



Safer Internet Day – February 8

Protect your digital future





of all tra

I love to play all sorts of sports like basketball, swimming, and football. Adventure is something that my soul craves for. Be it trekking, diving, kayaking, you name it, I'm up for it!

turn into chef on

weekends and gear up for the kitchen. Be it desi style mutton curry or Italian pasta, I enjoy the whole process. I also love the street food of Cuttack. the Dahibara aloodum at Bidanasi being my favourite

> Being a Katakia at heart, I love to hang out with the friends

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK. OF

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SWIMMER.

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E REST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- I can totally keep secrets. It's the people I tell them to that can't.
- A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age
- A doctor tells a woman she can no longer touch anything alcoholic. So she gets a divorce.
- Aging gracefully is like the nice way of saying you're slowly

looking worse

REVIVING TRADITIONAL ART

Sir. 'Fading into oblivion' (Jan 29) was a timely reminder on the dire need for giving a new lease of life to the age-old art of wall painting and murals in Odisha. The resuscitation efforts made by INTACH for promoting the wall paintings by declaring Raghurajpur as a 'Heritage Vllage' and encouraging the sourcing and usage of natural dyes & ingredients, the pioneering efforts of the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi in promoting 'Jhoti' (Alpona/Rangoli) and unearthing hidden creativity by hosting competitions in Koraput district, the initiatives of the Dhenkanal royal family for promoting 'Pattachitra' by nurturing young talent and developing entrepreneurial skills for pursuing a sustainable means of livelihood and the laudable endeavour of Baleswari Kala Kendra in Mayurbhani district for honing the wall painting skills of the tribal women and promoting the lacguer craft are highly commendable. Backed by community effort, similar restoration efforts need to be replicated throughout the state for conserving and promoting the conventional living art forms. Dr M Krasa, the reputed Czech indologist has thus eulogised the pristine artwork: "Strange is this world of Orissa paintings, a world of folk imagination, familiar to the eye, close to the heart, bringing joy and expressing life".

AMIT BANERJEE, New Delhi

With family



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

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portunities in various fields, it certainly is one of man' greatest inventions. However, with opportunities come the threats. There would hardly be anyone who has spent time on the Internet and not faced trolls or abuses. With the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet also serves as a weapon in the arsenal of cybercriminals to upgrade their cyber attacks. So, the Internet is now both a boon and bane.

Therefore, for a safer and more responsible use of online technology by people around the world, Safer Internet Day is celebrated on the second day of the second week of the second month of every year.

Ahead of this day, a few cybergeeks shared their thoughts on safer internet practices with Sunday POST

'Cybercrime and cyber security are directly proportional'

Cuttack born Sindhu Biswal, a digital marketer, mentors the start-up founders. He says that the policies are yet not tight in India when asked about the safer internet practices.

"A lot of chats, and conversations are encrypted which has a massive scope of data leak. And primarily there is a big data gap as well. For example, there are some landing pages where you go and share your email ids and phone numbers which get sold in the dark web market and eventually your data is leaked and misutilised," added

Can one use AI to fortify cyber security? To this he continues: "Yes, there's a massive scope. What AI can do is, it can help in image recognition during cyber security, it can be implemented in the ATM machines, in all websites, to track malhappen in cyber security."

Asked whether there is any interconnection between cybercrime and cyber security, he said, "I think they are directly proportional because some of the people who are involved in cyber security, are also getting involved in cyber crime. But the point is the tighter you stretch the security, loopholes will keep appearing.'

Sindhu was of the opinion that AI should be included in academics as soon as possible. "Many of us are not aware of the non legit website of a domain or the email which has malware or where phishing activity is happening or not. The pace at which we are moving, this has to be a mandatory subject in elementary schooling systems. Also that you can't teach this stuff in one grade and expect people to get updated because every year the models of crime changes so it has to be an ongoing practice where you update the curriculum and the government has to work with private folks to empower this."

Another good practice to remain is to secure the devices, he said.

