


A close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a plant like an iris, covered in numerous small, clear water droplets. The leaves are a vibrant green, and the droplets are in sharp focus, reflecting light. The background is dark and blurred. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text 'MONSOON MAGIC' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'MONSOON' is in white, and 'MAGIC' is in a bright yellow color.

# MONSOON MAGIC



**We thank all our partners Department of Water Resources, FORCE, Water Initiatives, NSS, Centurion University, IRC, PANTISS, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), TATA Strive and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS-Odisha), WaterAid India, MO College for their constant support to the campaign. We also thankfully acknowledge the support of Photo Selection Jury Members Ashish Kumar Pradhan, Lalit Rohidas, Ranjit Sahu, Rashmi Ranjan Panigrahi Shishir Kumar Panigrahi and editorial committee Aishwarya Mohanty, Arabinda Mohapatra Jatindra Ku Dash, Priya Ranjan Sahu, Sharda Lahangir, Snehasis Das. For this compendium, we would especially like to thankfully acknowledge to all the youths for sharing such beautiful monsoon photographs for Coffee Table Book**

## FOREWORD

Youth4Water is actively mobilizing adolescent and young people in Odisha on the issues of water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and climate change actions and awareness. The youth of our state hold the key to our future. Both policy and on-the-ground solutions are imperative to address the WASH and Climate Change challenges. Both situations require the involvement of young people.

Through grassroots actions, young people can influence policy makers to understand their issues and thereby they can take necessary steps, which can lead to social and behavioural changes in society.

It is important for young people to respect the environment and appreciate the beauty and elegance of nature. The 'Monsoon Magic' booklet is a great reflection of young people's engagement in such actions.

I encourage all adolescent and young people of Odisha to come forward and be a part of this innovative campaign.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sugata Ray'.

SUGATA RAY

*OIC- Chief UNICEF Odisha*





## MONSOON MAGIC

After the scorching fiery summer, monsoon slowly knocks at our doors as the much-needed respite. Bringing along an overwhelming calm followed by gusts of wind, sky piercing thunder, the enchanting petrichor and the cool breeze.

The season is awaited by all – a rejuvenated farm, a romantic charm, a puddle game, running droplets on a window pane, a rainbow in the sky, a cup of chai! The list is endless. Maybe that is how we all feel when the rains arrive: full of gratitude and immense happiness. As the rains pour down from the cloudy vastness, the earth and its dwellers are drenched with a promise of hope and emotions. For time immemorial, painters, musicians, authors, artists have tried to translate this promise into their art, articulating the raw romanticism that rain simulates. The rains have forever been their muse.

Taking this promise as an inspiration, young enthusiast photographers, from across the state of Odisha, has captured the raw essence of the season, depicting the beauty of rains, to present to you the Monsoon Magic!

An ode to the purifying and satiating season, the Monsoon Magic brings you 52 monsoon inspired photograph.



## Blossom

It's awakening of life after a parched summer! Blooming to their full capacity, the enduringly colored petals pay gratitude to the season of rejuvenation. With the soothing breeze, the flowers disperse their fragrance, as drops of water sprinkle their freshness.

A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. The rain promises a gratifying day as Charlotte

**Bronte says,  
"Oft a little morning rain,  
Foretells a pleasant day.  
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,  
But these are transient all;  
If the shower will make the roses bloom,  
O why lament its fall?"**



Flowers add beauty to the monsoon season. Trees are covered with bright and colorful flowers. Here, a Delonix regia had fallen to the ground and its reflection is captured in the image. My idea of taking this picture was that the reflection in the water symbolized a calm and soothing effect in the surroundings.

Location: Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

 Anwesa Dutta





An interesting aspect of the monsoon season is that everything big and small flourishes with a new lease of life. The photograph captures a wild mushroom growing at the bottom of a tree trunk. It is also testimony of the fact that at times we tend to miss the little wonders around us.

