

DECEMBER 19-25, 2021

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



# Patron of Christmas

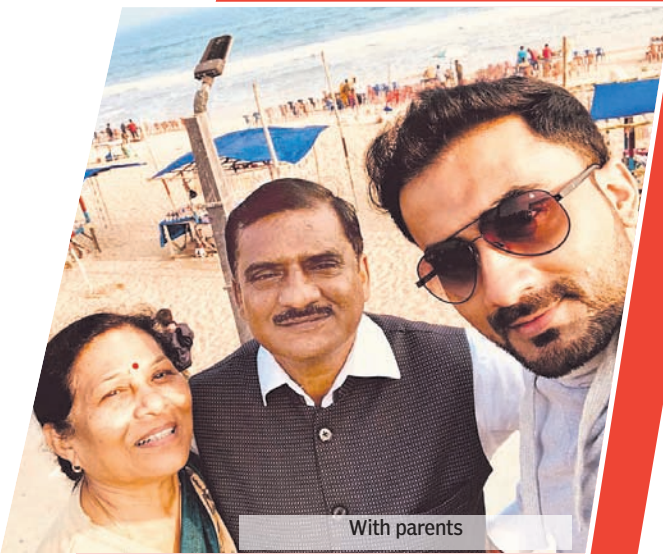
**P**  
3,4 COVER STORY

# MY SUNDAY

Known as one of the few Odia actors who can easily slip into the skin of their characters, state film award winner Partha Sarathi Ray loves to draw sketches when he gets a break



With actress Shraddha Panigrahi



With parents

## Family Matters

Who doesn't like to spend time with family? But my hectic schedule didn't allow me that opportunity in the last three months. Since most of my projects are now over, I am planning to take my parents for an outing as well as on a shopping spree

## Baker@home

I am good at making cakes and a few other bakery items. I can also cook some scrumptious stuff like Gajar Ka Halwa, pudding and a few select chicken dishes. I love to satiate the taste buds of my family.

## Cinephile

The experience of viewing movies on big screens has no substitute. However, I had no choice but to enjoy movies on streaming platforms due to the lockdown. Since the restrictions have been lifted, watching films in a multiplex is now part of my weekend schedule.



RASHMI REKHA

## Solo Traveller

I love going out on a long trip when I am not working on Sundays. Though my profession requires me to travel extensively, I still enjoy a long drive alone.

## Expressing Inner Self

While idling, I love to draw sketches. This helps me vent out my inner feelings and overcome stress in life.

**WhatsApp This Week**

**Only on Sunday POST!**

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: [features.orissapost@gmail.com](mailto:features.orissapost@gmail.com) And we will publish the best ones

**THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE**

- Decided to burn lots of calories today so I set a fat kid on fire.
- Marriage is a three-ring circus such as engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering.
- The new way of forgetting your past is deleting your chats.
- Stop checking my last seen. Chat with me when you miss me.

**RAY OF HOPE**

Dear Sir, Being an agropreneur, who loves to grow everything under the sun, I was pretty excited by last week's cover story of the Sunday supplement 'Futuristic Farming' that highlighted the benefits of hydroponic and aeroponics farming. Everyone knows that agriculture requires gallons of water to flourish. There is also no running away from the fact that water is the world's most treasured resource. Yet, for agriculture, farmers across the country need regular supply of water. Soilless farming method is the best way to combat the water crisis in future. Hydroponics and aeroponics are the potent solutions. If we don't adopt more efficient, sustainable farming methods, we will likely face global food and water shortages for sure. I am really inspired by the tales of urban farmers Asish and Haraprasad.

