

JUNE 5-11, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TODAY

Let's save our greenery



MY SUNDAY

Born in Puri, raised in Darjeeling and making a fortune in Bangalore, rapper Samir Rishu Mohanty aka Big Deal looks forward to his upcoming music video 'Mere Jaisa' which has been shot entirely at Belgadia Royal Palace of Mayurbhanj district



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Working day

For me, Sunday is like any other day of the week. My day begins with some breathing exercises followed by an hour of workout at the gym. I prefer to have heavy breakfast and sit for hours to get the new compositions right.

Adventure lover

I am a fan of adventure sports. So, I go for trekking, hiking and other adventure activities on the city outskirts at my leisure which makes my day.

Cheat meal

I indulge in cheat meals when I am out of the city. Mostly, I prefer to taste the food of the region I travel to. But at home, my favourite food is Pakhala (watered rice) and mutton curry. I am also fond of eating dry fruits, ragi, rice & chicken curry when I idle at home.

Sticking to roots

I am looking forward to my new music video *Mere Jaisa*, directed by Ashutosh Pattnaik. In a bid to put Odisha and its culture on a global platform, the video has been entirely shot at Belgadia Palace of Mayurbhanj district.

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

- Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.
- Blunt pencils are really pointless.
- 6:30 is the best time on a clock, hands down.
- The rotation of Earth really makes my day.



A MAILBOX

Dear Sir, Last week's cover story "A lost art" was well-timed. Even a decade ago, postmen were found carrying bundles of postcards, inland letters and envelopes. Gone are those days when mail boxes used to be brimmed with letters, envelopes and other postal materials. Here, I compose a short poem to express the miserable condition of the mailbox.

*Attached to an old, dilapidated roadside wall,
An almost unused mailbox is musing her glorious past;
When the postmen used to unveil her breast
Twice a day, brimmed with words of heart.
Now nobody cares to drop a letter except a girl of seven.
She writes to her mother who rests in peace in heaven.
The box is now like an old lady with withering dream,
Brooding over to disappear in the passage of time.*

BUDDHADEV NANDI, BANKURA

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



Let's save our greenery

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TODAY

At a time when the planet faces serious environmental challenges, it is not at all difficult to execute infrastructure projects without harming the environment, say experts

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

If it was Aarey Colony in Mumbai then, it is MLA Colony in Bhubaneswar now. Scenarios are more or less the same in both the cities. Greenery is the casualty. While thousands of trees were felled to house a multi-level car shed for the metro rail in Mumbai, back home, acres of green slice at the heart of Bhubaneswar is being cleaned up for a mega housing project, the official residence of state Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Why is it always the greenery that has to make way for infrastructure projects, ask several environment lovers. While the Temple City

Bhubaneswar is gradually turning into a hot cauldron thanks to mindless concretization and massive greenery loss to natural causes like cyclone, government's current decision to fell hundreds of trees to construct houses and other amenities for the MLAs has sparked sharp resentment among the citizens.

People across the spectrum starting from environment lovers to politicians to civil society members have joined hands to protest the environmental destruction. So much so, that a few MLAs, who are the likely beneficiaries of the project openly, voiced their outrage at the felling of trees.

Though this citizen-led protest forced the construction company and the forest department to temporarily stop the felling of trees, uncertainty still loomed on the fate of several hundreds of old trees in the MLA Colony till filing of this report.

This World Environment Day, **Sunday POST** talked to a few environmentalists over the issue and here's what they have to say.

Adopt 'blue and green' policy

Known as a green warrior, Odisha Environmental Society Secretary Jaykrushna Panigrahi says, "The chopping of trees came as a rude shock not only to me but to all the nature lovers of the city. We already have caused much damage to the greenery and let's not cause more harm to the environment of Bhubaneswar. Moreover, the best option would have been to convert the area with such lush green cover to a Nagar Van, a scheme launched by the

Central government and accepted by the state government. In the present scenario, when the whole earth is reeling under challenges like pollution, global warming and climate change, the foremost task for the city administration is to adopt the policy of 'blue and green', which refers to creating additional water bodies and expanding the greenery by undertaking massive plantations of indigenous species. But unfortunately, the administration is just doing the opposite."

There is a need to make long-term planning for a city's development in such a way that humanity coexists with nature and the environmental problems are addressed genuinely so as to enhance the liveability of a city. The leaders as well as the administrators are required to adopt the novel concepts of city development by emphasizing more on trees, biodiversity and water bodies, and identifying the sources of pollution for corrective actions, adds Panigrahi.



More grownup trees, more water bodies

The question is whether the trees still celebrate their freedom in and around Bhubaneswar or they are just ceremonial pieces, asks Piyush Ranjan Rout, an urban planner and an environment activist.





A unique way of protesting by Prerana president Dilip Srichandan and others



Schoolkids took part in painting expo protesting felling of trees



Prafulla Samantara



Sudarshan Das



Dilip Srichandan



JK Panigrahi



Piyush Rout

“A couple of years ago on World Forestry Day (March 21), Bhubaneswar broke a 64-year-old record with the mercury rising to 42.2°C. Similarly on World Environment Day 2012, Bhubaneswar broke the 40-year-old record by touching 46.7°C. The climate of Bhubaneswar hasn't changed overnight. We must have committed some grave errors in the past to reach this stage and this is time to introspect. But what is being done at MLA Colony is anything but introspection,” adds Rout.

People shouldn't forget that today's Bhubaneswar stands on a landscape which was once a forest. So, it is a collective responsibility to restore some part of the forest in the heart of the city and not to clean up the remaining urban forestry. How can one chop down so many old trees to accommodate just two multi-storey skyscrapers having 300 rooms, he further asks.

Rout believes there is a serious lack of understanding between urban plan & architectural design during the execution of the project. He says it's high time the government should impose a complete ban on chopping of trees inside the city. Moreover, they should plant grownup trees and create as many water bodies as possible to offer some relief to the inhabitants of this City.

Plantation on outskirts baffling

Sudarshan Das, the convener of Mahanadi Bachao Andolan, was the first among the activists who took the street to save the trees at MLA Colony. Many civil society members, politicians and people from all walks of life joined him later on. He says, “The state government's decision of cutting old trees and planting saplings as replacement on the city outskirts is baffling to say the least. This will do more harm than good to the environment as no skills are required



Activists raising awareness against chopping of trees

to differentiate between a sapling and a 60 to 70 years old tree. We will not allow a single tree to be felled anymore. We have stopped the dharna for the time being as the cutting of trees has been halted. We will continue our agitation if the administration resumes the tree-cutting.”

The outfit organised a Children's painting show on the harmful effects of tree-felling last week to protest the government action.

It's a criminal offence

Prerana president Dilip Srichandan always remains in forefront regarding environmental issues. This time, he embraced a tree, in the line of Sundarlal Bahuguna's Chipko movement, to protest the chopping of trees.

“This is a conspiracy to rob the city of its sheen. Felling of trees will not only add to the pollution level, the temperature will rise alarmingly,” fumed an angry Srichandan.

Recalling the formation of the city he said, “While laying foundation of Bhubaneswar, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, impressed by the greenery of the city, said that the Temple City will be the greenest, cleanest and pollution free city of India. While the state government claims Bhubaneswar to be the no. 1 Smart City of the country, it is wiping out the green cover instead of adding to its greenery.”

It is a criminal offence to fell trees when the planet faces serious environmental challenges. We will knock at the doors of the National Green Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court if the administration does not withdraw its plan, he warned. Srichandan also submitted a memorandum protesting the destruction of greenery at the capital city of Odisha.

Thick greenery identity of a Smart City

Noted environmental activist Prafulla Samantara who has been a spokesperson for the Dongria Kondhs in their protest against plans for bauxite mining in the Niyamgiri hill range says, “Presence of a large number of old trees contributed significantly to the pleasant climate of Bhubaneswar. However, scores of trees have been felled in the name of infrastructure development over the years causing irreversible damage to the environment. No city can grow by thinning tree population which is why we asked the government to take care of the trees to become a Smart City in true sense but it fell on deaf ears.