"Everyone should know that information is very private and personal. None of your private moments should be out there in public. Let's say if you have a public channel on Instagram and you have a baby born tomorrow, just don't go and post the pictures, even if you do then don't go and tag the location. That puts you in a vulnerable position. If any website or any person asks you for your contact information like numbers, then you need to start questioning. The new debit and credit cards have RFID, start learning what it is. Do not keep your credit cards in back pockets, because somebody can touch it and take money out of it.

that when somebody asks for OTP or CVV, do not share it, learn about it. Understand

how you keep your settings clean on Facebook and Instagram. There's a way on Google, Facebook and Instagram where you can keep on removing data of the advertisers that are targeting you, concluded Sindhu.

'Value your data the same way you value your time'

Aman Kharwal is a writer, a data scientist, and a data storyteller. He contributes in the Data Science community also.

He likes to share how businesses from various domains are using Data Science to solve their business prob-



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. **AND COMPANIES THAT OFFER CLOUD SERVICES ARE MOST LIKELY** TO BE THE **VICTIMS OF** CYBERCRIMES. THEREFORE, THEY **SHOULD HIRE THE BEST CYBER SECURITY PROFESSIONALS TO KEEP THEIR** SYSTEMS SAFE, **SAYS DATA SCIENTIST AMAN KHARWAL**

certain

but



founder of Statso.io, a platform for Data Science professionals, explains the downsides of machine learning and AI.

The

"There are several downsides to the use of machine learning and AI. Machine learning algorithms can be influenced by the data that they are trained on, and if the data is biased, the algorithm will also be biased. This can lead to unfair or inaccurate predictions or decisions. Besides, Machine Learning algorithms rely on high-quality data to be accurate, and if the data is incomplete, inconsistent, or incorrect, the algorithm will also be inaccurate," he said and added that privacy concern is also a big issue.

It is important for organizations to consider these downsides when implementing ML and AI, and to take appropriate steps to mitigate them.

Aman believes that the governments, financial institutions, and companies that offer cloud services are most likely to be the victim of cybercrimes. Hence such organizations should hire the best cyber security professionals to keep their systems safe.

"I want to tell everyone to never share their information on any platform they don't trust. It's easy to save your passwords online today; it's easy for the computer to remember is genuine. Your data has value that you don't know about, so value your data the same way you value your time. Don't give or leave it anywhere," signed off Aman.

sure you are not saving

your details on any platform you have just visited

for the first time. Don't

click on any link before

ensuring if the sender

'No online activity is completely safe' Geekydev is a

passionate soul about technology. His instagram page @geekydev.in (More like my TechGram) is a community channel with more than 115k followers that shares useful content and resources for tech enthusiasts to level up their skills. Here's

what he had to say about Internet safety. "While following safer internet practices can help reduce the risk of your information being compromised, it is important to understand that no online activity is completely safe. Even with the best security measures in place, there is always a chance that your

information could be accessed by someone with malicious intent. It is important to be aware of the potential risks and to take steps to minimize them as much as possible, such as using strong and unique passwords,

vention, malware detection, and phishing attacks. It can also identify vulnerabilities in systems and networks, prioritising them based on their potential impact and the likelihood of being exploited. AI-based systems can analyze large amounts of security data to identify patterns and anomalies that may indicate a security incident. Overall, the use of AI in cyber security can help organisations detect and respond to threats more quickly and effectively, and can improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of their security operations."

Quizzed about the reasons behind simultaneous growth of cyber crime and cyber security, he said, "There are several reasons. As technology continues to advance, new vulnerabilities and attack methods are constantly being discovered, which can be exploited by cybercriminals. Then, the widespread use of the Internet and interconnected devices have made it easier for cybercriminals to access and target victims from anywhere in the world. Third, the value of data and information has increased, so as the incentive for cybercriminals to target it. This has led to an increase in the number and sophistication of cyber attacks. Cybercrime is becoming more profitable, and the return on investment is higher than traditional crime. This has led to an increase in the number of cybercriminals and organised cybercrime groups.

