

All they want SANDTA from SANDTA

MIXED BAG **DECEMBER 22-28, 2024 SUNDAY POST**

Much before his debut in movies, Jyoti Ranjan Nayak had struck a chord with the audience, winning the reality show 'Mitha Mitha Jodi'. He went on to appear in movies like 'Dele Dhare Katha Sare', 'Nijhum Ratira Sathi', 'Dil Ka Raja', 'Mitha Mitha', 'Tu Mo Hero', 'Happy Lucky', 'Ole Ole Dil Bole', 'Sathi Tu Pheria', 'Pyar Alaga Prakar', 'Tu Mo Suna Chadei', 'Prema re Rakhichi 100 ru 100', and many others. His natural acting skills, coupled with the ability to emotionally engage audiences, make him one of the most sought-after names in the business. Jyoti is currently working on learning multiple languages



Cheat day

Normally I like home-cooked meals, but, on cheat days, I prefer eating fatty food items like non-veg, sweets, ice cream, and chocolate. It's a day when I can eat anything without bothering about the calories.

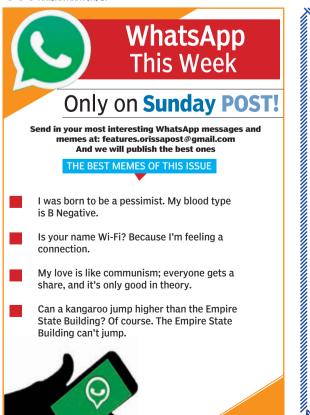
Day of introspection

Sundays or not, I make it a point to watch as many movies as possible to hone my acting skills. I love watching my movies and songs too, as there is always room for improvement.

Learning multiple languages

Currently, I have started investing my leisure time in learning multiple languages, and there is no better day than Sunday to work on it.

ANISHA KHATUN, OF



VITH CO-ACTORS

A double-edged sword

Sir, This refers to the last week's cover story on whether India should ban social media for under-16s like Australia. For children, social media is often a double-edged sword. It can inculcate creativity and connections but also expose them to cyberbullying, online predators, and mental health issues. According to a 2021 study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), 37% of Indian children aged 10-14 use social media regularly, despite age restrictions. With smartphones becoming ubiquitous and the average age of first-time internet use dropping, parents often find themselves struggling to monitor their children's online activities. I believe that banning the use of social media among children is a welcome step but it will be difficult to implement a blanket ban. Moreover, there is a need for promotion of healthy use.

SOUMYARANJAN BAHINIPATI, KHURDA



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 Annual Strate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948

sleep to me.

Managing sleep deprivation

Family time Since I don't have many friends and the majority of them work in the profession. I prefer to spend my weekends with my family.

As my weekdays are mostly full of shoots and sittings. Sundays mean some extra hours of peaceful

INDA

COVER

All they want SANT

From magical flying broomsticks to bags full of toys and to enrolment in the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, kids' expectations from Santa Claus are endless this Christmas. The unfiltered belief of children in something extraordinary is a reminder of beauty in simplicity and the power of imagination

ANISHA KHATUN, OP

ΝΔΥ ΡΩςτ

Jingle bells, jingle bells Jingle all the way Oh, what fun it is to ride! In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!

DECEMBER 22-28, 2024

s a child, we all must have sung this in schools or at home while decorating a Christmas tree or writing a letter to the most famous Santa Claus.

Christmas through a child's eyes is always a vibrant blend of faith, festivity, and community. It is that time of the year when streets come alive with colourful decorations, glowing stars hanging from balconies, and the sound of carollers spreading cheer. Churches are adorned with lights and nativity scenes, drawing families together for midnight Mass. For children, it's a time of joy and anticipation-helping bake plum cakes, crafting decorations, and eagerly awaiting their gifts from Santa. Beyond the presents and festive treats, it's the pure, unfiltered belief in something extraordinary; an enchantment that reminds us all of the beauty in simplicity and the power of imagination. Through their eyes, Christmas becomes a storybook moment, one filled with hope, joy, and endless possibility.

With the festival of joy around the corner, a few children share with Sunday POST what they want from Santa Claus this Christmas.