**ROBIN LENKA, BALASORE**

**LETTERS**

**Futuristic Farming**

**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](mailto:features.orissapost@gmail.com) B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



# Patron of Christmas



Kids look forward to arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve as he is supposed to bring gifts like toys and candy to well-behaved children and coal or nothing to naughty ones

BUDDHADEV NANDI

When winter is at its zenith and days and nights are almost freezing, bone chilling cold wind seems to whisper that Christmas is approaching. Santa Claus, the legendary patron of Christmas globally, is largely considered as a symbol of hope, goodwill, joy and magic. Children look forward to his arrival on Christmas Eve because he is supposed to bring Christmas gifts like toys and candy to well-behaved children. But Santa brings coal or nothing to naughty children. He is known by different nomenclatures including Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle and most popularly as Santa. Santa Claus, a fictitious character of Christmas, was created from the ideas from the real-life St. Nicholas of Greece to several Christmas stories of Kris Kringle, Father Christmas and so on. Ahead of Christmas, **Sunday POST** takes a look at few of them.

**Saint Nicholas:** The legend of Santa Claus is associated with the name of a Christian monk named Nicholas. He was born around 280 CE in Patara (a harbour city in modern day Turkey) in Asia Minor. Later he became a Greek Christian bishop of Myra (now Demre) in the region of Lycia in the erstwhile Roman Empire, now in Turkey in the 4th century A.D.

Nicholas and his parents were believed to have traced their spiritual heritage to the Apostle Paul who visited Patara during his third missionary trip about 200 years earlier. Nicholas, a man of magnanimity, came from an affluent family. He was very pious and devoted his life entirely to Christianity. After the demise of his parents suffering from plague when Nicholas was merely a teenager, he was inherited with a huge amount of wealth. The loss of his parents made him not only closer to God but also philanthropic. He rid himself of all his wealth he had by helping the poor and the destitute. One popular story describes how he saved three impoverished daughters of a father from being slaves by giving dowries. The father who was a devout Christian could

not afford dowry that might led his daughters to be sold into slavery. To save the daughters from humiliation, St. Nicholas threw the bags of gold through a window. The bags landed in stockings left by the fire to dry.

His eleemosynary persona earned him veneration throughout his life. When he was in his early twenties, he for his vast knowledge and wisdom and maturity beyond his age was appointed Archbishop of Myra. But during his tenure as Archbishop, the Roman Emperor Diocletian and his successor Galerius perpetrated vehement persecution on the Christians as long as eight years. Nicolas was not spared from the wrath of the Roman Emperors. He was also imprisoned and tortured for his faith in Christianity. But during the reign of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, Christianity was declared legal and Nicholas was

paid his due honour. In continental Europe comprising Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Czech Republic, Saint Nicholas is portrayed as a bearded bishop in canonical robes. St. Nicholas traditionally passed away December 6 in 343 at the age of 73.

**Derivation from Nicholas to Santa Claus:** St. Nicolas was the most popular saint during the Renaissance. The Dutch who colonised much of New York before the American Revolution held St. Nicholas in high esteem and considered him to be the patron saint of ships. The Vikings spread his good name during their travels. They called him Sinter Klaas, a nickname for his Dutch name of Sint Nikolaas which was Americanised as Santa Claus by the late 1700 CE.

**Kris Kringle:** Kris Kringle was derived from the German Christkindl in the 1840s and became a popular nickname in some countries for Santa Claus. During the Protestant Reformation in 16th – 17th century Europe, Martin Luther admonished the figure of St. Nicholas as he thought that praying to any saint was against Scripture. Many Protestants adopted the gift bringer as the Christ Child or Christkindl. Traditionally, he would come into homes and leave gifts which Martin Luther used as a symbol of the gifts of Christianity and the Gospel. According to legends Kris Kringle is invisible because he secretly comes on Christmas Eve to bring presents for all good children only when residents of the homes are asleep.

**Father Christmas:** Father Christmas, traditional English personification of Christmas, dates back to 16th century England during the reign of Henry VIII. As England did not observe the Feast Day of St. Nicholas Dec 6, Christmas celebration was moved to December 25 to coincide with the Christmas Day.





