

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



Carrying forward a tradition

P 3,4
COVER
STORY



Working in the IT industry is his profession but he is passionate about music, poetry, films and other forms of literature. Poet, lyricist and dialogue writer Sumit Panda loves to pen a good poem or compose some soul-stirring lines for his music videos at his leisure

Early Bird

Being in the IT industry, I feel privileged to get a weekend to recharge for a fresh week. Though people prefer to get a few hours of extra sleep on holidays, I am quite the opposite. I wake up early because it gives me ample opportunities to work on my passion.

Morning Cuppa

A cup of strong tea on the balcony and a good book make my morning. I love to spend time learning more about the author after reading a book.

Creative Pursuit

Next session of my day goes into completing the assignments on writing stories, dialogues and lyrics for films and music videos. At times, the entire day goes into composing some good lines of a poem or a song.

Food for Soul

Sumptuous non-vegetarian food makes me happy but the joy of writing a good poem or a story can't be expressed in words. For me, literary creation comforts the soul in ways that nothing else can.

My World

Often, I make my family know about my world, a world of movies, music, poems and literature. I am thankful to each of them for tolerating me and my madness.



With eminent poet Devdas Chhotray



With family

BIJAY MANDAL, OP



WhatsApp This Week

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting WhatsApp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- There are no winners in life... only survivors.
Doing nothing is very hard thing to do...you never know when to finish.
Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.
I wonder what happens when a doctor's wife eats an apple a day.



COMPENDIUM OF WISDOM

Sir, Sunday POST is a reservoir of knowledge and enlightenment. It is not only a wonderful supplement but also a compendium of wisdom. Last week's cover article 'Shattering Stereotypes' is an excellent piece of writing. It demonstrates women empowerment and their passionate search for economic independence. Sunday POST's growing popularity is the benchmark of its perfection.

PRABHUDUTT DASH, Bhubaneswar

A PARADIGM SHIFT

Sir, 'Future of luxury consumption' (Aug 21) was an introspective read. The pandemic-induced shutdown and disruption in economic activities have necessitated a radical reset in the preferences of consumers for luxury brands and products. The brick-and-mortar luxury retail outlets will have to give way to e-commerce which will ultimately emerge as the leading channel of distribution. In view of the baneful impact of climate change on economic growth, all luxury brands will have to implement environmentally sustainable processes in the manufacture of high-end goods.

AMIT BANERJEE, New Delhi

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. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa. Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



While it is widely believed that the days of magic shows are numbered, some young practitioners think otherwise. Magicians can now earn big bucks with their demand increasing at places like luxury hotels, brand launching events, cruise ships and marriage parties, they believe

Carrying forward a tradition

Masters in

Chemistry. Despite the lack of encouragement from the family, I managed to carve a space for myself in the field. I am the first magician in Odisha to land a job in Mayfair Hotel and Resorts,

Jiban says he made up his mind to become a magician after

watching a show of great magician Panna Lal Sundarka aka PL Sundarka. He also learnt a few tricks during his school days from J Raja Rao, who used to come all the way from Andhra Pradesh and would go around in cycles to perform magic.

Inspired, he formed a group of 20 called 'Jiban's Indrajala' which lasted for 3-4 years. Along with academics, he went on to learn new skills of magic in Odisha's first and the only magic school S S Academy set up by Sukesh Patnaik and Santosh Chowdhury.

"Though my shows attracted a sizable number of audiences, parents never liked me opting magic as a profession. It was not a great career option for them. Since I had a passion to learn the skill, I continued to perform magic shows and managed to complete my

scene was never the same again.

Moreover, with countless forms of entertainment available and rapid growth of social media, the art of magic is believed to have lost much of its luster and on the verge of disappearance.

But there are some young practitioners of magic who beg to differ and are determined to carry forward the tradition ahead and keep it alive and kicking.

Here's what they have to say.

Jiban Mishra

The 42-year-old professional magician and mind reader of Nakchi in Angul district, has been entertaining people as a Residential Magician at a star hotel of Bhubaneswar for the last 12 years.



Bhubaneswar. To have performed for innumerable shows and being adored for my work is what I have always wanted," says Jiban.

India is considered a land of magic and magicians like PC Sorcar enchanted people across the globe like no one did. Despite the glorious history, the art is believed to be on the verge of extinction. However, Jiban is not ready to accept it.

Disputing the perception, he says, "The magicians are now better placed than before. If one is competent, it's not very difficult to earn a sum of Rs 50,000 per month in Odisha. Magicians are joining star hotels and cruise ships with fat salaries. This apart, they can earn handsomely from marriage and birthday parties, corporate programmes, meetings and brand launching events."

He will not hesitate to put his son in the line. Moreover, he will be more than happy and feel proud if the latter wants to make a career as a magician, confirmed Jiban.

Magical tips

Asked about the secret of his success, Jiban says, "Practice and practice is all that it takes to become a successful magician. It is not just skills but verbal eloquence as well that helps you excel."



Jiban exhibiting his skills to former ISRO Chairman K Sivan

SMRUTI REKHA BARIK, OP

Protul Chandra Sarkar, also known as PC Sorcar and regarded as 'Maharaja of Magic by the westerners, used to call himself the world's greatest magician.

In the late 1950s when TV was in its infancy, Sorcar (rechristened his surname as it sounded like 'sorcerer') did something which put him in a different league altogether.

During a magic show on BBC, he had his assistant on a table and sliced her with a giant buzzsaw in two. Like other western conjurers and the existing practice, he too tried to revive her but failed.

Soon after the presenter stepped in and said 'sorry, the program is going over-time, we have to cut the transmission now'.

It was a gimmick but the viewers thought that what they had seen was a woman being murdered live.

After that all his shows were 'sold out' and he didn't look back ever after and went on to become a legend.

So much so, that Sorcar was conferred a Padma Shri followed by a street in Kolkata, the city of his birth, named after him. He was also awarded The Sphinx, known as the Oscar of Magic and India Post issued a commemorative stamp to honour him.

After Sorcar, many illusionists like PL Sundarka, K Lal, PC Sorcar (Junior) kept charming people but the post-Sorcar (Sr.)



Bishnu showcased a trick to actress Malaika Arora at India's Got Talent

Bishnu Prasad

Bishnu Prasad of Bhubaneswar doesn't look like a typical magician with a top hat, goatee and a tailcoat. His dressing sense didn't escape the attention of Malaika Arora and Karan Johar, the judges of India's Got Talent (IGT), when he performed in the show. The skills and communication with the audience is more important than one's appearance, says Bishnu.

He is not amongst the ones who believe that magic is a dying art.

"Magic still retains its glamour. Yes, the pandemic has cast its shadow and shows were not held. But the real magicians have never quit. Moreover, they honed their skills during this forced break and are raring to go. Now magic is not just a medium of entertainment, the Central and state governments are using it as a medium to promote the welfare schemes and create awareness to ward off superstitions," adds Bishnu.

Misuse of magic

Bishnu, however, says, magic is often misunderstood because some 'madaris' and charlatans use it as a 'Black Art'. But, it is never accepted in the magic world. Magic is a skill

for exhibiting an art for entertainment purpose. When magic is used for exploitation it is definitely misuse of art. There are several sections under IPC for legal actions against those who use magic to mislead people. There are a number of examples where magicians have conducted charity shows, corporate events and have empanelled with prestigious institutions like the Red Cross. So magic can never be called as Black Magic, explains the magician who made Odisha proud performing at IGT, a national level reality show.

Jadugar Kumar

Jadugar Kumar is an automobile engineer by education but a magician by profession.

Over the last three decades, he has performed in schools, birthday parties, corporate programmes, NGO programs, product promotion events, television shows and all kinds of exhibits. He has also performed abroad and managed to get his name registered on Guinness Book of World Record and World Record India.

Despite his accomplishment, Kumar believes that the profession is often looked down upon.

"The current scenario of magic is definitely not great, but only COVID can't be held responsible for that. The situation has turned unfavorable for the magicians but it is also true for every other profession. So, let's talk about pre-covid times. Were the scenarios for the magicians better at that time? No. People are ready to spend a good amount of money on other art forms but when it comes to magic, they are a bit reluctant to pay," says Kumar.

He continues: "Actually, we the magicians are responsible for such a condition. Many of us don't focus on the artistic value of magic. There are a lot of organisers who ask magicians for discounts. Look at David Copperfield, what a performer he is! I am not talking about the tricks he performed but I am talking about the

grandeur of his performance. The way he dresses up and manages his standard; can anyone ask him for a discount to perform a programme? Some of the Indian Magicians are good with maintaining their standard but the majority is not. Our self esteem is low, it could be because of the way society treats the magicians."

Magicians or artistes!



Kumar adds, "We need to change the mindset of the public if we want magic to survive and prosper. It can be done by presenting yourself as an artiste. Most of the magicians do invest in magic apparatus but forget to invest in their own personality. Magic is not only about a trick; your words, your appearance and your personality add many folds to it. My brothers have always assisted me; one takes care of my appearance and designs my clothes for the show, while the other prepares scripts. My mentor, music director Jatin Das arranges and composes music in my show. So, it is never a one man show, but a complete team work."

Magic in mind

Many people still believe that magic is all about spells whereas the reality is, it is nothing but science, says Kumar. "My programmes are packed with drama, science and digital magic. But as I always say, magic is less about what I perform and more about what your mind believes it to be. Magic is there in your mind only," he concludes.



ICONIC ACTS

PC Sorcar Jr 'vanished' the Taj Mahal for two minutes in Agra into thin air, leaving a blank space at the site. He performed the illusion about 400 metres from the Taj, standing on the bank of the Yamuna river November 8, 2000.

Sorcar also made the Victoria Memorial 'disappear' on the 300th anniversary of Calcutta, and vanished a train full of passengers before a large crowd at Bardhaman Junction, West Bengal in 1992.

David Copperfield astonished everybody when he 'walked' right through The Great Wall of China.

David Blaine, USA, going without food for 44 days or holding your breath underwater for 17 minutes, frozen in ice for more than three days, he has tested the limits of mind



'We need to adapt more Odia classics'

It is essential to set up institutions like FTII-Pune and NSD-New Delhi to create a pool of talents in Odisha, says actor-turned-producer Jhulik Bhattacharjee

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

After headlining seven Bengali and 14 Odia films, actress Jhulik Bhattacharjee needs no introduction. Interestingly, she happily adopted the role of a homemaker when she was at the peak of her career. But as they say, 'once an actor always an actor.' For an actor, it is always difficult to resist the temptation of facing camera and Jhulik is no exception. After staying away from the limelight for some time, she is making a comeback to the industry but with an additional responsibility of a producer.

Her new film *Kiss Miss* starring Swaraj and Sivani is set for a Ganesh Puja release while *Rudrani*, in which she appears in lead role, will be releasing during Dussehra.

Ahead of her releases, Jhulik took some time off to share her thoughts on motivation behind turning a producer, media trials of celebrities and more.

Excerpts:



■ What led you to become a producer?

Well during the pandemic, most of the people associated with the Odia film industry were rendered jobless. Some technicians and crew members, after losing their livelihood, approached me for work. Distressed by their plight, I decided to launch my production house to create as many job opportunities as possible. So far, it is a smooth sailing and I am happy to see those smiling faces. It couldn't have been a reality without the grace of Lord Jagannath.

■ What are the key areas you are focusing on?

There has been an outcry over the copy-paste formula in Odia films. Therefore, presenting films based on original stories will remain my priority as a producer. For my first movie *Kiss Miss*, I talked to Sushant Mani, one of the best minds in filmmaking and we decided to bring in a good story writer on board who can work on original concepts. *Kiss Miss* is a romantic movie with a difference. It is not just *Kiss Miss* but all those in the pipeline- *Rudrani*, *Tor Mor Katti* and a few untitled films - have their distinct storylines.

■ Why do producers in Odisha not release their movies in theatres in the post pandemic era?

With the audience getting exposed to streaming platforms, the content is the new hero at the moment as you can see at national level. Big budget movies are also failing to pull the crowd to the theatres. Viewers these days shun movies made on run-of-the-mill ideas and the hall owners also decline to screen them. So, a maker can't get away with mediocrity. A new ecosystem is fast replacing the old school of filmmaking so as the expectations of the viewers. Therefore, the producers are shying away from releasing their movies made on ordinary story lines. The system needs to change. It will take time but we need to present content-driven films to the viewers. Look at Kannada and Bengali film industries which were in similar situations at one time but they managed to improve the quality of their films and there is no dearth of viewers at the theatres there.

■ What sort of change is required to bring the viewers back to the theatres?

Makers in Bengal started adapting old classics, works of litterateurs like Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Manik Bandopadhyay and so many others and it worked. So, we also need to cinematise the old as well as contemporary classics of Odia literature to attract the viewers. Besides, the story writers also need to create good content. For that to happen the directors and producers have to understand the pulse of the audiences and what they want to see. They should encourage young writers to come up with original stories instead of blatantly copying plots of other language movies. We have to invest now to gain something in the future.

■ Recently you've been blessed with two baby girls but that didn't deter you from headlining *Rudrani*, a woman-centric film. Do you think the situation for an actress post marriage and motherhood has changed for the better?

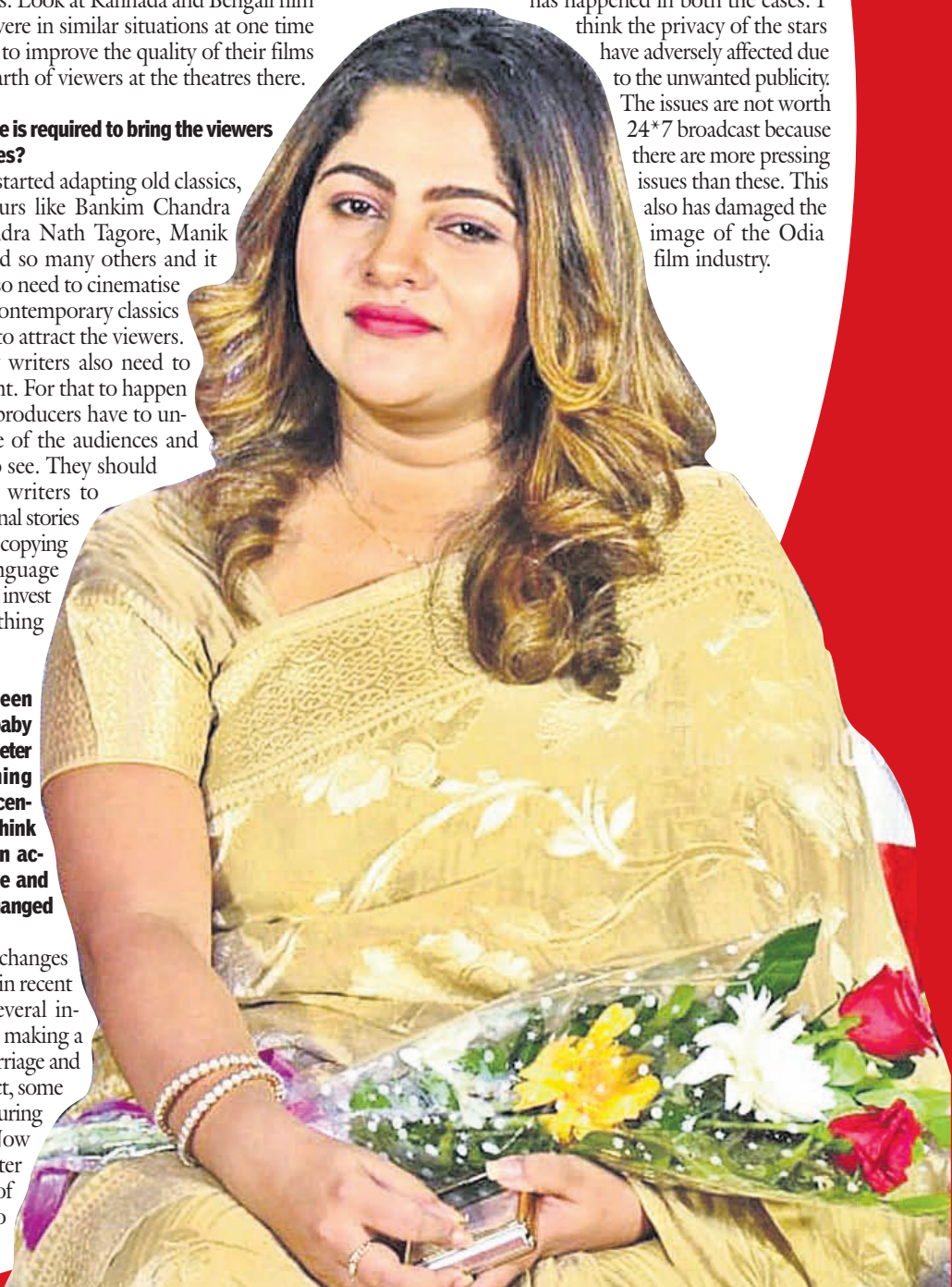
Absolutely, some changes have been noticed in recent times. We have several instances of actresses making a comeback after marriage and motherhood. In fact, some are even working during their pregnancy. Now the situation is better but there are a lot of things that need to be done.

■ How much does your husband support you in production and do you discuss films with him?

Honestly, he never interferes in my career and has given me the space that I have always needed and which I think is important. We do talk about films and often wonder about the scarcity of talents in the industry. To create a pool of talent, we need to set up institutions like FTII-Pune and NSD-New Delhi.

■ Finally, your take on the Barsha-Anubhav and Babushaan-Prakruti controversies.

I have never been in favour of a media trial which has happened in both the cases. I think the privacy of the stars have adversely affected due to the unwanted publicity. The issues are not worth 24*7 broadcast because there are more pressing issues than these. This also has damaged the image of the Odia film industry.



Ananya wants to team up with Ranveer, SLB

Ananya Panday is undoubtedly one of the leading actresses in Hindi film industry. Despite being a few films old, she has successfully made her space in the showbiz. The actress is currently busy promoting her most anticipated film *Liger* with the South sensation Vijay Deverakonda. Ahead of the film's release, in an interview, Ananya revealed her wish for working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali for a film. She said: "He's amazing. I love his films". Further, when she was asked who she would love to have with her in the film as a co-star, she ex-

pressed the desire to work with Ranveer Singh. Meanwhile, the makers had organised a grand event for the trailer launch of *Liger* which was attended by Vijay, Ananya, Puri Jagannadh, and Karan Johar. Ranveer also made a special appearance at the event. Talking about *Liger*, it is scheduled for theatrical release on 25 August 2022 in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

AGENCIES



Kiara reveals how she met Sidharth

The eighth episode of *Koffee With Karan* Thursday spilled many beans on Kiara Advani's relationship status with Sidharth Malhotra.

While Kiara admitted that Sidharth was "more than just a

close friend" to her, Karan and Shahid couldn't stop asking her to tell them when the duo is planning to get married. Amongst many bits and pieces of their fun banter was one special revelation that Kiara made on the show - how she met Siddharth!

Kiara revealed that it was not on the sets of their film *Shershaah* that they met for the first time. She informed that they had met much before they started doing the film together, after the wrap-up party of her Netflix project *Lust Stories*.

Kiara said, "Sid and I know each other from before we were cast in *Shershaah*."

When asked about her marriage plans with her *Shershaah* co-star, she replied, "I do see that in my life. But I'm not revealing that on *Koffee With Karan* today."

In response to this Shahid cracked a joke and stated, "Sounds like she is ready. 15 minutes back she was not accepting the relationship. And now she is almost confessing to the fact that she is ready." AGENCIES



Regina strived to understand lives of soldiers

Regina Cassandra is best known for the diverse roles that she takes on. From being a south film industry debutante to making it in Hindi film industry, the actress has come a long way. Her web debut *Rocket Boys* gained her admiration and fame. In her recent venture *Shoorveer*, she proved that no role is an exception for her and that she dives in neat for every

challenge that shows up. She shared, "I had to follow strict protein diets and extensive workouts as the role demanded much more dedication. I enjoyed putting in the effort. I also strived to understand the life of the people that served in the defence forces to help myself better the role and deliver more genuineness."

The show features a bold story of soldiers coming from the Air Force, Navy, and Army together to protect the country's security.

Regina essayed the role of an army officer for the same.

AGENCIES



Sadaa turns wildlife photographer

Chennai: Actress Sadaa, who has been part of several blockbuster films in Tamil and Telugu, has now also turned into an avid wildlife photographer.

The actress, who has played the female lead in *Anniyan*, *Unnale Unnale* and *Jayam*, recently put out on Instagram, pictures of a black panther she had shot in Pench, Madhya Pradesh.

Posting her pictures of the panther called *Shyama*, the actress said, "She is young, she is bold, she is curious and

playful, none other than the young beauty of Pench, *Shyama*, who's taken the wildlife enthusiasts' world by storm."

"I fell in love almost instantly seeing her images. I have always had a softer corner for black cats, big or small, but there was no way I was going to travel back," added the actress.

In spite of having a work schedule a day later in Hyderabad, Sadaa still decided to take the first flight to see this beauty.

"Never have I done anything as insane as this. But it was so well worth it!" she said.

IAN S



Preventing strawberry legs



Exfoliate the skin routinely to get rid of any dead skin cells that can block your pores and hair follicles

The word 'strawberry legs' refers to the appearance, of skin on the legs which appears speckled or pitted and seems like the seeds of a strawberry. Small red or black dots on your legs are the primary sign of strawberry legs. Sometimes the bumps are also elevated.

When dead skin, oil, and germs are trapped in expanded pores or hair follicles, strawberry legs develop. Strawberry legs are a common side effect of waxing or shaving. Uncomfortable skin irritation could be caused by another skin issue, such as keratosis pilaris, dry skin, folliculitis, or plugged pores.

Check out some simple tips to prevent strawberry legs shared by **Shahnaz Husain**.

Use moisturising shaving cream

It's preferable to shave after taking a shower because it will soften your skin and hair. Firstly, cleanse your skin with mild soap or body washes to start. Then apply a layer of shaving cream after cleaning off debris and bacteria; search for labels that state for sensitive skin. Make sure to use a moisturising and hydrating shaving cream or body wax, as it might lessen the risk of skin rashes. Any items with dyes or fragrances should be avoided.

Change razors more frequently

If you prefer shaving your legs with a razor and frequently use an old or dull razor, then it can quickly result in strawberry legs because of razor burn and folliculitis. If you have strawberry legs, changing your razor more frequently is a wonderful starting step to address the problem because it is simple to do and can have a relieving impact. Also, after shaving, place a washcloth dampened with cool water on your legs for a few

minutes. This may calm your skin and reduce razor rash redness and pain.

Regular exfoliation of skin

Exfoliate your skin routinely to get rid of any dead skin cells that can block your pores and hair follicles. Apply moisturiser after using a washcloth or loofah for gentle exfoliation. Additionally, you have the option of using a mild scrub. Also, you can create a scrub using baking soda and water. It is believed that baking soda's anti-inflammatory

characteristics might lessen inflammation while gently exfoliating. Combine a tablespoon of baking soda with one teaspoon of water to make a paste. Apply this mixture to the affected area on your legs, and then wait 4 to 5 minutes for it to dry. Rinse afterward with cold water. For effective results, practice it daily. You may also exfoliate with the help of brown sugar, a proven home

remedy. You must thoroughly combine ½ cup of brown sugar, a cup of almond or olive oil, and 3–4 drops of clove oil to make this scrub. Exfoliate your legs for a few minutes by rubbing the mixture in circular motions once it is ready. Next, give it a cold water rinse. Until you see a difference in your legs, you can exfoliate them once or twice a week.

Frequent moisturising

Thoroughly moisturise your skin to avoid dry skin and discomfort. After showering, especially if you just shaved, apply a little moisturiser. This will aid in retaining moisture. Avoid moisturisers that contain self-tanning lotion because they tend to accentuate the pitting effect.

Strawberry legs can be controlled with ease. You can easily get rid of strawberry legs on your own by taking preventative precautions and using home remedies. Well, the condition may be more difficult to cure and recur in those with thicker body hair, deeper skin color, and extra hair follicle issues. If this applies to you, seeking expert treatment might be your best bet for long-term symptom alleviation.



Snigdha



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP