I developed a close rapport with him. So much so, that whenever I took his name Gudu, he would rush to me and cuddle."

On his friendship with the squirrel, Debabrata continues: "My personal life was in a shambles for some reasons. In those days, Gudu was with me. Then, I felt as if he was trying to cheer me up by cuddling and running over my body."

He further says, "Gudu usually sleeps in a box near me. One night, he started making unusual noises which he never does. Her sharp cries woke me up and I switched on the light. A chill ran down my spine when I spotted a snake near my bed. He literally alarmed me about the looming danger by his 'kuk..kuk'. Fortunately, it was a non-venomous wolf snake."

However, Debabrata decided to let the squirrel live in his habitat. "I left him at his suitable habitat. But whenever I go there and take his name, he would rush to me like before," signs off Debabrata.



Triman feeding dogs at her place

Man who lived and died for a tigress



Saroj Raj and his wife with tigress Khairi

This true incident is like a fairytale. For close to seven years beginning 1974, Khairi, a Royal Bengal tigress, lived like a family member in the household of Saroj Raj Choudhary, the first field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Saroj and his wife Nihar Nalini Devi were parents to Khairi. The majestic creature not only used to eat from their hands and climb on their shoulders, she would sleep at night with her front legs on the chests and necks of the couple. Khairi couldn't sleep until she got the scent of her foster mother's sari. This is just a glimpse of the bond the tigress shared with Saroj's family.

The story of Khairi's life amidst human beings begins in October 1974. Some people belonging to the Khadia tribe were on their way to collect honey, resin and other minor forest produce when they spotted a tigress with three cubs near the Khairi river in Mayurbhanj district. The tigress did not attack the tribals, instead fled the spot with two cubs leaving the third one on the bank. This cub seemed weak and in poor health. When the mother tigress disappeared into the forest, the Khadias decided to take the cub to a forest camp. Forest officials were immedi-

ately informed. Saroj was then the founder field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve and in-charge of the Similipal tiger conservation project. Nandini Satpathy was then the Chief Minister of Odisha and it was she who named the cub Khairi after the place where she was found. Instead of handing over the cub to the Nandankanan authorities, Satpathy asked Saroj to look after her. Saroj started raising Khairi. He did not put the cub in a cage or chain her. He wanted to prove that a ferocious wild animal can reciprocate if it gets love from human beings. Khairi soon grew up thanks to the care, nourishment and medical attention provided by Saroj and his wife. She used to roam around freely in Saroj's official residence like one of his family members.

Saroj was very close to Khairi who died in 1981 of rabies. He was shaken by her death and died the same year.



A few paintings of Anup

THE WALLS OF SEVERAL ODISHA CITIES ARE BEING DECORATED WITH CONTEMPORARY MURALS, BUT MOST OF THEM LACK THEMES AND ARTISTIC VISION REQUIRED TO DRAW ONLOOKERS' ATTENTION, SHARES AKADEMI AWARD WINNING PAINTER ANUP KUMAR CHAND

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

Internationally acclaimed painter Anup Kumar Chand has been presenting Pattachitra, Odisha's famous cloth-based scroll painting, in all its niceties for years. His works stand out for their high textured 3-D effects that are created with the tricky use of myriad colours. The best thing about his paintings is that they ooze spontaneity and playfulness. They also vouch for the creative and aesthetic individualism he portrays through realistic and post realistic, conscious and sub-conscious elements.

A winner of Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi award who also has been felicitated by Bihar government for his artistic exploits, Anup, in a tete-a-tete with **Sunday POST**, bares his heart out. *Excerpts:*

Tell us about your formative years and what drew you towards palette and paintbrush?

Born in 1973 in Bhograi, a coastal village of Balasore district, I was fascinated by the natural beauty of my village when I was a kid. As a child, I was drawn towards colorful folk paintings, traditional paintings, and clay idols during village festivals. Mother Ashalata, my best friend, was my first teacher who taught me how to draw sketches. You would be surprised to know that after answering all the questions, I used the remaining space left in the answer sheets during examinations for drawing. No wonder, my teachers got irritated but at the same time, they motivated me to follow my passion. My elder brother Ashok Kumar Chand used to bring colours and paint brushes to encourage me.

How did you evolve as a painter?

After my early education, my passion made me join BK College of Art and Crafts,

'Emerging artists must remain conversant with art history'

Bhubaneswar. The beauty of the Temple City influenced me a lot. I succeeded in making a mark in the college under the guidance of the then professor Byamokesh Mohanty and principal Dr. Dinanath Pathy, a prominent art researcher, writer and painter from Odisha. Apart from group exhibitions, I managed to hold my first solo exhibition at Jaydev Bhavan when I was still in college. In 1996, I received a fellowship from the University Grants Commission. Then I did research on folk paintings of coastal Odisha under the guidance of Dr. Pathy. I also taught at Indira Arts and Music University during my research. After completing the PhD, I chose Delhi as my workplace.

