

SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2024

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



Spike in student suicides

No time to quit

P 3,4

COVER
STORY



Actress *Swarnalata Biswal*, fondly called *Chunni Riya* by fans, has starred in five films, eight mega serials, and more than a hundred music videos, establishing herself as one of the most sought-after names in state's entertainment industry. In the 2010s, she also had a five-year stint in modelling. A native of Bhanjanagar in Ganjam, *Chunni*, who is now grabbing attention for her work in TV series 'Tuma Bina', desires to play central roles in mainstream Odia films

Rare break

A career in acting hardly allows an actress a day off on Sundays. Still, I try to clear the unfinished household chores of the week if I get a Sunday as a holiday.

Kitchen queen

Apart from acting, one of my favourite things to do is cook. I therefore spend the entire morning making everyone's favourite meals for lunch and breakfast when I don't shoot.

Storyteller

A major part of my holiday is reserved for my son Anshu. After washing and ironing his clothes for a week, I tell him stories from different genres to develop his imagination. We also watch movies in the evening.

Reading habit

Before Anshu was born, reading was my passion. Though I don't get much time to read these days, I managed to turn a few pages on my days off.



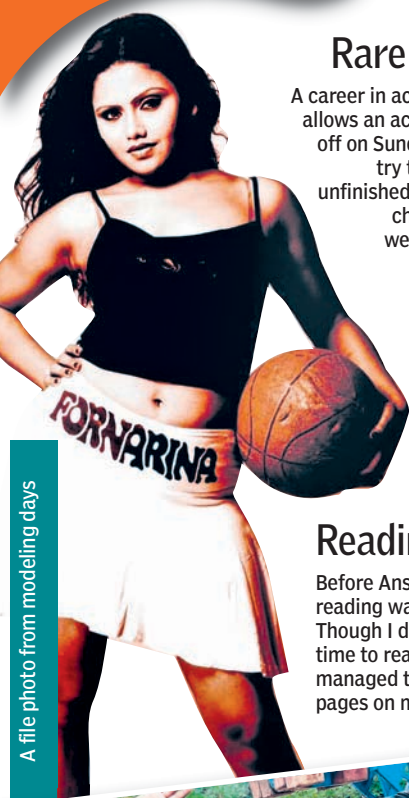
With husband Santosh

Family time

Evening is always for family. We often visit the local park to enhance our mental well-being. Anshu is excited about it too, as it's a rare chance for him to engage in any physical activity. At times, we go to malls and play games.

Love for plants

I have created a small garden on our balcony. On other days, I water them, but on Sundays, I give them extra attention.



A file photo from modeling days



With co-actors from a shooting set

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

WhatsApp This Week

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

- I've never played the bagpipes but I have carried a screaming three-year-old toddler over my shoulder.
- Crime doesn't pay... does that mean that my job is a crime?
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- To make mistakes is human. To blame someone else for your problem, is strategic.

WIND OF CHANGE

Sir, It's good to see three articles on Odia films in last week's Tinsel Town page. This indicates that more filmmakers are producing Odia movies these days. So, the quantity is increasing, but can we say the same about the quality? Maybe yes. After watching movies like Daman, Phalguna Chaitra, Dasama, and a few others, it seems the wind is changing for the better. Ashram, a film featured in the Tinsel Town page, appears to carry forward the good work started by the makers of the above-mentioned movies. It's interesting to note young Abhishek Giri's pairing with veteran actress Mahasweta Ray. Similarly, promising director Aswin Tripathy seems to have picked up a different path for his next Devdasi, a movie highlighting the culture and tradition of the state. Good days are certainly ahead.

DEEPANJALI KAR, 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 features.orissapost@gmail.com
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Spike in student suicides

No time to quit

EACH STUDENT IS A UNIQUE AND IRREPLACEABLE MEMBER OF SOCIETY, AND IT'S A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THEY FEEL VALUED AND GET THE DESIRED SUPPORT, SAYS EDUCATIONIST BHASKAR NATH BISWAL, FOUNDER, SUPPORTING SHOULDERS, AN INITIATIVE THAT PROMOTES STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

BIJAY MANDAL, OP

Death is always painful, and when it turns out to be an unnatural one like suicide, the impact on friends and family may be devastating.

But what should be said when a student commits suicide? It's a loss for the nation's future as well as for families, society, and the economy.

