



Editor in chief of Odia daily PARYABEKHYAK & English Daily THE KALINGA CHRONICLE Presenting Silver jubilee Memento to BJP President Sj Manmohan samal at State Party Office Bhubaneswar-

In Middle Of Lok Sabha Speech, PM Mourns Hathras Dead, Shouting MPs Silenced

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi - in the middle of a fierce attack on the Congress and the opposition in Parliament this evening - broke off to inform the House of a tragedy in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

Mr Modi, who was fighting a vociferous battle with the opposition while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to President Droupadi Murmu's joint address to Parliament last week, paused and told his fellow MPs of the tragedy. As he did so, the Lok Sabha, which seconds earlier had reverberated with the shrieks and screams and chants of opposition MPs targeting the PM fell completely silent.

"In the midst of these discussions I have also been given sad news. It has come to my attention



that there have been many tragic deaths in the stampede in Hathras..." the Prime Minister said. "I express my condolences to those who lost their lives (and) hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," he added, as murmurs broke from MPs preparing to add the Hathras stampede to their arsenal of weapons against Mr Modi and his ruling BJP, which is also in power in Uttar

Pradesh. Mr Modi also said senior central government officers had been instructed to contact their state counterparts to coordinate rescue and aid efforts. "Through this forum, I assure everyone that all possible assistance will be provided to the victims," he said. The PM's office has announced 2 lakh compensation to each of the families of those

killed and 50,000 to each of those injured. The Hathras Lok Sabha MP - the BJP's Anoop Pradhan - said he had spoken to district officers but declined to comment on the number of dead. The injured, he said, were being

treated at hospitals. Before and after the Prime Minister's mention of the Hathras stampede, the opposition threw a wall of noise - protests, slogans, and screams - at Mr Modi as he was speaking.

Such was the relentless sloganising that Speaker Om Birla appeared to lose his temper on more than one occasion as he tried, without any success, to control the shrieking opposition.

State Law Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to attend the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings in Puri on July 7. During her four-day visit to Odisha, beginning July 6, the President will attend multiple events.

A preparatory review meeting for the President's visit took place on Monday, under the chairmanship of the new Chief Secretary of Odisha, Manoj Ahuja.

State Police DG Arun Kumar Sarangi, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, and Secretaries of various departments were in attendance.

The top officials discussed the security and logistical preparations for the President's stay in Puri and Bhubaneswar from July 6 until July 9.

As per the schedule, on

July 6, Droupadi Murmu will commemorate the 96th death anniversary of Pandit Utkalmanji Gopabandhu Das at Jayadev Bhawan. The following day, she will be present in Puri for the annual Car Festival of the Holy Trinity. The President is scheduled to stay overnight in Puri and take a morning walk on the beach on July 8, before returning to Bhubaneswar.

On the same day, the President will visit the Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves, followed by an interaction with students at the Bibhuti Kanungo College of Arts and Crafts. In the afternoon, President Murmu will participate in an event at the Divine Retreat Centre at Mendhasal Haridamada, on the city outskirts. On July 9, the President will preside over the 13th convocation of the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) in Jatni, Khurda. She will leave for Delhi later that afternoon.

116, Including Children, Killed In Stampede At Religious Event In UP

New Delhi,(KCN): At least 116 people, including women and three children, were killed after a stampede broke out at a religious event in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras on Tuesday, officials have said.

The stampede occurred during a 'satsang' (prayer meeting) which was attended by hundreds. Visuals from the Community Health Centre showed several bodies being brought there in buses and tempo in the presence of crying relatives.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken note of the incident and, on his directions, a committee has been set up to investigate the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

President Droupadi Murmu also expressed their condolences to the families of those who were killed and said they were praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. PM Modi said the Centre is extending all possible help to the Uttar Pradesh government.

Hathras District Magistrate Ashish Kumar said that, according to numbers received from the community health centre, 50-60 people were killed. Officials in Etah district confirmed the deaths of an additional 27. "The stampede broke out in Phulrai village within the Sikandra Rao police station limits in Hathras. The injured are being taken to hospitals.

Doctors at the community health centre have told me 50-60 people have died. This was a private event and permission had been given by the sub-divisional magistrate. Security arrangements were made by the

administration but the other arrangements were supposed to be made by the organisers," Mr Kumar said. Chief Medical Officer, Etah, Dr Umesh Kumar Tripathi, said, "We have received 27 bodies, of which 25 are female and

two are male. Some injured have also been taken to hospitals. We have heard that there was a stampede during a 'satsang'." Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah, Rajesh Kumar said three children were among

those killed in the stampede.

"So far, 27 bodies have been sent to the hospital, of which 23 are women and three are children," Mr Kumar said.

A woman who attended the 'satsang' said it was organised in honour of a local guru, Bhole Baba aka Narayan Saakar Hari, and the stampede broke out as the crowd began to leave. Sources said devotees were stopped from leaving until the self-styled guru's car left, causing a big crowd build-up in a small area.

Slippers, believed to be of the devotees, at the spot where the stampede occurred.

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occurred.

In a post on X, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said instructions have been given to officials to conduct relief and rescue operations on a war footing and to provide proper treatment to the injured. Two state ministers, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary and Sandeep Singh, have left for the village and the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police have also been sent there.

Expressing his condolences to the families of those who have died, he said a committee has been set up to investigate the incident. The panel will be headed by the Additional Director General of Police, Agra, and the Aligarh Commissioner.

In a post on X President Droupadi Murmu said the incident was heart-rending.

"The news of the death of many devotees, including women and children, in the accident in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh is heart-rending. I express my deepest condolences to those who lost their family members and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," she posted in Hindi.

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also extended his condolences and requested workers from the INDIA alliance to help with the rescue and relief efforts.

CM Majhi Announces 2 Days Holiday For Rath Yatra



Puri(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today chaired the special review and coordination meeting in Puri Municipality Hall ahead of the world-famous Rath Yatra.

He announced two days of holiday for the festival on the 7th and 8th of July as this year the Rath Yatra is being observed for two days. The rituals of the upcoming Rath Yatra will be performed as per the rituals conducted during the festival in 1971.

Two Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida were also present with him. The ministers of various departments, all the MLAs of the districts, the Chief Administrator of Srimandir, the Collector, the SP and the administrative officers of Srimandir were present in the meeting.

The main focus of the meeting is to streamline the smooth conduct of this year's Rath Yatra, make arrangements for the devotees and strengthen the law-and-order situation during the festival in the pilgrim town. Arrangements will be made accordingly to ensure that the festival is conducted in a disciplined way.



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Capacity building program on "Inland Fisheries Management" for fish farmers of Kalahandi district, Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore organized an NGO (Development Foundation) sponsored four days exposure cum training programme on "Inland Fisheries Management" for the fish farmers of Kalahandi district, Odisha during June 26th to 29th 2024.

24 fish farmers including 2 officers, participated in the training programme. This training was conducted to upscale farmers' knowledge on

scientific fish farming. Knowledge was imparted on various aspects of fish farming such as pond construction and management, nursery and rearing pond management, fish disease management, induced fish breeding, feed ingredients and their preparation, socio-economic aspects, ornamental fish farming, natural fish food organisms in inland open waters, and basic water quality management in open waters.

Besides, the trainees

were taken to the Halisahar, fish farm as part of their exposure tours to the field. Along with receiving hands-on training in a multitude of need-based subjects, such as basic water quality parameters, preparing fish feed using locally sourced ingredients, identifying fish pathogens and appropriate remedies, etc., they were also exposed to the Institute's Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), Bio-floc units, ornamental hatchery units, and feed mill.

Dr. Srikanta Samanta,

In-charge Director of I C A R - C I F R I , inaugurated the training programme. Emphasizing the importance of capacity-



building in farming and fisheries management, Dr. Srikanta Samanta, director in-charge of the Institute, urged the 24 participating fish farmers to apply the gained knowledge for sustainable livelihoods, optimal production, and increased profits. The training programme focused on narrowing the knowledge, skill, and attitude gaps among farmers in inland fisheries management, aligning with the vision of doubling farmers' income. Dr. Samanta also provided the trainees with an outline of the latest economic opportunities in the

inland fisheries sector. The feedback session resonated with the trainees expressing their overall satisfaction and the significant enhancement of their knowledge. In his concluding remarks, Dr. R. K. Manna, Head urged the farmers to apply the acquired knowledge to boost productivity of their farms and encouraged them to share their newfound expertise with other fishers and farmers, fostering the growth of the sector.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar's Pediatric Department Conferred with Prestigious ReTHINK INDIA Aarogya Bhushan Award

- Innovative Bronchoscopic Intervention Procedure Brings Laurels
- AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas Congratulates the Team



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Pediatric Pulmonology and ICU Team from the Pediatrics Department of AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been conferred with the prestigious Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar Aarogya Bhushan Award by ReTHINK INDIA. On behalf of the

department, Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Ranjan Das and Addl. Prof. Dr. Krishna Mohan Gulla received the award in a special ceremony held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, in the presence of eminent dignitaries from various fields.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar

Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas congratulated the team for the award and encouraged the department to continue performing such innovative procedures. The award was bestowed as a result of the team's innovative bronchoscopic

intervention procedure. Utilizing less invasive flexible bronchoscopy, they successfully removed a 4 cm long stitching needle from the left lower lobe bronchus lateral segment of the lungs of a 9-year-old child on 22nd January 2024. This procedure saved the boy from a major lung surgery to remove the sharp foreign body. It is worth noting that the Department has been providing advanced pediatric services to the state and nearby regions and continues its journey of excellence at the national level.

ReTHINK India is an action-cum-advocacy platform driven by a group of devout AIIMSonians and IITians aimed at accentuating all-round National Excellence.

IIM Sambalpur Commences 10th Batch Of MBA With 3 Times More Female Students Than Males

Sambalpur, (KCN): IIM Sambalpur, known for setting new standards in gender diversity, showcased remarkable female representation this year, with three times more female students enrolled in the flagship MBA Programme than males in its 10th MBA batch of 2024-26.

It is noteworthy that exemplifying diversity, the cohort witnessed a significant enrollment by female students with 76% (244 nos.) and 24% (76 nos.) by the male students out of the total 320 students. Moreover, there was a significant rise in the percentage of non-engineers with 60% (194 students), while 40% students hailed from engineering fields (126 Students). In non-engineers category, 19% of the students are from science and commerce b a c k g r o u n d s , respectively while 12.5% from management and 4% from arts backgrounds. Another interesting fact of the batch is that among the students, 46% (146) have prior work experience, whereas 54% (174) are freshers.

The inaugural event was

graced by eminent industry leaders including Subrat Tripathy, President-Business development of Adani Group as the Chief Guest; Sumit Sangwan, Vice President – Sales and Marketing, Havells India Pvt Ltd as the keynote speaker while Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur delivered the welcome note. Also, present at the occasion were faculty members and students during the inaugural ceremony.