'I want a watch that would make me invisible' Six-year-old Sanshkar Mohanty

from Bhubaneswar says, "I want a magical flying broomstick so that I can zoom around the sky with it when my mom and dad are sleeping. I can fly to school within a minute with. I don't have to get up early in the morning. Ah! What a relief. I could race with the birds and wave to everyone from above. The broomstick should also play music and rhymes while flying. I also want a huge bag of toys that are unbreakable, as my little brother always breaks them while playing. Santa Claus can also bring some toys for him, but my bag should be bigger and heavier than his. Be-

sides, I want a huge teddy as the existing one is worn out. I need a magical box of chocolate and chips that never gets finished. I promise that I will share those chocolates with my brother, but only if he behaves properly."

Sanshkar goes on elaborating his never-ending list and says, "Sometimes, my mom gets angry with me without any reason and scolds me. I would request Santa to please bring a book of magical spells so that I can change her mood in a blink. I forgot to mention the most import-

ant thing from my list; I want a watch that can make me invisible when I wish to, like the one that I saw yesterday in a movie. I can do anything with this watch, but, I prom-

that I won't do any nuisance. I also want a cookie machine because I am tired of waiting for cookies and cakes to bake. For now, these are the only things I need and I am sure that Santa will bring these things for me as I am a good boy and I allow my little brother to play with my things.

ise

'I need a bigger dollhouse than my sister's'

Tanvi Sahoo, 5, Cuttack, says, "On this Christmas, I want my own dollhouse because my elder sister doesn't allow

me to play with the one she owns. I imagine a beautiful and big dollhouse, at least bigger than hers, where my dolls will live. I will decorate the rooms,

arrange the furniture, and tell stories to all the little characters who live there. I promise that I will take really good care of it and play with it every day. I'll even share it with my friends when they come over, so we can all have fun together."

Tanvi further says, "I also need a phone because I am not allowed to use mom's. She often says that using an excessive phone will damage my eyes, but she is always glued to her phone. I assure you that I will not misuse the phone and will use it in learning poems; at times, I may watch the 'Miraculous Ladybug' cartoon on it, but onhour. I also need a kitchen set so that I can learn how to cook the yummiest pasta. I won't cook now because I am too small

ly for an

for it, and children are not allowed to use the kitchen. And one more thing: I want a makeup kit too for myself; whenever I want to apply lipstick from my mother's vanity she scolds me and says that make-up is not for small kids, you will get to use these things once you grow up. These are the things that I need from Santa, apart from candies, cakes and chocolates."

'My wish is to get admission in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry'

Kolkata-based Saaransh Rout, a five-year-old, says, "I've always wanted to be a wizard, just like Harry Potter! So, this year, I was wondering if Santa could help me get started on my magical journey. I don't want to study at the school I am currently in: I

want to get admission at Hogwarts, but my father says that Hogwarts admission forms are not available here. I would request Santa to bring an admission form for me so that I can learn magic there. I also want a talking robot, which can play with me as my sister is always busy with her dolls. I also want a pet owl, like the one I saw in the Harry Potter movies. I promise that I will train him very well."

Saaransh adds, "Santa, please bring a giant glittery unicorn for my sister, not the kind you can ride, but the inflatable one, as the previous one was damaged by me. I want a big candy cane, even bigger than me, and a few bags full of toys, chocolates, chips, and cookies. Last week when we went to a mall, I saw a very beautiful and huge car there. I would be very happy if Santa brought that car for me. I promise that will help mom with household chores and share my chocolates with mv sister and friends.

