

JUNE 22-28, 2025

# SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



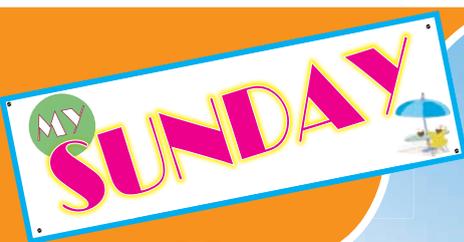
Rath Yatra - June 27

# POWER OF FAITH

COVER STORY

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**Joyeeta Roy** is a dynamic entrepreneur and the founder of Signature 24 Productions, a leading influencer marketing and advertising agency based in Eastern India. While Joyeeta entered the Bengal film industry at just 16, later she worked on acclaimed films like 'Pink' and 'Shivay'. She also has collaborated with celebs such as Babushaan Mohanty, Mahesh Babu, and Virat Kohli. Today, her agency spearheads over 300 brand campaigns and celebrity collaborations, elevating regional talent and brands to national recognition. Joyeeta is not just an entrepreneur; she is a trailblazer, redefining the entertainment and branding landscape

ANISHA KHATUN, OP

With family



### A day to reset

My Sundays aren't typical days off—my work rarely follows a set schedule, and I love that unpredictability. But one thing stays constant: meeting lord Jagannath. That peaceful moment with him grounds and resets me.



With dad & Sushmita Sen

### Relishing home comfort

My ideal Sundays are slow and cozy, just lazing around at home, enjoying unhurried moments with my dad and family. No alarms, no rush, just the warmth and comfort of home.

### Fam jam

With constant travel and shoots, free time is rare. But when it comes, I cherish being with my family, dad, and four dogs—tea, laughter, cuddles, or silence—it's everything I need.

### Love for street food

I am a big-time foodie! I will always choose street food over fine dining—those raw, real flavours just hit different. During COVID, I taught myself to cook and now make simple, happy meals.

### Sundays better in Odisha

Being in Odisha makes Sundays even better, driving by the sea, enjoying local food like ghee Anna at Puri, and always ending the day with a peaceful moment with Lord Jagannath.



With friends

### Recharging with swimming

I love swimming—it's freeing, clears my mind, and calms my heart. Recently, I've learned to drive and now enjoy long drives with soulful music. That combo of road, rhythm, and solitude—feels amazing!

**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**

- Finland has just closed its borders... so now nobody can cross the Finnish line.
- How long have I been working for this company? Ever since they threatened to fire me.
- Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted.
- Keep talking, someday you'll say something intelligent!

## Single dads' struggles

Sir, This refers to the writeup on Father's Day. Being a single father is a challenging yet rewarding journey. Single fathers in India face numerous challenges due to societal norms and limited support systems. They struggle with the stigma attached to being a single parent. They also often hear judgmental comments from neighbors and colleagues, making them feel isolated. Balancing work and childcare is another hurdle. Unlike single mothers, single dads find fewer resources and support groups tailored to their needs. Financial strain is also a significant issue, as they have to manage all expenses on their own. Additionally, finding reliable and affordable childcare is difficult, especially when they need to work late. Navigating these challenges requires immense resilience and adaptability. Despite the obstacles, single dads remain determined to provide a nurturing and stable environment for their child, proving that love and dedication can overcome societal barriers.

**SOUMYAJIT SAHOO, BARGARH**

## 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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Rath Yatra - June 27

# POWER OF FAITH

ANISHA KHATUN, OP

*Ahe nila shaila prabala matta barana mo arata nalini banaku kara dalana! gajaraja chinta kala thai ghora jalena chakra pesi nakra nasi uddharila apana!*

The above song was penned by the legendary poet Salabega, a name etched in the hearts of every Jagannath devotee. Born a Muslim, Salabega's unmatched devotion moved even the Lord of the Universe to pause his grand Rath Yatra, just so his beloved devotee could catch a glimpse of him. Such is the grace of Mahaprabhu Jagannath—he transcends

In the heart of devotion, Rath Yatra and Lord Jagannath weave a tapestry of faith through timeless tales. These stories, rich with miracles and legends, capture the essence of a centuries-old festival, showcasing the profound bond between the divine and the devout

all barriers of caste, creed, and religion. He is not bound by identity; he is bound only by love.

History is adorned with tales of unwavering devotion—from a king who surrendered his entire kingdom for a single fragrant flower to offer at his feet, to saints like Bandhu Mohanty, Raghu Dasa, and Gita Panda, also known as Arjun Mishra, who lived and breathed Jagannath's name.

And that divine thread of love still continues. Even today, countless hearts beat for Him—He who listens without being called, who fulfills wishes before they're voiced. In a world driven by logic and reason, the faith of these devotees remains untouched, unshaken, and pure. Who wouldn't want to be His favourite?

As the chariots are being built and the air in Puri fills with chants and conch shells, the much-awaited Rath Yatra draws near. Sunday POST sat down with a few devotees to hear their stories—of magic, of miracles, and of a timeless bond with the one who rules hearts, not thrones.

**'Whenever I have called, He is there for me'**

For **Jyoshna Rani Panda**, a devoted homemaker from Rayagada, Lord Jagannath is not just a deity—

He is a lifelong companion, a silent listener, and a constant source of strength. Her eyes light up with devotion as she speaks about her bond with "Kalia," the beloved Lord of

the Universe.

"Everyone is Kalia's devotee," she says with a soft smile. "Who doesn't want to be? Whenever I have called Lord Jagannath, He has always been there for me."

Unlike most pilgrims who carefully plan their journeys, Jyoshna's visits to Puri have always been spontaneous. "I've never made detailed plans to visit the temple," she explains. "I always say to him, 'Whenever you call me, I'll come. And every time, without fail, the trip just happens. It's never pre-arranged, yet everything aligns perfectly.'"

Her spiritual journey has always been supported by her husband, even though he wasn't particularly religious. "For him, work was worship. He wasn't deeply spiritual, but he never stopped me from pursuing my devotion. And after retirement, he began walking this path with me, quietly and fully."

One of the most cherished experiences of her life was fulfilling a long-held wish—doing '12 masa re 13 jatra' or taking 13 trips to Puri in a span of 12 months. "I had always dreamed of it," Jyoshna recalls. "I would often tell Kalia, 'I want to do this for you,' but I never made any concrete plans. Then one day, out of nowhere, a guest came to our house and invited me to join. Without any prior arrangements, everything fell into place. I completed the journeys smoothly. That's his grace. That's his way."



**'Lord never let you walk alone'**

Somnath Gochhikar, 39, a servitor at the Jagannath Temple in Puri and a cameraman with a media house, lives and breathes devotion. For him, every moment in the presence of the Lord Jagannath is filled with magic—but one particular incident reaffirmed his faith like never before.

"When you are around Jagga," Somnath says softly, "you forget everything—you forget the whole world. Every moment is sacred. But what happened that night, I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

It was during Durga Puja. Like every year, servitors at the temple observe rituals on Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami. On the morning of Saptami, Somnath's 85-year-old uncle—who suffered from Alzheimer's—went missing from home. At first, the family assumed he may have wandered to a nearby temple. But as hours passed with no sign of him, panic began to grow.

"We searched every lane, every temple," Somnath recalls. "I contacted people



in the media, reached out to the district collector and SP, but no one had any information. By 11 at night, we were exhausted and heartbroken."

Standing helplessly near the temple, Somnath was struck by a sudden realisation.

"I had informed everyone—except the One who performs miracles. With teary eyes, I walked towards Lord Balabhadra. I folded my hands and whispered, 'Until you bring him back, I won't eat, I won't move.' I left it all to him."

Moments later, as if in response, a childhood friend appeared out of nowhere and casually asked, "Why are you standing here? Your uncle is sitting on the temple staircase."

Stunned, Somnath rushed to the spot—and there he was. Calm, unharmed, quietly sitting just outside the temple.

"I had no words," he says, voice choked with emotion. "It was as if Lord himself guided him back. That moment taught me



what complete surrender truly means." For Somnath, it wasn't coincidence. It was divine intervention—an undeniable reminder that when you turn to the Lords of Puri with pure heart and faith, they never let you walk alone.

**'He came to me when I needed Him the most'**

"I will never forget that evening," says Suchitra Das, a 45-year-old homemaker from Cuttack, as her eyes well up with emotion. "It wasn't during Rath Yatra, or some big festival. It was an ordinary day, yet for me, it became the most extraordinary moment of my life."

Suchitra recalls how she had been going through a very dark phase. Her husband had lost his job, her daughter was facing rejection after rejection in medical entrance exams, and her own health had begun to falter. "I had stopped praying regularly.

I was just... tired. I felt like the Jagga had forgotten me."

One afternoon, overwhelmed and feeling completely broken, Suchitra sat in her small puja



room. The idol of Lord Jagannath that had been in her family for generations stood silently in front of her. "I looked at him and said, 'Prabhu, if you are really there, say something. Show me. I am drowning.'"

That night, Suchitra dreamt she was standing in the crowd outside the Jagannath temple in Puri. "I couldn't see anything clearly, but I heard a voice—calm, strong, and loving. It said, 'Let go of all worries. You are mine. I was, I am, and I always will be.'"

"When I woke up, I felt like someone had touched my soul," she says. "The room smelled faintly of camphor and tulsi, even though I hadn't lit anything. And for the first time in months, I felt light. I felt held," she added.

That week, her husband got a job offer from an old contact. Her daughter cleared her exam in the very next attempt. Her sugar levels, which had been erratic, started stabilising without a change in medication. "People can call it coincidence," Suchitra smiles. "But I know what I felt. I know what I heard. That wasn't a dream—it was a darshan. He came to me. Not in a temple, not during aarti, but when I needed Him the most."

"Jagannath is not just a God on a chariot. He is a presence. And once he chooses to walk with you, you are never truly alone again."

**LEGENDARY TALES**



**KANCHI BIJAYA**

The Kanchi Conquest is a popular legend associated with Lord Jagannath and the Gajapati King Purushottamadeva of Puri. It tells the story of how Lord Jagannath, along with his brother Balabhadra, aided the king in his conquest of Kanchi, a kingdom in present-day Tamil Nadu, and his subsequent marriage to Princess Padmavati. The king was initially defeated in his attempt to conquer Kanchi. Discouraged, he prayed to Lord Jagannath for help. The legend says Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra appeared to him in a dream, promising to fight alongside him in his next attempt. On their way to Kanchi, the divine brothers, disguised as ordinary soldiers, stopped at a milkmaid's (Manika's) house to quench their thirst. They paid her with a ring, instructing her to collect the payment from King Purushottam. When the king later encountered Manika and saw the ring, he recognized it as belonging to Lord Jagannath. Recognizing the divine presence, he was filled with confidence and renamed the village where Manika lived Manikapatna in her honor.



**GEETA GOVINDA**

Jayadeva was a great devotee who desired to offer his masterpiece, Geeta Govinda, in the form of a garment to Jagannath Swami. The verses of his work were so devotional that it is said that Lord Jagannath himself appeared to Jayadeva in a dream, expressing his appreciation for the devotee's work and accepting the offering. This tale highlights the power of Jayadeva's devotion and the Lord's willingness to reciprocate the love of his devotees.



**FAMINE IN PURI**

During a severe famine that struck Puri, Lord Jagannath appeared in the dreams of a devotee, instructing him to distribute Mahaprasad to the hungry. The devotee followed the Lord's instructions, and miraculously, the Mahaprasad never ran out, ultimately saving the people from starvation. This tale serves as a testament to Lord Jagannath's compassionate nature and his willingness to help those in need.



WHETHER IN LEADERSHIP, FRIENDSHIPS, OR FAMILY, SHOWING UP MATTERS. LORD JAGANNATH'S OUTING TELLS US THAT TRUE ENGAGEMENT HAPPENS WHEN WE STEP OUT OF OUR IVORY TOWERS — DIVINE OR OTHERWISE — AND INTO THE CROWD

# Even Gods take a rest



SHIVAJI MOHINTA

Last year (6th July 2024) in these very columns, I explored “Big Team Lessons from the Rath Yatra”, drawing parallels between this grand spiritual movement and teamwork lessons it offers to trans-

form ordinary tasks to extraordinary achievements. This year, as the divine procession returns to the streets of Puri, I invite you to look again — not at the chariots or rituals alone, but at the deeply human messages the festival offers.

Two insights particularly stand out this time: the enduring importance of **social connections** — real, physical, shared — and the understated necessity of conscious relaxation in a world obsessed with busy-ness. Rath Yatra, in its timeless form, speaks powerfully to both.

## Power of physical presence

The defining feature of the Rath Yatra is that **LORD JAGANNATH** steps out of the sanctum to be amongst the people. It's not a mere ceremonial outing — it is

a statement of humility and connection. Pulled by thousands, the chariot is not just a vehicle — it's a symbol of shared strength and common purpose.

In today's hyper-digital environment, where video calls replace visits and emojis substitute empathy, this act of showing up physically has even deeper relevance. The festival reminds us that while technology may connect devices, relationships are built in person, through shared efforts and real-time presence. Whether in leadership, friendships, or family, showing up matters. Lord Jagannath's outing tells us that true engagement happens when we step out of our ivory towers — divine or otherwise — and into the crowd.

## Sacred pause

Another subtle but profound element of the Yatra is the temporary stay of the deities at their aunt's home — Gundicha Temple. It's a break from the routine. A time of lesser rituals, a different diet, and a lighter rhythm.

In today's relentless world, where FOMO keeps us on the edge, this phase of the Yatra is a divine message: Even gods take a

break. Why don't we?

Creativity, mental clarity, and emotional balance thrive not in constant hustle, but in conscious rest. Like the deities, we too must schedule time to step away, simplify, reflect, and recharge.

Whether it's a solo walk, an afternoon off, or a week with family — your **'GUNDICHA MOMENT'** may be what your inner world needs most.

## Where connection meets reflection

Bringing these threads together — social bonding and sacred pausing — the Rath Yatra teaches us something holistic: Life is not a race, but a rhythm.

**For leaders:** Like Lord Jagannath, true leadership sometimes means stepping out of ivory towers and walking among people — not just to be seen, but to truly connect.

**For teams:** The act of pulling the

chariots together speaks volumes about shared effort, collective momentum, and unified purpose.

**For individuals:** Taking a break isn't giving up — it is an intentional strategy. Like the deities' retreat, it helps us return with clarity and creative fire.

Here I want to draw attention to Meeta India's Public Policy VP, Shivnath Thukral who recently resigned from his high-profile job to focus on his health & prioritize family relationships.

This festival reminds us that true spirituality and sustainable success both begin when we align our outer actions with inner renewal.

So, as the giant wheels of the Rath Yatra roll through the streets of Puri again this year, let them not just pull the divine chariot — let them also turn the wheels within us. Let them remind us to reconnect. To pause. And to return stronger. Because the journey outward is also a journey inward.

*The author is a Business Consultant & a Certified Life Coach*





# KAT'S SKINCARE SECRET

**K**atrina Kaif is embracing a skin-first philosophy this summer, prioritising hydration and a natural glow over heavy layers of makeup. The actress and entrepreneur is letting her skin breathe, and she's sharing her simple yet effective beauty routine that's all about nourishing from within.

Her mornings begin with two glasses of warm water, followed by fresh celery juice—her trusted ritual for detoxing and boosting skin radiance. "It really kickstarts my system and makes a visible difference to my skin," Katrina reveals.

A surprising but essential part of her regimen is face massages. "Just a few drops of facial oil and a gentle massage can do wonders," she says. "It helps with contouring, lifting, and circulation—it's such an underrated step."

In the summer heat, Katrina keeps her glam minimal. Her go-to product? Kay Beauty's illuminating primer drops infused with hyaluronic acid. The lightweight formula gives her that effortlessly dewy finish without feeling heavy on the skin.

Whether on set or enjoying downtime, Katrina swears by a less-is-more approach, proving that glowing skin starts with hydration, mindfulness, and a touch of the right product. Her summer mantra: stay light, stay luminous.

AGENCIES

# Lohitakshya steps into spotlight

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**BHUBANESWAR:** Rising star Lohitakshya Patnaik is set to make his big-screen debut as a lead in *Ladhei: Fight Till Death*. Directed by renowned filmmaker Ashok Pati, the movie is produced by Lohitakshya's father Debasis Patnaik. But for Ollywood insiders, Lohitakshya is no stranger—he began his journey as a child actor in Pati's Dreamgirl and has since appeared in films and web series, gradually paving his way to this moment.

Trained at Anupam Kher's acting institute, Actor Prepares, Lohitakshya brings depth and discipline to his role. Speaking to *Sunday POST*, he shared, "I play Leo, a man of few words who's battling inner and outer demons to change his life." Starring opposite him is Avilipisa, with whom he shares a strong on-screen chemistry.

"It was important for me to make her feel comfortable on set.

That ease reflects in our scenes together," the actor said.

Lohitakshya credits much of his artistic growth to Pati, calling him "a father figure."

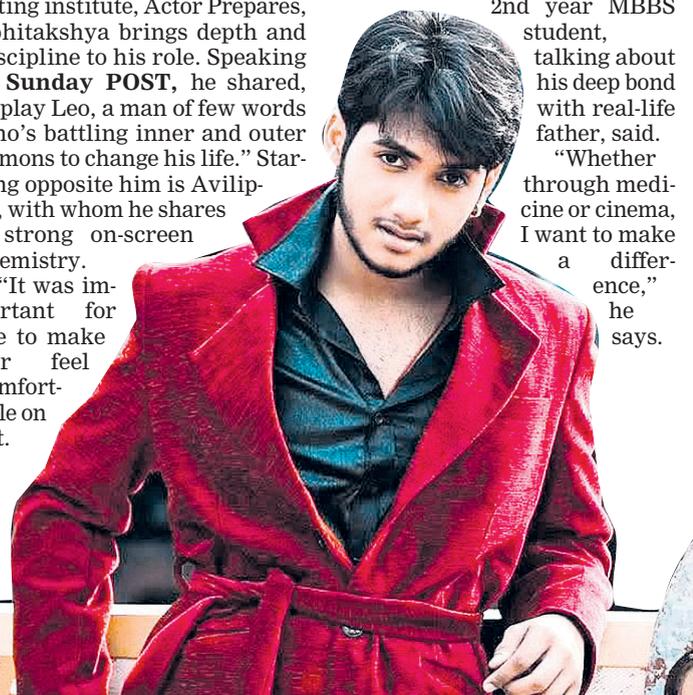
"Ashok sir is like a father figure to me. I've worked with him since I was a child, and he has taught me so much. I will always be grateful for his guidance and for believing in me," he said.

"My father also played a huge role in this journey. When no one believed in me or this project, he did. I owe him everything," the 2nd year MBBS student,

2nd year MBBS student,

talking about his deep bond with real-life father, said.

"Whether through medicine or cinema, I want to make a difference," he says.



**I**n a world where red carpet looks are rarely seen twice, actress Nimrat Kaur made a quiet but powerful statement.

She took to social media to reveal that she has worn her favourite dress for the 15th time—proving that confidence, comfort, and personal style never go out of fashion. Taking to Instagram, Kaur posted a video of herself on the trending music "everyone takes turn picture here we go in case." Sharing her video, the *Airlift* actress wrote, "What I expect from my friends when I wear my fav dress for the 15th time."

In the reel, Nimrat can be seen lip-syncing to a popular track while her team clicks her pictures. She is wearing a stylish off-shoulder dress. Notably, she often shares her videos participating in funny and trending reels, giving a glimpse of her playful side.

Earlier, on the occasion of Father's Day, the

Dasvi actress treated fans to a childhood photo accompanied by a heartfelt note for her father. Nimrat wrote, "To the man who raised an impossibly high bar as the most empowering, loving and inspiring father. Happy Father's Day to Papa... forever young, forever smiling."

IAN'S

## Nimrat's fashion statement



**B**etween career breaks and critically acclaimed performances, Chitrangda Singh has always gravitated toward roles—and decisions—that bring her a sense of peace. In an honest conversation, the actress opens up about the lessons she's learned, both professionally and personally, and the joy she finds in motherhood.

Known for her introspective approach to acting, Chitrangda doesn't shy away from critiquing her own work. "When I look back at some of my old films, I think—damn, I really missed an opportunity there. I could have done so much more," she admits. Reflecting on her role in *Baazaar*, she says, "There were parts where I feel I didn't go deep enough. You slowly realise that the script is just a guide. The real character often lives beyond the pages. I put in much more effort in

## Chitrangda on career break

Gaslight—from her voice and body language to the smallest expressions."

Chitrangda also credits her evolution as an actor to experiences like *Modern Love Mumbai*, where she starred opposite Arshad Warsi. "That show made me connect more deeply with my character's inner world," she says.

She adds, "I've been fortunate to be directed by Sudhir Mishra in many of my early films. His approach to storytelling shaped the actor I am today."