“The destruction came to light as it took place at the heart of the capital city. But thousands of trees are being felled, for the benefit of private companies, inside the forests of other districts without anyone's knowledge. This also affects the life and livelihood of local communities but who cares,” adds Samantara.

INPUTS FROM ARINDAM GANGULY, OP
PHOTOS - BIKASH NAYAK, OP

A GOOD CASE IN POINT

Now, construction companies don't give a second thought before felling trees for infra projects. But there were times when the old trees didn't have to make way for expansion of roads in Bhubaneswar



A stretch at Kalinga Nagar



A road connecting Chandaka Square and Nandankanan Road

PIC- BIJAY MANDAL, OP



Environmental activists at the dharna site



Keys to protect the planet

There is a need for creation of decentralised employment opportunities based on local resources so that a vast majority can get absorbed at their own place, which ultimately can reduce further pressure on the environment

Every year we celebrate World Environment Day June 5, since 1974, although the tone was set in the historic UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. The theme this year “Only One Earth” was also the theme in the Stockholm Conference in 1972, emphasizing living sustainably in harmony with nature. In the last 50 years the world has changed dramatically in terms of social, political, economic, technological and environmental aspects. We blindly followed a developmental path that might have brought us many comforts in our life, but definitely at a huge irreparable environmental cost. While transforming social and economic systems and setting our developmental path we did not consider our relationship with nature, the values and ethics our ancestors believed in.

to provide clean air, safe drinking and fresh water, food, housing, transport, technology, education, employment, good health and sanitation to everyone? Would it be possible if we all start living at one place the way we have started moving to the cities. And can cities offer the required opportunity and living standards to everyone? Many ancient civilizations like Dwarka, Indus Valley, and Mesopotamia might have been destroyed due to over population and overstretching their resources beyond the environmental carrying capacity. We have also seen how the Aral Sea has gone dry in front of us. We have not learned from our mistakes and continue overstretching the environmental carrying capacity beyond its planetary boundaries. Gandhiji too have emphasized this in his famous quote, “there is enough on the Earth for everybody’s



Our forefathers were well aware of the planetary boundaries, the relationship between human and nature, and conscious about the resources the planet had given to them. However, 1972, is a historic year for all of us, as we saw a colour photograph of the mother earth for the first time taken by Apollo 17. The world that did not believe in our ancient wisdom got an opportunity to know that our Earth is a closed, finite system and our only home. Fifty years on, ever since we understood the environmental impact of development and the risks associated with it. But what have we achieved? The environmental crisis got further severe, the earth has become warmer, and climate change has become a reality. If we consider the world population today, it is not an easy task to provide basic minimum facilities to 7.5 billion people, forget about other living beings on the planet. Is it possible



place, which ultimately can reduce further pressure on the environment. We have many sustainable resources around us, which can be used to create millions of employment opportunities particularly in the rural and tribal areas. Resources like bamboo, wood, clay, stone, bone, horn, leaves, stems, barks, fibre, fruits, roots, flowers along with the traditional skills and knowledge across the states can be the base for green enterprises and employment. This will also stop forced migration of people in search of employment to cities. We need a sincere mapping of available and possible green resources of every district to provide livelihood opportunities while addressing the issue of climate change. The Government of Odisha has set excellent examples in this regard through Orissa Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and Mission Shakti in this regard. Similarly, there are many NGOs and corporates who have done exemplary work of creating green employment opportunities using local resources. These initiatives should be scaled-up at national and state level whereby we can create income, livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities without causing further damage to the environment.

need, but not enough for everybody’s greed.” Our forefathers lived in a much-decentralized way in order to put minimal impact on the environment.

Time has given an opportunity again. Let us relook at the ancient value systems about man-nature relationship so that we can save the environment and ecology for our future generations. Providing employment and livelihood opportunities is a big challenge that directly and indirectly impacts on the environment and climate cycle. But with systematic planning and approach we can create millions of green employment opportunities without harming the environment. There is a need for creation of decentralized employment opportunities based on local resources so that a vast majority can get placed at their own

The author is known for her initiatives on bamboo and eco-friendly jewellery and her movement on environment



PRIYADARSINI DAS

Heartless streaming on Kanccha Lannka



Marriage is a social tradition where a couple vows to stay together forever. But at times, they fail to live up to the commitment. Upcoming Odia short film *Heartless* revolves around one such plot that tells the story of love, marriage and separation. The film was released on the local OTT platform--Kanccha Lannka June 3. Actors Mamata, Preetiraj and Prasantjeet play lead roles in the movie.

