

MARCH 29-APRIL 04 2026

# SUNDAY POST

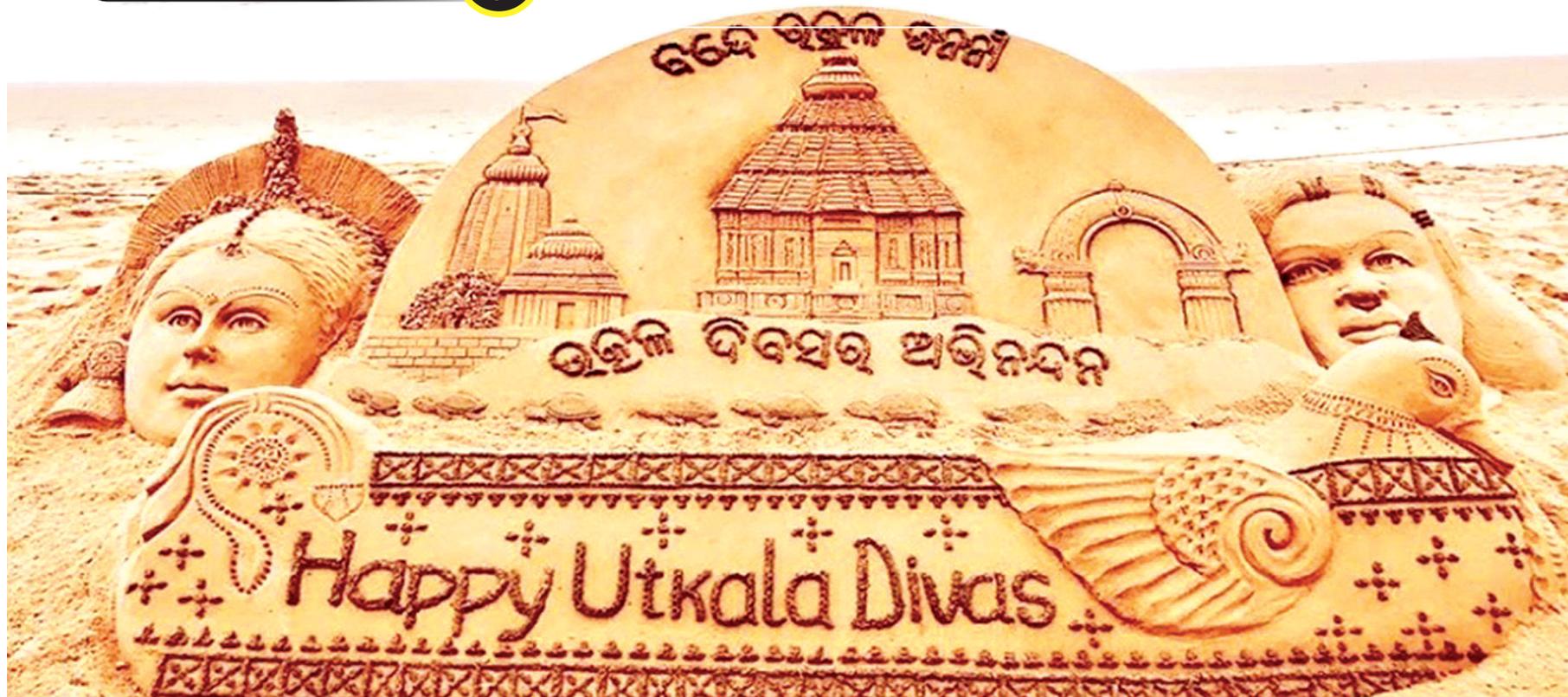
HERE . NOW



## UTKAL DIVAS SPECIAL

# GUARDIANS OF TRADITION

COVER STORY **P**  
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*Sailendra Parida has spent nearly three decades shaping action choreography in the Odia film industry. He began as a fighter, assisting senior fight masters before establishing himself as a leading action director. Over his career, he has worked in more than 100 films as a fighter and choreographed action for more than 150 films across Odia, Hindi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, and Chhattisgarhi cinema. He has also directed notable Odia films such as 'Katha Deli Matha Chhuin', 'Police Babu', 'Sindoor', and 'Badhu Nuhen Mu Bandhu', with several new projects currently in development*

**When work takes a pause**

For many, Sunday is a weekly day off after six days of work, but for me, Sunday simply means any day when there is no work at all.