Location: SAIL, Bhubaneswar

 Anwesa Dutta





For the bees, flowers are like the elixir of life and for the flowers they are the messenger of hope and love. As Kahlil Gibran writes in the Prophet, "

And now you ask in your heart,  
"How shall we distinguish that which is good in pleasure from that which is not good?"  
Go to your fields and your gardens, and you shall learn that it is the pleasure of the bee to gather honey of the flower,  
But it is also the pleasure of the flower to yield its honey to the bee."

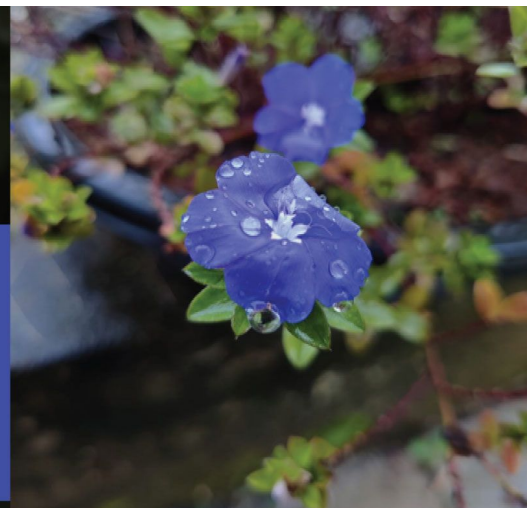
Location: Centurion Technology & Management, Jatni Campus

📷 Avilipsa Kar

The blue hue of petals beam with color with leaves fluttering in the wind. The simplicity of the flowers stands out even in a storm. The ever colorful, blossoming flowers remind us why the rains are so necessary .

Location: Botanical Garden, Bhubaneswar

📷 Rahul Nayak

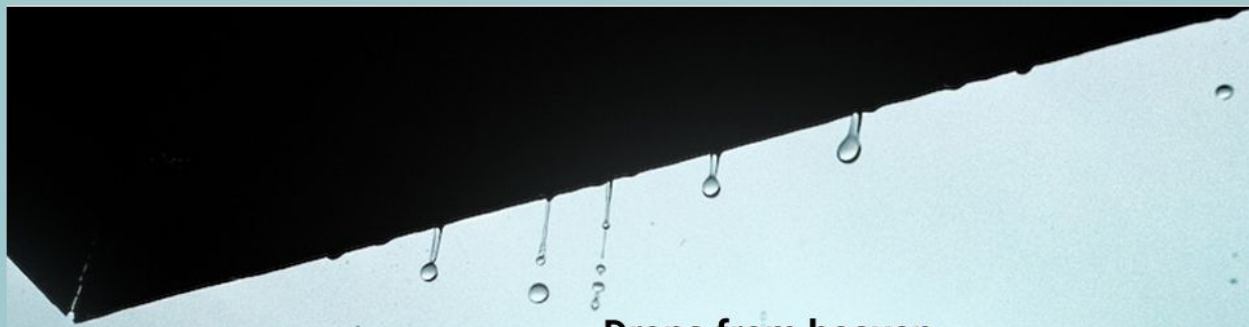




A beauty to behold! Cultivated in parks, in the wild, the unfolding immaculate petals, blossoming at any place in reel and real, in different shapes and sizes, spreading love and happiness

Location: Botanical Garden, Bhubaneswar

📷 Rahul Nayak



### **Drops from heaven**

Rain is nature's art, creating its own canvas and painting the world around in colors of hope and happiness. Even when it stays calm after a whirlwind storm it leaves behind the refreshing green adorned with pearls from heaven to reminisce about it. Nature primps and preens as monsoon arrives. And the raindrops quietly in conversation with buds, flowers and leaves, are the testimony of nature!





Is it even a rainy day without a cup of  
chai and fried fritters!

Location: Centurion University of Techn-  
ology and Management, Jatni Khordha

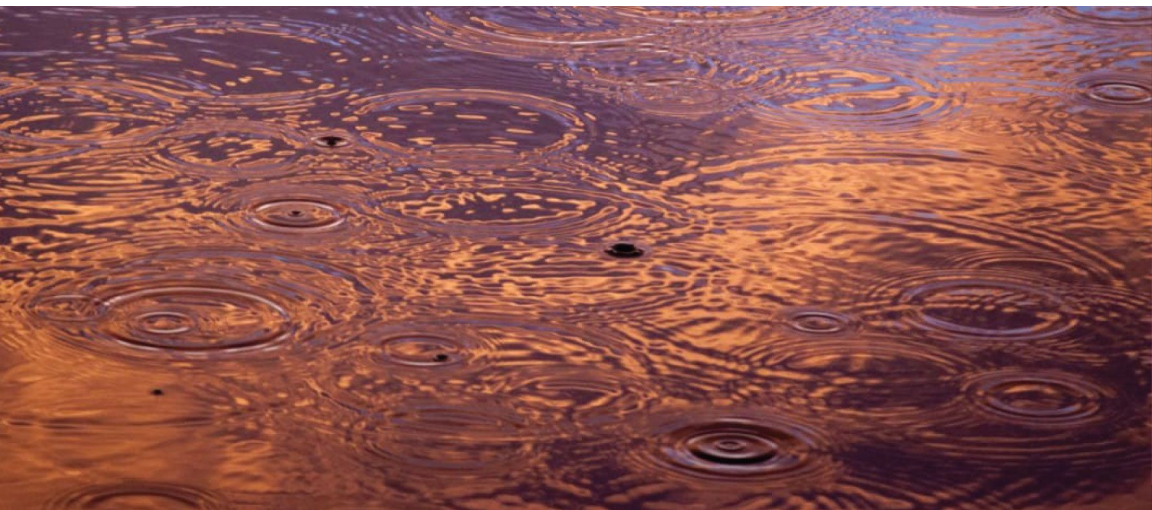
📷 Monalisa Oram

Bokeh personifies moments of  
clarity in the darkness, confused  
lights making the frame alive.  
Being confused is a little disturb-  
ing, but not knowing the outcome  
is even more interesting.

Location: Khandagiri Bari

📷 Rahul Nayak





Every drop is a foretelling of what's ahead and  
reminiscence of what's gone!

Location: Angul



Rahul Nayak



Do you see what we  
see? Blurred memories,  
faded noises!

Location: Khordha

📷 Rahul Nayak

Water creates its own path to  
flow and explore uncharted  
routes. Monsoon accentuates  
the process.

Location: Arcon Retreat Bhub-  
neswar

📷 Ritwik Das







Everyone needs to get out of their comfort zone, break away from the shell and wear war gears. The thunderstorm is followed by silence, a peaceful silence or the one filled with sorrows. Even if it scares you, it remains inevitable.


Location:Puri

 Rahul Nayak




Raindrops have a reassuring rhythm, the one like when the heart beats as the drops fall on the leaves!

Location: Smruti Udyan, Paradip

 Sitansu Sutar

Raindrops refresh and improve the beauty of everything they fall on, the land, the flowers, the leaves.....

Location: Esplanade

 Sujit Kumar Nayak





Morning rains make every aspect of even the concrete world look better!

