

Odisha govt reassures public amid confusion over BSKY continuity

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Thursday assured that Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) cardholders will continue to receive treatment amid allegations that some private hospitals were denying cashless services to beneficiaries during the transition period.

The confusion arose following the BJP's announcement that it would implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme and replace BSKY once it forms the state government.

As the BJP was poised to take power in Odisha, some hospitals reportedly began refusing to honour BSKY

benefits to patients, sources claimed. Chief Secretary PK Jena reassured that BSKY cardholders will continue



to receive treatment at empanelled hospitals. According to available data, June 4, empanelled hospitals booked treatment packages for over 5,800 patients, and on June 5, treatment packages were booked for more than 5,389 patients.

"The MoUs on BSKY signed with empanelled

hospitals remain in force," Jena said, adding that the government has instructed all empanelled hospitals to continue providing treatment as usual.

"The health and family welfare department has clarified that the BSKY scheme remains active with approved budgetary support. Hospitals are to ensure that patients do not face any difficulty or disruption in availing services," an official statement said.

Jena said people being denied treatment at any hospital under BSYK can register their complaints by calling the health department's helpline 104.

India's long-standing strategic partners expected to attend PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony

New Delhi(KCN): The swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be attended by several top leaders from India's long-standing strategic partners in the region, keeping in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have reportedly already confirmed their attendance at the event, which is likely to take place June 9. Wickremesinghe spoke with PM Modi over the phone Wednesday and congratulated him on his

historic electoral victory. The Lankan President's media division later confirmed that Wickremesinghe had accepted PM Modi's invitation to visit Delhi, later this week.

"During the conversation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited President Wickremesinghe to his swearing-in ceremony, which President Ranil Wickremesinghe accepted," the President's office said in a post on X.

It is to be recalled that in 2019, then President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena graced the swearing-in ceremony of PM Modi following the resounding victory of the NDA in



general elections. The swearing-in ceremony of PM Modi as Prime Minister Hasina was unable to travel in person because of a prior commitment. It is believed that invites are also being sent to leaders of several other neighbouring countries as well, including Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius and

Maldives. Nepal PM K.P. Sharma Oli, Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, Thai Agriculture Minister (special envoy of Prime Minister of Thailand) and many other leaders from BIMSTEC grouping participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019. In 2014, when PM Modi took oath as the Prime Minister for the first time, leaders from the SAARC member states travelled to Delhi to attend the ceremony. It was for the first time that India had invited all SAARC members to attend a swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister.

Official notification handed over to Odisha Governor, process for govt formation begins



Shri Rajeev Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India accompanied by Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Election Commissioners, met the President at 04.30 P.M. today. A copy of the Notification issued by the Election Commission of India, in terms of Section 73 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, containing the names of the Members elected to the House of the People following the General Elections to the 18th Lok Sabha, was submitted by them to the President.

The President congratulated the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners on the successful completion of the electoral process, the largest democratic exercise in human history. On behalf of the entire country, she appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission, its officials and members of staff, other public officials who were involved in management and superintendence of the campaign and polling, and police and security personnel, Central and State, for working tirelessly and diligently to uphold the sanctity of the people's ballot and successfully completing a free and fair election. Above all, she commended hundreds of millions of voters, who participated in the election process in such large numbers. This, the President noted, was entirely in keeping with our Constitution and India's deep and unshakeable democratic traditions.

Manoj Mishra Resigns As Principal Secy Of Electronics & IT Dept

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Principal Secretary of the Electronics and IT Department in the Odisha government Manoj Kumar Mishra resigned from his position, an office order regarding the acceptance of his resignation by the Governor informed Thursday.

In January 2023, Naveen Patnaik-led state government appointed Mishra as the IT Secretary a day after the Centre accepted Mishra's resignation from the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS). Mishra is considered to be a close ally of Naveen's aide VK Pandian. Earlier Thursday, two retired IAS officers Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and R Balakrishnan also resigned as Chief Advisors to Chief Minister's Office and Special Initiatives.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The process of the formation of a new government in Odisha began Thursday with election officials presenting the gazette notification declaring the poll results to Governor Raghubar Das at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, an official said. Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal presented the gazette notification to the governor. The notification was regarding the election of new members of the next assembly and it will pave

the way for the formation of the House, he said. The governor's secretariat has intimated it to the state parliamentary department. The CEO was accompanied by representatives of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and other senior officials. The ECI notification and Odisha gazette notification regarding the newly elected MLAs were handed over to the governor, the official said. The Governor

congratulated the ECI, the CEO and the entire election machinery in the state for conducting free, fair and peaceful elections. The development came after BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik resigned as the chief minister of Odisha, ending his 24-year rule. The BJP crossed the majority mark in the 147-member assembly, winning 78 seats, while the BJD bagged 51 and the Congress 14. One CPI(M) candidate and three Independent nominees also emerged victorious.

93% Of Lok Sabha Poll Winners Are Millionaires: Report

New Delhi(KCN): A staggering 93 per cent of the candidates who won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are millionaires, up from 88 per cent in 2019, according to an analysis by poll rights body Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The top three wealthiest candidates are TDP's Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani from Andhra Pradesh's Guntur constituency with assets worth ₹ 5,705 crore, BJP's Konda Vishweshwar Reddy from Telangana's Chevella with total assets amounting to ₹ 4,568

crore and BJP's Naveen Jindal from Haryana's Kurukshetra with assets worth ₹ 1,241 crore. Out of the 543 winning candidates, 504 are millionaires, the analysis found. In 2019, 475 (88 per cent) winning candidates were millionaires and 443 (82 per cent) in 2014.

The trend indicates a steady climb since 2009 when only 315 (58 per cent) MPs were millionaires. According to the analysis, 227 (95 per cent) of the BJP's 240 winning candidates, 92 (93 per cent) of the Congress' 99, 21 (95 per cent) of the DMK's 22, 27 (93 per cent) of the



The analysis also provides a breakdown of wealth distribution among the winning candidates. The data showed that 42 per cent of the candidates possess assets totalling ₹ 10 crore and above.

While 19 per cent of the candidates fall within the bracket of ₹ 5 to 10 crore, 32 per cent hold assets ranging between ₹ 1 and 5 crore.

