



DigitalDeception



MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

WhatsApp This Week

Only on **Sunday POST!**

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes at: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

- What do crabs smoke? Seaweed.
- Stephen King has a son named Joe. I'm not joking, but he is.
- What does a panda ghost eat? Bam-BOO!
- Why is a doctor always calm? Because it has a lot of patients.



LAUDABLE ATTEMPT

Sir. Last week's interview with eminent journalist and author Pallavi Rebbapragada was extremely insightful. Though Pallavi does not belong to Odisha, her extensive research on Nandini Satpathy, the only woman Chief Minister of the state and one of the tallest leaders ever to grace the political scene, is praiseworthy. Nandini has truly led a magnificent life. It's exciting to know that Satpathy has been featured in *Voque Paris* as she hobnobbed with Bollywood celebrities and defined the sharpest land reform policies India has seen. It is indeed unfortunate that a promising political career came to an end too soon. Ironically, not too many documents are available to learn about the life and times of one of the icons of Indian political history. Pallavi's attempt to pick some fascinating facets from the life of the former Chief Minister is really laudable.

SOUBHAGYA SAHU, RAGHUNATHPUR



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. Feel free to 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 **SUNDAY POST** MAY 19-25, 2024





MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

he BIP's national vice-president Baijayant Panda last week sparked a stir stating that artificial intelligence is 'being misused' by the BJD, involving Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to mislead the people of Odisha during elections. Though the ruling party dismissed the allegation outright, there is no dearth of instances of celebrities becoming victims of Deepfake technology in the recent past. Actors Rashmika Mandana, Ranveer Singh and Aamir Khan, to name but a few.

In an era where reality can be seamlessly manipulated with the click of a button, deepfakes have emerged as both a technological marvel and an indication of ethical dilemmas. These sophisticated artificial intelligence algorithms are capable of superimposing one person's likeness onto another's, effectively creating hyper-realistic videos that blur the line between truth and fiction.

At the heart of the deepfake debate lies the question of authenticity. With the ability to convincingly depict individuals saying or doing things they never actually did, deepfakes have the potential to sow confusion, spread misinformation, and undermine trust in media and public discourse.

With the prevalence of deepfakes and their potential to deceive the public through AI posing a threat to privacy, Sunday POST sought perspectives from experts, the general public, and journalists.

'There is an urgent need for a multipronged approach to combat deepfake menace'

Sharing her opinion on the issue, ACP Anjana Tudu, Bhubaneswar, said, "I view the rise in deepfake cases as a serious threat to public trust and security. We must employ advanced detection technologies, enforce robust legal frameworks, and

educate the public to effectively combat this issue. Collaboration across sectors is essential to safeguarding individuals and institutions from the harmful impact of deepfakes."

On how Deepfake technology can destroy the fabric of the society, she said, "Because it can spread misinformation and fake news that can influence public opinion, undermine democracy, and cause social unrest. It can also violate privacy and consent by using personal data without permission. Besides, it damages reputation and credibility by imnotices or legal action, can address copyright questions and defamation. More research is needed into the effectiveness of these mechanisms and into best practices.'

Speaking about other threats, she said, "The potential impact of deepfakes on children and the public is online exploitation and abuse. Deepfakes can be used to create explicit or inappropriate content featuring children, leading to potential cases of online exploitation and abuse. Minors may become victims of deep-fake-related incidents where their images

deepfake trends, participate in awareness programmes, and practice mock drills. Organisations need clear guidelines, prompt reporting mechanisms, technological solutions, updated policies, legal compliance, and collaboration with law enforcement to effectively address deepfake threats." She went on to add, "I empĥasise the urgent need for a multifaceted approach to combat the rise of fake news. We must leverage advanced technology, enforce robust policies, and educate the public to safeguard against this growing threat.



personating or defaming individuals, organisations, or brands."

On challenges to curb the menace, the ACP continued: "One of the biggest challenges in enforcement is catching the most malicious users, who often operate anonymously, adapt quickly, and share their synthetic creations through borderless online platforms.

