

Collectors asked for proper assessment of crop loss due to unseasonal rainfall

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government has directed the Collectors of districts affected due to the recent unseasonal rainfall in the state to carry out a proper assessment of the damages to crops, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said Sunday.

Speaking to media persons, Revenue Minister Pujari said "The Collectors have been instructed to carry out the proper assessment of crop loss due to the unseasonal rainfall. The

assessment couldn't be carried out properly due to rainfall which continued till yesterday." "The revenue officials – Tehsildars, Revenue Inspectors, Amins – from the unaffected areas have also been roped in to do assessment of the loss in the affected areas of the state. The assessment will be conducted accurately after the rain subsides," he added.

Pujari assured the farmers that the state government will provide adequate compensation for the crop loss and also



extend help for the sale of the remaining crops. The Revenue Minister stated that he would personally visit the

affected areas if needed. Meanwhile, the state government has urged the farmers who are insured their Kharif crops

under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Kharif -2024) to report about the crop loss due to the unseasonal rainfall over the last two days.

to avail the insurance compensation.

As per a press statement of the state government, the harvested crops of farmers in many coastal and interior districts — Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabrangpur, Nayagarh, Puri and Rayagada, would have been damaged due to the crop loss or inform through the helpline No 14447.

"About 15 lakh farmers from these districts have been enrolled under the scheme. The farmers who have insured their Kharif crops under PMFBY (Kharif -2024) are required to report loss of their harvested crops for claiming insurance compensation," the statement read.

The farmers have been advised to upload the information on crop loss using "Krishi Rakshak" App within 72 hours of the crop loss or inform through the helpline No 14447.

The state government further said that the post-harvest loss is covered under PMFBY – Crop Insurance Scheme, if the crop loss has occurred in cut & spread condition or in small bundled condition within 14 days of harvest. The insurance compensation will be paid to the farmers after a joint survey of the affected fields by the officials of implementing insurance companies and government officers. Compensation will be paid to insured farmers for the entire sum insured based on the loss.

Odisha ranks second in country for maximum increase in green cover inside recorded forest area



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha has ranked second in the country for maximum increase in green cover inside recorded forest area, according to the latest India State of Forest Report-2023.

Published biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) since 1987, the report, which was released by Union Forest minister Bhupender Yadav Saturday, provides a detailed assessment of the nation's forest and tree resources.

According to the report, Odisha reported an increase of 118.17 sq km of forest inside the recorded forest area, while Mizoram was at the top position with an increase of 192.92 sq km. Karnataka recorded an increase of 93.14 sq km of forest, West Bengal (64.79 sq km), and neighboring Jharkhand's growth was 52.72 sq km.

In combined forest and tree cover, the state recorded a growth of 558.57 sq km and secured third position in the country.

Chhattisgarh topped the list with an increase of 684 sq km, followed by Uttar Pradesh (559.19 sq km). Rajasthan was in fourth position with a 394 sq km rise, the report added.

"With this increase, Odisha's current forest and tree cover stood at 37.63 per cent of its total geographical area of 1,55,707 sq km. A total of 33,040.47 sq km forest cover falls under the recorded forest area, while the remaining 19,393.09 sq km is outside the recorded forest area of the state," the report said.

Nationally, there was a net increase of 156.41 sq km in forest cover as compared to the previous assessment made in 2021. Odisha registered a

growth of 151.89 sq km, with Mizoram and Gujarat taking the first and second spots with an increase of 241.73 sq km and 180.07 sq km in forest cover, respectively.

Sharing the key findings of the report related to Odisha, former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik posted on X, "Glad to share that #Odisha has emerged as the leading state in increasing green cover as per the biennial, 'India State of Forest Report 2023' prepared by @moefcc."

"Odisha has emerged as third leading state in increasing in forest and tree cover (559 sq km), recorded third highest increase in forest cover (152 sq km), second leading state in increasing forest cover within FRA (118.17 sq km), and third state with growing stock in agroforestry (88.53 sq km)," Patnaik wrote on X.

According to the report, Odisha was at fourth spot with a bamboo-bearing area of 12,328 sq km. Madhya Pradesh topped the list with a maximum bamboo-bearing area of 20,421 sq km, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (18,424 sq km), and Maharashtra (13,572 sq km).

Achyuta Samanta Awarded 64th Honorary Doctorate by Alliance University, Bengaluru



Bhubaneswar, Dec 22(KCN): Well-known social worker, educationist, and founder of KIIT & KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, was conferred with his 64th honorary doctorate by Alliance University in Bengaluru at its 13th convocation.

The recognition underscores Dr. Samanta's remarkable contributions to society through education and social service. "For the last 33 years, I have been working relentlessly for the betterment of society. This honorary doctorate will remain a cherished milestone for me," Dr Samanta said, expressing his gratitude to the University for the distinction.

Dr. Samanta has now been awarded 64 honorary doctorates by prestigious universities and institutions worldwide to acknowledge his outstanding contributions to education and social service.

While conferring the degree, the university commended his exceptional efforts in transforming lives through education and community development.

The honorary doctorate was also conferred with P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa; Padma Bhushan Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member of NITI Aayog and chancellor of JNU, and Padma Shri Anju Bobby George, Vice President of the Athletic Federation of India.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha government is going to introduce a new system in the Jagannath temple, Puri to provide devotees better facilities to have 'darshan' of the deities, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Sunday. Speaking to media persons in Bhubaneswar, Harichandan said the government is taking steps to introduce the new system for public 'darshan' in the Jagannath temple from January 1. "Required arrangements are being made. The necessary work will be completed by December 27 or 28. For two days, December 30 and 31, the new system will be introduced on an experimental basis," he said.

India, Kuwait elevate ties to strategic partnership following PM Modi's talks with top Kuwaiti leadership



areas of information technology, pharmaceuticals, fintech, infrastructure and security. In a post on 'X',

Modi described his meeting with the Emir as "excellent". "Excellent meeting with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. We discussed cooperation in key sectors like pharmaceuticals, IT, FinTech, Infrastructure and security," he said.

Odisha set to lead in inclusive, sustainable agricultural reforms: Deputy CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha is set to lead the way in inclusive and sustainable agricultural reforms, and innovative ideas and collaborations will shape a resilient agricultural future, the state's Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Singh Deo has said.

The Deputy CM was speaking at a policy roundtable titled Advancing Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Odisha, which brought together over 100 participants, including policy makers, researchers, and development practitioners, to exchange ideas and strategies for sustainable

agricultural transformation. The Odisha government held the roundtable in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies (NPS) Friday.

The roundtable underscored the state's innovative approach to agricultural development, showcasing its potential to be a global model for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Deo reaffirmed Odisha's commitment to equitable growth. "Odisha is poised to lead the way in inclusive and sustainable agricultural practices. Odisha's agriculture

reforms. The ideas and collaborations fostered today will shape a resilient agricultural future where every farmer can thrive," Deo said.

Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, emphasised the sector's focus on innovation and inclusivity.

He highlighted the need to scale successful strategies to ensure tangible benefits for farmers, positioning Odisha as a frontrunner in sustainable agricultural practices. "Odisha's agriculture

sector stands at the forefront of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. We are scaling these successes and ensuring that every farmer benefits from our shared vision. Together, we can make Odisha a

model state for sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth," Padhee said.

IPFRI South Asia Director Shahidur Rashid stressed the significance of evidence-based strategies to address challenges and create benchmarks for the region's growth.

"The roundtable underscores the potential of evidence-based strategies to address challenges and harness opportunities for inclusive agricultural growth in Odisha. The discussions today will set benchmarks for the region," Rashid said.

The roundtable discussions revolved around five critical themes vital for inclusive agricultural growth.

IPFRI, and other technical partners. This group will refine and implement Inclusive Agricultural Transformation (IAT) indicators, aligning them with Odisha's long-term development goals.

Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Commissioner cum Secretary, Department of Cooperation, highlighted the importance of market linkages in empowering smallholder farmers. He emphasised the role of FPOs in ensuring equitable market access, enabling farmers to secure fair prices and improve their livelihoods.

Monica Priyadarshini, Director of Mission Shakti, highlighted the transformative role of women's collectives in promoting agricultural growth and strengthening rural livelihoods.

She noted that women's empowerment through Mission Shakti has been instrumental in driving inclusive and sustainable development across the state.

The roundtable also focused on strategies to enhance climate resilience, including soil and water management, crop diversification, and adaptive practices to mitigate climate risks. As the event concluded, participants expressed optimism about the potential for collaboration and innovation in Odisha's agricultural sector.



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International Research Initiated for the Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs by Global Scientists

•Dr. Siddhartha Pati from India joins 18 scientists from different countries.

•Survey conducted at 52 sites across 11 countries, including Odisha.

