

APRIL 13- APRIL 19, 2025

SUNDAY POST

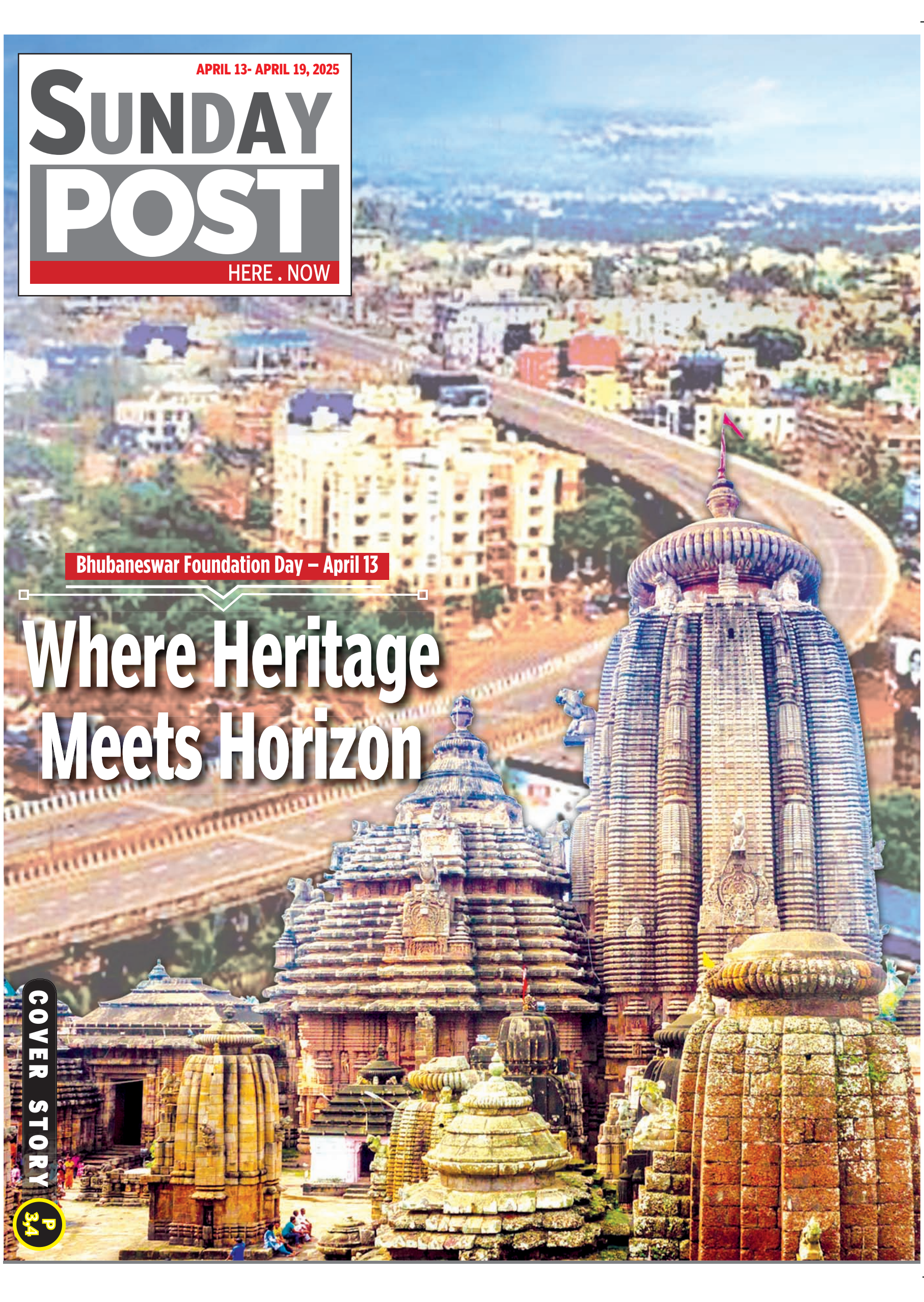
HERE . NOW

Bhubaneswar Foundation Day – April 13

Where Heritage Meets Horizon

COVER STORY

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My friend circle is limited. When I'm not shooting, we love exploring new restaurants around the city, discovering new flavors and creating memorable experiences together.