He brings peace, joy, good food, wine and revelry as the spirit of good cheer. He appears large wearing green or scarlet robes lined with fur. Father Christmas is recognised as the emblem of good cheer of the Victorian revival of Christmas.

**Appearance and robes of Santa:** Santa Claus is traditionally portrayed as an obese, round-bellied, merry, bespectacled man with long white beard. He is depicted as a man in red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white-fur cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur and black leather belt and boots. He is carrying a huge sack full of gifts for children. On Christmas Eve, riding in his flying sleigh drawn by eight reindeer, he visits from house to house to give presents to children. His hearty laugh sounds “ho ho ho”.

The appearance of today’s Santa Claus was shaped by Swedish-American artist Haddon Sundblom who was commissioned by Coca-Cola to paint this jolly character for the company’s Christmas advertisements. Prior to this painting Santa Claus had been portrayed in different ways from tall and gaunt, short and elfin, distinguished and intellectual and even scary.

**Santa’s House:** There are many legends surrounding Santa’s house where he with the aid of his elves manufactures the

**The appearance of today’s Santa Claus was shaped by Swedish-American artist Haddon Sundblom who was commissioned by Coca-Cola to paint this jolly character for the company’s Christmas advertisements**

Christmas gifts for the good children all over the world. However, Korvatunturi in Finland has long been considered as the home of Father Christ or Joulupukki in Finnish. According to Finnish folklore, there is a secret workshop of Santa. Here the elves wrap the toys, trinkets and gifts made for children. Korvatunturi in Finnish means “Ear Fell”. People believe that the ear-shaped structure of the fell enables Santa to hear the wishes of the children all over the earth. Even all mails sent to postal code 99999 Korvatunturi are delivered to Santa Claus Village.

According to North American tradition, Santa Claus is believed to live at the North Pole that lies within Canadian jurisdiction. Even Santa Claus was awarded Canadian citizenship status in 2008. City of North Pole in Alaska is a tourist attraction for “Santa Claus House”. Besides, Drobak in Norway, Greenland in Denmark and Mora in Sweden claim to be the living place of Santa Claus.

**Christmas Elves:** The reference of elves originated in Germanic, Scandinavian and British folklores. The Christmas Elves are tiny beings. They with pointy ears are no taller than 3 feet and even some might fit in the palm of one’s hand. But they with magical powers are to assist Santa Claus by performing a number of duties. Though the exact number of elves living with Santa in the North Pole is not confirmed, it is believed that there are six or nine or thirteen or sixteen elves to assist Santa.

They help Santa in many ways. The elf called Alabaster snowball is entrusted with the duty of making “Nice & Naughty” list; Pepper Minstix is for guarding the secret village of Santa Claus; Sugarplum Mary also known as Mary Christmas is in the charge of preparing all the sweets delivered by Santa to the chil-

dren of the world; Bushy Evergreen, the inventor of the toy-making machine, is commissioned to prepare all the toys; Wunorse Openslae is responsible to architect and maintain Santa’s Sleigh and take care of his reindeer and Shiny Uptree, Santa’s oldest friend, is the founder of the secret village inhabited by Santa Clause, his wife and the elves.

**Santa’s Sleigh and Reindeer:** Santa Claus riding on sleigh pulled by his reindeer through the night sky delivers gifts on Christmas Eve to children all over the world. Despite different stories about the names and number of Santa’s reindeer, according to popular legends eight reindeer are harnessed in his sleigh. They are popularly known as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. But Rudolph, the ninth reindeer has been recognised since the mid-twentieth century as a makeshift lamp for his glowing red nose that made him a social outcast among the reindeer.



**Controversy:** Some people think that people should stop giving gifts to their children in the name of Santa Claus. Especially those affluent parents who are free to splurge on whatever gifts they want to buy their children, should ask their kids that those gifts are from them as opposed to a mythical wizard from the North Pole who supposedly doles out gifts based on whether children are naughty or nice. It may lead the kids from low-income families think that Santa only likes rich kids. Thus, the poor kids will learn economic and social inequality and disparity from early childhood.



