

DECEMBER 26, 2021-JANUARY 1, 2022

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



# A **L**ost **E**ra

**P**  
3,4 COVER STORY



MY SUNDAY

Odia actor Abhishek Giri has come a long way since he won the Mr Global India pageant in 2016. The 'Club 69' actor, who has high expectations from his upcoming movies 'Bidyarana' and 'Atithi', takes to vocal exercise at his leisure which, he says, has helped him improve his acting skills

Strength Exercises

I spend long hours in the gym but not to build my muscles. It helps me get a toned physique and gain strength which is quite essential for an actor.



With parents

Vocal Workout

Breath control is very important for an actor to communicate emotions. As characters require different modulations to meet the demand of a script, I go for vocal workout early Sunday morning.

Life And Self-love

Writing poetry is my way of expressing intimate feelings and thoughts. It feels good when they get out of my head and down on paper. My lines are mostly about life and self-love.

Well-read actor

Apart from reading acting-oriented books, I read authors who write on human behaviour. It allows to know life from close quarters and eventually helps me in my profession.

Stress Management

There are several ways of managing stress. For me, cooking is a way to calm my mind. Often I experiment with chicken dishes on non-working Sundays and feel sorted if it comes out good.

With Mom

I help mom in taking care of her kitchen garden when I am in my hometown Balasore. I am the happiest when I get opportunities to spend time with her.

Movie Buff

I enjoy all kinds of movies as I learn something from each of them. I prefer to watch the latest releases in theatre while enjoy the classics at my home theatre.



With actress Bhaswati Basu

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

DELECTABLE FARE Dear Sir, Short story Soulmate (Dec 19) is another masterpiece by Jayshree Misra Tripathi. In her inimitable style, the master raconteur of real-life stories captures in elegant prose the mid-life trials & tribulations of a married couple, the tide of conflicting emotions assailing their tormented souls and how the humble cable TV provides a tenuous link in their disturbed relationship. An eternal optimist, the author rightly harps upon the need for flexibility, compromising attitude and empathy in marital relationship--tolerance, forgiveness, compassion and mutual understanding, to dispel the cobwebs of mistrust between the couple. In this context, it is worth recalling the celebrated novelist George Eliot's memorable words: "What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life...to strengthen each other...to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories." AMIT BANERJEE, NEW DELHI

LETTERS Patron of Christmas 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 Era

With several ways available now to reach out to friends and acquaintances, sending wishes through greeting cards seems to have become a thing of distant past



POST NEWS NETWORK

The excitement of getting a paper greeting card for New Year or Christmas has almost become a thing of the past thanks to the advent of technology. Paper card's journey that started in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, a British Civil Servant, has almost come to an end amid technological chaos.

The words of **Santosh Kumar Nandi**, a senior postal assistant of General Post Office, Bhubaneswar validate the near death of nostalgic cards. "In last twenty years, there has been a drastic fall in the movement of paper greeting cards. Earlier, we used to receive sackful of cards every day from all corners of Odisha which now has reduced to less than a hundred. People now prefer to wish their near and dear ones on social media through various mobile apps," says Nandi.

**Udayanath Pradhan**, who does seasonal business at Priyadarshini Market near CRPF Square in Bhubaneswar, also echoes the similar sentiment. He rues, "I have seen people queuing up at card shops when I was a kid. I also used to sell over a hundred cards per day when I started this seasonal business. The number has come down



**Santosh Kumar Nandi**

to a miserable 15 to 20." Earlier, the market was flooded with wide varieties of greeting cards that caught customers' fancy. Besides, greeting cards bore a stamp of closeness and warmth when given to special people on special occasions, hence, were in great demand in the past.

Recalling those nostalgic days, poetess **Bijayalaxmi Parida**, says, "Of late, e-cards have become quite popular among the youths. But the joy of getting greeting cards cannot be compared with e-cards.



**Bijayalaxmi Parida**



I still have some greeting cards received from my relatives and friends. I have treasured and preserved them for years." Sharing her most cherished greeting card

memory, she shares, "When I was studying in Rama Devi Women's College (now a university), I received a card from an unknown sender. It was perhaps delivered to me wrongly. A little girl, in this New Year card, asked her aunty to buy her a pink hair clip and a drawing book. I received the card December 24 and couldn't sleep that night thinking about the girl. The next day I bought her gifts and sent them via courier to the address mentioned in the letter. That card is still with me. I will cherish that experience forever."