I enjoy exploring nature, so whenever I get the chance, I love traveling to places rich in flora and fauna to experience their natural beauty.



With a co-actor

When I'm not working, I love spending time with my family, especially my mom, who is my best friend.

● **ANISHA KHATUN, OP**

Bhubaneswar-born Avipsa Akruti, better known by her nickname Gunjan, is a rising star in the state's entertainment landscape. Her journey began in 2021 with an appearance in TV show 'Mangula Kanya'. Thereafter, she has quickly expanded her horizons with a string of web series. Gunjan's film career is also on the rise, with Mastoor and Life Partner set to hit theaters soon. She has made her mark in music videos too. Gunjan's passion for creativity is evident in her diverse career choices. A BBA graduate from Birla Global University, she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Mass Communication and Journalism. Gunjan credits her mother for her inspiration and support. In her leisure time, she prefers to spend time with family and friends.



With family

Whether it's a Sunday or any other day, I love spending time with my pet, Shoffu. He's my stress buster and daily dose of happiness, bringing joy to my life every day.

I dedicate most of my Sundays to social work with NGOs, as I have a deep passion for making a positive impact in the community.

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**

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- Why did God make man before woman? You need a rough draft before you have a final copy.
- My teenage angst has lasted 30 years.
- When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
- The last airline I flew charged for everything. Except for the bad service. That was free.



Magic of homeopathy

Sir, Hair loss can deeply impact confidence of a person. It not just alters appearance, making people feel less attractive and self-conscious, the condition often causes social anxiety, leading to withdrawal from activities. Professionally, it can affect self-perception and career opportunities. Emotionally, hair loss can cause depression and low self-worth, significantly reducing overall well-being and quality of life. However, it's quite difficult to contain the hair fall using allopathic drugs. But the condition can be addressed with alternative treatment methods like homeopathy and the article by Dr Mukesh Batra in last week's Sunday POST was really useful for many. Dr. Batra's is good for hair loss treatment because it offers a holistic and personalized approach. They use homeopathic remedies that address the root causes of hair loss, such as hormonal imbalances, stress, and nutritional deficiencies. These natural treatments are safe, side-effect-free, and effective for various types of hair loss. Additionally, Dr. Batra's provides advanced technologies like XOGEN, STM, and AI Hair Pro for faster and more visible results. Their team of experts ensures each patient receives a tailored treatment plan for long-term hair health.