India holds the dubious distinction of having the highest global suicide rate, and what's concerning is that 41 percent of all suicides are by young people below the age of 30. Suicide is also the leading cause of mortality for young women in India. According to a survey, a young Indian commits suicide every eight minutes.

Be it NEET, JEE, or any other exam results, they are followed by several deaths of students by suicide. There is no letup in the spike in student suicides. With the issue assuming alarming proportion, a few experts shared with Sunday POST their thoughts about the major reasons behind student suicides and what measures can be taken to prevent them.

'Let us stop judging children on the basis of what they score in exams'

Writer and educationist Hiranmayee Mishra, who has been teaching Social Science at Udaynath Autonomous College, Adaspur, for over three decades, was in great pain at the rising cases of student suicide. These days, students are in so much stress that they often



have to undergo mental therapy to cope with it, she said. Recalling an incident, she shared, "There was a time when I used to

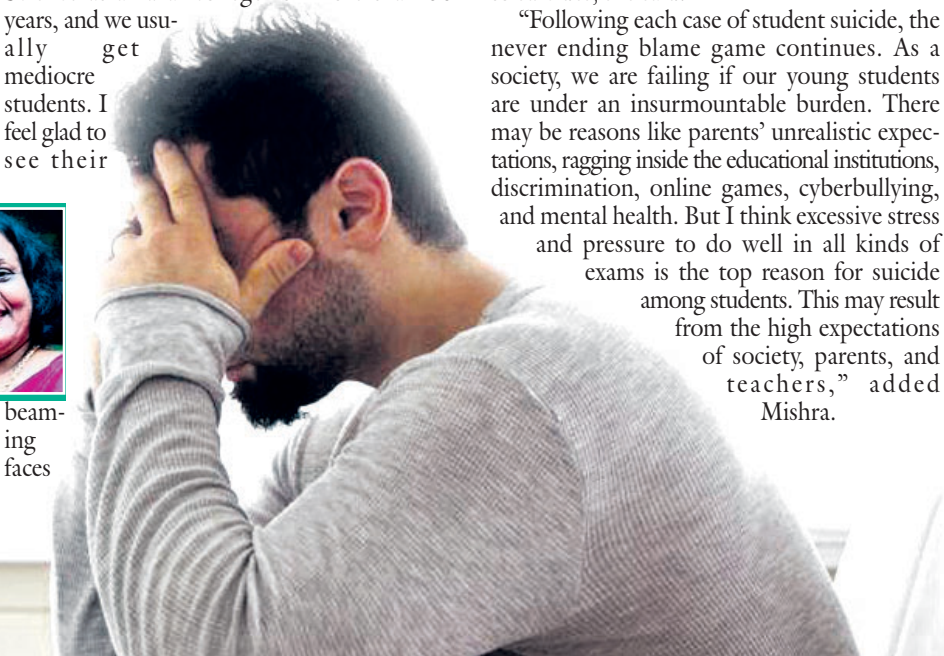
go to Dr Priti, who is a practicing psychologist. She was counselling my adolescent daughter. Once I met my daughter's friend there who was coming back from the counsellor's chamber through a different door. My daughter was already in, and I wanted to start a conversation with her friend now. This girl was the class topper and a very bright child. She felt nervous and embarrassed to see me there. She requested me not to tell my daughter that she was going for mental therapy. I felt really sad for this girl. It is shocking to learn that even school going children are having mental issues and, more importantly, living in fear of being judged for going to a clinical psychologist."

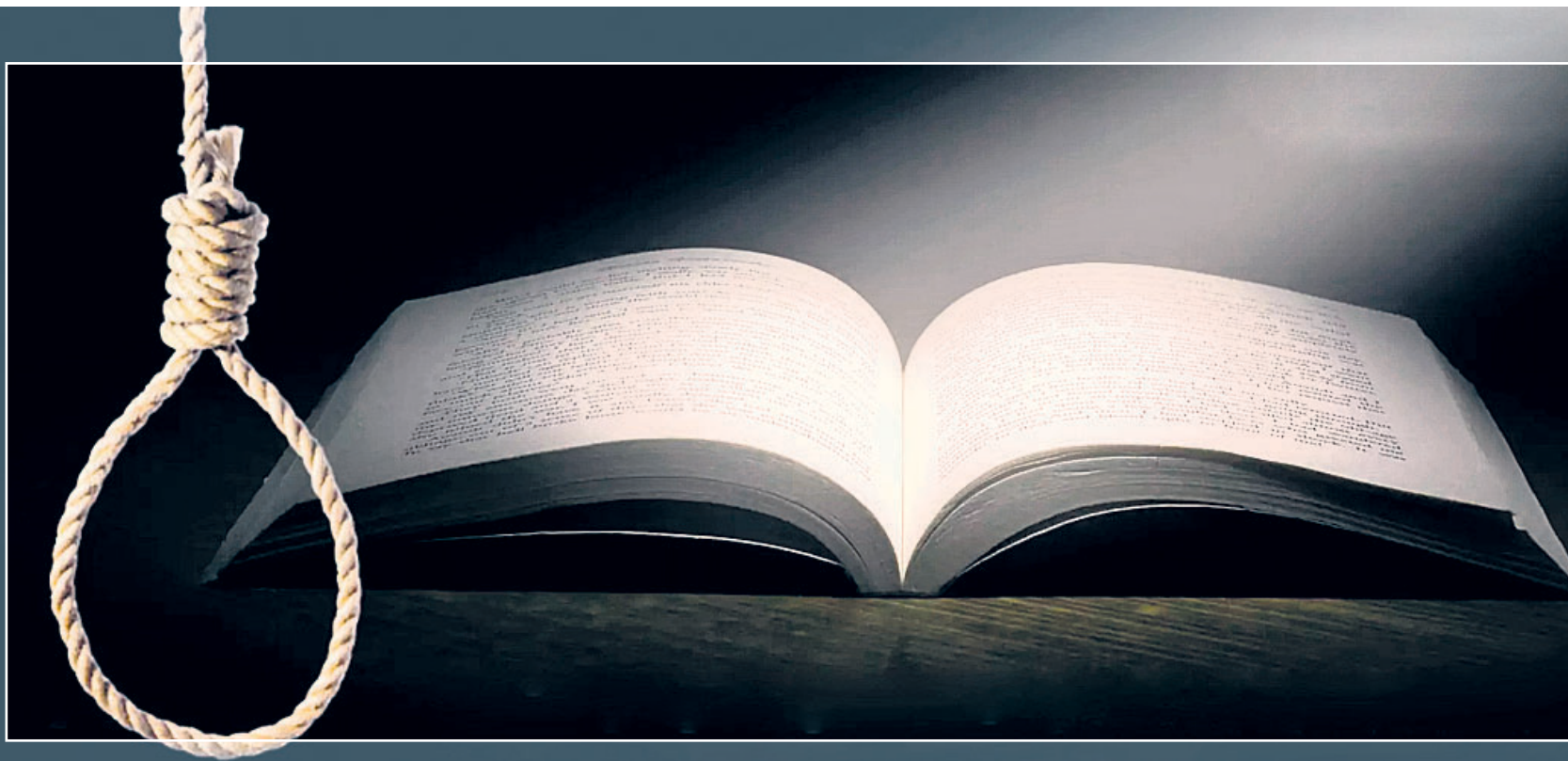
Sharing her observations over the years, Mishra continued: "I have been teaching Social Science at a rural college for more than 30 years, and we usually get mediocre students. I feel glad to see their

and relaxed mood inside the classroom. They have dreams and aspirations but are not that ambitious, serious, and competitive. The scenario is completely different in the other corridors, where we get to meet some high scoring students from the science stream. They are all from well-to-do families, better dressed up, highly stressed, and look frustrated while coming out of the exam halls. I have talked to many top-scoring students and realised that none of them is free from pressure. This pressure doesn't operate in vacuum. Parental pressure, peer pressure, and finally the societal pressure—all of these are definitely detrimental for the mental health of a young student."

It is indeed a matter of shame that the nation is losing many bright minds in alarming numbers to suicides, she said.

"Following each case of student suicide, the never ending blame game continues. As a society, we are failing if our young students are under an insurmountable burden. There may be reasons like parents' unrealistic expectations, ragging inside the educational institutions, discrimination, online games, cyberbullying, and mental health. But I think excessive stress and pressure to do well in all kinds of exams is the top reason for suicide among students. This may result from the high expectations of society, parents, and teachers," added Mishra.





Asked for suggestions to prevent such unfortunate incidents, she said, “Hopefully, the recently introduced NEP, which allows a relaxed and flexible exam pattern, may work towards reducing the stress of exams. Parents should not leave their children alone, particularly when they are awaiting the results of some qualifying examinations. Young students should at least consider that life is more precious than any



exams or relationship issues. Disqualifying just in a test or breakups or whatever the reason may be, it never means a full stop. There should be counsellors in all the educational institutions. Nobody knows our children more than us. As parents and as teachers, let us stop judging the capacity and strength of our children in terms of what they score in exams.”

‘Cultivating a positive attitude among students is a key responsibility of teachers’
 While Mishra highlighted the possible

reasons that push students to end their lives, **Bhaskar Nath Biswal**, the ex-principal of Nabarangpur College, went a step ahead. Soon after his superannuation, he founded Supporting Shoulders, an organisation striving for the mental health of students.



This can go a long way in addressing the issue, believes Biswal.

Elaborating more, he said, “Preventing suicide is about shifting from a culture of silence and lack of understanding to one of openness, empathy, and support. Changing the narrative on suicide, the theme adopted this year for Suicide Prevention Day, aims to inspire individuals, communities, organisations, and governments to engage in open and honest discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of understanding and support.”

Biswal went on to add, “Addressing student suicides with sensitivity is essential. Teachers, academic institutions, and parents must recognise the importance of students’ mental health and take proactive steps to support it. Understanding the emotional and psychological needs of students is critical. The pressures of academic goals, parental expectations, teachers’ demands, and peer influence can push students to their limits. While some may manage to cope and thrive, others may struggle and fall behind.”

According to him, reaching out for help is a sign of

strength, not weakness. It’s okay to ask for help. There are people who care about them and are ready to extend help. Ending life is not the solution; rather, it results in an unimaginable crisis for the loved ones.

After watching students from close quarters, Biswal has also something to say to the teachers.

Cultivating a positive attitude among students is a key responsibility of teachers. While providing training in counselling can be beneficial, every teacher has the potential to inspire their students toward a bright and hopeful future, he pointed out.

Signing off, he said, “Each student is a unique, irreplaceable part of our community. Let’s make sure every student feels valued and supported.”

‘Parents need to foster free communication’

Expressing concern over the series of student suicide cases, psychiatrist and HoD of Psychiatry, Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital, **Amrit Pattojoshi**, attributed several



factors to student suicide cases while expressing concern over the issue.

“The rise in cases of student suicide in Odisha is linked to a range of factors, including academic pressure, lack of emotional support, excessive gadget use, relationship issues, substance abuse, and reduced stress tolerance. Students often face immense pressure to succeed, while inadequate emotional support from parents or peers leaves them feeling isolated,” shared Pattojoshi.

He said, “Excessive gadget use leads to distractions and mental fatigue, while relationship problems, such as romantic or peer conflicts, can cause emotional turmoil. Additionally, substance abuse, often used to cope with stress or for social acceptance, worsens mental health struggles.”

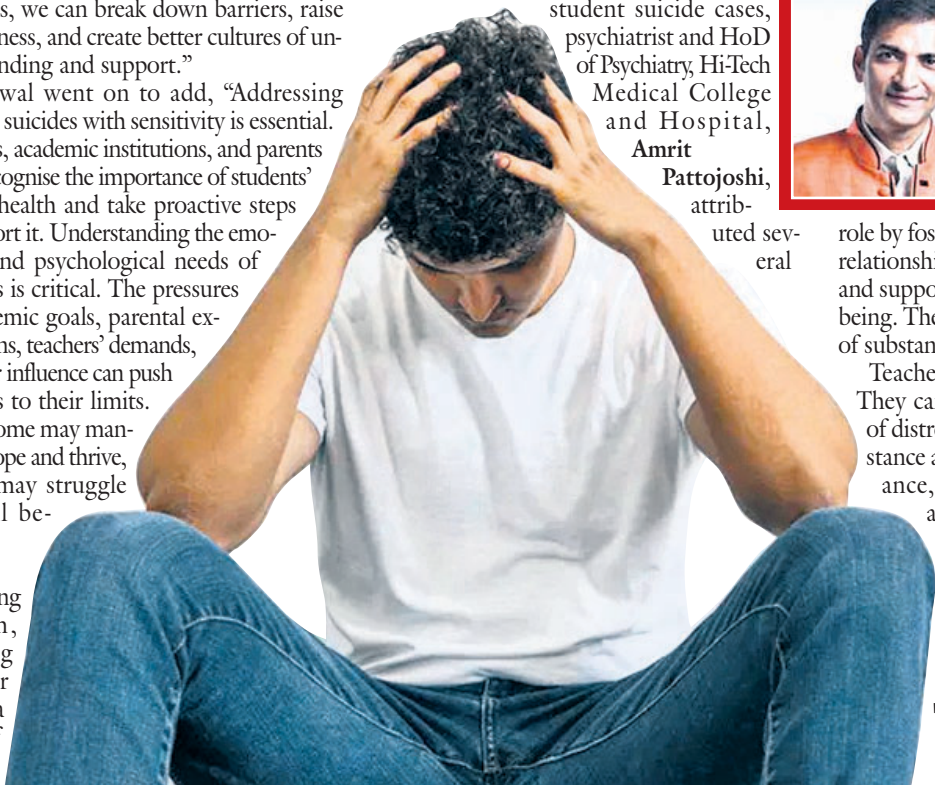
To address these issues, students need to develop emotional resilience through stress management techniques, limit gadget use,

avoid substance abuse, and seek help when experiencing relationship issues or distress, the psychiatrist added.

Pattojoshi also underlined the roles of parents in preventing the suicidal tendency among the students.

Parents play a crucial role by fostering open communication about relationships, setting realistic expectations, and supporting their child’s emotional well-being. They should also be attentive to signs of substance abuse, he said.

Teachers too have a role in the matter. They can help by recognising early signs of distress, relationship problems, or substance abuse in students, providing guidance, and promoting mental health awareness. By addressing these issues holistically, students can receive the support they need to cope with life’s pressures more effectively, concluded Pattojoshi.



A forgotten legend!

Swimming great Mihir Sen's daughter Supriya, now settled in the UK, said that there was a hunger in him to show the world, especially the Europeans, that Indians were capable of greatness



I undertook these perilous swims not for fame or trophies but to prove once again to the world that Indians are no longer afraid

-MIHIR SEN

The pride and glory of the nation, Barrister Mihir Sen, the illustrious son of Odisha, who set a world record in swimming, is no longer with us. However, his bravery and heroism continue to make not only the people of Odisha but the entire country proud. The record he set in the field of swimming remains unbroken, with no one in the world having yet surpassed it.

The glory

Mihir was the first Indian swimmer who crossed the English Channel from Dover to Calais. In 1958, he took 14 hours and 45 minutes to cover the distance. In 1966, he was the only man to swim the oceans of the five continents in one calendar year. This unique achievement earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the 'world's greatest long-distance swimmer'. In 1959, he was conferred by the President of India, Padma Shri, and the Padma Bhushan followed in 1967.

In 1955, Sen made his first attempt to swim across the English Channel but was thwarted by bad weather. However, in 1958, he successfully crossed the Channel, taking 14 hours and 45 minutes to cover the stretch of the Atlantic Ocean that separates Great Britain from northern France. This remarkable achievement made him the first Asian to conquer the Channel. In 1966, Sen accomplished the seemingly impossible by swimming across the oceans of five continents. His feats included crossing the Palk Straits in 25 hours

and 36 minutes, the Straits of Gibraltar in eight hours and one minute, the Dardanelles in 13 hours and 55 minutes, the Bosphorus in four hours, and the entire length of the Panama Canal in 34 hours and 15 minutes. Sen earned the distinction of being the first non-American and the third person in the world to swim across the Panama Canal, setting a world record. Reflecting on his achievements, the swimmer once wrote, "I undertook these perilous swims not for fame or trophies but to prove once again to the world that Indians are no longer afraid. To the youth of India, this triumph demonstrates that nothing is impossible—all they have to do is believe and persevere, and the goal will be theirs."

His daughter Supriya, now residing in the UK, shared, "There was a hunger in him to show the world, especially the Europeans, that Indians were capable of greatness—and to prove to himself that it could be done."

Early life

Sen's ancestral village is Raghunathnagar, located under the Mahanga police station in Cuttack district. For the education of their children and other conveniences, his family later built a house in Nimchouri, Cuttack, where they resided. Even now, after retiring from the Central Government's Sports Authority of India, his elder brother's son, Siddharth Sen, and his family live there.

Siddharth, in an interview, recounted how

Mihir's father, Ramesh Chandra Sen, was a doctor and worked in Manbhum, Purulia, West Bengal. Mihir was born in Purulia November 16, 1930, and returned to Cuttack in 1938. He first attended Cuttack Mission School, later graduated from Ravenshaw College, and eventually earned a law degree from Utkal University. Mihir has four daughters, who currently live abroad.

From a young age, Mihir was captivated by water. By age 10, he was confidently swimming unsupervised in the Kathajodi River, which flows through Cuttack. Years later, he would tell a Sportsworld reporter, "I don't know why, but I was tremendously attracted to water. I felt comfortable in it. I was a natural swimmer. I felt that no harm could come to me. I felt at peace."

In the 1950s, it was nearly impossible for a middle-class family in Odisha to afford to send a son to England, which was Mihir's dream. But determination, ambition, and resourcefulness came naturally to him.

Biju's mentorship key to success

Biju Patnaik needs no introduction. A larger-than-life figure, Patnaik was a fighter pilot, industrialist, statesman, politician, and one of the most popular men in Odisha. After much deliberation, Mihir approached Biju Babu, seeking help to go to Europe. The initial conversation didn't go well. Patnaik listened to him and replied, "Europe, young man? Why would you want to go to Europe? To have fun with the girls? Go away, there is no way that I can help you."

But Sen was undeterred. For six months, he persistently followed Patnaik—at his office, the club, and political rallies. Patnaik repeatedly told him to 'go away,' but Mihir smiled and reappeared the next day. Eventually, Patnaik relented, invited Mihir to his home, and handed him a suitcase and some money. "Young man, go to Bombay and contact my office. They will give you the tickets for a trip to London. This is your chance—make the best of it."

The turning point

At 21, Sen arrived in London. It was his maiden trip abroad. Though he needed a job, he knew no one. Eventually, he found work at India House, working at night while studying law during the day. His love for swimming was rekindled at the nearby YMCA. Then, one day in 1953, a chance encounter with a newspaper changed his life. On his way to work, Sen read a story about a young American, Florence Chadwick, and her struggles to conquer the English Channel. It got him thinking, "She was alone in the Channel. There was a boat with a red light in front and a red light at the back, but otherwise, she was alone. It was cold and dark and miserable. A girl can do it. Why can't I do it?" That one bus journey altered his life forever. Swimming the English Channel, which had never been on his mind, suddenly became his ultimate goal.

PM's assistance

The goal was set. But there was one problem:

funds. Earning just five pounds a week, Mihir could barely sustain himself. He wrote to the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, expressing his desire to swim the Channel and asking for financial assistance. Sen explained that he wanted to make the nation proud by becoming the first Indian to swim the English Channel. The Prime Minister's response was encouraging, promising a small government stipend that allowed Sen to start training. But it wasn't enough to afford a trainer or a coach. So Mihir taught himself, studying books, watching others swim, and learning the American crawl—the stroke typically used to tackle the Channel.

Iconic quote

Soon after crossing the English Channel, Sen said, "My victory is indeed a victory for the youth of India. If, despite my ignorance of basic swimming skills and the many frustrating obstacles that beset me at every step, I could conquer the English Channel, then my generation in India has nothing to fear. Because if they only dare, they will also do! And together we can blaze a trail across the horizons of history."

FACT SHEET

- By age 10, Mihir Sen was confidently swimming unsupervised in the Kathajodi River.
- In 1966, Sen became the only man to swim the oceans of the five continents in one calendar year.
- Sen's life took a tragic turn due to a series of vindictive actions by Bengal's Left Front government, which bankrupted him when he refused to join them.
- The record he set in the field of swimming remains unbroken, with no one in the world having yet surpassed it.

Life's lows

Sen's life took a tragic turn due to a series of vindictive actions by Bengal's Left Front government, which bankrupted him when he refused to join them. A long-standing dispute with the LIC of India over his home further complicated matters. Sen, afflicted with Parkinson's disease, passed away in relative obscurity, far too early. Over the years, Sen and his incredible feats have largely been forgotten. But this is a travesty. Sen's achievements extend far beyond swimming the English Channel or even the seven seas. He should be recognised as a beacon of hope and determination for the India we have inherited.



Ambika Prasad Kanungo

Mrunal's botanical experiment

Actress Mrunal Thakur has shared a fun video of plant propagation, leaving her fans in splits with the end result.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Mrunal, who has 13.5 million followers on the photo sharing application, shared a video in which we can see her wearing a black tee-shirt and holding a baby plant in her hands.

She is seen dipping the plant in a glass cup, and says, "Propagating this one and this is day one... you just dip the roots..."