Another consideration is the potential for deepfakes to curtail free speech, particularly political speech, where people can use deepfakes to spread false or misleading information. Recourse mechanisms, such as takedown

are used without consent in inappropriate or harmful contexts. Deepfakes can be weaponised for cyberbullying, with malicious actors creating manipulated content to harass and harm the social standing of children. Those who are targets of deepfake-related harassment may experience emotional distress, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

On precautions that can be taken to address the issue, Tudu shared, "AI heightens the risks of oversharing children's personal information, leading to potential identity theft and exploitation through deepfakes. Parents should avoid posting their children's images on social media. Employees must train on

'Legal frameworks pertaining to deepfakes are still evolving'

Sarada Lahangir, an independent journalist, said, "In Odisha, while the prevalence of

deepfakes may not be as rampant as in other regions, the potential impact is still significant. But in the Indian context, the use of deepfakes is gaining traction, posing significant

challenges across various sectors.

Industries such as politics, entertainment, and journalism are particularly vulnerable to the manipulation of digital content. Political campaigns, in particular, could be affected by the spread of manipulated videos, potentially altering public perception and trust in leaders.

Sharing her perspective on the issue, Lahangir continued: "In India, the legal and regulatory frameworks pertaining to deepfakes are still evolving. While existing laws related to defamation, privacy, and cybercrime may offer some recourse, specific legislation targeting deepfake creation and dissemination is lacking. India has called for a global framework for the expansion of 'ethical' AI tools. Existing laws, such as Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act 2000, have provisions that may be applied to certain aspects of deep fakes, such as defamation and publishing explicit material."



The Ramnath Goenka awardee concluded by emphasising the pivotal role of social media platforms and tech firms in India in addressing the threat of deepfakes while safeguarding free speech. To achieve this, investment in strong content moderation, user education, and partnerships with fact-checkers is imperative. Transparent reporting and removal procedures for deepfakes are crucial for building user trust and ensuring accountability.

'Imperative to invest in

robust countermeasures' Deepak Kumar Nath, MD & leveraged for various malicious CEO of Threatsys Technologies purposes, including fraud, ex-Private Limited, talked about the tortion, and espionage. For instance, adversaries could fabricate most concerning implications of the increasing use of deepfakes, both compromising videos or audio in terms of social impact and recordings to blackmail individuals or security threats. He said, tarnish their reputation." Asked about his advice on "The escalating use of fakes presents mulchecking the hazard, the tifaceted conexpert said, "There are cerns several free tools and websites that have

compassing both social impact and security threats. From a societal perspective, the proliferation of fake news can exacerbate misinformation and disinformation campaigns, leading to erosion of trust in media and institutions. Individuals may find it increasingly challenging to discern truth from falsehood, which can have far-reaching consequences for public discourse, elections, and even national security.3

> He continued: "On the security front, the implications are equally alarming. Deepfakes can be

"By prioritising ethical considerations in

public, including DeepFaceLab, FaceSwap, Zao, MyHeritage Deep Nostalgia, and Reface. As a result, the landscape of synthetic media is evolving rapidly, with implications spanning entertainment, journalism, advertising, and beyond. It is imperative to closely monitor these developments and invest in robust countermeasures to mitigate the risks associated with the proliferation of deepfakes. As a certified cybersecurity expert, I believe that the most effective strategies for detecting and preventing the dissemination of deepfakes across online platforms involve a combination of advanced technological solutions, robust policy frameworks, and comprehensive user education. There are also some platforms users can use to detect deepfakes," he adds.

made deepfake creation accessible to the

the design and implementation of deepfake detection and mitigation technologies, developers and policymakers can help mitigate the risks posed by this rapidly evolving threat landscape. Collaboration between industry, academia, government, and civil society is essential to ensuring that these efforts are aligned with democratic values and respect fundamental human rights," concludes Rath.

'Deepfake tools open door to a wide range of nefarious

Bawrun

activities'

Mohanty, a veterenian intern doctor,

expresses concern over the erosion of trust in online content.

"It's getting harder and harder to discern what's real and what's fake online," he lamented.

"I worry about the impact this will have on our ability to have meaningful conversations and make informed decisions. The democratisation of deepfake tools means that virtually anyone with a computer and an internet connection can create highly convincing fake videos. This opens the door to a wide range of nefarious activities, from political manipulation to revenge porn," stated Mohanty.

"I'm somewhat familiar with the concept of deepfakes. I understand that deepfakes use advanced AI to create realistic but fake videos and audio. The potential impact on society is concerning, as these technologies can be used to spread misinformation, create fake news, and violate personal privacy. Deepfakes can create convincing false content that can damage reputations, manipulate public opinion, and even influence elections. As deepfake technology advances, vigorous legal frameworks and public awareness are essential to mitigating these threats," said Mohanty.

There has been a massive surge in cases of deepfake scams that impersonate not only consumers but also prominent public figures across spheres such as business, politics, en-

tertainment, and sports. For instance, cases involving Indian celebrities

including Rashmika Mandanna, Aamir Khan, Ranveer Singh, Sachin Tendulkar, and Virat Kohli have all been the subject of deepfakes. This issue is magnified in India, as many people unknowingly share deep-

fake content on social media, mainly WhatsApp and Telegram groups, without verifying its origin, causing a multiplier effect. Additionally, there are paid troll armies that facilitate such acts," he concluded.



SINCE 2014, AS MANY AS 25 PROMINENT POLITICIANS FROM DIVERSE PARTIES, FACING ACTION FROM CENTRAL AGENCIES OVER CORRUPTION CHARGES, HAVE CROSSED OVER TO THE BJP

pportunism is a characteristic of human nature and people often switch allegiance in search of a better chance. It happens in all spheres of life and politics is no different.

Though this Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram culture began in 1967 when Haryana legislator Gaya Lal changed parties three times within a fortnight, this shifting of allegiance from one party to another has been on the rise after the BJP-led NDA voted to power in 2014.

Interestingly, the BJP has no qualms in embracing leaders from opposition parties, often carrying serious corruption charges, but it continue to slam these parties of misgovernment and corruption.

Since 2014, as many as 25 prominent politicians facing action from Central agencies for alleged corruption have crossed over to the BJP, cutting across party lines. In 23 of these cases, their political move has translated into reprieve, according to an investigation made by a national English daily.

Praful Patel, Ajit Power (both from NCP), Himanta Biswa Sarma(Congress) and Subhendu Adhikari (TMC) are a few cases in point. No wonder, opposition parties now calls the BJP a 'washing machine' that cleans all types of stains of corruption with 'Modi washing powder'.

Coming back to the issue of turncoats, according to a report by the Association for

Turncoat Turbulence

Democratic Reforms (ADR), Indian politics has seen many such changing of camps in past years. As per the analysis, the BJP was the biggest gainer of defections while the Congress suffered maximum with its leaders switching sides in elections despite stringent anti-defection laws.

Turncoats among candidates fielded by Congress and the BJP for 2024 Lok Sabha elections Previous party of turncoats fielded by Congress and the BJP in 2014 and 2019

With campaigning underway in full swing, Sunday POST takes a close look at the turncoats and how they have fared in elections over the years.

More party-hoppers in BJP

According to a survey, the saffron party has nominated more turncoats than others this election. Of 438 candidates filed nomination on behalf of BJP, 135 came from other parties. Again, 100 of them joined the BJP after 2014. On the other hand, 62 of the 327 candidates filed nominations for Congress are turncoats. The data also suggests that turncoats flow both from BJP to Congress and vice-versa. 43 of BJP's turncoats were Congress members earlier while the biggest source of turncoats for the grand old party is BJP, with 22 coming from the party.

Local political calculation biggest driver

According to data from Election Commission of India, most candidates changing parties before elections are basically local political candidates tryings to exploit poltical tailwinds to boost their prospects. Of the total 52 and 63 turncoats fielded in 2014 and 2019 polls by the BJP and the Congress, only $2\hat{5}$ per cent and 24 per cent joined the BJP from the Congress or vice versa. The rest of them were from regional political parties. This shows that a shrewd local political calculation might be a bigger driver of both over politics and the turncoat syndrome in Indian elections. **Full circle**

The fortune of the turncoats seems to have come full circle if the election results of 2014 and 2019 are any indication. A turncoat joining the Congress had a much better chance of winning than the average turncoat candidate up to 1984, exception being the

post-Emergency election. 1984 was also the last time the party won a majority on its own in a Parliamentary poll. Later, there was a decline in party's fortunes, so as the winability of a turncoat joining the party. After 1990 till 2019, turncoats joining the saffron party performed better than an average turncoat candidate, a study reveals.

Father of 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram'

he expression originated in 1967 when Haryana legislator Gaya Lal won first as an Independent candidate, then joined the Congress and changed parties three times again within a fortnight - first by politically switching from the Congress to the United Front, then

counter-defecting back to the Congress, and then countercounter-defecting within nine

hours to the United Front again. When Gaya Lal quit the United Front to join the Congress, the then party leader Rao Birendra Singh, who had engineered Gaya Lal's defection to the Congress, brought Gaya Lal to a press conference at Chandigarh and declared that "Gaya Ram is now Aaya Ram."

OP DESK

SUNDAY POST MAY 19-25, 2024 Fans laud Ash's Mrunal looks back professionalism at her dress sense ctress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, a reg-Aular at the Cannes red carpet, was or the profession that she is in, Mrunal Thakur must seen entering the airport with her daughter Reep her fashion game quite high. It is only over the Aaradhya Bachchan, wearing an arm sling, as they headed to attend the 77th edition of the prestigious event at the French years that the actress developed a taste for fashion, otherwise while growing up it was quite different for her. Also, of late, she's been quite a regular at fashion weeks hitting the Riviera. Fans quickly noticed the injury and lauded her professionalism.

Aishwarya will be seen strutting the red ramp in style, flaunting designer clothes. As she walked the ramp for designer Anu Pellakuru carpet on May 16 and 17 for the beauty brand L'Oréal Paris to celebrate its 27th at the Bombay Times Fashion Week, she looked back at her dress sense. year, along with actress Aditi Rao Hydari. She told us, "I was more into androgynous dressing while in school and Fans on social media have expressed college. I would borrow my sister's their concern over the injury sustained by frocks and feminine dresses but at the Aishwarya, who was the first Indian female actor to serve as a Cannes jury member. One fan praised her commitment to work same time I had bermuda shorts, dungarees, polo neck t-shirts and sweatshirts. So, there were two sides of despite the injury, writing, "And she's on me when it came to fashion. I am her way to Cannes with a broken hand. No one is as professional as her! Can't wait for more." Another fan wished her a glad that I am able to carry the street wear and at the same time rock an speedy recovery, saying, "Speedy recovery, queen. #AishwaryaRaiBachchan India lehenga or any other ethnic outfits." #AishwaryaRai." Other comments included, "OMG, she will walk to Cannes with injured hands," and, "Can't wait to see About her experience walking the ramp this time, the Jersey actress said, "It was fantastic as I got to dress up, doll up, put the jewellery and make her at Cannes. Love her so much.' up on. I loved what I was wearing. The hot pink lehenga is my favourite. Anu was making her debut and so I was super excited for her. The collection Sonali: Original content has made looked amazing, and I loved the whole energy in the room.' My honesty is mistaken Indian cinema stronger as arrogance: Daisy arathi actress Sonali Kulkarni was all the queer films that are being screened at the praise for content writers, who she said Kashish Pride Film Festival. Actress Daisy Shah, known for her roles in Jai Ho, Hate Story 3, and Race 3, in a recent are now scripting original stories and have become "All the films had a different story to tell," a source of strength for Indian cinema. Kulkarni said. "Every film was like a poem, the issue was arched out in very interesting storylines. interview addressed her working with Salman Speaking on the sidelines of the prestigious Khan in her debut and also talked about how KASHISH Pride Film Festival, where she's a member No film felt like it was driven by some of the jury, she emphasised, "Be it films or theatre, writing is everything. I feel India is very strong in she cherishes the little joys in life and how issue. The films were not about she deals with trolls. gender necessarily, they also por-Having faced a fair share of trolls on social this department because we have original writers. trayed people's emotions, peomedia, Daisy said, "Earlier, I used to get affected by the chaos, but I have a different Though we have rip-offs of ple's hurt and pain, and they Hollywood or touched me so deeply." way of dealing with things now. I am so Korean stories, real that people think I'm being rude. that don't ham-

My honesty is often misunderstood as arrogance, but that's not the case at all. I just prefer to be honest in my opinions." She continued: "If trolls are hating on me, they're only giving me a speck of their life. Instead of letting those words affect me, I try to take it positively."

Recalling her days filming with Salman Khan for Jai Ho, her debut film, the actress said, "It was a great experience working with him. None of the actors or technicians in the film made me feel like a newcomer."

Speaking about how her experience has been in the industry since then, she adds, "The industry is great on know how the industry operates.

the inside, and people in it are encouraging. Criticism of the industry generally comes from the outside, from people who don't

AGENCIES







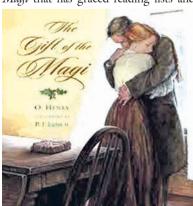
♣ BOOK REVIEW

Finest tales of O Henry

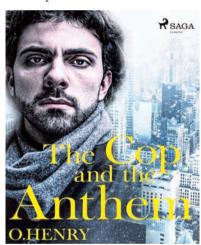
came across a selection of a hundred of short stories of O Henry, the master storyteller whose oeuvre defined that form for many years to come. O Henry who was actually William Sydney Porter had a chequered life, growing up in post civil war depression in harsh economic conditions, working at different jobs, serving time in a penitentiary for embezzlement of funds and writing for the New York papers. His collection of short stories places him on a special footing as a story teller, with his proverbial twist in the tale endings and ironic resolutions. He romanticised the life of the common man and his repertoire of stories centres on gangsters, waitresses, cops, criminals and the milieu of daily life with great finesse earning him the sobriquet "Caliph of Baghdad-by- the- subway" from a New York paper.

He celebrated the ordinary, breathed life into the lives of the common men and women hedged in by routine and yet looking for that spark of romance and adventure. In the words of Henry himself "The true adventurer goes forth aimless, uncalculating to meet and greet unknown fate." He does exactly that and sets before us 300 stories of mindboggling variety compelling in their appeal. His style of writing is narrative, dipping into flashbacks and reminiscence, memories from the past retold with a punch. His stories talk of deception, coincidence, unchangeable nature of fate, unexpected ends vet inevitable, resolution of seemingly difficult situations resolving themselves with ease. He writes in the voices of people he encounters in their local flavour and idiom reading much wisdom in their attitudes and conduct. He delineates character and analyses emotions with much detail. Yet he writes with remarkable finesse and a moving tenderness and a sense of brilliant humour. His ostentatious style with his repertoire of words, hyperbole and metaphor, leave the reader breathless with anticipation.

His wildly popular story The gift of the Magi that has graced reading lists and



various syllabi is of a young couple of meagre means who secretly buy unique gifts for each other by giving up their dearest possessions, for Christmas, only to realise that they are of no use. While the gifts themselves are rendered futile what matters is the expression of a love that calls for deep sacrifice. "Of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts such as they are the wisest. They are the magi." The story brings a tearful smile. In Between rounds', in the midst of a domestic feud which was normal with the couple-'A hunk of swiss cheese which was accurately thrown by her husband struck Mrs McCaskey below one eye. When she replied with a well aimed coffee pot full of a hot, black semi-fragrant liquid the battle could have ended, but it did not. As it continued they suddenly heard a scream from a neighbour that her child was missing and they were distracted enough to be concerned for him both reminiscing about the child they never had. They share a rare involuntary moment of tenderness for each other lighting up their lives. Then the child was found to everyones relief and it was business as usual for the couple. Here we see Henry brilliantly humorous, slapstick combined with a strain of humanity The cop and the Anthem is a humorous



story of a homeless young man who prefers to serve time in the prison with assured bed and board and more congenial company rather than in a homeless shelter. He tries to get himself arrested but unable to hit upon an idea. He tries eating in a restaurant without paying, throws a stone through the window, harasses a woman and disturbs the peace but to no avail. At last he comes to a church where he hears organ music from within-"Those solemn but sweet organ notes had set up a revolution in him" and the better angels of his nature take over and he is seized with a desire to reform. Meanwhile a cop on his rounds catches him loitering and he is arrested and imprisoned for 3 months. The irony lies in the fact that while his efforts at getting arrested are foiled he is being punished for trying to reform and go forth on a virtuous path. There is no explanation for the randomness of life.

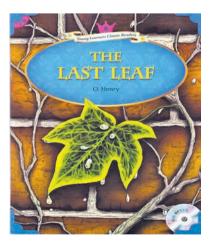
The last leaf is a heart wrenching story of a poor young girl suffering from pneumonia who believes she is going to die and starts counting the leaves on the ivy vine growing on the opposite wall. She

is convinced when the last leaf falls off she would die. A failed artist who lives below, trying to create a masterpiece for twenty five years, spends the night in the cold and paints a leaf on the wall. The girl on seeing the last leaf still green enduring the nights rain takes heart and survives while the old man dies of pneumonia after a night in the rain and snow. The story ends with the narrator saying that "it's Berhman's masterpiece- he painted it there when the last leaf fell.". Life clings to hope and the sacrifice born of compassion.

Witches loaves is yet another story that brings a smile through tears. A middle



aged woman runs a small bakery shop for a livelihood and one of her customers is a German artist who regularly buys stale bread from her and strikes up a conversation once in a while. The lady develops tender feelings for him and imagines him to be a struggling artist who could not afford more than stale bread. Out of the generosity of her heart one day she adds a slab of fresh butter into the bread and gives it to him. The next day while she is anxiously waiting for his response she is greeted with a violent reaction from the man. We come to understand that the man was buying stale bread so he could erase the pencil lines of his drawings with dry bread crumbs and she had destroyed his drawing which he was to submit for a competition. Her unwarranted kindness ruined his prospects. The story ends with her changing back to her old dress and throwing out the mixture of quince seed and borax she was to use to



improve her complexion.

O. HENRY



A COMEDY IN RUBBER

A Comedy in Rubber is a hilarious short story about the tribe of Rubberers who crowd around the unusual occurrences of New York whether it be an accident or a man painting a hoarding or digging a manhole or a little boy dropping an egg or buildings crumbling down in the subway. While most people in the city go their way interested in their endeavours this tribe are the spectators seething with curiosity standing in a struggling breathless circle revelling in the unfolding scenes. Two such people standing in such groups fall in love and decide to marry. The wedding was set and the church was beautifully decorated. Alarge crowd gathered who thrive on such occasions but as the minister and every one waited there were no signs of the bride and the groom. As the onlookers grew restive and trampled one another down two policemen heaved their way through the crowd dragging with them from among the onlookers the bride and the groom. They as creatures of habit could not resist the temptation of joining the crowd of spectators to gaze upon themselves as bride and bride groom entering the rose decked church.

Thus O Henry inspired and influenced by his middle class back ground gives us a peep into the lives of people, to marvel about the world that we encounter each day that can make each moment of our lives richer. He found the unusual in the ordinary, transcribing his own ordinary experiences and observations with ingenious narrative inventiveness. His verbal ostentation, his sparkling humour, his volte

face endings, tenderness and grace makes his stories a delightful read, light at the end of the tunnel experience.



Sudha Devi Nayak

SUNDAY POST MAY 19-25, 2024

GLAM SLAM

