

SC turns down pleas for court-monitored SIT probe into electoral bonds scheme



New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court Friday turned down a batch of pleas seeking a court-monitored investigation into the electoral bonds scheme. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said it would be inappropriate and

premature to intervene at this stage under Article 32 of the constitution. The top court said it cannot order a roving inquiry into purchase of electoral bonds on the assumption that it was quid pro quo for award of contract. "The court entertained petitions challenging

electoral bonds since there was an aspect of judicial review. But the cases involving criminal wrongdoing should not be under Article 32 when there are remedies available under the law," the bench said.

The top court was hearing pleas filed by NGOs — Common Cause and the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) and others. The PIL of the two NGOs alleges an "apparent quid pro quo" between political parties, corporations, and investigative agencies under the garb of the scheme.

HC transfers probe into Delhi coaching centre deaths to CBI



New Delhi(KCN): The Delhi High Court Friday transferred the probe into the drowning of three civil services aspirants at the basement of a coaching centre here from Delhi Police to the CBI "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation". A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan asked the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to appoint a senior officer to oversee the probe by the CBI in the criminal case.

"Having regard to the nature of the incident and to ensure that the public has no doubt with regards to investigation, this court transfers the probe to the CBI," the

court said.

It castigated the police and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the drowning incident, saying it was unable to fathom how the students could not come out and sought to know whether the doors were blocked or staircases narrow.

The bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, said administratively Delhi has a multiplicity of authorities which are only passing the buck and doing nothing.

The public perception is that civic authorities are inefficient, the bench said.

It said physical infrastructure in Delhi is nearly 75-year-old and they are not only

at Delhi's administrative, financial and physical infrastructure, the bench said and formed a committee headed by the chief secretary to deal with the issue.

Slamming the police, the high court said, "Mercifully, you have not challaned rainwater for entering into the basement, the way you arrested the SUV driver for driving his car there." Manuj Kathuria was accused of driving his SUV through the street that was flooded by rainwater on July 27, causing the water to swell and breach the gates of the three-storey building housing the coaching centre and inundate the basement, where the three students were killed.

Vigilance detects 85 plots in possession of senior engineer in Odisha



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha's anti-corruption vigilance team Friday uncovered assets worth crores of rupees owned by a high-ranking engineer, including 85 plots, a gold biscuit and other valuables. The case marks the third instance in a series involving senior officials with substantial landholdings. In the past week, the anti-corruption wing had detected 52 plots owned by an excise department official and 34 plots held by another senior engineer and his family.

In a statement, the Vigilance Department in a statement said their sleuths uncovered a market complex, a five-storey building, and 85

plots — including one in West Bengal — along with 218 grams of gold, including a gold biscuit, and cash amounting to Rs 11.7 lakh in the possession of Pravas Kumar Pradhan, chief construction engineer of Anandpur Barrage Division in Salapada, Keonjhar.

"The plots were purchased by Pradhan in different years in his name as well as in names of his family members.

The total registered sale deed value comes to over Rs 2 crore. However, the actual value is likely to be higher, which is being verified," the statement added.

This apart, officials said bank, postal, insurance

and other deposits are also being ascertained and searches were continuing. Earlier this week, Rama Chandra Mishra, joint commissioner of excise, was arrested on charges of amassing assets disproportionate to known source of income. He was found in possession of 52 plots apart from six multi-storey buildings and two apartments.

In another incident, the vigilance had detected 34 plots of land including one at Mathura in Uttar Pradesh and one farmhouse spread over eight acres in possession of one Sunil Kumar Rout, chief construction engineer of Lower Suktel Project, Bolangir.

Renowned Mountaineer Bibharani Patra Meets CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Renowned mountaineer Bibharani Patra met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhavan today, where she received blessings for her forthcoming mountaineering endeavour.

She is set to embark on her journey to scale Mount Elbrus, the tallest mountain in Russia and Europe, on August 6. The event was also graced by the



presence of Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Health.

During the event, the Chief Minister honoured Bibharani and wished her a triumphant climb. He expressed that her courage serves as a profound inspiration to the youth. He further stated that her successful ascent of Europe and Russia's highest summits would undoubtedly bring honour to both her and the state.

Notably, Bibharani hails from Meramundai near Talcher and has previously scaled Mount Stok Kangri in Leh Ladakh in 2019 and Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa in 2023. Additionally, she was recognized as the Abu Dhabi International Youth Leader in 2019 and has been the recipient of numerous national and international accolades.

Low Pressure Forms Over Gangetic West Bengal; Heavy Rains Predicted in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported that the cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and adjacent Jharkhand has intensified into a low-pressure area.

The system, extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level, is expected to move west-northwestwards and become more pronounced in the next 24 hours.

Odisha, which has already experienced several wet spells, is predicted to face heavy

to very heavy rainfall in the coming days due to this system. A heavy rainfall alert has been issued for certain areas in the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Deogarh, and Bargarh over the next 24 hours. Additionally, widespread light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning is likely over the next five days. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra has indicated that the system will significantly affect Odisha, with many regions expecting heavy

to very heavy rainfall. He also forecasted extreme rainfall for today and tomorrow. Moreover, eastern Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are also set to experience similar weather conditions.

Despite the heavy rainfall predictions, Mr Mohapatra expressed optimism regarding the flood situation in Odisha, noting that even though some areas may receive up to 20cm of rain, the northern parts of the state have had less rainfall, reducing the likelihood of floods.

Mother-Son Duo Electrocuted to Death in Odisha's Koraput

Koraput(KCN):

A woman and her son were electrocuted to death at Jayantigiri village under Borriguma block in Koraput district on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Duryodhan Amanyata and his mother Rama. According to reports, Duryodhan was

electrocuted while attempting to retrieve his towel from a wire within his residential premises. His mother, Rama, intervened to rescue him and was also electrocuted.

Duryodhan's wife and mother-in-law, who were also impacted by the electric shock, survived the incident.

Rama and Duryodhan were subsequently transported to the District Headquarters Hospital, where they were pronounced dead by the attending physician.

Hockey: India stun Australia, register first win in 52 years in Olympics



Paris(KCN): Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as the India men's hockey team registered a famous 3-2 win over Tokyo Games silver medallist and nemesis Australia in its final Pool B match here Friday.

Already assured of a quarterfinal berth before Friday's encounter, the Indians played valiantly and dominated the proceedings for major part of the match to stun the Kookaburras, against whom they last won in Olympics in the 1972 Munich edition. It seemed India had

saved their best for their last pool match, as it delivered a power-packed performance, playing attacking hockey from the beginning, and defending well throughout.

Abhishek (12th), skipper Harmanpreet (13th, 33rd) scored for India while Tom Craig (25th) and Blake Govers (55) found the net for Australia.

With this win, India most likely will finish their pool engagements in the second position with nine points, finishing behind table toppers Belgium (12), who are yet to play

a match. The pole position will not change even if Belgium loses its match against Argentina. The goal difference after that match will determine the final placing.

The Indians started on an aggressive note and made two circle entries in the first two minutes. Veteran India custodian PR Sreejesh, who is playing his last international tournament,

in a penalty corner. But the resultant effort from Jeremy Hayward was off target.

Jarmanpreet Singh then fired a pass to Sukhjeet Singh from the right flank. He just needed to deflect the ball but he could not stop the powerful strike. The strong Australian defence easily foiled his attempt by the time he gathered the ball and was ready to strike.

Australia created two b a c k - t o - b a c k opportunities, but the Indian defence was rock solid.

India stunned Australia by taking the lead

through Abhishek in the 12th minute. It was Lalit, who received a pass in an empty D, he attempted a shot but that was saved by goalie Andrew Charter. Abhishek got the ball on rebound, turned, and hammered the it past rival goalkeeper Andrew Charter.

A minute later, India got a penalty corner when the ball touched the foot of Jake Harvie and Harmanpreet beat Charter's defence with fierce grounded flick. Tim Brand had an opportunity to reduce the deficit early in the

second quarter but he struck the ball wide. Australia earned their second penalty corner of the match in the 19th minute but Govers' shot was blocked Sreejesh. Vice-captain Hardik Singh was a livewire in the mid-field, feeding the forwards consistently. Australia got their third short corner in the 25th minute. It was a poor injection from skipper Aran Zalewski but it turned into a goal as the Australians recovered quickly to pass it to an unmarked Craig at the second post, who deflected the ball in.

Wayanad's landslide tragedy a price for unchecked tourism?

New Delhi: Tourism accounts for 10% of Kerala's economy. The state has promoted itself as a tourist destination, which has resulted in rising footfalls over the years. Wayanad, too, saw rampant construction of buildings and resorts in eco-sensitive areas. The landslides in Wayanad that killed over 300 are a reminder that a balance needs to be struck.

Beneath a canopy of green and glow, where emerald backwater drifts, is God's own country, Kerala. The beauty and calm associated with Kerala was shattered by a landslide in Wayanad which has claimed the lives of 308 people. This is not the only instance of a landslide in the state. In 2021, several people were killed in landslides in Kerala's Kottayam and Idukki districts.

Kerala also experienced catastrophic flooding in 2018, which killed over 400 people. But why is Kerala facing such disasters which are taking the lives of many? Is tourism, one of Kerala's biggest sources of income, to blame for the recent landslide?

A cloudburst washed away houses and trapped people. The first landslide struck in Meppadi, Mundakkai Town and Chooral Mala.

A nearby bridge used to enter Attamala in Mundakkai also collapsed.

Experts have had no doubts that what happened in Wayanad is a man-made disaster. One important factor contributing to this is the rapid movement of tourists in Kerala. This has led to the building of resorts and hotels in Kerala.

Between 1961 and 2016,

landsides killed over 295 people in Kerala, according to S Sreekumar, a disaster risk consultant, reported Frontline magazine.

Areas suffering from landslides are ecologically fragile and are overwhelmed by tourism efforts and deforestation. This has led to landslides and floods in several areas of Kerala.

Kerala has promoted itself vigorously for

tourism and seen a jump in tourist footfalls. According to Kerala Tourism Statistics, 1,88,67,414 domestic tourists visited Kerala in 2022 and 75,37,617 in 2021. It was 150% growth year-on-year. Tourism contributes about 10% to Kerala's economy or its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). It also creates jobs and promotes traditional industries.

This large number of



tourists come to Kerala each year due to its beaches, hill stops and backwaters.

With a rapid increase in tourism, human activity, particularly construction of hotels, restaurants and bed and breakfasts (B&B) in high risk areas, have significantly contributed to these

disasters which take the lives of many.

Several experts have discussed how tourism in the ecologically fragile area has contributed to the landslides claiming the lives of many.

"We deeply mourn the tragic deaths in the Wayanad landslides in Kerala. However, it may not be too early to ask whether indiscriminate construction, especially related to tourism, in this eco-fragile region was the cause of this disaster, or was it just unprecedented rain?", tweeted KBS Sidhu, an ex-IAS officer.

According to a research paper on the impact of tourism on Wayanad by Philip Varghese and Yoji Natori, the emergence of tourism in the area has

led to the decline of traditional livelihoods and contributed to environmental degradation.

"The emergence of tourism coincided with the decline of traditional livelihoods in Wayanad, exacerbating environmental degradation.

The variety of traditional crops which can offer resilience to climate change are not encouraged any more. This has made agriculture unsustainable. It is also leading to a rise in human-animal conflicts in the area. The paper reveals that since 2014, 149 deaths have been recorded in the area due to these conflicts. In 2022-23, 98 such deaths were recorded along with 8,873 attacks.

Between 2017-23, 20,957 incidents of crop damage due to wildfire have been reported, resulting in a loss of over 1,000 animals.

100 youth to receive UPSC/OPSC coaching under MCL's CSR



Sambalpur, (KCN) : Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) launched a major coaching initiative "Ujjwal Jharsuguda - MCL Ki Ek Peher," under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. The inaugural function for this transformative project was held yesterday at Brajrajnagar College, Brajrajnagar.

The event was graced as chief guest by Shri Suresh Pujari, Hon'ble

Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Odisha. Also present on the occasion were Shri Uday A Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MCL, Smt. Aboli Sunil Naravane, Collector, Jharsuguda, Shri Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, Superintendent of Police, Jharsuguda and Mr. Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel) of MCL. The initiative aims to support the vocational aspirations of students

from Jharsuguda district. It will cover coaching expenses for UPSC, OPSC, banking, and other competitive examinations. Each year, 100 selected students will benefit from free coaching at two key locations: Brajrajnagar College, Brajrajnagar, and Laxmi Narayan College, Jharsuguda. The coaching will be delivered by renowned institutions to ensure high-quality preparation.

In addition to "Ujjwal

SBI BHUBANESWAR CIRCLE CGM SIR'S VISIT TO KALAHANDI



Bhubaneswar, (KCN) : SBI CGM Shri Dinesh Pruthi visited Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts on 1st and 2nd August 2024. On the first day, Shri Pruthi inaugurated renovated premises of SBI Dharangarh

Branch. Shri Pruthi handed over PMJJBY Insurance claim cheque worth Rs.1 Lakh to the inmates of Jasoda Anath Ashram located at G a m b h i r g u d a Kalahandi. Shri Pruthi also handed over loan sanction letter to beneficiaries. Shri Pruthi

need based assistance such as refrigerator and geysers for the inmates of Jagruti Shelter home Rayagada under CSR initiatives. During these activities, DGM(B&O) Berhampur Shri Sondeep Kumar Chowdhury and Regional Managers were present.



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Priyanka Chaterjee Interview



Saikat Kumar Basu

Priyanka Chatterjee (PC) aka 'Golpodidi' is an International Story Consultant, an Award-winning Storyteller, a Process Drama Coach, a Design Thinker, a Career Coach, an MBA (Gold Medalist), an alumna of International Institute of Storytelling, Emerson College, UK. She's the Artistic Director, Arts4Change International (a social impact organisation).

She is also the Founder, Wild Strawberry and Director, Storytelling Education and Arts India Council (SEAIC). With 19+ years of Storytelling experience in Fortune 500 MNCs, leading Indian Media House and Not-For-Profits, Golpodidi has touched lives of more than half-a-million children and 80000 adults. This interview was conducted by Saikat Kumar Basu (SKB) on behalf of Kalinga Chronicle at Kolkata On July 22

Saikat Kumar Basu (SKB): What inspired you to move into this unique career path?

Priyanka Chatterjee (PC): My M.B.A. major has been Marketing which is entirely based on narratives of individuals and organisations, products and services. Later working as a Product Manager and Business Analyst, made me realise again that - "The universe is not made of atoms, but stories." A product a customer purchased or a service a client subscribes to, depends on the power of its narrative. If the role of narratives in the shelf-life of these inanimates can be so strong, how about that in the life of animates - Life of me, you, and us! I started working on the Mantra - "The power of changing one's life lies in changing one's story!"

SKB: How powerful is story telling in impacting our lives from the perspective of an adult listener?

PC: Whenever we speak about Storytelling in our society, by default attention is drawn to bedtime stories or stories to keep children entertained. It's that! But it's much more beyond that. We humans are Storytelling animals. We have been telling and listening to stories since our cavemen days. Sitting around the fire, our ancestors would tell whatever happened throughout the day, which direction one should be cautious of before venturing into; which food that should be avoided for ready plucking and eating; which animals are roaming carefree these days in so-and-so direction from the human habitat.

Later, frescos were painted, language evolved, new Storytelling formats (appealing to multiple sensorials) got invented. In a agrarian society like ours, farmers would be tired because of the day's work, come back home, sit and relax. Hence Storytelling performance will happen in larger-than-life settings, jazzy costumes, loud makeup, and where postures mostly have body, especially knees bent (so that it's clearly visible to the sitting audience). e.g.-

Kathakali, Chau etc. Adults will mostly be the audience in this context and not children. Adults who wrap themselves around rules, roles, and responsibilities are the ones who needs storytelling the most, for a solace to their souls.

SKB: Do you enjoy working with children? How does story telling help children in this age of electronic gadgets bombarding our daily life?

PC: Nelson Mandela said once - "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." If we can change the education, we can change the society. As the Chief Storyteller and Artistic Director in Arts4Change International, I believe the way to bring this change in education is through Arts, e.g.- Storytelling-in-Education, Theatre-in-Education, Puppetry-in-Education etc, since when we bring change in the curriculum through co-curriculum, the change is subtle, ongoing instead of crude, on-the-face, and sudden.

This helps children respond from their safe space, ensuring better reinforcement and better recall of the curriculum topics across subjects. It so happened that I met the same child after 6-7 years and they still remember the story I told, metaphors and analogies I used. Songs that we sang and laughter that we shared still echoes in their hearts. And that's the transformation we want to see in our children - they should understand the concepts, remember them better, and apply in real life. In the era of infinite scroll and information overload, these are the factors that distinguished one individual from the other; so the children exposed to Storytelling from early years will be better in their problem solving, decision-making skills as well as I'm creativity and innovation.

SKB: Whom do you consider as your strongest inspiration in creating your own unique brand of storytelling?

PC: My parents and elders grew up listening to the radio, specifically 'Golpodadur Asor' (A

rendezvous with the Storyteller Grandpa). My Storytelling alias 'Golpodidi' is inspired from here. In Bengali, 'Golpo' means story and 'Didi' means sister/lady. This personal branding was created with a vision of standing beside everyone in their storytelling journey as their near and dear one, and not someone remote and distant, who can hardly connect to their own, personal narratives.

Storytelling builds heart-to-heart connection, bypassing the head-to-head connection in this transactional world. 'Golpodidi' alias was created to nurture this authentic connection.

SKB: What impacts do you see on corporate culture through positive storytelling?

PC: With my long journey with the CNN5 and Fortune 500 Multi-national corporations, I was attuned to one particular saying - "Don't give me stories, give me facts." In this fast-paced world, it was assumed that nobody can spare time for "cooking up" stories. But on the contrary, the real scenario was 180 degree opposite. As the corporate world started going far from stories, data became dry, conversations became mechanical, and relationships became transactional. BBC has identified Storytelling to be one of the most sought-after skills in the 21st century. Hence corporates also are following the trend. They went far away from stories, not again they are getting full-time or freelance storytelling trainers who will bring back the human touch in their world.

SKB: When we think about corporates from the macro as well as micro level?

PC: a) The mission, vision, values should have a strong story to tell. The same story should be percolated to the internal stakeholders from senior management to the grassroot level, as well as should be communicated well to the external stakeholders - shareholders, vendors, clients, etc. b) A leader has to persuade the subordinates; a subordinate has to communicate their need to peers and to the boss; communicating the limitations about delivery

beforehand as well as explaining the reason of missing a deadline (in case)... everything is Storytelling!

SKB: Do you see any connection between storytelling and positive mental health?

PC: Two kinds of stories form a big part of our lives -

- a) the stories that we keep telling others and
- b) the stories that others keep telling about ourselves.

Sometimes, the course of our lives is determined by these stories. Some internal voices (inside our heads) keep telling us "You are not good enough!" "You won't be able to do it!" "Others are better than you!" "You have achieved all these by fluke or by luck; you don't deserve these." Some external voices (from others) may echo the same thing. As a result, we may start believing in this reduced version of ourselves.

Storytelling helps tap into our authentic self and reframe our narratives to boost our confidence, self-esteem, and more positive mental health. Storytelling has been used with Seniors in old-age homes, children in orphanages, cancer patients, Parkinson's patients, destitute women, people in distress and in disaster relief camps, inmates in prison etc! Short-term interventions (as low as 30mins) to regular, long-term

interventions (90 mins, weekly once, for 6 consecutive months per say) has shown positive transformation (small and big) in the recipients.

SKB: There is indeed a resurgence noticed in the interest about storytelling around the world. What do you think are the reasons behind it?

PC: The resurgence in interest about storytelling has been observed over the past couple of decades, starting roughly around the late 20th century and continuing into the 21st century. The major factor that contributed to this resurgence, I feel, is the globalisation, advent of digital media and smarter technology etc. There's this idea of six degrees of separation which says that - all people are six or fewer social connections away from each other. While social media brought us closer, in reality, most of us became more socially isolated. That is where Storytelling became instrumental to bring people into the common ground again, building the human connection again. A strong cultural shift is clearly visible - towards valuing authenticity, personal narratives, and diverse voices, which has again spurred interest in different forms of storytelling.

On the other hand, advances in digital media and technology have made it easier for people to share stories. Platforms like podcasts, YouTube, and



social media allow storytellers to reach a global audience. There is also a growing interest in preserving cultural heritage and traditions. Storytelling is a key way to pass down cultural knowledge, values, and history. Storytelling is increasingly recognized for its therapeutic benefits. It can be a powerful tool for healing, helping individuals process experiences and emotions. Stories are a compelling way to entertain and engage audiences. In a world filled with information, storytelling stands out as a way to capture attention and convey messages effectively. Which is why, even corporates are opening their doors far and wide to learn Data Storytelling, Visual Storytelling, Persuasive Presentation, Effective Communication etc.

SKB: What according to you does the future hold for storytelling?

PC: Over the past decade, I have crafted my distinctive, unique style of storytelling. Sometimes it's only oration, sometimes interactive storytelling, sometimes using puppets, props, or art forms that are part of our cultural heritage (Pabuji-ki-phad, Patachitra etc). Some of my favourite styles are 'Tear-and-Tell', 'Draw-and-Tell', 'Do-as-I-do-say-as-I-say', Visual Sketch noting etc.

My future goals include spreading all these styles PAN India and to different parts of the world. A white-colour job holder sitting in his San Francisco might be thinking about how to incorporate design thinking into his work and I am helping him out to get into the customer's shoes, understanding the customer's story which they themselves might even not be aware of, and start thinking for solutions from a place of empathy.

A government school teacher in a remote hamlet in the Himalayas is struggling with how to make her classes more interesting and I am helping her to teach curriculum through co-curriculum; integrated different forms of arts like Storytelling, Theatre, Puppetry, Music, Dance etc in her lesson plans. A group of senior citizens got together and I handhold them to recall and document

the most important parts of their lives in the format of a story.

My future goal will be to help more people emerge as Storytelling champions - by helping them understand narrative structures, by exploring different genres and techniques, and by improving communication skills. This way, a strong Storytelling community will be built and each storyteller will be instrumental in bringing all these positive changes to the planet and more!

I am an author who crafts stories on-need basis and also for awareness campaigns on issues which are socio-economic-religious-cultural-political in nature. I want to use storytelling to address these issues (including SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals), to inspire change, or to provide comfort and escape to my beloved readers. Since Storytelling can distil complex ideas into simple formats, the communication doesn't become propaganda and lands softly, and subtly on the audience's mind, making a lasting impression. My future goals is getting more such stories published and empowering more people in crafting such stories, by sharing my knowledge and passion for storytelling, by teaching workshops or mentoring aspiring writers; and by exploring other media for your stories, such as turning them into scripts for film, television, or theatre.

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I will continue working with illustrators and musicians, other writers, or filmmakers to create multi-disciplinary formats and expand the reach and impact of storytelling. If there would ever be an imaginary tombstone after I am gone, so that it can proudly say: "Here lieth the lady who believed 'The power to change one's life, lies in changing one's story.'



Rohit Satpathy

on the increase in today's competitive world. We have many examples about people experiencing success after failures and we only look at those who fight against all odds and come back even stronger. We tend to forget people who don't take failure as the stepping stone to success. They tend to fade into oblivion.

The life is not always a bed of roses.

Competition is at each section of life and has been at its peak. A smooth and secured life with an comfortable and satisfactory job is becoming a rare phenomenon. Many few succeed in their mission and come out with flying colors, but most have their existence in the sphere of life as wobbly and doubtful. A very few like me, come back with a bang from hopeless situations but most

succumb to depression, drinking and doping. The news of someone or the other committing suicide due to some kind of failure in academic, professional or personal life is quite normal these days. This poses a serious threat to the societal situation of the country. We loose direction. We need to find a solution to this severe problem which is becoming a pandemic in the society?

We have many inspirational stories like our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, who has been the change messiah for a corruption free and growth oriented economy and country. We have been seeing his acts and steps to build a solid and sound nation. This man has been an inspiration for the country. He has been regularly proving that if you want to succeed, then put up your best foot forward, make all the

necessary moves and keep on pursuing till you reach your destination and achieve your goals.

Life is not a bed of roses, is hard and many a times unfair, but you should never loose hope and should have complete faith in yourself. We should follow what Swami Vivekananda had said "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved".

Social Worker, Goa



Success and failure are part of life and considered to be two sides of the same coin. I have been really lucky to get the taste of success

"Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved"

Old Rajinder Nagar- The tears of First Refugee Colony of India



As the sun rises over Gurudwara Nanak Saar, perched on the hill overlooking Old Rajinder Nagar in Central Delhi, the area is filled with the sweet sound of devotional hymns. The gurudwara fills with devotees. But in recent days, a sense of silence has descended upon Old Rajinder Nagar. A mix of sadness and anger is evident on every face. Three young lives were tragically lost - Tania Soni, Shweta Yadav, and Naveen Delvin - when they drowned in a flooded

basement while studying at the Rau's Study Circle library. Have you ever heard of such a tragedy, where children studying in a library lose their lives? A Heartbroken Delhi Delhi is heartbroken by what happened in Old Rajinder Nagar. The city is grieving silently, similar to how it wept after the Uphaar fire tragedy. The incident at Uphaar on June 13, 1997, left Delhi and the nation in shock. Even today, Delhi shudders when looking at the dilapidated state of the Uphaar building. How can Delhi ever forget that tragedy? It's true that Delhi, a rapidly expanding city, doesn't usually stay bothered by incidents for long. Life goes on at its own pace. Sensitivity has waned. Big, terrible

tragedies are forgotten after a few days. The recent deaths of several newborn babies in a terrible incident in East Delhi also vanished from media headlines within a few days. However, the untimely deaths of three young people brimming with potential have left the capital in mourning. There is a general feeling of sadness. It's a state of utter helplessness. We don't know who to complain to. No one listens.

The First Refugee Colony

Old Rajinder Nagar is far from an ordinary place. It is India's first refugee colony. After India's partition in 1947, lakhs of refugees arrived in Delhi, leaving everything behind. They slept on the streets. Then, in 1948, the government provided

100-square yard plots to refugee families in Old Rajinder Nagar for Rs 4,000 each.

The government didn't demand the full price of the houses immediately. They were provided in easy instalments, enabling these families to rebuild their shattered lives in a new city. About 30 years ago, H.D. Shourie, the then Rehabilitation Commissioner responsible for resettling refugees in 1947, told this writer that Old Rajinder Nagar was named after India's first President, Dr. Rajinder Prasad. Before that, the area was part of Shadipur Kham pur and Todapur villages. New Rajinder Nagar was established three

years later. Shourie was the father of Arun Shourie, a well-known journalist, writer, and editor. H.D. Shourie was also the life and soul of the Consumer movement in India. Most of the families in Old Rajinder Nagar came from Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, Sindh, and Multan. Perhaps this is why you will find schools named Multan DAV and Dera Ismail Khan School here. Dera Ismail Khan is near Peshawar. Over the years, many families have moved to other places after getting plots to settle. The houses had two rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The roofs were covered with asbestos sheets. Some houses still stand as they were then. Looking at them, it seems as if their

owners want to remain stuck in the same era as before. **Rajinder Nagar and SRK** It goes without saying that if Shah Rukh Khan read about the death of three youngsters in Old Rajinder Nagar, he too would be saddened. After all, he was born in New Rajinder Nagar. Only a road divides Old and New Rajinder Nagar. He spent the first 15 years of his life there. His family lived there as tenants. **Balraj Madhok**, a veteran leader of the Jan Sangh, also lived there for decades. Ved Marwah, a former Delhi Police officer who was once Governor of Jharkhand, spent his

childhood in this area. Later, his family moved to Khan Market, where his father opened a bookstore called Fakir Chand & Sons. It became very popular. The families living in Old Rajinder Nagar have many heart-wrenching stories to narrate from the partition. They didn't just leave their homes, cities, and villages. They lost many loved ones in the riots that broke out during the partition. Every August, they go back to that era. But what happened in their neighborhood has made them weep. Talk to anyone, and they choke up over the untimely deaths of the three children.

New Rajinder Nagar has remained a residential

colony since its inception, but Old Rajinder Nagar has changed rapidly. It has become a hub for coaching institutes for competitive exams. The people running these institutes, along with corrupt government officials, have flouted regulations. They have built buildings and basements wherever they could. The greed for quick money has claimed the lives of three young children. As you walk past the house of the late famous Sindhi singer Laja Bhatia in Old Rajinder Nagar, you'll find people of all ages discussing the deaths of the three children. Of course, the wounds of this heart-wrenching tragedy will stay open for a long time. **Ends.**

Author Gandhi's Delhi
9818155246

Vivek Shukla

THIRUKKURAL: TIMELESS WISDOM FOR MODERN MANAGERS

Dr.S.SaiGanesh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged the timeless wisdom of Thiruvalluvar and highlighted its importance in today's society. The recent translation of Tirukkural into TokPisin is a testament to his contribution in spreading the universal values embedded in this ancient Tamil text. As the world increasingly focuses on sustainable business practices and ethics, Thiruvalluvar's teachings offer valuable insights that can guide business leaders toward a more harmonious and successful future.

Thirukkural, a masterpiece of Tamil literature written by Thiruvalluvar that transcends time and culture. This classic text provides an in-depth look at the topics of behavior, management, personal ethics and human relations. Its immeasurable impact is evident as one of the world's most prolific works. Valluvar organized the 1330 couplets of Thirukkural across 133 chapters and into three sections: Virtues (Arathupal) with 370 couplets, Wealth (Porupal) with 710 couplets, and Love (Inpathupal) with 250 couplets. Thirukkural is one of the world's most widely translated works, ranking alongside the Bible and the Quran, with translations available in fifty-seven languages. Thirukkural's

unwavering message of morality and humanity has earned a place in the hearts of millions and continues to inspire leaders and citizens alike. Recognizing its unique role in human thinking, the Malaysian government has introduced Thirukkural knowledge into its curriculum, emphasizing its importance in modern education.

Written two millennia ago, the Thirukkural remains a timeless compass for humanity, offering profound insights into management and day to day life. Thirukkural offers a comprehensive framework encompassing business ethics, communication, decision-making, leadership, goal setting, planning, investment, social responsibility, stress management, personnel selection, time management, and numerous other critical business concepts.

Beyond its spiritual and philosophical scopes, this ancient text amazingly provides invaluable insights into the realm of modern management too. One of the core principles emphasized in Thirukkural is the importance of knowledge and its continuous enhancement. Couplet 401 aptly captures this essence: "Entering an assembly without sufficient knowledge is like playing at a dice board without its knowledge." This underscores the necessity of acquiring and refining knowledge as a fundamental prerequisite for effective leadership and decision-making. Decision-making, a critical managerial function, is also extensively addressed.

Couplet 668, "What you have clearly decided to do, do it without hesitation and delay," advocates for decisiveness and prompt action. This aligns with the modern management principle of timely decision-making, which can significantly impact organizational performance.

Strategic planning, another cornerstone of management, finds its echo in Thirukkural. Couplet 471, with a slight adaptation to contemporary context, suggests, "A leader must act after measuring the strength of their plan, their own resources, the strengths of competitors, and allies." This emphasizes the importance of comprehensive analysis and foresight in crafting effective strategies. Effective communication is paramount in any organization. Thirukkural offers profound insights into this domain. Couplet 711 emphasizes the importance of tailoring communication to the audience, while Couplet 641 extols the virtue of truthful speech. These couplets underscore the significance of clear, concise, and honest communication in building trust and fostering collaboration. Thirukkural also provides valuable guidance on organizational behavior and human resource management. Couplet 677 advocates for seeking expert advice before making crucial decisions, highlighting the importance of mentorship and consultation. Couplet 509 emphasizes the need for careful employee selection and the avoidance of unwarranted suspicion,

a fundamental principle of human resource management. Self-control, a cornerstone of emotional intelligence, is another critical leadership trait highlighted in Thirukkural. Couplet 122 declares self-control as the greatest wealth, emphasizing its significance in maintaining composure and making sound decisions under pressure. These are just a few examples of the numerous management principles embedded within the Thirukkural. The text's holistic approach to human conduct and its emphasis on virtue, wisdom, and ethical leadership make it a valuable resource for managers seeking guidance in navigating the complexities of the modern business world. By delving deeper into its verses, contemporary leaders can discover timeless wisdom that can be applied to address the challenges and opportunities of today's dynamic business environment. The Thirukkural, therefore, is not merely a literary masterpiece but a practical guide to effective leadership and management. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to offer timeless wisdom that is as applicable today as it was centuries ago.

**Professor
School of
Commerce &
Management
Studies (PG)
Dayananda Sagar
University, Kudlu
Gate
Bengaluru
9994780365**

In today's environment, sending children to coaching institutes has become a trend for both poor and rich parents. For some parents, it may be a necessity because they lack the qualifications to provide academic guidance to their children. Some parents are qualified but do not have the time, while others have both qualifications and time but have enough money to send their children to expensive coaching institutes as a matter of pride. There are also parents whose pampering and indulgence have led their children to refuse to study with them and instead seek refuge in coaching institutes, influenced by their friends and peers.

Every small and big city is now flooded with coaching centers. These centers offer guidance and coaching for everything from elementary education to postgraduate studies and from clerical positions to administrative services like becoming a

questions, we need to understand the Indian education system. There is a significant difference between the curriculum, teaching facilities, placement records, and the qualifications of teachers when selecting an educational institution often choose coaching centers based on their name, success posters, and friends' suggestions without investigating the quality of facilities, the qualifications of the teachers, the backgrounds of the enrolled students, or the actual success rate in terms of percentages.

Some coaching institutes, to increase their success rates, attract good students by offering fee waivers, scholarships, and free notes. Some even publish large advertisements in local to national newspapers. The question arises: Why are coaching centers thriving? When we have excellent educational institutions in our country, why is there a need for coaching institutes? Is it now difficult for students to pass school, college, and competitive exams without attending coaching centers? To find answers to these



Dr. Manmohan Prakash

questions, we need to understand the Indian education system. There is a significant difference between the curriculum, teaching facilities, placement records, and the qualifications of teachers when selecting an educational institution often choose coaching centers based on their name, success posters, and friends' suggestions without investigating the quality of facilities, the qualifications of the teachers, the backgrounds of the enrolled students, or the actual success rate in terms of percentages.

prepare their students for competitive exams. They certainly can, but it requires the administration to develop a system and teachers to voluntarily take up the responsibility and prepare themselves for it.

An incident at a coaching institute in Delhi has drawn the attention of state governments to the irregularities in coaching centers. In the future, coaching institutes may make some improvements, and the administration might implement regulations to control them. The government should also address the impact of coaching centers on students' attendance in schools and colleges. I believe that if the coaching system is to continue, some reputable government and private educational institutions should explore the possibility of starting coaching classes. This would allow the use of their excellent infrastructure during off-hours, providing good coaching at low fees with good facilities and qualified teachers to needy students, and preventing the recurrence of incidents like the one in the Delhi coaching institute.

Independent Journalist



An artisan of Kumortuli adding final touches to the idol. Photo - Arindam Bhattacharya

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology celebrated "Sawan Month" with organizing Tree Plantation in the college campus



New Delhi (KCN): Tree plantation is a very necessary because trees provide oxygen to the environment and make the air quality better. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air as they grow, tree planting can be used to help limit climate change. If more trees are planted then world's environment will become a safer place to live. Tree plantations also reduce pollution, thus making the life of future generations secure. Trees contribute to their environment over long periods of time by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology celebrated "Sawan Month" with organizing Tree Plantation in the college campus. All the staff members and students were present. Principal Dr. R. K. Uppal highlighted the significance of tree plantation to the students.

World Peace Harmony Chairman Haji Shakeel Saifi met Union Minister in Delhi



employment is and youth get available in the country employment.

The grand opening of the ethnic Blossom showroom was done at Le Meridien hotel in Delhi.



film actress Ritu Shrivpuri, Luv Kush Ramlila president Arjun Kumar, MCC party leader Iqbal Singh, social worker Mamta Chaudhary, YouTuber Mahi Lakra, Harsh Asri, Subhash Jindal, Romita Narang, Sunil Garg and many others attended the opening ceremony.

DMK leader's 'no historical evidence of Lord Ram' remark draws BJP ire

New Delhi: DMK minister SS Sivasankar claimed that there was no historical evidence of Lord Ram's existence. His statement evoked sharp reaction from the opposition BJP. Tamil Nadu Minister SS Sivasankar stoked a controversy after he claimed that there was no historical evidence of Lord Ram's existence. Speaking at an event in Ariyalur, Sivasankar said it was the duty of everyone to celebrate the legacy of Rajendra Chola (Rajendra I of Chola dynasty) or else the "people will be compelled to celebrate something which has no connection to them".

"To show that Rajendra Cholan lives, there are ponds constructed by him, temples built by him.

His name is mentioned in scripts and his sculptures are present. But there is no evidence or history mentioning that Ram existed. They call him an avatar (incarnation). An avatar can't be born. It is being done to manipulate us, hide our history and show another history as bigger," said Shivashankar. Reacting to Sivasankar's remark, Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai questioned DMK's "obsession with Lord Ram". "DMK's sudden obsession with Bhagwan Shri Ram is truly a sight to behold — who would've thought? Isn't it fascinating how quickly DMK leaders' memories fade? Weren't they the same folks who opposed our PM Modi for installing the Chola

Dynasty Sengol in the new Parliament Complex? It's almost comical that the DMK, a party that seems to think Tamil Nadu's history started in 1967, has suddenly discovered a love for the nation's rich culture and history. Perhaps it's time for DMK Ministers Thiru Regupathy and Thiru Sivasankar to sit down, debate, and reach a consensus on Lord Ram. We're confident that Thiru Shiva Shankar could learn a thing or two about Bhagwan Shri Ram from his colleague," Annamalai said. Annamalai was referring to another remark by state Law Minister Regupathy, who called Lord Ram as the "forerunner of the Dravidian model".

Gujarat Frames "Model Rules" To Regulate Gaming Zones After Rajkot Fire

Ahmedabad (KCN): The Gujarat government on Friday informed the high court that it has framed "model rules" to regulate amusement rides and gaming zones to prevent tragedies like the May 25 fire incident in Rajkot.

Besides obtaining regular licences and approvals such as fire NOCs and building use (BU) permissions from the police and civic authorities, game zone owners must get approval from Ride Safety and Inspection committees. Advocate General Kamal Trivedi informed the court that police commissioners will appoint such a committee for cities, and collectors will constitute the same at the district level.

A division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi took the state government's



affidavit into consideration and kept the matter for hearing on August 23. The bench had initiated a suo motu PIL after 27 persons, including four children, died in a massive fire that swept through a game zone in the Nana-Mava locality of Rajkot on May 25.

During a hearing in June, the bench had directed the state government to submit its response as to whether rules were

framed under section 33 of the Gujarat Police Act, which provides for the powers and duties of the licensing authority. In his response, Trivedi told the bench that the state home department has framed "model rules" called the Gujarat Amusement Rides and Gaming Zone Activities Safety Rules, 2024, after incorporating suggestions made by the public. "These model rules have

been sent to all police commissioners and district magistrates (collectors) to notify these rules from their end by incorporating necessary changes, if any. All provisions are very comprehensive," he said. He said the rules contain detailed definitions of all games and amusement rides, procedures for their installation, licensing provisions, inspection of

rides, prior approval, supervision, renewal and aspects related to suspension of licences.

"For the renewal of licence, a certified person will visit the facility, review aspects listed in annexure 1 and issue a certificate, which will then be verified by city rides safety and inspection committee or district rides safety and inspection committee," Trivedi said.

People who want to start a gaming zone or install a ride must get it inspected, and a licence will be issued after approval from the committee, he said, adding that no installation was permitted without prior permission. The chief justice then asked the state government to ensure police commissioners and collectors notified these rules in two weeks, and committees were formed one week thereafter.

Top Court Issues Notice On Petition Against Bar On Transgenders Donating Blood

New Delhi (KCN): The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the guidelines issued by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), imposing a blanket restriction on transgender persons, female sex workers, and

gay men from donating blood. Issuing notice, a bench, headed by CJI DY Chandrachud, directed the listing of the plea with a similar pending matter. The plea, filed through advocate Ibad Mushtaq, said that the blanket prohibition provided under the 2017 Guidelines on Blood Donor Selection and Blood Donor Referral issued by the NBTC and NACO is a violation of the

right to equality, dignity and life protected under Articles 14, 15, 17 and 21 of the Constitution. "The impugned guidelines themselves are based on a highly prejudicial and presumptive view taken with regard to gay men or gender queer persons from donating blood," it said.

The PIL said that a blanket restriction on blood donation is based on an assumption that a particular group of persons may be suffering

from sexually transmitted diseases, however, screening of blood donors is conducted for every donation before a possible transfusion and in an era, where medical technology and education, especially in the field of haematology has progressed by leaps and bounds, a blanket prohibition emanating from a highly discriminatory view of gay persons, does not stand to reason.

"There Is A Conspiracy To Put Me In Prison": DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru (KCN): Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar stated on Friday that there is a conspiracy hatched against him to put him in prison.

Speaking to reporters, after the 'Jan Andolan Sabha' organised to counter BJP's 'padayatra' at Bidadi on the outskirts of Bengaluru, Mr

Shivakumar said, "I am aware of it. Let them do it. I am ready to face the consequences. Many leaders with my nature and ability will emerge in the Congress party."

"I will start revealing the scams committed by State President BY Vijayendra. If he has the capacity, let him give the particular incident of my indulgence in corruption. I respect him as the state President

of a party. If he has strength, let him explain in detail. On what basis will he call me the father of corruption?" Mr Shivakumar said.

He asked: "Does he know anything about my cases? Does he know about the case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in which I had to go to jail? Your father (former CM BS Yediyurappa) gave

permission for the IT in the case. Do you know that the case got quashed in the Supreme Court? There are cases against you, why is permission not given in those cases for prosecution? I will talk about all that later."

"Who should claim the responsibility for the scam that took place during their tenure? People have elected us. We have to tell people to

ask questions to the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) when they take up a 'padayatra' (foot march). Let them answer," he stated.

Addressing the 'Jan Andolan Sabha' that began in Bidadi on Friday, Mr Shivakumar stated that corrupt people are conducting the 'padayatra' for other corrupt people.

Padhee On Water Logging Care

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Usha Padhee, has initiated a comprehensive review of waterlogging issues across all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

In a decisive meeting, Shrimati Padhee emphasized the importance of immediate response and proactive measures to address water logging concerns, especially during the monsoon season.

Principal Secretary highlighted the critical need for effective water management systems and stressed the role of community partnerships in tackling water logging issues. "Our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents by providing an immediate and efficient response to any water logging



concerns. We are committed to leveraging the collective efforts of Team Urban to address these issues promptly," said Shrimati Padhee. Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development reviewed the actions taken as per earlier sop issued by the department through VC and asked for Establishment of dedicated rapid response teams in each ULB to monitor and address water logging incidents promptly. Upgradation and

maintenance of existing drainage systems to prevent water accumulation and ensure smooth water flow. Involving local communities in identifying vulnerable areas and reporting water logging issues through a dedicated helpline and mobile application, Interdepartmental Coordination, Strengthening coordination between various departments to ensure a unified approach in managing water logging challenges.

The Housing & Urban Development Principal Secretary urges residents to cooperate with the initiatives and report any water logging incidents immediately. The department assures that all necessary steps are being taken to safeguard the community from the adverse effects of water logging.

Housing & Urban Development Department is dedicated to the sustainable development of urban areas, ensuring the provision of essential services and improving the quality of life for all residents. Under the leadership of Principal Secretary Smt. Usha Padhee, the department strives to implement innovative solutions and foster community partnerships to address urban challenges effectively.

Among others Special Secretary Rajesh Pravakar Patil, Director Municipal Administration Debasis Singh, Additional Secretary Rabindra Kumar Sahu and Binaya Das were present during the VC while all Municipal Commissioners and Executive Officers of ULBs connected through VC

Misappropriation of funds worth Rs 224.61cr detected in Cooperative Banks in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Misappropriation of funds to the tune of Rs 224.61 crore has been detected in various cooperative banks across Odisha. The irregularities came to fore during the financial audit of Odisha State Cooperative Bank (OSCB), 17 Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs), and 13 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in the state. The information has been shared by the state Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta while answering a question asked by senior Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati in the Odisha Assembly on



Wednesday. Samanta also told the Assembly that the audit found the involvement of as many as 1,704 people in the misappropriation of the funds. He said that Rs 16.63 crore has been realised till date from the persons involved in the

misappropriation of the funds over several crores. The department has also issued directions for the recovery of another Rs 30.73 crore from 706 persons found responsible for the fraud. Meanwhile, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Odisha, on Wednesday suspended the management committees of the Odisha State Cooperative Bank Ltd and Odisha Cooperative Housing Corporations Ltd under the Odisha Co-operative Societies Act, 1962 over misappropriation of funds.

The department in its orders said that management committees are acting in a manner prejudicial and detrimental to the interest of the Bank and its members as well as the members of its affiliated Cooperative Societies.

Odisha: BJP, BJD in war of words over Mamata Mohanta switching sides



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Protests were held in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district Thursday against Mamata Mohanta who quit the BJD and joined the BJP.

Led by BJD leaders, a large number of Kudumi women gathered at the Biju Patnaik Chhak in Rairangpur town and burnt the effigy of the former Rajya Sabha MP, claiming that she betrayed the community. BJD leader Ratikant Parikshya said his party had nothing to do with the protests.

"People belonging to the

Kudumi community protested against Mohanta. We had no role in it," he claimed.

Mohanta joined the BJP in New Delhi, a day after resigning as a Rajya Sabha member and quitting the Naveen Patnaik-led party.

Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, BJD leader Sarojini Hembram claimed that Mohanta not only betrayed the people of Mayurbhanj but also those of her community.

"BJD president Naveen Patnaik had sent her to

this conspiracy," he claimed.

State BJP leader Bisheswar Tudu said there was no need for his party to lure an MP when it was in power in the state as well as at the Centre.

"Why the BJP will hatch any conspiracy when it is in power in both places? Had it been the election time, it could have been possible. But after elections, there is no point in luring anyone to join the BJP," he said.

Tudu, a former Union minister, said it was possible that Mohanta was feeling suffocated in the BJD as the leaders of the party had no right to express themselves.

BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty claimed that BJD leaders lost trust in Patnaik.

"He was in power in Odisha for 24 years. However, his former ministers, MPs and MLAs do not have confidence in him. This was the reason for Mohanta's resignation and joining the BJP," he added.

Chhattisgarh woman with ankles tied rescued from river 30 km downstream in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A 33-year-old woman from Chhattisgarh with her ankles tied with a shackle was rescued from the swollen Mahanadi Thursday in Odisha's Jharsuguda district, police said. The woman, identified as Sarojini Chouhan, hails from Purath — a village along Mahanadi in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh. She was rescued at Palsada village in Lakhapur police station area in Jharsuguda, which is around 30 km downstream, they said.

Fishermen spotted her after hearing her screams, locals said.

"When our friends were catching fish in Mahanadi, they heard someone shouting for help. They immediately rescued the

woman, offered her food and later handed her to the police," said a fisherman. Sarojini's brother, who came to take her back, claimed she was living with his family after getting separated from her husband. "As she was mentally unstable, we tied her ankles with the shackle.

She somehow fell into the river and was swept away," he claimed. Jharsuguda's Superintendent of Police Parmar Smit Parshottamdas told PTI that the woman underwent a health check-up at the community health centre after the rescue and was doing fine.



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Bajaj Allianz Life launches world's first music video 'Superstar After Retirement', created by retired senior citizens

Pune: Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, launched a world's music video "Superstar After Retirement", created by retired seniors showcasing their creativity and fulfilling their life goals. Retirees including ex-bankers, entrepreneurs, ex-educator, ex-engineers and other professionals, are seen unleashing their hidden talents like singing or dancing, and attempting to live their second innings with utmost zeal and passion.

For most individuals, their dreams and desires take a backseat as they strive to ensure financial security and stability for their families.

Commenting on the

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy

to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood. For the Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops. Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern.

"The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we're thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin."

on Vedanta Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China.

Aakash Sambalpur announces Educational Scholarships for Admissions



Sambalpur: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realise their dream of becoming doctors and engineers.

The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses. Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals.

Mr. Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve their academic and career aspirations. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education."

The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its

benefited over 75,000 students since 2014.

Aakash also celebrates its success in the recent JEE Mains 2024, where 41,263 students qualified the examination. Note-worthy achievements include 4,198 students attaining a percentile score of 95 and above, while 939 students secured a percentile score of 99 and above. Rishi Shekhar Shukla from Hyderabad achieved a perfect 100 percentile, with Abhiraj Singh from Karnal, Sri Ram A from Trinulveli, and Viswanath K S from Hyderabad securing an exceptional percentile of 99.99, among others.

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 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.

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet. The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000 per year, divided into

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children.

Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme."

Farmers and farmer families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount."

Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

T20I retirement yet to sink in for Rohit

New Delhi: It's been over a month since Rohit Sharma bid adieu to the shortest format of the game. The farewell couldn't have been more fairytale for one of India's celebrated white-ball cricketers as he ended his T20I career with World Cup glory. While he is done with T20Is, Rohit continues to be part of India's ODI setup and retains his captaincy as the team builds towards their cycle. The upcoming three-match series against Sri Lanka will be Rohit's first international game since the memorable T20 World Cup final but the 37-year-old revealed that the retirement is yet to sink in for him.

"No difference. I played the format, loved playing the format.. I did what I had to do. Now, I'm pretty happy looking forward to the Test and ODI format," said Rohit at the pre-match press conference.

"I actually don't know. Till now, I have been

feeling like I have been rested for T20s, like it used to happen in the past. And then, there is a big tournament coming up and we will need to get ready for T20s again. I still feel it is like that so I don't think I am completely out of the format (laughs)."

Having been an all-format player-cum-captain for the last few years, Rohit had a lot on his plate, physically and mentally. Of course, he did get his workload managed with the odd rest between certain white-ball series but with India's packed international calendar, there weren't a lot of phases for the opening batter to recharge himself completely. Since the start of 2023, India had big games across all three formats that included World Cups in both white-ball formats and a World Test Championship final. While glory eluded them in the Test format and ODIs, silverware in the T20 World Cup was a timely reward for Rohit's

men. When asked about how the break since retirement has given him the time to recharge his batteries, Rohit admitted that it was a much-needed relaxation period for himself.

"Personally, I have had a good time. Good off time from cricket for a bit. You know after winning the World Cup, it was a great feeling to come back home and experience what we experienced in Delhi and Mumbai. But yes now, as you know now we have to move on, cricket moves on. That is what happened after the '23 ODI World Cup as well, there was a lot of disappointment but we had to move on and look forward to this T20 World Cup."

"Now that the T20 world cup is over, we have to look forward, and start thinking about what lies ahead for us as a team. Ya, that is a big tournament coming up and plenty to look forward to. Personally for me as well, I am happy with where I am, how I have

prepared myself every time I have come to play a series, this is no different for me. So yep, we have had a good three days here and another day to look forward to and under a new coaching staff which is quite exciting." Coming to India's new coaching staff under head coach Gautam Gambhir, the former left-handed opener's stint began with a thrilling 3-0 T20I series win over Sri Lanka. Newly appointed T20I captain

Suryakumar Yadav also gave a good account of his leadership skills in the series that had a lot of ebbs and flows to it. Reflecting on the start to India's 'new era', Rohit chose not to jump at conclusions about Suryakumar's captaincy, given the short sample size.

"It's early days and I don't want to talk too much about it. He's done his work well and let him do his work well. We should all be calm. We all consistently jump too

quickly onto things on whether we win or if we lose. Let him consistently do well and we can relaxingly talk about it." "It's definitely a good start for them in that format. They played really well, played well as a unit which was really good and that is what Team India is all about, playing together as a team. And I'm sure the team is heading in the right direction."

Rohit also expressed his excitement at starting a

c a p t a i n - c o a c h

relationship with Gambhir, given that the duo had been teammates at one point of time. That was, however, at a time when both were at contrasting phases of their career in international cricket. Delving on his bond with the new head coach, Rohit felt that the ease of their already established camaraderie should help the side in the process of transition.

"Gautam Gambhir has played a lot of cricket firstly and he has been involved with a franchisee team as well sitting at the top. Like I said, it's obviously going to be different from the previous coaching staff. Every human, every individual is different. Before when Rahul Dravid joined the team, we had Ravi Shastri so every individual works differently and I'm sure I know Gautam Gambhir for a long time now, we have played a little bit of cricket together and we have had a lot of chats together in the past. Now

that he is here, he has got a very clear mind on what he wants to do with the team which is very good. We don't want to plan too far ahead. We're here to play three games so the goal/idea is to try to take something back from these three games. Try and learn a lot about how we want to play ODI cricket and what we want to achieve in ODI cricket so it's very exciting times."

Rohit, however, refused to consider the three ODIs against Sri Lanka as 'practice' for the team's vision towards the 2025 Champions Trophy. While he agreed that exposure in the format in the lead-up to an ICC event is paramount, Rohit maintained that there wouldn't be any let up in intensity from the Indian team. The captain stressed on the need to balance the objectives around rotation without compromising on the intent to win games.

PCB says BCB is free to bring in its security expert



New Delhi: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has stated that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is welcome to send its own security experts for their team's visit to Pakistan for a two-Test series later this month. In response to a report by Cricbuzz earlier on Thursday regarding a BCB request for a security consultant, the PCB confirmed that while the BCB can bring its own security manager, the PCB will not be able to provide a team security manager. Elaborating on the point, a PCB spokesperson from Lahore told Cricbuzz on Thursday evening: "Security managers or consultants are now considered part of the player support personnel just like a media manager or a team doctor. Even at the ICC Men's T20 World

August 30 to September 3, The Test series is part of the World Test Championship (WTC). The spokesperson further said, "In fact, and as part of international norm, the PCB shared the security plan along with the BCB last month and received no queries or additional requests."

Incidentally, the Bangladesh A side is arriving in Islamabad on August 7 and apparently without a security consultant.

When criticism comes, you have to take it - Jayasuriya



New Delhi: "We must be prepared to accept criticism," Sanath Jayasuriya, the head coach of Sri Lanka, announced on Thursday. Eventhough the words of Jayasuriya were resolute, his voice was tinged with the weight of recent disappointments as he made both a candid admission and a rallying cry. In the aftermath of a cleanse sweep against India in the T20I series at Pallekele, Jayasuriya acknowledged that the fans had every right to be discontent following his team's recent performances. Yet, he added in an earnest plea - the need for support from them. "I see the players putting in an enormous amount of effort. I appeal to the fans to come to the ground and support the

middle had made a gesture to send a right-hander in. His intentions of letting us know that a right-hander was needed is correct. We were prepared for the routine batting line-up. But when the set batter sends a message you need to listen to that. I would have been happier had Kusal Perera finished it off." Jayasuriya asserted that the issue is not as much related to skill or commitment as it's about poor shot selection and the inability to handle the pressure situations. "We have created a system where top order batters could bat for two or three hours during training," he said. "Kamindu Mendis batted for more than 600 balls during our training. Kusal Perera batted for over 700 balls and that's

Never been punched so hard: Carini in tears after losing controversial boxing bout



New Delhi: A n emotional Angela Carini told the press that she had never been punched this hard in her life after losing her Round of 16 bout to Algeria's Imane Khelif on Thursday, 1 August. The controversial bout lasted only 46 seconds after Carini refused to continue the fight. Khelif, who was disqualified from her gold medal match 2023 World Championships for failing the International Boxing Association, was allowed to participate by the IOC in the Paris Olympics.

After the video of Khelif punching Carini went viral on social media, after which the Olympic Association was called out. This ignited a series of angry reactions from multiple prominent sports personalities and politicians which in turn converted into a major outrage on social media. Carini was in tears during her press meet after the fight and said that she just could not continue any longer in the fight.

"I have always honoured my country with loyalty," Carini said with tears in her eyes. "This time I didn't succeed because I couldn't fight anymore.

"I put an end to the match because after the second blow, after years of experience in the ring

and a life of fighting, I felt a strong pain in my nose.

"You all saw my nose that started bleeding. I

didn't lose tonight, I just surrendered with

life." I've always been very instinctive, but when I feel something is not going well, it's not a surrender but having the maturity to stop." The Algerian, who won the silver medal in the 2022 World Championship, was disqualified only hours before her gold medal bout in New Delhi last year when she did not meet the International Boxing Association's (IBA) eligibility criteria. The Algerian, who won the silver medal in the 2022 World Championship, was disqualified only hours before her gold medal bout in New Delhi last year when she did not meet the International Boxing Association's (IBA) eligibility criteria. However, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) went against the IBA's verdict and gave a green light to Khelif for her participation in the Games. Carini left the ring after just 40 seconds of the opening bell as she firmly stood by her decision. However, the Italian boxer went on to explain that her decision was due to an apparent nose injury, but that has not stopped the instance from becoming a topic of mixed reaction all over social media since.