

APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2025

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW

INTERNATIONAL  
DANCE DAY - APRIL 29

Exploring <sup>new</sup>  
frontiers

COVER STORY

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Ankit Pattnaik, born in Sambalpur, has always been passionate about acting. After completing MBA, he moved to Mumbai in 2018 to pursue his dreams. There he spent two years in theatre, honing his craft before transitioning to on-screen roles. His journey began with music videos and led to breakthrough performances in Odia serials 'Sathire' and 'Madhura Sansara,' earning him multiple awards. His dedication and talent continue to shine in every role he takes on. Despite his success, Ankit remains grounded, spending his Sundays with family and friends



### A day of RRR

Sundays are the days to unwind and recharge. I immerse myself in movies, letting their stories refresh my mind and spirit for the week ahead. A perfect Sunday feels like RRR: a time to Relax, Recharge, and Rediscover life's simple joys.



### Keeping real ones close

When I'm not on set or involved in shoots, I cherish quality time with family and friends, savouring moments of connection and laughter.

### Travel freak

Traveling is my passion, and whenever I find the time, I explore new destinations, experiencing different cultures and places.

### Creative pursuit

In my free time, I enjoy learning new skills. I'm open to exploring and mastering anything possible, except for playing musical instruments.

### True foodie

As a foodie, I never follow a diet. When free from work, I love cooking and eating, especially non-vegetarian dishes, which I tend to make more often.



### 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

- They say you are what you eat, so lay off the nuts.
- Early to bed, early to rise makes people suspicious.
- My wife is so negative. I remembered the car seat, the stroller, AND the diaper bag. Yet all she can talk about is how I forgot the baby.
- I had a neck brace fitted years ago and I've never looked back since.



### A call for action

Sir, Earth Day, celebrated annually April 22, is a global movement that highlights the urgency of environmental protection and sustainability. It serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to preserve the planet for future generations. This day encourages individuals, communities, and governments to take concrete actions against climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It promotes awareness about critical issues like deforestation, ocean pollution, and the depletion of natural resources. Earth Day also fosters a sense of global unity, bringing people together to advocate for policies that protect our environment. By participating in activities like tree planting, clean-up drives, and educational workshops, we can make a tangible difference. Ultimately, Earth Day is not just a day of awareness but a call to action, inspiring us to adopt sustainable practices in our daily lives and to hold ourselves and our leaders accountable for the health of our planet.

Soumyajit Parida, BHUBANESWAR

### 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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INTERNATIONAL  
DANCE DAY - APRIL 29

# Exploring new frontiers

A state long celebrated for its classical dance traditions, Odisha is now emerging as a powerhouse of contemporary dance, churning out young performers who can hold their own on the global stage. The beats have changed, and the state is dancing to its own vibrant rhythm

ANISHA KHATON, OP

Not long ago, Odisha's dance landscape was synonymous with classical elegance, deeply rooted in traditions like Odissi. There was little room for modern dance forms such as hip-hop, popping, or contemporary dance. Street battles, freestyle jams, and global dance competitions seemed like distant dreams for young dancers in the state. Structured platforms, professional mentors, and recognition of modern dance as a serious career option were virtually non-existent.

Cut to 2025: The rhythm has changed—dramatically.

Odisha is now pulsing with fresh energy, emerging as one of the most exciting hubs for modern dance in East India. From the narrow lanes of the state to national reality shows, dancers from Odisha are no longer hidden talents; they are trendsetters, performers, and pioneers. With sheer grit, self-learning, and an unshakable belief in their craft, they have battled their way to recognition.

These artistes have not only represented India on the global stage but have also built a vibrant community back home. They host international jams, mentor the next generation, and prove that Odisha can dance with the best in the world. The beats have changed, and Odisha is dancing to its own powerful rhythm.

On the occasion of International Dance Day, SUNDAY POST reached out to several dance masters of their craft to share their insights on this growing trend.

## 'Stay true to your craft'

Adarsh Mishra, popularly known by his stage name 'Addyction,' is a dynamic dancer from Puri who has redefined the dance landscape in Odisha and beyond with his distinct and powerful style. Adarsh has represented the state and country at several prestigious national and international platforms.