FUN FACTS

- Santa's sleigh is the fastest vehicle ever; it moves at a speed of around 1,800 miles per second as Santa has to travel around the world to deliver presents to all the children on the nice list.
- Santa has nine reindeer, and they help him fly his sleigh so that he can deliver presents. Santa's reindeer are called: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph.
- Santa has a team of Elves who work all year round making toys ready for Christmas. The exact number of Elves is unknown, but is estimated to be around 12.
- The first recorded celebration of Christmas on December 25th was in the year 336, during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine
- Santa Claus initially wore clothes in green, purple, or blue. For many years, this was the common theme. However, Coca Cola decided to dress him up in colours that matched their brand, and that stuck. So this is why he is always in red clothes now.
- Santa Claus has lots of different names; In the UK, he's known as Father Christmas or even just Santa. But in other countries he goes by different names. In the USA, some people call him Kris Kringle. In France he is called Père Noël / Papa Noël. In Poland he goes by Swiety Mikołaj (meaning St. Nicholas). And in Germany, Santa is known as Weihnachtsmann (which literally translates to English as 'Christmas Man').
- Santa Claus gets gifts too; on the night of Christmas, many kids leave presents in stockings for Santa Claus.
- The inspiration for the famous Santa Claus figure originated from the generous Christian bishop, St Nicholas. During his life, St Nicholas helped the poor and needy people. Following his death, stories about his kindness inspired the jolly and bubbly character of Santa Claus.
- While Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the date of the big event has been lost to history. According to many historians, Jesus was most likely born in the spring, not December 25. The date of the festival may have been chosen because it coincided with Saturnalia, a pagan festival honouring Saturn, the agricultural god.
- Between 1644 and the mid-1660s, Christmas celebrations were banned in England and its American colonies. The government believed the holiday's religious significance had been overshadowed by merrymaking. Yet, many people secretly celebrated until it was reinstated nearly 20 years later.



The Yule Lads, Iceland

Icelandic children get to enjoy the favors of not one but 13 Father Christmases. Called the Yule Lads, these merry but mischievous fellows take turns visiting kids on the 13 nights leading up to Christmas. Kids place a shoe on their window sill, with the Yule Lads leaving gifts to children who've behaved, and rotten potatoes for naughty children.

The pooper and the pooping log, Spain In Spain, particularly

in the Catalonia region people create a character out of a log, drawing a face on it and giving it a hat. They spend a fortnight 'feeding' it fruit, nuts and sweets. On Christmas Eve, the entire family beats the log with



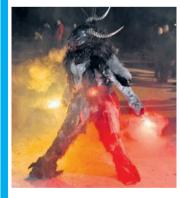
sticks and sings a traditional song that translates to 'if you don't crap well, I'll beat you with a stick' until the log "poops out" presents. They also decorate their nativity scenes with small, pooping, ceramic caganers (figurines). Usually well-known characters, often drawn from that year's news, the figurines always have their pants around their ankles.

KFC Christmas, Japan

Eating Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) on Christmas is a well-established tradition in Japan. The tradition began in the 1970s when KFC's first Japanese manager, Takeshi Okawara, promoted fried chicken as a Christmas meal alternative to turkey. Christmas wasn't a huge deal



in Japan, but a ridiculously successful KFC ad campaign established the tradition of families tucking in to buckets of fried chicken on Christmas.



Krampus-the Christmas demon, Austria

In Austria, St Nicholas has an evil counterpart called Krampus. He is the bad cop to St Nick's good cop, a demon-like creature with one task: to punish bad children before Christmas. St. Nicholas rewards well-behaved children with gifts, while Krampus punishes the naughty with birch rods or drags them off to hell.

Spider Webs, Ukraine

In Ukraine it's common to see spiders and spider webs dangling from Christmas trees in Ukraine during the Christmas season. The tradition has its origins in an old tale of a poor woman who couldn't afford to

decorate her tree and woke on Christmas morning to discover a spider had covered it in a glorious, sparkling web.



CURIOUS CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways all around the world. While waiting for Santa Claus to squeeze down the chimney, eating roast turkey dinners, and hanging advent calendars are common Christmas season activities in many countries and areas. some have more... unusual customs. Here are a few of the most bizarre yet amazing Christmas customs from throughout the world



Hide your broom, Norway

In Norway, people hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to prevent witches and evil spirits from stealing them for a midnight ride. According to folklore, witches and evil spirits come out on Christmas Eve to do mischief. To make it harder for them to get around, families hide their brooms and mops.

Fill your boots, Germany



The German Christmas tradition of "fill your boots" is a celebration of Saint Nicholas Day, which takes place on December 6th. On the previous night, children clean and leave their boots by the door or near the fireplace. In the morning, if they've been good, they will wake to find the shoes filled with sweets. If they have haven't, they will find only a branch.