Location: Arcon Retreat Bhubaneswar



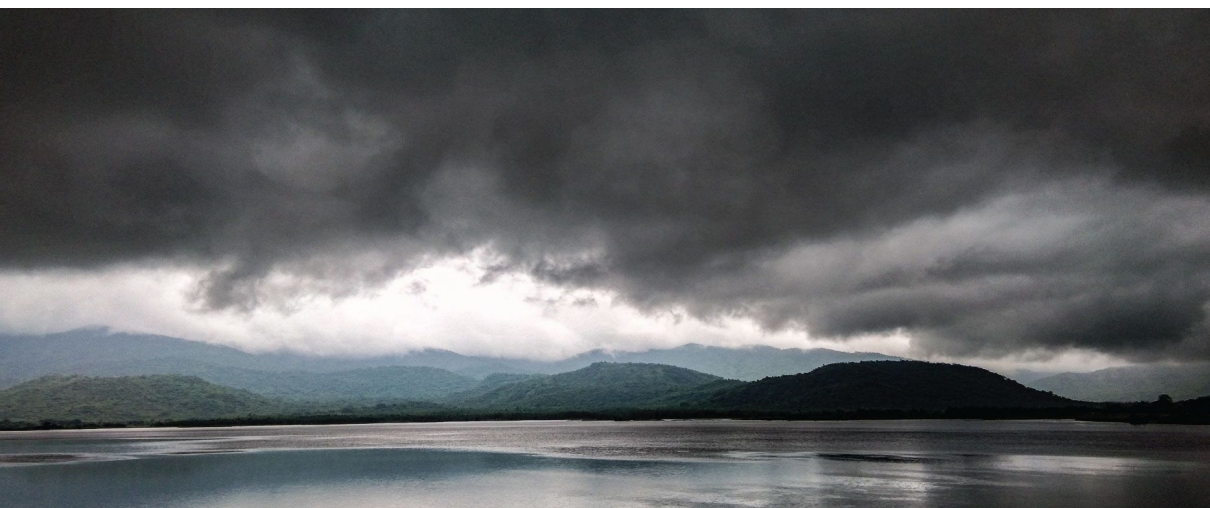
Ritwik Das






## **Mighty Sky**

The monsoon sky is always a vision to behold - breathtaking, dramatic, eerie and boundless. Hiding away the sun, the sky meets the rivers, the lakes and ponds manifesting endless moods and moments. The mountain stands tall and still, shrouded in a layer of clouds waiting to pour. It is often said that rain brings in happiness and joy. But when the rain meets the mountains and hills, awakening the lush green trees and all the living beings, when water gushes through the slopes filling in lakes and rivers, it also brings peace and prosperity!



Nestled away amidst the lush green canopies of trees, shrouded under the thick black clouds, the Budhabudhiani Dam in Nayagarh district wears an unperturbed look as the monsoon arrives, creating a beautiful blend of light piercing through the shadows!


Location: Budhabudhiani Dam,  
Nayagarh

 Anshuman Patnaik



The land had been thirsty for long, parched and arid. But now the prayer of the grass is heard, it grows greener and flourishes as the craving land calms its thirst.


Location: Phulnakhara Cuttack

 Lalatendu Bhoi



Every serene village is bejeweled by the presence of a pond which is at its liveliest during monsoons. The reflection of the vast sky giving the water its tinge of blue, also helps people make a pool of memories as they enjoy the calmness and tranquility by the pond amidst the rains. The pond is located in Kusumasole village of the beautiful Mayurbhanj district.

Location: Kusumasole village , Mayurbhanj district

 Anwesa Dutta

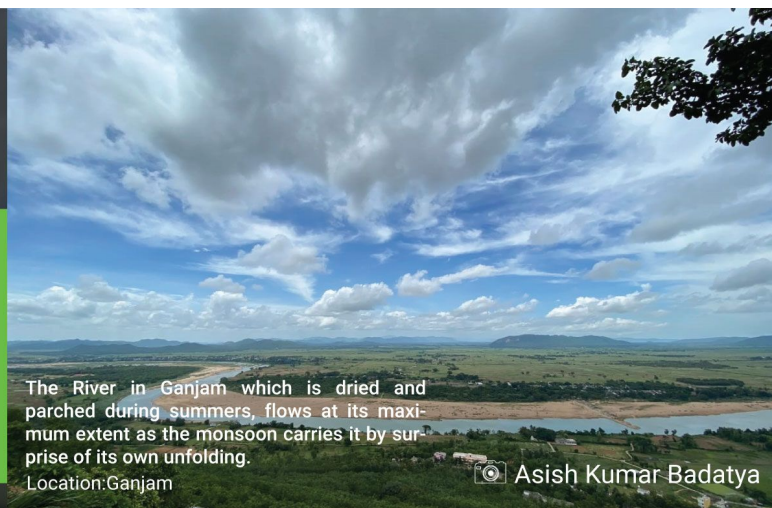




In the picturesque Padampur the colorful bridge to heaven, adorning the sky, assists clouds to sail through. An additional charm of the season is always the seven colored rainbows beautifying the blue expanse as the quirky light pierces through.

Location: Padampur

 Asish Kumar Badatya



The River in Ganjam which is dried and parched during summers, flows at its maximum extent as the monsoon carries it by surprise of its own unfolding.

Location: Ganjam

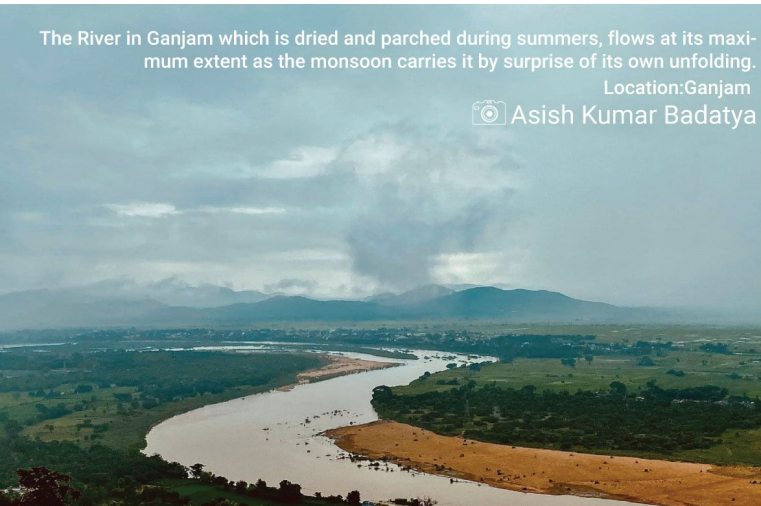
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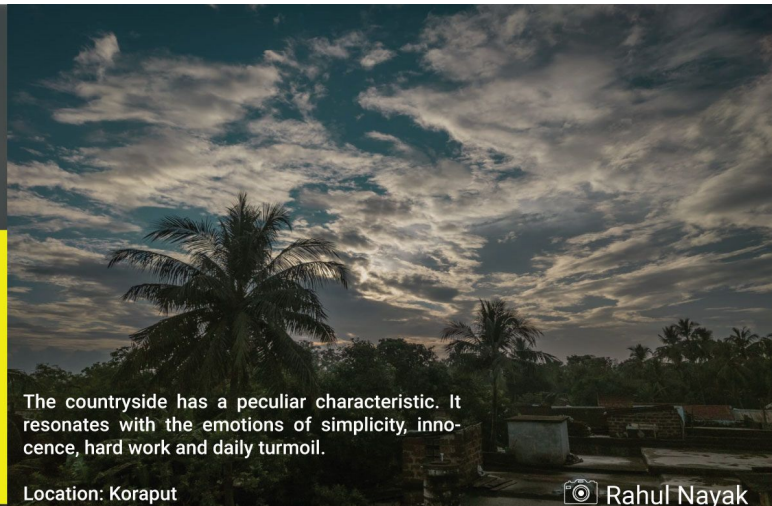


The countryside has a peculiar characteristic. It resonates with the emotions of simplicity, innocence, hard work and daily turmoil.

Location: Koraput




Rahul Nayak





The mountain ranges find a way to interact with the clouds. An interaction that deepens with time and beautifies everything that comes their way. This breathtaking interaction of the hilly range and rain filled clouds was captured in Panchalingeswar of Balasore district.

Location: Panchalingeswar of Balasore district.


 Baby Nayak

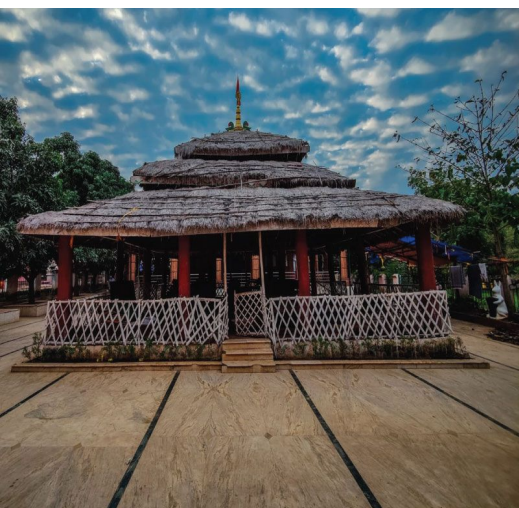




It is a melody to listen to the sound of the ocean waves, the rain and the breeze. A melody that gives a feeling of the storm that is here to show clear paths and not disrupt.