His journey with dance began in 2007, during his school days. "My journey started in 2007 when I watched some of the world's top b-boying videos at my friend's home. Vishal used to collect these videos and show me how humans could move in ways I had never imagined. It left me amazed and inspired me to try those moves. I give full credit to Vishal for introducing me to this world—before that, I had never even con-

sidered myself a dancer," he recalls.

The road to becoming a celebrated artist was far from easy. From mastering intricate moves to convincing his parents of his passion, Adarsh faced countless challenges. "Every day was a challenge—from learning the moves to seeking acceptance from my family. It took me ten years, from 2007 to 2017, to overcome these obstacles," he shares.

The turning point came in 2017 when he won the Indian qualifiers of the Street Dance World Cup and earned the opportunity to represent India in Seoul, South Korea.

"Being from a small city like Puri, it felt impossible to connect to such a global stage. I remember traveling to Delhi in 2012-2013 just to understand the standard of dance in India and to collect the music used in battles. Then I would return to Puri, train my crew, and share everything I learned. Honestly, the whole journey felt like a movie," he adds.



Now, with his place in the dance world well-established, Adarsh is driven by a larger vision.

"I have so many ideas for the future. My biggest goal is to see great artists rise from India and

to help thousands of students across the globe achieve success. That's my success too. For the past 15 years, my focus has been on real art and real artists. I want them to shine, because that's where my true happiness lies. I will continue serving the dance community in every way I can," he affirms.

Reflecting on the evolution of dance in Odisha, he says, "Earlier, there was nothing here. A few artists made it to national television, but there was no real support system to help others grow. I realized that one person alone can't put Odisha on the map—it takes a strong, united community. That's why I started hosting jams, teaching for free, and inspiring the next generation. Today, Odisha is one of the leading hip-hop hubs in East India. Dancers from across the country come here to battle and earn recognition. I host international jams in Puri every year, and people

from around the world travel here just to witness Indian hip-hop. It's become the backbone for many dancers. For me and for Odisha, that's a huge success. Now, college students are stepping up, continuing the legacy, and taking it to new heights," he shares.

He concludes with a powerful message for aspiring dancers: "Believe in yourself. Believe in real art. Yes, short-format videos and reels have taken over the world, but they're diluting the essence of real dance. I want young dancers to know—real art never dies. Stay true to your craft. Be with me, and together, we'll create even bigger opportunities here in Odisha."





‘Originality is the key’

**Dibyajyoti Naik**, widely known as Poppin Dibya, is a gifted dancer and choreographer from Cuttack who has made a distinct mark with his signature dance style—an electrifying fusion of Popping and Bollywood. With sheer passion and self-taught skills, he has carved out a niche in the Indian dance scene, leaving audiences and judges alike captivated. His audition on India's Best Dancer (IBD) left an indelible impression on celebrity judges Karisma Kapoor, Terence Lewis, and Geeta Kapur, who praised his creativity, innovation, and uniquely expressive choreography.

Reflecting on his dance journey, Dibya says, “My journey started around 2003–2004 by watching Hrithik Roshan and Prabhu Deva’s films. Their dance moves fascinated me. But the true turning point came in 2007 when I saw Michael Jackson for the first time. That changed everything. I started imitating his style, learning purely by watching. I never had any formal training—TV and YouTube became my teachers.”

He was so inspired that he began teaching dance to others while still in school.

“I started teaching students when I was in 9th or 10th grade. By the time I completed Class 10, I had already decided to pursue dance as my career,” he adds. Around 2017–2018, he began exploring the world of choreography and got his first break in 2019 with a music video. Alongside this, he continued auditioning for reality shows. To date, he has choreographed over



400 music videos, a monumental achievement by any standard. His dedication and persistence paid off when he was selected for IBD, a national-level reality show. Another major highlight in his journey came in 2021 when he was crowned the 2nd Runner-Up at the World of Dance India, an international dance

franchise. He has also contributed his choreography talents to films, further cementing his position in the dance industry.

But his journey was not without its challenges. “Initially, I faced resistance from my family. It took a lot of arguments and emotional conversations to win their support,” he admits. Financial constraints added to the struggle.

“To fund my passion, I worked different jobs. I also participated in competitions and used the prize money to invest back into my dance journey. Choreography helped a lot too—it opened doors to income and opportunities abroad,” he explains.

Speaking on the current state of dance in Odisha, Dibya shares an optimistic view. “Until 2016, the situation wasn’t great, but things are improving. Many dancers from Odisha are now participating in national reality shows. The underground battle scene has grown stronger. That’s where the real hip-hop is happening—raw, original, and powerful. The blending of commercial and underground dance has produced some truly impressive results,” he says.

To aspiring dancers, his advice is clear and powerful:



low two things—originality and respect. You don’t need to copy anyone. Originality is the key. And always respect fellow artists, no matter what stage they’re on. That’s how you grow and uplift the community together.”

‘A great teacher doesn’t just create students, he crafts teachers too’

**Harihar Dash**, a globally recognised dancer and actor, rose to fame as a top 5 finalist on India’s Got Talent. A self-taught artist, Harihar specialises in Hip Hop, Locking & Popping, Break Dance, and House, fused with Bollywood styles, creating a dynamic and original performance style. His talent has taken him around the world, including a two-year stint with Cirque du Soleil, where he worked alongside top international dancers and choreographers.

Harihar’s journey began in 2000 in his hometown of Berhampur. “This year marks my silver jubilee on the dance floor,” he says proudly. With no formal training available, he relied on television and music videos to learn. “Michael Jackson became my first, indirect teacher. I’d watch his videos and mimic every pop, slide, and spin right in my living room,” he recalls. That self-driven approach led him to master street styles like popping, locking, and breakdancing, laying the foundation for a versatile dance career.

Reflecting on his early struggles, he notes, “I don’t like calling them challenges—they’ve always been lessons that shaped my journey.” While studying electronics and telecommunications, his heart was set on the stage. “Convincing everyone that dance could be more than a hobby took time. Eventually, my parents saw my passion and became my biggest

sup-porters,” he admits. In the pre-social media era, he traveled across India for auditions and competitions. “Those trips taught me how to be adaptable and build connections wherever I went.” Now, with digital tools at his fingertips, he can teach online, share choreography, and connect globally.

His future plans are focused and purposeful. Harihar believes, “Learn more, reach more, teach more—and now, write more. Every day is a classroom,” and remains committed to learning, collaborating, and mentoring. “A great teacher doesn’t just create students—they create teachers,” he adds. For over two years, he has been researching and writing two books: one exploring the global evolution of dance, and another serving as a teaching guide. Whether through founding an academy or publishing a curriculum, his goal



is to build a sustainable ecosystem that nurtures future generations.

Harihar offers a reflective view on the dance landscape in Odisha, dividing it into two broad areas: classical and folk forms, and the western dance space. He praises the growth of Odissi, saying, “Our classical dancers represent Odisha beautifully on national and global stages.” However, he expresses concern over the fading prominence of traditional folk dances. “These forms carry the soul of our land—born from festivals and rituals—but they’re slowly disappearing. They need immediate preservation and promotion.”

On the western front, he notes a rise in dance schools, indicating growing interest. “But we need more than numbers—we need depth,” Harihar explains. Many dancers lack structured training and national-level exposure. “Mentorship, discipline, and access to professional platforms are key if we want to stand out,” he adds.





In 2025, technology is taking a bold leap beyond the conventional. It's not just about faster processors or sleeker screens anymore—it's about innovation that surprises, delights, and genuinely enhances everyday life. From emotionally intelligent robots to solar-powered fashion, this year's most unique gadgets reflect a growing desire for tech that's not only functional but also thoughtful and engaging. These devices blend creativity with practicality, offering smart solutions wrapped in playful, user-friendly designs. Whether you're a gadget geek or a casual consumer, these inventions are sure to capture your imagination. Here are five standout gadgets of 2025 redefining what tech can be

# Gadgets that redefine everyday tech



## Mirumi: The shy sloth-like robot companion

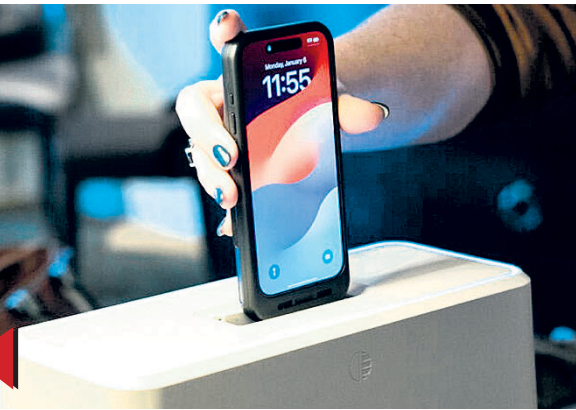
Straight out of a sci-fi film with a soft twist, Mirumi by Yukai Engineering is a small, fuzzy robot that mimics the behavior of a shy creature. Designed to clip onto your backpack or shoulder strap, Mirumi responds to its environment with endearing behaviors—turning its head away bashfully when strangers approach or nestling into your chest like a bashful pet. It uses motion sensors and AI to detect people and surroundings, encouraging gentle interaction and emotional comfort. It doesn't talk, it doesn't light up—it just reacts in an emotionally resonant way. It's like carrying a living plushie with you, making Mirumi a blend of robotics and mental wellness.

OP DESK



## Swippitt: Toaster-inspired wireless charger

Imagine a toaster... but for your phone batteries. The Swippitt Charging Hub reimagines how we power our devices by introducing hot-swappable battery packs stored in a charmingly retro, toaster-like station. Users simply drop "battery slices" into the charger, then insert them into Swippitt's custom phone case. This means you're never tethered to a cable or waiting on wireless charging pads. The battery units themselves are slim, colorful, and modular—fitting seamlessly into daily use, especially for those constantly on the move. It's clever, it's cute, and it solves a modern problem with nostalgic flair.



## LG AeroCatTower: For you and your feline

Why choose between clean air and a happy cat when you can have both? LG's AeroCatTower is a dual-purpose gadget that functions as an air purifier and a modern cat tree. Not only does it eliminate pet dander and dust, but it also comes equipped with a built-in scale to monitor your cat's weight. The data syncs with the LG ThinQ app, allowing owners to track their pet's health metrics over time. The design is sleek and Scandinavian-inspired, fitting neatly into modern homes while serving both utility and aesthetic charm. And yes, cats love the heating function on colder days.

## Samsung Ballie AI assistant

Samsung's lovable home robot Ballie is back with a big upgrade. The 2025 version rolls smoothly around your home, now with a built-in projector that can display videos, messages, or even ambient lighting effects on walls. Ballie can manage smart devices, act as a mobile home security assistant, and interact using voice and facial recognition. What makes Ballie special is its personality. It beeps, moves expressively, and feels more like a pet than a product. It follows you around like a loyal companion, managing your home quietly and efficiently while also keeping you company.

## Anker wearable Solar Panel Jacket

Sustainability meets fashion with Anker's concept Solar Panel Jacket. Lined with advanced perovskite solar cells and highlighted with subtle LED strips, this jacket captures solar energy while you're walking outside, biking, or even just sitting by the window. The jacket connects via USB-C to small devices, giving you emergency charge capabilities on the go. Perfect for travelers, hikers, or anyone who hates running out of battery at festivals or outdoor events, it's also a statement about the future of wearable tech—functional, fashionable, and planet-friendly.







# Nushrratt on tough times

Actor Nushrratt Bharuccha, currently riding high on the release of her latest film *Chhorii 2*, recently opened up about her early financial hardships and how they shaped her approach to money today. In an interview with *Bollywood Bubble*, Nushrratt revealed that her childhood experiences, particularly witnessing her parents face financial difficulties, instilled in her a strong sense of financial discipline.

Reflecting on her college days, she shared, "Ninety percent of my college life, I survived on just Rs8 a day, which went towards travel—train and bus fare. I never spent on food, and whenever I was hungry, I drank water. That was free at Jai Hind College."

Now 39, the actor said her money management habits were formed early. "I had a clear budget and anything extra automatically went into savings and investments. The money doesn't even come to my account—it goes straight to the wealth manager," she explained, highlighting her proactive approach in an unpredictable profession.