Like Bijayalaxmi, renowned singer **Abhijeet Mishra** too has some interesting memories about greeting cards to share. He recalls, "My friend Sukant (name changed) used to buy greeting cards in loads. During those times, we were crazy to buy New Year cards.



**Abhijeet Mishra**

They came mostly in the size of postcards having images of film actors and actresses. When I was studying in Class VI, my friend took me to a card shop. The vendor had some vision problems. Taking advantage of it, Sukant picked up a few cards stealthily though I asked him not to do so. He took four pieces of postcards paying for only two.



REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

# History of greeting card

The custom of sending greeting cards can be traced back to the ancient Chinese, who exchanged messages of good will to celebrate the New Year, and to the early Egyptians, who conveyed their greetings on papyrus scrolls. By the early 15th century, handmade paper greeting cards were being exchanged in Europe. The Germans are known to have printed New Year's greetings from woodcuts as early as 1400.



World's first Christmas card



Sir Henry Cole

But it was Sir Henry Cole, a British civil servant and inventor who facilitated many innovations in commerce and education in the 19th century in the United Kingdom, is credited with devising the concept of sending greetings cards at Christmas time, introducing the world's first commercial Christmas card in 1843.

However, that didn't escape the attention of the shop owner. No wonder, the shopkeeper screamed at Sukant after recovering the cards from his pocket. I felt bad for him while Sukant promised that day not to do it again in future."

While many people prefer to buy printing greeting cards, some are there who don't buy them. They rather make their personalised cards using drawings and scribbles. The practice seems to be a dying art now.

Bhubaneswar-based popular TV anchor **Riya** and her sister are among those who make personalised greeting card. Riya says, "In today's fast-paced and digital world where most people prefer to have paperless communication, I can't wait to receive the handcrafted card from Diya. My sister and I are twins and we share a strong bond. Be it New Year or any other occasion, I do something unique to make her happy. When in Balasore, we used to exchange handmade cards to wish each other on



to wish each other on

New Year's day. I started making cards out of a desire to create things using quirky objects. Diya has preserved all the handmade cards gifted by me."

Greeting cards, at times, bring with them their share of complications for some people like actress **Sthita Pragnya** who is bracing up for the release of her movie *Sabu E Love Pain*. She says, "When I was studying in schools at Rayagada, I used to get more than a hundred cards during New Year from anonymous senders. Sometimes it created problems for me. Though my father was okay with it, mom asked me hundreds of questions about the senders and reprimanded to stay away from them."

Greeting cards often make people travel down memory lane. **Abhinash Patnaik**, sharing an interesting anecdote, narrates, "During my college days, I once found a key chain of Donald Duck hanging in front of my bike when I returned home. The next day I found a card lying on my bike. I found a few lines - Open with smile because a smiling face suits you. Your smile is just like Donald Duck. Keep smiling and achieve the pinnacle of success - were written on it. Gradually, it became a regular affair for me to get gifts. On New Year, the unidentified person too sent me cards with some motivational lines. I tried to find out the sender but in vain. After coming out from college, I got to know that it was a junior who used to send me gifts and cards since she had developed feelings for me. But it was a one-sided thing."

Avinash continues: "I used to be a huge fan of Hrithik Roshan and Titanic star Leonardo DiCaprio. During my school days I used to buy lots of postcard greetings of Hrithik and Leonardo. I have those cards and posters with me even now."



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGES

# Evolution of Calendar

Numa Pompilius, the legendary second king of Rome, reformed the Roman calendar to create a 12-month year by adding January. In 452 BCE, February was inserted between January and March

earliest known calendar from the Greeks. Romulus, the founder of Rome, instituted the calendar in about 738 BCE. It consisted of 10 months in a year of 304 days. The months were termed as Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November and December.

**Reformations:** Numa Pompilius (753 – 673 BCE), the legendary second king of Rome, reformed the Roman calendar to create a 12-month year by adding January. In 452 BCE, February was inserted between January and March. But the lunar year comprising 355 days was full of confusion as it was ten and one fourth days shorter than the solar year. Occasional intercalation of an extra month of 27 or 28 days called Mercedonius (from merces, meaning wages, since workers were paid at this time of year), as per direction of Numa Pompilius to make the calendar correspond approximately to the solar year confounded the matter to the point of extremity.