She further says, "Now one week later..." The next video shows her laughing and standing next to a big plant. She quips and says, "one week later". The video is captioned as: "Good night."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Mrunal began her acting career in 2012 with the television show *Mujhse Kuchh Kehti... Yeh Khamoshiyaan*. She has featured in shows like *Arjun*, *Kumkum Bhagya*. She has also participated in *Nach Baliye 7*.

Mrunal was also a part of the web series *Made in Heaven 2*. She featured in the episode titled *Beauty and the Beast* as Adhira Arya. The romantic drama that is streaming on Prime Video is produced by Excel Entertainment, and chronicles the lives of Tara and Karan, two wedding planners in Delhi.

IAN S



Actress Chitrangda Singh, who will be seen sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar once again in *Housefull 5* after *Desi Boyz* and *Khel Khel Mein*, has heaped praise on the star and called him a 'true master of comedy.'

"Akshay is incredibly talented and a true master of comedy. We've known each other for a long time, and working with him is always a pleasure," the actress, who is heading to London for the shoot of *Housefull 5*, told this agency.

Talking about working with Akshay in the recently released *Khel Khel Mein*, she said: "Our cameo in *Khel Khel Mein* received a fantastic response from audiences, and I'm eagerly looking forward to having a great time working with him on *Housefull 5*." The first installment of the film released in 2010, which had Akshay, Riteish Deshmukh, Arjun Rampal, Lara Dutta, Deepika Padukone and late star Jiah Khan. Two years later, the second installment was released. A standalone sequel to *Housefull* and also an uncredited remake of the 1998 Malayalam film *Mattupetti Machan*. The first two parts were helmed by Sajid Khan. It had a larger star cast with names such Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, Asin, John Abraham, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Shreyas Talpade, Zareen Khan, Chunky Panday, Shazahn Padamsee and Boman Irani. The third and the fourth installment was directed by Farhad Samji and the fifth film *Housefull 5* is directed by Tarun Mansukhani.

Chitrangda all praise for Akshay

IAN S

Vir first Indian to host Emmy Awards

Vir Das won an Emmy Award last year for Comedy, for his special 'Landing' and made India proud. Now the comedian-turned-actor doesn't stop there as this year, he's set to host the Emmy Awards and is the first Indian to do so.

Vir shared the news on social media with a picture of his along with an article. Thus, making this official announcement, he wrote, "Thanks to your support, an Indian Emmy Host. I can't wait to host the @iemmys this year! Crazy."

As Vir shared this news, several Indians felt proud of him and showered with love, including some celebrities. Hrithik Roshan commented, "Wow. That's amazing. Very well done." Kriti Sanon wrote, "That's so amazing!!" Dia Mirza commented, "This is absolutely amazing." Priyanka Chopra, Alia Bhatt and many others dropped a liked on his post.

Vir reacted to hosting the Emmy Awards, in a report by The Hollywood Reporter.

AGENCIES



Dia feels embarrassed by her early performances

Dia Mirza, with a career spanning over twenty years in the Hindi film industry, admits she feels embarrassed by her early performances. During that period, she was still discovering her voice and trying to carve out a space in an industry that often did not regard female actors as intellectually capable.

Dia made her debut in Hindi film industry with *Rehmaa Hai Terre Dil Mein* in 2001 and subsequently appeared in several mid-sized films.

These roles primarily kept her visible on screen but did not significantly advance her career. In an interview with a news portal, Dia stated, "Oh my God, I am embarrassed! I truly am. There was something there, but I was struggling to even find my own voice. I wasn't clear who I was."

She added, "At the time I came to the film business, there was no method to the madness. Scenes would be stuck under our noses, minutes before we had to perform them. There was no preparatory process. Also, women weren't accorded intelligence. You weren't treated as entities who had the capacity to think." Dia began transitioning in the second half of the last decade, when she played larger roles in films such as Rajkumar Hirani's *Sanju*, Anubhav Sinha's *Thappad*, Taapse Pannu's *Dhak Dhak*, and her own programme *Kaafir*.


AGENCIES



TITANBOA:

The biggest snake ever lived

WEIGHING OVER 2,500 POUNDS, THE 40-FOOT SERPENT REPLACED THE DINOSAURS AS THE NEW 'KING OF THE JUNGLE' IN THE CERREJON REGION OF COLOMBIA



Dinosaurs initially inhabited it between 60 and 80 million years ago. Following its extinction due to an impact from a massive asteroid, tropical rainforests and jungles gave rise to a diverse range of animals and species.

King Kong to defeat.

How the 'monster' was uncovered

When Garcia discovered an unusual fossil and Herrera found a fossilised leaf, people began to speculate that this area may have formerly served as a jungle's breeding site. What was in the jungle was the question.

Subsequent research revealed that this was among the earliest tropical rainforests. They discovered fossils and specimens of enormous turtles, crocodiles, bean plants, and even the earliest bananas in history while they were searching for fossils.

Next, they discovered a massive vertebra belonging to a really big snake. Further investigation and evidence of a massive beast followed.

The hardest part of the discovery was finding the skull, which was the scientists' goal. As they dug, they discovered 100 snake vertebrae from 28 different species, but they only came across three pieces of a skull.

Nevertheless, they discovered enough material to assemble a 45-foot behemoth, and since many of the components were found in other creatures, they deduced that this was a beast that reigned over this jungle. It resembled a Tyrannosaurus Rex dominating a rainforest.

Based on the fossil finds, the Smithsonian installed a display in Grand Central Station in 2012 that featured a Titanboa. An advertising video featuring the Titanboa and the Tyrannosaurus was created as a mock-up.

Extinction

Regarding the Titanboa's demise, the belief is that everything in the rainforest—including the snake—was destroyed by a catastrophic mudslide. Every fossil was buried well below the surface of the earth due to this mudslide.

Artwork of a Titanboa by James Gurney.

This seems like something from a Harry Potter film. However, as scientists have found, it did exist.

More than 180 fossils of a gigantic snake were found in 2009 by scientists and coal miners in the Cerrejón region of Colombia. The discovery led scientists to the conclusion that the Titanboa snake was still roaming the jungle 60 million years ago, long after dinosaurs had vanished from the face of the earth.

At forty-five feet, the creature was three times larger than the typical crocodile.

Henry Garcia, a geologist from Colombia, is recognised as being the one who initiated the finding. He put an unknown fossil he had discovered in a coal case owned by the corporation.

A few years later, a local geology student named Fabiany Herrera found the impression of a fossil leaf on a rock. Palaeontologists, scientists, and coal miners embarked on an expedition in 2003 to conduct a more in-depth investigation of the region.

Their research helped them identify other atypically large species that called the home of Titanboa snake.

A treasure trove of fossils

Cerrejón, 60 miles off the Caribbean coast, is a

land of void for anyone visiting northern Colombia. It makes one think of the desolate, mostly sand-and-dirty Western US deserts.

The only things you'll see on these dirt roads are the occasional coal miners, dump trucks, and other construction vehicles. Located nearby is Carbones del Cerrejón Limited, a global coal company that harvests millions of tonnes of coal annually.

However, you will also discover the area frequented by scientists, geologists, and archaeologists, in addition to coal workers. That's because Cerrejón is one of the world's richest fossil deposit sites, and the world's smartest individuals will flock to this place to explore and hunt for fossils.

According to palaeontologist Carlos Jaramillo of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, "Cerrejón is the best, and probably the only, window on a complete ancient tropical ecosystem anywhere in the world."

Cerrejón was not always a wide open space. In actuality, it was dotted with hundreds of trees and marshy jungles. In comparison to today, it was renowned for being hotter and more humid.

Millions of years ago, they had twice as much rain as they do now, which contributed to the ideal habitat that is home to some of the most amazing animals in the world. Large creatures might grow to historic proportions because of the warm, humid climate.

large as those we see today lived in the rainforest during the Paleocene era. Three distinct species of crocodiles were present, and they were all bigger than the ones we often see in lakes.

A snake that was almost 40 feet long and 2,500 pounds in weight was also present. This replaced the dinosaurs as the new 'King of the Jungle.'

The Titanboa

To put it simply, the Titanboa snake was 'a monster.' Nowadays, the closest comparison would be that of a boa constrictor acting like an anaconda.

However, even the biggest boas and anacondas of today are not nearly 40 feet long. Anacondas are typically around one-third that size.

Not to mention the Titanboa was so thick that it could reach up to a man's waist from the ground up. It was essentially the biggest serpent in recorded human history.

Researchers came to the conclusion that the enormous turtle shells and crocodile fossils that had been discovered were probably eaten by the snake. Its brown skin provided ideal concealment for it to hunt its prey and explore the jungles.

Since the dinosaurs were extinct, the snake was stronger than any animal. The Titanboa would be difficult for even

SIBANI



WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
Send us your photographs at
features.orissapost@gmail.com