Location: Chandipur Beach, Balesore

 Baby Nayak




Simple is beautiful. Shrouded in the thick blanket of clouds, bordered with the elegance of trees, this location insists for you to spend some time.

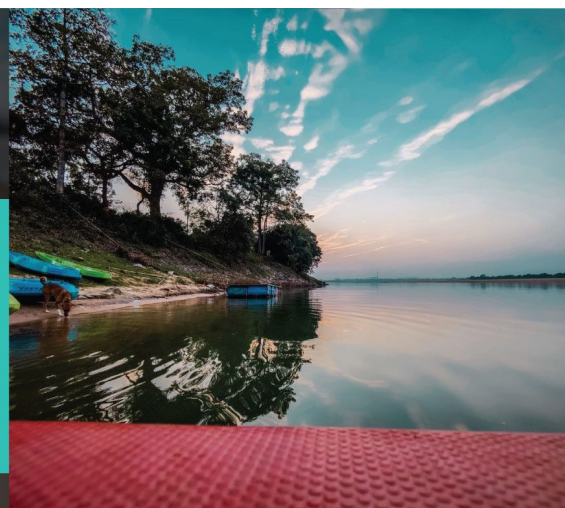
Location: Kakatpur, Puri

 Rahul Nayak

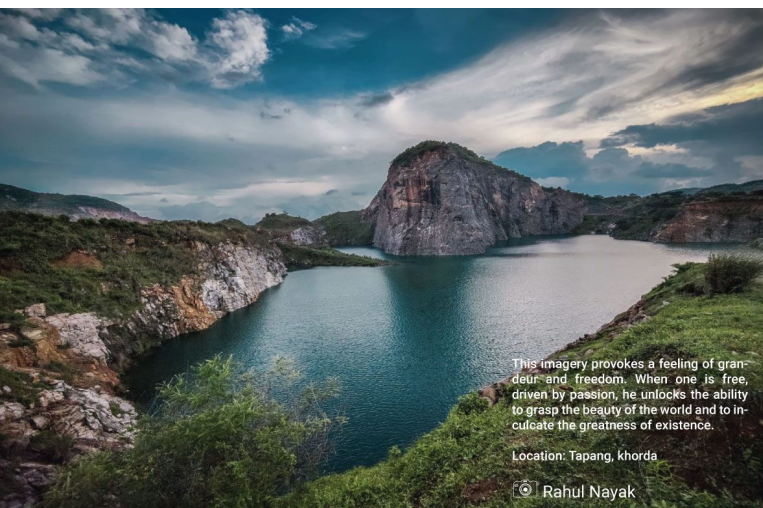
This snap is trying to throw rays of hope and reciting harmony to the flickering determination, so that one could adhere to his/her grit and would be spell bound to take up the next challenge.

Location: Puri, Kanas

 Rahul Nayak







This imagery provokes a feeling of grandeur and freedom. When one is free, driven by passion, he unlocks the ability to grasp the beauty of the world and to inculcate the greatness of existence.

Location: Tapang, khorda

📷 Rahul Nayak



The monsoon has unleashed its magic in the hinterlands of Koraput, unlocking the virgin beauty of the hilly terrains.

Location: Koraput

📷 Ritwik Das



A crisp, cool breeze hustling through the crops, the rain laden clouds shuttling across the hill tops, the rain has lent a new lease of life to the hilly landscapes on the outskirts of the capital city.