Sasmita Rout, NAYAGARH

LETTERS

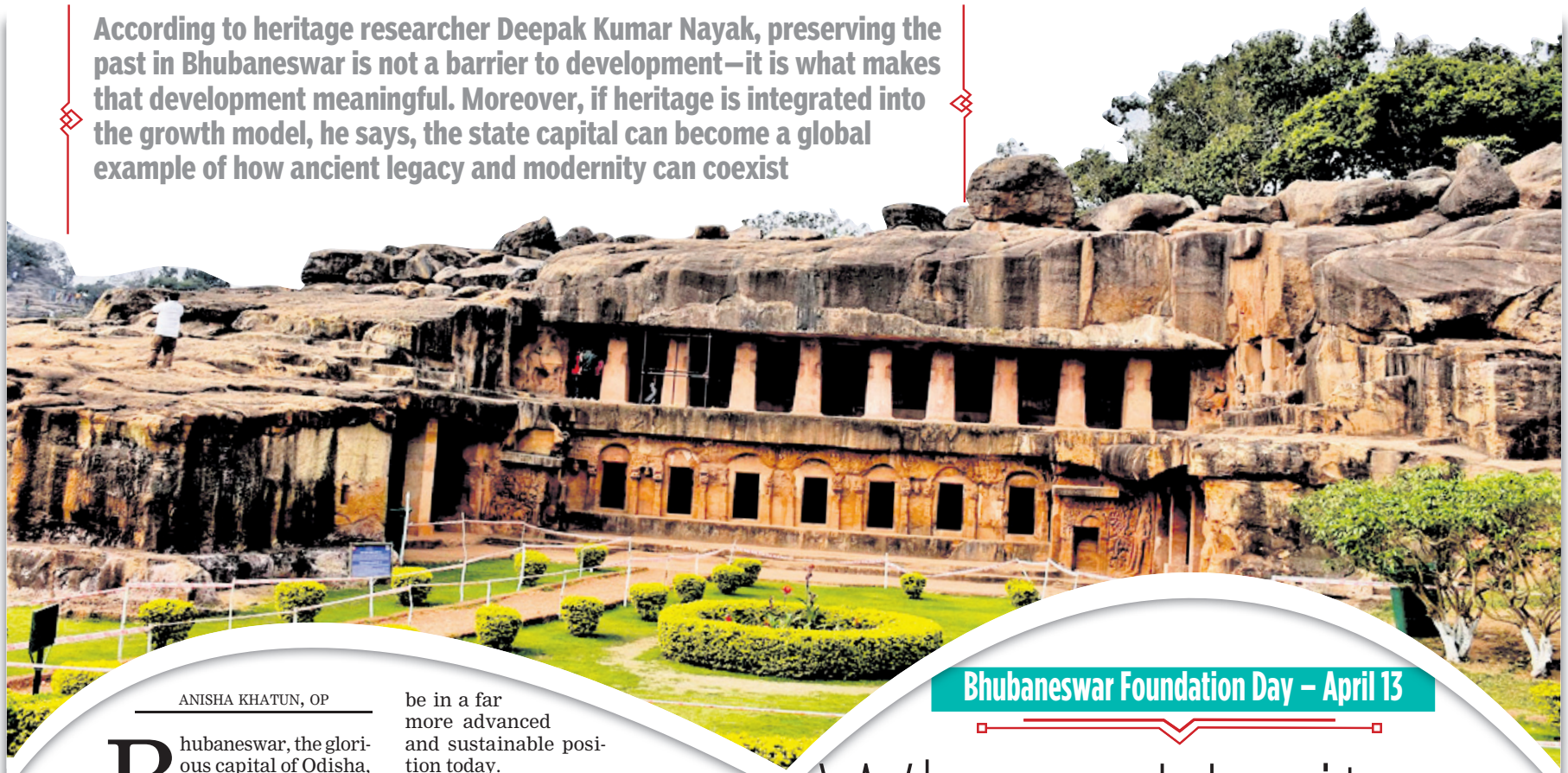


A word for readers

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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According to heritage researcher Deepak Kumar Nayak, preserving the past in Bhubaneswar is not a barrier to development—it is what makes that development meaningful. Moreover, if heritage is integrated into the growth model, he says, the state capital can become a global example of how ancient legacy and modernity can coexist



ANISHA KHATUN, OP

Bhubaneswar Foundation Day – April 13

Where Heritage Meets Horizon

Bhubaneswar, the glorious capital of Odisha, is not just a city—it is an emotion, a timeless blend of ancient wisdom and modern ambition. Fondly known as the Temple City of India, Bhubaneswar is a sacred landscape where every stone tells a story, every lane echoes history, and every breeze carries the essence of spirituality, culture, and pride.

This iconic city, named after Lord Shiva as Tribhubaneswar, stands on the legacy of over 2,000 years. From the grandeur of the Lingaraj Temple to the spiritual depth of Dhauli Shanti Stupa, where Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism, Bhubaneswar is a living museum of India's architectural brilliance and philosophical evolution.

Yet, Bhubaneswar is not bound by its past. It is a city that moves forward with confidence. As one of India's first planned cities post-independence and now a proud Smart City, it balances ancient traditions with futuristic vision. It is a thriving center of education, technology, sports, and entrepreneurship. From prestigious institutions to world-class infrastructure and global events, Bhubaneswar is making its mark on the world map.

As the city celebrates its 77th Foundation Day today, Sunday POST reached out to a few experts who shared their insights and recommendations to celebrate the essence of Bhubaneswar.

'Bhubaneswar today could have resembled Stuttgart'

Piyush Rout, a noted urban planner and passionate advocate for sustainable cities, said that the city has transformed significantly over the decades, evolving from the historic core of Old Town into a thriving modern urban centre. Yet, he believes that had the original 1948 master plan been implemented in its true spirit, Bhubaneswar would

be in a far more advanced and sustainable position today.

