



The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari 'Inspecting the Guard of Honour' on his arrival at NCC Republic Day (RD) Camp 2024, in Delhi Cantt

"New Year For Me": Bilkis Bano On Big Supreme Court Order

New Delhi(KCN): The 11 men responsible for killing her family and gangraping her soon to be back behind the bars, Bilkis Bano has said the day is "truly the New Year" for her. Earlier today, the Supreme Court ruled that 11 convicts who committed the heinous crimes during the 2002 Gujarat riots and got released last year for "good behaviour", must return to jail.

The convicts have to surrender within two weeks, the top court said, declaring that the exercise of power by the Gujarat government was a case of "usurpation" of power.

The state was not competent to release the men, since only the state where the trial was held -- in this case Maharashtra -- is empowered to do this, the judges pointed out. "I have wept tears of



relief. I have smiled for the first time in over a year and half. I have hugged my children. It feels like a stone the size of a mountain has been lifted from my chest, and I can breathe again," she said in a statement issued through her lawyer Shobha Gupta. "This is what justice feels like. I thank the honourable Supreme Court of India for giving me, my children and women

everywhere, this vindication and hope in the promise of equal justice for all," she said. "A year and half ago, on August 15, 2022, when those who had destroyed my family and terrorised my very existence, were given an early release, I simply collapsed," she said. To those who stood with her during that period, "my gratitude for your precious solidarity and

strength," she said. "You gave me the will to struggle, to rescue the idea of justice not just for me, but for every woman in India. I thank you," Bano said.

The men were released on Independence Day last year by the Gujarat government through an obsolete law, setting off a wave of outrage across the country. Bilkis Bano said she was not informed about the release and expressed concern about the huge risk to her security it entailed. Once out, the men received a hero's welcome, with sweets and garlands. Some of them were later spotted sharing stage with a BJP MP and MLA. The convict who made the initial petition for release, Radheshaym Shah, had even started practicing law, the top court was told during the hearing.

Wild Bears Spark Panic Among Villagers In Koraput's Jeypore



Koraput(KCN): A pack of four wild bears have created panic among villagers in Jeypore block of Koraput district for the last two days. The bears were spotted roaming day and night on the roads near Sindhigam, Hadia and Putra villages. The movement of wild bears near the human settlements has caused fear among the villagers. The villages wear a deserted look before the sunset nowadays. People who used to commute on these road stretches have to take other long routes due to fear of bear attacks. Unable to return to their native places, some are taking shelter in other villages at night. Reportedly, the forest department personnel are trying to drive the bears back into the wild. The villagers have been advised not to approach the bears for their own safety.

Balabhadra Majhi has



Police ASI Caught Taking Bribe In Koraput's Jeypore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Vigilance on Monday apprehended an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police in Jeypore Town Police Station in Koraput district and another person on charges of demanding and taking a bribe of Rs 5,000 to release a seized scooter.

According to Vigilance Directorate, Jeypore Town PS ASI Anil Kumar Nayak and Md. Nazrul, a private person, were apprehended today by Odisha Vigilance for taking a bribe of Rs.5,000 from a complainant to release his seized two-wheeler and its connected documents.

Based on the above complaint, a trap was laid on Monday, wherein the accused ASI Anil Kumar Nayak, along with Md. Nazrul were caught by the Vigilance team near old Sadar PS in Jeypore while bribe from the

complainant. The Vigilance team nabbed Md. Nazrul while he was accepting the bribe amount from the complainant, as per the direction of ASI Nayak. The entire bribe money was recovered from the possession of Md. Nazrul and seized in the presence of witnesses. Both hands wash as well as pant pocket wash of Md. Nazrul gave a positive chemical reaction, confirming his acceptance and handling of bribe money.

Subsequently, the two-

wheeler has also been seized from inside the campus of Jeypore Town PS. Following the trap, simultaneous searches have been launched on the residential Govt. quarter of ASI Nayak near old Sadar PS, Jeypore and the house at Nabarangpur.

In this connection, Koraput Vigilance PS Case No.02 dated 08.01.2024 U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018 has been registered and is under investigation.

Former Minister Balabhadra Majhi Quits BJD



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Former MLA Balabhadra Majhi today tendered his resignation from the primary membership of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) after sending the resignation letter to party supremo Naveen Patnaik. The ex-Lanjigarh MLA quit the BJD citing that he was being neglected in the party. This comes ahead of the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in India. "I do hereby relinquish from the primary membership of the Biju Janata Dal. Thanks a lot for allowing me to work for a long period along with you since the formation of the party in 1997," he wrote in the letter.

Balabhadra Majhi has

won once from Lanjigarh constituency. In 1990 and 1995, Balabhadra Majhi was elected to the Legislative Assembly from Narla on a Janata Dal ticket. He joined BJD after its formation. In 2000 and 2004, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly from the Narla constituency on the BJD ticket. In 2009, he contested from Lanjigarh Assembly seat on a BJD ticket but faced defeat. However, in 2014 BJD again nominated him from this constituency and he won. However, the party did not give him a ticket in the 2019 election. In his place, the party nominated Pradeep Kumar Disari in Lanjigarh.

504 Junior Engineers Join Odisha Govt

398 Join Panchayati Raj Dept; 78- Public Health Cadre & 28- Municipal Engineering Cadre in H & UD Dept

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 504 Junior Engineers (Civil) today joined the state government. While 398 were appointed under the Panchayati Raj Department, 78 were appointed in the Odisha Municipal Engineering Cadre and 28 of them joined the Public Health Engineering Cadre in the Housing & Urban Development Department.

An induction programme was organized at the Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Addressing the new

engineers on the occasion, the Chief Minister told them, "You all are young, confident and full of energy. You are here to serve the people and make their lives change for the better. Develop a passion to give your best."

Welcoming the new engineers, he advised them to follow the 5T principles of Team work, Transparency, Technology and Time to see the transformation in their work. He said, "You will see the complete transformation of Odisha in your lifetime. And you will be a



catalyst of that transformation." He further said that his government has taken up a drive to bring transformation in every sector of society and also to bring visible improvement in the quality of life of our people. Our 24/7 Drink From Tap is one such transformative facility that even bigger cities like Delhi and Mumbai do not have. We want to break new ground in all our endeavours.

Speaking on the occasion, the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Minister Pradeep Kumar Amat said that there was a time when no recruitment was taking place because of the financial crunch in the

state. Today, because of the deft handling of the financial situation by the Chief Minister, there are now two to three recruitments happening every month.

Housing & Urban Development Minister Smt Usha Devi said that water is crucial to public health & hygiene. As engineers, they will look up to a very essential mandate of establishing a link between policy and implementation.