Only about 1 per cent of the winning candidates have assets worth less than ₹ 20 lakh. Among major parties, the average assets per winning candidate vary significantly. The TDP leads with an average of ₹ 442.26 crore per winner, followed by the BJP with ₹ 50.04 crore, the DMK with ₹ 31.22 crore, the Congress with ₹ 22.93 crore, TMC with ₹ 17.98 crore and SP with ₹ 15.24 crore.

The analysis also highlights disparities within the financial profiles of winning candidates. While some boast of substantial assets, others have relatively low worth. For instance, BJP's Jyotirmay Singh Mahato from West Bengal's Purulia has declared assets totalling a mere ₹ 5 lakh. Similarly, TMC's Mitali Bag from West Bengal's Arambag holds assets worth ₹ 7 lakh. Assets of SP's Priya Saroj from Uttar Pradesh's Machhlishahr are valued at ₹ 11 lakh. In addition, the analysis identifies candidates with high liabilities. TDP's Pemmasani tops the list with liabilities exceeding ₹ 1,038 crore. DMK's S Jagathratchakan from Tamil Nadu's Arakkonam has liabilities worth ₹ 649 crore and TDP's Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy from Andhra Pradesh's Nellore has liabilities worth ₹ 197 crore.

Calcutta High Court Expresses Concern Over Reports Of Post-Poll Violence

Kolkata (KCN): Expressing concern over alleged post-poll violence in certain areas of West Bengal following the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday issued a directive allowing affected people to submit complaints to the state's Director General of Police (DGP) via email.

The order came following a petition in the high court seeking direction to police to ensure protection to opposition party workers in the wake of

alleged post-poll violence in some places of the state following the elections. Stating that similar allegations had come up after the 2021 assembly elections, the court asked whether incidents of post-poll violence happened in any other state. Expressing dismay at reports of post-poll violence following the general elections, the court emphasised the state's responsibility to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The court instructed the DGP to provide a report within 10 days detailing



the number of alleged murder and crimes against women, including rape or attempted rape, related to post-election violence in West Bengal following the state assembly elections. PTI AMR RBT NN The bench, in response to PILs seeking an independent probe into alleged violence following the assembly elections, had also ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising three IPS officers of the West Bengal cadre to oversee investigations into all other cases.

World Environment Day is celebrated by Odisha NARI seva Sangha

Bhubaneswar, (KCN) Forestry is our life. In order for living beings to live on this earth, we have to take care of it. We have to take proper care of it, not only to plant it, but also to grow it. If we cannot stop the increase in temperature, this desert will turn over. Protecting the environment is not only the responsibility of the government. It is the responsibility of all of us. This global environment is currently available. Different types of fruit and flower trees have been planted by the



association members in the women's service garden. Sangha Hall secretary Manju Singh, organizing secretary Meera Beura, Executive Committee members Supriti Das, Kalyani Sahu, Pushpa Nayak, Gitashree Das planted various fruits and flowers like Jamu, chiku, guava, Mango, jasmine, Tulsi, Lemon etc. in the main garden.

Elephant Population On Rise



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The elephant population in the state has increased from 1976 counted in 2017 to 2098, as per the latest elephant census report released today. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda has released the report of All Odisha Elephant Census-2024 here at the State Wildlife Headquarters.

Shri Nanda has been instrumental in organizing a scientific census on elephants in 2024.

During the last seven years, the elephant population rose by 122 in the State due to proactive steps taken by the wildlife wing.

The estimation was conducted from May 22 to 24 following the traditional method of count by direct sighting. A total of 1214 machans were constructed in 1905

census units across the state. More than 5700 persons were engaged in the census exercise, Nanda said. Besides, wildlife enthusiasts, NGOs, research scholars, academicians have also participated in the census in addition to regular field staff and squad members. During the census, a total of 2098 elephants including 313 adult tuskers, 13 adult makhna, 748 adult female, 148 sub-adult male, 282 sub-adult female, 209 juvenile and 385 calves were counted in 48 forest divisions across 28 districts, the PCCF Shri Nanda said. During the last elephant census conducted in 2017, there were 1976 jumbos which comprises 212 adult tuskers, 10 adult makhna, 816 adult cow, 122 sub-adult male, 276 sub-adult female, 38 of unknown

sex, 203 juvenile and 299 calf, he said. Significant increase in the number is noticed in few divisions like Angul, Athgarh, Dhenkanal, Baripada, Chandaka, Khurda, Bonai and Keonjhar whereas decrease in number noticed in Similipal North, Similipal South, Balasore, Rairangpur, Bolangir and Parlakhemundi forest divisions.

Significant change in movement pattern of elephants is noticed in Angul, Rourkela and Baripada circles. However, no elephant was cited in 13 divisions, he said. There has been a substantial increase in the population of tuskers to the extent of 40 percent during the last seven years. This has resulted in a healthy ratio of adult male to females and also a significant number of young ones in the entire population, the PCCF

Shri Nanda further informed that the wild elephant deaths during the last five years have been within the range of 3 to 4.5 percent of the total population, the least being during the last financial year of 2023-24. It is estimated that 2100-2200 elephants use the Odisha forest during a year, as there is interstate migration from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. To know the maximum population using Odisha's landscape, another estimation is proposed to be carried out during 14 to 16 of November this year, coinciding with the migration from adjoining states during the kharif harvesting, he informed.



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Anushka Sen Set To Play An 'Assassin' In Her First Korean Film Called 'Asia'



Dil Dosti Dilemma actress Anushka Sen has a massive fan following on social media - all thanks to her presence in hit TV shows over the years. The actress is now venturing into new territory by taking on the role of an assassin in her upcoming international film, 'Asia'.

In a recent interview with Variety, Anushka Sen expressed her excitement about working on this global project. She stated, "It's an action thriller and it has people from

all over Asia, different countries, people are joining in for this big movie. And it's a global film. It's a K-film, and I'm really excited to be a part of it. We have shot the first schedule and we are now waiting for the second. I'm playing an assassin for the very first time." The actress also shared her admiration for Korean cinema and her desire to collaborate with the industry. She mentioned, "During COVID times when I would watch K-dramas they would

sensation Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar.