All are representational images Source: Internet

With kids having spent the majority of the past two years indoors, Hamleys, India's leading toy retailer for children, have brought some attractive collections for Christmas 2021. Top trends for this season include AI enabled learning gadgets, dollhouses for immersive play, and reversible plush toys, among other products. The super learning robo MIKO, the Pioneer Drone, the hi-life playful furnished dollhouse and Infiniti hoverboard are also the key highlights of this festive season's must-haves. Sunday POST presents some toys trending this Christmas.

# Trending toys for Christmas 2021



## MIKO 2 Robo

This can be a child's intelligent friend that opens up exciting new worlds. It's a child safe personal robot that can see, hear, sense and remember a kid's moods. It can talk on a million topics and themes which get refreshed and updated automatically. Every interaction with Miko2 makes your child smarter and happier.

AGE GROUP:  
5Y +



## Sparkle Girlz

ZURU Sparkle Girlz Convertible is a must have for any doll collection. It will be racing away in her sporty coupe in style. This car has turning wheels, boasts stylish tyres and an interior so your dolls can always ride looking the best. With two seats, there is room for a friend and don't forget your safety belt too. Think of all the places to drive and see. The car comes with one Sparkle Girlz doll with her amazing outfit. Go for a ride with your whole Sparkle Girlz crew. Sparkle every day at an amazing value too.

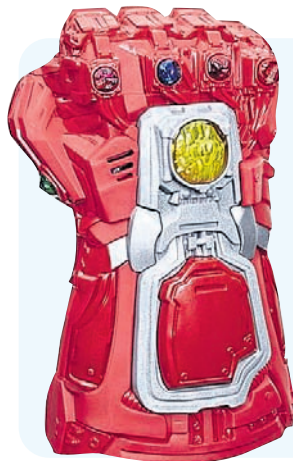
AGE GROUP:  
3Y +



## Talking Doll Julia

Children are always curious to learn. This is a toy that helps them do exactly that, learning is best done when it is fun. This talking doll hastens the process of a child speaking for the first time. Made of excellent finish and quality, this fun toy will soon become every child's favourite.

AGE GROUP:  
5M +



## Marvel Avengers: Endgame Red Infinity Gauntlet

Inspired By Avengers: Endgame: The Infinity Gauntlet Electronic Fist has lights and sounds. So, kids can imagine the action of the Avengers and their enemies. When kids push the center button, this lights up an Infinity Stone or activates sound fx. It has been designed to fit most kids' hands sizes so they can imagine wielding the power of The Infinity Stones to rule the Universe like Thanos, or using the power of The Stones for the forces of good like their favorite superhero.

AGE GROUP:  
5Y +

## Tent For Kids

Quick and easy to assemble, the tent's most important feature is it comes under BIS compliance which ensures ISI mark on all the tents.

Apart from placing it in your house, you can also effortlessly set it up in your backyard, your garden or any other outdoor space

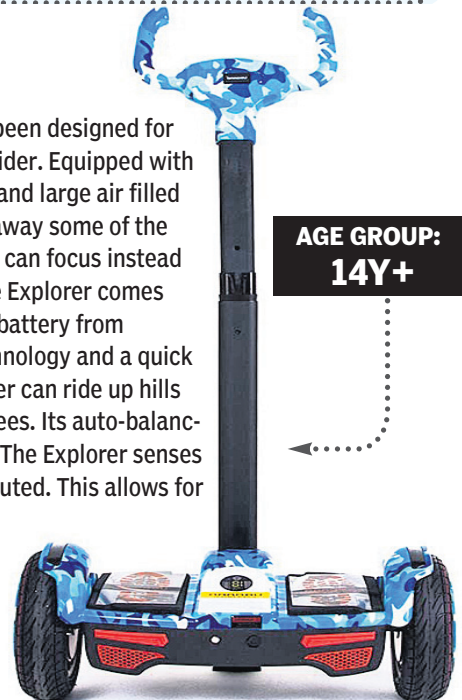
The tents are routinely safety tested to pass strict EN71. Your child will have hours of fun with this colorful play tent. Set it up in the backyard, and kids got a secret hiding place. It's great for encouraging play, adventure and fun. It provides comfortable shelter for outdoor trips and activities. The tent offers kids their own fun space and environment in which they find freedom to play, sit, relax or read at leisure. Friends too can join in the fun! Put this up in your child room today or take it along on fun picnics.