According to Italian tradition, La Befana is a folkloric figure, often depicted as an old woman or witch-like figure who rides a broomstick through the skies

La Befana, Italy

on Epiphany eve. She visits children across Italy, leaving candies and small gifts for those who have been good and coal (or blackened sweets) for those who have misbehaved.

Dining with deceased, Portugal

Portuguese enjoy an additional feast, called Consoada, in the early morning hours of Christmas. They set extra places at the table for deceased relatives. In some areas crumbs are left on the hearth for these souls, a custom that derives from the ancient practice of entrusting seeds to the dead in hopes that they will provide a bountiful harvest.



Shoe toss ceremony, Czech Republic

Single women in Czech perform a unique ritual on Christmas Eve. They stand outside their houses with their back to the door and toss one of their shoes over their shoulder. If it lands with the toe facing the door, it means that they'll be married within the year. If it lands with the heel facing the door, they're in for another year of being single.



Pudding throwing ritual, Slovakia

At the beginning of the Christmas dinner, the senior most member of the family takes a spoonful of Loska, a traditional Slovakian pudding, and throws it up at the ceiling. The more it sticks, the auspicious it is.



SUNDAY POST DECEMBER 22-28, 2024 **TINSEL TOWN**

Bebo turns cheerleader

ctress Kareena Kapoor Khan Arecently turned into a proud cheerleader for her son Jeh as he took the stage for a performance at his school event. The actress was beaming with joy as she cheered enthusiastically for her little one

Thursday, a Reddit user shared a heartwarming video of Kareena showing her excitement while watching Jeh perform. The clip captured her pure pride and joy as Jeh, dressed in an adorable elephant costume, danced on stage. Meanwhile, Saif Ali Khan, holding their older son Taimur, was seen capturing the precious moment on his

phone. In the vid-Kareena eo. could be seen waving and cheering for Jeh from the audience. Fans quickly praised Jeh's adorable stage presence and his confidence under the spotlight. Some even compared the moment to Kajol's iconic character, Anjali, from Kabhi Khushi

Kahhie

Gham. One fan commented "This instantly reminded me of Anjali from K3G. And Jeh, for some reason, resembles Krish too.

On the professional front, Kareena was last seen in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. Up next, she is set to star in Meghna Gulzar's upcoming film, tentatively titled Daayra, alongside Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead role. IANS

Shehnaaz's 'dose of magic'

Chehnaaz Gill, who is making her debut as a Oproducer with the upcoming Punjabi film Ikk Kudi, has shared exciting behind-the-scenes moments from the film.

Thursday, the actress took to her Instagram handle and shared BTS video from the sets featuring her and other actors from the film. Alongside it, she wrote, 'Lights, camera, and endless vibes! Behind the scenes of Ikk Kudi-where every frame is a story and every moment is magic! Releasing on June 13th, Stay tuned for the journey! #IkkKudi #BehindTheScenes #PositiveVibes" #shehnaazgill @malkeet_clicks.

The movie is a collaboration between Kaushal Joshi's Raaya Picturez, Shehnaaz Gill Productions, and Amarjit Singh Saron's Amor Film Presents.

Recently, Gill announced that she would begin shooting for her new Punjabi film. The actress shared pictures from the film's muhurat ceremony on her Instagram. In one of the photos, she was seen posing with a clapperboard, while in another, she was seen offering a prayer before the shoot.

Written and directed by Amarjit Singh Saron, Ikk Kudi is set to release in theatres June 13, 2025

Shehnaaz, who rose to fame with her stint on *Bigg Boss 13*, was last seen in an item song of Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri's Vicky and Vidva Ka Woh Wala Video. IANS

Papa Buka, Akshay Parija's maiden int'l collaboration

Based on an emotional subject of missing Indian soldiers during World War II, the multilingual film – made in Tok Pision, English, Hindi and Bengali - will be screened at various international festivals, shares the filmmaker

Odia filmmaker Ak-shay Parija, who has always presented path-breaking movies in Odia, Bengali, Hindi, as well as Malavalam to his viewers, has recently revealed his first international project titled Papa Buka. It'll be a collaboration with Australian Island Papua New Guinea (PNG), shared Parija.