**Julian Calendar :** Julius Caesar (100 – 44 BCE) brought about a drastic reformation and improvement on the ancient Roman calendar and introduced a solar-based calendar in 46 BCE. He decreed that the New Year would occur January 1 because it contained the festival of the god of gates. The Roman republican calendar still contained only 355 days.

January, April, June, August, September, November and December were of 29 days; March, May, July, and October of 31 days and February of 28 days. Being a lunar calendar, it was shorter by 10.25 days of a 365.25-day tropical year. Then an intercalary month was inserted between February 23 and 24. It consisted of 27 or 28 days that were added once every two years. The remaining 5 days of February were left out. Thus the intercalation was equivalent to an additional 22 or 23 days and in a four year period the total days in the calendar became  $(4 \times 355) + 22 + 23 = 1465$  days. The average days per year were equal to  $1465/4$  or 366.25 days.

**Gregorian Calendar:** In October of 1582, the Gregorian calendar correcting slight errors in the Julian calendar was introduced and decreed by the papal bull inter gravissimas by Pope Gregory XIII. According to the Julian calendar, the length of a solar year was 365.25 days. But it was later found that a solar year is equal to 365.2422 days and 365.2424 days in tropical and equinox years. As a result, the Julian calendar missed nearly a day every 131 years. 10 extra days were omitted from October in the Julian calendar to adjust in the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, the day following October 4 on which Gregorian calendar was adopted, was counted as October 15, 1582. Unlike a Julian calendar, all centurial years though divisible

## Origin of months' names

**JANUARY:** Named after Janus, a two faced god of doors and gateways whose one face looked back on the old year while the other looked forward to the new one.

**FEBRUARY:** Named in honour of the Februa festival, personified by Februus, the Roman god of purification.

**MARCH:** Named after Mars, the god of war, with his month ushering in the start of the war season as hostilities resume after halting during winter.

**APRIL:** Named after Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, or the Latin word aperire, meaning "to open," representing the season plant life begins to open in spring.

**MAY:** Named after Maia, a goddess of the earth and of plant growth, symbolising a month associated with a surge in plant activity.

**JUNE:** Named after Juno, the goddess of marriage and childbirth and also the wife of Jupiter, the king of gods. June has always been a popular month for weddings, as the goddess would bring happiness and prosperity to all those who wed in her month.

**JULY:** Previously called Quintilis, which is Latin for "fifth," the month was later named after Julius Caesar in honour of his reorganising the calendar in 46 BCE.

**AUGUST:** Named after Augustus Caesar, the grandnephew and adopted heir of Julius Caesar, who in 8 BCE transformed Rome from a republic into an empire ruled by an emperor.

**SEPTEMBER:** From the Latin word septem (seven), as this had been the seventh month of the ancient Roman calendar which started the year in March.

**OCTOBER:** From the Latin word octo (eight).

**NOVEMBER:** From the Latin word novem (nine).

**DECEMBER:** From the Latin word decem (ten).



by 4 are not leap years. In that case they should be divisible by 400. After protracted controversies, the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted by the Church.



BUDDHADEV NANDI

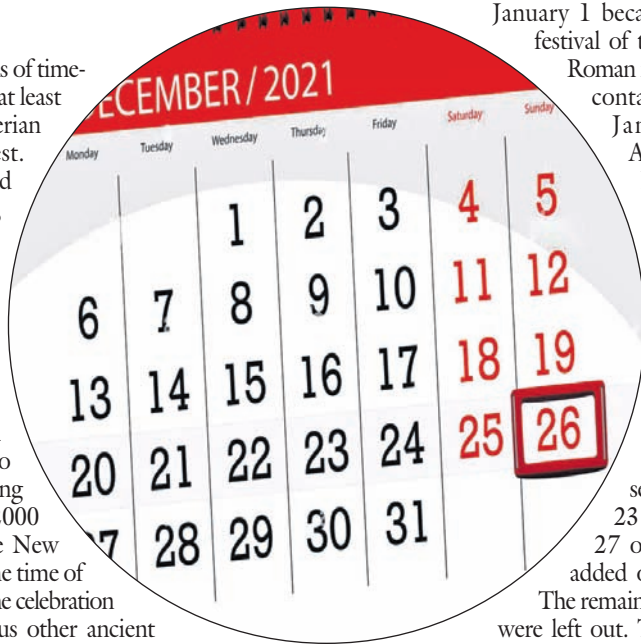
According to Collins a calendar is a chart or device which displays the date and the day of the week, and often the whole of a particular year divided up into months. The word 'calendar' is derived from the Latin calendarium "account book" or 'kalendae', the first day of the month in the Roman republican calendar when debts fell due and accounts were reckoned.