Written by Sudharag Banerjee the film is directed by Raja D who has earlier helmed several superhit music videos and short films including *Breakup Rules* and *Supari*. The dialogues are written by Nishant Majhithia while Prakash Paharaj is the producer of the movie. Sarbeshwar Das is taking care of the cinematography, production house sources revealed.

The makers hope that the film will also be loved by the audience as much as the other short films like *Rangeela* and *Truly Yours* which were streamed on the app. PNN

Dishani Shining



From the set of Odia film *Indradhanu*

Utsav, a short film on menstrual hygiene, was adjudged the best among 35 other entrants at a Unicef-sponsored children's film competition held last World Menstruation Day, May 28. Though the film boasted an ensemble cast, 11-year-old Dishani, who played the central role, earned much praise from the jury as well as the viewers for her honest portrayal.

A Class VII student of Kalinga Nagar Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dishani also has showcased her acting talent on stage in Odia plays *Jupakastha* and *Baji Rout*. Besides, she plays an important character in *Ghananila*, an episode of Suryasnata Tripathy's upcoming anthology film *Indradhanu*.

"Dishani aka Tithi is a multidimensional talent and I see a lot of possibilities in her. PNN

Apart from her acting abilities, she is also good at drawing, painting, bottle art and crafts," says *Utsav* director Tapas Rout. Interestingly, her real parents are her reel parents in Tapas' award-winning film.

Indradhanu director Arjun Samantray says, "There are only a few actors who enjoy the craft of acting from such an early age and Dishani is one of them. Besides, she can easily get into the skin of her character which is quite amazing."

Dishani loves Disney movies and is also a big fan of South Korean girl group BLACKPINK.

Asked how she developed her acting skills, Dishani says, "I have learnt acting by observing my mom's performance on stage, films and TV shows. I also joined a National School of Drama-sponsored acting workshop conducted by Dola Sir (NSDian Dolgovind Rath) which boosted my confidence."

For the unversed, Dishani is the daughter of poet and state award winning actress Bhaswati Basu and granddaughter of eminent artiste late Asim Basu while her father Bijay Mandal heads the feature department of English daily **OrissaPOST**. PNN

Audio release of Odia movie *Mayavee*



State Agriculture and Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo released the audio CD of upcoming Odia movie *Mayavee* at the Geeta Gobinda Bhawan here last week in the presence of cast and crew of the unit.

An Aneez Entertainment production, the movie has Amlan and Bhoomika in the lead while Sudhanshu Mohan Sahu is the director. Produced by Tapan Kumar, the other important actors of the movie

include Chakradhar Jena, Kunal Patnaik, and Prashant Patra. The music of the movie has been scored by Yagya Das. This apart, famous magician PC Sorcar's granddaughter Moubani Sorcar also plays a special role in the movie. The movie will hit the screen June 30.

The movie is a murder mystery and will certainly be liked by the viewers, said producer Tapan Kumar. PNN

Producer Jhilik's fourth movie launched

Jhilik Motion Pictures, a production house owned by actress Jhilik Bhattacharya, launched its fourth venture *Priye Tu Mo Sie* last week at the Cuttack Chandi temple in the Silver City.

The cast and crew of the movie including director Sudhasnhu Mohan Sahoo, executive producer Arun Swain, actress Elina Samantray, actor Bhupati Tripathy and creative head Pranay Jethi were present on the mahurat ceremony.

Amlan Das has been roped into play the male lead opposite Elina while Bobby Mishra, Isha Chakraborty and Abhishek Giri play other important roles in the movie. Baidyanath Das scores the music.

The production company had earlier made *Rudrani*, *Kismis* and *Tora Mora Katti*. *Rudrani* will be released during the Rath Yatra. PNN



Get your wheels ready

AVID TRAVELERS NOW INTEND TO AVOID TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AS THEY KNOW THAT NOTHING GIVES FREEDOM LIKE HITTING THE ROAD AND SEEING WHERE IT TAKES THEM

With travel restrictions easing and summer travel on the horizon, vacationers are ready to hit the roads like never before. Staycations may have felt like the only option for the past few summers, but those local adventures have certainly helped the ardent travelers appreciate the ease and flexibility of having their own wheels when on vacation.

Journey is the vacation
Making good time doesn't mean going fast; it means making sure every minute is a joy. Motorways might be convenient, but the real adventures are to be found on the backroads, where we're free to turn off and explore every interesting forest, building, or beach we happen to stumble across.



Last year, 48 per cent of Indian tourists rented a car as part of their vacation, giving them all the freedom of car ownership - at a fraction of the cost, and pretty much anywhere in the world.

Right car is vital
Above all, the car needs to be right for the trip. A compact car can make sense if the itinerary includes lots of busy city streets - but for a long trip with plenty of people and stacks of luggage, there's nothing like having some extra space to stretch out. Whether looking for an SUV for extra comfort and space or something with a bit more horsepower, there are so many travel agencies that offer travelers a broad range of rental cars with easy-to-use search functions.

This indicates that travelers intend to avoid taking public transportation on their next trip because they know that nothing gives freedom like hitting the road and seeing where it takes them. It's all about giving people the freedom to explore the world on their own terms, which fits with today's trend toward more independent, personalised travel.

Planning pays off
Even the most spontaneous adventure is better with a bit of prep. Not just the physical stuff (from snacks and drinks to sunscreen and appropriate footwear), but answers to a few important questions, like "Who's driving?" or "How many hours a day?"

Here're some top summer road trip tips to make it easier for everyone to experience the world. Short, long, planned, unplanned... A good road trip does not have a single format. Nonetheless, there are a few basic principles that apply in any situation:

MUST HAVES

- Water bottles**
Always carry at least a couple of bottles of water when you start. Drinking at least two glasses of water every hour while driving is the minimum to avoid dehydration.
- Tinted glass**
Ultra-violet light can damage skin, eyes and prolonged exposure can cause skin cancer. Some protection, as allowed by law (sunfilms are banned but manufacturer's tinting is allowed), can make a big difference.
- First-aid Kit**
When you are driving for long periods in the scorching heat, your body will lose a lot of essential salts and electrolytes as you perspire. To be prepared for emergencies, its best to keep packets of electrolytes and necessary medicines handy.-
- Insulated bags**
The heat is not only damaging to your skin but also speeds up damage to food, including fresh fruits and vegetables. Store them in insulated bags and keep it under the front seats, an air-cooled glove box or the compartment under the armrest.
- Emergency tools**
You cannot rule out minor breakdowns on a long journey no matter how well you service the car. So it's best to carry an emergency tool kit. You do not want to be stranded in the blazing sun waiting for the friendly neighbourhood mechanic because you left the tool kit at home.

MUST AVOIDS

- Open parking**
The internal temperature of a car parked in sunlight can reach between 55-60 degrees Celsius. Try to park in the shade and do not leave children or pets inside, even with the windows open. Temperatures can rise as much as 12 degrees within 15-20 minutes.
- CDs on dashboard**
CDs when left in direct sunlight or even left inside your car would have the layer containing the data peeling off as temperatures rise (66 degrees Celsius). Avoid leaving CDs on the dashboard or in direct sunlight.
- Cluttering**
Air conditioning reduces the mileage of the car. It's imperative to remove all non-essential items from inside the car so that the AC is not over-burdened while cooling the interiors of the car.
- Alcohol**
Avoid drinking any alcoholic beverage during the day as it can lead to a severe dehydration. It is also advisable not to drink even 24 hours before a long drive as sitting at the wheel for long spells is exhausting and dehydrating.
- Buy fuel, not vapour**
Avoid buying petrol or diesel during a hot day. Petrol is sold by volume at presumed 20 degrees Celsius. Typical day temperatures can cross 40 degrees in India. At that temperature the fuel expands and you get less volume than paid for. Try filling up at early mornings or evenings.

AGENCIES





Priya



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP