

Odisha CM Naveen offers X-plus incentives to investors at Bengaluru meet

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Asserting that the State is providing X power and stable governance with a The government is also providing con-



Odisha government walks the talk, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appealed to industry captains to become partners in the State's transformative journey and work together for the growth of the nation. Naveen offered X-plus incentives to investors at the Bengaluru roadshow held by the government ahead of the Make-in-Odisha conclave. "Odisha is committed to provide an ecosystem for job-linked indus-

trial growth. If any State is providing X power and stable governance with a The government is also providing con-

incentive for promotion of business opportunities, we will provide X-plus," he promised. After one-to-one interactions with 20 business leaders as part of the investors' meet, the CM called upon the industrialists to invest in Odisha that has been steadfastly pursuing the agenda of inclusive growth and sustainable development. "The State is a land with verdant natural and mineral resources, skilled man-

peaceful and conducive atmosphere for investment. It is ranked among the top states of the country in terms of live manufacturing investments," he said. Appreciating the technocrats and investors in IT/ITes, Naveen said, India has emerged as a major force in the world of technology and manufacturing for the innovative and inspiring works. "Most of the top Indian IT companies have established their centres in Bhubaneswar.

tinuous support to the Startup ecosystem in the city," the CM said and invited them to participate in the Make-in-Odisha conclave scheduled from November 30 to December 4. During the discussions with investors, Naveen highlighted the major pro-business reforms undertaken by his government and asked the industrialists to explore Odisha for their businesses. Naveen offers X-plus incentives to investors. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Kremlin announces Ukraine annexation ceremony for Friday

MOSCOW(KCN): Russia will formally annex four regions of Ukraine its troops occupy at a grand ceremony in Moscow on Friday, the counter-offensive from Kyiv, which has been pushing back Russian troops in the east and is edging nearer the Donetsk region city of Lyman

Kremlin. The Russian leader will make a "major" speech, he added. "Tomorrow in Saint George's Hall at the Grand Kremlin Pal-

stalled leaders of the four regions were gathered in the Russian capital on Thursday, a day after pro-Moscow authorities had appealed to Putin directly to integrate the territories into Russia. Their nearly simultaneous requests to the Kremlin came after the four regions claimed residents had unanimously backed the move in hastily organised referendums that were dismissed by Kyiv and the West as illegal, fraudulent and void. Ukraine advances in Donetsk Ukraine after the so-called referendums said the only appropriate response from the West was to CONTINUED ON: P-7



Kremlin has announced, after it suggested using nuclear weapons to defend the territories. The threats from senior Russian officials have not deterred a sweeping that Moscow's forces battered for weeks to fully capture. President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the annexation would be formalised at a ceremony in the

ce at 15:00 (1200 GMT) a signing ceremony will take place on the incorporation of the new territories into Russia," Peskov told reporters. The Kremlin-in-

Pure vegetarian platter for Chhatra Bazaar residents

CUTTACK(KCN): Unlike other localities, the residents of Chhatra Bazaar in Cuttack city refrain from consuming non-vegetarian food during the five-day Durga Puja. The Puja committee of the locality too does not promote non-vegetarian fare during the festival. The practice had started in 2000. The locals believe since the Goddess of Nature is wor-

shipped during the puja, they consume only vegetarian food during the period. President of Chhatra Bazaar Durga Puja Committee Debendra Sahoo and his wife Sushama said they refrain from 'tamasic' food including onion, garlic, mushroom, over-ripe and under-ripe fruits and vegetables from the day soil is collected for construction CONTINUED ON: P-7



Plea for Padajatra Success

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Governing BJD has organised a two-day workshop on Thursday for party functionaries for success of the month long Padajatra begins from October 2.

Biju Janata Dal Supremo and Chief Minister

Patnaik is fighting for the interest of the State at Delhi also. "We do not have any Master's in Delhi. Four and a half crore people of the State are our masters," he said. Dr.Patra raised several Central negligence issues including non-lifting of parboiled rice

res to apprise the people about the role of freedom fighters from Odisha in the freedom struggle. All Ministers, MLAs, MPs, party office bearers and leaders of various party frontal organisations from across the state joined the preparatory meeting on the first day

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mitment, he said. Stating that it is our responsibility to take this commitment ahead, he appealed to the party leaders to make the padayatra a success. Senior party Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra, former MP Prasanna Acharya, Min-



Naveen Patnaik, who was in Bangalore, virtually addressed the party workers. In a message from Bangalore, Naveen said his party is with the people and working for the people. He asked the party leaders and workers to focus on how the message of various welfare programmes launched by the Government will reach the people. The Chief Minister also advised the party cad-

on Thursday. Presiding over the meeting Party's Organisational Secretary Pranab Prakash Das said after the demise of Biju Babu on April 17, 1997, Naveen Patnaik took over the party for the all-around development of the state. Today BJD has emerged as a mass movement to protect the interest of the state. Even after such long years, it remains firm in its com-

ister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Ashok Panda, Biju Mahila Janata Dal President Snehangini Chhuria, MP Sasmit Patra, senior leader Pramila Mallick, Biju Chhatra Janata Dal President Debi Ranjan Tripathy among others also spoke on the occasion and appealed to make the padayatra a success. Highlighting the central negligence, Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra said Naveen

and non-allocation of PMAY houses for poor people of Odisha. Eminent motivational Speaker Ujjwal Patani gave a motivational speech to the BJD workers in the afternoon. He described Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as one of the three best leaders of the country and half of the leaders of the country should learn the art of humbleness and simplicity from him.

Moquim Gets Jail Term Forest Nod for KRB Rail

Bhubaneswar: The Special Vigilance Court here on Thursday convicted Congress Lawmaker and Metro Builders' MD Mohammed Moquim, ex-IAS officer and former Odisha



Rural Housing Development Corporation (ORHDC) Managing Director Vinod Kumar and sentenced them to three years in jail in connection with the Rs 1.50 crore ORHDC

scam. Apart from the duo, Swasti Ranjan Mohapatra, ex-company secretary, ORHDC and Peeyusdhari Mohanty, director, Metro Builders Pvt. Ltd. have also been sentenced by the special Vigilance court.

The four persons were charge sheeted by Odisha vigilance in Bhubaneswar Vigilance Case registered in 2005 under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and IPC for showing undue official favour, criminal misconduct, forgery, cheating and criminal conspiracy and obtaining pecuniary advantage to Metro Builders Pvt. Ltd. by releasing funds in guise of loans meant for rural poor.

The convicted persons were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of three years and to pay fine of Rs.50,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for a period of 6 months on each count for the offences. All the sentences are to run concurrently, the vigilance officials said.

Abhiram Kar, ex-DSP, Vigilance, Cell Cuttack had investigated the case while Hemanta Kumar Swain, Special P.P, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

Earlier, Vinod Kumar along with six others were sentenced to three years in jail in connection with the Rs 1.02 crore ORHDC scam. Following several Vigilance cases against Mr.Kumar, Odisha Government removed him from services.

India's wheat exports ban hits chewy chapati eating Punjabis in Singapore

Singapore: India's ban on wheat exports since May has hit Singapore eateries serving soft chewy chapati, mostly for Punjabis, as the cost has gone up by three times on imports of the similar in quality staple north Indian basic food material from other countries amidst the war in Ukraine, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Balakrishnan, managing director of Sakunthala's, one of the leading eateries in the Little India precinct here. The restaurant used to pay SGD 5 (USD 3.48) a kg for wheat flour from India, but the flour from Dubai now costs SGD 15 (USD 10.45) a kg. Singapore imports between 200,000 and 250,000 tonnes of wheat and 100,000 to 120,000

ducer of wheat, stopped exporting the grain and its flour in May in an attempt to put a cap on skyrocketing domestic prices after a heatwave parched crops and affected wheat supply. The ban came amid Ukraine's wheat exports being curtailed by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Ukraine used to be the fourth-biggest supplier of wheat to

port wheat flour primarily from India are sourcing for alternatives. Megastore Mustafa Centre in Serangoon Road is looking to import wheat flour from the Middle East and Britain. Its purchasing director, Mohd Saleem, said Mustafa shoppers can expect to pay more for flour due to the increase in freight costs. He did not specify how big

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The issues related to diversion of forest land for execution of the much-awaited Khurda Road-Bolangir new line project is being cleared at a high-level meeting held on Wednesday. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary

decisions have also been taken to fast track the forest clearance at the earliest in a time bound manner. "Clearing the hurdles of Khurda-Bolangir Railway line. In an important meeting under ACS, with officials of GoI, Forest, Revenue & Railway's, decisions have been taken to fast track the clearance at the earliest in



Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Revenue & Disaster Management. Senior officials from Government of India, Railways, Forest Department and Revenue Department attended the meeting. This was informed by Susanta Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Nodal, in a tweet. Mr.Nanda said

a time bound manner," tweeted Mr.Nanda. According to sources, the ambitious project is being delayed due to non-issue of Stage-I forest clearance by the Union Government. Out of the total length of 301 km of the Khurda Road-Bolangir new railway project, 91 km from Khurda Road to Nuagaon has been

Millet Menu in Train

New Delhi(KCN): Newly introduced Gandhinagar Capital- Mumbai Central

teemed clientele in the prestigious semi-high speed train. The elegant design and



Vande Bharat Express shall be inaugurated on 30 September 2022. The indigenous developed train shall also come with a befitting Health Conscious Low Calorie Millet Rich Regional menu.

The much awaited experience of High end Vande Bharat Express travel from Gandhinagar Capital – to the Capital of Maharashtra State in Mumbai i.e. Mumbai Central shall be available to one and all with effect from 1.10.2022 post its inaugural run on the 30 September 2022. The professional Catering Services arm of Indian Railways i.e. IRCTC shall deliver rich cuisine experience to travellers' taste buds during the journey both on the inaugural day as well as regular runs.

Indian Railways is all set to serve high end delicacies suited to the taste-buds of es-

appearance of the train shall be ably complimented with local cuisine anticipating preferred train patronisation from Gujarat and Maharashtra, though the menu shall also address passenger expectations from other parts of the country. Looking to cater to the premium business and Corporate segment that travels on the route, Health Conscious and Low calorie food options made from Ragi, Bhagar, Cereals, Oats, Muesli, etc shall be integral to the menu. Railways has not missed its focus on the preference of Fasting/ Jain/ Senior patrons in the Mumbai Gujarat Section. Dishes prepared from Sabu Dana, Bhagar and Fruits which are otherwise light on the stomach but still have high nutritional value are much a part of the menu. The customised menu for Vande Bharat Train is also in sync with the theme of ensuing year 2023 which is poised to be celebrated World over as the International Year of Millets. The initiative has been steered by India in the U.N. General Assembly adopting a resolution in April 2021 and declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.



FairPrice said the supply of wheat flour had been low due to increased demand in the past few weeks, possibly due to the wheat and flour ban from India. FairPrice's suppliers are sourcing wheat flour from various countries like Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, and the United States, according to a report by The Straits Times. "The (wheat) flour shortage will affect our business very badly. We cannot pass all the cost to our customers, we have to try and keep prices low," said Mathavan Adi

tonnes of wheat flour annually, according to data from the United Nations. In 2020, 5.8 per cent of Singapore's total wheat flour imports were from India, The Business Times reported. The bulk of the city-state wheat flour imports come from Australia, the US, and Canada. Wheat flour from India, albeit making up only a small proportion of total imports, is sought after by Indian eateries here as it produces soft and chewy chapati, an Indian staple. India, the world's second-biggest pro-

the world, accounting for about 9 per cent of the global wheat trade. Some eateries have suspended menu items like chapati, poori bhaji, and tandoori as all of them require wheat flour to make. "It will be a drastic change, especially for people like Punjabi workers who eat up to six chapatis per meal every day," said S. Mahenthiran, director of Gayatri, a popular restaurant in the Little India precinct of Singapore. Punjabi workers make up the bulk of Mahenthiran's customers. Stores here that im-

an increase consumers can expect. Owner of Punjabi and Bengal eatery Mustard Singapore, Radhika Abbi, 51, said many Indian eateries here will have to struggle with higher costs once their existing flour stocks from India run out. She used to pay SGD 2 (USD 1.39) a kg for wheat flour but is now looking at paying close to SGD 8 (USD 5.57). Abbi said the quality and texture of her eatery's chapati would be affected when it is forced to switch to another source of wheat flour.

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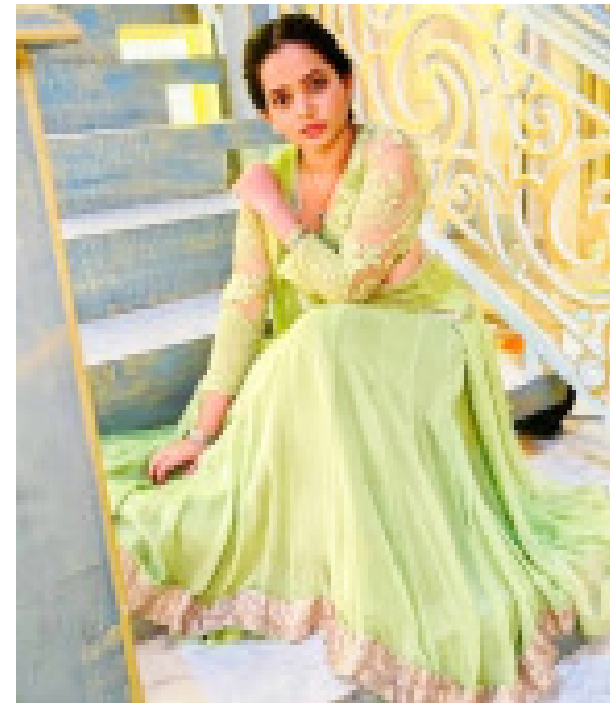
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

The multi-faceted talented actress “Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi” and Her performance is being widely appreciated and her role as Muskaan is being



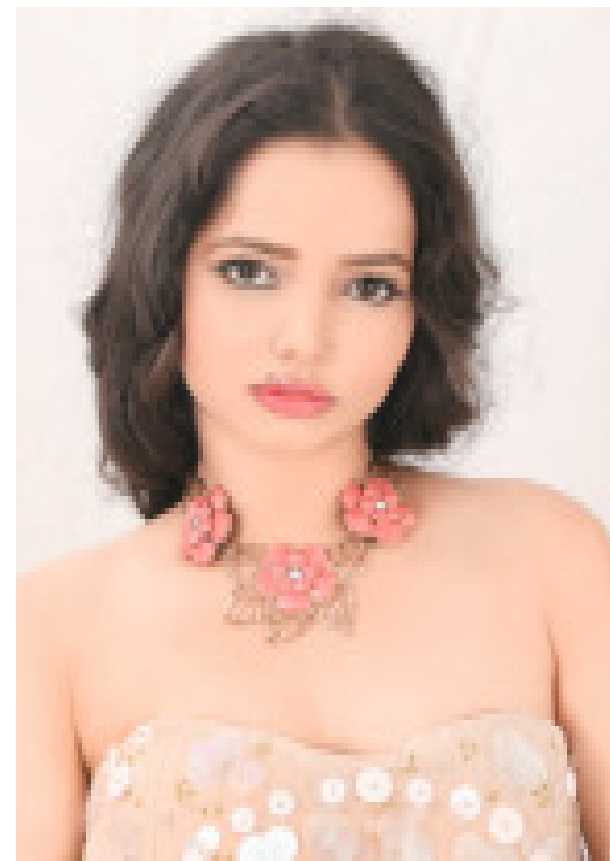
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an impression performing in the



ciated and her role as Muskaan is being



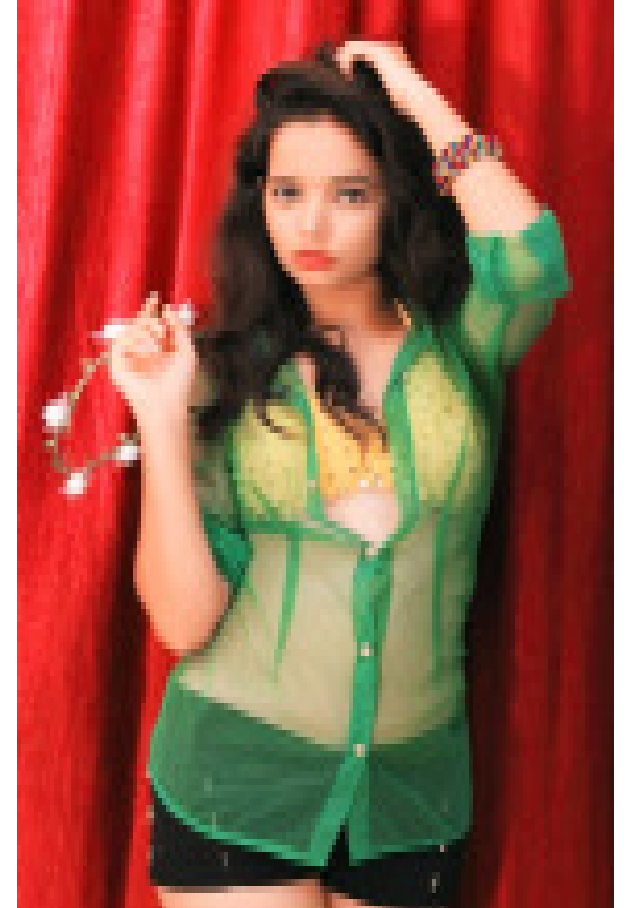
our mother and to corona pandemic. Now it may



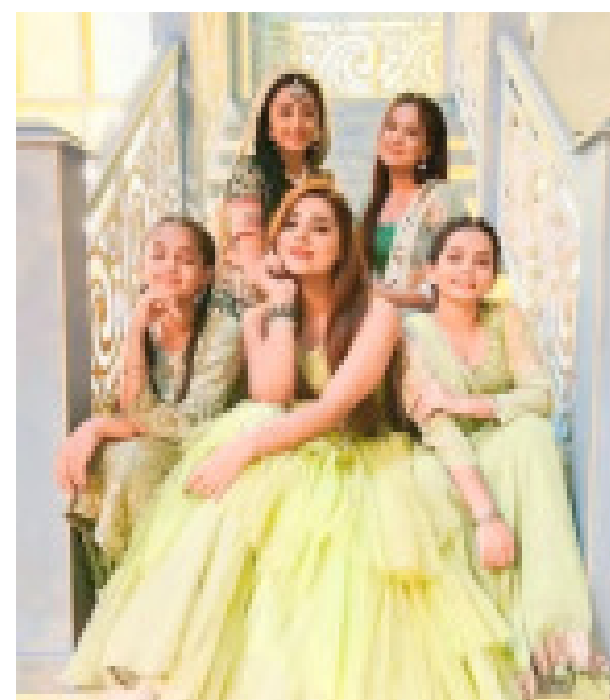
delible impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki



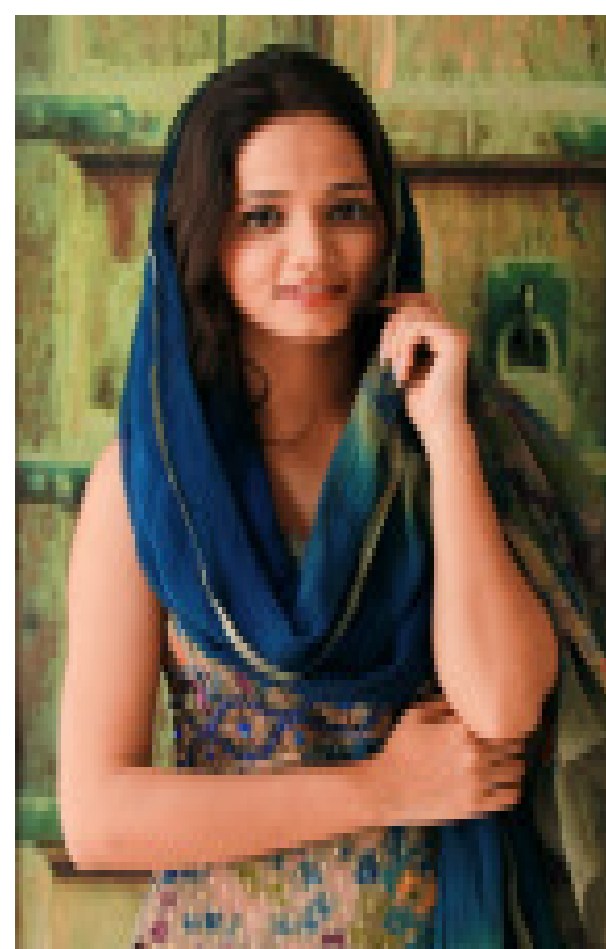
highly acclaimed by the viewers. third daughter. My mother brings us



harasses our family. Till now my role was that of an innocent and bubbly girl. But henceforth my role will be different and the viewers will be taken aback by my new role. The viewers will certainly like the new twist in the story. About her film ventures Aarushi says “I had signed a film in the South. However the project could not start early due



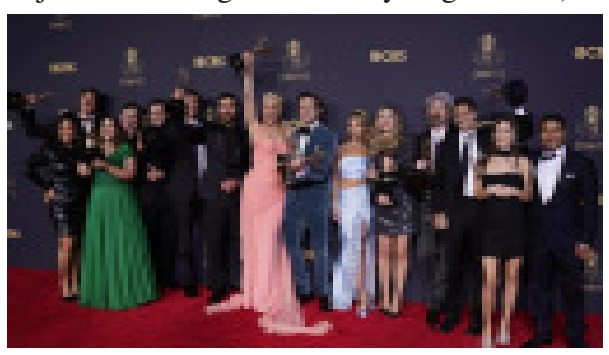
viewers' mind with her TV serials like telecast now a days on “Dangal TV”.



About her role in “Ranju Ki up- we four sisters. My father deserts

'Emmys So White': Netizens call out award show for 'fake diversity'

Los Angeles: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards concluded on a disappointing note on Monday. While setting a record for diversity, with 49 black or indigenous people of colour (BIPOC) nominated across all categories, all major acting trophies went to white actors at the Emmys 2021. According to Variety, actors that were seen as solid contenders included Billy Porter and Mj Rodriguez and Kenan Thompson and Bowen Yang ('Saturday Night Live') -- has undoubtedly failed to meet the expectations of people. Calling out the event, a netizen tweeted, "Not a single Black actor won tonight. Not a single Asian actor won tonight. Not a single Latino actor won tonight." Another one wrote, "#Emmys do this every year: Nominate a diverse selection of our faves, only to give them to the same white ac-



but in the end, all ended up empty-handed. The 2021 ceremony

wrote while condemning Emmys 2021. "Lovecraft country won nothing tonight and 98% of the winners were white despite the amount of black talent around #EmmysSoWhite," a netizen tweeted. This time Black performers had a strong showing at the event. But all efforts went in vain when nominees of colour failed to win most categories.

Sandalwood for Skin Care --

Sandalwood is popularly known for its fragrance, evoking peace and calm, and finding its use in aromatherapy and meditation.



Sandalwood's soft, woody aroma works well in soaps and body scrubs, and it's been used in Indian skin care for centuries.

Sandalwood, often known as Chandan, is a sacred Ayurvedic ingredient. The sandalwood tree, frequently utilised in religious rituals, has long been associated with Indian culture.

Sandalwood oil, obtained from the Santalum album tree, is a vital component of numerous beauty products used worldwide. In reality, most of us grew up hearing our grandmothers gush about the advantages of sandalwood oil and paste for the skin, particularly if you have acne.

Because they may solve a variety of skin issues, sandalwood oil and extracts can be an amazing elixir for your skin. Let's delve more into sandalwood's advantages for beauty. Go on reading.

Prevents acne

Acne and pimples happen to be common skin problems faced by most people.

Sandalwood is a highly effective medicine for healing boils, ulcers, and acne as well

as preventing their aggravation because of its antiseptic characteristics, which restrict bacterial growth on the skin.

Make a paste by adding sandalwood oil to some turmeric powder and camphor. Apply it to your zits and leave it on overnight. Use plain water at normal temperature to wash it off Rose water and red sandalwood face pack help in the reduction of acne and acne scars and also the irritation caused by acne due to its cooling properties. You can even add a teaspoon of honey and a pinch of turmeric to the pack for better results.

Additionally, sandalwood can prevent your skin from developing those terrible zits.

Anti-ageing

Sandalwood oil contains antioxidants that help maintain the buoyancy and structure of the skin cells. It also reduces dryness and replenishes the moisture in the skin, increasing elasticity.

Take a large bowl of steaming water and add one to two drops of sandalwood oil to it. Keep your face over the bowl for 10 minutes (with your head covered over by a towel). Doing this daily or weekly may enhance your skin glow and reduce your face wrinkles significantly

Calms the skin

Due to its abundance of anti-inflammatory characteristics, sandalwood is a fantastic

Shahnaz Husain

treatment for skin rashes and sunburns. It also prevents

breakouts and acne while treating skin itchy and irritation brought on by infections, bug bites, or product sensitivities. Mix the milk powder and a few drops of sandalwood oil in a bowl. Add a little amount of rose water for a fine paste. Apply the paste to your face and neck. Leave to dry for 30 minutes. Wash off with cold water and moisturize your skin. Repeat this twice / thrice a week for calming your skin

Anti-tanning

A suntan might have long-lasting repercussions if it is not immediately treated. Rub sandalwood oil or apply its paste to the affected regions to lessen the redness and burning that result from excessive sun exposure.

Rubbing sandalwood oil or applying its paste on the affected parts can remove suntan gradually as well as reduce the redness and burning caused by overexposure to the sun's rays.

Turmeric And Sandalwood Pack: Mix half a teaspoon of turmeric powder with one teaspoon of sandalwood powder and some curd to make a smooth paste. Apply on the T zone and blackhead effect area. Let it sit for 20 minutes and gently scrub it off. Wash with lukewarm water. Use this mask once in 15 days.

Take one tablespoon of sandalwood powder

with 1 teaspoon of honey or milk and make a paste. Apply it onto your skin. Leave it on for about 30 minutes and then wash it off with cold water. Do this 3 times a week for better results

Eliminates scarring

Sandalwood helps your skin tissues to repair quickly. Eczema, acne, dark patches and wound scars can all be removed with the help of this therapeutic property. Additionally, because sandalwood powder removes impurities and evens out skin tone, it can help in whitening the skin. Moreover, future brides frequently like to apply sandalwood to their faces in order to seem flawless on their wedding day.

Sandalwood oil helps nourish the skin, improve the elasticity of skin cells, and even out skin tone. Because of these qualities, it can be beneficial in reducing the appearance of scars.

Sandalwood has long been used on family altars and in grandmothers' medicinal cabinets in India. It is currently readily accessible in a variety of convenient forms, including oils, lotions, soaps, and ointments. Sandalwood can surely be a lovely addition to your skincare regimen for radiant and healthy skin.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Each ARYA GIRI collection tells you a story, offers pure nostalgia

Interview

The brand is eponymous. Arya Giri has been raised across the globe and that in turn helped her realise



that understandings of our rich culture and heritage had come from the tangibilities, idiosyncrasies, and tales that were chips of our family pieced together. On the

basis of that understandings, she, on completion of her higher education in fashion media and industries in Singapore, has set out on an entrepreneurial journey, rolling out a designer brand with substance & emotion, and heritage & feeling called



Arya Giri. The brand, as she herself describes it, is a potpourri of nostalgia, fables, and memories wrapped into one.

Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively, Arya Giri, Founder & Creative Director, Arya Giri, explains how her collection comprising hand-woven, handmade, and hand-embroidered in India women's wear and men's wear, embarks on the odyssey of exploring Indian culture through the lens of a diaspora persona.

Excerpts:

RM: What was the trigger behind getting into this area?

Arya: I've had the privilege of growing up to the background music of art and design at every touch point; whether that was the shuttle sprinting across handloom frames, or the crunchy plastic sheets bustling across my mom's eager fingers as she chose the perfect old English rose for her new collection. My mother is a huge inspiration to me. Hailing from the Royal Zamorin family, Mom set out on a quest to revive the archive handlooms she had access to that perished with colonization and industrialization. So you can imagine how all of our family trips to India were punctuated by the background music of jacquard punching cards shuffling and warps and wefts shuttling across in the looms. This flourished into majoring in Fashion Media and Industries at Lasalle College of the Arts, in Singapore, and ultimately starting my eponymous label, Arya Giri.

RM: Arya Giri focuses on an extremely niche segment. Any idea how big could this highly niche segment be? How is this growing?

Arya: The brand is catered to a niche segment; one that comes from the quality of the fabric, the focus on sustainable production practice, and attention to detail. Arya Giri has been well received in fashion-centric cities of India as well as New York at just 10 months of age. Although we exist within a niche segment, we provide affordable price points for accessible luxury. It is for your daily life and the goal is to have Arya Giri be a part of your everyday - office to evening, day to night. The ability to flourish and create in this segment is highly plausible and the vertical and horizontal collaborative opportunities can be endless. I hope to continue with the right foot forward and traverse through this segment positively.

RM: What has been your experience at the New York Fashion Show?

Arya: My experience at New York Fashion Week was surreal. At just 10 months of the brand's inception, to be selected for such an incredible opportunity was humbling. It was months of preparation, production, and NYFW itself was an adrenaline-filled learning opportunity. I felt beyond grateful to be able to put our country further on the global map of fashion and create a platform for the Sher-Rani (Tigress Queen) story on such a pivotal scale. Sher-Rani is a collection that explores the story of the Phool wali (flower garland makers) and how when she threads together garlands of flowers she is the Sher-Rani (Tigress-Queen) of her area. She earns in order to provide a better future for her children that surpasses the restrictions and glass ceilings they were born into. Flowers are an integral component in every stage of an Indian's life from birth to cremation. A harnessing of strength, grace, dignity, and ferocity is what makes India's women something to be truly proud of. I look forward to putting my learnings into practice as I catapult to the next opportunity.

RM: Do you think that the global market can lap up this whole idea of telling stories, mythology, occult and so on through dress materials, if one can

Ritwik Mukherjee

reach out to them? Arya: Both the national and international market is constantly innovating and expressing. Fashion boils down to self-expression and exploration at the end of the day and that is exactly what this brand is about. While there are many prêt labels in the market, ours is specifically designed for those seeking a reflection of the cultural introspection or expression they've reached; this is a monumental demographic on its own. Not through over-the-top



motifs, but through the everyday look that makes them feel that much more in touch with themselves. Personally, I believe being a sustainable or ethical brand is not a differentiator anymore but should be a requirement. We use organic fabrics and tie in cultural sustainability with our creations through the use of narratives and handloom textiles rooted in Indian heritage.

RM: How many weavers, are you currently working with? And on an average, how long do they take to complete a particular job/work?

Arya: We work with weavers across India, in Kanchipuram, Surat, and Bengal, to name a few, to create some of

the fabrics we utilise in our collections. The duration of each piece is based on the intricacy of the jacquard incorporated and the technicalities of the fabrication; but on average it takes one to four months to weave.

RM: If they take too long, then scalability factor might get affected. What is your take on that? Does that mean, you will not look at scales, at least for the time being?

Arya: The duration factor is taken care of by proactive conceptualisation, preparation, and trials. We work 6-8 months in advance of the release of collections, with multiple collections developing simultaneously, to ensure that we adhere to our Hybrid Drop model. Often, in the luxury prêt world you will notice only 3-5 collections dropped annually. I've worked tirelessly and passionately with my team to establish a Hybrid Drop Model that releases a myriad of capsule collections, expansive collections, and runway features spanning a 2 month interval annually. This allows Arya Giri to be accessible and fresh at all times of the year and for our consumers to continually explore what we have

to offer and be a part of our journey.

RM: Are you looking at stories, superstitions, etc from different parts of the country so that Arya Giri products are accepted across the country and beyond?

Arya: Arya Giri is a potpourri of nostalgia, fables, and memories wrapped into one. Having been



raised across the globe, understandings of our rich culture and heritage came from the tangibilities, idiosyncrasies and tales that were chips of our family pieced together. Every collection embarks on the odyssey of exploring diaspora culture through the lens of a diaspora persona with an emblem and poem as the crux of

the narrative. Arya Giri is a brand that is proudly hand-woven, handmade, and hand-embroidered in India. The seeds of inspiration that spur on the stories depicted in each collection come from within - a journey of introspection. In some cases they are indeed tied to specific regions of India, while in other cases they are about the identity and agency of culture means on a more metaphorical level. This lends itself to the ability of acceptance in India and internationally.

RM: You will also have to have a large repertoire of such stories- mythological, local and otherwise. What are your plans on that?

Arya: I've had the privilege of growing up exposed and experiencing the globe in such a nuanced way thanks to my family and it has lent me a knack for storytelling and memories. In addition, I believe that creativity and the horizons of one's wild imagination can constantly expand as long as you nurture your mind and soul. On that note, brands are constantly growing and evolving; taking on new skins to explore - that is a representation of the living organism that is a brand and its Creative Director. RM: Currently Arya Giri products are available online only. Any plans for physical retailing- at least one or two signature/flagship outlets, going forward?

Arya: Arya Giri is available online at aryagiri.com as well as the esteemed Evoluzione Delhi, Evoluzione Chennai, and Curato in India. As well as the prestigious Flying Solo in New York in store and online. RM: Would you eventually look into men's wear, kidswear segments as well?

Arya: Arya Giri produces luxury prêt womenswear and menswear. Branching into kidswear, leather goods etc are all eventually in the pipeline. Currently, our focus is on growth in the luxury womenswear and menswear segments nationally and internationally.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

People trapped, hospital damaged after Ian swamps SW Florida

St Petersburg: Hurricane Ian left a path of destruction in southwest Florida, trapping people in flooded homes, damaging the roof of a hospital intensive care unit and knocking out power to 2 million people before aiming for the Atlantic Coast.

One of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the United States barreled across the Florida peninsula overnight Wednesday, threatening catastrophic flooding inland, the National Hurricane Center warned.

The center's 2 a.m. advisory said Ian was expected to emerge over Atlantic waters later on Thursday, with flooding rains continuing across central and northern Florida.

In Port Charlotte, along Florida's Gulf

Coast, the storm surge flooded a lower-level emergency room in a hospital even as fierce winds ripped away part of the roof from its intensive care unit, according to a doctor who works there.

Water gushed down onto the ICU, forcing staff to evacuate the hospital's sickest patients -- some of whom were on ventilators -- to other floors, said Dr. Birgit Bodine of HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital. Staff members used towels and plastic bins to try to mop up the sodden mess.

The medium-sized hospital spans four floors, but patients were forced into just two because of the damage. Bodine planned to spend the night there in case people injured from the storm arrive needing help.

"As long as our patients do OK and nobody ends up dying or having a bad outcome, that's what matters," Bodine said.

Law enforcement officials in nearby Fort Myers received calls from people trapped in flooded homes or from worried relatives.



Pleas were also posted on social media sites, some with video showing debris-covered water sloshing toward homes' eaves.

Brittany Hailer, a journalist in Pittsburgh, contacted rescuers about her mother in North Fort Myers, whose home was swamped by 5 feet (1.5 meters) of water.

"We don't know when the water's going to go down. We don't know how they're going to leave, their cars are totaled," Hailer said. "Her only way out is on a boat."

Hurricane Ian turned streets into rivers and blew down trees as it slammed into southwest Florida on Wednesday with 150 mph (241 kph) winds, pushing a wall of storm surge. Ian's strength at landfall was Category 4 and tied it for the fifth-strongest hurricane,

when measured by wind speed, to ever strike the U.S.

Ian dropped in strength by late Wednesday to Category 1 with 90 mph (144 kph) winds as it moved overland. Still, storm surges as high as 6 feet (2 meters) were expected on the

opposite side of the state, in northeast Florida, on Thursday.

The storm was about 55 miles (90 km) southwest of Orlando with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph) at 2 a.m. Thursday, the Miami-based hurricane center said. A hurricane warning remained in effect north of Bonita Beach, about 31 miles (50 km) south of Fort Myers, to Anclote River including Tampa Bay and from Sebastian Inlet to the Flagler/Volusia county line.

The center discontinued a hurricane warning between Bonita Beach and Chokoloskee. A tropical storm warning from Chokoloskee to Flamingo on the state's southwest tip also was discontinued.

Hurricane-force winds were expected across

central Florida through early Thursday with widespread, catastrophic flooding likely, the hurricane center said.

No deaths were reported in the United States from Ian by late Wednesday. But a boat carrying Cuban migrants sank Wednesday in stormy weather east of Key West.

The U.S. Coast Guard initiated a search and rescue mission for 23 people and managed to find three survivors about two miles (three kilometers) south of the Florida Keys, officials said. Four other Cubans swam to Stock Island, just east of Key West, the U.S. Border Patrol said. Air crews continued to search for possibly 20 remaining migrants.

The storm previously tore into Cuba, killing two people and bringing down the country's electrical grid.

The hurricane's eye made landfall near Cayo Costa, a barrier island just west of heavily populated Fort Myers. As it approached, water drained from Tampa Bay.

More than 2 million Florida homes and businesses were left without electricity, according to the PowerOutage.us site. Nearly every home and business in three counties was without power.

Sheriff Bull Prummell of Charlotte County, just north of Fort Myers, announced a curfew between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. "for life-saving purposes," saying violators may face second-degree misdemeanor charges.

"I am enacting this curfew as a means of protecting the people and property of Charlotte County," Prummell said.

The Weather Underground predicted the storm would pass near Daytona Beach and go into the Atlantic before veering back ashore in South Carolina on Friday.

The governors of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia all preemptively declared states of emergency. Forecasters predicted Ian will turn toward those states as a tropical storm, likely dumping more flooding rains into the weekend.

Russia prepares to annex occupied Ukraine despite outcry

KVIY: Russia is poised to formally annex areas of Ukraine where it has military control after referendums there reportedly endorsed Moscow's rule.

But the ballots were widely discredited and earned the Kremlin no relief Wednesday from international pressure over its assault on its neighbour.

Pro-Moscow administrations of all four occupied regions of southern and eastern Ukraine said Tuesday night that their residents voted to join Russia in five days of Kremlin-orchestrated balloting.

According to Russia-installed election officials, 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk. Russian-installed officials in those occupied regions said Wednesday they would ask President Vladimir Putin to incorporate them into Russia.

It wasn't immediately clear how the administrative process would unfold.

Western countries, however, dismissed the ballots as a meaningless pretense staged by Moscow in an attempt to legitimise its invasion of Ukraine launched on Feb. 24.

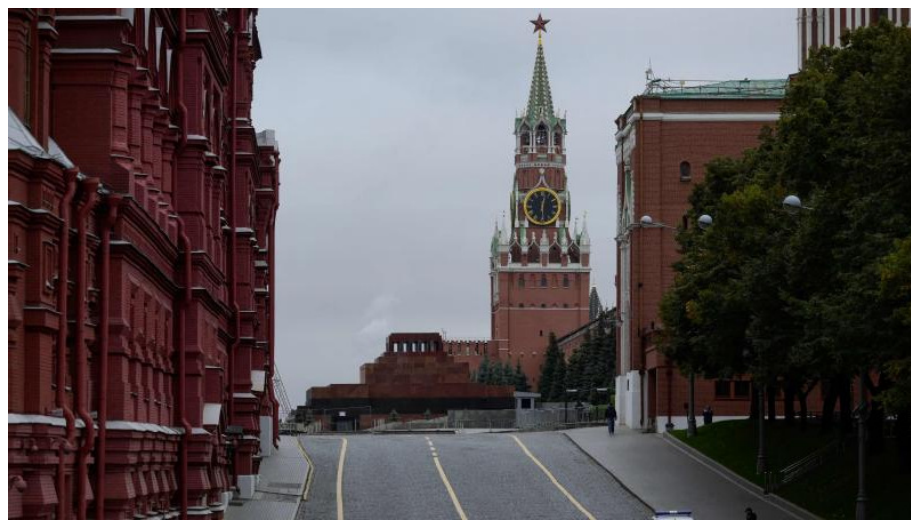
The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said late Tuesday that Washington would propose a U.N. Security Council resolution to condemn Russia's "sham" vote.

The resolution would also urge member states not to recognise any altered status of Ukraine and demand that Russia withdraws its troops from its neighbour, she tweeted.

The European Union's foreign policy

chief, Josep Borrell, also weighed in on the ballots, on Wednesday calling them "illegal" and describing the results as "falsified."

"This is another violation of Ukraine's sovereignty (and) territorial integrity, (amid) systematic abuses of human rights," Borrell tweeted.



In Kyiv, Ukraine's foreign ministry blasted the ballots as "a propaganda show" and "null and worthless."

"Forcing people in these territories to fill out some papers at the barrel of a gun is yet another Russian crime in the course of its aggression against Ukraine," a foreign ministry statement said.

It asked the EU, NATO and the Group of Seven major industrial nations to "immediately and significantly" step up pressure on Russia through new sanctions, and significantly increase their military aid to Ukraine.

The EU also expressed outrage over the suspected sabotage Tuesday of two underwater natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany and warned of retaliation for any

attack on Europe's energy networks.

Borrell said Wednesday that "all available information indicates those leaks are the result of a deliberate act," even though the perpetrators haven't so far been identified. "Any deliberate disruption of European energy infrastructure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and

united response," Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the EU's 27 member countries. The war in Ukraine has brought an energy standoff between the EU, many of whose members have for years relied heavily on Russian natural gas supplies, and Moscow.

The damage makes it unlikely the pipelines will be able to supply any gas to Europe this winter, according to analysts.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's military and a Washington-based think tank said Wednesday that Russia is sending troops without any training to the front line.

Moscow has struggled to hold the line against Ukraine's recent counteroffensive and has ordered a partial mobilisation to replenish its ranks.

The effort is causing unrest, however, amid a reluctant public.

In a daily briefing, the Ukraine military's general staff said 1st Tank Regiment of the 2nd Motorised Rifle Division of Russia's 1st Tank Army has received untrained new troops.

The Ukrainian military also said prison convicts are arriving in Ukraine to reinforce the Russian lines.

It offered no evidence to support the claim, though the Ukrainian security services have released audio of allegedly monitored Russian phone conversations on the issue.

The Institute for the Study of War think tank cited one online video by a man who identified himself as a member of the 1st Tank Regiment, visibly upset, saying that he and his colleagues wouldn't receive training before shipping out to the Russian-occupied region of Kherson in Ukraine.

"Mobilised men with a day or two of training are unlikely to meaningfully reinforce Russian positions affected by Ukrainian counteroffensives in the south and east," the institute said.

The U.K. ministry of defence said Ukraine's counteroffensive, which has inflicted some humiliating defeats on Moscow's forces, is advancing slowly.

It said Russia is currently putting up a stouter defence.

In the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk, which is partially occupied by Moscow, Russian fire killed five people and wounded 10 others over the last 24 hours, said Pavlo Kyrlylenko, the head of the local military authority.

Authorities in the southern Ukrainian city of Nikopol said Russian rockets and artillery pounded the city overnight.

The city, across the Dnipro River from Russian-occupied territory, saw 10 high-rises and private buildings hit, as well as a school, power lines and other areas, said Valentyn Reznichenko, the head of the local military administration, said.

World opinion shifts against Russia as Ukraine worries grow

NEW YORK: The tide of international opinion appears to be decisively shifting against Russia, as a number of non-aligned countries are joining the United States and its allies in condemning Moscow's war in Ukraine and its threats to the principles of the international rules-based order. Western officials have repeatedly said that Russia has become isolated since invading Ukraine in February. Until recently, though, that was largely wishful thinking. But on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, much of the international community spoke out against the conflict in a rare display of unity at the often fractured United Nations. The tide had already appeared to be turning against Russian President Vladimir Putin even before Thursday's U.N. speeches. Chinese and Indian leaders had been critical of the war at a high-level summit last week in Uzbekistan. And then the U.N. General Assembly disregarded Russia's objections and voted overwhelmingly to allow Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy to be the only leader to address the body remotely, instead of requiring him to appear in person. That shift against Russia accelerated after Putin on Wednesday announced the mobilization of some additional 300,000 troops to Ukraine, signaling the unlikelihood of a quick end to the war. Putin also suggested that nuclear weapons may be an option. That followed an announcement to hold referendums in several occupied Ukrainian regions on whether they will become part of Russia. Those announcements came at the very moment that the General Assembly, considered the premier event in the global diplomatic calendar, was taking place in New York. Numerous world leaders used their speeches on Tuesday and Wednesday to denounce Russia's war. That trend continued Thursday both in the assembly hall and at the usually deeply divided U.N. Security Council, where, one-by-one, vir-

tually all of the 15 council members served up harsh criticism of Russia—a council member -- for aggravating several already severe global crises and imperiling the foundations of the world body. The apparent shift in opinion offers some hope to Ukraine and its Western allies that increasing isolation will add pressure on Putin to negotiate a peace. But few are unduly optimistic. Putin has staked his legacy on the Ukraine war and few expect him to back down. And, Russia is hardly isolated. Many of its allies depend on it for energy, food and military assistance and are likely to stand by Putin regardless of what happens in Ukraine. Still, it was striking to hear Russia's nominal friends like China and India, following up on last week's remarks, speak of grave concerns they have about the conflict and its impact on global food and energy shortages as well as threats to the concepts of sovereignty and territorial integrity that are enshrined in the U.N. Charter.

Brazil registered similar concerns. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa make up the so-called BRICS bloc of countries, which has often shunned or outright opposed Western initiatives and views on international relations.



Only one country, Belarus, a non-council member and Russia ally that was invited to participate, spoke in support of Russia, but also called for a quick end to the fighting, which it called a "tragedy." "We hear a lot about the divisions among countries at the United Nations," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "But recently, what's striking is the remarkable unity among member states when it comes to Russia's war on Ukraine. Leaders from countries developing and developed, big

and small, North and South have spoken in the General Assembly about the consequences of the war and the need to end it." "Even a number of nations that maintain close ties with Moscow have said publicly that they have serious questions

and concerns about President Putin's ongoing invasion," Blinken said. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was careful not to condemn the war but said that China's firm stance is that "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected. The purposes of the principles of the U.N. Charter should be observed." Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said "the trajectory of the Ukraine conflict is a matter of a profound concern for the interna-

tional community." He called for accountability for atrocities and abuses committed in Ukraine. "If egregious attacks committed in broad daylight are left unpunished, this council must reflect on the signals we are sending on impunity. There must be consistency if we are to ensure credibility," he said. And Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Alberto Franca said immediate efforts to end the war are critical. "The continuation of the hostilities endangers the lives of innocent civilians and jeopardizes the food and energy security of millions of families in other regions, especially in developing countries," he said. "The risks of escalation arising for the current dynamics of the conflict are simply too great, and its consequences for the world order unpredictable." Foreign ministers and top officials from Albania, Britain, France, Ireland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico and Norway delivered similar rebukes. "Russia's actions are blatant violation of the

Charter of the United Nations," said Albanian Foreign Minister Olta Xhaka. "We all tried to prevent this conflict. We could not, but we must not fail to hold Russia accountable." Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard called the invasion a "flagrant breach of international law" and Irish foreign minister Simon Coveney said: "If we fail to hold Russia accountable we send a message to large countries that they can prey on their neighbors with impunity." Unsurprisingly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was unapologetic and defensive at the same time and specifically targeted Zelenskyy. Citing a phrase often attributed to President Franklin Roosevelt, Lavrov called Zelenskyy "a bastard," but said Western leaders regarded him as "our bastard." He repeated a long list of Russia's complaints about Ukraine and accused Western countries of using Ukraine for anti-Russia activities and policies. "Everything I've said today simply confirms

that the decision to conduct the special military operation was inevitable," Lavrov said, following Russian practice of not calling the invasion a war. Russia has denied being isolated and the foreign ministry used social media to publicize a number of apparently cordial meetings that Lavrov has held with foreign minister colleagues at the UN in recent days. Still, Blinken and his colleagues from other NATO nations seized on what they believe to be growing opposition to and impatience with Putin. And, several speakers, including Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, pointed out that Lavrov skipped the meeting except for his speaking slot. "I notice that Russian diplomats flee almost as quickly as Russian soldiers," Kuleba said, referring to Lavrov's hasty exit along with recent Russian troop retreats in Ukraine.

Odisha Needs Double Engine Sarkar

Bhubaneswar: Hitting out at the BJD Government, BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda on Thursday said Odisha needs double-engine Sarkar for massive development. Addressing booth-level party workers at Janata Maidan here,

ence of Biju Patnaik's party, said the BJP President. He has informed the party workers about steps taken by the Modi Government for providing safe drinking water, power supply, pucca houses, toilets, etc for the people of Odisha. Institutions like

cluded under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, 60 lakh people in Odisha are deprived of it." The Centre has allocated Rs 15,490 crore to Odisha under MGNREGA and fake bills are being made here. Similarly, crores of rupees are being spent under Jal

type of 'duplicate' government and bring BJP to power in Odisha," he exhorted the gathering at Janata Maidan here. He said that protectors have become perpetrators in Odisha. "The Governance of the state, where 3 ministers are accused of mur-



Nadda said BJP is the biggest political party in the world with a strength of 18 crore. "We are an ideology-based national party. For us, it is always nation first, but keeping in mind the regional aspirations," he said. "We are fighting dynasty-based parties. Abdullahs & Muftis in Jammu & Kashmir, Chautalas in Haryana, Badals in Punjab, Samajwadi Party in UP, Yadav in Bihar, Soren in Jharkhand... In Odisha it is one man party... We are fighting parties run by families (sic)," he said. Dynastic politics is also prevalent in Odisha with the pres-

AIIMS, IIM, NISER and many medical colleges have been set up by the Modi Government in Odisha. He further the first tribal President Droupadi Murmu is from Odisha and more than 15 from the state have been conferred with Padma awards. "This was never the case during the UPA government and shows PM Modi's immense love for the state," he added. "This Government (Odisha Government) is a level putting government. PM Awas Yojana is being branded as Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana. While 50 crore people have been in-

Jeevan Mission (JJM). However, tribal women are going to ponds and wells to get drinking water in the state. It shows that the State Government in the state is riddled with corruption. the BJP chief said. He said that protectors have become perpetrators in Odisha. "The Governance of the State, where 3 Ministers are accused of murder, can easily be guessed," he said. Mr. Nadda further said that even Ratna Bhandar of Lord Jagannath is not safe in Odisha. "Ratna Bhandar's key was missing and later a duplicate key was found. Uproot this

der, can easily be guessed," he said. "Modi government has completely changed India's picture in the world in just eight years. In Odisha, the government which has been here for 20 years, is failed to ensure ambulance service for pregnant women in remote areas," the BJP leader said. It's time to uproot this government and bring a double-engine Sarkar for massive development, Nadda told the party workers. Notably, BJP National President JP Nadda is on a two-day visit to the state. This is his first visit to Odisha after being appointed as BJP chief.




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Mamata govt to move Supreme court against HC verdict on 'Duare Ration' Scheme

KOLKATA: The West Bengal government is likely to move the Supreme Court challenging the Kolkata High court's verdict declaring Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "dream project" legally void. Food and supplies minister Rathin Ghosh hinted that the court

consult legal experts to decide what will be the government's logic in support of the scheme," said an official.

ALSO READ | Cash-strapped West Bengal passes bill in House to hike borrowing capacity



order would be analysed with the help of legal experts and then a petition would be filed before the Supreme Court.

"The initiative earned a massive response from the common people, especially in rural Bengal. It was a very popular venture which was the brainchild of the Chief Minister. We will try our level best to keep the scheme alive," said Ghosh.

West Bengal government on Thursday received a major setback as the Kolkata High Court termed the "Duare Ration" (food grain at your doorstep) as a division bench termed the initiative as legally void. The scheme was promised by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee before the 2021 Assembly elections and implemented after the TMC came to power for the third straight term, "Duare Ration Scheme is ultra vires (beyond one's legal power) as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, and is, therefore, a nullity in the eye of the law," said the division bench.

Sources in the food department said Mamata asked the officers of her administration to consult with the legal experts before moving to the Apex court. "The decision of going to the Supreme Court is final. Now we need to

A section of legal experts, however, said since the high court observed that the scheme is ultra vires the NFSA, it would not be easy to convince the Apex court against the verdict of the high court.

"Arvind Kejriwal's government in Delhi initiated the similar move but the court termed it illegal on the same ground that the Kolkata High Court observed," said the official.

The setback for Mamata's government came after a section of the ration dealers moved to the court saying their manpower strength and infrastructure do not support the scheme to provide food grain at the doorstep of beneficiaries. Besides, they also alleged the NFSA does not approve such initiatives around the year.

"The high court order barring the scheme will prove a blow before the panchayat elections slated to be held next year. Most of the beneficiaries are from rural Bengal and the scheme secured the support of a large section of electorates. The high court order will definitely affect our vote bank if we fail to quash Thursday's verdict," said a senior TMC leader.

India a 'star' among emerging market economies with 7.3 pc growth in FY23: S&P Global Ratings

NEW DELHI: S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said rising rates and increased European energy insecurity are hitting growth in almost every country, but India with

growth as well. Growth eased in the second quarter across emerging markets as inflation reduced real household income, business confidence deteriorated, and the

Elsewhere, core inflation continues to rise, suggesting there is more work to do. Large recent hikes by the US Federal Reserve are exacerbating balance-of-payment strains

said as central banks aggressively raise rates to fight inflation, our confidence is waning that they can avoid generating a sharp downturn. ALSO READ |



an estimated 7.3 per cent growth this fiscal, would be the 'star' among emerging market economies.

In a report, S&P said global macro performance over the next few quarters points towards growth slowdown with tightening financial conditions amid rate hikes by central banks. Most leading and sentiment indicators are pointing toward slower

external environment became more complicated, it said. Emerging-market central banks have been ahead of their advanced-country counterparts in hiking policy rates, and in Latin America, they are now near the end of their tightening cycles.

ALSO READ | Tightening US monetary policy - a source of volatility for Indian stocks: Morgan Stanley

across emerging markets.

"For the 16 emerging economies that we cover, excluding China, 2022 GDP growth will hit 5.2 per cent this year, in our view. This forecast is up 30 basis points from our previous round. India is the star of this group with a growth of 7.3 per cent this fiscal year (ending in March 2023)," S&P said.

The US-based agency

Markets rebound in early trade amid recovery in global equities

"We are now expecting a mild recession in the US," it said, adding that rising rates, increased European energy insecurity, and the lingering effects of Covid-19 are hitting growth almost everywhere. "This may be the most anticipated economic slowdown on record, but the data have yet to fully fall in line," S&P said.

How high crude oil prices are 'breaking India's back'

NEW DELHI: Foreign minister S Jaishankar was not wrong when he said on Tuesday high oil prices are breaking India's back. Despite cheap crude import from Russia, India's crude oil basket has averaged above \$100 a barrel so far this year. As per the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, a body of the Petroleum ministry,

country spent \$122 billion on crude oil imports in 2021-22, nearly double that of \$62.71 billion in 2020-21. In the first five months of the current financial year, India has already imported \$64 billion of crude oil.

Dr DK Srivastava, chief policy advisor, EY India, says an 'Oil Price Stabilization Fund' may be



India's crude basket more than doubled in the past 3 years, taking crude prices from an average \$45 per barrel in 2020-21 to \$104 per barrel in 2022-23 (till September).

India's crude basket price averaged at \$102.97 a barrel in April 2022, \$109.51 in May, \$116.01 in June, \$105.49 in July, \$97.40 in August and \$91.23 per barrel in September so far. "The price of oil is breaking our back. We are a \$2,000 per capita economy. The energy market is under stress due to the Ukraine war and that not just the pricing but the very availability of oil has become an issue," said Jaishankar.

India is dependent on imports to meet 85% of its oil demand and 55% of its natural gas requirements. It imports majority of crude from the OPEC+ country. The

established to minimise India's multidimensional vulnerability to global crude oil shocks. He advises the government to expand and diversify sources of oil and gas imports in order to cut the average price of the Indian crude basket.

Ever since war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, western countries are beckoning India to stop purchasing crude oil from Russia. India's oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now it makes up for 10% of all crude bought from overseas. Till last year, Iraq (25%), Saudi Arabia (18%) and the UAE (10%) were the top 3 crude suppliers for India. This year till July, Russia with 14% share has become the third biggest supplier to India.

Pure vegetarian platter for Chhatra Bazaar residents

Continued from page-1 of the Goddess Durga idol.

The Chhatra Bazaar Durga Puja Committee had started worshipping Hara-Parvati in a thatched house in 1919. It had come up with a Chandi Medha (silver pandal) to commemorate 100 years of its inception in 2019. The committee is believed to be the trendsetter in conducting musical programmes during the puja. It had started the trend 70 years back when a cultural (bhajan) programme was conducted near the pandal with artists from nearby localities participating in it. The committee has been using the services of renowned Habib Melody for the last 50 years. The Puja committee has also earned a name for itself for conducting the immersion ceremony in a peaceful manner every year. The organisers and the locals do not dance during the procession and keep the ceremony as simple as possible.

"Since dances often lead to troublesome situations, we abstain from it during immersion procession. We have booked a famous band party from Srikakulam, Singha Baja from Balangir, Dulduli Baja from Dhenkanal besides a Ghanta Badya troupe," said Sahoo. As many as six crowns have been constructed by the committee using around 15 kg silver with which the idol of the Goddess will be decorated.

Odisha CM Naveen offers X-plus incentives to investors at Bengaluru meet

Continued from page-1

Among others, Managing Director of Accenture Ltd Ajay Vij, Managing Partner of IBM India Pvt Ltd Amit Sharma, MD & CEO of Wipro-GE Healthcare Pvt Ltd Dr Shravan Subramanyam, President of Concentrix Daksh Services Ltd Girish Menon, Senior VP and Chief Corporate Affairs of Flipkart Rajneesh Kumar met the CM.

Minister for Industries, MSME and Energy Pratap Keshari Deb highlighted the policy reforms and advantages of the State to become the best investment destination.

Principal Secretary of Industries department Hemant Sharma, Secretary of Electronics and IT Department Manoj Mishra, Executive Chairman of StartUp Odisha Omkar Rai and Chairman of FICCI Karnataka State Council K Ulas Kamath also spoke.

Kremlin announces Ukraine annexation ceremony for Friday

Continued from page-1

hit Russia with more sanctions and to supply Ukrainian forces with more weapons to keep reclaiming territory.

"Ukraine cannot and will not tolerate any attempts by Russia to seize any part of our land," President Volodymyr Zelensky said late Wednesday.

The four territories -- Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south; Donetsk and Lugansk in the east -- create a crucial land corridor between Russia and the Crimean peninsula, annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Together, all five make up around 20 per cent of Ukraine, whose forces in recent weeks have been clawing back ground.

Kyiv's army in particular has been showing progress in the eastern Kharkiv region and recapturing territory in Donetsk, and military observers say Kyiv's forces are close to capturing Lyman.

"The enemy is carrying out regular attempts to encircle the city," a pro-Russian official in the Donetsk region, Alexei Nikonorov, told state TV on Thursday.

"At the moment, our units manage to repel all attacks," he claimed.

'I don't want to kill people'

Still, Russian forces are striking out along the entire frontline of Ukraine and officials in Kyiv said Thursday that Russian bombardments had killed three in the Dnipropetrovsk region, five in Donetsk and wounded seven in the Kharkiv region. Along with threats to use nuclear weapons, Putin announced a mobilisation of hundreds of thousands of Russian men to bolster Moscow's army in Ukraine, sparking demonstrations and an exodus of men abroad.

On a bright morning in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar, a young Russian fleeing Moscow's first military call-up since World War II had a stark answer for why he had left: "I don't want to kill people."

"It was very difficult to leave everything behind -- home, motherland, my relatives -- but it's better than killing people," the man in his 20s told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The exodus from Russia into Mongolia follows a similar trend in ex-Soviet countries like Georgia, Kazakhstan and Armenia.

EU member Finland is also affected and announced Thursday it would be shuttering its border to Russians with Schengen tourist visas beginning the next day.

Russia's move to annex the Ukrainian territories was met with the announcement from the United States of a new package of weapons and supplies worth \$1.1 billion, including precision rocket systems, ammunition, armoured vehicles and radars. And the European Commission proposed fresh sanctions targeting Russian exports worth seven billion euros, an oil price cap, an expanded travel blacklist and asset freezes.

Gamers to bid farewell to FIFA franchise after 30 years

PARIS: One of the biggest franchises in video game history is coming to an end on Friday with the release of FIFA 23, the final instalment of a football game that has entranced millions of fans for the past three decades.

US game maker Electronic Arts and global football body FIFA spent months negotiating over the licensing agreement that has underpinned the game since its first edition in 1993.

But they confirmed the split in May when FIFA said it would be seeking other partners and EA said it would rebrand its game as "EA Sports FC" from next year.

For the final version, EA has included women's club teams for the first time -- though only from England and France -- several years after it introduced women players.

Australian superstar Sam Kerr, who plays in the English league, is on the game's cover along with French World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe. "It is -- and remains -- one of the most popular franchises in all of gaming," said Tom Wijman of Newzoo, a firm that analyses data on the industry.

The decoupling is risky for both EA and FIFA, with neither guaranteed success from their new ventures. But analysts say EA is

Gamers were less bothered about the corporate fallout and just wanted to play the latest version of the game. Professional eSports

his first try. Swedish gamer Olle Arbin livestreamed his first attempt for 12 hours on Wednesday. Reviewers have been

EA Sports FC this time next year," wrote Ben Wilson on the specialist site GamesRadar. 'Risky endeavour' The video game indus-

nies buying up many of their competitors. EA had a turnover of USD 5.6 billion last year, making it one of the biggest game mak-

FIFA came after the football body reportedly raised its licensing fee demand from USD 150 million a year to USD 250 million -- bring the

competitions such as the World Cup, but it can still use player names and non-FIFA competitions such as the English Premier League -- a key advantage over its rivals.

However, the firm was already pivoting increasingly towards club competitions, both on and off screen.

It is taking on a five-year sponsorship deal of Spain's top-flight La Liga next year, for a reported 30 to 40 million euros a year.

Newzoo's Wijman said "EA Sports FC" has a good chance of success. "Losing the FIFA brand may hurt EA's chances somewhat, but they have the game engine, development teams, marketing expertise, and branding expertise," he said.

FIFA could struggle to attract potential partners after its reported USD 1 billion demand, Wijman said.

It would be a "risky endeavour", he said, "in any circumstance, but especially if you then have to compete with EA to build the most popular football game".



in a stronger position after spending 30 years developing and marketing the game.

The firm said last year that FIFA had sold more than 325 million copies over its three decades -- reportedly generating more than USD 20 billion in sales. 'Out on a high'

players -- some of whom earn hundreds of thousands of dollars for playing the game -- queued up to livestream their first attempts.

"One of my favourite videos ever," tweeted Donovan Hunt, one of the most successful eSports players, linking to a YouTube video of

impressed by the game's improvements in graphics since the last edition, and praised additional features such as a "power shot" for giving gameplay another dimension.

"FIFA 23 sees the series bow out on a high, and provides encouraging signs for the debut of

try, estimated to be worth around USD 300 billion a year, has become increasingly cut-throat in recent years with the biggest compa-

ners that remains outside the grasp of the four giants -- Tencent, Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo.

The end of the deal with

total for the mooted four-year contract to USD 1 billion.

EA will lose the right to use the FIFA name and

Bumrah ruled out of T20 World Cup due to back stress fracture

NEW DELHI: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture, dealing a massive blow to team's chances at the

PTI on conditions of anonymity.

It is understood that either Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Shami could replace Bumrah in the main squad. Both were named as stand-by

ready looking unsettled at the moment and Bumrah's injury has only compounded the woes for skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid. "Losing Bumrah and

What is more interesting is the fact that Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022 apart from IPL games for Mumbai Indians.

"That's not a lot of cricket, considering that he was rested for Asia Cup, West Indies tour and also some of the bilateral cricket played in India. That's a lot of rest.

"As of now he is at the NCA and the rehab will be a long and arduous one. Yes, World T20 is important but he is still young and India's biggest bowling asset. You can't take risk with him," the official said.

Back stress fractures do not require surgery but a lot of time to heal.

Bumrah, who has a slinging action, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowling great Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries.



ICC flagship event starting next month in Australia.

A BCCI official told PTI that Bumrah will be forced out of action for six months due to the back injury.

"Bumrah is not going to play the T20 World Cup for sure. He has a serious back condition. It's a stress fracture and he could be out for a period of six months," a senior BCCI official told

players for the prestigious tournament by the BCCI. Bumrah, who played the second and third T20 against Australia, didn't travel with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the series-opener against South Africa.

The 28-year-old fast bowler is the second senior star player to be ruled out after Ravindra Jadeja, who is recovering from a knee surgery. The Indian team is al-

Jadeja will be huge for India. We didn't expect that things will pan out as they have. He was rested for the Asia Cup precisely to manage his workload management. Now it remains a question if he was even fit enough to play the Australia series," the senior official said. Many senior players have been given adequate rest, keeping in mind their workload.

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