**Antiquity of Calendars:** The methods of time-keeping go back to prehistoric age at least as old as the Neolithic. The Sumerian calendar is considered the earliest. However, a team of researchers found 12 large pits in Aberdeenshire, Scotland that mirrored the moon's phases. These pits are estimated to be 10,000 years old. They are believed by some to be the oldest calendars in the world.

**Concept of the New Year:** The city of Babylon in ancient Mesopotamia or modern-day Iraq is credited to have the earliest record of instituting the concept of the New Year in 2000 BCE about 4,000 years ago. The New Year would be celebrated around the time of the vernal equinox in mid-March. The celebration would last for eleven days. Various other ancient cultures began their New Year on different dates.

**Types of Calendars:** There are different types of calendar including solar calendar, lunar calendar and lunisolar calendar. In a solar calendar dates indicate the season and the position of the sun relative to the stars. The first solar calendar is believed to have been developed by the Egyptians. They used a fixed point of the annual sunrise reappearance of Sirius colloquially known as Dog Star in the eastern horizon that coincided with the annual deluge of the river Nile. They first shaped a calendar comprising 365 days of 12 months of 30 days each with 5 days added at the end of the year. But their calendar was not perfect as they failed to account for the extra fraction of a day.

**Roman Origin:** However, the present New Year day is considered to have Roman origin. The dating system evolved from the Greek lunar calendar. The Romans borrowed parts of their



# Sunny's high expectations

Actress Sunny Leone opens up on her latest dance number *Madhuban*, crooned by Kanika Kapoor. She has all the hopes from her latest song and believes it will be well received by her fans and listeners.

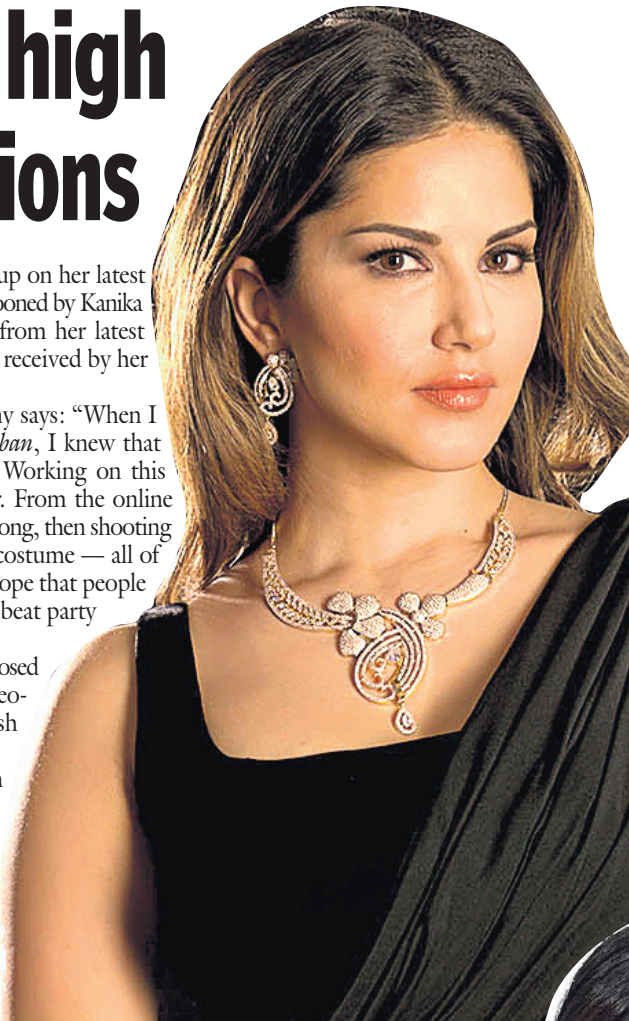
Talking about the song, Sunny says: "When I shot for a big song like *Madhuban*, I knew that everyone was going to like it. Working on this song has been unlike any other. From the online digital campaign to learning the song, then shooting for it and also getting into the costume — all of it was a lot of hard work and I hope that people enjoy watching it. It's a high upbeat party number."