Balasore, 22/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): A new international research initiative has been launched to provide the first genetic baseline data to evaluate the conservation status of the Asian Horseshoe Crab (*Limulus*). This significant study aims to assess the genetic diversity and population structure of the species and guide conservation efforts.

The findings of this research will be published in the journal *Conservation Letters*, making the study's insights publicly available. This collaborative research involves scientists from India, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Thailand, and Australia, among others. Representing India, Dr. Siddhartha Pati from Balasore, Odisha, played a vital role in the study.



Crab species to understand their

population structure, evolutionary history, and

vulnerabilities caused by climate change. The goal was to provide baseline information for future conservation initiatives, as this species has remained almost unchanged since before the age of dinosaurs. The study also highlights how they have survived global changes while showing their critical dependence on conservation efforts.

Horseshoe crabs are considered "living fossils" that have persisted for over 400 million years, surviving despite drastic global transformations. However, they are now facing rapid decline worldwide due to anthropogenic pressures. Four species of horseshoe crabs exist globally, with three of them found in Asia. Two of these species are observed along the coasts of India, including Odisha.

This research examined the DNA and genomes of the three species—*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*, *Tachypleus gigas*, and *Tachypleus tridentatus*. By combining extensive geographical and genomic sampling with environmental and climatic datasets, the study successfully assessed the genetic structure and population history of these species. Dr. Siddhartha Pati, a key member of the research team, emphasized that the

study provides critical baseline data for habitat conservation efforts. He noted that the findings serve as a significant step toward ensuring the future survival of horseshoe crabs, offering guidance for preserving their natural habitats.

Recognition for Contributions to Marine Life Research

Dr. Siddhartha Pati has been honored with the prestigious "Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award 2024" by the State Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department for his pioneering research on horseshoe crabs and marine biodiversity.

Historic Chandrabhaga Festival's Preparatory Press Conference Held for Its 35th Edition



Balasore, 22/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): A press conference was held today at the local Station Club hall under the joint chairmanship of Chandrabhaga advisor and social worker Niranjan Khuntia, and dramatist Ashish Chakraborty, to announce the 35th Chandrabhaga Festival. The meeting revealed that the festival will commence on December 28 and run as a week-long event until January 4, 2025. A resolution was passed to celebrate this milestone with various cultural programs and events.

In collaboration with

Nach, the festival will showcase the talents of child artists under the guidance of Ronalisa Panda. Additionally, a national-level art workshop and exhibition will be organized by Young Heart under the leadership of Marut Raut. On December 31, a day-long literary discussion will take place. The Balasore Book Fair, supervised by Dr. Shashikant Mohanty, will be held daily from 2 PM to 9 PM throughout the week-long celebration. The organizing committee has sought active public participation for the success of the event. The significant

presence of electronic and print media has boosted the morale of the festival organizers. According to the festival's founder, poet Srideb, efforts are underway to maintain the grandeur of the event for years to come. The press conference was attended by prominent guests, including Bastha MLA and editor of Revati magazine Subasini Jena as the chief guest and former Remuna MLA Pradeepa Panda as the guest of honor. The proceedings of the press meet were conducted by Chandrabhaga member Advocate Parshuram Pradhan, while

During the occasion, Chandrabhaga honored Niranjan Khuntia, recipient of the OTV Citizen Award Achiever, with a special felicitation.

Jindal Stainless Limited wins the prestigious Kalinga Safety Excellence Award



Kalinganagar, (KCN) :- Jindal Stainless, Jajpur, has been honoured with the prestigious 15th Kalinga Safety Excellence Award in the Gold category in the steel plant segment. The award was presented to JSI in recognition of its outstanding efforts in maintaining high standards of occupational safety, health, and environment. The award was presented during the National Safety Conclave – 2024, held in

Bhubaneswar on December 18, 2024. Mr. Manoj Bal, Head of Safety at Jindal Stainless, along with his team, received the award on behalf of the company. The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment, Energy, Government of Odisha, Shri Kanak Vardhan Singhdeo, presented the award in the presence of Her Excellency, Ms Lebohang Valentine Mochaba, High

Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho. These awards further affirm JSI's unwavering commitment to ensuring the highest standards of safety, health, and environmental sustainability within its operations. The event was organised by IQEMS in collaboration with the Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad, and brought together leading safety professionals, experts, and organisations from across India. The 15th National Safety Conclave, hosted by the Odisha State Safety Council (OSSC), served as a platform to share best practices, innovations, and experiences in the realm of occupational safety and health. Jindal Stainless remains committed to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for its employees, setting benchmarks in safety excellence within the steel industry.



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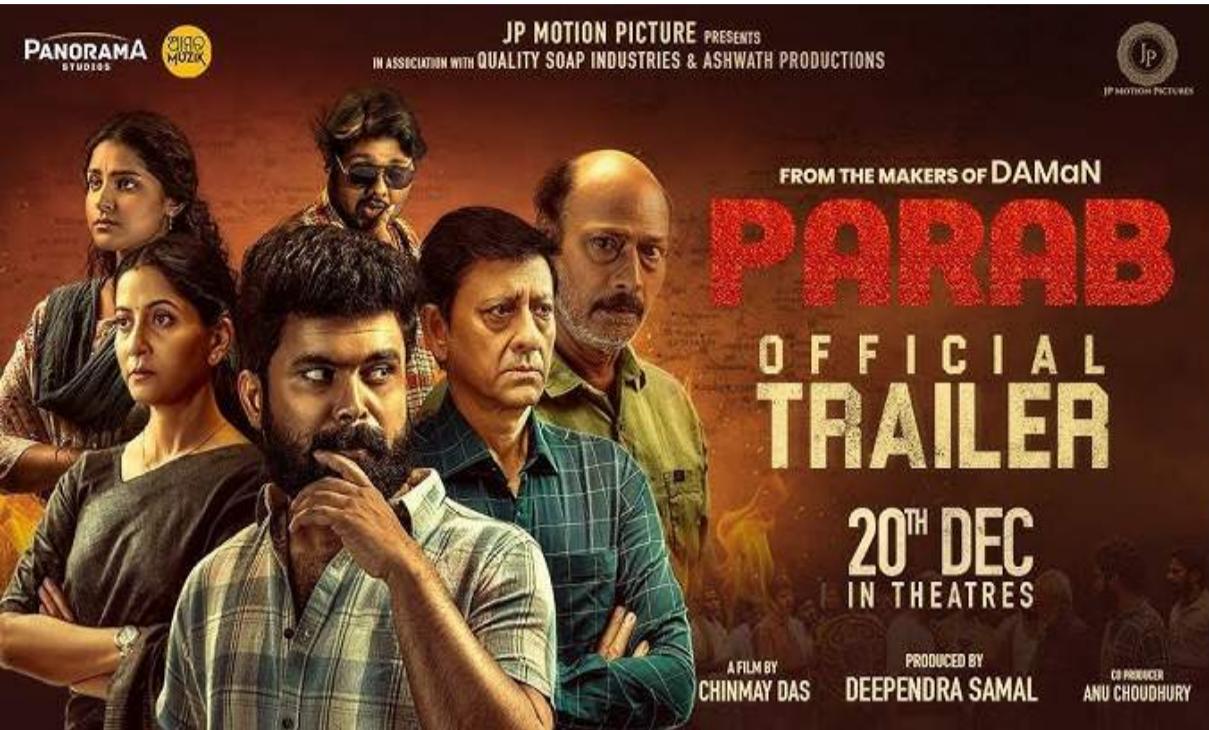
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Parab: Promoting spirit of brotherhood



Parab signifies festival or celebration, but more than that, it's a part of culture and heritage in Odisha, the southern part of the state in particular, where this tribal festival is organised as a gala event to showcase the splendour of local traditions.

So, when a movie is made with this title that too by the makers of Daman, a 2022 blockbuster, expectations skyrocket. An ensemble cast comprising Sidhant Mohapatra, Anu Choudhury, Chaudhury Jayprakash Das, Dipanwita Das, Mohapatra, and Suryamayee Mohapatra should do the rest to get the crowd to the theatres even as the euphoria surrounding Pushpa 2 is yet to subside. The movie has somehow managed to achieve that to a certain extent.

Talking about positives,

the movie, most importantly, is not a remake of films in other languages and is made in the backdrop of the ongoing border dispute

between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. However, there is more to this fictional take by director Chinmaya Das than the warring administrations of the two states. Parab sheds light on the dispute between the Odia and Telugu communities, residing in a village bordering Odisha's Gajapati with AP's Srikakulam districts.

With chest-thumping

pride of the local communities showing no signs of diminishing anytime soon, thus begins a never-ending saga of conflict between them. Sidhant and Anu, one of the most popular onscreen romantic couples a few years ago, are tasked with something different to do this time. Though playing husband and wife, their encounters as District Collectors of Gajapati

and Srikakulam add momentum to the growing tension in the plot. Choudhury Jayprakash, the accomplished actor he is, has justified his character, wearing Odia pride on his sleeve. For instance, the sequence between Jayprakash and Anu over animosity between Odia and Telugu communities will surely be etched on viewers' memory for a long time. These days, he

is synonymous with all content-driven movies made in Odisha. Dipanwita, paired opposite Suryamayee, daughter of Jayprakash's character, played his part effortlessly, especially the way he mouthed thick-Telugu-accented Odia. Distortion of Odia has been a concern in most of the mainstream movies in recent times. Overall, a 'thumbs up' as the team has done a decent job at the end of the day.

Pragya Jaiswal shares teaser of Nandamuri Balakrishna's 'Daaku Maharaaj'



In addition to this, the actress has several projects lined up. She is set to star alongside Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Punjabi actor

Ammy Virk, and Fardeen Khan in the upcoming film Khel Khel Mein. Scheduled for release August 15, Independence Day, the

film will face a box-office clash with the highly anticipated horror-comedy sequel Street 2. The trailer of the film was released in August, and during the trailer launch event, Jaiswal mentioned that she's always heard positive rumours about herself and hopes they turn out to be true.

When asked if any rumours had caused a stir at her home, Pragya replied, "I have never heard any negative rumours about myself. All the rumours I've encountered have been good and positive, which makes me hope that they are indeed true."

Aditi Rao Hydari: 'Been told I'm fragile like glass'



Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is one of the few actors in Indian film industry who has worked with numerous maestros. She has been a Mani Ratnam heroine as well as a Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine, both depicting a side to her that had never been explored. In SLB's 'Heeramandi', she plays Bibbo Jaan, a sweet woman whose purpose in life is beyond the walls of Heeramandi. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Aditi spoke about being perceived as a 'delicate darling' and her looks being used as an excuse to perhaps not cast her sometimes.

Speaking about how she felt almost liberated playing Bibbo Jaan, Aditi said, "I am perceived in a particular way because

of the way I look or the way I am or the parts I have played, usually the fragile, feminine, petite girl. Often people say, 'oh, she will just blow away.' Or 'oh she is like glass, if you touch, she will break.' Today, I own it and I am what I am. It is not a burden for me, but if it is for you, then you need to figure it out. Secondly, my vulnerability is my strength."

Aditi then elaborated on why she feels Bhansali manages to show women with their flaws, strength and vulnerabilities alike: "I also feel it is also about directors who bring that out in an actor. To have a vision and say that there are different kinds of strengths. I'm so happy that I lived this life of Bibbo Jaan because it was literally like 'here is a girl who

is kind, so feminine, and artistic.' She sings and dances. She is celebrated for her beauty, but beneath that, she has this simmering purpose, courage and fearlessness. I feel that fearless belief is so inspiring, and they are not mutually exclusive. You can be both. I relate to it."

Aditi also spoke about

questioned why many in the industry fail to look at an artist as an artist: "I have 100 per cent been told that you are too beautiful for this role. But I am a person. I am a sum total of many things."

Aditi quipped, "Also, why is this a problem? You don't tell somebody that 'you act too well'. It doesn't make sense. But that is also being heard now, oh 'that girl is too good an actor, she will outshine the others.' It has not been told to me, but I have heard this as well. It just doesn't make sense. It means your intentions aren't pure."

'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024: Some FAQs Part 4



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd. from 16th Dec. 2024)

18. I f J C I T (A p p e a l s) / C I T (Appeals) has given an enhancement notice, can the appellant avail the DTVSV Scheme, 2024 after including proposed enhanced incoming the total assessed income:

CBDT vide Circular No. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 16 has clarified as under-

Yes. Where an appeal is pending before the JCIT(A)/ CIT(A), the disputed tax is the amount that is payable by appellant if such appeal was to be decided against the appellant. This is as per the definition of 'disputed tax' in u/s 89(1)(j) of the DTVSV Scheme, 2024. Hence, where JCIT(A)/ CIT(A) has given enhancement notice, the taxpayer can avail the Scheme after including proposed enhanced income in the total assessed income. Appropriate calculation of disputed tax is accordingly provided in

the relevant Schedules of Form-1.

19. W h e t h e r taxpayers can settle appeals under DTVSV Scheme, 2024 using the refunds which they are expecting from the department:

CBDT vide Circular No. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 17 has clarified as under-

As per section 92(2) of the Scheme, the declarant shall pay the amount determined under section 92(1) of the Scheme within a period of fifteen days of the date of receipt of the certificate and intimate the details of such payment to the Designated Authority in the prescribed form and thereupon

the Designated Authority shall pass an order stating that the declarant has paid the amount. There is no provision in the Scheme allowing payment of the amount determined u/s 92(1) of the Scheme through adjustment of any refund expected

from the Department. 20. If taxes are paid after availing the benefits of the DTVSV Scheme, 2024 and later the taxpayer decides to take refund of these taxes paid, would it be possible:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 18 has clarified as under-

No. Any amount paid in pursuance of a declaration made under the Scheme shall not be refundable under any circumstances as per provisions of section 94(1) of the Scheme.

21. Will delay in deposit of TDS/TCS be also covered under the Scheme:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 19 has clarified as under-

The disputed tax includes tax related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS) which are disputed and pending in appeal. However, if there is no dispute related to TDS or TCS and there is delay in depositing such TDS/TCS, then the dispute pending in appeal related to interest levied due to such delay will be covered under the Scheme.

22. W h e r e assesses settles TDS appeal (against order u/s 201 of the Act) as

deductor of TDS, will credit of such tax be allowed to deductee:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 20 has clarified as under-

Yes. However, the credit will be allowed as on the date of settlement of dispute by the deductor and hence the interest as applicable to deductee shall apply.

23. When assessee settles his own appeal under DTVSV Scheme, 2024, will consequential relief be available to the deductor in default from liability determined under TDS order u/s 201 of the Act:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 21 has clarified as under-

Yes. In such a case, the deductor in default would not be required to pay the corresponding TDS amount. However, he would be required to pay the interest under sub-section (1A) of section 201 of the Act. If such levy of interest under sub-section (1A) of section 201 of the Act qualifies for DTVSV Scheme, 2024, the deductor in default can settle this disputed interest by filing up the relevant schedule of disputed interest.

24. W h e r e assessee settles TDS liability as deductor of under DTVSV Scheme,

2024(i.e. against order u/s 201), when will he get consequential relief of expenditure allowance under proviso to section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of the Act:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 22 has clarified as under-

In such cases, the deductor shall be entitled to get consequential relief of allowable expenditure under proviso to section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of the Act in the year in which the tax was required to be deducted, if the disallowance under section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of the Act is with respect to same issue on which order under section 201 has been issued.

However, if the assessee has already claimed deduction of the same amount under section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of the Act in subsequent year on account of recovery of TDS in such subsequent year, he shall not be entitled to consequential relief under section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of the Act on the basis of the settlement under DTVSV Scheme, 2024.

In case, in the order under section 143(3) there are other issues as well, and the appellant wants to settle the dispute with respect to order under section 143(3) of the Act as well, then the disallowance under section 40(a)(i)/(ia) of

the Act relating to the issue on which he has already settled liability under section 201 of the Act would be ignored for calculating disputed tax.

25. A trust has been denied registration u/s 12AA of the Act. Whether appeal against such order is eligible for DTVSV Scheme, 2024:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 23 has clarified that appeal against order of denial of registration u/s 12AA order is not eligible for DTVSV Scheme, 2024.

26. An order has been set aside, fully or partially, to the AO. Can the taxpayer avail the DTVSV Scheme, 2024 if the set-aside matter is pending as on 22.7.2024:

CBDT vide

Circular no. 12 of 2024

dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ

No. 24 has clarified as under-

According to the Scheme, an appeal which is pending as on 22.7.2024 shall be eligible for settlement. A set-aside matter to the AO is not an appeal pending as such. Therefore, set-aside matters to the AO, whether fully set-aside or partially set-aside are not covered under the Scheme.

27. Where there are two appeals filed for an assessment year in respect of the same order – one by the appellant and one by the tax department, whether the appellant can opt for

only one appeal: How would the disputed tax be computed in such a case:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ

No. 25 has clarified as under-

Yes. The

appellant has an option to opt for settling appeal filed by him or appeal filed by the department or both. This has to be specified in the declaration to be made in Form-1. Also refer to the proviso to Rule 4 of the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Rules, 2024 which is reproduced as under:-

"where the appellant and the income-tax authority have both filed an appeal or writ petition or special leave petition in respect of the same order, single Form-1 shall be filed by the appellant."

Accordingly, relevant Schedules in Form-1 have to be filled out by the appellant and the disputed tax would be worked out.