During the welcome address, Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur highlighted the institution's establishment by the Government of India in 2015 and said, "Welcome to IIM Sambalpur, where we stand by our core values of Innovation, Integrity, and Inclusiveness, the idea of gender diversity was pioneered at IIM Sambalpur. Before 2017, the percentage of women students in MBA classes across IIMs was less than 11%, including IIM Sambalpur. In 2017, we made a bold decision to implement a policy that

granted a 5% cut off reduction for female candidates when calling for interviews and then creating a common merit list. This initiative made history by achieving a 50% female enrollment from 2017 onwards, a model that has since been adopted by all IIMs.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Subrat Tripathy, President-Business development of Adani Group, said, "As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we must embrace the transformative power of technology while grounding ourselves in the timeless values of humanism. The journey ahead will be defined by our ability to integrate innovation with empathy, creating a future where progress and compassion go hand in hand. To the young minds embarking on this path, remember the words of Swami Vivekananda: 'Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.' Let this be your guiding light as you navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."

As a keynote speaker, Mr. Sumit Sangwan, Vice President – Sales and Marketing, Havells India

Pvt Ltd, said, "We all call our life a marathon. Career is a marathon. Triathlon is the toughest race of the world. It's like a triathlon, and today marks the flag off of that triple end. Phase one is your current stage; phase two is when you start your job or become an entrepreneur, and phase three is when you progress further in your career."

Earlier, Prof. Siddharth G. Majhi, Chair, Admission, provided an introduction of the 10th Batch of MBA, while the Introduction of MBA Programme was given by Prof. Atri Sengupta, Chair, PGP and an address, on AOL and IIM Sambalpur's Accreditation Journey so Far, was narrated by Prof. Soumya Guha Deb, Chair, Ranking & Accreditation. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Diptiranjan Mahapatra, Chair, Placement.

The day also witnessed the Orientation Programme for the MBA cohort including a detailed briefing on the MBA Ordinance and Anti-Ragging policies by Prof. Atri Sengupta.



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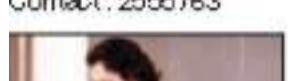
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Richa Chadha-Ali Fazal's 'Girls Will...' wins big at Indian Film Festival Los Angeles

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's critically acclaimed film 'Girls Will Be Girls', directed by Shuchi Talati, won the grand jury prize at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA). The film, backed by Richa and Ali, had already won several accolades.

'Girls Will Be Girls' had previously won grand jury prizes at Transylvania International Film Festival in Romania and Biarritz Film Festival in France. It also won two major awards at the Sundance Film Festival 2024.

The coming-of-age



drama stars Kani Kusruti and Preeti Panigrahi in lead roles. The film's unique narrative and compelling performances have garnered numerous

awards, showcasing the talent and vision behind its creation. Sharing their happiness about their film winning big at IFFLA, mother-to-be Richa Chadha stated, "Winning the

Grand Jury Prize at IFFLA is an incredible honor. It's gratifying to see the hard work and dedication of our entire team being recognized on such a prestigious platform. 'Girls Will Be Girls' is a story close to

our hearts, and we are thrilled that it continues to resonate with audiences globally."

She added, "This is the third win for the film this month, which is huge. The

response has been overwhelming and the love the film is getting is truly exceptional. We couldn't be more happy with a better debut as producers".

Ali Fazal said, "This journey has been nothing short of magical. From Sunburn to Cannes and now IFFLA, each accolade reaffirms our belief in

the power of authentic storytelling. We are grateful for the support and love we've received, and we're excited to see where 'Girls Will Be Girls' will go next."

'Girls Will Be Girls', an Indo-French co-production, is a coming-of-age drama about 16-year-old Mira, portrayed by Preeti Panigrahi, and her tense relationship with her mother. Set in a strict boarding school in the Himalayas, the film explores Mira's journey of teenage love through the lens of societal judgement of female desire.

Prime Video's Maitri: Female First Collective Hosts Its First Session In Chennai



Prime Video released the latest session of 'Maitri: Female First Collective', hosting its maiden discussion in Chennai. Launched last year, the collective is an endeavour to create a safe space where women from the Indian media and entertainment industry can come together to discuss their experiences, challenges and successes, and offer their perspective on bringing about a positive shift.

The session featured 8 eminent women from India's various entertainment industries, ranging from award-winning prolific actors who have worked across languages like Malavika Mohanan, Aishwarya Rajesh and Madhoo, to women who have left an indelible mark behind the camera, like creator, writer, showrunner & producer Reshma Ghatala, writer & director Swathi Raghuraaman, and

cinematographer Yamini Yagnamurthy, in addition to Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video, and Smriti Kiran, creator and curator of Maitri & founder, Polka Dots LightBox.

Sharing personal anecdotes, the participants discussed the existing gender dynamics in the film industry, the challenges faced by female professionals, including stereotyping, colourism, ageism, and much more.

Surprisingly, the women noted how the issues were similar irrespective of whether they worked in front of the camera or behind it, or whether they worked in production or corporate roles. The core discussion also touched upon the true essence of feminism and empowerment, what gender-equality really means for the trailblazers gathered in the room. An interesting insight that was shared by all was that true

equality can be achieved when the industry stops tagging a particular role, a narrative or a job as woman-oriented or male-oriented. The group as a whole agreed that age-old conditioning often restricts the personal and professional growth potential of women, and can be changed only if it is internalized in one's home and social environment. The interaction also highlighted the critical role that streaming was

playing in improving female representation, creating new opportunities for actors, regardless of their age, body size, or skin colour, and for creators to tell all kinds of unique stories.

"Equal representation opens up a new world for young girls to draw inspiration from, making it all the more important to have women in positions of influence, where they can provide a platform for newer voices and open up doors for more women," said Aparna Purohit, creator - Maitri & head of India Originals, Prime Video. "However, we know that change is a gradual process. It is, therefore, important for us to continue having these discussions across the country, and we are thrilled to have hosted our first session in Chennai. Even though it is only a year old, Maitri has managed to drive change in the right

Prabhas, Deepika Padukone's Project K To Create History, To Be First Indian Film To Debut At San Diego Comic-Con



There's good news for Bollywood lovers who have been waiting for a long time to get an update on Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Kamal Haasan and Prabhas-starrer 'Project K'. According to Variety, The hugely-anticipated Indian big-budget sci-fi film will unveil exclusive footage in the presence of talent at the San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC). Kicking off the SDCC celebration, Vyjayanthi Movies will offer fans a look at the film as part of an opening night party on July 19.

On July 20, the film's

team will host a panel titled "This is Project K: First Glimpse of India's Mytho-Sci-fi Epic" with Deepika, Prabhas and Haasan during which the film's full title, teaser trailer and release date will be revealed, Variety reported. Interestingly, the stars will also feature in a performance on SDCC's largest stage. "This exclusive event will transport guests into India's most ambitious cinematic universe yet with their captivating storytelling, futuristic setting, and 'Spice Punk' aesthetic inspired by the

film," the producers said in a statement. Director Ashwin also expressed excitement. He said, "We are thrilled to present 'Project K's' debut at San Diego Comic-Con. India's storytelling tradition has ancient roots, with its epics serving as the origins for many civilizations worldwide. A world as big as this needs a platform as big to introduce it to the people. Comic-Con felt like the perfect place, where the honesty and enthusiasm needed for 'Project K' will be found."

The makers of 'The Nun' are all set to come up with the film's sequel. On Thursday, they unveiled the film's trailer and it has definitely left fans excited. The sequel, which is headlined by Taissa Farmiga, is set to be out on September 8.

As per Variety, the film begins in 1956 after a priest is viciously murdered in France. According to the film's official logline, 'The Nun 2' follows Sister Irene (Farmiga) as she once again comes face to face with the demonic Valak. Farmiga returns alongside Bonnie Aarons and Jonas Bloquet who will reprise their roles as Valak and Maurice "Frenchie," respectively. "The Nun 2" will introduce new additions to the "Conjuring" universe, including Katelyn Rose Downey as Sophie, Anna Popplewell as Marcella and Storm Reid as an

unknown new character. The USD 2 billion franchise began in 2013, with the original "The Conjuring" film, starring Patrick Wilson and Taissa Farmiga's older sister, Vera Farmiga. The original film was inspired by the paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren's nonfiction book, "The Amityville Horror."

"The Conjuring's" first spinoff, "Annabelle" in 2018. Since "The Nun," the "Conjuring" universe has released "The Curse of La Llorona," "Annabelle Comes Home" and "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It." Directed by "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It's" Michael Chaves, "The Nun 2" was written by "M3GAN" screenwriter Akela Cooper and "Fear the Walking Dead" screenwriters Ian Goldberg and Richard Naing.

The Nun 2 Trailer Teases Returns Of 'The Conjuring' Universe



CONSERVATION – WHAT WE NEED IS A CULTURAL SHIFT

M.R.LALU



There have been alarming repercussions that people across the world are made to face. This is mainly due to their madness of being threatening to the globe that once we considered our mother, that helped the human race survive and flourish and other species exist for millions of years. As we grow into a single clan of modernized minds all over the world with communication, transportation and tendency to come closer through innovative and scientific inventions, irrespective of geography causing hurdles, there seems a feeling of betrayal being sensed in the form of climatic disorders and environmental chaos.

Man brought science and got him everything as he swung his magic wand of innovation and inventions. But there was something that was unpardonably forgotten, his compassionate communication with

nature that genuinely nurtured his aspirations and ensured his existence. There was this deafening disconnect that began to bring disruption as he, for a long period, had forgotten to fine-tune his cultural alignment with Mother Nature. All he wanted was comfort and what he did was restructuring his approach. And what we lost was its compassionate embrace, a gesture that ensured our congenial existence throughout human civilization.

More than exploration there has been insistent exploitation that humans frequently justified as an integral authority of his intellect. We have often made reasons to justify damages that our interventions caused on nature. Natural calamities, adverse climatic impacts and nature's depleting resources have been warning signs. But human greed has been the driving force that frequently damages our planet and the species on it. Our understanding was that they are totally inferior and our minds seem to have been occupied with dominant thoughts of disruption

that we keep executing without even the slightest regret. For instance let us take an example. Religious events and moments of community jubilations ensure the slaughtering of millions of innocent animals. All that we want is to find reasons to display our might that otherwise, are excuses to establish our right to conveniently disturb their ambiance of existence or declare our displeasure to coexist with less privileged species. The common belief that has dominated the discourse is that man holds a divine right for disruption. Though he doesn't recognize the depth of rote he is creating, an existential crisis for him and other species is looming. But the usual fable deliberately declares his right to explore and if needed exploit the resources. This view terribly contradicts the very traditional belief in India which propagated the conservation of nature and the preservation of its essential values of coexistence. This includes the survival of a blade of grass to the macro elements of life. But what we need to keep in mind is an

existence bereft of preserving life's variety of forms is totally dangerous. Advancing with meticulous scientific inventions, man's interventions have always been deliberate and one-sided. To consider him as an apex species and forcefully disrupt other species with his intentional survival tactics, especially focusing on ways to reap benefits, has definitely become a catastrophic move. An emotional shift in the minds of people towards conservation of nature and strengthening cultural values in tune with its natural impulses, which is suitable for the modern period, is a requirement.

More alarming is the

influx of different sophisticated gadgets into our sphere which manages to dangerously alter even the purest micromanagement of life called family. As the dominance of gadgets of disruptive sophistication has brought more silence and discord in their life, a small community of people under one roof is usually in mental disarray. So, basically, the human environment in modern days has partially been thrown into utter disorder. Ancient texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana show profound respect for Mother Nature and there are numerous ways to conserve it and practice our traditionalist approach. There are multiple traditions through which the ancient Rishi attributed his respect to nature. The first one was his understanding of nature as a divine entity and therefore to be worshipped. Every element of nature was worshipped in different forms and names. They were considered the most venerable and the Rishi, for that matter, remained meditative on practices that he could invent and propagate for its conservation.

Of course, India had

maintained a spiritual

stance on everything that was part of nature. That's the reason why we named rivers, mountains, trees and celestial beings individually and revered them, considering their power and share in making the resources available for the wellbeing of all. We respected life in all forms and did not hesitate to worship them. Our essential understanding revealed the truth of the divine being manifest in everything. Ensuring their existence was our means of establishing dharma. Protecting life in its various forms was an ideal doctrine. Sacred groves attached to temples in Kerala even today attract people for the elevation of their spiritual impulses. Groves were considered places of worship for snakes and spaces of existence for other animals. And the emotion was to literally protect them in every village from human atrocity. Sacred groves naturally existed as healing centers and places of spiritual well-being. The universe being composed of five elements, the Hindu way of life embarks on a serious understanding of life. It declares the five basic elements as earth, water, fire, air and space with which the entire creation is designed. The concoction of these five elements is instrumental in life manifesting in various forms, declared the Vedic aphorisms. India's recent diplomatic outreach also reflected this congeniality taking solid shape. Its G20 presidency with the declaration of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which means 'the world is one family' was an attempt to make an ideal outreach to the global humanity. This was a declaration that sensed urgency for humans to go back to our cultural roots well before we destroyed nature's survivability. India's G20 presidency could bring back its traditional approach of interconnectedness of life onto the discourse table. This is because we, as a nation, have long ago realized the importance of coexistence, recognizing that humans, animals, plants and the environment are all part of a unified whole and therefore interconnected. Our fundamental belief system maintained reverence for nature and nurtured its resources. We believed in a natural order and balance in the universe and learnt to live without disrupting its harmony. Again, the

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Ganjam Migrants & Human Rights



Rabindra Kumar Mishra

who are leaving their homeland and scattered across the countries in search of livelihoods are being deprived of their basic fundamental and human rights. International & National legislation, policies and practice: Global conventions recognize social security as a human right and it was enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). According to the Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP) of Indian Constitution social security is a basic right (Articles 41, 43, 45). Article 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India to provide basic fundamental rights to its citizens in order to ensure their means of life, livelihood, and sustainable development. Various policies and programmes of Government of India and states aimed at providing social protection to interstate migrant workers.

Health and Human Rights:

With the increasing rate of migration within the country, the act of providing effective healthcare services to all remains a challenge. For example HIV Status Deaths and Affected Migrant Workers of Ganjam. H.I.V. vulnerability is associated with various factors: prolonged or frequent absence from home; precarious financial

status; difficult working and housing conditions; change in cultural norms; separation from family; low social support; substance abuse; mental health problems; lack of HIV testing; needle sharing; limited condom use; concurrent multiple partners; sex work; low HIV knowledge, and low perceived HIV risk. Though the social, cultural and other factors also are important, those involving in physical, mental health and sexual practices tend to have the greatest effect on HIV risk. 1800 deaths in Ganjam district and many more affected due to HIV AIDS.

According to Government of India's Report of the Working Group on Migration, migrants are exposed to health risks including communicable diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. They are also exposed to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, and occupational health hazards such as respiratory problems, lung diseases, allergies, kidney and bladder infections, back problems and malnutrition. They are stigmatised as they are being carriers of disease. Major Challenges for Ganjam Migrant Population: The major issues are rooted in the unorganized and informal sector such as 1. Interstate migrants are facing prejudices and discriminations. 2. Access to health care services

failed to address. 7. Central schemes relevant to the welfare of migrant workers are Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Public Distribution System under National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Employment Guarantee Scheme like MGNREGS, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Benefits of these central and state schemes have not reached many of them due to poor policy implementation and it is constrained by the oppressive bureaucracy. The present situation reveals the lack of an institutional mechanism to help the migrant workers and the unregistered migrant workers cannot claim most of the available social security schemes. There is a gap in the enforcement of existing legislation such as Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act 1996 and Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. These Acts were enacted to protect rights of interstate migrant workers and save them

Lack of confidence and their fear of the system are highlighted as the major barriers for accessing health services. Migrants are engaged with low income activities which are concentrated in sectors with higher risks such as the construction sector, heavy industry, transport, services, and The hours of working is higher work compared to local workers. Considerable section of migrant workers' children could not get benefitted from schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Several of them do not get school education and skill training. And No educational development means, there will be no sustainable human development, inclusive growth and human resource capital formation.

There is a gap in the enforcement of an institutional mechanism to address human rights violations against interstate migrant workers and absence of Centre-State coordination. For Example: During crisis of COVID-19 lockdown period had clearly revealed that an institutional mechanism was somewhat missing.

rights-based approach in the good governance of the entire migration process. Migration has been shown not to be a risk factor for the spread of HIV and AIDS. Public health institutions need to initiate and reinforce more "migrant-friendly" services. Appropriate and adequate attention should be given in executing these initiatives efficiently and effectively in order to provide social justice and to promote human rights.

Founder & Chairperson of Stayee Bikasha Lakshya (SBL) National NGO, Social Scientist, Independent Researcher, Law Graduate Practising at Orissa High Court, Author, Philanthropist, and SDGs Activist.

Letter to Editor

Infrastructure challenges

The roof collapse at Delhi's busy airport during record rainfall isn't just a tragic event but a stark symptom of India's broader infrastructure challenges. This incident, amidst a backdrop of similar failures nationwide such as bridge collapses and monsoon-related havoc exposes systemic flaws in planning, execution, and maintenance across the country. The issue goes beyond weather; inadequate drainage systems in rapidly urbanizing areas exacerbate flooding, turning urban growth into a hazard. The rush to complete projects, often timed with elections, prioritizes speed over quality, compromising infrastructure integrity. Infrastructure development must prioritize public safety over political expediency, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur

No green gold rush in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda(KCN): Kendu leaf business in Jharsuguda district stares at an imminent closure as climate change and rapid industrialisation have resulted in a sharp decline in collection of the important minor forest produce in this western Odisha district.

30 years back, the district was in great demand in terms of collection of kendu leaf but climate change and rapid industrialisation have impacted its production to the extent that the once-profitable business may shut down completely in coming days.

According to available data, 11,800.80 quintal of kendu leaves were produced under Jharsuguda kendu leaf division in 2017, 8,380.80 quintal in 2018, 5,988.60 quintal in 2019, 5,082.60 quintal in 2020 and



checkers, circle checkers and head checkers is important in kendu leaf trade.

Reports said six kendu leaf range offices function under the Jharsuguda kendu leaf division office. These offices are at Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Kadamtih, Kanika, Duduk and Gopalpur in the district.

Role of seasonal workers, munis, chaurasi checkers, binding

Kendu leaf trade was taken up departmentally with effect from January 1973 when Nandini Satpathy was the Chief Minister of Odisha.

There are 19 kendu leaf divisions in the state including at Jharsuguda. Over thousands of kendu leaf pluckers and hundreds of seasonal workers are engaged in

the business under Jharsuguda division as they eke out a living out of it.

However, the decline in kendu leaf production here has sparked concern.

Every year thousands of men and women go into the forests with the hope of earning some bucks by collecting kendu leaves. The kendu leaf season starts in March, bush cutting in April, repairing of the kendu leaf depots in May, while plucking of leaves starts from June, the binding of kendu leaf for manufacturing bidis continues till October.

The seasonal workers are employed during the kendu leaf season and the entire process is supervised by kendu leaf rangers, deputy rangers, foresters and forest guards. The Jharsuguda kendu leaf division has 303 depots and gone are

those days when the demand for kendu leaf was very high in Jharsuguda district.

Collection has declined to a great extent in Jharsuguda district after lakhs of trees were chopped off in 2000 to make way for establishment of industrial plants. Lack of a favourable atmosphere is attributed as the main reason behind the decline in availability. As a result, thousands of men and women have been deprived of employment. Bush cutting has started from February 20 this year but it is feared that the production may

reduce further due to unseasonal rainfall plaguing the district.

Moreover, villagers engaged in collection of Mohua flowers are setting fire to the forest. It is also alleged that kendu leaf is being smuggled in frequent basis from the Bagdih railway station affecting its production. The seizure of kendu leaf by the Forest officials from Bagdih railway station three months back is a case at this point.

The state government pays bonus to the kendu leaf pluckers and seasonal workers from the profit it earns from the trade.

How Rourkela overcame water crisis this summer



Rourkela(KCN): Given the protracted and hard summer days this year, Rourkela would have gone through a major water crisis. However, advance planning and implementation of some prudent measures by the water supply unit of Town Engineering (TE) department of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) saved the Steel City from an imminent crisis.

Learning from the harrowing experience of 2016 when the City witnessed an unprecedented water crisis, the water supply unit began implementing its plans to construct embankments on Koel river, from where the steel major draws water for its captive township, since March this year. "To address any emergency this year, the TE (Water Supply) department initiated meticulous planning and

execution. One of the pivotal measures was the construction of a cofferdam by the first week of March 2024," said an official.

The dam increased the flow of river water to the intake pumps, maintaining the water level throughout the summer.

The department ensured proper supervision of the dam to prevent any man-made or environmental damage, he said.

Another critical step was

ensuring the availability of

pumps at the intake well.

The Intake Complex in

Sector 20, equipped with

three wells and 36 MGD

pumping capacity,

underwent timely

overhaul and preventive

maintenance before the

summer. "The Met

department gave an early

warning, so we became

proactive to ensure that

the pumps operated

smoothly without failures

during the peak demand

period," said the official.

The regular cleaning of

the intake was also prioritised for floating materials in the river which could have restricted the water flow to the pumps. The department conducted frequent removal of these materials, ensuring an uninterrupted water supply to the intake, the official said.

Additionally, the operation of recycle pumps at BWW-Sector 8 and WPP-Hilltop played a crucial role in water management. These pumps facilitated the reuse of wastewater from filter beds and valve leakages. "Strategically, we took a very important step. By operating these pumps at regular intervals, the department significantly reduced water wastage," he informed.

To further minimise wastage, regular inspections of drinking water distribution network were conducted. Any reported leaks were promptly addressed, ensuring the efficient use of water. The department's responsiveness to public reports of leakages also contributed to the overall conservation efforts, he added.

However, despite these measures, occasional complaints about water shortages were reported by residents. "We mitigated these temporary issues by supplying drinking water through tankers to the affected areas as and when it was necessitated," explained the official. Additionally, Jalachhatras (water kiosks) across the township were regularly replenished with drinking water to ensure public access.

All these comprehensive measures not only ensured a stable water supply for residents but also supported the township's parks and gardens, thus providing comfort to the residents during the hard summer.

In 2016, the water table of Koel river fell to an all-time low, while Brahmani too almost ran dry. To meet the demands of the captive township, the RSP then had laid huge pipes to bring water from Tarkera to the water treatment plant at Sector-20.

Tapas Behera from Bisoi area of Mayurbhanj district came in contact with this correspondent after mobile network services resumed partially and urged the state government for help.

He said over phone that more than 12 natives of Odisha were among the tourists trapped in the

northeastern state for the last five days. Due to disruption in road communication, severe shortage of food has led prices of essential items to skyrocket. So much so, said Behera, that they had to spend Rs50 to buy food items worth Rs10. Lack of money has also come as an impediment for their return.

Stranded in Sikkim, tourists from Odisha plead for rescue

Keonjhar(KCN): At least 12 persons from Odisha including five from Mayurbhanj district have been stranded for the last five days in Sikkim as landslides and heavy rain impacted the Himalayan state severely, damaging properties, disrupting road connectivity, power and food supplies and mobile networks in

several areas.

Multiple landslides at various stretches in between Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, and the Chinese border (ice point or zero point) besides collapse of the vital Sanklang suspension bridge, resulted in the severing of connectivity to North Sikkim, leaving around 1,200-1,500 tourists from across India

stranded.

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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland, said, "Ashok

Tollywood Movie Sada Ronger Prithibi is winning hearts



Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu): Sada Ronger Prithibi by Raajhorshee De is a film based on widow trafficking in India, the film will celebrate Kashi, still a chosen abode for many widows in India, in a unique way through its thriller story. The official Grand Premiere of the film took place at Inox South City Mall, Kolkata which was attended by: Sri. Aroop Biswas, Minister in Charge for Power, Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of WB; Sri. Bratya Basu, Minister for Education, Govt. of WB; Sri. Snehasis Chakraborty, Minister of Transport, Govt. of WB; Sri. Debasish Kumar, MLA & the entire cast and crew of the film. This is the first film in India on widow trafficking, which has not been done in any other language so far.

It explores the colourless world of widows in Varanasi whose lives are bleached like their white sarees. But the pristine exterior hides the devious machinations of criminal masterminds who are out to exploit these unfortunate women. Things get complicated when a young police officer come to investigate the shelter but little does she knows about the dangers that await her as she disguises herself as one of the inmates of the shelter in order to unearth the truth. Will she be able to overcome the political pressures and other threats in her attempt to fight the evil lurking unseen? Presented by Adarsh Telemedia and Amit Agarwal and Produced by Sushant Sengupta,

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantees high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gurni Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to 7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries.

India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

from tariffs. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first



Bumrah leaves a mark with legacy-defining WC show

New Delhi: Franklyn DaCosta Stephenson is not a name one would typically associate with the West Indies, but the 65-year-old was a pace-bowling all-rounder who never reached the international level. Had he not been banned for participating in a rebel tour of South Africa during the apartheid era, he could have emerged as one of the premier international all-rounders of the 1980s and 1990s. As the youngest player on the 1983/84 rebel tour of South Africa with the West Indies team, he was part of the group that "sowed the seed that grew the beanstalk that was the dismantling of apartheid." He also has an intriguing story to share about Jasprit Bumrah.

"I received a call from my friend in Cape Town, Chris Craven, a day before the final, suggesting that I should persuade the curators to prepare a fast pitch at Kensington Oval. He wanted me to ensure the pitch would not favor the Indian spinners. I told him he was overlooking a bowler named Jasprit



Bumrah." The conversation was, of course, in a light-hearted manner, and Stephenson seriously remarked that ignoring Bumrah's value would be a mistake. In the 1988 English county season for Nottinghamshire, Stephenson scored 1,000 runs and took 100 wickets, finishing the final game with a century in each innings and claiming 11 wickets. Locals who witnessed Stephenson described him as a fiery fast bowler. The Barbados player says Bumrah reminds him of his own bowling. "He could bowl at any

stage, and his impact was due to his unorthodox action. He was unplayable with both the new and old ball, with the ability to open the gap between bat and pad. Marco Jansen's dismissal in the final was an example. He could have gotten David Miller out a few balls earlier," said Stephenson, who played for Orange Free State in South Africa. Bumrah's recent performances, particularly in the World Cup here in the West Indies, have ignited many tales that will be told for years. One story involves a fast-bowling

great claiming that Bumrah would have walked into the legendary West Indies side of the 80s, although Sir Andy Roberts denied making such a comment. Bumrah is currently dominating conversations in the cricket world. His unorthodox action that creates deception, rooted in geometric principles, is being particularly discussed. His remarkable economy rate of 4.17 and an astonishing average of 8.28 for 15 wickets in eight games have made him the centre of attention. He showcased

his lethal prowess in the World Cup, leaving observers debating which of his performances was the standout and which of his 15 wickets was the most crucial.

The South Africans, including David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen, aimed to see off Bumrah and target the other bowlers instead. Jansen adopted a similar strategy but fell victim to a delivery that swung late, dislodging the leg stump bail. With the score at 156 for five, this wicket was crucial, but the value of Reeza Hendricks' early dismissal in the first over cannot be understated. It prevented South Africa from a strong start. Bumrah conceded only eight runs in his last two overs, finishing with figures of two for 18 in four overs - an economy rate better than his own economy rate for the tournament. If one were to identify the player who had the greatest impact in the World Cup for India, it would undoubtedly be him. It's no surprise he was named the Player of the World Cup.



rest of the members from the Caribbean before departing for Harare for the final three T20Is. India have picked a fairly inexperienced squad for the five-match T20I series with Shubman Gill being named captain. The series will kickstart on July 6 and conclude on July 14 with all five games scheduled to be played at the Harare Sports Club.

India's squad for 1st & 2nd T20I - Shubman Gill (Captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande, Sai Sudharsan, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Harshit Rana

Taskin apologised for missing team bus ahead of India game, says BCB official

New Delhi: Bangladesh pace bowler and T20I vice-captain Taskin Ahmed apologised to his team mates for turning up late in the field after missing the team bus during their Super 8 game against India in the just concluded ICC T20 World Cup.

A top BCB official confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Monday on request of anonymity adding that he missed the team bus as he could not get up from his sleep on time. Quite a few eyebrows were raised after Bangladesh opted to play only two pace bowlers against India during their Super



8 clash and decided to drop Taskin from the playing XI. Cricbuzz understands that the BCB decided to keep one official of the touring party in the team hotel after they failed to make contact with the pacer as he was not

picking up the phone. There is wide-scale speculation that head coach Chandika Hathurusingha decided to not pick him in the XI, even though the official begs to differ. "It is true that he (Taskin) joined the team

coach (Chandika Hathurusingha)," he said.

"If there was any issue (between coach and the player) how he played the next game against Afghanistan," he said. "He apologized to his team mates and everyone for not being able to get up on time and that's it and no need to make an issue out of it," he added. Bangladesh head coach Hathurusingha was not ready to make any official comment in this regard when contacted by this website as he insisted on focus being on the performances on-field.

Hathurusingha, "he said. "If there was any issue (between coach and the player) how he played the next game against Afghanistan," he said. "He apologized to his team mates and everyone for not being able to get up on time and that's it and no need to make an issue out of it," he added. Bangladesh head coach Hathurusingha was not ready to make any official comment in this regard when contacted by this website as he insisted on focus being on the performances on-field.



record for being the first player to score three T20I centuries, achieving the feat by scoring 104 off 53 balls against West Indies. He is also the second fastest to 100 T20I sixes in terms of balls faced (963) behind only Evin Lewis. Brisbane Heat, who won the 2023-24 season of the Big Bash, would hope the retention of Munro would help them defend their crown

later this year. Munro said he was excited to be part of the squad and couldn't wait for the opportunities which await him during the summer. "It's a strong squad again and I'm looking forward to being part of what we can build together. There are always opportunities to get better and as a group, we should be excited about the new goals we will pursue this summer.

Sunil Narine, Andre Russell once again central to LA Knight Riders' fate

New Delhi: The LA Knight Riders looked rudderless in the inaugural season of the MLC. Despite a team packed with T20 paragons, a 1-4 win loss record characterised their lacklustre performance on the field. The team went down the doldrums with four defeats in their first four games. What was more disconcerting was the margin of the defeats, including being shot out for 114 and 50 in their first two games. The quality of domestic batting talent was an all pervasive issue for all the MLC teams in the first season. While some managed to perform in patches, the

LAKR domestic batting talent completely flopped. To make matters worse the likes of Martin Guptill and Jason Roy were unable to make a substantial impact at the top of the order.

Long-term KKR loyalists Sunil Narine and Andre Russell remained amongst the runs and wickets but lack of support around them deterred the duo to translate those individual performances into match winning ones. Russell particularly looked at his devastating best with a strike rate close to 160 with an astonishing average of 68 with two

fifties. Narine was as miserly as ever with the ball with an ECON of 6.4. KKR's only saving grace was a Rilee

Roussow blinder that gave the franchise its first taste of victory in the final league game. Rilee Roussow will make way for his more illustrious countryman David Miller for this season. Jason Roy and a handful of Englishmen will make a dash stateside at the height of the English cricket summer. David Miller, Andre Russell, Shakib Al Hassan and Alex Carey form the rest of the international contingent. LAKR drafted in TNPL wicket keeper batter Adithya Ganesh as their primary pick at \$75,000 at the domestic draft. Ganesh, who played the TNPL as recently as 2023 qualified as a domestic player based on his immigration on a spousal visa. Unmukt Chand, Saif Badar and

spinner Waqar Salamkheil is expected to bowl in tandem with captain Sunil Narine. Aussie left arm quick Spencer Johnson will spearhead the bowling attack with Josh Little roped in as back up seam option. Andre Russell, Shakib Al Hassan and Alex Carey form the rest of the international contingent. LAKR drafted in TNPL wicket keeper batter Adithya Ganesh as their primary pick at \$75,000 at the domestic draft. Ganesh, who played the TNPL as recently as 2023 qualified as a domestic player based on his immigration on a spousal visa. Unmukt Chand, Saif Badar and

USA batter Nitish Kumar hung onto their spots in the roster despite low returns in the previous season. Chand would especially look to prove a point or two after being overlooked for a home World Cup, in what was fantasised as a great redemption story. USA quicks Ali Khan and Shadley Van Schalkwyk along with Corne Dry bring definite calibre to LAKR's domestic bowling reserves. Probable XI : Jason Roy, Sunil Narine, Unmukt Chand, Nitish Kumar, David Miller, Andre Russell, Adithya Ganesh/Saif Badar, Corne Dry, Ali Khan, Spencer Johnson, Waqar Salamkheil