Talking about the potential victims of cyber crime, Geekydev explained, "Cyber crimes can affect anyone who uses the Internet,

groups are more likely to fall victim to cyber crimes than others such as small businesses, older adults and teenagers. Small businesses often have fewer resources to devote to cyber security, and may not have the same level of expertise as larger organizations. Older adults are mostly less familiar with technology and may be more likely to fall for scams. Children and young people are particularly at risk of cyberbullying, online grooming and other forms of exploitation. Then high net worth individuals and organizations may be targeted by cybercriminals for financial gain. On protection against it, he said, "Using

strong and unique passwords for all online accounts can protect them from being duped. Then you have to be careful about the information you share online, and think twice before sharing personal information such as your home address or phone number. There is also a need to keep your software and devices up to date to ensure that you have the latest security patches and features.

"It is also important to not click on links or enter personal information in response to unsolicited emails or messages. Apart from installing the required anti-virus in your device, one needs to monitor the accounts and financial systems regularly. If you suspect that your computer or online account has been compromised, seek professional help from a reputable cyber security expert to help you clean up and recover from the incident," cautioned the expert.



'Awards help me push my artistic boundaries'

SAMBALPUR-BASED **SINGER KRISHNA PATEL IS** THE THIRD TEAM MEMBER **OF CULT SONG RANGABATI** TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE COUNTRY'S FOURTH **HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD**

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

dmired by music lovers across the globe and performed internationally in several languages and artistes, Rangabati, a rocking Sambalpuri song, enjoys a cult following. No wonder, the song has earned its third Padma Shri award for female vocalist Krishna Patel after its male playback singer Jitendra Haripal and lyricist Mitrabhanu Gountia.

Here's what the Sambalpur-based singer has to share with Sunday POST about her journey and achievements.

 Congratulations on being nominated for the fourth highest civilian award of the country. What inspired you to become a singer and how has been the journey?

Thank you. I grew up in a musical family; my mother was a singer and my father was an art lover. So I was bitten by the singing bug quite early in life when I observed my mother singing. Even as I have been nominated for a Padma honour as a vocalist, I am still learning the nuances of music and thoroughly exploring many folk styles in order to incorporate them into my craft. I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey which has been exhilarating.

How a Padma honour would help you to inspire others with your work?

Though it is not going to assist me directly to inspire others, it would act as reinforcement of my efforts to the music industry. This recognition can motivate

others to work hard to achieve their goals. Yes, the award may ibility of my work allowing me to reach and inspire a bigger audience.

You are the third member of the Rangabati team after Jitendra Haripal and Mitrabhanu Gountia to get the award. Do you think it is a little late for you to get the recognition?

No, I don't think so. Every artist makes his/her own distinct journey but I think getting awards should not be the primary goal. What matters is how one's effort has impacted the public and the music industry. Regardless of the circumstance, receiving a Padma honour is recognition of my hard work. I appreciate the acknowledgement and will continue to strive for greatness in my future undertakings. I am overwhelmed.

Can you share some behind the scene stories regarding the birth of Rangabati? And why do you think this song became such a rage across the globe?

 Mitrabhanu sir used the term 'Rangabati' which is the combination of two words 'ranga', which means colour and 'bati', a young woman. And it's a folk song narrating the romantic feelings of two lovers in a forested village. I think because of its lyrics, which were simple and written very beautifully, its smooth composition and the instruments used made it popular among the masses. The song's catchy tune and relatable lyrics about the daily lives of people in rural Odisha played a part in becoming a chartbuster. None of us ever thought that it would become so popular.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in your career and how did you overcome them?

 I learnt my singing skills from numerous gurus since I was a child, and I would be nothing if it weren't for their efforts. I had my shares of challenges and I managed to overcome them with the assistance from my gurus, coworkers, and family and my

You have received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Utkala Pragyan and

also a Doctorate in creative folkart and now a Padma honour. What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment in life?

 All these honours are significant accomplishments and landmarks in my career. If I had to pick one, I would say being selected for Padma honour is my proudest achievement thus far. I am humbled and appreciative of the acknowledgement.

How do you see the future of Sambalpuri songs in the coming years with several new versions of the song evolving in recent times?

It is difficult to predict the future of Sambalpuri music. The traditional form of Sambalpuri music is distinct and has a rich cultural legacy. New versions will evolve and gain traction. However, they must respect the essential characteristics of Sambalpuri music.