He claims that the planning principles laid out in 1948 were remarkably ahead of their time. "The city was designed around the concept of walkable neighborhoods, where a woman could walk to a health centre, market, or school without depending on anyone, and a child could safely reach school and a playground located within walking distance. The grid-shaped layout and the focus on neighborhood-based planning were progressive and human-centric, far better than many of today's town planning schemes," he says.

Inspired by cities like those in the former Soviet Union, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, and London, the original vision for Bhubaneswar sought to create a self-contained and sustainable urban model.

"If those ideas had been followed through," Rout adds, "Bhubaneswar today could have resembled Stuttgart, a city that many global urbanists look up to. Interestingly, what the world now calls a '15-minute city' was already envisioned in Bhubaneswar's DNA seven decades ago."

The city has made a mark on the global stage as India's Sports Capital, having hosted the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup twice, the Olympic qual-

ifiers, and the Asian Athletics Championship, all within an impressively short span of time. The city is even being considered as part of India's bid for the 2036 Olympics. Though Rout acknowledges that while the city has earned accolades, becoming one of Asia's and the world's most talked-about cities, it has also paid a price. "We've ruptured the city's lungs, its rivers, canals, lakes, and spongy ecosystems," he laments.

Expressing dissatisfaction

with the direction of the city's growth, he says, "I'm not happy with the kind of development we've seen. Bhubaneswar has done nothing drastically different from other Indian cities. It has abandoned its original identity rooted in people, heritage, and environment, and instead embraced a capitalism-driven, concrete-heavy urban model. Flyovers won't fix the city's congestion problems—they'll only further damage its character."



TODAY'S ITINERARY

Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, says, "We have meticulously planned a series of events to mark the 77th Bhubaneswar Foundation Day. The



celebration, set to take place on 13th and 14th April 2025, will be a significant milestone in the history of our vibrant city. The celebrations will kick off on 13th April, 2025, with the morning program at the Foundation Stone near PMG Square, followed by a flag-hoisting ceremony. This will be followed by a parade from Rabindra Mandap Square to Jaydev Bhawan and the inauguration of a photo exhibition at Jaydev Bhawan."

He goes on to add, "In the evening, we will host the Rajadhani Gourav Samman Felicitation at Utkal Mandap, alongside a cultural program and the felicitation of winners from various competitions. As part of the evening program on 13th April, we will also have a spectacular aerial fireworks display, adding to the grandeur of the occasion. The BMC has coordinated with the Fire Department to ensure all necessary permissions are in place for this breathtaking show of lights."



Inspired by cities like those in the former Soviet Union, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, and London, the original vision for Bhubaneswar sought to create a self-contained and sustainable urban model

PIYUSH ROUT, URBAN PLANNER



The birth of Bhubaneswar

The selection of Bhubaneswar as the capital of Odisha was the culmination of extensive deliberations and assessments of various cities, including Cuttack, Puri, Berhampur, and others. Each of these cities was evaluated based on factors such as geographical advantages, potential for expansion, and infrastructural capabilities. Cuttack's dense population and infrastructural constraints made it less suitable for accommodating the administrative needs of a growing state. Additionally, plans to expand into nearby areas like Chaudwar were hindered by financial and logistical issues, such as the inability to construct a bridge over the Mahanadi River. The Holy City of Puri was also in contention, but many felt that making it the capital would be inappropriate for a secular government. Berhampur, located near Rangailunda, was also considered as a potential capital. In 1936, a team led by engineer F.T. Jones from the Central Public Works Department recommended Rangailunda near Berhampur for the capital. However, these locations were ultimately deemed less favorable due to various factors, including logistical challenges and suitability for administrative functions. Ultimately, Bhubaneswar emerged as a favorable choice due to its ample space for expansion and strategic location. The city's selection was influenced by its proximity to Cuttack, allowing for administrative continuity, and its rich historical and cultural heritage. In September 1946, under the leadership of Premier Harekrushna Mahatab, the decision to establish Bhubaneswar as the new capital was solidified. The foundation stone for Bhubaneswar as the new capital was laid by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on April 13, 1949, marking a significant milestone in Odisha's history.

Looking forward, he believes the city has an opportunity to course-correct. "During the COVID-19 lockdowns, we saw a glimpse of what a sustainable city could be. Bhubaneswar should aim to become a '15 Neighbourhood and 45-minute City.' We need to invest in pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, secure cycling paths, robust public transport, and discourage the use of personal vehicles. Let's promote kitchen and community gardens, switch to solar energy, and make the city accessible 24/7 for children, women, and vulnerable groups," Rout urges.

'A living museum of India's ancient past'

Deepak Kumar Nayak, a dedicated heritage researcher, emphasizes the profound historical and cultural legacy of Bhubaneswar, calling it "a living museum of India's ancient past." He describes the city as a sacred landscape where every stone, structure, and site tells a story that spans centuries—from the 3rd century BCE to the modern day. "Bhubaneswar is not just a city; it's a timeline carved in stone," he says. "Its roots go deep into the Kalinga kingdom, with its defining moment being the Kalinga War, which changed the course of Indian and world history."

He elaborates on the significance of nearby Sisupalgarh, once the capital of the great Kalinga emperor Mahameghavahana Aira Kharavela. "Kharavela's legacy is immense. He was not only a powerful ruler but also a patron of Jainism and the arts. Sisupalgarh was one of the most advanced urban centers of its time, and yet today it lies largely forgotten amid urban sprawl," Nayak notes with concern.

Following Odisha's statehood, the decision to make Bhubaneswar the capital in 1948 was, in his words, "a recognition of its geographical centrality and historical gravitas."

Reflecting on the city's modern development, Nayak expresses a mix of admiration and concern. "Yes, we've seen remarkable progress in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and IT. Bhubaneswar is no longer just a historic city—it's a growing urban center," he acknowledges. "But what we've gained in growth,

we are at risk of losing in memory. Our heritage sites are under pressure from encroachment, neglect, and environmental degradation."

He stresses that many historical treasures, including ancient temples and archaeological remains, lack proper conservation and infrastructure. "We cannot afford to treat our heritage as an afterthought," he says.

To protect Bhubaneswar's heritage, Nayak calls for a strategic, multi-layered approach. "We need stronger laws and stricter enforcement to prevent illegal constructions near heritage zones. Each site should have a tailored conservation plan that balances protection with accessibility," he asserts.

He concludes with a hopeful vision: "If we integrate our heritage into our growth model, Bhubaneswar can become a global example of how ancient legacy and modernity can coexist. Preserving our past is not a barrier to development—it's what makes that development meaningful."

'Rethink about support systems for skill development'

Tara Prasad Dhal, the first architect from Odisha to receive the prestigious Viswakarma Award, reflected on the journey of Bhubaneswar and its remarkable transformation. He recalls how the planning of Bhubaneswar was once limited to a small area centered around the Odisha Secretariat and the Assembly.

"The planning of the city was limited to some area with the center at the Secretariat and Assembly. Villages like Nayapalli, Baramunda, Badagada, Old Town, and Patia were on the outskirts of the city. The city's residents depended heavily on the Capital Hospital for their healthcare needs. For retail and commercial activities, people would visit the central market building located in Unit 2. Public schools were scattered across different zones, and institutions like BJB College and Utkal University provided higher education," he said.

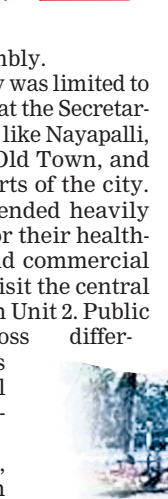
However, over the years, the population has grown

exponentially, as has the infrastructure and facilities for higher education.

Dhal notes that despite these developments, there are still areas where Bhubaneswar falls short. He points out that there remains a significant gap in demand and supply, particularly when comparing Bhubaneswar to cities like Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, or Ahmedabad.

"The city's connectivity is also an issue—while Bhubaneswar is well connected to Delhi, other cities have poor air connections. Similarly, the Bhubaneswar Railway Station requires more platforms to handle the growing demand for travel. Other cities in Odisha have not developed at the same pace as Bhubaneswar, leading to substantial migration from rural areas and other cities to Bhubaneswar for better living opportunities," he adds.

Asked about measures that can be taken to better the city, he suggests, "A five-year vision plan is crucial for any government to ensure balanced development. We need to enhance metro connectivity between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, along with a focus on Khurda, Jatni, and beyond, to create a circular ecosystem. There is also a pressing need to rethink the support system for quality education and skill development, as the current infrastructure is unable to meet the growing demands of the expanding industries."