With Bollywood actor Puneet Issar

**Fish, food & family time**

My weekly off is all about enjoying good food and spending time with loved ones. I cook both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, though fish remains my absolute favourite.

**Unwinding with action movies**

When I have no work, I enjoy watching good action movies and relaxing, taking time to unwind after a busy schedule.

**Outdoor escapes with friends**

In my free time, I enjoy fishing and going on camping trips with friends. I also love travelling and exploring new places whenever I get the opportunity.



With Oollywood actor Krishna Kar

**WhatsApp This Week**

Only on **Sunday POST!**

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

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve? He got 12 months!
- Here's to alcohol, the cause of - and solution to - all life's problems.
- When I was young, I was afraid of the dark. Now when I get my electric bill, I am afraid of the light.
- For every action there is an equal and opposite criticism.



**Burden of water scarcity**

Sir, Last week's cover story, "Flowing with Fairness," effectively highlighted the harsh reality of water scarcity faced by women across many parts of our country. Water, an essential requirement for sustaining life, is rapidly depleting, placing an unequal burden on women, especially in rural areas. In several regions, women walk long distances, often barefoot in extreme heat, to fetch water. This not only affects their health but also deprives them of opportunities for education and personal growth. Their responsibilities extend beyond personal needs, as they must also manage household chores and ensure the well-being of their families. Additionally, women require more water for maintaining hygiene during menstruation, pregnancy, and postnatal care. It is crucial to include women in discussions on the causes, solutions, and policies related to water scarcity. Their participation can lead to more practical solutions, promote water conservation, and reduce the risks they face daily. The government must actively encourage women's involvement in policy-making to address health, safety, and sanitation concerns effectively.

ABHILASHA GUPTA, MOHALI

**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. Feel free to send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to

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UTKAL DIVAS SPECIAL

# GUARDIANS OF TRADITION

*Preserving heritage is not just about protecting monuments or ancient texts; it is about nurturing the values, stories, and practices that define a community as every tradition carries within it a narrative of devotion, creativity, and resilience, reflecting the collective memory of the people*

**A**cross Odisha, the echoes of history and culture continue to resonate through traditions carefully preserved over generations. These traditions are not merely remnants of the past but living expressions of identity, pride, and belonging. From stories passed down through time to rituals and artistic practices that reflect the spirit of the land, Odisha's heritage remains deeply woven into everyday life.

In a world that is constantly evolving, the effort to safeguard these cultural treasures becomes even more meaningful. Preserving heritage is not only about protecting monuments or ancient texts; it is about nurturing the values, stories, and practices that define a community. Every tradition carries within it a narrative of devotion, creativity, and resilience, reflecting the collective memory of the people.

These traditions serve as a bridge between the past and the present, reminding younger generations of their roots while inspiring them to carry the legacy forward. They embody the essence of Odisha's cultural richness—vibrant, timeless, and deeply rooted in history.

As the state gears up to celebrate Utkal Divas, Sunday POST takes a moment to recognise the enduring spirit that keeps these traditions alive, ensuring Odisha's cultural heritage continues to flourish for generations to come.

**'Awareness important for keeping heritage alive'**

**Jitu Mishra**, a storyteller, archaeologist and cultural curator, has been actively working to document and preserve



Odisha's rich cultural and temple heritage through his writings and initiatives. He is the author of books such as *Odisha Journeys* and *Embracing Compassion*, which explore the state's traditions, history, and cultural narratives. Apart from writing, he also organises heritage walks that allow people to connect with the historical layers of the region.

Jitu says, "Odisha is a land of temples and we have some of the most well-known temples of India. Be it the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, or the Konark Sun Temple, these are iconic temples not only for Odisha but for the entire country and the world. However, beyond these famous sites, there are several regional centres where temples played a very important role."

Citing an exam-

ple, he continues: "The magnificent Chausathi Yogini Temple at Ranipur-Jharia in Bolangir district is a remarkable monument, yet it rarely finds mention when people speak about Odisha. Often the conversation remains confined to the Golden Triangle. In reality, our temples showcase beautiful expressions of our culture and traditions through paintings and sculptures. Odisha holds a vast treasury representing different historical periods and dynasties, and these stories should be brought into the limelight through writings, videos, and documentation. Preserving these narratives is extremely important so they are not forgotten. Every temple in Odisha carries countless stories that must be highlighted and passed from one generation to the next so that people remain connected to their roots."