Rangabati has featured in Hindi film Kaun Kitne Paani Mein. It has also triggered controversies regarding the remix made by Sona Mohapatra and Rituraj Mohanty. Please share your thoughts on this?

On the matter of remix version and controversy, I would say the singers did not understand the proper story line and wordings of the song, and as a result, they completely changed the entire lyrics which didn't go down well with the fans.

Everyone recognises you as the Rangabati Queen, but it is not the only song that you have sung. And how do you feel about being tagged to this particular number? Can you name a few of your other favourite

I'm grateful and honoured to be labeled as Rangabati queen. Though Rangabati gave me a global identity, I also sang some other popular numbers like Are Lori Matro, Rasro Kelibo, Tui Naru Thelo, Gelhei Rani, and many others.

Rangabati was recorded mostly 40 years back if I am correct, this song has been widely recognised all over the world, what was your reaction when you first heard the song played by Akashvaani?

When I heard Rangabati being played on Akashvani, I was overwhelmed with pride and excitement. Hearing this classic and beloved song played on such a well-known platform was truly a life-changing experience for me. The fact that it was recorded almost 40 years ago and is still widely known around the world attested to its enduring popularity and cultural relevance. It was an honour to be a part of this history.

■ What other place in the country and out of the county have you performed the song with the other artistes and please share your experience?

With my troupe, I have played this song on several stages, including Andaman, Russia, and Indonesia, as well as in India at Delhi, Baroda, and Bhubaneswar during the state government's 'Rangabati nights'.

What advice would you give to young singers who aspire to achieve a similar feat? Can you share your future goals after receiving this award?

My suggestion is to stay true to yourself and your distinct voice. Consistent practice is important, so is taking care of your physical and mental wellbeing. Collaborate with other artists, learn from seasoned mentors, and never stop learning and growing as a musician. As per the future, getting an award is a wonderful honour that makes me push my artistic boundaries. I intend to continue create music that connects with the masses and offers them joy.





me were the best decorations for this occasion," the Koi Mil Gaya actress added.

"When I go back and recall all those times, I feel really blessed". "When it comes to preparation, my mum had a huge role in planning and implementing every single detail. My brother, Sohael, his parents, and both our families made the entire journey smoother," shared Hansika.

Motwani married last December 4th in the 450-year-old Mundota Fort near Jaipur.

AGENCIES



and a gladiator

The fall of over 80 years of Roman peace would not have been possible without Emperor Commodus, a gladiator, a god to his people, and eventually the man responsible for the collapse of the Roman Empire.

Commodus, the son of Marcus Aurelius, led an interesting life, having ruled alongside his father for 15 years and ruled in chaos for 16 years. A 15-year-old Commodus had a difficult start to his rule over the Roman Empire, becoming Rome's thenyoungest emperor. He managed to make quite a name for himself, turning Rome from "a kingdom of gold to one of iron and rust," as Roman historian Dio Cassius famously observed. Whether you view him as a famous figure or one of infamy, he lived an interesting life.

Royal childhood

As soon as he was born August 31, 161AD, Commodus, full name Caesar Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus Augustus, he remained in public glare. In a few years, he became a significant figure as the legitimate son of Marcus Aurelius and Aurelius' first cousin, Faustina the Younger.

When Commodus was six, he had already been made Caesar along with his younger brother, October 12, 166. After his twin brother died in 165 and his younger brother died in 169, he became Marcus Aurelius' sole son. After invading the German tribes along the Danube River, Commodus was declared as the co-ruler and the official heir of the Roman Empire by his father in 176 before latter's death in March 180 due to Antonine Plague.

At just 19 years of age Commodus took over the leadership of the entire Roman Empire. Commodus changed his name to Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus after negotiating a settlement with the Germans almost immediately.

His struggle

When Commodus became the ruler of the Roman Empire, he operated differently from Marcus Aurelius, even though they had worked together for a short while. A prime example would be his swift devaluation of the denarius, the official Roman money, which was the biggest since Nero's first reduction in the value of the currency.

Commodus' reign would be marked by odd decisions like ones that were frequently disagreed upon by his close followers and the majority of his people, but which he nonetheless made. Fortunately, those decisions were not all negative; in fact, Commodus' rule resulted in a significant decrease in military excursions and fights when compared to his father's.