A New Year rooted in tradition

Not just Odias, people in several other states - Punjab (Baisakhi), Tamil Nadu (Puthandu), Assam (Bohag Bihu), Kerala (Vishu) and West Bengal (Poila Boisakh) also celebrate April 14 as the first day of the year

Anisha Khatun, op

While much of the world celebrates the New Year on January 1, Odias usher in their own new beginning April 14 with Pana Sankranti—a vibrant festival steeped in tradition, spirituality, and a deep reverence for nature. Also known as Maha Bishuba Sankranti, this auspicious day marks the sun’s transition into the zodiac sign of Mesha (Aries), signalling the start of the Odia solar calendar and a season of renewal and hope. It is also a time to honour Lord Surya, the Sun God, whose blessings are believed to ensure prosperity and a bountiful harvest.

The festival takes its name from pana—a refreshing, sweet drink made of jaggery, water, fruits, and curd—offered to deities, elders, and even strangers, symbolising life, compassion, and the joy of giving. One of the most distinctive rituals of the day involves placing a small earthen pot with a tiny hole—Basundhara theki—above the sacred basil plant, allowing water to drip slowly as an offering to Mother Earth, reflecting the values of

sustainability and gratitude. The day is also significant for several other reasons. It is also observed as the birth anniversary of Lord Hanuman, adding a dimension of strength, devotion, and divine protection to the festivities. However, for Odias across the world, the day is a cherished occasion to reconnect with their roots, honour timeless traditions, and step into the New Year with hope, humility, and a heart full of Odisha.

'An occasion to connect with nature'



Parbati Sahoo, 56, a homemaker from Cuttack, says, “Pana Sankranti, holds a very special place in my heart. It’s not just the beginning of Odia New Year for us, but a day of spiritual renewal, cultural pride and community bonding. We start the day with a bath and early morning prayers, offering our devotion to Lord Jagannath, Lord Surya, Goddess Tarini and Lord Hanuman.”

“One of the most iconic traditions of the day is preparing and sharing. For me, making Pana and sharing it with family, friends and even strangers is a gesture of love and unity. Another important ritual is hanging a small earthen pot filled with water with a tiny hole in it, allowing water to drip slowly onto a Tulsi plant or a sacred stone. This symbolises our connection with nature and the importance of water conservation and life itself. We also distribute chhatua, banana, coconut and jaggery as offerings and prasad. It’s a time when the entire family comes together, and we talk about the values that define our

identity—respect for elders, devotion to God, and care for the environment,” she added.

“For me, Odia New Year is more than a celebration—it’s a reminder of who we are and where we come from. It connects generations, renews our sense of belonging, and fills our hearts with gratitude and hope for the year ahead,” she concludes.

It's about honouring the roots

Sandeep Sahoo, 32, IT professional at a private firm, Bangalore, says, “Pana Sankranti brings a wave of emotions—nostalgia, pride and a deep longing for the warmth of my family and traditions. Even though I am miles away, I make it a point to celebrate it in my own little way, keeping the essence of our culture alive wherever I am. I start the day by calling my family—my mother always reminds me to have a bath early and pray to Lord Jagannath. I might not have a Tulsi plant here, but I still prepare a small corner with a diya, flowers and a photo of the deities. It gives me a sense of peace and connection.”

Sahoo further shares, “Making Pana has now become a personal tradition for me. I try to gather the ingredients—bael (wood apple) if I can find it, or sometimes I improvise with fruits, curd and jaggery. The first sip always takes me home. I share it with my roommates or friends, and I love explaining the story behind it—how the water-filled pot dripping over Tulsi represents our gratitude towards nature. Though I miss the aroma of chhatua, the sound of conch shells, and the joy of dressing up in traditional clothes with my cousins, I’ve come to realise that celebrating is not about how grand it is—it’s about remembering and honoring our roots.”



“For me, Pana Sankranti is a celebration of identity. It reminds me of who I am, no matter where I live. It’s a time to pause, reflect, and carry forward the values of kindness, simplicity, and spiritual grounding that our culture beautifully teaches us. Even from afar, I feel deeply connected to Odisha and its timeless traditions,” Sahoo signs off.



Kajol shares secret of life

Actress Kajol revealed the secret of life through her latest social media post. She dropped some enchanting pictures in a stunning saree paired with a green choker and a stylish wristwatch. With open hair and minimal makeup, the diva was seen posing against a window almost as beautiful as her.

“The secret of life is to waste time doing things that u like...,” Kajol captioned the post.

Earlier today, Kajol called veteran actress Jaya Bachchan the ‘most no-nonsense’ woman. She took to social media to wish Jaya Bachchan on her birthday, terming her as the “most no-nonsense” woman she knows.

Sharing a candid photo featuring her and Jaya Bachchan from a Durga Puja pandal, Kajol penned the caption, “Happy birthday to the most no non-sense woman I know wish u a fantastic year ahead #jay-abachchan.” (sic).

On the professional front, Kajol will be seen headlining the forthcoming mythological horror Maa. The much-awaited drama is scheduled to reach the cinema halls June 27th, 2025.

With Kajol as the lead, the project will also see Ronit Roy, Indraneil Sen-gupta, Jitin Gu-lati, Gopal Singh, Surjyasikha Das, Yaaneeaa Bharad-waj, Roopkatha Chakraborty, and Kherin Sharma as the ancillary cast.

IAN S



KRITI'S full-circle moment

Before becoming one of Bollywood's most admired stars, Kriti Sanon was a Delhi girl with big dreams and unstoppable determination. Born and raised in Patparganj, she studied at Delhi Public School, RK Puram, a place she still holds close to her heart.

In a heartfelt moment in 2022, she returned to her alma mater after 15 years, arms wide open at the school gate, captioning her visit with “I made it!”—a full-circle mo-

ment that resonated with every proud Delhiite.

Kriti later pursued engineering at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida. While studying, she ventured into modelling—an unexpected twist that led her to the silver screen. With no industry connections, Kriti carved her space in Bollywood purely on the strength of her talent and relentless work ethic.

Her filmography reflects her versatility—from the spirited Bitti in *Bareilly Ki Barfi* to the emotionally complex Mimi. In 2024, she delivered a blockbuster hatrck with *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*, *Crew*, and *Do Patti*, each highlighting a different facet of her acting range.

Though she now resides in a plush Mumbai duplex, Delhi remains home. From Patpar-ganj's lanes to Bollywood's spotlight, Kriti Sanon's journey is one of grit, grace, and glowing success.

AGENCIES

Rashmika Mandanna ended 2024 on a high note with the blockbuster *Pushpa 2: The Rule* and carried that momentum into 2025 with back-to-back hits like *Chhaava* and *Sikandar*. Her consistent performances and effortless screen presence have cemented her status as one of the most prominent pan-Indian actresses today. Fluent across regional industries, Rashmika continues to resonate with audiences nationwide.

Gracing the cover of *Open Magazine's* 2025 edition, she is celebrated as “India's Sweetheart”—a title that reflects both her charm and rising influence. Known for rarely featuring celebrities, the magazine's choice to spotlight Rashmika is a nod to her wide-spread impact. Whether it's commanding roles in films, high-profile brand endorsements,

or pear-on ion runways, Rashmika is everywhere—and with grace. Her journey is far from over. With a dynamic

Rashmika named 'India's Sweetheart'

line-up ahead, Rashmika is set to reunite with Allu Arjun in *Pushpa 3: The Rampage*, star alongside Dhanush in *Kubera*, and explore horror-comedy in Thama opposite Ayushmann Khurрана.

She also leads in *The Girlfriend and Rainbow*. With every project, she continues to expand her range and reach, proving she's not just a star—she's a force shaping the future of Indian cinema.

AGENCIES



Industry should focus on real talent: Isha

Television actress Isha Malviya said that what has surprised her the most about the film industry since starting her career is that many incredibly talented people aren't given equal opportunities.

In a conversation with the agency, Isha, who made her acting debut with the television show *Udaariyaan* in 2021, said, “One thing that has always surprised me and still does is how so many incredibly talented people aren't given equal opportunities. I'm not saying nepotism is entirely bad, but I do feel that outsiders deserve at least one fair chance to prove themselves.”