Celebrities are not holding back in commanding the

re markable performances of the

cast and crew and

Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar took a moment to

express her admiration,

including a special mention for Vedang Raina.

In a heartfelt message,

Katrina praised Vedang Raina, stating,

"@vedangraina reminds

you of the old

Hollywood stars."

Karan Johar

appreciated Vedang's

natural charm and said,

"@vedangraina as

Reggie walks the talk!

He oozes charm and

confidence in equal

measure and has that

movie star swag. Also

dances with unbashed

ease".

This accolade for

Vedang's debut proves

Vedang's star power on

screen and builds

anticipation for his

make me feel wholesome. And at that time, I would be just manifesting that Korea is in Asia and it will be so nice if we can collaborate with them... the way they're producing content, it's amazing and so inspiring. And in Indian cinema the way we show romance and family, there are a lot of similarities between Indian cinema and Korean cinema."

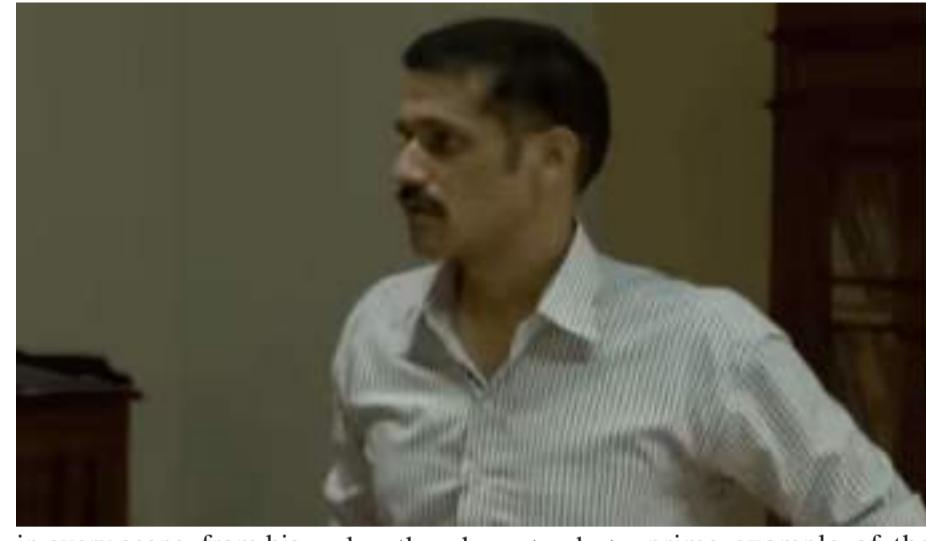
Anushka Sen has also been appointed as the honorary brand ambassador for Korean tourism.

performance. Vedang Raina not only mesmerises the audience with his on-screen presence but also lent his voice to a song in the movie adding an extra layer of depth to his already promising debut. Helmed by Zoya Akhtar, 'The Archies' also marks the debut of late Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, Shweta Bachchan and Nikhil Nanda's son Agastya.

Katrina Kaif, Karan Johar Praises 'The Archies' Actor Vedang Raina



Talvaar Turns 8: Revisiting Exceptional Performance Of Sohum Shah, Who Played Investigative Officer



As 'Talvaar' marks its 8th anniversary today, we can't help but recall on the exceptional performance of Sohum Shah, who portrayed the role of an investigative officer in this gripping crime drama. Despite his limited screen time, Shah managed to leave an indelible mark on the audience and industry alike, establishing himself as a true bonafide performer.

Sohum Shah has always been an actor who seamlessly embodies his

director's vision of the

character on screen.

With Meghna Gulzar's

direction in 'Talvaar', he

had the opportunity to delve deep into the psyche of his character. In doing so, he not only met but exceeded all expectations, delivering a performance that was widely praised by critics and audiences alike.

One of the key aspects of Shah's portrayal in 'Talvaar' was his ability to bring authenticity and depth to his character. As an investigative officer tasked with unraveling a complex murder case, he displayed a remarkable range of emotions and nuances, making the character feel real and relatable. His dedication

to his craft was evident

in every scene, from his meticulous attention to detail to his flawless execution of even the most challenging sequences, he didn't just

play the character but became the character.

The collaboration between Sohum Shah and Meghna Gulzar in 'Talvaar' also serves as a

prime example of the powerful synergy that can be achieved when a talented actor joins forces with a visionary director. The film's success can be

attributed, in large part, to Shah's outstanding performance, which breathed life into the character and added depth to the narrative. It's a testament to his dedication to his craft and his ability to elevate any project he's a part of.

Up next for Sohum Shah is his production venture 'CrazXy' and as he continues to take on new challenges and work with acclaimed directors, audiences can look forward to witnessing more exceptional performances from this talented artist.

Vijay Deverakonda Expresses Gratitude For 'Kushi' Success, Says 'Love Knows No Language'



Actor Vijay Deverakonda's latest release 'Kushi' with Samantha Ruth Prabhu successfully managed to strike a chord with people. The film, which performed well at the box office, is now streaming on OTT platform Netflix. On receiving audiences' love

for his role in 'Kushi', Vijay said, "We made 'Kushi' with the belief that love knows no language and emotions have no boundaries. Seeing the overwhelming love pour in again with its OTT release is incredibly gratifying. Whether you're watching it in

Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film marked Vijay and Samantha's second collaboration after 'Mahanati'. Earlier talking about working in the film, Vijay told ANI, "The whole experience of shooting it will be a very fond memory for life. The relationships I've formed with Samantha and Shiva, are the two people I spent the most time with, and shared a lot of memories and highs and lows with. I will always enjoy thinking about the making of this film..."

Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Kushi' hit the theatres on September 1 in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, or Hindi, I hope the film brings as much 'Kushi' to your hearts as it has to ours."

Meanwhile, in the

coming months, Vijay

will be seen in 'VD 12'.

The film is being

directed by 'Jersey'

fame Gowtam

Tinnanuri.

trip movie

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Virat Kohli – The Crème de la crème



ICC Men's T20 World cup in the U.S.A. and the Caribbean countries is underway. Since the 2011 triumph, India has only won one ICC multi nation tournament- the champions trophy in 2013. In every other tournament the team India has flattered to deceive. The team faltered when it mattered. The glaring example is the soul-crunching loss to the Australian side in the last year ODI final despite the consistent performance of the veterans like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and the pacer Mohammad Shami. It goes without saying, batters win the matches and bowlers win the tournament. ICC tournament can never be won with individual's performance. A collective effort is the sine qua non for winning the silverware and Team India is in the dire need of coveted trophy of 2024. At the outset of the

tournament, India seems to be the overwhelming favorite as Virat Kohli is at the helm. It's time to press the reset button, the panic button is never an option in high performance sports. There are larger goals, bigger picture, a responsibility and an opportunity- King Kohli tries to put things in perspective. This is a cricketer who brings with him the street fighter tendencies and being an authoritative stroke maker has often made batting against the best bowling attacks a child's play. Sometimes he attacks the bowlers as if there were no tomorrow. He is not a cuddly presence by any stretch of imagination. He is an all or nothing player, who is too much of an individual to fit in to mould that others have prepared for him. He displays a fullness of commitment to his chosen profession that even his worst detractors can't challenge. He is the orange cap holder in the recently concluded IPL though RCB did not qualify in the knock out



Bijaya Kumar Parhi

this is cricketer who turned his career around with personal sacrifice. He starved himself, changed his life style, punished his body till it was chiseled to a satisfactory fitness standard. He is cut from a different fabric who plays second fiddle to none. His reluctance to settle for anything mediocre makes him different. From his childhood he watched and idolized Sachin Tendulkar and learnt from him. He imbibed positives from all great cricketers. He bats like the brightest student of the class who excels in all subjects equally. The

would be always an air of bravado around Kohli's sportsmanship which acts like neighbors' envy, but owner's pride. As an immensely successful test captain Virat was never in favor of traditionally defensive approach. He chalked out a bold new road map which will continue to inspire in the days to come. Draw was not a part of Kohli's dictionary. What he believed in is – 'No game is played to lose or draw' and succinctly summed up his manifesto- 'work hard, train hard and play hard'. When the baton of test

captaincy changed from M.S. Dhoni to Kohli, he had the task cut out. What he said very often 'Carry the fight to the opposition whatever the cost and be hell bent on making an impression'. King Kohli's characteristics – his poise, confidence, swagger, resourcefulness and the ability to transfuse his often-uncanny energy into the team at the times of crises are just peerless. He maintained his flair, gumption and steeliness throughout test captaincy and played his cards close to his chest.

Kohli, the nonpareil, whose first love is test cricket, but whose game is perfectly mordellid for ODIs, got to the coveted land mark of 50 ODI centuries to surpass the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's mark of 49 against New Zealand against Wankhede on 15 November 2023. It's not an overstatement that Kohli can hardly afford to be complacent. He could not have chosen a better moment to rise to the cricketing

immortality and surpass Tendulkar's tally of 49. At the presentation ceremony, Virat spoke "The great man just congratulated me. All this for me feels like a dream. It's surreal, it's too good to be true. I never felt that I will come here in my career. It's a semifinal. I'm just glad that everything came together". In fact it's a fitting tribute to his skills, resilience and resolve. Virat's philosophy is – tough things might seem; you need to keep looking for solutions instead being bogged by the problems. God of Indian cricket said '..... but soon you touched my heart with your passion and skill. I am so happy that young boy has grown into a Virat player. I could not be happier than an Indian broke my record. And to do it on the biggest stage- in the world cup semifinal- and at my home ground is the icing on the cake'. Similarly, the stunning, match winning knock against Pakistan in the last T20 is a reminder that India's best all format batter retains his sense of occasion. At the end of the game Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was asked how his team could let slip the advantage in this manner. He replied with frustration- don't forget who was in the crease. He was the batter whose master class is never questioned". It's not so much about the skill that he has , but

more about the hunger and the intensity with which he plays.

Domination is defined in English dictionary as power or control over other people or things and Virat Kohli typifies it in the world cricket. He has built lofty castles in the white ball format over the last decade and a half, but now he is in the evening of his career and the younger players need to carry forward his legacy. In such a juncture he is ageing like a fine wine and writing his own script. This T20 World cup may truly mark the end of an era and the next generation players remember the formidable, intimidating world class batter, the chest thumping persona Kohli, who changed the Indian cricket once and for all. Sachin and Messy will be remembered as players who departed with no unfinished business. Not for nothing Vivian Richards, Sachin and Virat can be categorized in that echelon as each one has defined their respective generations with their peerless contribution. If Virat carries the same momentum of the IPL-2024, T20 World cup will adorn the BCCI cabinet. Mountains look

beautiful, but dangers lurk within. Team India needs the rub of the green to get the coveted world cup trophy.

An amateur cricket reviewer
Ph. 7894153578

RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

Dr. Arundhati Devi



express our relationship to specific feelings, persons, issues, problem and so on. Are these trends, the result of our perceptions going through prism of preconceptions with which we see nature? Or are these the result of real damage to human and environment relationship? Or are these a manifestation of concerned caution or candid confessions or hyper reactions? It may be the result of all of the above or any of the above.

Though for all of us, at least, the word 'environment' denotes either the whole or some aspect of nature. Ronald Harvey in his book 'Our Fragmented World' write, "The influence of environment begins long before birth. It begins at the beginning, with our genes. Genes do not exist in vacuo. They are part of their environment as we are to our world. They are as it were 'sewn into' their



[circle] i.e. things that "environ" us, that encircle or surround us. So originally the whole of nature before human species made different enclosures.

So, it is human nature to look up to nature but humane culture to look after nature. Slogans appeal to everyone than sermons or scientific facts. In the course of evolution, everything and everyone interacted either consciously or otherwise either with or without the awareness that everything and everyone are interconnected. Vagaries of nature and vicissitudes of human life

have both contributed to changes to the environment.

Ancient traditions wonder at nature; some religions worshiped nature; civilization made man work and use it for his comforts; modern technological and economic advancement excessively use it. In the process of evolution human beings realized that while mentally mighty they were physically weak so to live acclimatizing in naked nature was becoming difficult. Therefore, he started using the natural resources for his shelter, security, comfort etc. Human population explosion and the concomitant need and greed made him overuse nature and this has led to an imbalance in the relationship between humans and environment. This must be and can be rectified by various means or when everything else

fails nature takes care. At the same time resorting to extremism like objecting to every human, or economic growth related activity in the name of environment protection is hypocritical because those who protest must stop using paper, stop living inside houses, stop cooking, stop using any gadget, stop plucking vegetables and fruits as all these also are uses of natural resources; stop talking because that harms many tiny microbes. We must realize human species has to be in a perennial relationship with the whole of environment. So, instead of advocating a late divorce or ill treatment we must adopt the best possible means of improving our relationship with nature.

Director & Secretary,
International
Indency
Prevention
Movement,
Odisha, Cuttack,
Mob. : 9937172810

Letter to Editor

Dear sir,
Rise of Regional Forces

The 18th Lok Sabha elections reveal a nation loyal to democracy and its core principles, rejecting divisive ideologies. While craving stability, voters won't tolerate intolerance or hate-driven agendas. Despite BJP's ambition, they fell short of an absolute majority, signaling a shift in political dynamics. The BJP's "Congress-free India" vision contrasts with the Opposition's resurgence, led by regional parties. Understanding grassroots realities, not just rhetoric, is vital for electoral success. Regional parties, sidelined in recent years, now play pivotal roles, ensuring diversity in governance. The election outcome discredits exit polls and reinforces faith in electronic voting machines, though electoral processes demand improvement.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka

Protecting Our Planet: World Environment Day celebrated in Howrah

Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu):

Basu: An interactive educational session on Environmental Issues was organized by a local NGO, Howrah Suparna at Ramrajatola, Howrah district, entitled: "Protecting Our Planet: An Interactive Session on Environmental Issues" to celebrate the World Environment Day on June 5, 2024. The audience included students from local schools and general public. The welcome address and overview of the session's goals as well as brief introduction of the facilitators and the importance of environmental awareness was delivered by the General Secretary, Prof (Dr.) Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee. As an Icebreaker Activity, a quick poll or question: "What is the most pressing environmental issue to you?" The active audience shared a few responses to set the tone. Saikat Kumar Basu made a presentation on key environmental issues entitled: 'Global Warming and Climate Change'. The staff members of Howrah Suparna then initiated a series of interactive sessions with the participating audience as: 1. Causes and effects of Climate Change with real-world examples (e.g., melting ice caps, extreme weather).

2. Pollution: Types (air, water, soil, noise).

Health impacts and statistics.

3. Deforestation and Loss of Biodiversity-

Causes and consequences

highlighting the importance of forests and species diversity.

4. Waste Management

with respect to plastic pollution: Recycling and sustainable practices.

The interactive discussion was followed by engaging the audience in the Community Mapping Activity. The audience was next divided into small groups. Each group identified important local environmental problems and shared their collective findings with the entire group facilitating discussions among them. Discussion on common themes from the mapping activity was encouraged to share personal experiences and observations of the audience. A Hands-On Activity on environmental solutions on Creating Eco-Friendly Products. The staff demonstrated how to make environment-friendly cleaning products, reusable bags, or planters from recycled materials. The



staff provided materials and guide participants in making their own. Several interactive stations were set up to promote activities like composting, upcycling old items, and energy-saving tips. Local environmental experts and activists invited to the program shared their brief talk on their work and insights. An open floor for questions from participants was encouraged for the audience. Howrah Suparna staff guided participants to write down three actionable steps they can take to reduce their environmental impact. Participants signed a pledge wall committing to specific actions. A final

recap of the session was conducted highlighting the key points and activities and by extending thanks to participants for their involvement and resource persons for providing their help to execute the program. Handouts with tips, local recycling centers, environmental organizations, list of useful websites and environmental brochures and booklets for further reading was provided to the audience. Feedback was collected from the participants through a quick survey. Announcements for upcoming events or ways to stay involved was mentioned. Lastly, a networking and

informal discussion was initiated for participants to mingle, discuss, and network with each other and the facilitators. A structured yet flexible framework for an engaging and educational session on environmental issues, promoting both awareness and actionable solutions was thus achieved through this program conducted by Howrah Suparna. A summary of some important environment-friendly practices suggested by the people participating in the program that can be incorporated into their daily lives are thus presented below:

1.

Reduce,

Reuse,

Recycle

Reduce: Minimize waste

by buying products with less packaging, avoiding single-use plastics, and choosing durable goods. Reuse: Opt for reusable items like water bottles, shopping bags, and food containers. Recycle: Properly sort and dispose of recyclables like paper, glass, and certain plastics.

2.

Conserve

Water

Shorter Showers: Limit shower time to save water.

Fix Leaks: Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets.

Use Water-Efficient

Fixtures: Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.

3.

Save

Energy

Switch to LEDs: Use LED bulbs instead of incandescent ones.

4.

Sustainable

Transportation

Public Transport: Use buses, trains, or other public transportation options.

Carpooling: Share rides with others to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Cycling and Walking: Opt for biking or walking for short distances.

5.

Eco-Friendly

Eating

Habits

Plant-Based

Diet:

Incorporate more plant-based meals to reduce carbon footprint.

6.

Green

Home

Practices

Energy

Audits: Conduct

an energy audit to identify

areas for improvement.

7.

Conscious

Consumption

Sustainable

Products:

Choose

products made

from

sustainable

materials.

Eco-Friendly

Brands:

Support

companies with

strong

environmental

polices.

Minimalism:

Practice

minimalism

by buying only

what

you

need.

8.

Gardening

and

Green

Spaces

Home

Gardening:

Grow

your

own

vegetables,

herbs,

and

plants.

Native

Plants:

Use

native

plants

in

your

garden

to

support

local

wildlife

and

reduce

water

usage.

Community

Involvement:

Participate

in

community

clean-up

events

and

tree

planting.

9.

Educate

and

Advocate

Stay

Informed:

Keep

up-to-date

with

environmental

issues

and

solutions.

Spread

Awareness:

Share

knowledge

with

friends,

family,

and

your

community.

Advocate

for

Change:

Support

policies

and

initiatives

that

promote

sustainability.

These

practices

can

be

introduced

in

your

session

through

engaging

activities,

discussions,

and

demonstrations.

Providing

practical

tips

and

examples

will

help

participants

understand

how

they

can

implement

these

changes

in

their

daily

lives.

'IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR FATHER'-BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S OPEN LETTER TO HIS LATE FATHER DR.NITYANANDA CHAKRABORTY



Construction of Mantei bridge begins

Basudevpur(KCN): After initial hiccups, construction of a bridge on Mantei River in Bhadrak district got off to a kick start spreading cheer among the local residents, sources said Wednesday. The bridge on the Mantei river, which flows through Basudevpur, Chandbali and Tihidi blocks in Bhadrak district, will benefit lakhs of residents of these three blocks when completed. It will ensure direct connectivity between Bhadrak, Balasore and Kendrapara districts and reduce the distance between these places. Notably, Mantei River has a fond memory linked

to Mahatma Gandhi as he crossed the river on a boat and visited Charbatia village in 1927. The bridge will be constructed at an expense of Rs 60 crore by a private consultancy agency Bekem Infra Projects Private Ltd. Basudevpur block lies on one side of the river while Tihidi and Chandbali blocks are on the opposite side. The river has been termed as the sorrow of the people here as travelling by boats across this river was a risky proposition due to presence of crocodiles in the water body. Several lives have also been lost in the past to boat mishaps in the river. Realising the problems, caretaker Chief



Minister Naveen Patnaik had given a green signal for the construction of a bridge on the river in public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

As the river was under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the state government had floated tenders for over 10 times

but none of the consultancy agencies were able to take up its construction due to a host of reasons. The bottlenecks in construction of a bridge on the river were removed after Union

Minister Nitin Gadkari and former Basudevpur MLA late Bijayshree Routray stepped in. The two made consistent efforts and removed all the bottlenecks that were hindering the construction of the bridge. Routray's son and former Basudevpur MLA Bishnubrata Routray also continued his father's efforts. As a result, the foundation stone for the bridge was laid at Karanjadia in Charbatia, three months back.

In the absence of a bridge, scores of people along with their vehicles cross this river daily by boats endangering their lives to reach their destinations. Balimeda panchayat of Basudevpur block manages the river ghat for one year while Tihidi block does it in the next year. Similarly, hundreds of people also travel from Karanjadia River ghat to their destinations by holding onto a rope of the country boat. Here also, Karanjadia panchayat and Chandbali block alternatively manage the ghat for one year each. While several boat mishaps in the past have claimed the lives of many, the river is infested by crocodiles making it even more dangerous

Missing Malkangiri doctor safe, traced to Karnataka

Malkangiri / Kalimela(KCN): Days after a doctor of Kalimela community health centre (CHC) in Malkangiri district went missing from his official quarters, police have traced him to Karnataka, sources said Wednesday. The government doctor was suspected to have been kidnapped by Maoists. "He has been traced and is safe and sound. The mystery surrounding his disappearance will be clear once the police team arrives with him," Malkangiri SP Nitish Badhwani said Wednesday. Meanwhile, a team comprising district police personnel have left for Karnataka to bring him back to the district. The missing physician was identified



as Dr Amlan Bhoi, a doctor posted at the Kalimela CHC in the Malkangiri district. He went missing from his official residence, June 1, Friday. He had attended hospital duty and returned to his official residence in the afternoon on the fateful day. However, he was found missing from his residence the next

morning, the SP said. Based on a complaint filed by the CHC authorities, Kalimela police launched an investigation and launched a manhunt for Bhoi. During probe, a letter purportedly written by Maoists in English and some posters were found at his residence along with one of his mobile phones. However, Malkangiri

3 killed, 12 injured as trailer rams into vehicles on NH-49



Keonjhar(KCN): At least three persons were killed and 12 others were injured in a series of accidents that took place on National Highway-49 under Sadar police limits of Keonjhar district. The deadly mishap occurred after a speeding trailer truck ploughed into several bikes, cars and auto rickshaws plying on the NH, Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Kusa Behera, 36, of Upper Kaipur area under Town police limits and Khageswar Behera, 28, of the same area. Another deceased, a scrap trader in Nayagarh district, is yet

to be identified. While two died on the spot, injured Khageswar succumbed on the way while being rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The rest of the injured were admitted to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, of whom one was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital after his health condition deteriorated. The mishap took place Wednesday at about 11 am in between Thakurdihi and Putulupani Chhak under Sadar police station limits. The mishap occurred when a

Kolkata-bound trailer truck from Mumbai first hit a moped killing the rider on the spot. The deceased, a scrap trader in the Nayagarh area, was yet to be identified. The trailer then collided with a bike killing one more on the spot while rendering another person critical. According to sources, the accident took place when the trailer truck tried to overtake trucks parked in a long queue on the national highway. The vehicle further rammed into two cars and one auto-rickshaw, injuring 12 persons on board. Sadar police station IIC Trinath



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Empowering Resilience: Parna Mehta's Journey from Career Break to AWS, Inspiring Inclusion and Transformation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Women are the embodiment of remarkable strength, juggling responsibilities at home, and thriving in their professional endeavours. They navigate the complexities of modern life with grace, carving their own unique paths to success. Their remarkable journeys serve as evidence of their adeptness at overcoming the obstacles of contemporary life and carving out distinctive paths towards success. To commemorate International Women's Day, the 'She Is Amazon' drive by Amazon under the theme of 'Inspire Inclusion' celebrates women who demonstrate resilience by forging their own unique identities while balancing

home and personal responsibilities. One such example is Parna Mehta, born and raised in Mumbai, who embarked on her career in the IT industry after graduating as a computer engineer in 2002. For over six years, she honed her skills in various software development roles across India, the UK, and Australia, then Parna opted for a career break that spanned almost 12 years as she chose to prioritize family and dedicated herself to raising her two sons. With an arising need to be financially independent, Parna decided to re-join the workforce. Returning to the workforce after such a long hiatus presented significant challenges. Her once-advanced skills had

become outdated, and the lack of readily available flexible work options seemed insurmountable. Yet, Parna refused to be discouraged. She started working part-time, teaching coding, and designing curriculum for kids, a testament to her ability to adapt and pivot. Never one to shy away from learning, Parna actively sought opportunities to upskill. She participated in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) re/Start, a 12-weeks full-time development training program that prepares individuals for careers in the cloud and connects them to potential employers. This was a crucial step in her journey towards cloud computing. This decision not only rekindled her passion for technology but also opened doors to

the world of cloud expertise. With unwavering determination, she earned multiple AWS certifications, including the highly sought-after AWS Certified Solution Architect Associate supported by the SheBuilds program designed to create an inclusive and supportive environment for technical skills development.

Speaking about her experience, Parna shares, "The flexibility and support offered by AWS have been instrumental in my professional growth. Programs like AWS re/Start and SheBuilds played a vital role in equipping me with the necessary skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce." Parna's ambition transcended acquiring

technical expertise. She wanted to empower others, especially women who, like her, sought to re-enter the workforce. Becoming a mentor, Parna actively involved herself in AWS programs like CloudUp for Her, Tech4Her, and BeSA, guiding and supporting aspiring women re-starters. "I appreciate the opportunity to inspire and empower other

women through mentorship and share my knowledge through training." In late 2022, Parna's dedication and perseverance paid off. She landed her dream role as an Authorized Instructor at AWS. Today, she trains customers, sharing her knowledge and passion for cloud technology. This success not only marks a personal

triumph but also embodies the transformative power of Amazon's initiatives like re/Start and SheBuilds, which have been instrumental in empowering individuals like Parna to redefine their careers. Her story, a remarkable example of resilience and reinvention, was featured in the book "Cloud Career Journeys," further inspiring countless individuals.

TPSODL Bags Best Innovation Project Award for 'Press Fit Fuse'

Berhampur, March: TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited) received the "Best Innovation Project" in Innovation Council-2023 in Mumbai for Designing and implementing of 'Press Fit Fuse'. This Patented Safety Innovation Project, "Press Fit Fuse," was implemented at various DSS (Distribution Substations) at TPSODL to eliminate electrical accidents and ensure utmost safety. The award was received by Mr. Sushil Panigrahi, Head, Safety, TPSODL from Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief Sustainability, and CSR, TATA Power during the Annual Award Ceremony.

Earlier, in the case of a burnt fuse, linemen replaced it by climbing up to the HG fuse structure physically. Despite safety zones created surrounding the electrical structure, accident cases



kept occurring from time to time. Also, a longer time was required while replacing a faulty fuse. To tackle this traditional fuse and method of replacing the fuse, TPSODL developed the Press Fit Fuse. It works on press-fit principles,

which can be replaced in a comparatively easier way standing from ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the newly developed fuse. This innovation ensures

quick fuse replacement and outage restoration in a safe manner. Additionally, it is cost-effective and safe. One skilled person can replace the faulty fuse in minimal time and effort without climbing to the heights. It is noteworthy

that this Press Fit Fuse was developed along with Govt. ITI College, Berhampur, with required technical and resource support from the TPSODL Safety and Operation team. It is jointly patented by TPSODL and Govt. ITI Berhampur.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the high-quality product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLIV, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education.

As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Pioneering eco-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country's largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and lightweight stainless steel

Pitch not perfect: India cop bruises in straightforward win

New Delhi: India emerged from their opening match against Ireland unscathed, and that must go down as some achievement. In conditions that were dangerous to say the least, they also managed to land a few punches in the faces of the opposition. It was an easy, albeit painful, start to their World Cup campaign.

The conditions were eminently conducive for players to get hurt. The clouds rolled in and below them the pitch offered dangerously spongy, tennis ball bounce and seam movement. That the Indian batters managed to survive the testing batting environment was a feat in itself. All players, including Rohit Sharma, who had to retire hurt after taking a blow on his shoulder,

were declared safe. A win - after bowling out Ireland for 96 - was in order anyway but for Indian batters, it was a labourious path to victory. The batters had to take hits to their arms, shoulders, fingers and occasionally on the helmet too. The team management was relieved that all batters were still available for the big game, against Pakistan, here four days later. "Everybody is fit and they are looking good," said Vikram Rathour, the batting coach.

For two consecutive games, the team batting first failed to cross 100 runs, with the bowlers dominating the bat with exceptional authority. They were not ideal T20 conditions and post match, there were, quite predictably, questions if the pitch was a minefield. And if it holds to type, the

challenge will only get exacerbated against Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, and Mohammad Amir.

The most difficult part of the batting was facing the new ball. It came with a statutory safety warning. By the 10th over of the Ireland innings, half of Ireland's line-up was back in the hut. India would be advised to be tactical about their back-end batting as hazards are plenty for the wickets to fall in a heap upfront.

Against a not-too-formidable Ireland batting, the rampaging Indian bowlers exploited the conditions perfectly after their skipper did them a favour by calling it right at the toss. Arshdeep Singh scythed through the top border up front with a couple of scalps and Hardik Pandya ran through the middle order with 3 for 27 but the most



lethal of them all was Jasprit Bumrah. His short ball to Harry Tector, which became unplayable because of the bounce of the wicket, was the delivery of the match. The ball reared up at pace to smash into Tector's gloves on its way to the helmet before ballooning away to the off-side for a simple catch.

"Yeah, look, Mike Tyson said any game plan change, you get punched in the face, and I think there was some serious bowling out there. I think they've got three or four serious quick bowlers which we've seen over a period of time who can perform at this level and look, we communicated well. But it's one thing talking about it and another thing executing it under pressure when you think. The first time we took some catches today was when the guys were warming up. So, look, it's not ideal, but that's not an excuse. It is what it is," Malan confessed.

Bumrah ended up with ridiculously incredible figures of 2 for 6. "Coming from India, with the ball seaming around, I wouldn't complain when

there's help for the bowlers. In this format you have to adapt to the conditions, you have to be proactive. I tried to stick to the plans and go back to what has worked for me. You always want to cover all the bases in these conditions," the India spearhead said.

While the Indian team had the luxury of playing a warm-up game here, Ireland were stepping into the ground for the first time on Thursday and then had to face a red-hot attack rightaway.

"It's obviously not ideal when you think. The first time we took some catches today was when the guys were warming up. So, look, it's not ideal, but that's not an excuse. It is what it is," Malan said.

India's pursuit of 97 could have been easy on another pitch and at another venue but on the minefield of a surface, it

required careful handling, something Rohit Sharma (52 retired hurt off 37 deliveries) did. Where Rohit survived a few false shots, Kohli fell trying to stay true to his new ultra-aggressive style in the PowerPlay and charged out to meet a short of good length delivery and only managed an edge with his attempted loft over extra cover that landed in third man's grasp.

Rohit, on the other hand, survived the new ball and then unleashed his inimitable pulls and hooks. He was not in a hurry to exploit the restricted field. Kohli's wicket could be an eye-opener for the Indians that it is easier to hit behind square at the start and they could be wiser from the experience when they come face to face against Shaheen Afridi & Co.

Lauren Down returns to NZ team for England tour

New Delhi: Lauren Down has returned to the New Zealand women's team after having taken a break from cricket to become a first-time mother. Down, who last played in the T20 World Cup in February 2023, has been included in the one-day squad for New Zealand's upcoming tour of England. Mikaela Greig has been included in the squad for both the ODI and T20I games while pacer Molly Penfold, who did well against England A earlier this year, also features in both formats.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Rosemary Mair has been ruled out of the series due to a back issue that had forced her exclusion from the ODI series against England in April. Hayley Jensen was also not considered for selection as she is undergoing rehabilitation for a calf injury. Lea Tahuhu, who



will be in New Zealand for the birth of her second child, will join the squad for the T20I series.

New Zealand squad: Sophie Devine (c), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Lauren Down (ODIs), Izzy Gaze (wk), Maddy Green, Mikaela Greig, Brooke Halliday, Fran Jonas, Leigh Kasperek (T20Is), Jess Kerr, Melie

Kerr, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuhu (T20Is).

"We're really pleased to have Lauren back in the WHITE FERNS," said head coach Ben Sawyer. "She's been working hard over the past four months to get herself into a position where she feels confident to play, and this

tour feels like the right time to bring her back into the fold. Every series is an opportunity to test what our best playing XI looks like, and with T20 and One Day World Cups looming it will be good to see where Lauren and Mikaela could fit in.

"The players have spent the past six weeks training

incredibly hard and we've

been ticking all the boxes that we can, to get ready. When we faced England at home we didn't get the results we were after but we did see gutsy performances from a range of players, which was really promising. Anytime you play a world-class team like England in their own backyard it's going to be a challenge. But with the work that's been put in, we've got ourselves into the best position possible to succeed," added Sawyer. The series gets underway in late June with the ODI leg. The three 50-over matches will be played on June 26, June 30 and July 3 in Durham, Worcester and Bristol respectively. This will be followed by five T20Is - July 6 (Southampton), July 9 (Hove), July 11 (Canterbury), July 13 (The Oval) and July 17 (Lord's).

Uganda recovered from a crushing 125-run loss to Afghanistan to bounce back and beat PNG for the first time in their T20 cricket history. Captain Brian Masaba was fittingly in the middle when the winning runs were hit.

Uganda huffed and puffed to the target as they lost 7 wickets and got past the finish line only in the 19th over. Getting to the World Cup was special, but this is more special," captain Brian Masaba said.

Uganda won the toss and opted to field in Guyana on Thursday. In the very first over of the match, PNG lost their captain Assad Vala for 0 to Alpesh Ramjani.

PNG were reeling at 19 for 3 in the powerplay as Cosmas Kyewula and Juma Miyagi joined the party, dismissing Tony Ura and Sese Bau, respectively.

Hiri was the only man who showed some resistance as he top-scored with 15 for PNG. In fact, only three batters (Hiri, Laga Siaka and Kilpin Doriga) went past the 10-run mark for PNG. Left-arm orthodox bowler Frank Nsubuga scripted history as he bowled the most economical spell in the history of the men's T20 World Cup. The left-arm spinner picked up 2 wickets and conceded just 4 runs in his four-over spell.

Hardik Pandya finds form with 'special' motivation and urge to perform for pride

New Delhi: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya bowled a superb spell on his comeback to the Indian team. Hardik Pandya, who looked terrible in the IPL 2024 spoke about the special motivation of playing for his country.

India vice-captain Hardik Pandya played his first match in national colours since his injury in the ODI World Cup 2023. Pandya, who was injured while bowling against Bangladesh, was out of the national side for several months. The all-rounder made a thundering comeback in the T20 World Cup, with a statement spell against Ireland.

Pandya picked up 3 wickets in the match, giving away just 27 runs from his four overs. In the

tournament. Pandya went into a shell and simply smiled his way through whenever he was in front of the camera. However, there were some moments where Pandya could be seen sitting on his haunches, burying his face, trying to shut everything out.

That seems to be a distant dream for Pandya now. Speaking at the mid-innings interview during the India vs Ireland game, Pandya explained how he made the turnaround. The all-rounder admitted to having found extra motivation in playing for his country and the urge to prove himself once again.

"Always special to play for the country, always good to play for pride. I have been able to contribute in the World

Cups, God has been kind," Pandya told the broadcaster during the match.

On the day, Hardik Pandya's first wicket came just outside the powerplay in the 7th over of the match. Pandya bowled a lovely inswinger to Lorcan Tucker which sneaked through the batter's defence to crash into his stumps. The India vice-captain's second wicket was against Curtis Campher in the 9th over. Pandya bowled an outswinger, that nipped away from the off stump, kissing the outside edge of the bat. Pandya's final wicket was against Mark Adair in the 11th over, where the lower-order batter skied a short ball to Shiva Dube, running in towards point from the

outfield.

Pandya was really happy with his effort in the match and said that he thought that his first wicket was really special.

"I really liked the first wicket, don't hit the stumps often as I usually bowl short of a length. I needed to be fuller than back of a length today. On this kind of surface, you need to be disciplined and hit the right areas. It's always fantastic to see the crowd, we Indians are everywhere, we rule the world, good to have their support," Pandya further added.

Pandya's spell helped India bundle out Ireland for just 96 runs, which they later chased down with 8 wickets remaining at the Nassau County Stadium in New York.