AGENCIES

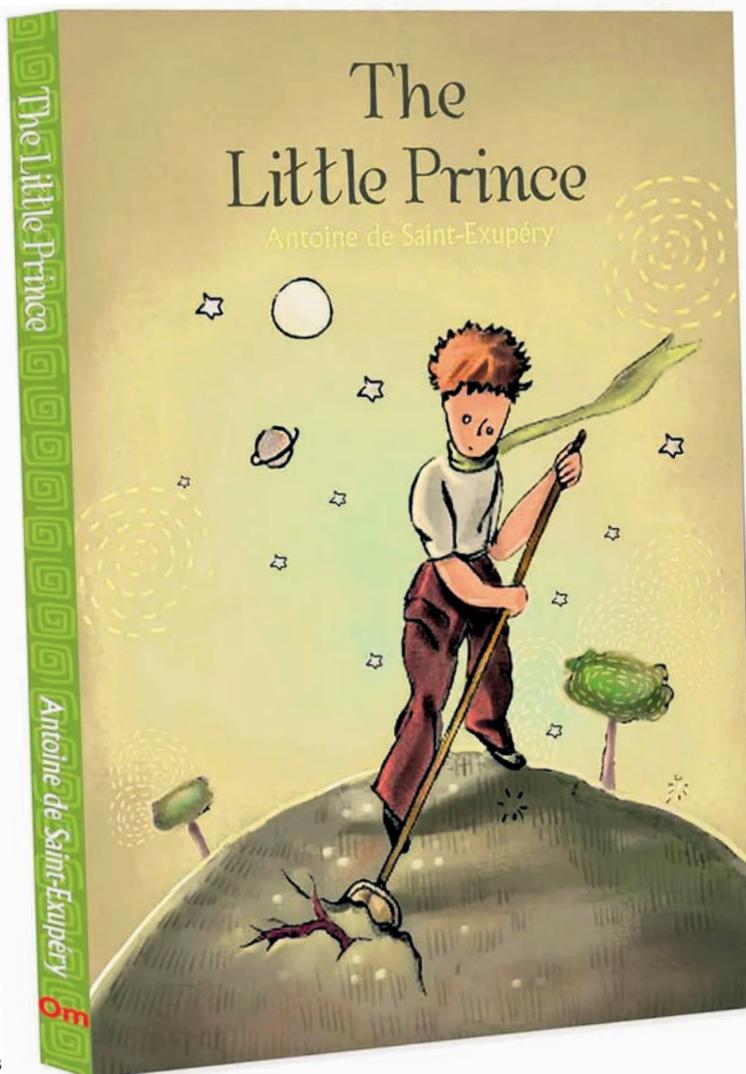


# A tale of human vulnerability

Written and illustrated by the French pilot, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry novella *The Little Prince* is a classic that spans generations. It is the bestseller most translated work after the Bible. Every child reads it with joy, and every adult discusses its philosophy. The New York Times says, "There are few stories which, in some way, in some degree, change the world forever for their readers. This is one." Katherine Woods gave us the original translation of the book in 1943, and though there have been other translations, hers is considered the definitive English translation. Her poetic translation perfectly captures the enchanted storytelling of Saint-Exupéry. It addresses the human predicament with themes of love, loneliness, friendship, and loss within a fable.

The book begins with the author's plane crash in the Sahara, and he must fix his plane before he runs out of his supply of water. Here, he chances upon the Little Prince, who comes up with a strange request: "If you please, draw me a sheep." After several attempts, he draws a picture of a plain box, where the sheep is supposed to be sleeping inside. The Prince is satisfied, and thus begins a friendship between the narrator and the Little Prince. The Prince claims to have come from an asteroid scarcely bigger than a small house that contains three volcanoes—one of them extinct—a rose that he is in love with, and baobab trees that threaten to overrun and destroy his planet. About his rose, he says, "She chose her colors with the greatest care. She dressed herself slowly, adjusting her petals one by one. She did not go out into the world all ruffled like the field poppies. It was only in the full radiance and her beauty that she wished to appear."

However, tired of her vanity and little stratagems, the Prince decides to leave her to see the rest of the world. The Prince traverses through the universe, visiting several asteroids where he meets grown-ups immersed in their work and reduced to a mere function. He meets a king who is drunk with his authority and thinks the whole universe is at his command. Yet, the Prince learns from the king that orders to be obeyed should be reasonable and that it is more difficult to judge oneself than others. "If you succeed in judging yourself rightly, then indeed you are a man of wisdom." Next, he meets a conceited man who demands admiration and acclaim from all around him all the time. Then, he meets a tippler forever drunk, who tells the Prince he drinks to forget that he is ashamed to be drunk, leaving the Prince puzzled at the oddness of grown-ups. He meets a businessman who considers himself a man of consequence, immersed in thoughts of wealth, even counting and owning the stars. He comes across the lamplighter who lights and extinguishes a lamp at sunrise and sunset simultaneously because his planet turns so rapidly that a day is only one minute. Yet, the Prince thinks he is the best among the people he has met because he is thinking of something else beyond himself. His work has meaning and beauty because when he lights his lamp, he awakens a star or a flower, and when he puts out the lamp, he sends them to sleep. Finally, he comes across the geographer who keeps a record of everything on his planet only by gathering details from visiting explorers. When the Prince asks him whether he recorded flowers, he replies that he recorded things eternal, not ephemeral, and flowers are ephemeral. The Prince thinks of his ephemeral flower, left alone defenseless except for her four thorns, and he experiences his first moment of regret. But he takes courage and moves on.



After a long journey aided by "the migration of a flock of wild birds," he finds himself on Earth and meets a snake in the desert of Africa. When he complains of loneliness in the desert, the snake gives him the wisdom that loneliness is also among men. The Prince moves on to discover a garden full of roses and feels there is nothing unique about his rose. As he cries in his sadness, he meets a fox who asks him to tame it. The fox explains that taming is establishing ties, and slowly they get close to each other. The Prince understands the friendship that makes one unique to the other. When he decides to leave, the fox is in tears and lets him into the knowledge that "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." The Prince realizes that the time he invested in his rose makes her so important and unique and makes him responsible for her. The most beautiful passage in the book is where he tells the garden of roses, "But in herself alone, she is more important than all the hundreds of you roses; because it is she that I have watered; because it is she that I have put under the glass globe; because it is for her that I have killed the caterpillars; because it is she that I have listened to, when she grumbled, or boasted, or even sometimes when she said nothing. Because she is my rose."

Then he meets the railway switchman who is busy with travelers in railway trains forever in motion, on a meaningless journey, in pursuit of nothing. He also meets a merchant who sells pills for water to save time spent

in drinking water. In the present world of high technology and quick fixes, we can understand the stress and paucity of time, but the Prince would rather go in search of water.

After recounting his memories of his travels and people to his friend, they go in search of water in the desert, and his friend, carrying the sleeping Prince, ruminates, "What moves me so deeply about this little Prince who is sleeping here is his loyalty to a flower—the image of a rose that shines through his whole being like the flame of a lamp, even when he is asleep." When at last they reach a well, he feels how the ordinary and the basic become precious when they are denied. "The water from the well was born of the walk under the stars, the song of the pulley, the effort of my arms. It was good for the heart, like a present."

Soon it was time to leave for the Prince, and his friend, and the Prince leaves for his planet with a bite from the snake he befriended, leaving his body behind as it would be too heavy for him to carry back home. However, in his leave-taking, he assures his friend he would be among the stars and they would be laughing whenever his friend opened his window. The friend does not find his body and is left wondering about the Prince. Six years later, he tells us the story of the Prince and what he meant to him and poignantly requests the reader that if he were ever to meet the Prince in an African desert, under a star, he should let him know and comfort him.

In a style full of lilting, lyrical grace, intermingling philosophy and poetry, the story gives us love and loss, belonging and loneliness, which is the tale of human vulnerability. The Prince's solitude, even when he meets people from lamplighters to kings, is complete, although he has gained in wisdom; he has no sense of connection with them. The act of leaving time and again reminds us of the loneliness we carry with us despite

being with people. At the same time, the friendships we forge, the relationships we establish, make life worth living, and the value of understanding others even if their perspectives differ from ours. Thinking about his rose, he feels he was too young to know how to love her, and he should have judged her not by words but deeds. And finally, he asks his friend to look up at the laughing stars and find him there, and the book ends with a sense of melancholy but not without hope. The novella also explores the inevitability of death. The end is ambiguous, denying easy closure to the most final of human matters. In the end, it is a paean to the splendor and endless possibilities of childhood, where a child can traverse the universe "with a flock of wild birds." It is strangely coincidental that Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, a year after the publication of his book, in 1943, disappeared over the Mediterranean while flying a reconnaissance mission for his French squadron.



SUDHA DEVI NAYAK  
BHUBANESWAR



*Sriya*

**WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?**  
Send us your photographs at  
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