Speaking about the responsibility of those who document heritage, he emphasises that preserving history requires honesty and sensitivity. "Anyone who documents heritage carries a great responsibility. Writers and historians should remain unbiased and present events as they actually happened without altering facts. At the same time, they must protect the sanctity of the place and ensure their work does not hurt the sentiments of people connected with it. It is also important to write in a way that is accessible



so ordinary people can understand it and local communities can connect with the narrative."

Jitu also stresses that creating awareness among young people is crucial for keeping this heritage alive. "There are several ways to engage younger generations. Heritage walks such as Ekamra Walk and Odisha Walks allow participants to immerse themselves in the history of the city while exploring its spaces. Such initiatives should expand beyond Bhubaneswar and reach other parts of Odisha as well. Another important approach is organising public talks by academicians, storytellers, and researchers in parks and cafés. Social media can also play a major role in spreading awareness and information about our heritage," he concludes.



**'Creativity can exist within the framework of tradition'**

**Prasanta Kumar Das**, faculty member at the State Institute for Development of Arts & Crafts (SIDAC), District Pattachitra Training Centre in Kendubilwa, has spent more than two decades practicing and teaching the traditional art of Pattachitra. Through his work as an artist and educator, he has been actively contributing to preserving one of Odisha's most celebrated heritage art forms while inspiring younger generations to learn and continue the tradition.

Das shares, "Pattachitra is an ancient and traditional art form that beautifully depicts various mythological stories reflecting the rich and diverse culture of Odisha. The word itself means 'picture on cloth', where Patta refers to cloth and Chitra means picture. The paintings are known for their intricate designs, bold dark outlines, rounded figures, and vibrant natural colours. Most themes are inspired by Hindu mythology, especially stories associated with Lord Jagannath and the cultural traditions of Puri. These narratives have been passed down for generations, and through Pattachitra we continue to keep those stories alive."

For Das, carrying forward this centuries-old art form is not just a profession but also a responsibility toward Odisha's cultural legacy. "Practicing and teaching Pattachitra for more than 20 years has been a deeply fulfilling journey for me. Teaching this art form to children gives me immense joy and satisfaction. Whenever I see students learning the techniques and continuing the tradition, I feel proud that I am contributing in some way to preserving our rich heritage. This art form has survived for centuries because each generation took the responsibility to pass it forward."



At the same time, Das believes that adapting to changing times is important, but without compromising authenticity. "With modern influences and changing artistic trends, artists sometimes experiment with new ideas and formats. However, it is important to maintain the core elements of Pattachitra, the natural colours, the traditional themes and the distinctive style. Creativity can always exist within the framework of tradition, but authenticity must remain intact so the essence of this ancient art form is never lost."



**'Preserving Odissi is like giving back to the land'**

**Tagari** Gain, an accomplished Odissi dancer and founder of Dhrubatarata Dance Academy, has been dedicated to promoting and preserving Odisha's classical dance heritage through her performances and teaching. For her, Odissi is not merely a dance form but a profound expression of culture, devotion and identity that connects generations to the artistic legacy of the state.

Tagari shares, "Odissi is one of the oldest classical dance forms not only of Odisha but of India as well. Performing and preserving this tradition gives me immense joy and satisfaction, but it also brings a deep sense of responsibility. Whenever I perform and portray the rich culture of Odisha through my dance, it creates a feeling that is difficult to describe. Odisha is blessed with a vibrant cultural heritage that has given us countless stories, traditions and a strong sense of identity. For me, preserving Odissi is like giving something back to the land that has given us so much."

She explains that Odissi is deeply rooted in Odisha's temple traditions and historical narratives, which are reflected through its graceful movements, expressions, and storytelling. "Odissi is not just a dance form; it carries within it centuries of history, devotion and research. Through gestures, expressions and rhythmic movements, we interpret stories connected with our culture and spiritual traditions. Every performance becomes a way of narrating these timeless tales and keeping them alive for the audience," she adds.