28. If a writ has been filed against a notice issued under section 148/148A of the Act and no assessment order has been passed consequent to that notice, whether such cases are eligible under the Scheme:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of

2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ

No. 26 has clarified as under-

The income in

such cases is yet to be

determined. Therefore,

the disputed tax is not

ascertainable. Thus,

the taxpayer would not be

eligible for the Scheme in such cases.

29. If appeal is filed before High Court or Supreme Court and is pending for admission as on 22.7.2024, whether the case is eligible for DTVSV Scheme, 2024:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ

No. 27 has clarified that the case is eligible for DTVSV Scheme.

30. Whether cross objections filed and pending as on 22.7.2024 will also be covered by the Scheme:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 28 has clarified that cross objections filed and pending as on 22.7.2024 will also be covered.

31. W h e t h e r Miscellaneous Application (MA) pending as on 22.7.2024 will also be covered by the Scheme:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 29 has clarified that MA is not an appeal.

Therefore, there is no pending appeal as on 22.7.2024.

(Contd.)

Adv. Narayan Jain and CA Dilip Loyalka are Life members of AIFTP. They are authors of famous books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice".

Education of refugee children on the margins



Amit Baijnath Garg

More than half of the world's refugee children are under the age of 18 and are living in very difficult conditions. Most of them have little hope of returning home. The world is grappling with various kinds of crises. Here the issue of education of refugee children cannot be ignored.

A recent report released by the International Rescue Committee says that about two-thirds of Ukrainian children have been forced to leave their homes since the war began in Ukraine and Russia in February 2022. According to an estimate, four million children in Ukraine require humanitarian aid and more than 1,300 schools have been destroyed. Similar conditions are also seen in some regions of Russia, confirming that childhood is in crisis in both countries after the war. According to an estimate, about 224 million children in the world affected by crises need educational support, including more than 72 million children who cannot go to school. Those who can continue learning face many obstacles in getting quality education.

Similarly, a global study released in the year 2023 has found that the number of children in crisis requiring quality education is increasing. The study also shows that the problem is not only of

access, but also of quality. More than half of the children in crisis are not able to achieve even minimum proficiency in education. This study talks about inclusive, quality education for all. The study highlights that quality education is important to ensure better learning outcomes in crises. At the same time, there is a need to fill data gaps on children in crisis who urgently need quality education as a global good for collective action. However, efforts in this direction are not being made as much as they should be.

A report released by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says that of the 7.1 million school-age refugee children, 3.7 million (more than half) do not attend school. The report, titled Stepping Up: Refugee Education in Crisis, shows that as refugee children grow older, it becomes harder to overcome the barriers preventing them from accessing education. Only 63 percent of refugee children attend primary school, compared

to 91 percent globally. 84 percent of adolescents worldwide receive secondary education, while only 24 percent of refugees have this opportunity. UNHCR says school is where refugees get a second chance. Refugees are being failed by not being given the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to invest in their future, which should not be the case. The report says that refugees should be integrated into the national education system rather than being allowed to attend informal parallel schools and be allowed to follow a formal, recognised curriculum through pre-primary, primary and secondary school. This would lead to recognised qualifications that could be a springboard for them to university or higher vocational training.

Even if refugee adolescents overcome obstacles and reach secondary school, only 3 per cent are lucky enough to receive some form of higher education. This is

much lower than the global figure of 37 per cent. The issue of education for refugee children around the world is very urgent. By the end of 2018, there were more than 25.9 million refugees worldwide, of which 20.4 million were under the care of UNHCR. Nearly half of them were under the age of 18 and millions had been living in difficult conditions for a long time with little hope of returning home. At the same time, a new report by the United Nations shows startling figures that the number of crisis-affected school-age children who need educational support is increasing.

According to this report, the number of needy children has increased from 75 million in 2016 to 222 million now. The report says that out of these more than 220 million boys and girls, 78.2 million children are out of school for education in emergency and long-standing crisis-affected areas. About 120 million children are

not able to acquire minimum skills in mathematics or reading despite attending school. Only one out of every 10 children suffering from the effects of crises is able to meet the reality proficiency standards at the primary or secondary level. Violent conflicts, displacement and climate disruptions in crisis-affected areas are snatching away their dreams for the future.

As per the analysis of the report, 84 percent of children deprived of school are living in areas affected by long-standing crises. These include Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen, among others. The UN says that the needs have never been so huge and so immediate. Due to COVID, the loss of education has been more in the poorest families. Also, those communities have also been affected, which were already lagging behind in education. Both these categories generally

include children living in crisis-affected areas. The UN says that the basic rights of crisis-affected children must be protected at all costs. These include the right to equitable, inclusive and quality education. All have to make efforts to keep education within the reach of every child everywhere.

The Education Can Not Wait (ECW) report says that only 25 million children in crisis-affected countries are in school and achieving minimum proficiency levels. The rate of out-of-school children among the forcibly displaced populations in these countries remains worryingly high, rising to around 58 per cent for school-aged children. Around 14.5 million children have functional difficulties and are not attending school. About 11 million of these are concentrated in high-intensity crises. Access to secondary education is inadequate in these areas, with around a third of lower secondary school-aged children out of school. Almost half of the upper secondary school-

aged children are unable to access education.

It is estimated that at least 25 million crisis children are left out of inter-agency schemes and appeals by the end of the expected period from three years of age to the completion of upper secondary education, representing around 9.4 percent of the global total. Comparative analysis of crisis-hit countries in sub-Saharan Africa suggests that learning for children aged 7 to 14 years may be about six times slower on average in countries affected by frequent natural disasters than in countries without them. At the same time, there is a relationship between the risk posed by climate change and the severity of the crisis. Globally, about 83 percent of children who do not go to school in emergencies and about 75 percent of children who go to school but are deprived of education live in countries whose climate change risk index is higher than the global average value of 6.4.

In fact, children's education is most affected during times of crisis. Education is suspended first during a crisis and restored last. Some things have to be kept in mind to make children better during times of crisis. Among these, it is important to maintain the education and

welfare of children. Children affected by the crisis will have to be given education assistance. Education systems need more resources, but they receive less than three percent of humanitarian aid. This has to be increased. The lack of teaching and staff in education systems has to be met. Data gaps cause difficulty in decision making and coordination challenges. These have to be overcome. Children get protection from school during times of crisis. Along with this, they also get life-saving food, water, health care and sanitation facilities. During this time, children will also have to be given psychological help. But that is not sufficient. During this time, psychological help will also have to be provided to the children. Serious action will have to be taken to solve their problems. Those whose childhood is in trouble will definitely have to be brought out.

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Farmers' Union Urges President Murmu To Direct Union Government To Save The Life Of Farmer Leader Sitting On 'Fast-Unto- Death'

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 22:

Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella of Indian Farmers' unions, through a Memorandum, has urged the President of India, Smt. Droupati Murmu to direct the central government to 'Save life of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is sitting on fast-unto-death since November 26; Stop repression on farmers marching to Delhi; Release all farmers of Noida - Greater Noida from Luxer Jail; Withdraw the National Agriculture Market Policy and Immediately hold discussions with all farmers organisations on struggle.

"We strongly demand you to direct the Union Government to save the life of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, stop repression and tear gas shelling on farmers marching to Delhi, release all the farmers put in Luxer Jail of Ghatam

Buddha Nagar, withdraw the falsely implicated charges including attempt to murder on them and take stringent action against the Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh and others responsible for the conspiracy, withdraw the National Agriculture Market Policy, Digital Agriculture Mission and the National Cooperation Policy and immediately hold discussions with all the farmer organisations on struggle and accept the genuine long pending demands of farmers on MSP, loan waiver, privatization of electricity, and implementation of LARR Act 2013."

SKM memorandum states that they strongly protest against the NDA 3 led Union Government for not adhering to democratic principles of governance and hold discussions with all the farmers' organisations and platforms who are struggling for the genuine demands. The farmers'



union has reminded that even the Supreme Court had asked for holding consultations with the farmers.

SKM has given a call to the farmers to organize protest on 23rd December 2024 in all districts across the country and stated that the NDA2 Government had shamelessly violated the agreement signed with

Parliament on 16, 17, 18 July 2024 just after the NDA3 Government took office after the 18th Lok Sabha election. Farmers organized a protest against the corporate control on agriculture across the country on 9th August 2024. SKM along with Platforms of Central Trade Unions and Agricultural Workers Unions conducted massive worker-farmer protest demonstrations in more than 500 districts participated by nearly ten lakh people and submitted a memorandum to you through the district collectors on 26th November 2024.

The Farmers' Union, showing its resentment, stated that it is highly unfortunate that the Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi is not ready to hold discussions with farmer organisations on struggles. Instead, consistent efforts are there to brutally suppress the struggles of farmers at Shambu and Khanuri borders of Punjab and

Noida- Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh by using tear gas shelling, rubber bullets, water cannons and putting hundreds of farmers in jail for holding peaceful demonstrations and Dharna.

SKM divulged that in the Gautam Buddha Nagar, the FIR No.0538 dated 4th December 2024 reveals that the Police Commissionate has implicated 112 farmers on false charges of section 109 of Baratiya Nagraik Nyay Samhita for attempt to murder of a Police Sub Inspector one Rajiv Kumar and stop the Metro Train which are baseless. The farmers are in jail for the last 21 days. Showing concern over the 'New National Agriculture Market Policy' (NNAMP), SKM stated that the new policy is a part of the strategy of the corporate agenda to permit backdoor resurrection of the three farm laws. The conscious efforts in the last two years to thwart procurement in APMC

markets in Punjab and Haryana, dismantle FCI by promoting cash transfer on food subsidy, reduction of food subsidy by Rs. 60,470 Cr. and fertiliser subsidy by Rs. 62,445 Cr. in the last three consecutive years are corporate attacks on the existing system of limited MSP and Food security of the country.

The Farmers' Union alleged that the corporate forces are challenging the working people of India and the Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is serving the corporate interests only.

Requesting to intervene, the SKM urged the President, "We hope, as the head of the Government of India, you will take serious note of the genuine demands raised in this representation by the farmers of this country and will ensure adequate, immediate action on them."

Commenting over the farmers' issues, the SKM

Bihar 2047 Vision Conclave (Season 2) is organized on 22 December at India Pavilion, Delhi



New Delhi (Ahsansansari)

:Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave (Season 2) shall be held on 22nd December 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi as a part of the Let's Inspire Bihar initiative, which on date has become the largest social movement driven by more than 1,50,000 committed individuals, who have risen above divisions of caste, religion, gender or ideologies and connected together in order to contribute and work towards building a developed Bihar within developed India by 2047. The Vision Conclave in Delhi, scheduled from 10 am till 7 pm, would witness the participation of more than 600 Bihar based entrepreneurs and startups from across the country and abroad, who shall be deliberating upon the agenda points in order to prepare a vision document, which shall be released at the end of the conclave.

The Let's Inspire Bihar initiative was launched on March 22, 2021, under the call of Mr. Vikas Vaibhav, a well-known IPS officer of Bihar, with the stated objective of contributing towards the development of a prosperous Bihar by 2047, in which no individual would need to leave the state for education, employment, or healthcare. Based on the core principles of education, egalitarianism and entrepreneurship, the campaign draws inspiration from Bihar's rich cultural heritage and envisions rising above narrow divisions (such as casteism, communalism, and gender discrimination) to work in the nation's interest. The campaign aims to spark an entrepreneurial revolution in Bihar and seeks to create a robust ecosystem by engaging all societal sectors to ensure that every Bihari is educated and skilled and that youth venturing into self-employment, start-ups, and businesses are provided with necessary support and guidance. As decided in Bihar 2047 Vision Conclave held on 23rd December, 2023, a target to establish at least 5 Start-ups each in each district of Bihar, each capable of employing over 100 people by 2028 was taken up under the initiative. With this goal in mind, a Start-up Summit was organized on August 25,

2024, at Patna's Vidyapati Auditorium, and several programmes are being undertaken. To disseminate the campaign's message to every corner of Bihar and to ensure maximum participation from all societal sectors, after over 1,600 programs having been conducted across all districts of Bihar, major cities of India, and even abroad, large-scale public dialogues titled as Namaste Bihar Brihat Jan Samvad, were initiated, starting with Begusarai on 10th December, 2023, where over 50,000 people participated. The 2nd dialogue was held on 21st January, 2024, at Maharaja College, Ara. In December, 2024, two more major public dialogues were held on 1st December, 2024, at Fazalganj Stadium, Sasaram (Rohtas) and on 8th December, 2024, at Rajendra Stadium Chhapra (Saran), both attended by over 50,000 and 30,000 persons respectively. The 5th Brihat Jan Samvad is scheduled for 9th February, 2025, at Hajipur (Vaishali).

On 22nd December 2024, the conclave would deliberate upon the following key agendas :

- Vision 2047 for development of Education and Human Resources.
- Vision 2047 for development of an Egalitarian Society.
- Vision 2047 for development of Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- Vision 2047 for Water Resources Management.
- Vision 2047 for Health and Sanitation.
- Vision 2047 for Sports.
- Vision 2047 for Communication.
- Vision 2047 for Transport.
- Vision 2047 for growth of Information Technology and Enabled Services.
- Vision 2047 for development of Industry and utilisation of Mineral Resources.
- Vision 2047 for development of Agriculture.
- Vision 2047 for conservation of Environment.
- Vision 2047 for role of Bihar Diaspora.
- Vision 2047 for Tourism and Culture.
- Vision 2047 for rise in Per Capita Income.
- Vision 2047 for Energy.

Chief Coordinator, Delhi-NCR Chapter Shri Indra Mohan Yadav, Chief Coordinator Entrepreneurship Chapter, Shri Mohan Jha, Special Coordinator, Media, Delhi-NCR Chapter, Shri Anil Kumar Jha and several other LIB Coordinators shall be leading this Bihar @ 2047 Vision Conclave Part 2 with the help of entire LIB Team. Shri Jitam Ram Manjhi, Hon'ble Minister for MSME, Government of India has consented to grace the conclave as the chief guest. Other distinguished guests expected at the conclave include Shri Manoj Tiwari, MP, Shri R K Sinha, MP, Ms Shreyasi Singh, MLA, Renowned poet Shambhu Shikhar, renowned singer Nitu Kumari Nutan, Maulana Kalbe Rushaid Rizvi, Dr Jwala Prasad, Santosh Kumar Rai, Dy Commissioner, MCD, Ashok Kumar Pandey, Retd IAS, Secretary, Lok Sabha, Atul Kumar Tiwari, IAS, Principal Secretary (MSME), Ashutosh Agnihotri, IPS, Additional Secretary, MHA, Amit Vardhan, IRTS, Principal Executive Director, Safety, Railway Board and several others.

As on date, more than 10,000 successful entrepreneurs are actively contributing to the initiative, which has hosted various Start-ups summits and the Vibrant Bihar Global Conclave in Patna in 2022 and 2023. Significant events such as the Bihar Entrepreneurship Conference (2021) and the Bihar Vision @ 2047 Conclave (2023) were successfully organized in Delhi's NDMC Auditorium. Similar efforts in cities like Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Vadodara have connected entrepreneurs to the campaign. Notable entrepreneurs regularly provide guidance to start-ups through such summits. The Jivaka Chapter, established by medical professionals, has conducted over 250 free health camps benefiting 35,000+ underprivileged individuals. Meanwhile, the Gargi Chapter, led by women, operates 18 free education centres across eight districts of Bihar, empowering disadvantaged students and women through skill centres and entrepreneurship initiatives. Free education centres are operational in districts like Siwan, Patna, Gaya, Aurangabad, Madhubani, Samastipur, and Begusarai.

CONCOR's CMD Visits Braithwaite & Co. Limited to Strengthen Strategic Ties

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): Shri Sanjay Swarup, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), along with Shri Ajit Kumar Panda, Director (Projects & Services), and a team from CONCOR, recently visited Braithwaite & Co. Limited (BCL). This visit marked a pivotal moment in bolstering collaboration between the two organizations to enhance India's logistics and manufacturing ecosystem.

The delegation from CONCOR received a warm welcome from Md. Asad Alam, Chairman and Managing Director of BCL, along with senior officials of BCL. During the visit, Shri Sanjay Swarup and Shri Ajit Kumar Panda conducted a detailed inspection of the 20-ft ISO Tank Container designed for bulk cement transportation, as well as the BLSS Wagon (25T and several others).



Spine Car) being manufactured in BCL's state-of-the-art workshop. They also reviewed other wagons and containers currently under production for CONCOR.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sanjay Swarup expressed his appreciation for BCL's advanced manufacturing capabilities and its commitment to engineering excellence. "Braithwaite has demonstrated exceptional engineering expertise and operational efficiency. As CONCOR continues to expand its logistics infrastructure, we see immense potential for

engineering expertise to support India's "Make in India" initiative. Both organizations reiterated their commitment to contributing to the nation's economic growth and self-reliance. CONCOR, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, and BCL, a Miniratna-I CPSU also under the Ministry of Railways, are poised to work together to strengthen India's logistics framework. This partnership aligns with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission and aims to propel India's logistics and manufacturing capabilities to new heights. The strategic collaboration between CONCOR and BCL represents a significant step towards creating a robust, self-sustaining logistics ecosystem, paving the way for an efficient, sustainable, and globally competitive India.

AIFTP urges CBDT for relaxation of VSV provisions

Kolkata (KCN): All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP) has sent a Representation to Central Board of Direct Taxes urging for Relaxation in the provisions for availing VSV Scheme 2024 to allow benefit of Scheme in cases where assessment was completed before 23rd July, 2024 and the time for filing appeal is not expired on 23rd July 2024.

Adv. Narayan Jain, National President of AIFTP pointed out that Delhi High Court in the case of Naveen Kumar Agarwal vs CBDT TS /913/HC 2024 has asked the CBDT to consider the matter to allow VSV benefit to taxpayers in cases where assessment was completed before 23rd July, 2024 and the time for filing appeal is not expired on 23rd July 2024.

S.M. Surana Chairman of Direct Tax Representation Committee said that there are many cases where orders have been passed by different authorities before 23rd July 2023 and normal time for filing of the appeal did not expire. The assessee's were contemplating to file the appeal. However after announcement of the scheme they did not prefer appeal since in the earlier scheme there was provision that if the time for filing of appeal has not expired the assessee can avail the scheme. However, on announcement of the scheme the said provisions as existed earlier was missing. Now the CBDT should urgently allow the same.

Farmer Welfare and Rural Development Were Chaudhary Om Prakash Chautala's Core Priorities" – Vice President Dhankhar

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 22: Five-time former Haryana Chief Minister, Om Prakash Chautala, was cremated on Saturday with full state honours in Teja Khera village in his native Sirsa district. Chautala died in Gurugram on Friday. He was 89. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal and other prominent leaders reached Teja Khera to attend the last rites of the departed leader.

Vice-President Dhankhar on Saturday paid homage to the late leader's mortal remains. During the ceremony, Vice Minister, Late Chaudhary Om Prakash Chautala at Teja Khera Sirsa, reflecting on his enduring bond with the veteran leader and his family. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, along with his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar, visited Teja Khera Farm in Chautala, Sirsa district, on Saturday to attend the last rites of former C M Chautala. The couple paid their respects to the late leader's mortal remains. During the ceremony, Vice

President Shri Dhankhar fondly reflected on his personal relationship with Chaudhary Om Prakash Chautala. "I had spoken to Chaudhary Sahab only five days ago. He expressed concern about my health, which deeply touched me," he said. He continued, "It was 29 years ago, with the blessings of Tau Devi Lal, that Chaudhary Sahab took me under his wing, helped me get elected to the 9th Lok Sabha, and

District Magistrate-com-Collector, Sambalpur reviews Lok Mahotsav preparations



Sambalpur (KCN): District Magistrate-com-Collector Siddheshwar Baliam Bondar reviewed the preparations for the Lok Mahotsav to be held from January 4 on Saturday. The Lok Mahotsav preparation meeting was held at the District Magistrate's conference room, all the

committees presented their opinions regarding their budget and progress in organizing the program. In the meeting, the announcement committee informed that an announcement selection competition will be organized at Tapaswini Auditorium,

Sambalpur on Sunday. The committee said that efforts are being made to provide opportunities to new announcers. Interested candidates are requested to participate in this selection process. In this, preference will be given to Odia, English, Hindi along with Sambalpuri

language. Similarly the meeting was informed about the painting workshop to be held at Veer Surendra Sai Stadium on December 25. Students from all schools and colleges have been requested to participate in this. Those who want to submit paintings for the

No action yet on illegal radio towers



Mahakalapara (KCN): Illegal radio towers in villages under this block in Kendrapara district are being used to alert fishermen catching fish in prohibited zone of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary about any impending raids, thereby threatening the survival of Olive Ridley turtles. Illegal fishing in the restricted zone of Gahirmatha leads the rare sea turtles to get caught in trawler and gill nets and lose their lives prematurely. The fishermen, on receiving the message, give slip to the Forest personnel during raids and escape. The Forest officials have registered cases after reports appeared in media but the towers remain untouched and have not yet been dismantled. The Gahirmatha Marine

Sanctuary under this block has been declared a restricted zone for the protection of rare sea turtles. Fishing activities using trawlers, boats, and other equipment have been banned from November 1, 2024, to May 2025. However, several trawler operators and fishermen in villages such as Tantiapal, Ratapaka, Sasapeta, Narsinghpur, and Suniti have installed more than 20 Very High Frequency (VHF) radio towers fitted to bamboo poles on the rooftops of houses of fishermen and trawler drivers. These towers allow them to secretly communicate with their kin and close friends while fishing in the sea. A report highlighting the dangers these illegal towers pose to Olive Ridley turtles was

recently published in a premier vernacular daily, sparking action by the Forest Department. This has raised concerns on internal coastal security. Operators reportedly use the devices to inform the fishermen and trawler drivers of patrol teams' movements, allowing them to flee the restricted zones before the enforcement teams arrive. As a result, Forest Department patrol teams often return empty-handed from Gahirmatha. Sashanka Kumar Mandal, a traditional fisherman from Tantiapal, expressing frustration said, "While we depend on small dinghies for fishing to sustain our livelihood, the Forest department harasses us. Meanwhile, trawler owners employ illegal tactics to fish in restricted

areas with impunity." He alleged that trawler owners have installed VHF towers, which help the fishermen and trawler drivers to escape after getting alerted about impending raids and despite their illegal operation running for years, authorities like the forest range office, Tantiapal marine police, district police, and intelligence agencies have failed to take any significant action. This negligence and lack of action have emboldened hundreds of trawlers from places like Balasore, Balaramgadi, Bhadrak, Dhamra, Kasafal, Digha, and even West Bengal to dominate the sanctuary areas. They are accused of exploiting marine resources, catching high-value fish, and becoming rich overnight leaving conservation efforts in jeopardy.

SPCB holds public hearing on environment clearance

Jajpur (KCN): The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) held a public hearing for environmental clearance on the proposed expansion project of Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) in Jajpur district. The proposed expansion will increase NINL's production capacity from 0.981 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 9.5 MTPA without additional land requirements. Over 225 people, including some opposing NINL's proposed expansion project, gave

their opinion at the public hearing for the environmental clearance held by SPCB Friday. "Around 225 people have given their opinion on the NINL's expansion project. We will send the people's views to the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change," said the Regional Officer, SPCB, Kalinga Nagar, Madan Mohan Sahu. Asked about the disturbance during the public hearing, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Kalinga Nagar, Sapan Kumar Nanda, who

presided over the public hearing, said, "The people have given their opinion in the public hearing." The public hearing was also attended by NINL Executive Sanjeev Kumar Ghosh, who gave a detailed presentation on the plant's proposed expansion plan, while MD and CEO, Sudhir Kumar Mehta, addressed public concerns. Tata Steel Long Products Limited acquired NINL in July 2022 and achieved operational milestones swiftly. Within 100 days, the plant

Workshop held on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace'.



Sambalpur (KCN) 22/12: Food Corporation of India Sambalpur Division hosted an informative and engaging workshop on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace' in office premises on Saturday. The workshop was chaired by Gajendra Singh Rawat, Additional District Magistrate Sucharita Bala, Deputy District Magistrate Pushpanjali Panda, District Sports Officer Satya Narayan Tandi and the staff of all the committees.

addressing complaints of sexual harassment. The main objective of the workshop was to educate and empower women employees and officers with essential knowledge on the effective implementation of relevant laws and guidelines. It aimed to assist officials, Members, and Chairpersons of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in understanding how to properly handle complaints and maintain a positive and secure

work environment. On this occasion, an act also played by women staffs Monalisa Panda, Laxmi Priya Swain, Ankita Panda, Subhasmita Sahoo, Shraddha Nagorao Lokhande which addressed the mandatory requirements outlined under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013.

Other dignitaries Rabindra Kumar Mallik, Asstt. General Manager & Sudhansu Sekhar Moharana, Chairman of SCAN who spoke elaborated on various real-life examples of handling sexual harassment issues. This workshop was coordinated by Narendra Singh.



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Cellecor Gadgets Limited expands its overseas operations by incorporating a new wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Cellecor Gadgets Limited, a rapidly growing leader in India's dynamic electronics and consumer durables goods market, announces the establishment of its wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, named Cellecor Gadgets HK Limited.

This strategic initiative, in line with the company's announced blue print for growth, underscores company's commitment to enhancing its supply chain capabilities and seizing whatever the opportunities available. Located strategically in Hong Kong, known as a gateway to Asia's electronics industry, the new subsidiary will serve as a pivotal hub for Cellecor Gadgets' procurement of critical

components and operational activities, and with Hong Kong's robust logistical infrastructure and business-friendly environment, the Company aim to further optimize its supply chain efficiencies and strengthen its competitive edge in delivering innovative, high-quality cost-completable products to its customers.

"We are excited to establish our wholly owned subsidiary in Hong Kong, a move that enhances our ability to meet the evolving demands of the electronics and consumer durables goods market," said Mr. Ravi Agarwal, Managing Director of Cellecor Gadgets. "This expansion positions us closer to key suppliers and partners, reinforcing our

commitment to operational excellence and customer satisfaction."

Hong Kong's strategic location and established supplier network will enable Cellecor Gadgets to streamline operations, reduce lead times, and respond swiftly to market trends. The subsidiary will foster closer collaboration with regional distributors, enhancing growth opportunities and facilitating seamless market penetration across key consumption centres.

As Cellecor Gadgets continues to innovate and expand its product offerings, the establishment of the Hong Kong subsidiary reaffirms our dedication to driving technological advancement and sustainability in the electronic consumer durables industry.

Earlier, the company

unveiled its strategic blueprint to propel the company toward its ambitious sales milestones. This comprehensive plan encompasses various aspects of operations and marketing to drive growth and ensure market leadership.

The company is focusing significantly on the six business strategies. Firstly, strengthening manufacturing arrangements, which involve forming strategic partnerships or agreements with manufacturing facilities to ensure efficient production processes, consistent product quality,

and timely delivery. This includes outsourcing certain manufacturing tasks, investing in automation and technology, implementing quality control protocols, and encouraging sustainable manufacturing practices. The second strategy inculcates effective inventory management is critical for minimizing carrying costs, reducing stock outs, and improving overall operational efficiency. Cellecor aims to achieve this by implementing inventory management systems, adopting just-in-time inventory practices, and

optimizing warehouse layout and logistics for faster order fulfillment. The third strategy highlighted by the company is increasing product availability and visibility across various sales channels is essential for capturing customer demand and maximizing sales opportunities. Cellecor plans to expand distribution networks, strengthen relationships with retailers, and implement marketing initiatives to enhance product visibility both online and offline. Cellecor Gadgets' journey in electronics device business, and selling products in its own

brand, including mobile phones, smartwatches, TWS (True Wireless Stereo) earbuds, neckbands, and LED TVs -outsources from various electronic assemblers and manufacturers, started in 2012 as M/s Unity Communications-its founder Mr. Ravi Agarwal's proprietorship firm. The company is promoted and managed with an enduring commitment to making happiness affordable. Cellecor offers a diverse range of products, including mobile phones, smart TVs, speakers, neckbands, TWS, soundbars, smartwatches, Washing Machines, Mixer-Grinders, ACs and many more.

business approach of sourcing, producing, and marketing with an objective to provide quality products at affordable price. Today, Cellecor Gadgets Ltd is a leading name in the India's consumer electronics industry, known for its innovative and cutting-edge technology. With a commitment to making happiness affordable, Cellecor offers a diverse range of products, including mobile phones, smart TVs, speakers, neckbands, TWS, soundbars, smartwatches, Washing Machines, Mixer-Grinders, ACs and many more.

Former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind Attends Discussion on Empowering Rural Farmers in Kolkata



Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH): The former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, recently graced an event organized by the Tapsil Jati Adibasi Praktan Sainik Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra (TJAPSKBSK) in Kolkata. The event took place at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, Kolkata, with several dignitaries in attendance, including Dr. Kovind's spouse, Prof. P. B. Sharma, Chairman of the National Advisory Committee, Prof. R. K. Khandal, Vice Chancellor and Mentor of Amity University, Gurgaon, Haryana, and former Rajya Sabha Director K. K. Mishra.

The gathering began with a warm welcome by TJAPSKBSK's secretary, Mr. Soumen Kole, who expressed gratitude to the esteemed guests. A tribal dance troupe from Purba Medinipur performed traditional dances, captivating the audience and honouring the former

President.

In his speech, Shri Kovind lauded the efforts of the Tapsil Jati Adibasi Praktan Sainik Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra (TJAPSKBSK), which has been working for 35 years to uplift marginalized communities. He emphasized the integral role of India's indigenous populations in shaping the nation's economy, culture, and human resource development. "India's tribal and SC communities are the backbone of our cultural heritage and natural resource development. Their contribution to the nation's growth fills us with pride," he stated. Shri Kovind also noted the historical importance of his role in signing the "One Nation, One Election" bill during his tenure as President, connecting it to the broader theme of national progress.

Mr. Soumen Kole reflected on the organization's journey, which began 35 years ago with a vision to

create self-reliance among the nation's underserved communities. "From a small initiative, we have grown into a movement involving over 10,000 dedicated individuals. The recognition from a former President boosts our morale and inspires us to spread this green revolution of self-reliance across the nation," Kole remarked.

The event concluded with a vibrant cultural program performed by members of the organization. Outstanding contributors to the initiative were honoured for their exemplary work, further motivating the collective to continue their efforts in achieving a self-reliant India. This gathering not only celebrated the milestones achieved by the Tapsil Jati Adibasi Praktan Sainik Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra (TJAPSKBSK) but also set a vision for the future—one rooted in empowerment, inclusivity, and sustainable growth.

COMPLETION OF ONGOING AND NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

Kolkata, (KCN): In an answer to the unstarred question raised in the Rajya Sabha by MP Shri Samik Bhattacharya regarding the current status of each of the 43 ongoing railway projects including 13 New Lines, four Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling in the State of West Bengal and the projects which have faced delays or have not yet started due to land acquisition issues and the measures being taken to resolve these challenges and expedite the completion of the projects, the Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information

Technology, Shri Aiswini Vaishnavi stated today that the Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. Sanctioning of the Railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railway, he added. The Railway Minister further pointed out that the Railway infrastructure projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/

6TH DAV UNITED FESTIVAL INAUGURATED ACADEMIC FEST CAN RESHAPE THE FUTURE SOCIETY IN A BETTER WAY



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The two-day long 6th edition of DAV United Festival was inaugurated with traditional fervour and glitter at Railway Indoor Stadium, Mancheswari today by Minister of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha, Suryabanshi Suraj, Minister of Industry and Skill Development Sampad Chandra Swain, President, DAVCMC Padma Shri Dr. Punam Suri, Dean, DAV United Foundation Dr. Nisha Peshin, Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Dr. K.C. Satapathy and other dignitaries present at the venue.

The programme kickstarted with lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by the welcome address by Dr. Satapathy in which he thanked DAVCMC, New Delhi for giving the opportunity of hosting the festival for

the first time in Odisha. In his address, Dr. Punam Suri emphasized the need of celebrating Unity in Diversity to evolve humanity and to rebuild the strength of the nation. Sri Suryabanshi Suraj while praising the unparalleled legacy and excellent service of DAV organisations in creating worthy citizens through holistic education, urged the importance of

United Fest in promoting of national integration. "DAV schools are instrumental in shaping the future of our motherland", said Shri Sampad Chandra Swain in his address while expressing his happiness of being one of the proud alumni of DAV. Dr. Nisha Peshin appreciated the efforts of Team DAV, Odisha to organise the festival and

said that the vibrant youth festival is a beacon of hope, friendship and the rich cultural fabric of the nation. The inaugural programme was followed by a wide array of cultural performances by the teachers as well as students of DAV pan India. The spectators were enthralled by famous stand-up

comedians like Sunil Grover, Inder Sahni, celebrated rapper MC SQUARE and famous Odia singer Gurukrupa Mishra. The audience comprising of students, alumni, parents were mesmerised by the theme-based stalls by 22 DAV schools of different states. Later in the evening, the Leader of the opposition and former Chief Minister Sj. Naveen Patnaik graced the occasion and lauded the remarkable contribution of DAV institutions in nationbuilding. With the weather ameliorating in the evening, the fest witnessed a large number of audiences who were thoroughly entertained by a series of enthralling cultural gala.

The captivating performances by the iconic Bollywood stars and the presence of eminent public figures are expected to pull a large crowd on the valedictory day.

World Meditation Day celebrated.



Sambalpur (KCN): The first 'World Meditation Day' was celebrated at Odisha Sanskrutik Samaj Bhawan, Sambalpur, on Saturday. The event was graced by the presence of BK Rajyogini Parvati Didi Ji, Arjun Ranjan Panda (Senior Journalist, Sambalpur) along with Prof. Bijayanand Behera (Principal, L R Law College, Sambalpur). It was a community gathering that featured a meditation session as the central highlight.

The program commenced with a brief introduction to the

Brahma Kumaris Institution, delivered by BK Parvati Didi Ji, BK

Binni Didi Ji, Arjun Ranjan Panda, and Prof. Bijayanand Behera, were warmly welcomed with Tilak and symbolic pots. To mark the auspicious beginning of the event, BK Parvati Didi Ji, BK

Binni Didi Ji, Arjun Ranjan Panda, Prof. Bijayanand Behera, and other Brahma Kumaris brothers lit the ceremonial candle. Rajyogini BK Parvati Didi Ji shared profound insights on

the importance of meditation, highlighting its numerous benefits and emphasizing why it should be incorporated into daily life. Brother Arjun gave his thought point through a real incident story and told the significance of meditation. Brother Bijayanand quoted the theme 'Inner peace, Global harmony' and gave his speech. This was followed by a 30-minute guided meditation session led by BK Deepa, providing a serene and reflective experience for all attendees. The program concluded with a fruit offering to the participants, symbolizing gratitude and harmony.

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

The WHEC aims to

reshape ideas and practices in higher education to ensure sustainable development and for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

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

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

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

Ghazanfar's fifer seals whitewash for Afghanistan

New Delhi: A five-wicket haul by 18-year-old spinner AM Ghazanfar triggered another batting collapse from Zimbabwe in the third and final ODI, and helped seal the series for Afghanistan 2-0 with an eight-wicket victory.

Put into bat on a fresh pitch, Zimbabwe were skittled out for 127 inside 31 overs, which Afghanistan chased with 23.1 overs to spare at the Harare Sports Club. It was a difficult start from the hosts, who were coming off a 54 all-out in the last match. So it wasn't a surprise that Azmatullah

Omarzai started proceedings from one of the ends with a maiden and that Zimbabwe's first boundary came in the fifth over when Ben Curran drove an overcooked delivery to the long-off fence. Ghazanfar, who had three wickets in the last match, was brought on to bowl inside the first PowerPlay this time around and he took all of five balls to strike. Joyford Gumbie became the first of his five wickets on the day when he top-edged a sweep, having had difficulties reading the

spinner. Before Ghazanfar could come back for his next over and pin Curran lbw in front, Omarzai had gotten the big wicket of Craig Ervine with an unplayable seed that did just enough to take the outside edge. There was a semblance of recovery when Sikandar Raza and Sean Williams, who top-scored with run-a-ball 60, added 36 runs for the fourth wicket. All that came undone when Rashid Khan came into the attack and struck twice in his first two overs, his victims being Raza and the batter who replaced

him at the crease, Brian Bennett. With the doors opened again, Ghazanfar went on a roll, picking two wickets in two balls en route to his second five-wicket haul in his 11th ODI, as Zimbabwe found

themselves all at sea once again versus Afghanistan's spinners. Richard Ngarava, playing his 50th ODI for Zimbabwe, was one of only four batters to reach double digits and the last man out as the hosts faced the daunting challenge of defending a sub-par total. While the pitch offered some assistance, it was far from enough to make the target defendable.

Afghanistan didn't come out all guns blazing, a sign that the pitch wasn't the easiest to bat on. But Abdul Malik held one end at a sub-40 strike-rate as



BCB president hints at Tamim, Shakib inclusion for CT

Dhaka: Bangladesh Cricket Board president Faruque Ahmed on Saturday said that Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal are available for the Champions Trophy. Recently, BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain indicated that he is at dark regarding the futures of Tamim and Shakib as far as their participation in the Champions Trophy is concerned.

Apart from having political issues that barred Shakib from entering the country, the veteran all-rounder came under the spotlight for a suspected bowling action that has forced him to get a clearance again in order to bowl in international cricket and in other domestic competitions.

Tamim on the other hand had began his preparation for the upcoming BPL with the ongoing NCL T20 and already hit two half centuries to prove that he



still has something to offer despite playing cricket after a gap of seven months.

"If any player does not retire then he is definitely available for selection (for the Champions Trophy)," Faruque told reporters following board meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Friday.

"Shakib issue is a totally different issue and there

is nothing new. In the last West Indies tour he was not in a mental state to play and now Shakib will say whether he will play BPL or what is his state and I cannot say anything because I don't have any update regarding him," he said. "As far as Tamim is concerned look what the chief selector said. There is no policy and if a player is yet to retire

and the selectors think he is required for the team in that case the selection committee will have to talk with that particular player," he pointed out.

Faruque added that they will make a call on Najmul Hossain's captaincy after he completes his tenure in December. Najmul earlier insisted that he is not ready to continue as leader after the home series against South Africa and only changed his mind after Faruque convinced him to stay on.

"We have just completed a series and there is nothing ahead of Champions Trophy as the boys will play BPL so we have time in our hand. We have not discussed anything in this regard. We will discuss when the time comes," said Faruque.

"We will decide after December (regarding Shanto's captaincy)," he added.



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the national selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, have made it clear that every cricketer must participate in domestic competitions unless otherwise advised or exempted. Pandya recently featured in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), where Baroda reached the semifinals. In seven matches, he scored 246 runs and claimed six wickets. Pandya (31) has not played

an non-T20 official match in nearly 14 months. His last appearance in a non-T20 match was in the ODI World Cup on October 19, 2023, against Bangladesh in Pune, where he suffered an ankle injury and remained sidelined from competitive cricket for an extended period. He has ceased playing red-ball cricket altogether. Pandya's participation in the one-day domestic championship could play a seminal role in his selection

for next year's Champions Trophy, especially with the Indian team unearthing a potential like-for-like pace-bowling option in Nitish Reddy. The Andhra allrounder has excelled with his skills and temperament with an impressive all-around performance in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) series in Australia. Since his injury last year, Pandya has played 38 T20 matches, including internationals, IPL, and

No Hardik Pandya in Baroda's Vijay Hazare squad; to play in knockouts

New Delhi: Hardik Pandya is not part of the Baroda team for the Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT), which began on Saturday (December 21) across various venues. The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) said the all-rounder will join the squad from the knockout stages of the 50-over tournament.

"He will play from the knockouts; he has informed us," said Kiran More, a member of the Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC) of the BCA.

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Injury scare for Rohit Sharma after blow to knee in Melbourne nets

New Delhi: India captain Rohit Sharma and batter KL Rahul coped injury blows ahead of the Boxing Day Test match in Melbourne. While Rohit was hit on his knee, KL Rahul was spotted getting attended by the physio after an injury to his right hand.

Ahead of the Boxing Day Test match, India captain Rohit Sharma coped a big blow on his left knee during practice on Sunday, December 22. Rohit was injured during a session with the throwdown specialist when the ball sneaked through his pads and hit him on the knee.

The injury comes just four days ahead of the Boxing Day Test match in Melbourne. India are level 1-1 with Australia in the



Border-Gavaskar Trophy and will push for a win in the final two Test matches of the series, in the hope of a three-peat vs Australia. India have won the last two tours Down Under, first under the leadership of Virat Kohli and then under Ajinkya Rahane. The hope for the three-peat might be under threat if the India captain gets

injured for the last two Tests of the series. On Sunday, Sharma was spotted applying an ice pack on his knee after his injury and had hobbled out of the nets in Melbourne. Earlier on Saturday, India opener KL Rahul got hit on his hand while batting at the nets and was promptly attended to by the team's physio ahead of the fourth Test against

Australia. Rahul was hit on his right hand and was seen in some discomfort at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The BCCI did not provide clarity on either of the injuries. India have played 14 Tests at the iconic MCG. The team has won only 4 of the 14 Tests and has lost in 8 occasions. Only 2 Test matches have ended in a draw. India first played at the MCG in January 1948 against a Donald Bradman-led Australian side. Under the leadership of Lala Amarnath, India lost the match by 233 runs.

India's recent record at the MCG is however quite good. India have not lost at the 'G' since 2014. They have won 2 and drawn 1 out of their three games.

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Oleksandr Usyk beats Tyson Fury on points to retain unified heavyweight titles

New Delhi: Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk beat Tyson Fury in their much anticipated rematch to retain his unified world heavyweight titles. Usyk won 116-112 via an unanimous decision, much to the shock of Fury. In a highly anticipated rematch in Riyadh, Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine successfully defended his WBA (Super), WBO, and WBC world heavyweight titles against Britain's Tyson Fury, winning by unanimous decision with all three judges scoring the fight 116-112. This victory marks Usyk's second consecutive win over Fury, following his split-decision triumph in May that made him the undisputed heavyweight champion.

The 37-year-old Usyk's performance was a repeat of his May victory over Fury, where he became the undisputed heavyweight champion. Although 36-year-old Fury showed improvement from their first encounter, including a strong start, he could not find a way to solve Usyk's elusive style.

Despite giving up advantages in height, weight, and reach to the much larger Fury, Usyk demonstrated exceptional skill and movement throughout the bout. Fury, who weighed in at a career-high 281 pounds (127kg), 55 pounds (25kg) heavier than Usyk, started strong but was ultimately unable to overcome the Ukrainian's strategic boxing. Fury attempted to control the centre of the ring with his jab, but Usyk effectively countered by ducking inside and unleashing combinations. Fury briefly had success in the fifth and sixth rounds, landing hard body shots, but Usyk's sharp counters and strategic movement took over, particularly in the later rounds.