Three new engineers Ashashree Sahu, Sanjeev Mahant and Smruti Pragyan Chhotray, shared their experiences and expressed their happiness over the fast and transparent recruitment process. They committed themselves to the principles of 5T throughout their career in public service. Housing & UD ACS G Mathivathanan advised the new engineers to learn to work with people and public representatives. The services we are providing to people are mandated as rights of people, he added.

Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Principal Secretary SK Lohani in his welcome address spoke on the significance of 5T and Mo Sarkar.

Odisha's Bhitarkanika logs slight rise in migratory bird count this winter

Kendrapara / Sambalpur (KCN): There has been a slight rise in the number of migratory birds visiting Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park this winter, according to the latest census report of the feathered guests released by the forest department. According to the report, the number of avian guests has risen to 1,51,421 this year compared to 1,39,959 last year.

While 144 species of feathered guests had thronged the national park last year, the latest headcount spotted 121 species of birds.

Tweets of winged

guests from overseas had livened up the picturesque marshy wetland spots of the national park.

The enumerators have spotted some rare groups of winged species in the wetland areas of the national park.

"This is a clear indicator that Bhitarkanika is still a congenial spot to attract birds," said divisional forest officer (DFO), Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division, Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav.

The annual bird census was conducted January 6.

The increase in the number of migratory



birds this year is due to the availability of open space, following the eviction of large tracts of illegal prawn gheries by the revenue and forest departments, he said.

"It was a treat to watch the feathered guests

with their chirpy cacophony adding colour to the vibrant eco-system of this region," said a wildlife staff engaged in the annual headcount of birds.

Birds from the northern hemisphere

and cold places like Ladakh prefer Bhitarkanika wetland for its unique eco-system, he added. Chilika and Bhitarkanika wetlands in the state are the favoured destinations of winter migratory

birds, he said. Meanwhile, census of 33 birding experts will cover 500 sq km Hirakud reservoir in Sambalpur district is underway, a forest officer said. The reservoir and power channel have been divided into 21

sectors covered by 32 teams comprising forest officers and experts, said Anshu Pragyan Das, DFO, Hirakud Wildlife Division.

Teams of Hirakud Wildlife Division, equipped with binoculars, bird field guides, GPS devices and census sheets began the exercise Monday morning, she said.

A total of 78 participants including 33 birding experts will cover 500 sq km Hirakud reservoir in Sambalpur district including power channels. The teams have been engaged in Sambalpur, Bargarh and Jharsuguda districts, the DFO

informed. Every year, thousands of winged guests from Caspian Sea, Baikal Lake, Aral Sea, Mongolia, central and southeast Asia and the Himalayas make Hirakud reservoir their home from November to March.

Common pochard, red crested pochard, spot-billed duck, great crested grebe, pond heron, painted stork, whiskered tern and many more have been sighted during this period every year.

More than 3.16 lakh birds of 108 species thronged the reservoir last winter. Similarly, over 2.08 lakh birds of 104 species were sighted in 2022.

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT DAV, KALINGA NAGAR



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar organised a road safety awareness programme in its premises today under the aegis of Commissionerate Police, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Sri Jayanta Kumar Dora, ACP, Traffic joined as the

Chief guest on this occasion. In the formal meeting, the chief guest presented a power point presentation highlighting the different road safety activities undertaken by the Commissionerate police and threw light on different safety measures to be adopted by the people while using the

road. In his answer to the questions asked by the students, Sri Dora said that road safety as a practice should not be limited to discussion only. It should be a way of life. Principal Sri Balaram Mahapatra, in his address to the students, advised them to spread the need and importance of road safety in their

surroundings. The teachers along with the scouts, guides, NCC and JRC students went on an awareness rally from the school campus to SUM Hospital square to mark the occasion. The event was smoothly organised by the whole-hearted co-operation of all the staff members.

Two Villages Sans Basic Amenities In Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur (KCN): Two remote villages in Nabarangpur district still lack basic amenities and 16 families residing in Pipalguda village do not have access to clean drinking water and depend on natural streams.

Though there are two tube wells in the village, one has poor-quality water and the other is contaminated. The villagers have informed the civil engineer about the issue of water scarcity.

But repair work has not been carried out yet due to the need for pipe replacement. This situation puts the villagers at risk of consuming contaminated water.



Many villages like Pipalguda lack basic amenities, even as the government claims to be engaged in developmental activities. Additionally, due to the lack of mobile phone networks in the area, the people of these villages are

deprived of emergency services. For instance, Kadabeda village is a remote area situated 2 km away from the Anganwadi centre. Despite the challenges, labourers, pregnant women, and disabled children travel back and forth

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Shahrukh Khan : King of Romance and Baadshah

Anupama Bhuyan



Shahrukh Khan also known as SRK and King Khan is one of the most famous actors of Bollywood. He was born on 2 Nov 1965. He is well known as King of Romance and Baadshah in media. He is the owner of Red Chillies Entertainment Production House which is his own production House. Apart from Bollywood he has also interest in sports. He is the owner of Popular IPL Team KKR (Kolkata Knight Riders). He did films like Dil Ashna hai, Don 1, Don 2, Om Shanti Om, Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Ghum, Kabhi Alvida Na

kehna, my name is Khan, Chak De India, Chennai Express, Swades, Pardesh, Main Hoon Na, Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman, Guddu, Anjaam, Bazigar, Darr, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. Apart from these he also acted in TV series like Fauji, Circus etc. He also has been the host of some reality shows like Kya Aap Paanchvi Pass Se Tez Hain, KBC Season 3 etc.

Moving on, Dr. Semkiw says that Shahrukh Khan is a reincarnation of Sadhona Bose. Sadhona, a dancer and actress, starred in a few films of the 1930s and 40s. She was good at performing classical Indian dance as well as ballet --- however, stardom did not last too long for her and she had to resort to begging! But her soul came back to achieve stardom through 'King Khan'. Finally, though not an actor,



but the author of the Harry Potter series, JK Rowling is supposedly a reincarnation of Charles Dickens!

Shah Rukh Khan also known as SRK (born Shahrukh Khan; 2 November 1965), is an Indian actor, producer, television personality and philanthropist. Referred to in the media as "Baadshah of Bollywood" or "King Khan", he has appeared in

over 50 Hindi films in genres including romance, action and comedy. His work in Bollywood has earned him numerous accolades, including fourteen Filmfare Awards from thirty nominations. His eighth Filmfare Best Actor Award put him in a tie for the most in that category. For his contribution to film, the Government of

India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2005 and the Government of France awarded him the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2007, and later in 2014 the Légion d'honneur — France's highest civilian award. Khan was the second-richest actor in the world in 2014, with a net worth of US\$600 million.