Nonetheless, things quickly deteriorated. Commodus, a teenager and the youngest yet, was the target of an assassination,

ROMAN EMPEROR COMMODUS PUSHED HIS BELIEFS car-OF BEING A GOD AND HAVING SUPERHUMAN ried out by **ABILITIES. WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO** family. In HIS DOWNFALL AT THE HANDS OF 182, his sis-HIS MISTRESS AND FRIENDS ter Lucilla plotted with a group of senators dissatisfied

with Commodus' political choices to assassinate him in order to cut off the empire's head before it led to its downfall. The plan was to assassinate Commodus as he entered a theatre, but that didn't work.

Unfortunately for the group, the assassination failed, and Commodus, yet again simply at age 21, achieved quite a few senators as retaliation. Even extra regrettable



ness and bad

decisions. Four years later, in 186, Commodus executed his chief minister at the request of his army. By this time, although he had not led the empire to war, Commodus began to favour and listen to the army. He chose to appeal to them over the growing dissatisfaction of his own people.

This growing ignorance of what the masses wanted led to much political discourse. This was followed by many more conspiracies, coups, and attempted assassinations, each of which failed and gave rise to a more dictatorial Commodus.

With chaos spreading, more and more of Commodus' enemies attempted to rise to power but were executed by his soldiers. A notable example is Cleander, a favourite of Commodus. In addition to leading the Praetorian Guard, he sold a string of political offices to the highest bidder. Commodus gradually fell into a state of perpetual distrust, sinking into insanity as a result of a series of attempts against his life and the political office he held.

The end of an era

Commodus had fully committed to independent rule by the time he was 29 years old. Despite repeated assassination attempts and survivals, he ruled as if he possessed god-like powers.

Commodus erected statues of himself representing Hercules throughout his empire, leading many devoted followers to the belief that he was a god, equipped with superhuman strength, freedom, and abilities. Commodus eventually claimed to be the son of Jupiter, insisting on bringing about a new order and era for the Roman Empire.

That's in stark contrast to the massive fire that swept through the city of Rome just a year later, destroying many historic landmarks and buildings. In 192, the following year, Commodus declared himself the next Romulus, reestablishing Rome as Colonia Lucia Ánnia Commodiana,

otherwise known as the Colony of Commodus.

Blinded by power, Commodus began fighting in gladiatorial arenas against both fighters and lions. Building off his beliefs of being Hercules, son of Jupiter, Commodus started to imagine he was a god, replacing the head of the Colossus of Nero with his own. As further, he also gave the statue a club, and a bronze lion, and wrote into the statue (now representing Hercules), "the only left-handed fighter to conquer twelve times one thousand men."

In November 192, Commodus arranged the Plebeian Games, where he killed hundreds of animals and won daily fights as a gladiator. The next month, he announced his intention to start the year 193 as consul and gladiator. Alongside that intention, Commodus created a list of the people he planned to have executed once he gained further power.

On that list was Commodus' mistress, Marcia Aurelia Ceionia Demetrias, alongside prefects Laetus and Eclectus. Commodus' descent into insanity and plans to become an absolute ruler led the trio to poison him in a scheme to finally end his rule. This scheme was intended to gradually destroy the Roman peace that spanned nearly

Unfortunately, Commodus vomited the food, surviving yet another assassination attempt. However, they weren't done - rather, they sent Commodus' wrestling partner, Narcissus, to Commodus while he was bathing, strangling him while in the bath.

Once the Senate learned of Commodus assassination, they ruled him a public enemy prior to reestablishing Rome and the surrounding areas. As a result, all his statues were demolished, his body was buried, and the Year of Five Emperors began. This created more than a decade of trouble and misfortune to come.

Three years after his death Emperor Septimius Severus had Commodus rehabilitated, memory-wise, alongside bringing the Senate to deify him in an attempt to reconnect and gain political favour with the family of Marcus Aurelius, of which Commodus was born into.

Today, he is recognised as a man driven by political envy and madness, bringing the Pax Romana period to an end.

Atop poor decisions, Commodus was thrust into the spotlight too early. He pushed his beliefs of being a god and having superhuman abilities, which led to his