The actress stressed that the industry should “focus” on real talent.

“Let them compete with the star kids and let the audience decide who truly deserves to shine. The in-

dustry should focus more on real talent, regardless of background, and let the future of Bollywood be shaped by merit,” she said.

After her work in *Udaariyaan*, where she played the character of Jasmine, Isha featured in the 17th edition of the controversial reality show *Bigg Boss* in 2023. She was also seen in music videos, including *Paon Ki Jutti*. She also joined Gauahar Khan in the show *Lovely Lolla*.

IAN S





For decades, the Indian Constitution ensured political representation for Anglo-Indians through nominated seats in Parliament and State Legislatures. However, the 126th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2019 ended this provision, citing the community's declining population as recorded in the 2011 Census

LYNDON D. THOMAS
& STHITAPRAJNA

The Anglo-Indian community in Odisha, one of the world's oldest mixed-descent groups, has remained largely overlooked in historical and political discourse. While the term "Anglo" suggests a direct connection to England, this is misleading, as Anglo-Indian ancestry can be traced back to any European country through the male lineage. Despite their unique heritage and contributions, scholars like Caplan highlight their absence from modern Indian history, while Blunt describes their past as a "hidden history." At the national level, little to no literature exists on the Anglo-Indians of Odisha, further pushing the community into obscurity.

Historically, Odisha was home to several distinguished Anglo-Indians who played key roles in various fields. The most notable figure was Captain Eric J. Tucker, a recipient of the Ashok Chakra. Anglo-Indians contributed significantly to education, including Mrs. Olga Littlewood, the first teacher and principal of Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Sybill Tucker, former principal of Stewart School, Cuttack, Prof. Michael Vanjour, former Dean of XLRI, and many more. The community played a crucial role in the Indian Railways and was instrumental in shaping Odisha's early rock and pop music scene. Capt. (Dr.) Stanislaus Ambrose, a renowned physician, and many nurses from the community also served the state well. Additionally, AK Barren (IAS) served as Chief Secretary of Odisha from 1965 to 1970, marking a significant

A vanishing legacy

political milestone for Anglo-Indians in the state.

Loss of political representation

For decades, the Indian Constitution ensured political representation for Anglo-Indians through nominated seats in Parliament and State Legislatures. However, the 126th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2019 ended this provision, citing the community's declining population as recorded in the 2011 Census. Previously, twelve Indian states had nominated Anglo-Indians to their legislative assemblies, but Odisha never had an Anglo-Indian representative in its Assembly.

This absence of representation has led to significant political, social, and economic challenges for the community. Without a nominated member in governance, Anglo-Indians in Odisha face political marginalization and have little influence over policy decisions that affect them. The lack of formal recognition has also contributed to the erosion of their cultural identity, as there are no institutional efforts to document or promote their history, contributions, and traditions. Consequently, the community has missed out on oppor-

Odisha's Famous Anglo-Indians	
Name	Position
AK Barren (IAS)	Chief Secretary of Odisha from 1965 to 1970
Olga Littlewood	The first teacher and principal of Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Bhubaneswar
Capt. (Dr.) Stanislaus Ambrose,	Renowned physician
Sybill Tucker	Former principal of Stewart School, Cuttack,
Prof. Michael Vanjour	Former Dean of XLRI

tunities that could have enhanced their socio-economic status.

A call for government support

The lack of an institutional platform for addressing grievances has only deep-

ened the community's marginalization, making it even more difficult for Anglo-Indians to safeguard their interests, even within minority institutions across the state. To prevent further alienation, the government could consider establishing advisory councils or including Anglo-Indians in minority welfare programs, ensuring that they have a voice in governance.

Additionally, the government could provide support in areas where political representation could have made a difference. Reserved seats in professional courses, access to coaching facilities in government sports hostels, and the establishment of a dedicated community centre could greatly benefit the community. As this once-thriving group continues to dwindle, the pressing question remains: Will the government take steps to preserve Odisha's Anglo-Indian legacy, or will the community fade into history, unnoticed and forgotten?

The writers are Professors in Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Deemed-to-be University.



Ladies' Badminton Club, Khurda Road Junction (KUR) railway colony, Orissa.

PHOTO: FOOTPRINTS ON THE TRACK



Snuti

WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
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