Khan started his career in theatre and appeared in several television series in the late 1980s. He made his Bollywood debut in 1992 with Deewana. Early in his career, Khan was recognised for his unconventional choice of portraying negative roles in films including Darr (1993), Baazigar (1993), and Anjaam (1994). He then rose to prominence by playing a series of roles in romantic

comedies and dramas including Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998), and Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Ghum (2001). Khan later earned wide critical acclaim in the drama Devdas (2002), for his portrayal of a NASA scientist in Swades (2004), as a hockey coach in Chak De! India (2007), and as the titular character in My Name Is Khan (2010). Thirteen of the films he has acted in have accumulated gross earnings of over INR 1 billion (US\$16 million) worldwide, making him one of the most successful leading actors of Hindi cinema.

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A tree is a physical illustration of the spiritual life

Bipin Bihari Rout



potential. It is for man himself to turn this potential into actuality. But there is a difference here. A seed grows automatically, following the law of nature. Man, however, is required to develop his personality by his own efforts. This requires conscious planning. Man should, accordingly, discover himself and plan for his development.

We live in a world where we face different situations, both negative and positive, wanted and unwanted. All these are like food for human beings, food for our growth. We must extract nourishment for our development from all things and situations, including negative and unwanted ones, for we can learn much from these, too. In this world, this is the course taken by human development and, to further it, man must take food from everything. When he is angry and controls his anger, he is training himself in the art of

turning negativity into positivity. When he faces a crisis situation and manages to keep his patience, he is building up his capacity for positive planning. If he faces a violent situation and refrains from reacting, he is shaping his personality in such a way that he can maintain his peace of mind, no matter in what condition he finds himself.

This gives a person the ability to conserve his energies, so that he may devote himself entirely to constructive work. When one faces a provocative situation and maintains his balance, he is building up his self-control and thus creating a mindset that will enable him to effectively manage the periodic crises besetting almost everyone in this life. It is as if he has enrolled himself in a course of intellectual improvement.

All situations, both good and untoward, are like intellectual food. If you

try to face these situations with a positive attitude, you will be helping yourself grow. You will be enhancing your creativity. You will be developing your personality along positive lines. One who adopts this course will surely emerge, sooner or later, as a well-developed personality, standing tall, like a full-grown tree. Every person is born into this world with tremendous potential, but he or she has to work hard to unfold it. This potential is bestowed on everyone by nature, but its unfolding is a task which each and every individual has to perform for himself. Nature never discriminates against anyone with regard to the blessings that it showers on one and all: in the last analysis, it is left to man himself to become a success or a failure.

Srivihar Colony, Cuttack, Mob. : 9437666453



The ear is one of the 'neglected,' least taken-care-of organs in the human body even though it plays a vital role in hearing and balancing the body's movements. At least 15-20 per cent of the general population develop some kind of ear problems and that children are more susceptible to it. In fact, the common cold and cough, if left untreated, can lead to ear infection as the middle ear is connected to the nose through the Eustachian tube. Also, using sharp objects or chemicals and oil to clean the ear, which people often resort to, can also damage the ear drum.

Among the common ear ailments, bacterial and fungal infections of the external ear are quite common. Due to humidity, dusty atmosphere and pollution, irritation, itching and fungal growth takes place and

Narayan Chandra Biswal

when water enters the ears during head-bath, the fungal growth intensifies in the external ear. This is called oto-mycosis. Sometimes, bacterial infection may cause pain, itching and puss discharge from the ear (otitis externa).

Another mistake that people tend to do is scratching and cleaning the ear with objects such as keys, safety pins, needle, tooth-pick and so on. Some pour warm oil or use hydrogen peroxide in the ear to clean the wax, all of which should be avoided. The lining of the ear canal is very fragile and it can get ruptured in the process. So one should use soft ear buds but not insert it too deep inside the ear. The ear has a cleaning mechanism of its own through secretions at night.

Only five per cent of the population, who have dry skin need to put wax softening drops for about a week after consulting a specialist.

Further, people neglect common cold and cough or sinus problem, which mostly affects children. But this can get quite serious and spread to the middle ear through the Eustachian tube

connecting the nose and ear. It can cause puss formation under pressure and bursting of the tympanic membrane and reinfection (otitis media). In the long run, if proper treatment is not given, the patient may develop complications of the facial nerve or brain abscess.

So, it's very important to treat the cold, abstain from ice cream, cold drinks and such food. Ensure that water doesn't enter the ears. Those flying in aircraft or into deep sea diving often face barotrauma due to the difference in air pressure outside and inside. This also may cause rupture and even bleeding from the ears (otitis media) and needs to be treated with antibiotics and not ear drops.

Again, if the inner ear is affected, besides the hearing, one would develop problem in balancing oneself and would suffer from a reeling or giddy sensation (vertigo). It's because the inner ear is also responsible for balancing or neural integration.

Some people also complain about a buzzing sensation in the ear. This is the first indication of a damage

to the auditory function (neural damage in the inner ear) and can be attributed to noise induced hearing loss (tinnitus). Avoiding constant exposure to noise pollution, taking medicines and neurotropic vitamins are initial remedies to control damage.

And finally, if anything accidentally gets inside the ear, say insects or some tiny stones or beads, the patient shouldn't panic but immediately seek medical help. If insects get in, using a little oil will automatically bring out the dead insect as a foreign body from the ear. But if some pencil lead or beads get inserted in children's ears, they should be removed by ENT specialists without damaging the surrounding tissues. If

corrosive materials like watch batteries get in, they should be promptly removed under local anaesthesia by an ENT specialist and under general anaesthesia if the materials have gone deep inside the ear.

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Criminal Breach of Trust: Legal Perspectives and Economic Ramifications



Criminal Breach of Trust, as defined in Section 405 of the Indian Penal Code, revolves around the dishonest misappropriation, conversion, or misuse of entrusted property. This offense has both legal and economic implications, delving into the intricacies of trust, responsibility, and the potential impact on the economy.

Legal Aspects of Criminal Breach of Trust

Section 405 of the Indian Penal Code outlines the essential ingredients for the offense of Criminal Breach of Trust.

Notably, the offense is not confined to external parties but extends to instances where a person may commit Criminal Breach of Trust in relation to their own property.

The following ingredients are necessary to attract the

operation of section 405.

(a) The accused must be entrusted with property or dominion over the property; and

(b) The person so entrusted (i.e., the accused) must-

(i) dishonestly misappropriate, or convert to his own use, that property, or

(ii) dishonestly use or dispose of that property or wilfully suffer any other person to do so in violation of

(1) any direction of law, prescribing the mode, in which such trust is to be discharged, or

(2) any legal contract made touching the discharge of such trust.

A case example involving the pledging of promissory notes demonstrates the interplay between entrustment, dishonest misappropriation, and violation of a legal contract. In this scenario, the accused induced the complainant to hand over promissory notes for a specific purpose, but then dishonestly disposed of them, leading to a breach of trust.

Criminal Breach of Trust by Public Servants, Bankers,

Merchants, and Agents Section 409 of the IPC addresses specific categories of individuals entrusted with property in unique capacities. It applies to public servants, bankers, merchants, factors, brokers, attorneys, or agents. The severity of punishment reflects the elevated level of trust associated with these roles.

Public servants, owing to their special status and the trust vested in them as representatives of the government, face particularly stringent penalties under Section 409. The entrustment of property or dominion must be directly linked to the accused's role as a public servant for this section to apply. The legal framework recognizes the potential for greater harm when public servants breach trust, warranting life imprisonment or imprisonment up to ten years along with fines.

Economic Implications

The economic implications of Criminal Breach of Trust are far-reaching, permeating through the fabric of societal trust and economic stability.

Furthermore, the economic fallout extends to a broader societal scale,

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

when committed by public servants, instil a pervasive sense of mistrust in government institutions. Such erosion of confidence can have profound repercussions on economic activities and investments, as individuals and businesses may become hesitant to engage in financial transactions or collaborate with government bodies.

The impact intensifies when the breach involves key players in financial transactions, such as bankers, merchants, or agents. These individuals hold pivotal roles in facilitating and securing economic exchanges, and any betrayal of trust on their part can disrupt the smooth functioning of financial systems.

Investors and stakeholders, apprehensive about the integrity of these intermediaries, may withdraw their participation, leading to a decline in overall economic stability.

Case Analysis:

Superintendent and

affecting employment rates, consumer spending patterns, and overall market confidence.

The resilience of an economy relies heavily on the trustworthiness of its institutional frameworks, and any breach of trust within these structures can have cascading effects on the nation's economic health. In essence, the economic implications of Criminal Breach of Trust transcend individual cases, influencing the very foundations of societal trust and the stability of the economic landscape.

Enhanced Penalties for Specific Roles

Sections 407 and 408 of the IPC acknowledge the varying degrees of trust associated with different roles. These sections provide for enhanced penalties when individuals entrusted with property, such as carriers, wharfingers, or warehouse-keepers, commit offenses of Criminal Breach of Trust.

The law

recognizes the potential for misuse and harm in these roles, imposing stricter punishments to deter such actions.

Case Analysis:

Superintendent and

Remembrance of Legal Affairs v. S K Roy

The case of Superintendent and Remembrance of Legal Affairs v. S K Roy exemplifies the application of Section 409 to public servants. The accused, a superintendent of an insurance society, misappropriated funds from policyholders in his capacity as a public servant. The court held that the ostensible scope of a public servant's authority

when receiving property determines the applicability of Section 409.

Harshad Mehta and the Indian Securities Scam (1992)

Harshad Mehta, a prominent Indian stock broker, orchestrated one of the most infamous cases of criminal breach of trust in the financial world during the early 1990s. Mehta engaged in a massive securities scam, manipulating the stock market through a fraudulent mechanism known as "pump and dump."

Exploiting loopholes in the banking system,

he misappropriated funds from banks to artificially inflate stock prices,

creating a façade of

prosperity. Mehta's breach of trust extended beyond financial institutions to the millions of investors who suffered substantial losses when the market bubble eventually burst. In 1992, the scam came to light, leading to Mehta's arrest and subsequent legal proceedings. The case exposed systemic vulnerabilities, resulting in reforms in India's financial regulatory framework.

Conclusion

Criminal Breach of Trust is a complex offense with legal and economic implications.

Understanding its elements and the specific provisions for public servants, bankers, merchants, and agents is crucial for maintaining trust in societal institutions and ensuring the stability of economic activities.

The Enron scandal stands as a global example of corporate criminal breach of trust. Executives at the energy giant, Enron Corporation, engaged in fraudulent accounting practices to conceal mounting debts and losses, betraying the trust of shareholders and employees. By misrepresenting financial statements and employing off-balance-sheet financing, Enron's leadership deceived investors about the company's true financial health. When the truth emerged in 2001, Enron filed for bankruptcy, causing severe financial repercussions for employees who lost their jobs and shareholders who faced

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Children Theater Festival in Kolkata



political satire, dark comedy and magical performance with intense passion, strong positive attitude and a devotional love for performing arts.

In addition to the dazzling performance of talented children and several teen age performers; the directional genius of Mr. Pinaki Ghosh and music scoring and composition by Miss. Jayati Nasker deserves special mention for their monumental hardwork and efforts. Overall it was memorable cultural experience that the dedicated audience explored for three days highlighting various socio-cultural, socio-religious and socio-political introspection of our present day society from a Multiple perspectives. The sensational dialogues and breath taking performance of the he child artists deserves special mention as many of them could compete at national levels for their outstanding talents and ability to perform in front of a big audience. It is a movement, which gives expression to the

Sansad is located at 170 A, Peary Mohan Roy Road, Kolkata-700027 and was established in 1985. The organization is lead by veteran theater director Mr. Pinaki Guha and his dedicated team; and has till date successfully made 50 plus successful stage productions performed by children between the age groups of 4-16 years.

The organization is dedicated to children's welfare and theatre group in the city of Kolkata and highly respected for their dedicated social and cultural services. From a humble beginning in 1985; they have continued to receive rave reviews from both theater experts and general audience. In the dilapidated house of Zamindars (landlords) at Matalibari in Chetla, the dream of making a social change in the lives of children was born. It has grown into a movement today to make the lives of these children a better one by their own efforts. It is a movement, which gives expression to the

Saikat Kumar Basu



thoughts of the down trodden children; a way of looking ahead from day to day drudgery of their existence. Working with the children of the lowest strata of the society, Chetla Krishtri Sansad imbibe in them the self confidence and zeal to make their life better and more meaningful.

This dedicated organization expose children to the ways and means of being happy by opening new windows of life through which they can find their self expressions. The children members and performers come primarily from the slums of Chetla in south Kolkata. They have a unique

coexistence of children from upper, middle and lower strata of the society, where they can mingle with each other so easily. The eagerness and determination with which these little artists attend regular workshops, demonstrating unfeigned appreciation and involvement towards the mission that they are looking for.

In spite of the meager financial support and rickety infrastructural facilities; this organization witness a disciplined and dedicated performance from the talented young performers. Chetla Krishtri Sansad hopes to change the mode of life of the little ones and make them a

Government grant or of annual examinations.

3. Children compulsorily rehearse thrice a week and stage about 25 shows per year on avarage.

Their dramas, puppets and mime shows have been widely acclaimed and covered by mainstream local media such as local newspapers and television.

4. They have been organizing the annual Children's Theatre Festival: 'SISHU NATYOTSAV' since 1993 where children's theatre groups of Red Light Areas, blind and other specially abled kids from Kolkata and suburbs also participate along with others.

The important features of this unique group includes:

1. If a person is attached to a theatre group from childhood, he or she can be skillful theatre personnel, if not; at least can be an honest, vigilant citizen. This is their mission.

2. The organization is totally free, the members give honorary service to the children, and they never had any Government or Non

Government grant or of annual examinations.

8. The children rehearse three days a week (Sunday, Saturday and Thursday) from 5-6.30 p.m.

9. This group has participated in the Sishu Natyotsav organized by Paschimbanga Natyo Academy at Kolkata, Jalpaiguri, Bardhaman and Chinsura; and in Jashan-e-bachpan in 2010.

10. They have done script, directing and acting in a children's programme named GAPPO SAPPO at ETV Bangla from 2001-2010.

Chetla Krishtri Sansad has a long way to go and hope to serve a larger fraternity of children in the not so distant future. The monumental task undertaken this dedicated group to transforming our society and standing by neglected childhood must be appreciated.

5. The children participate in recitations, theatre workshops, vocal music, making puppets, making sets and costumes and doing make ups.

6. They have nurtured and grown the toy library, the first of its kind in Kolkata. People donate old and new toys here.

7. They perform regular show in every month except the time

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The Heritage School, Kolkata, organized 'Chol Hetey Chol' a nonstop 24 hours walk

Kolkata, (KCN): The Heritage School, Kolkata, organized 'Chol Hetey Chol' a nonstop 24 hours walk participated by students of The Heritage School, The BSS School, Shri Shikshayatan School, The Birla High School, DPS Ruby Park, Dolna Day School and Sushila Birla Girls' School Kolkata.

The inaugural session of the walk was organized on 8th January at 2pm from The Heritage School campus. The walk is



organized to propagate the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The inaugural session of

the event was addressed by Shri Varun Swarup, from Paharpur Cooling Towers Ltd, who is also a Marathon Runner, Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Mr. P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of

Institutions and students and teachers of the School. Mr. Akash Basu, Mr. Sourav Dutta and Mr. Bhaggyadhar Pahar, teachers of The Heritage School will actively participate in this 24 hours nonstop walk. "It is very much necessary to create massive awareness of the 17 sustainable development goals of UN. I am glad that our students and teachers have taken such a great initiative," said Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Kolkata.

Meanwhile in an important announcement EASTERN RAILWAY will RUN VANDE BHARAT SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN HOWRAH & PURI

Kolkata, (KCN): Eastern Railway is pleased to announce the introduction of a special Vande Bharat Express train service to cater to the increased demand during the winter season. Howrah - Puri - Howrah Vande Bharat Special train will run every Thursday between 11.1.2024 & 25.1.2024, encompassing 3 trips. The special service aims to facilitate the travel plans of passengers eager to explore the enchanting

beach town Puri, a cherished destination for devotees & tourists alike, experiences and overwhelming rush during the winter season, making train tickets to the vibrant city a prized possession. Recognizing the popularity of the Vande Bharat train for its modern amenities and distinctive design, Eastern Railway is confident that this special service will provide a delightful travel experience. By

02311 Howrah - Puri Vande Bharat Special train will leave Howrah at 06:10 hrs. to reach Puri at 12:35 hrs. on the same day and 02312 Puri - Howrah Vande Bharat Special will leave Puri at 13:50 hrs. to reach Howrah at 20:30 hrs. on the same day. The special train will stop at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road enroute in both the directions. By

introducing the Thursday Special service, Eastern Railway will generate an additional 6768 seats, providing much needed relief to the surge in passenger numbers during this winter season. The special train will have 12 AC Chair & 2 Executive Chair Car. Booking of tickets for 02311 Howrah - Puri Vande Bharat Special is available through PRS & internet. Passengers are urged to secure their

tickets at the earliest convenience to ensure a smooth & beautiful travel experience aboard the Vande Bharat Special.

Shri Kausik Mitra, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway dedicated this special train to the travel enthusiasts of Bengal during the winter season. Moreover, he is optimistic that this initiative will provide a convenient & enjoyable travel experience.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) 2024: Biswa Ranjan



community who reside in several parts of the world.

Since 2003, PBD conventions are being held every year. Its format has been revised since 2015 to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policymakers, and stakeholders. PBD is celebrated to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian

community to the development of India. PBD Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees 2020-2021 names were announced. The Awards were conferred to select Indian diaspora members to recognise their achievements and honour their contributions to various

fields, both in India and abroad.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebration that acknowledges the significant contributions of Indians living abroad to India's progress. The highlight of this celebration is the PBD convention, where themes like "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat" have been explored in recent years.

Shri Biswa Ranjan Sahoo, "On the eve of NRI Day 2024, greetings to all deserving Indians

who live abroad. This

nation is proud of all the

accomplishments that

you have made in other

parts of the world for the

advancement of the

nation. Happy NRI Day."

Shri Biswa Ranjan Sahoo, President of World Odisha Society, Kuwait.

President of Bharatiya

Pravasi Parishad- Odisha

Association of Kuwait.

GCC Country Board

President - International

Human Rights

Defenders.

International General

Secretary - IHRD.

Chairman of World

Communicator Council,

GCC Country.

Chairman & Founder of

Bharat Seva Darsan

Charitable Trust of

Odisha.

MoSahay - Leading

Placement - NGO of

Middle East.

Joint Convenor of Social

Welfare of Bharatiya

Pravasi Parishad

Association of Kuwait.

Writers Forum of Kuwait

- Motivational Script

Writer. Jai Hind.

Eastern India Science & Engineering Fair 2024 at BITM

Kolkata, (KCN): The 47th Eastern India Science Fair (EISF) along with 21st Science & Engineering Fair (SEF) is going to be organised at Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata, from tomorrow (January 09, 2024) till January 12, 2024, based on the following theme:

Main theme is Science and Technology for Society with Sub-themes- Health including LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Agriculture,

Communication and Transport & Computational Thinking.

BITM, a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India popularises science & technology among the students, strives to create a scientific temper in the society and supplement formal science education with discovery-based learning of science in order to nurture creativity in students. With this aim in mind, BITM had started the

present it to a large audience coming from different states.

The Eastern India Science Fair (EISF) and Science & Engineering Fair (SEF) is the biggest show of innovative science models/exhibits by school students of Eastern India. It provides a unique platform for showcasing the creative potential in our youth. This four day long mega event brings students, teachers, parents, scientists, technologists, industrialists and common people together

on a single meeting ground for a rewarding intellectual, social and cultural interaction. The Science Fair is a multi-tier competitive event conducted first in District Level, then in State level and finally, in the Interstate level in Eastern India. Students up to class XII are eligible for participation- either individually or in groups of two - with their models and exhibits from schools. EISF is organised in collaboration with the SCERT and Education Depts. of all the Eastern

Indian States; NCERT, New Delhi and Dept. of Youth Services, Govt. of West Bengal. In the Engineering Fair, college students, selected by their respective colleges, get direct entry.

The Chief Guest of the programme will be Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti, former Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Chairman, Executive Committee, BITM. Prof. Tapas Chakrabarty, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West

Bengal will be the Guest of Honour.

The Valediction & Prize Distribution will be on January 12, 2024 where Prof. Susanta Kumar Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University will be the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour will be Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay, Department of Instrumentation and Electronics Engineering, Jadavpur University. Participants would include winners from Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim and West Bengal.

Besides the Science Exhibition, Quiz-Contest, Meet-the-Scientists and Science-Shows are due to be organised for all participants during the period. Over 100 models and 25 projects by around 300 students will be showcased at the BITM premises during the period.

The Fair is supported by The Neotia University, Ashok Hall Group of Schools, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, JIS Group, NSHM Knowledge Campus and State Bank of India.

UCO Bank Marks 82nd Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a vibrant commemoration of UCO Bank's 82nd Foundation Day and the Kakatpur Branch's 48th Foundation Day joyous celebrations unfolded within the bank's premises. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a multitude of customers with former DGM Pramod Chandra Nayak lauding the bank's service excellence.

The occasion was graced by distinguished personalities including Kakatpur Branch Manager Subhash Panda, Assistant Branch Manager Soumyakanta

Routaray and Ajit Mohanty. Expressing gratitude to its valued customers, UCO Bank pledged to elevate its services with strategic initiatives aimed at bolstering customer engagement in the days ahead.

The festivities also acknowledged the contributions of notable

SHRI MILIND DEOUSKAR Has TAKEN OVER AS GENERAL MANAGER OF EASTERN RAILWAY

Kolkata, (KCN):

Ministry of Railways has appointed Shri Milind Deouskar as General Manager of Eastern Railway.

Shri Milind Deouskar is an officer of Indian Railway Management Service and originally belonged to Indian Railway Stores Service (1987 batch). He has handled very important executive and management positions on Indian Railways such as Additional Divisional Railway Manager and Divisional Railway Manager and Divisional Railway Manager, Pune Division, Secretary/Railway Board. He has also served as Principal Chief Materials Manager at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, Chief Materials Manager on Central Railway besides being Chief Materials Manager on Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd also. He has undergone multiple trainings such as Advanced Management from

INSEAD, Singapore/ Malaysia and undergone Workshop on Strategic Management issues from Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

He is a Mechanical Engineer and an alumnus of Maulana Azad College of Technology (then REC and now NIT) Bhopal. He has immense interest in sports & cultural activities and always patronized development of such activities.

Shri Milind Deouskar is the recipient of National level Railway Award from Hon'ble Railway Minister in the year 2003 for outstanding achievements. Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager on his first working day in Eastern Railway held a meeting today (08.01.2024) with all Principal Officers to take an account of activities, performance of different departments and development initiatives in Eastern Railway.

"Mahatma Gandhi Wanted Ram Rajya, Nothing Wrong With It": Farooq Adbullah

Jammu(KCN): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday expressed hope

the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22 will pave the way for an end to the hatred against the Muslim community in the country. Mr Abdullah asserted that he had always praised Lord Ram from his heart.

"Who goes or not (to attend the consecration event in Ayodhya) is their choice... I hope that with the opening of the temple

doors, the hearts of the people will also open and the hatred, which is spread against the Muslims will end. This is my prayer and the lord will hear my voice," he told reporters on the sidelines of a public meeting here.

The former chief minister said he is not afraid of criticism or losing votes on his remarks about Lord Ram "Ram is as much mine as yours. I have gone through a translation of the holy Quran by a Pakistani scholar and he has also talked about Ram saying he

wanted all to move together with brotherhood and love," said Mr Abdullah.

"Mahatma Gandhi used to say that he wants India to be Ram 'Rajya'. There is nothing wrong with it. I have sung 'bhajan' (praises) of Ram in various temples over the years from my heart and I am not afraid of anyone's criticism or losing vote bank because I know if we have to save Bharat and the state (J&K), we have to join our hands to move forward," he added.

Panel For Seat Sharing

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the upcoming general elections for Lok Sabha and State Assembly, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) today formed a panel to discuss with its other partners in INDIA Bloc to finalise seat-sharing with them.

While OPCC President Sarat Pattanayak will be the chairman of the panel, ex-President Prasad Harichandan and Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka are other members of the panel.

This was decided at a meeting of the senior leaders of 17 different political parties (except BJD and BJP) including Congress held at State Guest House, in presence of AICC in-charge of



Odisha, Ajoy Kumar. The three-member Committee will discuss with other political parties regarding the seat adjustment for the upcoming elections. It was decided in the meeting that from next January 17th, all the leaders of INDIA bloc will visit every block and district of the State through a special campaigning bus and

hold meetings together in every district and block. Earlier in the day, JMM state president Anjani Soren, Ajoy Kumar and Odisha Congress president Sarat Pattanayak held a closed door meeting here and discussed seat adjustment. JMM's Odisha unit in-charge Shivaji Moulik, Pawan Kumar, Odisha

Congress ex-President Prasad Harichandan also attended the meeting. According to reliable sources, the leaders from two parties were in initial discussion on seat sharing for the upcoming general elections and Odisha Assembly poll. However, the number of seats to be shared between two parties is yet to be finalised. At that meeting, Anjani

told Congress leaders that she will talk to her brother and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and the central committee of JMM about the seat sharing and informed the decision. Another round of discussion will be held on January 10, where it may be finalized, the sources said.

They also discussed the upcoming visit of Rahul Gandhi to Odisha under 'Bharat Nyay Yatra'. Though it did not win any seat in the last election, the JMM party has strong presence in Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh and parts of Keonjhar since the years of the struggle for the creation of Jharkhand, and these places were part of the party's "Greater Jharkhand" demand.

Ministers On Paradip Visit

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshotam Rupala and Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal will visit Paradip on 8 January to lay the foundation stone for the project on modernisation and upgradation of Paradip Fishing Harbour.

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, Jagatsinghpur MP Rajashree Mallick, local MLA Sambit Routray will also be present on the occasion. The senior officials from Department of Fisheries, Government of India, Government of Odisha, National Fisheries Development



Fishing Harbour at a total estimated cost of Rs 108.91 crore with 100% central financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in convergence with Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways under Sagarmala Scheme.

This fishing harbour project is implemented by Paradip Port Authority with a completion period of 18 months.

Paradip Fishing Harbour with an enclosed area of about 43 acres is one of major fishing harbours in Odisha located on the right bank of river Mahanadi, 2 km upstream of river mouth in Jagatsinghpur District.

Complaints of frequent power outages due to Tata Power's lack of maintenance

SUBARNAPUR(KCN): Boudh district, Harabhanga block, because there is no line for two days, it is alleged that the public is suffering from the problem. public all around in torrential rain

The telephone service has been completely shut down. While drinking water is dangerous for bait, mosquitoes and reptiles are living in fear. 314 villages in the block depend on this angle. The Energe department is sleepy with paying bills from the customers every month. The Energe department is sleeping because the Energe is gone. The department staff is switching off the switch or they are not picking up the phone. For the convenience of the public, the state government called 112 for emergency services, Ambulance, police and Fire. The service is available at home as it is an essential service, so the government should make a helpline number to provide this service to the customers! Fifty years ago, a 33kV line was constructed from Phulbali to Boudh, out of which 11kV lines were connected and OESCB was providing relay services to customers and these relays were being taken from the Phulbali grid. This old line was passing through the Ranipather Ghat, and



at various times trees fell on the ghat and caused lightning disturbances. A grid of 132 KV was installed at Landiband in this district. In this block there are nine rice mills, three crushers, a spirit factory, two big farmhouses, more than a hundred lift points and many chicken farms, so the monthly electricity bill is in crores of rupees. and installed three 33kV grids at Laigaon, Charichhak and Chhatrarrang. If the result is nil. If the old poles, wires, disc insulators, pin insulators and jumpers that are less than fifty years old are broken,

there are complaints of daily power outages 1 Tata Power giant understands daily maintenance nance It is said that there is 4/5 hour power cut in the name. If daily maintenance is done a little leaf is shaking then how is the line running it is a question in the intellectual quarters. The same wire is still there only the company name has changed! But the company continues to charge the bill every month without doing anything only the service Exploited in name. If a common man If the line is a little far

from the pole, the pole has to be bought. If an unemployed person is going to do cottage industry, now he has to buy a lot of security, transfer die, wire, and pole! This work is done by the electrical contractor. It is said that overestimation of money from It is said that the morale is decreasing. When common people install a transfer, it is mandatory to install a wire while there is no wire in the transfers under the department. Also, the meter is being installed and the indicator is on and the meter is rising. After investigating at different times, the meter has been tampered, there is overload, the domestic line has been commercialized, and there are complaints that fines ranging from five thousand to two lakh rupees have been imposed on someone who has fallen off the hook! It is heard from the customers that they are being harassed like this because they don't understand the orthodox language, instead of solving it! The public is demanding that the company immediately replace the poles and wires of the old 33 KV and 11 KV lines with bowed poles and cables. Otherwise, there will be a mass movement in the coming days

No Change In Retire Age

New Delhi(KCN): The Union Government today said that there is no proposal under consideration to change the retirement age of the Central Government employees.

Replies to a written question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Jitendra Singh informed that 122 officers have been given compulsory retirement under Rule 56(j) during



the last three years (2020-2023), including the current year. Dr Singh gave the details

as per the updated information /data available on the Probity Portal (as on 30.06.2023) as provided by the different Ministries / Departments/Cadre Controlling Authorities (CCAs), provisions of Fundamental Rules (FR)-56(j)/similar provisions have been invoked against the officers. The Minister said, the objective of the review process under the FR

56(j)/similar provisions is to bring efficiency and to strengthen the administrative machinery. Government has also been continuously endeavoring for greater emphasis on digitization, enhanced use of e-office, simplification of rules, periodic cadre restructuring and abolition of redundant laws for strengthening the administration and improving the overall work efficiency in governance.

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B bowlers set up Australia's series-levelling win

New Delhi: In a cagey contest at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday evening, Australia secured a 6-wicket win over India in the second T20I to level the three-match series 1-1. The visitors restricted India to 130 for 8 after electing to field before overhauling the total with one over to spare. Following India's complete dominance in the first T20I, Australia admitted to 'debriefing' and coming up with better plans for the conditions in the second contest. It started with Kim Garth dismissing Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues early. The movement on

offer helped the Australian pacers. Even through the middle overs, there weren't easy runs on offer for the Indians as Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur struggled to get going. Annabel Sutherland and Georgia Wareham in specific were economical. Deepti Sharma was forced to push the accelerator with more aggressive play, and in company of Richa Ghosh added 33 runs in only 18 balls, before the latter fell. However, India's attempt to continue the assault proved counter-productive as they kept losing wickets in quick



Sanctions and demerit points expected for Newlands pitch

New Delhi: The Newlands pitch is set to face condemnation, with a high likelihood of attracting sanctions from the International Cricket Council (ICC). The recent Test match between South Africa and India at the Cape Town venue concluded within five sessions, marking it as the shortest contest in Test cricket history.

The ICC is expected to impose demerit points on the ground, and there is no verifiable information on whether India's captain, Rohit Sharma, will face sanctions for his comments against the ICC and the match referee.

The global focus is currently on the 22-yard playing surface, rather than the criticism directed at the ICC and match referees by the India skipper. India won the Test by seven wickets, and the match, lasted for only 642 deliveries (107 overs).

The pitch, which produced a result in the second session of the second day, garnered global condemnation, with attention on match



referee Chris Broad's rating of the strip. Broad, a former England batsman and an experienced match referee (though not popular among Indian teams), has no option but to give a rating that is poor or unfit.

Pitches can receive one of six ratings - very good, good, average, below average, poor, and unfit. Any rating falling into the last two categories could attract demerit points, ranging from one to five, with the potential for suspension. Very good, good, and average ratings are not in question, while below average might be considered a softer sanction. A poor or unfit rating is anticipated in

this case.

The ICC normally announces the verdict after its operations team in Dubai processes the match referee's rating. While a final decision on Monday is not ruled out, it is unlikely to extend beyond Tuesday.

The pitch for the first Test at Centurion, where the match ended within three days, was also under scrutiny. However, it has taken a backseat after the Newlands fracas.

"I have always maintained that a pitch where a batter is physically threatened is far more dangerous than a pitch where only the batters reputation is under threat," Sunil Gavaskar wrote in his syndicated

column published on Sunday. He brought the Centurion wicket too under the 'dangerous' category, asserting that it was not an accidental error but a well-planned design by the South African cricket establishment.

Surface tension is not new to India in South Africa. In 2018, after a victory against the home team, coach Ravi Shastri remarked that the pitch at the Wanderers had transformed mysteriously overnight, between the third evening and the fourth morning. Play was stopped by match referee Andy Pycroft after a delivery from Jasprit Bumrah hit Dean Elgar on his helmet. The pitch

was deemed dangerous, and South Africa, chasing 241, were 17 for one. According to Shastri, the Indians found the pitch on the fourth morning to be damp and docile, and he went on to say that the pitch on days three and four were like 'chalk and cheese.' India ultimately won the Test by 63 runs, with the turnaround coming only after the sun started beating down on the Wanderers pitch.

If Shastri was cryptic then, Rohit was direct this time. "We all saw what happened in this Test match and how the pitch played. I honestly don't mind playing on pitches like these as long as everyone keeps their mouth shut in India and don't talk about Indian pitches," said Rohit and slammed ICC and match referees for their 'double standard.' "That's my judgement, my opinion and I'll stick by it. I've seen enough cricket and enough of how these match referees and ICC looks into these ratings. I don't have an issue on how you rate, but stay neutral."

Rohit though is unlikely to face any sanctions.

succession, with Wareham and Sutherland bagging a brace each. Shreyanka Patil also attempted to be unorthodox with her strokeplay but were eventually restricted to 130 for 8. After a cautious start, Alyssa Healy cut loose against Titas Sadhu, cracking a couple of boundaries in the second over. She continued the assault against Shreyanka as well. Five wides by Renuka Thakur also helped Australia's case as they piled on 47 runs in the powerplay. Deepti struck twice in her first seven deliveries, getting Healy to inside edge the ball on to her

stumps and having Beth Mooney stumped with a flighted delivery. Just when India was looking to control the scoring rate, Tahlia McGrath and Perry went on the offensive against Amanjot Kaur, smashing four boundaries in the two overs by the medium pacer. The former eventually fell while attempting to reverse sweep against Shreyanka only to glove it to the keeper, and two overs later, Pooja Vastrakar had Ash Gardner caught behind with an outswinging delivery. In what seemed like an opportunity for India to apply the pressure back on the visitors late in the

contest was dusted courtesy the in-form Pheobe Litchfield unorthodox play. She brought out her range of strokes, and with Shreyanka failing to grip the ball, there were ample scoring opportunities. In the last ball of the 19th over, Perry, playing her 300th international match, tonked a slog sweep over the mid wicket fence for a six, to complete the run chase. Brief Scores: India 130/8 in 20 overs (Deepti Sharma 30, Richa Ghosh 23; Georgia Wareham 2-17, Annabel Sutherland 2-18) lost to Australia 133/4 in 19 overs (Ellyse Perry 34*, Alyssa Healy 26; Deepti Sharma 2-22) by 6 wickets.

Rohit, Kohli return for Afghanistan T20Is



New Delhi: Rohit Sharma is set to lead India for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan, BCCI announced on Sunday (January 7).

This marks the return of

Rohit in the shortest format, along with Virat Kohli - both of whom last played against England at the Adelaide Oval during the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal in Australia. Interestingly, Jitesh Sharma and Sanju Samson have been picked as the two wicketkeeping options in what is India's last T20I series ahead of the 2024 World Cup.

Apart from Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav, who are both recovering from injuries, several frontline players including Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj haven't been picked for the series. Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar are the three pacers in the squad, alongside four spin

Serious integrity questions arise from APL chaos

New Delhi: The scenario is all too familiar to club cricketers. A gentle Saturday afternoon jaunt at the local cricket ground quickly becomes heated. The problem? A lack of official umpires. Members of the batting side, when not padded up, instead take up officiating duties. Cue an almighty row, featuring unsubtle accusations of bias, when the finger fails to go up in a close call.

Last Saturday, the trials of amateur cricket made their way into the pro game, only the potential implications are far more sinister. When elite sport loses its neutrality, next to fall is its credibility. Uncertainty questions on sporting integrity and even

corruption then rear their ugly head.

Ahead of the semi-final of the American Premier League, a relatively new franchise competition taking place in Houston, Texas, the official umpires executed a work stoppage. They claimed they had not been sufficiently paid for their services over the first 11 days of the tournament. The league claimed otherwise. Reports indicated that local police were called to remove the umpires from the stadium. Since they refused to take to the field, they were accused of trespassing. Footage on social media shows police telling the officials that they had to leave Moosa Stadium and that their pay dispute was a

civil matter. In posts on X (formerly Twitter), the APL confirmed that the police were called and the umpires asked to leave the stadium. The league accused the officials of holding the match "hostage."

As reported previously on Cricbuzz, a member of the batting side acted as one of the umpires when the match commenced. On the APL's social media channels, an image was published where an umpire not wearing official clothing could be seen.

The match, between the Premium Paks and Premium Indians, was won by the latter side. No allegations of bias or corruption due to non-



neutral umpires have been made, although sources told Cricbuzz that several players received approaches to fix matches in the tournament. Certainly by continuing with the game without the officials, the APL has left itself open to serious integrity

published work on the efficiency of betting markets, regulatory issues, problem gambling and match fixing for betting gain. He has also worked on anti-match fixing policy with organisations such as the UK Gambling Commission, UEFA and Interpol.

"Without umpires, it is much easier for players to manipulate in line with betting markets and possible profits," he continues. "The issue of the umpires, like with any potential crime, you look for opportunity and incentive, motive. Definitely you've got more chance to manipulate the match if a player is umpiring. As I know very well from

Saturday afternoons!" As well as the umpires, sources have confirmed to Cricbuzz that Saturday's semi-final was not broadcast due to payment disputes between the league and those responsible for the production. Normally, any cricket which is broadcast live brings with it a betting market as games become accessible to those not watching in-person. On this occasion, the equation was the other way around. Most punters could not see the action, but they could still make wagers on legal sites worldwide. With no live pictures from Moosa Stadium, those interested in proceedings were relying on online updates.