Location: Bhubaneswar

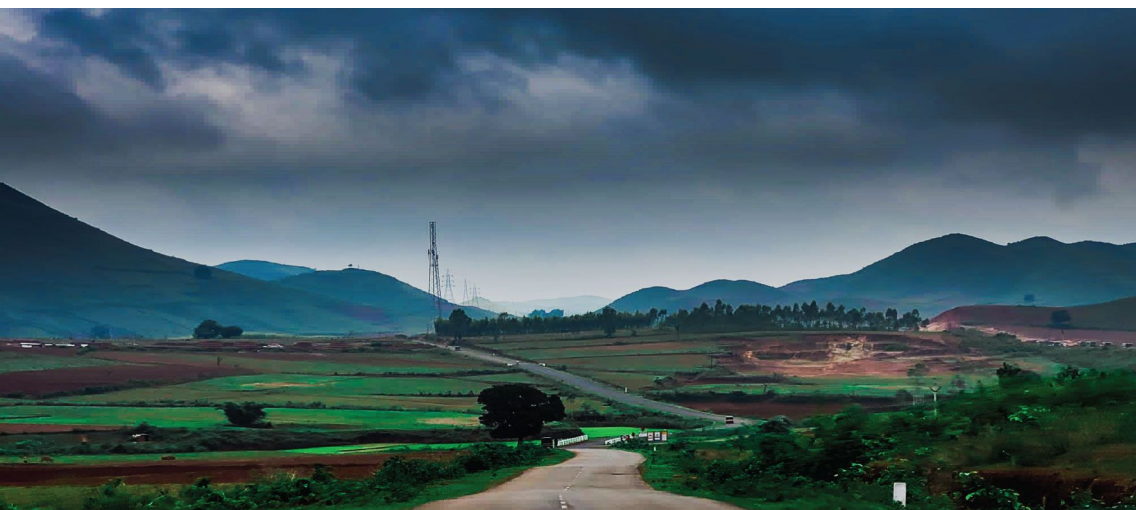
📷 Ritwik Das



The image captured in Gonmer village, also captures hope through the clouds which are eagerly awaited by the agrarian families of the village.


Location: Gonmer village

📷 Uday Singh



This image from Damanjodi perfectly captures the hues of blue and green as the nature re-lives itself in monsoons !

Location:Damanjodi

 Sujit Kumar Nayak



## Stillness in Motion

Not everybody waits for the storm to pass, some learn to dance, play, walk and sway with the enchanting rains. A sultry hot summer and a sweaty work day, always awaits the monsoon to rinse and cleanse the summer grief. For some it means another day with a little respite...the day goes on, the work goes on. For some, it just means frolicking in the lap of nature. But for all, it's the love for what is in store. As HW Longfellow says,

**"How beautiful is the rain!  
After the dust and heat,  
In the broad and fiery street,  
In the narrow lane,  
How beautiful is the rain!"**





Heavy downpour, the lighting, the flooded street.....none of it is an excuse for people embracing the season and going about their daily work. This image taken in Nayagarh depicts how people continue to move ahead despite the challenges, despite the roadblocks.


Location: Budhabudhiani Dam, Nayagarh



Anshuman Pattnaik

Monsoon's soothing magic not only works wonders on humans, but animals alike. The environment is abuzz with life. This image taken in Nayagarh is a herd of cows returning home after a daylong grazing.

Location: Odagaon, Nayagarh

 Anshuman Pattnaik








Monsoons are a time of rejuvenation also for the little chirpy birds who ensure to make the most of the season. The image was captured as a Myna enjoyed a bath while a red-whiskered bulbul watched along.

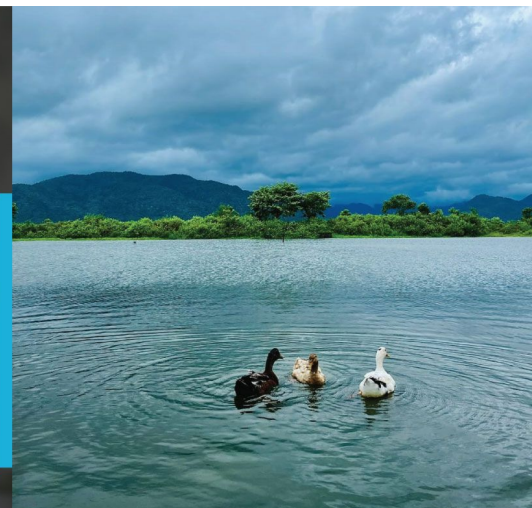
Location: Sashtri Nagar, Bhubneswar

 Anwesa Dutta

In Sidhpur village of Ganjam, an overflowing pond accentuated by the rains, means a good pool day for ducks.