Tagari also underscores the importance of inspiring younger generations to appreciate the dance form and remain connected to their cultural roots. "Today, some people think Odissi is a slow or boring dance form, but they often do not realise the depth behind it, the stories, the traditions, and the years of practice it requires. While I teach children the techniques of Odissi, I also request their parents to help them understand the importance and value of our traditional dance form. When children become aware of the cultural meaning behind the dance, they feel more connected to it. That awareness inspires them to continue learning and eventually carry this heritage forward so that Odissi never fades away."

ANISHA KHATUN, OP



# PRIYANKA embarks on 'adventure'

Global head-turner Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is currently in India, is going on "another adventure" in Amritsar, Punjab.

Priyanka took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of a digital map while she was on board a flight. The map showed the aircraft, which took off from New Delhi, landing in Amritsar.

"Chalo! Another adventure," she wrote as the caption, without divulging any details of what the "adventure" is about.

Talking about work, the actress is gearing up for her much-awaited return to Indian cinema with the upcoming film, *Varanasi*, directed by S.S. Rajamouli and starring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The big-budget project, which is expected to be released in 2027.

Last week, Priyanka had shared a glimpse of her romance-filled time with husband Nick Jonas as the couple enjoyed some time together away from their busy schedules.

In a video shared by Priyanka, the actress was seen chilling and travelling with Nick as he drove their car on a sunny day. In the video clip, Priyanka appeared relaxed and stylish in a white zip-up outfit paired with smart sunglasses and a straw hat. Nick could be seen driving a vintage-style car, wearing a navy-blue T-shirt.

IANS



## Dandakali poster out

**BHUBANESWAR:** The poster for this year's highly anticipated film *Dandakali* has finally been unveiled recently.

The film, inspired by the ancient Dandakali traditions of Berhampur, pays tribute to this rich cultural heritage.

The plot of the movie blends tradition with faith. Presented by Rajshri Ghosh under Rajshree Cine Crafts, the film is directed by Sudhanshu Mohan Sahoo and written by Abhisikta Mishra. Prem Anand has scored the music while cinematography is taken care of by Deepak Kumar. Dilip Choudhury has penned the dialogues and screenplay.

The movie boasts an ensemble cast including Sidhant Mahapatra, Mahashweta Ray, Krishna Kar, Suryamayee Mohapatra, Usasi Mishra, Choudhury Jayprakash Das, Amar Mahapatra, Udit Guru, Eli Padhi, Trupti Mirambika, Chitrasen, Gurudev Maharathi, Pritiranjana, Anna, Nihar Samal, and child artistes Hansraj and Dhun. Notably, Chitrasen, known for his stage acting, makes his debut as a leading man with this project.

According to the production team, *Dandakali* is slated to hit the floors next week, promising audiences a cinematic celebration of heritage, faith, and tradition.

PNN

Imran Khan recently spoke out about the rising glorification of toxic masculinity

in mainstream cinema, saying he has no interest in playing hyper-violent, macho characters. His remarks came during a candid *Ask Me Anything* session with fans on Reddit, where he reflected on the changing portrayal of masculinity in films.

Responding to a fan who asked him to avoid "macho roles," Imran said he had no desire to portray "a hairy, angry man covered in blood," adding that such characters are already widely represented in cinema. His comment sparked discussion online, particularly in the context of recent films like *Animal* and *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, which feature aggressive, hyper-masculine protagonists.

Imran also expressed con-

## Imran on toxic masculinity

cern about the growing presence of misogyny and toxic masculinity in films and society. According to him, these narratives often reinforce restrictive ideas of what it means to be a man. He believes such portrayals not only harm women but also place unfair expectations on men.

The actor emphasised that true strength lies in emotional openness and vulnerability rather than aggression. He also criticised films that appear to justify violent behaviour by emotionally immature male characters, saying there is an important difference between depicting toxic behaviour and validating it.

For Imran, responsible storytelling remains essential, and he prefers roles that reflect thoughtful and balanced perspectives.

AGENCIES

Actress Neha Sharma finds joy in the simplest of moments, saying there's nothing quite like the aroma of the first cup of coffee in the morning.

Neha took to Instagram stories,

where she shared a slice of her daily routine, revealing how the

## Neha's morning bliss

comforting smell of freshly brewed coffee sets the tone for her day. She posted a video of her making some coffee in the machine at early in the morning at 6.00 AM.

Calling it unbeatable, the actress wrote as the caption: "That first coffee smell filling the room in the morning... nothing beats it."

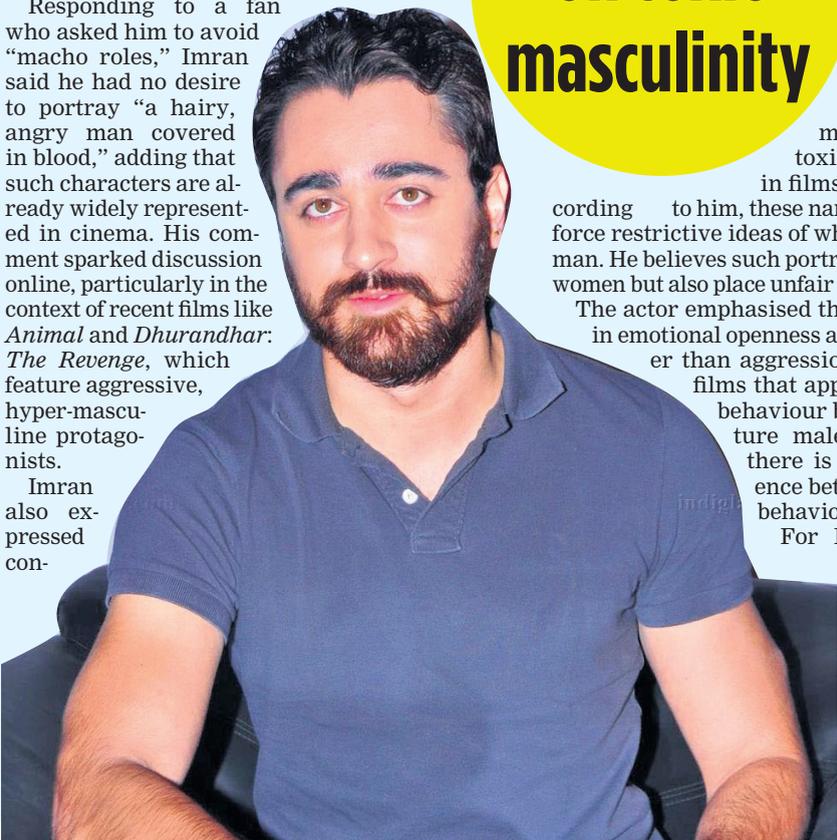
Neha has appeared in several films including *Yamla Pagla Deewana 2* (2013), *Solo* (2017) and *Tanhaji* (2020). She made her web debut with the series *Illegal* in 2020 and has also been part of the short film *Kriti* and *Vikalp*, where she played the title roles.

She made her debut in 2007 with *Chirutha*, a Telugu-language action drama film directed by Puri Jagannadh. The film also marked the debut of Ram Charan.

It also stars Prakash Raj, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Sayaji Shinde. The story follows Charan, a young man on a mission of vengeance against Mattu Bhai, a crime lord responsible for the deaths of his parents. This film is an unofficial

remake of *Swept Away* directed by Guy Ritchie.

IANS



# A land of sacred peaks, living traditions

*Uttarakhand does not reveal itself all at once. It invites you to slow down, to listen, and to observe. It teaches patience through its winding roads, humility through its towering peaks, and peace through its silent valleys*

River rafting is one of the most popular adventure sports in Uttarakhand



everyday life.

### Where nature unfolds in its purest form

Uttarakhand is a paradise for nature lovers, with over 86% of its terrain covered by mountains. From lush forests to snow-covered peaks, the diversity is astonishing.

Exploring Jim Corbett National Park, one senses the raw energy of the wild. The forest is alive with sounds—the rustling of leaves, distant bird calls, and the possibility of encountering a tiger hidden in the shadows. Equally captivating is Rajaji National Park, where elephants roam freely through dense greenery.

Then there is the ethereal beauty of the Valley of Flowers National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walking through this valley feels like stepping into a dream, where vibrant blooms stretch endlessly under the vast Himalayan sky.