AGE GROUP:  
2Y +

## Uboard Explorer

The Uboard Explorer A1 has been designed for the more comfort-seeking rider. Equipped with adjustable padded handlebars and large air filled tyres, The Explorer Mini takes away some of the stress of balancing, so that you can focus instead on the pure joy of scooting. The Explorer comes with a high-quality lithium-Ion battery from Samsung with Sure Drive+ technology and a quick charge in two hours. The scooter can ride up hills with an incline of up to 35 degrees. Its auto-balancing gyro helps keep balance as The Explorer senses how the user's weight is distributed. This allows for easy forward and backward movement and up to 350 degrees turns. In-built led-lamps in the front light up automatically as you begin to cruise on the explorer.



AGE GROUP:  
14Y+



## Kiara adds high-end car to her collection

Kiara Advani recently added a brand new luxury car worth Rs 1.6 crore to her already swanky collection of four-wheelers. A picture of the actress, posing with her four-wheeled beauty, has been doing the rounds on social media.



Dressed in white crop-top and pink pants, Kiara looked stunning as ever as she posed with her brand new car. Her open tresses and hoop earrings complete her overall casual look.

On the personal front, Kiara is rumoured to be dating Sidharth Malhotra. Although they are yet to come out in open

about their relationship, their social media PDAs, dinner dates and outings speak volumes about their secret love affair. The couple also garnered a lot of praise for their sizzling chemistry in their last film, *Shershaah* together.

On the work front, Kiara will next be seen in Raj Mehta's *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* co-starring Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor in lead roles. The film is reportedly about the institution of marriage. It will hit the theatres June 24, 2022.

Apart from this, she also has *Govinda Naam Mera* where she will be seen playing the naughty girlfriend to Vicky Kaushal's character. Directed by Shashank Khaitan, the film also stars Bhumi Pednekar in the lead role. AGENCIES

## Rashmika gets overwhelmed

Actress Rashmika Mandanna says she has been overwhelmed by the love she has received ever since she topped the Forbes list of 'Most Influential Stars' of south cinema.

Rashmika has been juggling between shootings and the promotions for her movie *Pushpa*.

*The Dear Comrade* actress who plays a native Chittoor woman in *Pushpa*, said that the makers had picked her for her familiarity with the language.

"My role in the movie is

closer to reality. I worked hard for this movie. Especially the picturisation of songs was a bit difficult," Rashmika expressed.

Recently, Rashmika topped the Forbes list of the 'Most Influential Stars' of south cinema.

On being quizzed about the same, the actress expressed that she has been overwhelmed by the kind of love she has received ever since.

"I feel humbled and thankful. This is what I work for. The love is unlimited. I am only thankful and trying to stay grounded as well", Rashmika conveyed.

IAN S



## Ishaan's war film Pippa gets release date

Ishaan Khatter-starrer *Pippa* will make its debut in theatres December 9, 2022, the makers have announced recently. The film is directed by Raja Krishna Menon of *Airlift* fame.

*Pippa* is billed as a heroic tank battle film that underscores the bravery of Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta (Khatter), a veteran of the 45th Cavalry tank squadron, who, along with his siblings, fought on the eastern front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

As the

country commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Indo-Pak war Thursday, Screwvala's RSVP and Kapur's Roy Kapur Films shared the release date of upcoming film on social media.

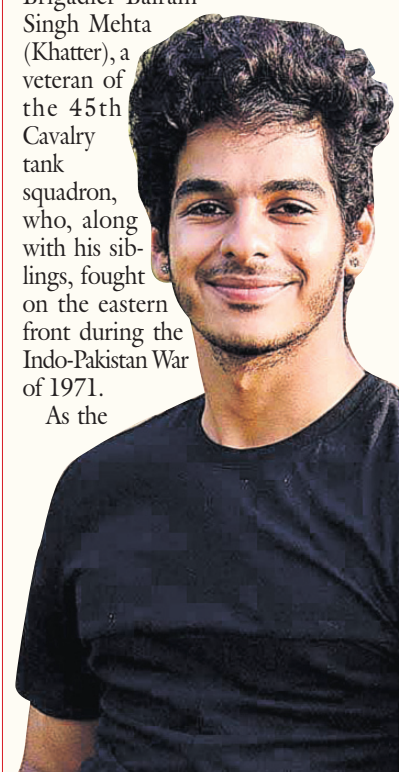
"On the 50th anniversary of #VijayDiwas, we salute the bravery of the Indian soldiers who fought to liberate Bangladesh #1971 #PIPPA releasing in cinemas on 9th Dec 2022," a tweet by RSVP read.

The same tweet was shared by Roy Kapur Films on their official Twitter handle.

The film is based on Brigadier Mehta's book *The Burning Chaffees*. Its title is taken from the Russian amphibious war tank called the PT-76, popularly known as Pippa.

The movie also features actors Mrunal Thakur, Priyanshu Painyuli and Soni Razdan.

AGENCIES



## Ayushmann keen to play Neeraj Chopra

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is keen to play India's golden boy at the Olympics, Neeraj Chopra, in case a biopic is made on him.

In his debut at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Chopra won the gold medal in javelin throw. Ayushmann says: "I'm constantly inspired by real people who do extraordinary things."