You are not the only one to shift your base to Delhi, many artists from Odisha are moving to Delhi and other metros. Can you elaborate on the reasons?

Making a career in modern art is highly dependent on the art market where sales, resales, exhibitions and auctions are held regularly. The markets are highly concentrated in Delhi, Mumbai and in other major cities like Hyderabad and Bangalore. To make a living from art, an artist not only needs to find the right market, he or she needs to be in the company of art collectors, buyers, art critics and genuine enthusiasts. Sensing better options, many young artists not only from Odisha but also from other parts of the country are shifting their bases.

What is the definition of art?

For me, art is the creative expression of a sensible human experience. It may be expressed through painting, poetry, sculpture, acting, or music. My paintings are inextricably linked to the sequence, reality, and per-

ception of what is happening around me. My art style is rich in intellectual consciousness. I always try to maintain a personal imagery in my works.

What were the major challenges you faced to carve your space?

I worked tirelessly to develop my signature style. It was not easy for an artist to showcase his works in a gallery when I started off. Initially, I visited several galleries in Delhi, Mumbai and other cities to display my works through exhibitions. Despite repeated rejection, I managed to get a sponsored exhibition. Then there was no looking back.

Which painters have influenced you the most?

As I said before, while studying art, I was inspired by Byomakesha Mohanty and

Dr. Dinanath Pathy. Besides, I was influenced by the paintings of Tayyab Mehta and Manjeet Bawa. Similarly Francis Bacon and Amedeo Modigliani are also the painters of my choice.

What are the challenges an artist faces in Odisha? With not much support around, how do you think the government can address the issues?

Contemporary art earlier had the attention of the government and public which is missing at the moment. Students are also not encouraged to make careers in art. That apart, the corporate houses in Odisha have largely remained aloof. Many of them now prefer to buy paintings of Odia artists in Delhi and Mumbai, not from those who are practicing in Odisha.

Our Chief Minister, being an art connoisseur, is doing a commendable job to promote the art and culture of the state. But so many areas have still remained unaddressed. For example, walls of Bhubaneswar and other cities of Odisha have been adorned with contemporary murals, but most of them lack themes and artistic vision required to draw the attention of the onlookers. Our state doesn't even have a dedicated modern art gallery and the government can think over it.

How do you connect with Odisha through your art?

Pattachitra painting/icon painting tradition of Odisha has been a constant source of enrichment for me that I had included in my research studies. Basic forms and motifs from Pattachitra have found places in my works.

What is your message to the budding artists who want to make careers in art?

There is no dearth of talents in Odisha but the emerging artists must remain conversant with the history of art along with their day today practice. They could learn a composition, colour theory, perspective of an art by keenly observing master creations of iconic artists. Modern art has remained very dynamic and artists not only need to remain observant of what changes are occurring, they should be ready to adapt accordingly. They need to indulge themselves in art workshops, discussions and dialogues involving contemporary art to enrich their art vocabulary.



I am a hopeless dreamer: Nora



Nora Fatehi enjoys a massive fan following on social media. The actress often shares stunning pictures, dance videos and workout posts on her Instagram handle. Recently, she crossed 30 million followers on Instagram. She took to her social media handle to share some gorgeous photos from Morocco. As soon as she shared the pictures, her fans dropped several heart emoticons in the comments section.

The actress is recently making headlines as she paid homage to her idol, Madhuri Dixit. She even expressed her desire to star in her biopic. Nora has often regarded the former as her idol. Concluding the vlog, Nora Fatehi termed herself as a hopeless dreamer for wanting to star in Madhuri Dixit's biopic. Nora said, "Guys, comment if you want me to do Madhuri ma'am's biopic in future. I'm just a hopeless dreamer, I swear!"

On the work front, Nora plays a spy in the upcoming film that also stars Ajay Devgn, Sanjay Dutt, Sonakshi Sinha, Sharad Kelkar, Ammy Virk, and Pranitha Subhash. AGENCIES

Human is a new representation of me

Actress Kirti Kulhari is all set for the release of her upcoming web-series *Human*. She says it is a new representation of her in more ways than one.

"*Human* is a medical drama. It is based on human trials. It has Shefali Shah and me. I am playing a doctor," Kirti said.

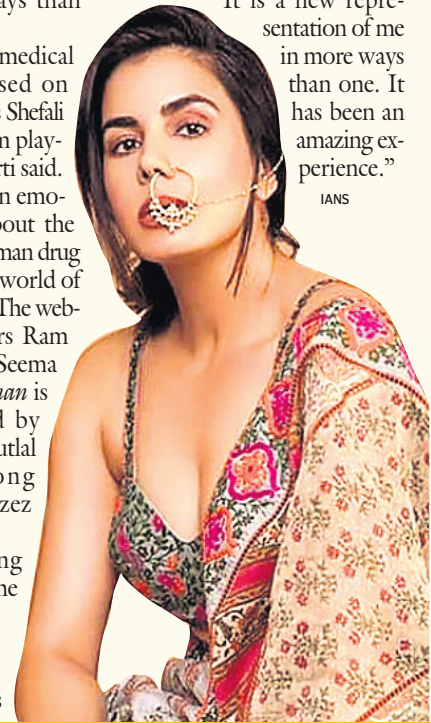
The series is an emotional drama about the underbelly of human drug testing and the world of medical scams. The web-series also stars Ram Kapoor and Seema Biswas. *Human* is co-directed by Vipul Amrutlal Shah along with Mozez Singh.

Talking about the show, she said: "It is

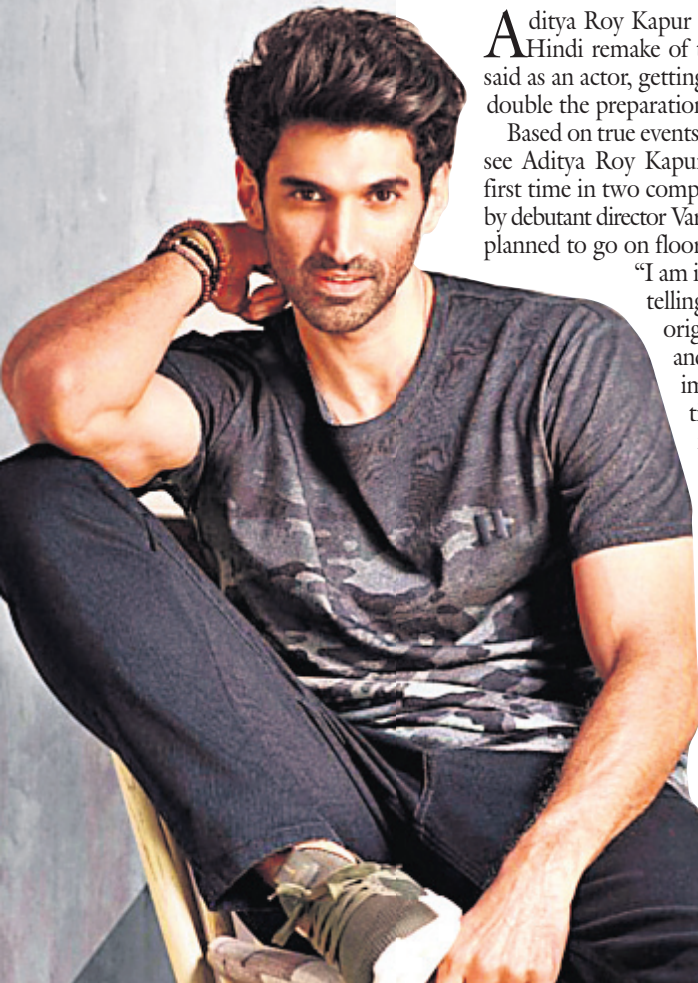
treated like a thriller and very interesting. I had a blast doing this. I can't wait for it to be out and for everyone to watch it.

It is a new representation of me in more ways than one. It has been an amazing experience."

IAN S



Aditya to star in Hindi remake of *Thadam*



Aditya Roy Kapur has been roped in to star in the Hindi remake of the Tamil hit film *Thadam*. He said as an actor, getting a chance to do a double role is double the preparation and challenge.

Based on true events, this yet-to-be-titled thriller will see Aditya Roy Kapur in a double role for the very first time in two completely different avatars. Helmed by debutant director Vardhan Ketkar the film is tentatively planned to go on floors in September this year.

"I am inspired and excited to be part of telling such an interesting story. The original film was incredibly riveting and entertaining, and it left a lasting impression on me. As an actor, getting a chance to do a double role is double the preparation and double the challenge, and I'm certainly up for it," Aditya said.

Talking about the film producer Bhushan Kumar said: "When Murad Bhai (Murad Khetani) shared the idea of the Hindi remake of *Thadam* I was excited as it had received a lot of acclaim down south. Working with like-minded people is always fun, that is why I like collaborating with Murad Bhai."

Since the release of *Thadam* in 2019, producer Murad Khetani was keen to make the film for the Hindi audience. IANS

Hina excited about *Lines*

Hina Khan's recent song video *Baarish* crossed 250 million hits and now her film *Lines* first song *Jehlam de dariya* composed by Sufi singer and poet Rohil Bhatia and sung by Yash Chaudhary is out on Zee Music.

The actress plays the central character of a vulnerable girl, Nazia in the movie, who is married across the border of Kashmir. The story revolves around how the tensions at the borders become a barrier between the couple.

Sharing her excitement and experience, Hina Khan says: "It is truly a privilege to be a part of this project. I have had a lot of amazing experiences while shooting for this film and especially this song. I am just waiting to see the response of the audience. Looking forward to getting immense love and support from them."

The film is produced by Rahat Kazmi, Tariq Khan, Zeba Sajid and Raj Kushwaha. It is based on the lives of people living on both sides of the border in Jammu & Kashmir. IANS



5 post pandemic int'l destinations to explore

THOUGH THE GROWTH OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM HAS MADE A LOT OF DESTINATIONS POPULAR, TRAVELLERS ALWAYS YEARN TO DISCOVER NEW PLACES AS THE THRILL OF EXPLORING AN UNKNOWN, UNDISCOVERED DESTINATION IS UNPARALLELED



Faroe Islands, Denmark



Madagascar

Following a massive dip in cases after the second wave, travellers are all set to pack their bags and get back to travel in the coming months. The travel industry has witnessed a surge in bookings and queries recently, with people keen on resuming their travel plans after being cooped up in their homes for over a year.

Check out this list of least explored destinations across the world :

Faroe Islands, Denmark

The Faroe Islands, located in the chilling waters of the North Atlantic Ocean sandwiched between Scotland and Iceland is an unexplored paradise. The untouched archipelago along with the striking views of mountains stretching in every direction brings the wilder side of the Danish kingdom to the fore. With its rugged coastlines and pristine waterfalls, Faroe Islands is also home to natural wonders that could truly be explored on an old fishing boat. The capital city of Torshavn is picturesque with eighteenth-century churches, museums, and rows of brightly painted houses.

Dominica Island

A hidden island country in the Caribbean, the Commonwealth of Dominica is adorned by lush greenery and scenic beauty. The topside landscape is perfectly complemented by the beautiful oceans and striking reef formations, which makes it an exciting diving spot. Nicknamed as 'Nature Island of

the Caribbean', Dominica is home to the second-largest hot spring in the world, the Boiling Lake. The Morne Trois Piton National Park and Emerald Pool Waterfall are some of the other key spots where people can indulge in adventure activities such as trekking and rappelling. The island is also rich in marine diversity with several species of Cetaceans, making the island an ideal destination for whale-watching.

Madagascar

Madagascar is truly one of the most unique islands and is considered to be the most biodiverse place on earth. Floating off the coast of Mozambique, this one of its kind islands is renowned for its vibrant wildlife, lush forests and vibrant coral reefs. An estimated 80-90 percent of Madagascar's wildlife and fauna is so unique that it cannot be found anywhere else in the world. From lemurs and rare bird species to colourful chameleons and humpback whales, the country is a wildlife paradise like no other. While it is rich in wildlife, Madagascar's layers of history and a blend of cultures as well as its beautiful beaches are surprisingly diverse. The island's unique landscape enables travellers to indulge in adventure activities such as diving, surfing and rock climbing.

Matera, Italy

Renowned for its ancient cave dwellings inhabited since the Paleolithic period, Sassi di Matera is fascinating as its

history dates back more than 30,000 years. The 'Sassi' is considered as one of the most unique landscapes in Europe and was named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Referred to as the second Bethlehem, the charming city was the setting for Mel Gibson's movie The Passion of the Christ. The stunning churches of Matera, which dates back to the Middle Ages, are carved out from calcarenite rock and filled with vibrant and delicate murals. Most of the hotels and restaurants in the city are made from refurbished caves, and the city also provides travellers with a unique experience of staying in a cave hotel.

Boa Vista, Cape Verde

Although a majority of Africa is covered with the Sahara desert, the continent has some hidden gems in the form of a small archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean. One such island country is Cape Verde, a group of ten islands. One of the islands here, Boa Vista, is an untouched gem with its pristine landscape, dreamy beaches, sea turtles, and villages surrounded by the magnificent Atlantic waters. The Parque Nacional do Monte Roraima is a national park in the city that has unique monuments and sights, in addition to hiking trails. The region is also known for its sand dunes and moon-like landscapes in the Viana desert. The city is diverse as it has a few low mountain ranges as well, however, the city is primarily for travellers who wish to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy the sun, sea and serenity.

AGENCIES



Dominica Island



Matera, Italy



Boa Vista, Cape Verde

Pratik



PHOTO: KUMAR SHARAT, OP