Nushrratt stars in *Chhorii 2*, a sequel to the 2021 horror hit, which dives deep into folklore and gender-based issues. Directed by Vishal Furia, the film is now streaming on Prime Video and also features Soha Ali Khan and Gashmeer Mahajani.

AGENCIES

# Nikita's dream role

For actress Nikita Dutta *Jewel Thief – The Heist Begins* was the kind of film she had long hoped to be part of, stylish, suspenseful, and rooted in a genre she genuinely loves.

For someone who had been watching a lot of heist thrillers recently, the timing felt less like coincidence and more like destiny.

Opening up about how she landed the role, Nikita shared, "I happened to get a call from Mamta (Anand), saying that we're making a film like this, would you be keen? When I heard the script for the first time, I was absolutely on board because I tell you honestly I have been personally really enjoying the genre. Through the different re-workings of the script, we found the beauty of Farah, who has substance, she is finding her voice and has a whole lot of oomph which is what I loved."

Calling the movie a 'dream come true', she went on to say "It is one thing when you get a role you've almost manifested and it is another when it is with Saif Ali Khan, Jaideep Ahlawat and Kunal Kapoor. Working on a Siddharth Anand film already felt like a dream come true and then the cast just made this dream a whole lot better."

IANS



## French honour for Payal

Director Payal Kapadia has been felicitated with prestigious French civilian honour, Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, for her contribution to cinema.

Kapadia's feature directorial debut *All We Imagine As Light*, an Indo-French co-production, won the prestigious Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

The Mumbai-born filmmaker was conferred with the Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet, Consul General of France in Mumbai, on behalf of the French government, at a ceremony held in Mumbai.

She was recognised for "her outstanding achievements in the field of cinema,

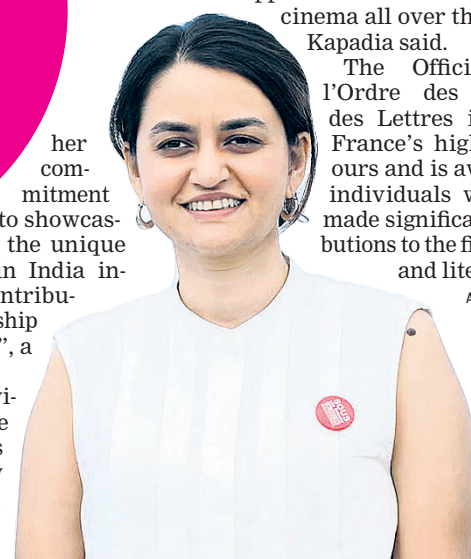
her commitment to showcasing the unique voices in India internationally, and her contribution to the cultural relationship between France and India", a press release said.

"It is an honour and privilege to be conferred with the distinction of Officer of Arts and Letters. I am also very thankful for the French Government's dedicated

support towards independent cinema all over the world," Kapadia said.

The Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is among France's highest honours and is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of art and literature.

AGENCIES



## Rangashoor to be screened at NYIFF

Odia film *Rangashoor* which showcases Odisha's traditional folk dance Bagha Nacha, has been selected for screening at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) to be held from June 20 to 22 in New York City. The film, jointly produced by Prakash Films and Moon TV Movies, was released across Odisha January 12, 2025.

Announcing the selection, Prakash Films expressed their excitement in a statement:

"We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our film *Rangashoor* has been officially selected for screening at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival! This is a significant milestone for our entire team, and we are incredibly honored to have our work recognized on such a prominent international platform."

Directed by Pratap Rout, *Rangashoor* centers around a young girl's aspiration to perform Bagha Nacha, a centuries-old folk dance traditionally performed only by men. The story follows her journey and the resistance she faces from society, while also portraying the father-daughter duo's efforts to revive the dying art form.

The movie stars Suryamayee Mohapatra, Chaudhury Jayprakash Das, Chaudhury Bikash Das, Samaresh Routray, Subhasish Sharma, Jyoti Ranjan, and Dipanwit Das Mohapatra in pivotal roles. The film is produced by Sachikant Jena, Prashant Beura, Sunil Yadav, and Pratap Rout.