Right now, I'm hugely inspired by

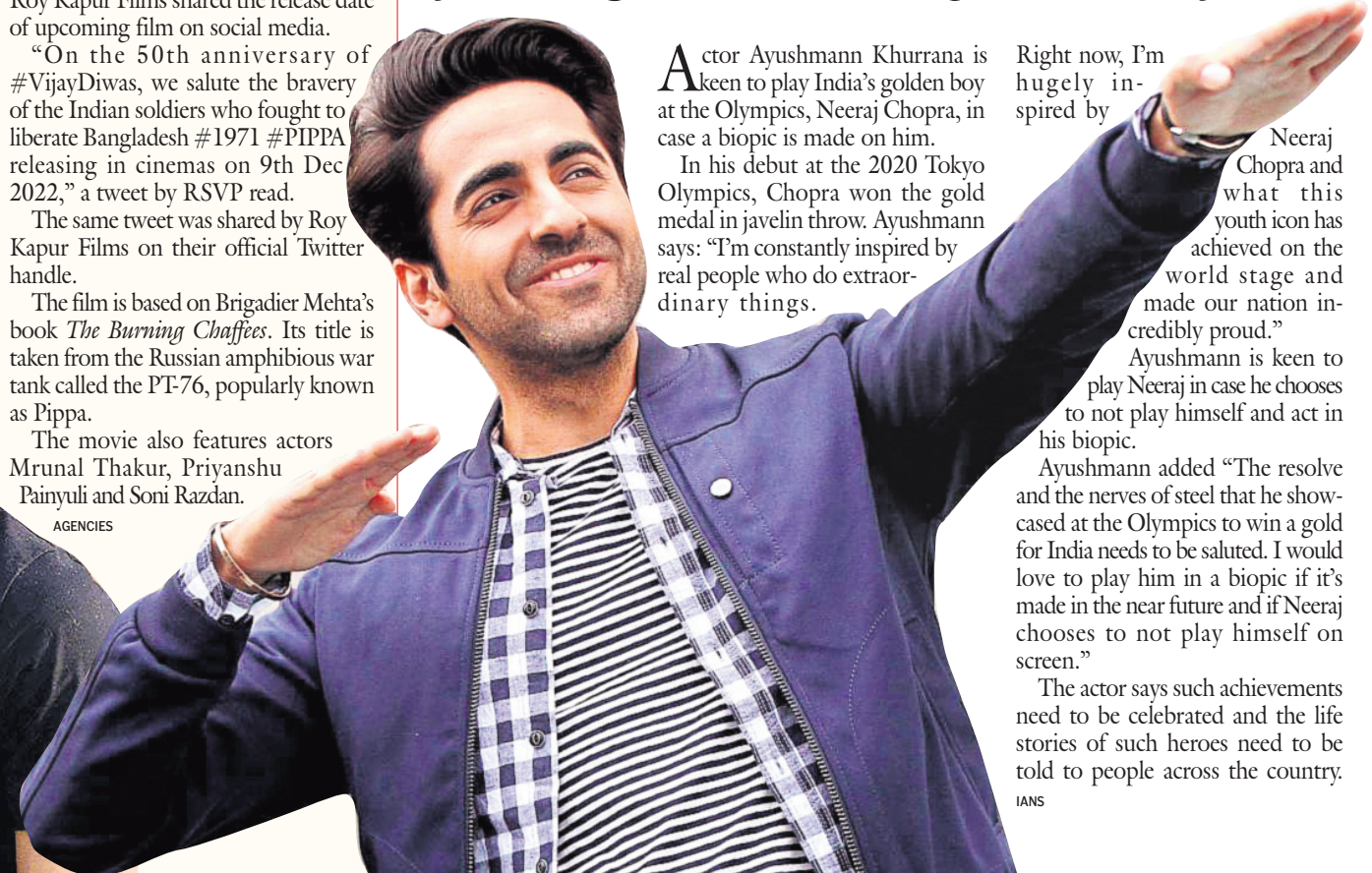
Neeraj Chopra and what this youth icon has achieved on the world stage and made our nation incredibly proud."

Ayushmann is keen to play Neeraj in case he chooses to not play himself and act in his biopic.

Ayushmann added "The resolve and the nerves of steel that he showcased at the Olympics to win a gold for India needs to be saluted. I would love to play him in a biopic if it's made in the near future and if Neeraj chooses to not play himself on screen."

The actor says such achievements need to be celebrated and the life stories of such heroes need to be told to people across the country.

IAN S



# Soulmate

*The dissipation of affection between a couple can only be a prelude to catastrophe, unless there is some compromise.*

*Uncompromising attitudes take their toll as partners demonstrate the inflexibility of the unconquerable will*

JAYSHREE MISRA TRIPATHI

**S**he saddens me. The way she watches every episode of Ally McBeal without fail. Her eyes light up at each youthful caper then brim with tears at each tender kiss. Her lips curl in contentment as things get sorted out in the end or droop in melancholy each time LIFE strikes below the belt. I despair at her vicarious pleasure, but this is her world now. I must tread softly.

Cable TV.

God. Why has it come to this?

He has not uttered more than two full sentences of approximately six words apiece for the whole day. Usually, a few grunts or two or three words suffice. He has not cared to listen to her for years now, really listen, so twenty years together have suddenly morphed into dust. Ashes to ashes.

Wait, they had once been so good with each other.

When did things fall apart?

Too much solitude. Solitude and heartache. Temper tantrums, money issues, push and shove.

It was no use. He did not care to listen anymore.

And she did not want to even try to understand him.

So, the love they once shared... gradually festered, there was no other word for it, into intense detachment, bordering upon intolerance. She fought hard to be heard. But he still did not listen. He felt betrayed. That after all these years, he had somehow failed to live up to her expectations. Why, mercy, he had even lauded, indeed, been very supportive of her decision to stay home to look after the children. But it was not enough. It



A representational image

was never enough.