Location: Sidhpur village, Ganjam

 Asish Kumar Badatya



It is not all glory. At times the water won't stop falling, inundating the farms, wrecking the fields, bruising your house.....You will lament the rains, the furious deluge.

Location: Erasama, Jagatsinghpur

 Sitansu Sutar





Palari' - the rain hat, a delicately interlaced mesh of bamboo and leaves. The palari is a common monsoon accessory found in hinterlands of Odisha, mostly by farmers, laborer's and shepherds

Location: Anshupa Lake



Lalatendu Bhoi





It is said that the pain and heat eases as Mahaprabhu blesses his devotees with showers of rain as they pull the mighty rath along.

Location: Chhend Colony, Rourkela, sundargarh

 Sujit Kumar Nayak



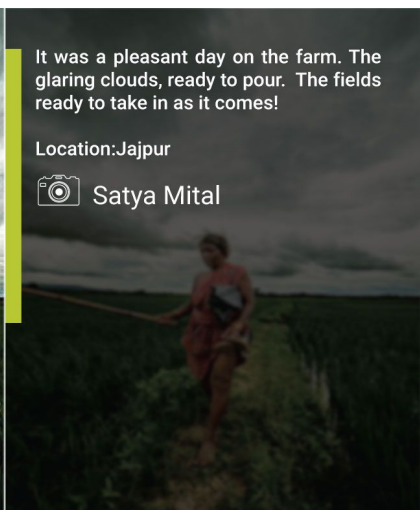


It was a pleasant day on the farm. The glaring clouds, ready to pour. The fields ready to take in as it comes!

Location: Jajpur



Satya Mital

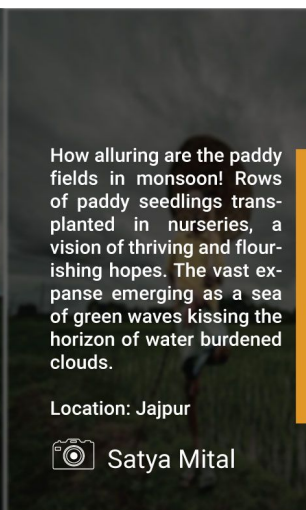


How alluring are the paddy fields in monsoon! Rows of paddy seedlings transplanted in nurseries, a vision of thriving and flourishing hopes. The vast expanse emerging as a sea of green waves kissing the horizon of water burdened clouds.

Location: Jajpur



Satya Mital





The sweet smell of happiness.....the mud patched shirt and the beaming smile is testimony of the soil turning gold with the sweat of labour !

Location: Jajpur



Satya Mital



Women at work! Their selfless, untiring labor nourishes us. They are unsung devoting a life to the farm and back at home. They embody strength and grit. Irrespective of whether they have a two square meal at home they make sure that an entire nation is fed.

Location: Jajpur



Satya Mital









The day smears on as the rain subsides. A capture from the steel town of Rourkela

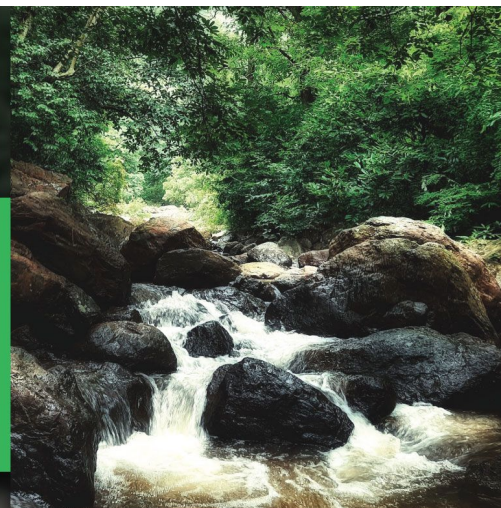
Location: Steel town ,Rourkela

 Monalisa Oram

The Khandar waterfall in its full might, with monsoon adding to its enigma. A monsoon visit to this place is a treasure for years.

Location: Khandar waterfall


 Uday Singh





Laugh and live and vice versa. A lesson that the season teaches us !

Location: Khandar waterfall

 Uday Singh