For those seeking quieter escapes, villages like Munsiyari, Chaukori, Abbott Mount, and Bagori offer solitude and untouched beauty. Here, time slows down, and the mountains reveal their gentler, more intimate side.

### Adventures in the lap of the Himalayas

Beyond its spiritual and natural allure, Uttarakhand is also a playground for adventure enthusiasts. In Rishikesh, the Ganga transforms into a thrilling course for white-water rafting, drawing adrenaline seekers from around the world.

High up in the mountains, Auli becomes a winter wonderland. Skiers glide down snow-covered slopes, surrounded by panoramic views of Himalayan peaks. Trekking trails crisscross the region, leading to hidden meadows, glacial lakes, and breathtaking viewpoints. Activities like paragliding, bungee jumping, and mountaineering add to the sense of excitement, making Uttarakhand a destination where adventure and tranquility coexist seamlessly.

### Pilgrimage through faith, silence

No journey through Uttarakhand is complete without experiencing its spiritual heart. The revered Chota Char Dham—Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath Temple, and Badrinath Temple—draws millions of pilgrims each year, each carrying faith as their compass.

I began this sacred trail at Haridwar, where the Ganga emerges into the plains. As dusk fell, the ghats came alive with the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti. Flames danced in unison, chants echoed through the air, and the river reflected a thousand flickering lights—a moment that felt both intimate and universal.

Further upstream lies Rishikesh, a town that has become synonymous with yoga and meditation. Ashrams offer spaces for introspection, while the Ganga flows

with a quiet intensity. Yet, just beyond this serenity lies adventure—rafting through the rapids, trekking into the hills, and discovering the thrill of the unknown.

In the Kumaon region, temples like Naina Devi Temple, Jageshwar Temples, Chitai Golu Devta Temple, and Kainchi Dham offer a quieter, more introspective spiritual experience. Here, faith is not grand—it is deeply personal, woven into

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

The journey into Uttarakhand begins long before the mountains rise into view. There is a subtle shift in the air as one leaves behind the plains—a freshness tinged with the scent of pine and river mist. As the road winds upward into the Himalayas, the landscape transforms into a breathtaking panorama of towering peaks, deep valleys, and sacred rivers that seem to carry stories older than time itself.

Known as Devbhoomi, or the Land of the Gods, Uttarakhand feels like a place where the spiritual and the natural are inseparable. Here, every mountain appears to be a silent sage, every river a flowing prayer. It is not just a destination—it is an experience that unfolds slowly, revealing layers of faith, resilience, and quiet strength.

### Echoes of a new state in ancient mountains

While Uttarakhand feels timeless, it is, in fact, one of India's youngest states. Formed November 9, 2000, after being carved out of Uttar Pradesh, its creation was driven by a desire to preserve the unique identity and needs of the Himalayan region.

Traveling through its towns and villages today, one witnesses a fascinating blend of tradition and transformation. Conversations with locals often drift toward how life has changed over the years—better roads, improved connectivity, and growing opportunities. From once being underdeveloped, the state has steadily emerged as a hub of economic growth, with thriving small industries and expanding infrastructure.

Yet, despite this progress, Uttarakhand has managed to hold on to its soul. The mountains still dictate the rhythm of life, and the people remain deeply connected to their land and traditions.



The sacred Ganga River in Haridwar



A breathtaking journey through the mountains



Shaurya Sthal-honouring the brave hearts who served the nation

**Culture, festivals, and living traditions**

The cultural fabric of Uttarakhand is as vibrant as its landscapes. Festivals such as Harela, Igas, Bagwal, Phooldei, Ghughutiya, Bhitauli, and Ghee Sankranti reflect a deep connection to nature and community.

Participating in these celebrations offers a glimpse into local life—songs echoing through villages, traditional dances performed with joy, and rituals that have been passed down through generations. At the heart of it all lies the Char Dham Yatra, a spiritual journey that defines the cultural identity of the state.

**Land of brave hearts and quiet strength**

Uttarakhand's identity is not only spiritual but also deeply rooted in courage and service. Known as Veer Bhumi, the state has contributed countless soldiers to the Indian Armed Forces.

In Dehradun, the Indian Military Academy stands as a symbol of discipline and leadership, shaping officers who go on to serve the nation. Nearby, the Rashtriya Indian Military College nurtures young cadets, instilling values of dedication and resilience from an early age.