Was she displeased that he had not forced her into working once the children were older? Illogical. What on earth would that kind of reasoning be classified as? He was happy and proud of all that she did. He loved her. What else was there?

She was thoroughly fed up of the monotony of being a housewife. 'Homemaker' did not sound any better, no matter what they felt in the west. She wanted to be appreciated for the little things, the finer things, but he seemed so oblivious to her sentiments.

And so, they played their parts.

She retreated. And when he did try to converse with her, she employed a useful tactic of monosyllabic defence. It worked. After a while, he left her alone. She then refused to meet him half-way as he fumbled in clumsy attempts to bridge this gap.

So, they played this particular 'Game of Life', till Cable TV came along.

The ultimate weapon in defence – mechanism. Yes, Cable TV.

And thereafter, it was two TV's with two separate channel controls. They did not need each other to converse with, to interact with.

Cable TV was the winner.

I was really depressed by this state of affairs.

There was little I could do. They had reached the point of no return, the Rubicon-divide of advanced middle-age. What surprised me were other couples like them who seemed perfectly happy. Well. They seemed to be in harmony. So, what had happened to their own great love? The "I'll love you forever" syndrome. It had been so real... at first. Then LIFE intervened.

LIFE.

Why did they drift so far apart? Granted, their share of sorrows was perhaps more or less what the average person experienced. There had never been any major setbacks. Then why this mess?

He read whenever he could.

He was a voracious reader.

A learned man. Unlearned in the ways of the world. He paused mid-sentence as some vague memory tugged at his heart. Instinctively, he turned to her with a warm smile on his gentle face. But she was watching Ally McBeal, well, he felt like an intruder, unwilling to break into her sanctuary. The memory slipped away as he fumbled to find his spot. And the moment passed.

She had felt his eyes on her. The need to seem self-contained somehow paralysed her neck muscles. Strange, she ached to smile at him, to reach for his hand, to reassure him, to explain she was going through some inexplicable process. But she could not move an inch. And the moment passed.

All around the shadows deepened as the hours ticked steadily by. She rose to set the table, an old familiar habit that filled him with warmth. The maid brought in their dinner and they sat in stupefied silence, relishing the morsels of food on their plates rather than the thoughts in their minds. When would all this be resolved? Why couldn't NOW be the time? Why was it so hard for them to just speak to each other in a civil manner, with no remonstrations?

Would there ever be a time? Of compassion, of understanding, of tolerance, forgiveness? Or does one grow older and more disenchanted with the world only to appreciate the concept of maya?

It certainly was a harsh way of arriving at the truth. Odd that everyone did not attain this truth in the same manner. Life was unfair. Some achieved it with a degree of civility whereas others were sucked into the eye of the maelstrom. Only the strong could overcome this destructive process and deal with it logically, beat the odds.

It is time for bed. The youngsters have resolved one problem but the inkling of another has surfaced.

It is almost 11 pm. Time to get a book, she says to me, my yoke-sister, as I flit back to merge into her soul.

I wish I was as strong as her. I appear only when she allows herself to float into an imaginary world whereas a mere spectator, however omniscient, she can face the truth, without getting hurt. As the fusion takes place, I feel a clammy hand upon my brow, her shoulder.

"Are you all right?" he asks tenderly.

The concern is genuine. So why does a pleasant rejoinder freeze on my lips? I must say something, I must try. We will destroy each other like this. I must make the first move, the right move.

"Mmm... yes, thank you for asking."

I inhale and exhale slowly. He smiles shyly.

She responds. Yes, a beginning, a small beginning... so is this is the ultimate Hope?

(THE FICTION IS SET IN 2000s.  
THE WRITER HAS BEEN  
A CONSULTANT, EDUCATOR AND  
EXAMINER IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
AND LITERATURE)



Alisha



PHOTO: KUMAR SHARAT