PNN



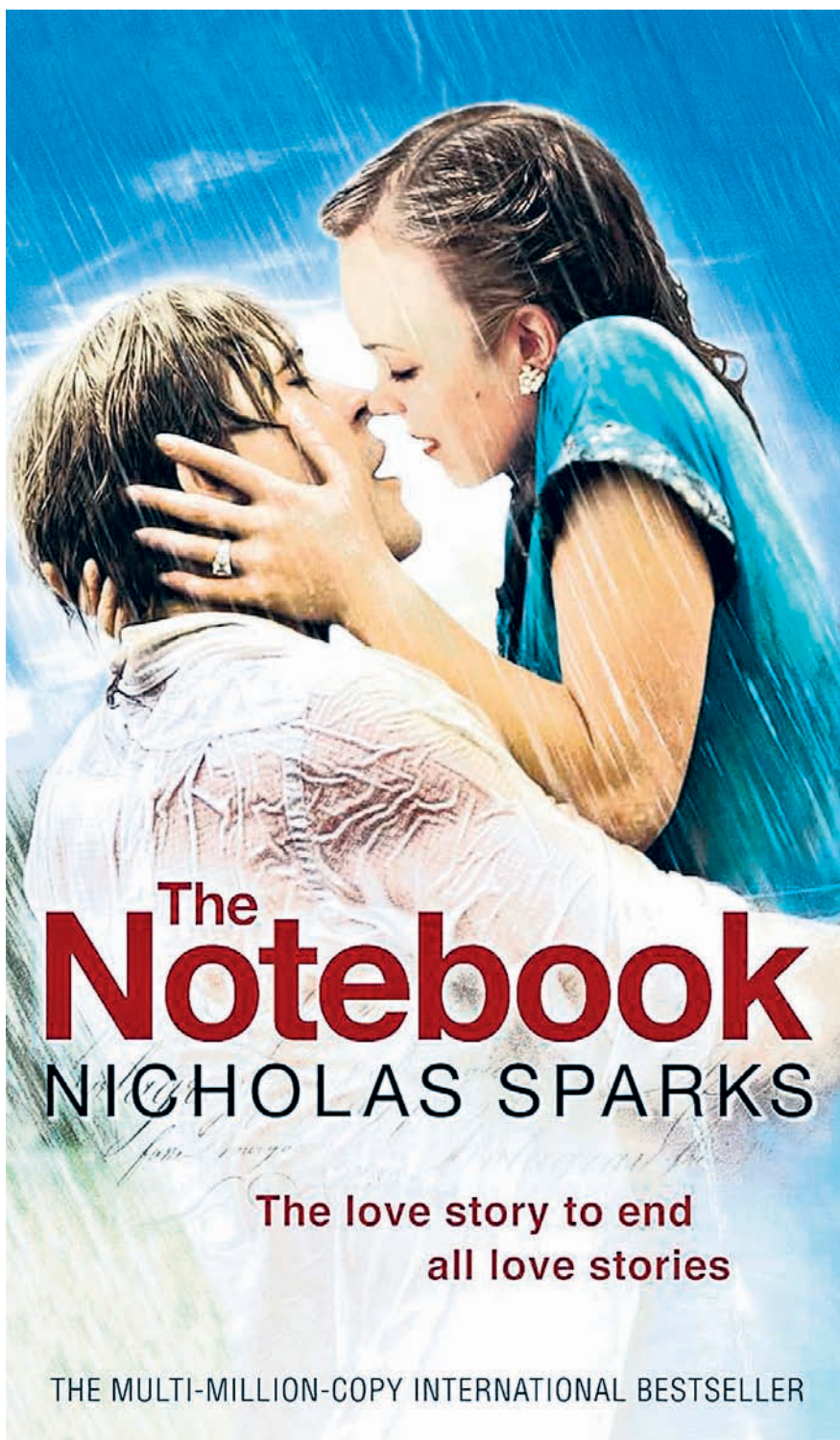
# A TIMELESS TALE OF ENDURING LOVE

The blurb on Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*, an international best-seller, says, "The love story to end all love stories." Love is the only emotion that matters in the flux of human emotions, the one that sets the universe in motion and invests its inhabitants with meaning and power, and the book says it all. There is no high drama in the novel, no intrigue, no medley of relationships, but rather the enduring power of love and its miracles that light up the lives of two young individuals. The story begins with a notebook, a weary old man who carries the story in that notebook to be read to a woman deeply affected by dementia.

The story is about Noah and Allie, who spend a summer together in the scenic environs of New Bern, North Carolina, setting the backdrop to their lives. Noah grew up here, "camping and exploring, spending hours in the forest, reading the poetry of Whitman and Tennyson, playing his guitar for beavers and geese and wild blue herons. Poets knew that isolation in nature, far from people and things man-made, was good for the soul, and he'd always identified with poets." Into this world steps Allie, with her emerald eyes, and they begin a romance. When she leaves, she takes a piece of him and the rest of the summer with her. Noah, a rural southerner, and Allie, from more affluent circumstances, were from opposite sides of the social divide.

They move on in their separate spheres, haunted by memories of each other. His letters don't reach her, and he assumes she embarks on a different life. Meanwhile, Allie is engaged to a successful lawyer and slated to be married shortly, though she cannot be completely free of Noah. She remembered him most of all for his voice. He had read to her as they lay in the grass beneath the tree, with an accent that was soft and fluent, almost musical in quality. It was the kind of voice that belonged on the radio, and it seemed to hang in the air when he read to her. He read to her from old books with dog-eared pages, books he had read a hundred times, and they shared their hopes and dreams.

But there is magic in life, and miracles do happen. Even while she was on the verge of getting married, she comes across an article in a newspaper about Noah restoring a plantation home after his return from World War II. Seized with an impulse to see him in the environs she loved, one last time, she drives down and they meet. The inevitable happens, and she is once again where she began. Noah, completely involved in the restoration work, is still haunted by the images of Allie, and when they meet,



they are back in their old selves. They reappraise their feelings, Noah reading Eliot and Whitman, finding images in the mind, thoughts of the spirit, hunting dawn from a canoe, and she with her penchant for art and creating beauty. These were not things that drove society but made living worthwhile.

Torn between love and loyalty to the man she was intending to marry, she follows her heart to Noah. She reads an old letter where he says, "The reason it hurts so much to separate is because our souls are connected. Maybe they have always been and will be. Maybe we have lived a thousand lives before this

one, and in each of them, we've found each other. That means this goodbye is both a goodbye for the past ten thousand years and a prelude to what will come."

She comes back, and they marry, having an idyllic life with the smiles and tears of raising a full family. She becomes famous as a painter who "could create beauty as the Lord created the earth" until dementia afflicts her. With her descent into dementia becoming more acute, they shift to a care facility. Noah, an old man with advanced arthritis, tries to look after Allie, and he feels he has never loved her more. His life is contained in the notebook he carries with him, and he reads to her religiously to evoke memories of life once lived so joyously. She is no longer able to recognize him, even recoiling in horror as if towards a stranger, and they were, like night and day, always together, forever apart. However, in miraculous moments, she makes a comeback and is able to connect with him, mystifying her doctors. Noah bonds with the nurses and inmates of the center and reads to them from Eliot, Whitman, and Shakespeare—"Lovers of words, makers of language." He would also read her letters written in happier days, look at her photographs, and love her anew. On his wedding anniversary, she has her moment of lucidity when she is able to recall and pronounce his name.

The final years, a private apocalypse known by the very old who lose everything they ever loved, slowly, cannot, however, be the judge of a whole life. Noah aptly quotes Walt Whitman: "Nothing is ever really lost or can be lost / No birth, identity, form—no object of the world / nor life, nor force, nor any visible thing... / The body, sluggish, aged, cold—the embers left from earlier fires...shall duly flame again." The novel is a deeply moving portrait of love itself, the tender moments, and the fundamental changes that affect us all. It reminds us in these fraught times that love is the only redemption in a world challenged by transience and the various ills and hazards of existence.



■ SUDHA DEVI NAYAK





MUSKAN

WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?  
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