The peppy track has been composed by Shaarib and Toshi and choreographed and directed by Ganesh Acharya.

Sunny says that working with Kanika has always been fun and she believes that this song will get much attention like their previous hits.

*Madhuban* is released on Saregama Music YouTube channel.

IAN S



# Nora on her looks in *Dance Meri Rani*

Actress Nora Fatehi has presented a blend of diverse cultures and styles from different parts of Africa in her latest song *Dance Meri Rani*.

Along with popular authentic Afro dance moves hailing from countries like Nigeria, Senegal, and Ghana, Nora has also paid attention to getting the look right as she dons ash blonde light brown curly hair for one of the looks in the song.

Nora said: "Growing up, I was surrounded by beautiful African women, be it my family members, my friends, my mother, who were blessed with beautiful curly Afro-like hair. I was always in awe of the variety of beauty we have in Africa from different shades of skin tones to different textures of hair."

She said she has always wanted to celebrate that as an artiste.

"For years I've seen international artistes beautifully represent African hair styles, fashion and dance in various content across the globe. The African in me always wanted to celebrate Afro beauty and Afro dance on a big scale through my art! With *Dance Meri Rani* I knew this was my chance to do just that," added Nora.

IAN S



# Sonu goes into action mode

Actor Sonu Sood has been roped in to star in action thriller *Fateh* directed by Abhinandan Gupta.

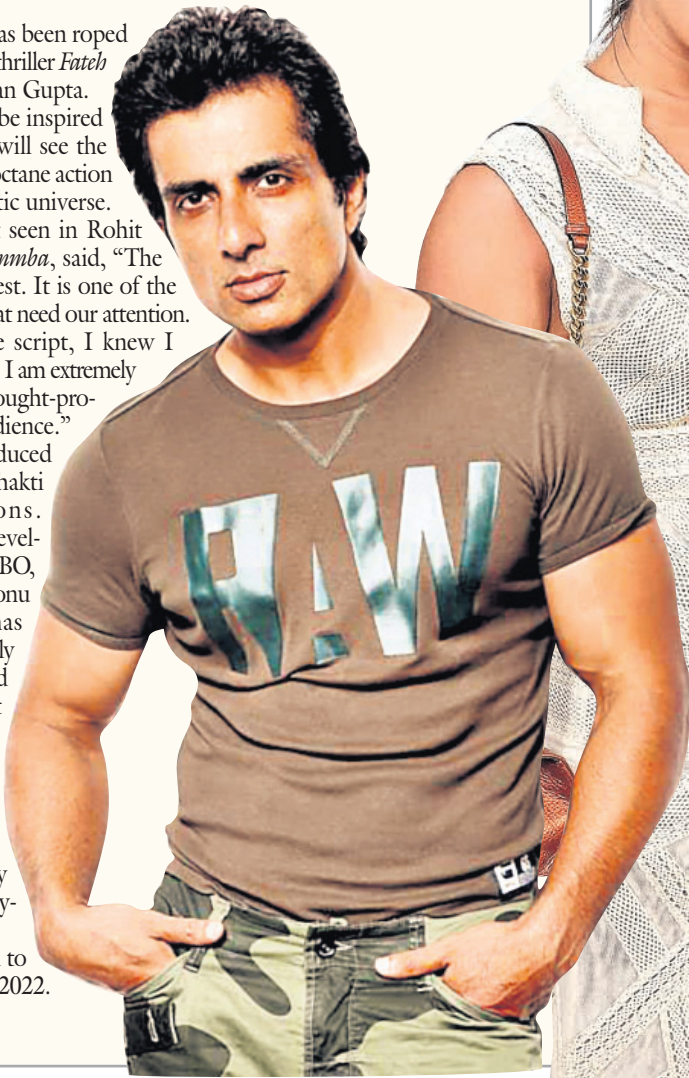
The film, touted to be inspired by real-life incidents, will see the actor pulling off high-octane action sequences in a cinematic universe.

Sonu, who was last seen in Rohit Shetty's cop movie *Simmba*, said, "The story piqued my interest. It is one of the most crucial subjects that need our attention. As soon as I read the script, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I am extremely excited to bring this thought-provoking story to the audience."