Memorials like Shaurya Sthal honor the sacrifices of brave soldiers, re-

mindful visitors of the state's enduring legacy of valor.

**Centres of knowledge amidst nature**

Dehradun also serves as a hub of learning and research. The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration trains civil servants, while the Forest Research Institute stands as a beacon of environmental research.

Walking through the grand campus of the Forest Research Institute, with its colonial architecture and sprawling lawns, one feels a sense of continuity—of knowledge evolving alongside nature.

**Modern marvels in a timeless landscape**

As the journey continues, one cannot ignore the signs of rapid development shaping Uttarakhand's future. The towering Tehri Dam stands as a testament to human ingenuity. Overlooking the vast Tehri Lake, it is hard to imagine that an entire town lies submerged beneath its waters—a haunting reminder of progress and sacrifice.

Infrastructure projects like the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail line promise to connect remote regions, while the Delhi-Saharanpur-Dehradun Expressway is transforming travel with a focus on sus-

tainability. These developments reflect a conscious effort to balance growth with environmental preservation.

**A gathering of faith: The road to 2027**

Looking ahead, Haridwar prepares to host the Ardh Kumbh Mela 2027, an event that will draw millions of devotees. Preparations are already under-

way, with significant investments in infrastructure and services to ensure a seamless experience.

Such gatherings highlight Uttarakhand's unique ability to manage both spiritual devotion and modern logistics, reinforcing its place as a cornerstone of India's cultural and religious landscape.

**Reflections: A land of contrasts and continuity**

As the journey through Uttarakhand comes to an end, what remains is not just a collection of memories, but a profound sense of connection. This is a land where ancient traditions meet modern aspirations, where sacred rivers flow alongside highways, and where remote villages co-exist with world-class institutions.

Uttarakhand does not reveal itself all at once. It invites you to slow down, to listen, to observe. It teaches patience through its winding roads, humility through its towering peaks, and peace through its silent valleys.

In the end, Devbhoomi is not just about gods and temples—it is about the quiet transformation that happens within you as you walk its paths. And long after you leave, the mountains continue to call, their presence lingering like a gentle, unforgettable echo.



The scenic site of Tehri dam





**IN 1944, A GERMAN TIGER TANK AMBUSHED NEARLY 30 BRITISH VEHICLES, DESTROYING THEM IN JUST 15 MINUTES WHILE THE CREWS WERE ON A TEA BREAK. AFTER THAT, THE BRITISH HIGH COMMAND DECIDED TO EQUIP ALL TANKS WITH BUILT-IN TEA-MAKING FACILITIES, SO CREWS COULD BREW UP WITHOUT LEAVING THEIR VEHICLES**

Since 1945, all British tanks have carried an unusual but essential piece of equipment: a tea-making facility. At first glance, it may seem trivial—or even comical—that a nation at war would prioritize a hot cuppa over combat readiness. Yet, behind this quirky military tradition lies a story of practicality, culture, and the unique relationship the British have with their beloved tea.

# BREWING IN BATTLE

### A costly lesson on the battlefield

The origins of the tea-equipped tank can be traced back to a harsh and costly lesson during the Second World War. During one fateful encounter, English soldiers found themselves in a vulnerable position: 30 British tanks were destroyed by advancing German forces while the crews took a 15-minute tea break.

The incident became a wake-up call for the British high command. Soldiers, so devoted to their tea ritual, were caught literally “with their pants down”—and kettles in hand—exposing them to unnecessary risk. While some may have dismissed this as a humorous anecdote, military strategists recognized a clear problem: soldiers needed a way to maintain morale without compromising battlefield readiness.

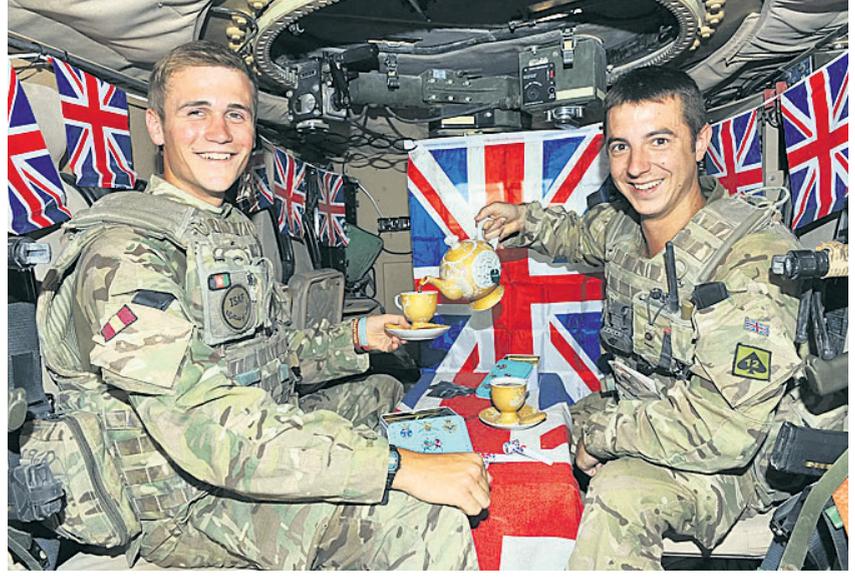
### Innovation meets tradition

The solution was as inventive as it was culturally specific: install tea-making facilities in every tank. Post-1945, British engineers began designing compact, heat-resistant kettles and water boilers that could survive the rigors of armored combat. These devices were fitted into the cramped interiors of tanks, allowing crews to brew tea while on the move or in stationary operations.

This innovation was emblematic of British pragmatism. Rather than attempting to change soldiers’ habits—a near-impossible task—the army embraced them, turning a potential liability into a feature that improved morale, endurance, and operational efficiency.

### Tea as a tactical advantage

It might seem strange to consider tea as part of a military strategy, but for British forces, it quickly became a practical tool. A hot drink can restore focus, provide comfort during long hours in freezing



A tea party inside a British tank in recent years

conditions, and even offer a psychological boost under stress. For tank crews confined to metal boxes rolling across muddy battlefields, the ability to sip a warm beverage was far from frivolous; it became a small but meaningful advantage.

Moreover, the presence of onboard tea-making equipment eliminated the need for tanks to stop for long breaks, reducing exposure to ambushes. Crews could remain alert, hydrated, and caffeinated—or more accurately, caffeinated with tea—while maintaining mobility. Over time, this integration of tea into operational planning became a uniquely British approach to armored warfare, highlighting the intersection of culture and military necessity.

### Brewing under fire

Tank crews quickly learned to adapt to their new tea-making capabilities. Recipes and routines evolved, with soldiers developing efficient methods for boiling water while the engine hummed and the tank rolled over uneven terrain. Kettles were designed to be spill-proof, and storage compartments ensured that tea leaves, milk, and sugar remained secure during maneuvers.

Stories of tanks “brewing under fire” became legendary. Veteran accounts describe moments when, despite shelling or the chaos of combat, a crew member would calmly prepare a pot of tea for the entire team. These rituals, small as they were, fostered camaraderie and mental

resilience—essential qualities when operating machinery designed for destruction. In many ways, the tea break became a symbol of British stoicism: even amidst war, a sense of normalcy could be maintained.

### From battle ground to tradition

The legacy of tea-equipped tanks endures today. Modern British armored vehicles still include the ca-

The story of British tank tea offers insight into the cultural mindset of the army and the nation it represents. It illustrates how deeply ingrained habits, like the daily ritual of tea, can shape military decisions in unexpected ways. Beyond the humor, it shows a commitment to morale, adaptability, and the welfare of soldiers

pability to brew tea, reflecting both a respect for tradition and an understanding of human needs in combat. While technology has advanced, and modern tanks boast state-of-the-art communications, targeting, and life-support systems, the humble tea kettle remains a staple.

The story of British tank tea offers insight into the cultural mindset of the army and the nation it represents. It illustrates how deeply ingrained habits, like the daily ritual of tea, can shape military decisions in unexpected ways. Beyond the humor, it shows a commitment to morale, adaptability, and the welfare of soldiers.

It is also a reminder that even in a machine of war, human needs persist. The blending of comfort with efficiency transformed a battlefield vulnerability into a strategic asset. What began as a response to a disastrous oversight evolved into an enduring tradition, one that reflects the British capacity to turn adversity into innovation—all with a kettle at hand.

OP DESK