Directed by multiple national award-winning director Dr Biju, the film is coproduced by the Govt. of PNG, Akshay Parija, famous Tamil director Pa Raniith, and actor Prakash Bere.

Parija revealed that he had been working on the film for the last two years.

Currently abroad, Parija said, "I'm very glad that the movie could be shot entirely in PNG and post-production works completed in India.'

Based on an emotional subject of missing Indian soldiers during World War II, the multilingual film – made in Tok Pision, English, Hindi and Bengali - will be screened at various international festivals, added Pariia.

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BHARI CHAKRABORTY PRAKASH BARE JOHN SIKE

SCORE BY RICKY KEJ

IOELENE TAULA WUNUM, AKSHAY KUMAR PARIJA, PA RANJITH, PRAKASH BARE

RANGASHOOR TO **HIT SCREENS JAN 12**

Prakash Films and Moon TV Productions' new Odia movie Rangashoor will release January 12, 2025. The trailer of the film was recently screened at the International Film Festival of India in Goa, which was appreciated by national and international filmmakers.



Starring Suryamayee Mohapatra, Chaudhury Jayprakash Das, Chaudhury Bikash Das, Samaresh Routray, Jyoti Ranjan, Dipanwit Das Mohapatra, and Subhasish Sharma, with Subhashree in key roles, the movie is based on Bagha Nacha, a dying folk dance tradition of Odisha. The film narrates how form was revived by a father-daughter duo.

Eminent cinematographer Pratap Rout is the director of the movie, and he also produces it along with Sachikant Jena, Prashant Behera, and Sunil Yadav. PNN



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CYCLONES in ODISHA

Landfall, Wreckage and Resilience

PIONEERING WORK ON NATURAL DISASTERS



CHINMOY JENA

ince the 1960s, we always had the illusion that mild storms were common in the Bay of Bengal. In fact, there was a mild cyclone that crossed the coast between Paradip and Puri in 1967. Others followed soon after, but a new book by Bhaskar Parichha titled Cyclones in Odisha: Landfall, Wreckage, and Resilience takes us back by about two hundred years while tracing the cyclonic trail backwards.

This book not only details the cyclones but also meticulously analyses why the cyclones do occur and how the governments, both at the state and centre, have become more conscious of minimising the damages. The author explains to the reader all about the meaning of landfall. the damage it causes, and how resilient we have become.

The author methodically describes the differences between the various forms of cyclones and the subtle differences between them, like cyclones and depressions. He further classifies the cyclones as tropical cyclones, polar cyclones, mesocyclones, and extratropical cyclones. Next, he explains the meanings of the cyclone terminologies like landfall trajectory, the aftermath, the debris, and how the affected humans bounce back following the catastrophe.

Next comes the naming of the cyclones. Cyclones in different parts of the world are named by different agencies. The Japan Meteorological Agency names the cyclones originating from the North Pacific and the South China Sea. The naming of cyclones makes it easier to track and communicate about the storms. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is

responsible for maintaining and updating lists of names for cyclones in different regions around the world.

The first recorded instance of cyclones in Odisha, originating from the Bay of Bengal, occurred between the 7th and 12th of October 1737, which was as deadly as the super cyclone of 1999. The next major cyclone was in 1876, and it was called the Bengal Cyclone. From 1971 onwards, it has been a long saga, one cyclone after the other, causing havoc in the coastal areas, especially in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal. The worst cyclone originating from the Bay of Bengal was the cyclone Bhola, which missed Odisha but killed between 300,000 and 500,000 people in East Bengal (now Bangladesh).

Cyclones, thereafter, became a perpetual source of fear and terror between September and November in coastal areas of Odisha and its neighbouring states. In 1971 there was the Rainagar cyclone. It had about 10,000 human fatalities and about 50,000 cattle, and almost 800,000 homes were destroyed. There was also the Andhra cyclone of 1977, in which the fatalities varied between 10,000 officially and 50,000 unofficially.

Then came the worst disaster of all, the "Monumental Catastrophe," as the author calls it, the 1999 Super Cyclone. It defied prediction and baffled the experts. It remained stationary over the Jajpur region, losing its strength, and lingered over land. There were periodic warnings from IMD, A.I.R., and Doordarshan. From 28 October, people started getting ready for the potentially fatal storm as it left land and moved back onto water, and the danger seemed to be over. What happened afterwards was pure mayhem, and the worst disaster hit Odisha in living memory.

The fatalities were officially put at

10,000, but unoffi-

cially it was estimated to be at 30,000. There was extensive damage to crops, properties, and infrastructure, and Kujang and Erasama were the worst hit. The losses were colossal. It was impossible to estimate the losses, which were estimated to be around forty thousand crore rupees. The government of Odisha paid scant heed to the forecasts that predicted the immensity of the approaching cyclone. Instead of evacuating people and livestock and taking any precaution to safeguard property and infrastructure (namely Paradip port), the government indulged in gimmicks like consulting astrologers and soothsayers, which cost us dearly.

The Vajpayee government at the cen-tre formed a "High Powered Task Force" under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence, which oversaw the relief and rehabilitation of the victims. International aid too poured in from abroad. Foreign governments, especially from Canada, Switzerland, Britain, and many others rushed in with aid, and so did Oxfam and many other humanitarian organizations. It was a long time before normalcy was restored in coastal Odisha.

After the super cyclone, there was a lull for about 14 years until Phailin showed up. The cyclone affected the Puri and Ganjam districts. This time, however, Odisha was prepared to face any eventuality. People from low-lying areas were evacuated, thus preventing any large-scale fatalities. The OSDMA and ODRAF were pressed into service in advance. It was during this cyclone that the term "Zero Casualty" became the motto of the government. This was followed by the milder Hudhud in October 2014, Titli in 2018, and the more severe Fani in April 2019.

Fani made its landfall early in the morning in Puri, and the fatalities were less because of early evacuation, but damage to the power sector and agriculture. Puri was the worst affected, followed by all other coastal districts. Puri and Khordha suffered extensive damage, followed by Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrpada, and Jajpur. The total losses were estimated to be a staggering 120 million rupees. Andhra Pradesh had its share of

> Title - Cyclones in Odisha: Landfall, Wreckage, and Resilience Author: Bhaskar Parichha Publisher : Pen In Books, Bhubaneswar **Pages:** 208 Price: 499 INR

damages to Srikakulam and Viz-

ianagaram, and the losses were estimated to be about 586 million rupees. The next cyclone to partially affect Odisha was Bulbul in November 2019, which veered away to Bangladesh but caused significant damage to crops in the Odisha-Bengal border.

The last major cyclone to cause widespread damage in West Bengal, Odisha, and Bangladesh was Amphan. Like the super cyclone, it defied all predictions devastated West Bengal, and partly damaged Odisha. The governments of Odisha and West Bengal had to grapple with the hazards posed by Covid-19. Problems compounded by the twin disasters posed immense problems for both governments.

The losses owing to Amphan amounted to almost US\$ 13 million. It was the deadliest to hit the eastern coast in a decade and the worst-ever cyclone since the super cyclone. It was a period of great stress for both governments, but they both tackled it well.

That was the last major cyclone to hit Odisha, but the situation was brought under control by massive planning and preparedness. Cyclones have caused far too many wounds and the resultant scars. There are major drawbacks like loss of livelihoods, and loss of jobs and these two can be the biggest impediments for a state striving to become a state with economic stability, if not prosperity.

The erstwhile Naveen Patnaik government has earned national and internation-al acclaim for its "disaster management" during cyclones. The United Nations honored Patnaik for the state's management of Phailin. The New York Times featured a laudatory article on the state's manage ment of Phailin and Fani. The Odisha model of Disaster Management has come for praise internationally.

Despite all our efforts, Odisha remains vulnerable to cyclones because of its fragile frontier and topography. Besides the natural formation, there is the danger of climate change, which the world has to face. Odisha is no exception.

Cyclones in Odisha is a pioneering work on natural disasters like cyclones in the Bay of Bengal in general and Odisha in particular. It has been researched meticulously, replete with authentic data that has been collected with much love and labour and authenticated by history. It is a seminal book that had not been attempted before, and there is no reason why the book, or at least excerpts from the book should not be included in the curriculum of textbooks for students of Geography.

The reviewer is a former professor of English at Ravenshaw University, Cuttack.



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