The film will be produced by Zee Studios and Shakti Sagar Productions. Commenting on the development, Shariq Patel, CBO, Zee Studios shared, "Sonu is a fine actor and has proved himself constantly for the last decade and a half. But given what he has done over the last year has made him a true hero. I'm sure his return to the big screen as the protagonist in such a gripping story will be exciting for everyone."

The film is expected to go on the floors in early 2022.

AGENCIES



# Nick showers praise on wife Priyanka

Recently, Nick Jonas took to his social media handle to shower praise on Priyanka Chopra for her performance in *The Matrix Resurrections*. The singer shared a poster and a still from the film as he penned a note for his wife.

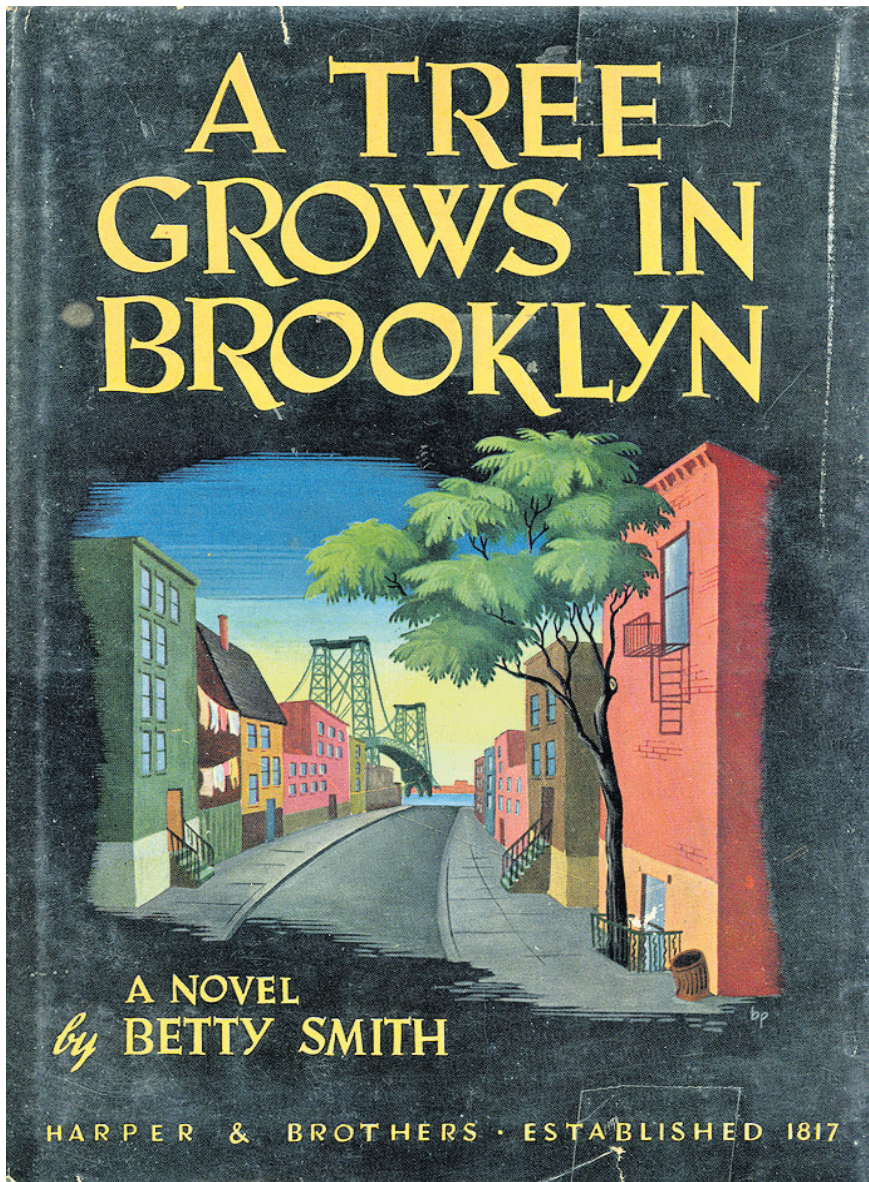
He first shared the poster and wrote, "Congratulations to my amazing wife and the entire cast of *The Matrix Resurrections*. What an incredible film." Then, he posted a still of PeeCee from the film and wrote, "Proud of you."

Also, Priyanka's mom Madhu Chopra shared a stunning picture with the actress from the premiere of *The Matrix Resurrections*. She wrote, "Celebrating the dedication you've shown on the way to this achievement. You've earned every bit of the success. Heartfelt Congratulations and Best wishes for the launch of Matrix and all your future endeavors."

AGENCIES



# Timeless in Appeal



years and submitted her writing to the school magazine and took home her writing to her mother with pride.

Francie grew up the hard way even escaping an assault by a predator, making do with little at home and intermittent jobs that added to the family coffer. Meanwhile, as she turned fourteen her father died even while her mother was

Francie loved and admired her father because he was handsome, cheerful and had a great singing voice. Often overcome by a sense of inadequacy he would confess to her his inability to make a proper living to support the family

pregnant and she grew up, often in loneliness as she struggled to reconcile with her father's loss.

She was romantically inclined towards a soldier who after pledging his love returns home to marry another. Finally, she meets Ben who opens up new vistas of aspiration for her and she secures a place at the University of Michigan and she prepares to leave.

The book ends with her mother's remarriage to the kindly police man who accepts her family and their shifting to a new home and Francie collecting little things, memorabilia of her life before she leaves. She sees a young girl sitting on the fire escape through the window with a book on her lap and a bag of candy and she sees herself.

This book is a re-read for me and I read it this time in the toxic environment of the pandemic, as I did many years ago, tremulous with tears. An American classic by Betty Smith, timeless in appeal, a treasured rite of passage for those who call themselves readers. It is about a girl growing up in Williamsburg, a suburb of Brooklyn, an aspirational adolescent determined to make life more liveable. It is the bildungsroman of a young girl whose daily living is plagued by poverty, powered by hope, family ties, tough love, strife, tragedy and uncertainty. As the New York Times says "If you miss A Tree Grows in Brooklyn you will deny yourself a rich experience."

Semi autobiographical, it is a story of childhood and familial relationships fraught with a resilience that runs through the novel the main metaphor of the book, the hardy "Tree of Heaven" signifying its persistent ability to grow and flourish. "It grew in boarded up lots, and out of neglected rubbish heaps and it was the only tree that grows out of cement". "No matter where its seed fell, it made a tree which struggled to reach the sky."

It was the tree in Francie's yard and here sitting on the fire escape the eleven year old imagined every Saturday afternoon in summer that she was living in the tree.

Francie, the protagonist of the story, came of Irish Austrian parentage in a town of migrants of different nationalities eking out difficult lives with courage.

Francie and her brother Neely had more than their share of deprivation and suffering which is the lot of a great city's poor. Her mother Katie, was a cleaning woman taking on the cleaning of apartments and the mainstay of the family while her father John was a singing waiter, addicted to alcohol with off and on jobs.

Francie loved and admired her father because he was handsome, cheerful and had a great singing voice. Often overcome by a sense of inadequacy he would confess to her his inability to make a proper living to support the family. Frugal to a fault, pragmatic Katie was determined that her children should have a good education to better their circumstances. Semi literate herself, she was encouraged by her German mother Mary, the moral guide of the family. There are two great books. Shakespeare's is a great book. "I have heard tell all the wonder of life is in that book; all that man has learned of beauty, that entire he may know of wisdom and living are on those pages". The other great book is the Bible. "I believe

that the Protestant Bible contains more of the loveliness of the greatest story on this earth and beyond it". She must read a page of these every day to the child so "she will grow up knowing of what is great - knowing that these tenements of Williamsburg are not the whole world."

Francie and her brother religiously heard the readings from Shakespeare and the Bible every night and she began to live a life of imagination to escape her dreary circumstances. The shabby neighbourhood library was her favourite haunt and she tried to read a book a day and found joy in her reading, at peace with the world "as the leaf shadows shifted and summer passed." Brimming with

optimism, it was by no means a gloomy portrait of the times. Francie grew up selling junk with her brother for a few coins, finding fun and humour in the neighbourhood stores, and with aunts who equally poor added colour and support to the family.

She muddled through school with good teachers and bad, the two visiting teachers who taught music and art "were the gold and silver sun-splash in the great muddy river of schooldays". Francie found her creativity too in her school



SUDHA DEVI NAYAK



# Snigdha

PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP