



## New beginning

Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan will travel to the United States next week to meet Donald Trump amid heightened tensions between the two countries



We're here because our world is warming. Undeniably it is warming — Jacinda Ardern after passing climate change law in New Zealand

## IN BRIEF

### Pak Hindu girl raped: Autopsy

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani Hindu dental college student, who was found dead in mysterious circumstances in her hostel room in Sindh province, was raped before being murdered, the final postmortem report has revealed. Nimrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa Dental College in Sindh province, was found dead on a cot by her friends on September 16 with a rope tied to her neck. Her final postmortem report, which was issued by Chandka Medical College Hospital Woman Medico-Legal Officer, Dr Amrita revealed that the girl was sexually abused before being murdered. According to the autopsy report, her death was caused by suffocation. Asphyxial signs caused by a ligature on the neck were seen during the autopsy.

### Abe Shinzo is a moron: N. Korea

**Seoul:** North Korea called Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe an 'idiot and villain' who should not even dream of setting foot in Pyongyang, in a media commentary laden with insults in response to his criticism of a North Korean weapons test. North Korea teased what it called 'super-large multiple rocket launchers' on Oct. 31, but Japan said they were likely ballistic missiles that violated UN sanctions. Abe condemned the test at an Asian summit this week, while saying he was eager to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un 'without conditions' to resolve the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the isolated state. "Abe is an idiot and villain as he is making a fuss as if a nuclear bomb was dropped on the land of Japan, taking issue with the DPRK's test-fire of super-large multiple rocket launchers," the North's KCNA said, citing a statement by Song Il Ho, its ambassador for ties with Japan. The commentary signals a setback for Abe's hope of resolving the issue of the abducted Japanese citizens.

### 'SAUDI HIRED TWITTER STAFF TO SPY'

**San Francisco, Nov. 7:** Saudi Arabia, frustrated by growing criticism of its leaders and policies on social media, recruited two Twitter employees to spy on thousands of accounts that included prominent opponents, prosecutors alleged. The complaint unsealed in US district court in San Francisco detailed a coordinated effort by Saudi government officials to recruit employees at the social media giant to look up the private data of Twitter accounts, including email addresses linked to the accounts and internet protocol addresses that can give up a user's location. It appeared to link Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the powerful 34-year-son of King Salman, to the effort. The accounts included those of a popular critic of the government with more than 1 million followers and a news personality. Neither was named. The complaint also alleged that the employees — whose jobs did not require access to Twitter users' private information — were rewarded with a designer watch and tens of thousands of dollars funneled into secret bank accounts. Ahmad Abouammo, a US citizen, and Ali Alzabarah, a Saudi citizen, were charged with acting as agents of Saudi Arabia without registering with the US government. The Saudi government had no immediate comment through its embassy in Washington. Its state-run media did not immediately acknowledge the charges.

## Graduation like never before



University students wearing Guy Fawkes masks throw their hats after their graduation ceremony at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, in Hong Kong. About 1,000 students, many wearing black masks, attended the ceremony with some holding up banners urging 'Free Hong Kong, Revolution Now'.

## U.S. STATE POLLS: FOUR INDIAN AMERICANS WIN

**Washington, Nov. 7:** Four Indian Americans, including a Muslim woman and a former White House technology policy advisor, have won state and local elections held in the US. Indian-American Ghazala Hashmi, created history by becoming the first Muslim woman to be elected to the Virginia State Senate, while Suhass Subramanyam, who served as the White House technology policy adviser to former president Barack Obama, has been elected to the Virginia State House of Representatives. Hashmi had moved to the US from India as a young girl with her family 50 years ago. Subramanyam entered the Virginia State House of Representatives from the Indian-American-dominated district of Loudoun and Prince William.

His mother, a native of Bengaluru in India, had immigrated to the US in 1979. In California, Indian-American Mano Raju won his election to remain San Francisco's Public Defender. Raju attended Columbia University as an undergraduate where he researched Critical Race Theory under Professor Kendall Thomas. After an influential fellowship at the Oxford Center for African Studies, he relocated to Berkeley in the 90s to pursue his Masters in South Asian Studies and later his JD at Berkeley School of Law, where he interned in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. In North Carolina, incumbent Dimple Ajmera won a convincing reelection to Charlotte City Council. A former Certified Public Accountant, Ajmera immigrated to the US from India along with her parents when she was 16.

—PTI

**Washington, Nov. 7:** Democrats announced they will launch public impeachment hearings next week, intending to bring to life weeks of closed-door testimony and lay out a convincing narrative of presidential misconduct by Donald Trump. First to testify will be William Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine, who has relayed in private his understanding that there was a blatant quid pro quo with Trump holding up military aid to a US ally facing threats from its giant neighbour Russia.

That aid, at the heart of the impeachment inquiry, is alleged to have been held hostage until Ukraine agreed to investigate political foe Joe Biden and the idea, out of the mainstream of US intelligence findings, that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 US election. The testimony of Taylor a career envoy and war veteran with 50 years of service to the US, is what Democrats want Americans to hear first. Taylor has told investigators about an 'irregular channel' that the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, set up for Ukraine diplomacy, and how the White House was holding up the military aid, according to a transcript of his closed-door interview released. "That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president committed to pursue the investigation," Taylor said. He was asked if he was aware that *quid pro quo* meant 'this for that'. "I am," he replied.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing, and Republicans largely dismiss the

impeachment inquiry, now into its second month, as a sham.

But Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the probe, said that with two days of hearings next week Americans will have a chance to decide for themselves. "The most important facts are largely not contested," the California Democrat said. "Those open hearings will be an opportunity for the American people to evaluate the witnesses for themselves, to make their own determinations about the credibility of the witnesses, but also to learn firsthand about the facts of the president's misconduct."

Along with Taylor, the public will hear from former US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whom Trump fired after what she and others say was a smear campaign against her, and career state department official George Kent. To prepare for what's ahead, the

White House is beefing up its communications operations.

Trump ally Pam Bondi, the former attorney general of Florida, and Tony Sayegh, a former treasury department spokesman, are expected to join the White House team to work on "proactive impeachment messaging," a senior official said.

The Trump administration has ordered officials not to participate in the House inquiry. But lawmakers have spent weeks hearing from current and former government witnesses, largely from the state department, as one official after another has relayed his or her understanding of events.

The testimony from Taylor further connected Trump, Giuliani and the administration to a *quid pro quo* agreement that came to light after a government whistleblower's complaint about Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. —AP

## New ISIS chief a nobody: US

**Washington, Nov. 7:** The new leader of the Islamic State group is "a nobody" with little apparent reputation but the United States hopes he will be killed soon, a US official said.

The group announced Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi as its new leader after a US commando raid killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the chief of the ultra-violent movement. A senior US official said that monitoring of Islamic State social media indicates that even followers did not know much about Hashimi.

"That has become a major issue in, if you will, the ISIS social media world. This guy appears to be a nobody," he said.

"What little we know about him, we're not impressed. And if he's in Iraq or Syria, we don't think he's too long for the world anyway," he said.

The official declined to offer further details, including whether, like Baghdadi, Hashimi had been detained at some point by US forces.

President Donald Trump last week tweeted of the group's new leader that "we know exactly

## HERO DOG TO MEET TRUMP AT WHITE HOUSE

**Washington, Nov. 7:** The 'hero' dog that assisted the American commandoes in the mission that led to the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi will soon visit the White House, US President Donald Trump has said.

Addressing a rally in Louisiana Trump said the canine, Conan, was the 'greatest hero'. "He's coming to the White House very soon."

Conan was injured during the raid at the hideout of Baghdadi in northwestern Syria last month. He has now returned to service.

"I said, 'bring him now,' they said, 'He's on a mission.' I said, 'You gotta be kidding. Come on, give him couple of days rest, please,'" Trump told the rally. —PTI

who he is," but few details have emerged about Hashimi. —AFP

# Trump impeachment going public

Open hearings will be an opportunity for American people to evaluate the witnesses

## TAYLOR TESTIMONY TAKEAWAYS

House Democrats released a 324-page transcript of top US diplomat in Ukraine William Taylor's interview



Taylor told lawmakers that President Donald Trump was withholding military aid for Ukraine unless the country's president agreed to investigate Democrats

Taylor said he was worried about 'snake pits' in Washington when he was offered a job in Ukraine

Taylor understood the reason for investigating Burisma, a gas company linked to Joe Biden's son, was to cast vice-president Biden in a 'bad light' and that it could help Trump's re-election.



In the deposition, Taylor described the importance of the military aid that Ukraine was receiving from the US to fight the insurgency backed by Russia in the east

## Iraqi forces shoot at protesters, four killed

**Baghdad, Nov. 7:** Another 35 people were wounded in the clashes near Shuhada Bridge, they said, as mass demonstrations continued for a 13th straight day with thousands thronging central areas of the capital.

In southern Iraq, dozens of anti-government protesters burnt tyres and blocked the entrance to the port of Umm Qasr, preventing lorries from transporting vital food imports, just hours after operations had resumed, port officials said.

The Iraqi government has failed to find a way out of the biggest and

most complicated challenge to its rule in years. The unrest has shattered the relative calm that followed the defeat of the Sunni Muslim extremist Islamic State in 2017.

A crackdown by authorities against mostly unarmed protesters has killed more than 250 people since unrest broke out on Oct. 1 over lack of jobs, services and an infrastructure wrecked by decades of conflict, sanctions and corruption.

Protesters, mostly unemployed youth, blame a political elite that has ruled Iraq since the toppling of dictator Saddam

Hussein in a 2003 US-led invasion, and demand a complete overhaul of the political system.

The country is beginning to feel the fiscal pinch of weeks of the unrest, which started in Baghdad and quickly spread to southern cities.

The new stoppage of operations at Umm Qasr port in the south is likely to compound financial losses a day after the government said that a week-long halt of operations there had cost more than \$6 billion. The government has offered nothing that is likely to satisfy most protesters. —AFP

## NAWAZ TAKEN TO RESIDENCE ON DISCHARGE

**Lahore, Nov. 7:** Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was shifted to his Jati Umra Raiwind residence after his two-week stay at a hospital for treatment of multiple diseases.

Nawaz Sharif, 69, was admitted to the Services Hospital in Lahore on October 22 from Pakistan's anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000.

His daughter Maryam Nawaz, who was also undergoing treatment at the same hospital, too was moved to his house along with him from the hospital.

The Islamabad High Court had last week granted bail to Nawaz Sharif for eight weeks in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case on medical grounds. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader has been sentenced to seven years in prison in the case. He had already secured bail from the Lahore High Court in the money laundering case linked to Chaudhry Sugar Mills. —PTI



## ENDLESS | WOES ■ Refugee women spend months in captivity, after being pushed into prostitution

# Migrants live in fear at Mexico-US border

**San Diego, Nov. 7:** A Salvadoran woman seeking asylum in the United States spends her days holed up in her cousin's cramped slum house just across the border in Mexico — too scared to leave after receiving a savage beating from two men three weeks ago while she was strolling home from a convenience store.

The assault came after she spent four months in captivity in Mexico, kidnapped into prostitution during her journey toward the US.

■ THE administration's policy denies asylum seekers fair and humane treatment, forcing them to wait in a country plagued by drug-fuelled violence, illustrated this week by the slaughter near the US border of six children and three women

The woman, 31, is among 55,000 migrants who have been returned to Mexico by the Trump administration to wait for their cases

to wind through backlogged immigration courts. Her situation offers a glimpse into some of the programme's problems.

Critics have said the administration's policy denies asylum seekers like the Salvadoran woman fair and humane treatment, forcing them to wait in a country plagued by drug-fuelled violence — illustrated this week by the slaughter near the US border of six children and three women. All were US citizens living in Mexico.

The Trump administration insists that the programme is a safe alternative in collaboration with the government of Mexico, even as the president vows to wage war on the drug cartels that are a dominant presence in the dangerous border cities where migrants are forced to wait.

The department of homeland security added in a report last week that the programme is 'an indispensable tool in addressing the ongoing crisis at the southern border

and restoring integrity to the immigration system.'

The woman said in an interview that she fled Santa Ana, El Salvador, on Jan. 31 after days on the run from a police officer who demanded sexual acts.

She never said goodbye to her five children — ages 5 to 12 — fearing the officer would discover where they lived. She said she was kidnapped after leaving a Mexican government office on its southern border with Guatemala after

inquiring about getting asylum in Mexico.

She and others were taken in a minivan to Ciudad Juarez, on Mexico's border with Texas. Captors in a large room argued over who would take possession of the men, women and children gathered there.

One wanted to extort money from her family. A second wanted to force her into prostitution. "There's nothing you can do," she said after she was told by an official. "This is not your country." —AP



The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light

We have to transcend our differences to transform our future

# DECCAN Chronicle

8 NOVEMBER 2019

## The real estate bailout: How many will it save?

The Union Cabinet's decision to pool in a ₹25,000 crore corpus to fund cash-starved real estate companies to complete stalled housing projects is a good move, albeit long overdue. Though the announcement to bail out the real estate sector was made in September in the heat of the real estate driven crash of the Punjab Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, the Cabinet on Wednesday eased criteria, allowing companies that defaulted on loans or are facing bankruptcy proceedings to access funds from the Central government-led Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

Finance minister Nirmala Sitaraman expects over 1,600 stalled projects having 4.58 lakh housing units could avail of this funding. The real estate projects, however, have to be net-worth positive, should be an affordable and middle-income housing project and must be an ongoing project registered with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). The government believes that appropriate fund infusion in the real estate sector would have a positive spillover on other sectors like cement, steel, and so on, and could lead to job creation.

While the intention behind the Cabinet decision is good, it is inadequate to solve the real estate crisis. There are serious doubts on how many realtors the AIF can help in view of the two deal-breaking conditions — the requirement of a project being net worth positive, and being registered with RERA.

Let's first consider the qualifying condition of projects being net worth positive. As per data put out by real estate consultancy firm Anarock, 5.76 lakh units which were launched in 2013 or before are stuck in various stages of non-completion in the top seven cities alone. Given the delay of six years or more, the project cost would have shoot up by at least 31 per cent if one takes into account the income tax department's cost inflation index. The real cost overrun would be higher than the moderate estimate of 31 per cent. The company would, therefore, require significantly more money than their receivables from home buyers in the form of sale consideration — making them net worth negative, and putting most projects that were launched before 2013 out of the purview of this scheme.

Another condition that could potentially blunt the effectiveness of this bailout package is the requirement of these projects being registered with RERA. Though the real estate regulator came into being on May 1, 2017, states notified it on different dates as per their convenience till October 2018. While the law makes it mandatory for a real estate project that has more than eight housing units to get registered with RERA, it also exempts from the registration those projects that have begun the work before the law was implemented. All such projects started before May 2016, therefore, would not get any benefit from this scheme.

While the government-backed AIF is not a panacea for the real estate sector that is saddled with ₹4.47 lakh crores worth of inventory, it will be welcomed with the same relief that a drowning man would experience when he lays his hand on a straw.

## H-1B dip: Trade dispute to blame

The Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies have caused deep disappointment to a huge number of India's IT professionals. America's rejection rate of H-1B visas in the last quarter has been so high — with one in four Indian applications refused — that many dreams have been shattered.

The reasons for this dip aren't hard to find. The US administration was threatening from June that H-1B visas may be severely restricted. The trade dispute between the US and India is to blame. Lawyers in the US have been wondering if the US has such unilateral authority to aim at highly skilled professionals from particular countries like India and China. The fact is they have been discriminated against Indians, and there is little that can be done about it.

India's IT professionals have had a good run in regularly getting about 70 per cent of 85,000 H-1B visas each year. It's not only President Donald Trump's "Buy American, Hire American" initiative that has come in the way, but also his contempt for the H-1B route which he classified as a "cheap labour programme" with underpaid professionals, especially from India and China, getting jobs at the expense of Americans.

The denial of a free pass to the "promised land" must sorely test those who pursued this great dream. But to point a finger at "Howdy, Modi!" in this regard is far-fetched and distinctly political. The point is that any country's immigration policy is its own business. Further, we don't seem to have the wherewithal to stop this brain drain by paying our professionals comparable wages. But then, the halcyon days of Indian IT seem to be running out too.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA  
Editor

T. VENKATESWARLU  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285  
**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burrampur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/4230325

**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552.

**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: : 0422 2231255

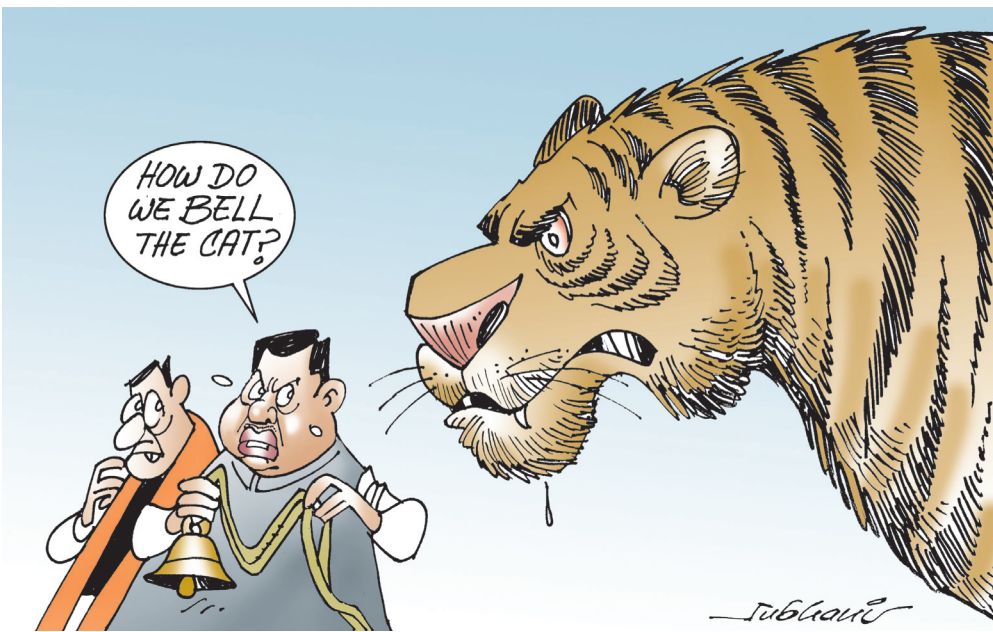
**Kochi:** No.3-B, 3rd Floor of/DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014

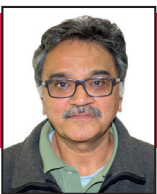
**Kozhikode:** Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018

Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



# India dodges RCEP, but can't avoid Reforms 2.0



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Independent India has never been a full-blooded international trader. But then who is a free trader in these uncertain times when even the United States is putting up tariff walls faster than physical ones? Our governmental instincts veer towards protection rather than international competitiveness.

To be sure, the 1991 liberalisation changed some of that. But the collapse of multilateral trading rules has not helped. We are too large to be "helped" by individual development partners along the path to competitiveness. Vietnam and Bangladesh are good examples of smaller economies using preferential trade access to grow rapidly. India's size and relative poverty — we rank 12th on per capita income (PPP) league table out of the 16 countries which negotiated the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) since 2013, just below the Philippines and above Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. India has no options except to reform itself into competitiveness. That is still a long haul.

The RCEP represents around one-third of global trade. Subtracting India from the group just reduces the aggregate trade volume by three percentage points. Nevertheless, the RCEP partners would rather have us in than out. For starters we, unlike China, present no security or economic threat to anyone. There is also the long-term prospect of sustained growth of the Indian market, well past 2040, by when China is expected to peak — if other tectonic shifts from technology and climate do not kick in earlier.

So why didn't India have its way in getting

the bloc to agree to a special dispensation for India which would keep out Chinese goods and New Zealand dairy products for an extended period; provide access for services, where India is competitive, and impose stricter rules on the origin of exports to reduce routing of exports through third parties like China is alleged to do?

First, India's ambivalence does not help build credibility. If we had done our homework and decided that we had more to lose than to gain from RCEP, we should have made our intentions plain a long time back — the negotiations started in 2012-13 and six years have gone by.

Dropping out also doesn't square with the high praise which was lavished by the government on the report of a High-Level Advisory Group released just days before on October 30, which flagged joining RCEP as a must do. An econometric analysis for this report by the prestigious National Council of Applied Economic Research confirmed that there were net benefits, rather than pain, from joining the bloc. However, this conclusion is far from the domestic perception that India needs protection because of our poor infrastructure and poorly regulated factor markets for land, labour and capital, which impose an implicit tax on exports.

**India's ambivalence does not help build credibility. If we had done our homework and decided that we had more to lose than to gain from RCEP, we should have made our intentions plain a long time back**

**Had India become a part of the bloc, it would have had the third highest GDP just below Japan and above South Korea, and tied with South Korea for the third highest global trade**

Second, China is the dominant player in the bloc. It accounts for 56 per cent of the aggregate GDP (2017) and 45 per cent of the aggregate trade (exports plus imports). Japan, South Korea and Singapore together account for a one-third share in trade while Australia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia together add another one-sixth.

Had India become a part of the bloc, it would have had the third highest GDP just below Japan and above South Korea, and tied with South Korea for the third highest global trade.

Since India's primary concern is trade protection from Chinese imports and greater access for its goods and services, it was China's call to agree. By choosing not to play ball, China has reinforced its regional dominance by passively allowing India to be excluded from a regional grouping where it is top gun. If India has played the reluctant debutant, China also seems to have given into its "imperial" instincts rather than bowed to its practical image, of judging a cat by its ability to catch mice and not its colour.

Third, India's own strategy has limited it from regional trade expansion. The "Look East" policy of the UPA and the "Act East" policy of Modi 1.0 seem to be substituted by a "Lean West" orientation. Around 60 per cent of our exports flow to the European Union, the United States and the Middle East or West Asia. Exports to China account for just around 15 per cent, while another 11 per cent go to other destinations in

East Asia.

Conversely, slightly less than 40 per cent of our imports are from East Asia, of which China alone accounts for around one half — about the same as West Asia, at 21 per cent. The Americas, Europe and Central Asia together account for 30 per cent.

An alternative, new "trade deal" with the United States and signing the free trade pact with the European Union can deepen the existing geo-political bonhomie and economic ties. But these too will come with imported threats to dairy, agriculture and industry.

Possibly the lurch towards the West is just an alibi. The real reason why we shy away from trade deals is that Modi 2.0 has become risk averse and unable to summon the political capital to drive Reforms 2.0 to reallocate resources towards those producers who are efficient and away from the tired elites who have become fat on their entitlements.

Also, India remains bound by its own peculiar political architecture, which enmeshes it in near continuous state-level elections and a national election every five years. The resultant tsunami of political rhetoric drowns out all the other voices urging sustained basic reforms of the factor markets (land, labour and capital).

It is still possible that China will chicken out and not drive India into Washington's half open arms. But it is only a slim possibility. The other RCEP members also expect India to get over its domestic election-related tantrums over time, especially if growth revives.

In the meantime, we remain in grand isolation awaiting a suitable suitor who will not ask for much but hand over the keys of their domestic market to us — a marriage which can be made only in heaven not around negotiating tables.

*The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation*

### LETTERS

#### LEARN FROM DOGS

We should feel ashamed of ourselves as human beings. We need to learn values from animals. Most of us lose temper, or give up on ethical values. Some resort to killing their fellow beings brutally over simple issues, while animals demonstrate faith, affection, love and responsibility towards their masters (*One more dog in Odisha lays down life to save small kids, DC, Nov. 7*). Since 2016, four dogs sacrificed their lives to save their masters from a snake bites. May their souls rest in peace.

S. Sita Mahalakshmi  
Sangareddy

#### VIJAYA'S KILLING

It is very disheartening to note that ruling TRS and opposition parties are politicising Vijaya Reddy's brutal killing. Rather than waiting for police to investigate and find out the truth behind the killing, they are throwing mud at each other. This will only dilute the case. The government should take up the case seriously and give justice to the family of the deceased. The case must be dealt with an iron hand without any political interference.

Bhavani S.  
Gandhinagar, Hyderabad

#### RTC STRIKE

The demands of the RTC employees may be legal, but not justifiable. An increase of 67 per cent hike in salaries in four years is too high, compared to any other state RTC. The demand for merger into government is not tenable, and without precedent in any state. RTC unions should have sensed mood of government before going on strike. Some employees lost their lives. It is time for union leaders to call off strike and settle all issues. Opposition parties may support the strike, but cannot solve the issue.

N. Somaiah  
Hyderabad

Privatisation creates healthy competition amongst department provided they are monitored properly. Many private airlines came up but took lot of years to stabilise. Some wound up overnight, leaving employees to their fate. However, it is wise to retain RTC as it has experienced employees and state-wide establishments. Moreover, TSRTC employees must train drivers for private buses to maintain uniform standards across the state.

Gudipati Anirudha  
New Bowenpally, Secunderabad

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹300. Email your letters to [info@deccanmail.com](mailto:info@deccanmail.com), [editor@deccanmail.com](mailto:editor@deccanmail.com). You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.



F.S. Aijazuddin  
View from Pakistan

## Maulana's stir multi-legged race of rivals

Remember, remember, the fifth of November!" These lines were more than a chant to be recited on the anniversary of the gunpowder plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes and his accomplices attempted to blow up Westminster. It served as a reminder of the fragility of a new political union that brought the Scottish King James VI to the throne of England as King James I, and of the unresolved friction at the time between the Protestants and the dispossessed Roman Catholics.

Guy Fawkes was described by a contemporary as "pleasant of approach and cheerful of manner, opposed to quarrels and strife ... loyal to his friends". This amiability was overtaken by a militant antipathy towards the Scots. He declared that "it will not be possible to reconcile these two nations, as they are, for very long". His prediction, although 400 years old, could be fulfilled if the fretful Scottish Nationalist Party, post-Brexit, decides to remain part of

the European Union, even if that means amputation from the United Kingdom.

The night before Guy Fawkes and his fellow-conspirators planned to detonate the barrels of stored gunpowder, one conspirator betrayed them. To mark that dangerous non-event, even today the cellars of the British Houses of Parliament are scoured to ensure that there are no explosives secreted underneath. The horse bolted 400 years ago; the stable locks are still rechecked every year.

Today's parliaments are no longer under threat from below as much as from without and within. Take, for example, the ham-handed attack in December 2001 on the Indian parliament buildings in New Delhi. Those trigger-happy insurgents could have benefited from Guy Fawkes' more meticulous planning.

The attack by the PTI on Pakistan's Parliament House in August 2014 led in time to a PTI government occupying the same chambers it had disparaged and sought to dismantle.

And violent discontent was shown against the Supreme Court by an incumbent PML-N government, when in 1997 a mob led by the then minister of information attacked our Supreme Court. A beleaguered chief justice had to appeal to the army for protection.

Does our parliament or other insecure, precarious pillars of state deserve the protection they resort to in the last resort? Are sermons and homilies by well-meaning cohorts the panacea to an endemic ailment — our inability to govern ourselves? Or should we reconcile ourselves to H.K. Mencken's uncharitable but arrow-sharp observation that "democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance"? Countries larger than ours with the same DNA have undergone periods when their perception of democracy was tested by the compulsions of private ambition. "The liberty of a democracy," US president Franklin D. Roosevelt once wrote, "is not safe if the people tolerated the

growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than the democratic state itself. That in its essence is fascism." Roosevelt knew what he was talking about. He had been elected as president for an unprecedented third term. He waged the Second World War to defend his belief in the power of democracy. He shared the same table as Winston Churchill and Marshal Josef Stalin — the dictator who ruled the Soviet Union with bullets as fingers.

Our politicians have neither the skill nor the will to make democracy work. They suffer from a condition known as legislative amnesia. They have forgotten why they were elected. They forget what laws have been passed, what laws need to be passed and which overdue laws require modernisation. They prefer to chew on platitudes and are content to subcontract legislative business to the expediency of presidential ordinances. It is clear that the present dharna is a multi-legged race, run by opposition parties who do not wish to

be seen bound to each other. They loathe Prime Minister Imran Khan as much as they are suspicious of each other. They know from experience that power may come through the barrel of a gun, and for the time being that barrel is pointing in another direction.

An unsubstantiated report has revealed that, before Maulana Fazlur Rehman's dharna reached Islamabad, he had a private meeting with army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa. The substance of their now not-so-private tête-a-tête reportedly contained a warning to the hyperactive maulana that any attempt to remove a constitutionally elected government might result, like an ineptly thrown boomerang, in causing more damage to friend than to foe.

That report (still undenied) disclosed that a bottle of perfume was given to the maulana by his host. Presumably it did not smell of cordite.

*By arrangement with Dawn*



# ‘India may have walked out of RCEP too early’

Abhijit Banerjee

## Q&A

Do not buy into the propaganda of the Right. There should be free trade of service between countries, more dignity for home labour and yes, something that we have known all along, it is in the nature of bureaucracy to interfere with development economics. Also, India may have walked out of RCEP a bit too early, Nobel Economics laureate **Abhijit Banerjee** tells **Sucheta Dasgupta** in a freewheeling conversation on the phone about his new book, *Good Economics for Hard Times* (co-authored with wife and fellow laureate Esther Duflo), and several issues of interest:

**What is your writing process? How much of this new book is written by Esther Duflo and how much by you?**

I think pretty much every page is written by Esther and every page is written by me in the sense that she will often write lots and lots of material

and after we discuss it for a while, then she writes, and sometimes I write — a couple of chapters probably I wrote but most of it she wrote. But then she hands it to me and it's much more than what we are going to keep and then my job is to move the pieces and turn it into a text and then she will go through that text and see if it's capturing everything correctly — and so it's multiple rounds of that.

**When you refer to workers in your book, why do you prefer to use the feminine gender rather than the singular they?**

It's called conventions. It seems to me that there is no particular reason to use they, rather than she. Even if somebody says he, they are not really saying that all workers are male — it is just one more convention. Maybe it is sometimes good to break convention. But I don't think there is something deeper or interesting about it.

**You, Esther and Michael (Kremer, the third recipient of the economics Nobel this year) have been the pioneers of the RCT model which focuses on asking the right question to every population group and it takes the bottom-up approach to development. But for your vision to take effect, you require policy support from governments. In this respect, what are the challenges you have faced in the course of your work with various Indian governments?**

To be honest, I would say that what is striking in my experience is how welcoming a lot of

**The nature of the bureaucratic beast is a bit against the spirit of doing something long term. For example, somebody who has spent a lot of effort in understanding what we are trying to do and has been talking to us suddenly gets transferred.**

governments have been. I don't think we feel that the first order reaction even many years ago and now more and more so — because I think now people are more willing to listen to ideas like these in the last five years than they have been 15 years ago — has been hostility. We have had relatively friendly reactions. The problem is often not to do with governments not cooperating willingly as much as it is done unintentionally, just because the nature of the bureaucratic beast is a bit against the spirit of doing something long term. For example, somebody who is very helpful who has spent a lot of effort in understanding what we are trying to do and has been talking to us suddenly gets transferred. And then that's a really big problem. There is no substitute for individuals. Because after she has been transferred, there might be 10 weeks when there is no one who is in that department — there is no second person, no principal secretary assigned, maybe there is a caretaker in charge of it and they are very busy and not interested. I often think that the process of governance in



Abhijit Banerjee, this year's Nobel laureate in Economics

general is a problem in India — which is too many people moving around too much — which is a constraint for us as well.

**The Right has been somewhat disinterested in your advice to tax the rich and also in your goal of poverty alleviation for the masses while the Left is slow to accept you because you base your work in the market economy and use the tools of social analysis and psychology — which are an anathema to them. Do you think your recent recognition comes as a bridging element to this gap in an increasingly and maddeningly polarised world?**

That is a very nice sentence. I am going to say, *inshallah*. That's all I am going to say.

Recently, India pulled

**out of the RCEP. Any thoughts on this?**

I think what we were asking for in the negotiation was not necessarily unreasonable. I think that there were real issues there which need to be tackled. But I think we walked out of the negotiation too early. At some level we need to also accept — the last time we opened in 1991, we were scared that all our industries will die, nothing terrible happened — I think we need to accept that we also have competence — we can also compete.

Maybe it will make us more able to deal with our internal challenges right now. We seem to have a demand shortage and some markets won't be a bad thing. I would recommend a bit more confidence and aggressively seeking out what we want, taking careful steps to protect our interests but not doing it at

the cost of throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

**You are a votary for migration of labour between countries, which is an aspect of globalisation, going by what you have written in your book which I read. But it is also leading to echo chambers and erosion of original thought as everyone feels obliged to “act white” as you describe it in your book, also loss of community as well as mooching off of freedoms accessible in developed countries and progressive societies. Do you think it is time for societies, especially in developing countries, to reconcile these two aspects? And how do you foresee that they will do it?**

I think we are overstating the problem here. We are buying into the myth of the Right that these are incredible challenges and that all these people are so different from us and that they are going to do mayhem. The people who migrate are extremely self-selected and they tend to be very willing to assimilate. The only place where that is not true is for people who are forced to migrate, who sometimes don't assimilate because they were not planning to migrate — they have been kicked out by some Burmese Army or some such thing happening. Then I understand that that is an issue. But most people who are voluntary migrants come with a desire to assimilate or partially assimilate. We shouldn't buy into the propaganda of the Right.

**What are the trade-offs between the universal basic**

**income and the universal service income which proposes to grant dignity to home labour which is performed mostly by women?**

I think dignity to home labour is something we have to do irrespective of what our views on the universal basic income are. One is not necessarily opposed to the other. The recognition of home labour is first order, important and obvious.

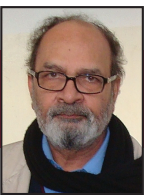
**Esther is the youngest economist to have won the Nobel. Yet even in her own country, papers did not headline this news as Esther and spouse win Nobel. So what are your comments on that? Uh... this is a cheeky question.**

Esther won the Nobel and some other people did, including her spouse. That was the headline. In *Le Monde*, I believe, or in some of the other major papers. They didn't name her spouse. In India, at least they took the trouble of saying Abhijit Banerjee and spouse, Esther Duflo. In France, I was not even named, nor was Michael.

**What is your next big project?**

There is no next big project. Right now we are recovering from a big project which is writing this new book, *Good Economics for Hard Times*. I think we are mostly in a mode where lots of projects as a result get sidelined. And in addition this prize makes us very busy right now. So between the two we are kind of falling behind what we should have done, maybe, six or eight months, or one year ago. I think catch up is our big project.

# In Baghdadi's death, did US really ‘kill its own creature’?



Saeed Naqvi

Wide Angle

**H**ard to believe, but the great poet, Ghalib would have envied Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Osama bin Laden for the way the two were drowned and not buried. He wrote: “*Huwe mar ke hum jo ruswa Huwe kyon na gharqe dariya? Na kabhi janaza uhta Na kaheen mazar hota.*” (I was embarrassed after my death; I should have been drowned. There would have been no need for an unattended funeral. Or an unvisited grave.)

The manner of al-Baghdadi's death is still something of a “whodunit”. President Donald Trump's graphic description of the ISIS chief's death has been given scant credence. Always contrary to what the US calls “normal behaviour”, Iran's information minister Javad Azari-Jahromi said, “No big deal, you just killed your creature”. But the *New York Times*' establishment columnist Thomas Friedman notes, satirically, how “effusive Trump was of the intelligence agencies who found and tracked al-Baghdadi to his lair in Syria where he blew himself up to avoid being captured”.

Mr Friedman then gives vent to the bile he has accumulated against Mr Trump for having been continuously at cross-purposes with the deep state: “Well, Mr President, those are the same intelligence agencies who told you that Russia intervened in our last election in an effort to tip the vote to you and against Hillary Clinton”. Little wonder, Mr Friedman loathes senators obstructing Mr Trump's

impeachment: “Despicable, disgusting” he said on CNN.

When history is written, Mr Trump will be chastised for a hundred reasons, and severely. But it would be uncharitable not to note one truth about him: Mr Trump is the only President in recent history who tried to end military conflicts the US was involved in and who did not start a conflict. There have been 13 military conflicts in recent decades costing \$18 trillion, by some estimates.

As for al-Baghdadi, well, his image did have its uses. To that extent, do the Iranians have a point? The last time al-Baghdadi's photograph appeared on front pages of newspapers was after the Easter Sunday massacre in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 21. On TV too al-Baghdadi was shown claiming the massacre as “revenge” for an attack on a mosque in New Zealand. French experts, among others, soon established that it was a fraudulent clip — a voice had been super imposed on his visage. Which outfit would like to stir up a conflict between Sri Lanka's two frail minorities — Muslims and Christians? New Delhi alerted Colombo as early as April 4 that a major terrorist attack could be expected. How did New Delhi know?

At this time Sri Lanka was sharply divided between two camps: President Maithripala Sirisena had embraced China's Belt and Road Initiative; Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was in convulsions to sign the (SOFA) Status of Forces Agreement with the US before the next general election.

The island nation is at the

**The New York Times' establishment columnist Thomas Friedman notes, satirically, how ‘effusive Donald Trump was of the intelligence agencies who found and tracked al-Baghdadi to his lair in Syria’**

centre of fierce competition between a rising China and a retreating US for influence in the Indian Ocean. Over 300 people were killed; 500 injured. Among those killed were Chinese marine engineers. The hotels attacked have Chinese links. Why has the media not pursued the story to its end?

A small island nation, just recovering from a vicious civil war, would be shaken up by the sheer scale of the massacre. National anxiety would warrant the appearance of intelligence agencies from everywhere — the US, the UK, Israel, Australia, India. An initial pooling in of intelligence would lead to a penetration of systems until the benefactors achieve their immediate goal to place roadblocks in the way of the Belt and Road project.

Police sniffer dogs found something extraordinary while walking through the Jaic Hilton hotel. The dogs stopped in front of an apartment and would not stop barking. The management cited some difficulties in opening that apartment. After considerable time, two persons claiming to be with the US embassy turned up. In the room were two “explosive detectors”. The detectors were for their personal security, said the two men. They ignored the obvious fact: dogs would only bark if the detectors had been in touch with explosives. These details are available only because of investigations conducted by

Dr Michael Roberts of the University of Adelaide.

Those who initially tried to foist the tragedy on al-Baghdadi were obviously embarrassed. Who were they? The NYT's Mr Friedman had once recommended that al-Baghdadi can be creatively used in the American interest. He advised Mr Trump not to waste his time fighting ISIS. He wants “Trump to be Trump — utterly cynical and unpredictable”. He continues, “Trump should let ISIS be Assad's, Iran's, Hezbollah's and Russia's headache”. Wonderful uses of al-Baghdadi and ISIS?

Mr Friedman has not cooked up the theory of terrorism as a strategic asset on his own. He has acquired this wisdom from leaders, including US Presidents like Barack Obama. In the course of a lengthy interview in August 2015, he asked Mr Obama a very pertinent question. When ISIS first reared its head in Mosul a year ago, why did the President not immediately bomb it out of existence?

Mr Obama stated quite plainly: “We did not just start taking a bunch of airstrikes all across Iraq because that would have taken the pressure off the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al Maliki”. Mr Obama's priority was not the elimination of the founder of the caliphate. His priority was to exert pressure on Nouri al Maliki to vacate the Iraqi Prime Minister's office. Why? Because Mr Maliki was “brazenly” pro-Shia and had refused to sign the Status of Forces Agreement with the US. Mr Obama's “one-two” (to use a term from boxing) worked. US pressure, and al-Baghdadi's menacing presence at the gates of Iraq's capital helped ease Mr Maliki out.

*The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi*

# Urdu has a glorious past, but will its future too be bright?



M.J. Warsi

**U**ntil the Partition of India, Urdu enjoyed tremendous cultural prestige among educated North Indian Muslims and Hindus, as well as among the more conscientious British administrators. Urdu was also the first literary language for many of those who also wrote in Hindi. For instance, Upendranath Ashk and Munshi Premchand were famous Urdu authors before they even began to write in Hindi.

In order to fully grasp the state of the Urdu language in the post-Independence period, an examination of the roots of the language is required. The Urdu language within India has faced many turbulent times, pressure brought upon by the Indian government, Hindi chauvinists and sometimes the ineffectiveness of Urdu literary education. In 1947, when Pakistan gained its Independence from British rule, a great shift was made in the maintenance of the Urdu language in India. Many of the experts on the Urdu language may argue that within India, during the time period immediately following Independence, the maintenance of the Urdu language has been a difficult task in many respects. Many organisations and individuals with and without the support of the Indian government have worked to preserve the Urdu language and ensure its education to younger generations. However, there are many roadblocks to progress. Following a brief description of the historical climate and context in which the Urdu language thrives, a close examination of some of the key issues affecting the modern use of Urdu will be undertaken.

Among Urdu writers of the 19th century, the most renowned was Asadullah Khan Ghalib (1797-1869) whose poetry is described by Muhammad Sadiq in his book *A History of Urdu Literature* as a visionary who “broke away from the past both in thought and style — he stands at the threshold of the modern world”. Another famous literary figure is Muhammad Iqbal (1878-1938), one of the most influential and controversial Urdu poets of the early 20th century. In the field of the short story, one of the most powerful modern Urdu writers was S.H. Manto (1912-55). Although since the agony

of the Partition of India in 1947, Urdu has become more and more restricted to use in Pakistan and among Indian Muslims, it is still the primary literary language for many Hindus and Sikhs in India.

In the early years of Independence, in the area which one might call the heartland of Urdu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the state governments of these areas were working to discontinue the use of Urdu. The somewhat twisted interpretation of the three-language formula, devised by the Government of India, was the device by which the state governments attacked Urdu. The three-language formula recommended that in every state three languages should be taught in schools: the language of the state, another modern Indian language and one other language. In Uttar Pradesh, the language of Urdu should have been chosen as one of the three languages, as it was the language of most inhabitants after Hindi. The state government of Uttar Pradesh and some other Hindi-Urdu speaking states chose Sanskrit as the modern language, and so the Urdu language, which was taught in schools before Independence, was discontinued.

From Indira Gandhi's time onwards, the Government of India has had its own political reasons for supporting Urdu literature. During her time a committee was set up in 1972 headed by I.K. Gujral to consider how the cause of Urdu could be advanced. Due to vigorous opposition the report was sidelined. Later, in 1990, Ali Sardar Jafari investigated the committee reports, and they found that 95 per cent of the recommendations made by the Gujral committee report had not been adopted. However, in 1989, the state government of Bihar, and shortly after, Uttar Pradesh, recognised on paper Urdu as an official language of their states. Warsi in his paper *History and Prospects of Urdu* print media made an observation that: “In the early stages of the post-Independence period, the Urdu print media was mainly being affected by the tragedy of Partition. Consequently, the Urdu press suffered the most. However, the Urdu media is still struggling for its survival in different Indian cities”.

Many of the Urdu speakers in India, who are not limited to the Muslim community, do not

know the Urdu written script, and giving these people access to Urdu literary works in roman Urdu and in the Devnagari script would further the cause of Urdu. Tariq Mansoor, vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, once very rightly said that “knowledge of many languages is the doorway to succeed and expand the horizon of wisdom”.

One of the great scholars when it comes to Urdu literature, Gopi Chand Narang, was quoted as saying that, “Urdu is not the language of Muslims. If at all there is any language of Muslims, it should be Arabic. Urdu belongs to the composite culture of India. Hindi and Urdu are supplementary and complementary. They are like sisters strengthening each other”. This viewpoint, which was taken up by scholars, must also be adopted by the organisations created to preserve Urdu — they should focus their resources and attention to the accurate writing of Urdu classics and translation into the Devnagari script. Mr Narang feels that the politicisation of the Urdu cause has caused harm to the language, which should function as a bridge between the Hindu and Muslim subcultures within India. If government and state funding went into the production of texts of important and popular Urdu authors in the Devnagari script the reading of Urdu literature would grow tremendously. Although many scripts have been reproduced in the Devnagari script, major organisations have not yet made it their own duty to help publish such works. The translation of classical Urdu texts into English is another venture, which has been undertaken, but still needs to be done on a larger scale.

The Urdu language has seen many shifts in support throughout its long history, as the times change the people led by their government fall in and out of favour of certain languages. The National Council for Promotion of Urdu language has taken the initiative in bringing out publications in/about Urdu language and literature. However, within India, the use of the Urdu language is a cause for which many people and organisations have been working to uphold — these efforts are not without their flaws. It is the mix of these efforts along with popular interest developed by films and ongoing research which will ensure that classical Urdu texts will be preserved and promoted.

*Friday, November 9, is Urdu Day. The writer is a well-known linguist, author and columnist. He may be reached at warsimj@gmail.com*

## Massive support for P.M.

CHANDIGARH, Nov. 7 The entire Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee and an overwhelming majority of AICC members from Haryana are solidly behind the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Bansilala said here today. He told newsmen that 10 out

of the 12 AICC members from the State and the HPCC representatives will attend the forthcoming AICC session at New Delhi called by the supporters of the Prime Minister.

**SIMLA:** The Himachal Pradesh Council of Ministers here today expressed its gratification

**50 YEARS AGO IN**  
**DECCAN Chronicle**

and pride at the determination shown by Mrs Indira Gandhi to fully implement socialistic policies of the Congress and thus enable

weaker section of the community to stand on its own and derive benefits from economic and welfare programme. The Council also reaffirmed its faith in Mrs. Gandhi's leadership and assured full co-operation.

Last night a similar decision was taken by the Himachal Pradesh Congress.



Slowing economy spells tough times for INR: Poll

Mercedes raises bar, pegs V-Class Elite MPV at ₹1.1 cr



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,653.74	+0.45
Nifty 50	12,012.05	+0.38
S&P 500	3,094.13	+0.56
Dollar (₹)	70.97	-0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	90.94	-0.35
Euro (₹)	78.61	+0.06
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,930▲70	+0.18
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.58	+1.36
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.505	+0.278
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.860	+2.649

## Govt mulls special window for NBFCs under IBC

The Centre is mulling a special window for resolution of stressed NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, an official said. A special window, is something which is being examined closely. The effort is to come out with some mechanism to deal with financial service providers which require some resolution under an alternative framework, pending FRDI Bill, the official said.

## Global debt surges to \$188 tn: IMF chief



The global debt load has surged to a new record equivalent to more than double the world's economic output, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva warned. "Global debt — both public and private — has reached an all-time high of \$188 trillion. This amounts to about 230 per cent of world output," she said. That is up from the previous record of \$164 trillion in 2016.

## 22,000 BSNL employees opt for VRS

More than 22,000 employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam have opted for its VRS plan, within two days of announcing the scheme, an official said. Nearly one lakh employees are eligible for the VRS out of BSNL's total staff strength of 1.50 lakh. BSNL's internal target for VRS is 77,000 employees. The scheme that was rolled out on November 5 will be open till December 3.

## Brazil lifts ban on sugarcane in Amazon

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro cancelled a ban on sugarcane farming in the country's Amazon and Pantanal tropical wetlands, a move that environmentalists say threatens the ecologically vulnerable regions. The ban on the crop, which is used to make ethanol, had been put in place under a 2009 decree. Brazil's farm ministry denied the move undermines preservation of the Amazon.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle® is prohibited.

# ■ Solvency ratio dips to 63% against norm of 150% Reliance Health barred from selling policies

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 7

The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Thursday barred Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Health Insurance Ltd (RHIC) from selling new policies due to its deteriorating financial position.

The regulator also instructed the standalone health insurer to transfer its entire business, all investments to its sister company—Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd, which would maintain the funds in a separate account to pay the claims of RHIC policyholders.

The appointed date for implementing the order is November 15.

The move comes after the standalone health insurer recorded a continuous fall in its solvency ratio from 106 per cent as on June 30, 2019 to 77 per cent in August, which worsened to 63 per cent as of September. Just like capital adequacy ratio for banks, insurance companies are required to maintain a solvency ratio of 150



- ▶ Irdai asks insurer to transfer entire business to sister firm—Reliance General Insurance Company, which would keep the funds in a separate account to pay claims of policyholders
- ▶ The appointed date for implementing the Irdai order is November 15

per cent.

Solvency ratio is a key metric used to determine the ability of an insurer to meet its debt, pay claims and honour other financial commitments.

In the backdrop, the Irdai had asked the insurer to restore the solvency margin to the control level by September 30, but the latter did not comply.

RHIC had said it will submit a "plan to ensure the emergence of a strong, well-capitalised health insurance company." However, the response did

not indicate the manner in which the control level of solvency would be restored, the Irdai order noted.

"The insurer was issued a show cause notice and given another opportunity to present its case. As there has been no improvement but a further deterioration in the financial position of Reliance Health, Irdai has now issued directions to the insurance company to stop selling new policies and to transfer the entire policyholders' liabilities

along with financial assets to Reliance General Insurance," the Irdai order read.

A Reliance Capital spokesperson said, "As proposed by Reliance Capital, the promoter company of RHIC and Reliance General Insurance (RGI), RHIC will transfer its health insurance portfolio covering all financial assets and policyholder liabilities to RGI. This process is being undertaken in consultation with the Irdai and has been approved by the regulator."

"There will be no impact on policyholders due to this transition which will begin from November 15, and customers will continue to avail the same benefits as per policy terms and conditions.

"Further, the process of amalgamation of RHI with RGI is being taken up and will be completed in due course. The decision has been taken in the best interest of policyholders and we are fully committed to servicing our customers."

RHIC began operations in October 2018.

# ₹25,000-cr realty fund can help just 6% of stalled constructions

ABHIJIT ROY CHOWDHURY, BIBHUDATTA PRADHAN & DHWANI PANDYA NOV. 7

India's plan to set up a Rs 25,000-crore (\$3.5 billion) fund to salvage stalled residential projects will only be sufficient to complete about 6 per cent of constructions that are running behind schedule.

The new programme announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday is an improvement on a \$1.4 billion real-estate corpus announced in September and, unlike the previous plan, it will also support projects written off by lenders as bad loans. With \$63 billion of housing projects stuck for lack of funds, the latest measure will help unclog the financing pipes, said Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Property Consultants.

The fund size isn't enough to cover the entire problem but will act as a "lubricant to start the wheel that had

been jammed," Puri said in an interview. Once projects are revived and completed, money will start circulating in the system, which will help all developers, he said.

Developers say authorities need to carefully structure and price the fund, and roll it out quickly, for it to succeed.

The new fund "will be in the form of an alternate investment fund (AIF) with the government contributing Rs 10,000 crore," Sitharaman said. Life Insurance Corp., State Bank of India and others are likely to contribute the remaining Rs 15,000 crore.

The fund could take as much as six months to be operational, screening of eligible projects will need time, and "at best" will help around 16 per cent of stalled projects "over a period of time," Jefferies analysts led by Bhaskar Basu wrote in a note.

In all, about 576,000 projects worth some Rs 4.6 lakh crore (\$63 billion) are running behind schedule across seven big Indian

## Home-buyers should approach lenders

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

The government on Thursday advised homebuyers to approach lenders for additional borrowing or revival of their loans, while clarifying that projects facing litigation in higher courts will not be covered under the Rs 25,000-crore scheme announced on Wednesday. "Homebuyers are advised to reach out to their respective lending institutions to seek necessary guidance for additional borrowing or revival of

their existing home loans within the existing legal and regulatory framework and standard board approved policies of the lending institutions," said the frequently asked questions (FAQs) issued by the ministry.

"The proposed AIF will not invest in projects that are facing litigation in the high courts or the Supreme Court. The focus of this special window will be on the projects that are stalled for lack of construction funding," the FAQs said, adding that it shall also look at projects

cities, according to Anarock data.

"The devil lies in the details," Boman Irani, Chairman of Mumbai-based developer Rustomjee Group, said by phone. For the fund to be viable, real estate companies mustn't have to pay

more than 9 per cent, which may hamper interest from external investors, he said.

State Bank of India's investment unit SBICAP Ventures Ltd will be the investment manager in charge of determining and monitoring the usage of

the fund. The fund will mainly structure its investments in the form of non-convertible debentures and the investment manager will determine expected returns based on the risk profile and other details of specific projects, the government said in a

statement Thursday.

The last-mile funding provided should be made the most senior debt in the waterfall, according to analysts at Nomura Holdings Inc. and Anarock's Puri.

An analysis of about 11,000 home builders by research firm Liases Foras in February showed that developers on average have to repay twice as much in debt each year as the income they generate that can be used to service it. This comes as property prices in India's biggest cities are flagging — home values in Mumbai sank 11 per cent last year following a 5 per cent decline in 2017. India introduced a law with strict punishments for building delays in 2016.

The inclusion of projects that had been written off as bad loans will benefit several incomplete housing projects in areas like Noida near New Delhi, according to Niranjan Hiranandani, President of the National Real Estate Development Council.

—Bloomberg

## Qatar Airways still keen to buy stake in Indigo

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH & P. R. SANJAI NOV. 7

Qatar Airways reiterated it is keen to buy a stake in IndiGo, India's biggest airline, to help the Doha-based company bolster its presence in the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

The company, which signed a code-share partnership with IndiGo's owner, InterGlobe Aviation, on Thursday, first showed interest in acquiring a stake in 2015.

The one-way code-share agreement will enable Qatar Airways to put its passengers on the Indian carrier's flights between Doha and Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Qatar Airways will still wait for a battle between IndiGo's shareholders to end before it announces any decision, Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker said in New Delhi.

The company has no interest in buying the government's stake in flag carrier Air India, he said.

A stake in an Indian carrier will help Qatar Airways to compete with its Middle Eastern rivals by expanding in a market where air-travel penetration remains low. IndiGo has emerged as the biggest Indian airline following the collapse of Jet Airways India. Last week, IndiGo ordered 300 narrow-body jets from Airbus SE — one of the European plane maker's biggest ever deals.

India has been trying to sell Air India to help raise funds to bridge a budget shortfall. An attempt made to sell the carrier last year failed as no one showed interest in the airline.

"No, we are only interested in IndiGo," Al Baker said when asked if Qatar Airways will be interested in buying state-run Air India.

—Bloomberg

## Sebi sets terms for MFs on debt defaults

New Delhi, Nov 7: Sebi on Thursday directed mutual funds to create segregated portfolios of unrated debt in case of default as the watchdog seeks to curb instances of distressed assets impacting investor returns.

Sebi in a circular said it has decided "to permit creation of segregated portfolio of unrated debt or money market instruments by mutual fund schemes of an issuer that does not have any outstanding rated debt or money market instruments".

This is allowed provided that segregated portfolio of such unrated debt or money market instruments may be created only in case of actual default of interest or principal. Creation of segregated portfolios is a mechanism to separate illiquid assets from liquid assets. —PTI

# IT firms to shed 5-10% of mid-level workforce: Bala

Bengaluru, Nov. 7: Information technology companies in the country have no choice but to lay off at least five to ten per cent of their middle-level staff to ward off margin pressure and become more agile, IT industry veteran V Balakrishnan said on Thursday.

The middle-layer accounts for about 20-30 per cent of the total workforce of IT companies.

The former Chief Financial Officer of software giant Infosys Ltd said the companies have no choice because they all have built a lot of fat in the middle, so they have to reduce it and become more agile.

"Also, they have to get employees who understand new technologies, they have to get rid of some of the employees, who are more on the legacy and try to attract talent which is more digital, that has to happen, there is no choice", Balakrishnan told PTI.

## Cognizant to hire 23,000

New Delhi, Nov 7: IT firm Cognizant on Thursday said it plans to hire more than 23,000 STEM graduates and post-graduates from technical institutions in India in 2020. This comes at a time when the US-based firm—which has about two lakh employees in India—had recently said it will slash about 7,000 jobs across various locations.

"To further support the needs of our fast-growing digital business, in calendar 2020, Cognizant plans to hire more than 23,000 STEM graduates and post-graduates from technical institutions in India, which is 30 per cent more than the hiring we did last year," Cognizant India C M D R a m k u m a r Ramamoorthy said.

—PTI

Asked if other companies would follow suit after lay-offs at Cognizant and Infosys, he said they have no choice, because there was lot of pressure on the margins.

"When you go more on the digital side, customers are also becoming more conscious about the cost. On the other side, you have to become more agile, cut all the flab, that's

(lay-offs) inevitable, that will happen with all companies", Balakrishnan said.

However, he said, the growth of Indian IT services companies in general in the calendar year 2019 has been stable with reasonable growth. There were fears of slowdown in the global economies but that impact has not been seen. —PTI



## Copper rods from Malaysia, others on radar

New Delhi, Nov. 7: India may impose anti-subsidy duty for a period of five years on copper wire rods from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam after concluding a probe that these imports have impacted domestic players.

The Commerce Ministry's investigating arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in September last year started a probe into an alleged subsidisation of exports of 'continuous cast copper wire rods' by these four countries.

Hindalco Industries and Vedanta Industries (Sterlite Copper) had filed an application on behalf of domestic industry before the DGTR alleging subsidisation of the products from these four nations, and requested the initiation of an anti-subsidy investigation.

The directorate has recommended "imposition of definitive countervailing duty (or anti-subsidy duty) for a period of five years," it said.

The Finance Ministry takes the final call to impose these duties.

— PTI

## ComMin resents tax notice to 1,000 exporters

New Delhi, Nov. 7: The Commerce Ministry has taken up the issue of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) notices being sent to 1,000 exporters for alleged violation of Goods and Services Tax with its finance counterpart, an official said.

The ministry has stated that the "overzealous revenue collection" move by DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) was against exporters.

The ministry has demanded integrated goods and service tax (IGST) exemption for inputs used in exports between Oct. 2017 and Jan. 2019.

In a letter to the Revenue Department, the ministry said that demand of giving retrospective IGST exemption to exporters could be taken up by the GST Council.

"This department is of the view that enthusiasm of exporters should not be killed by overzealous revenue collection based on technicalities where revenue does not accrue in principle. You may consider placing these concerns before GST Council for early resolution," the ministry has said.

— PTI

## Toyota's cash pile grows to record \$37 bn

YOUNG-SAM CHO  
NOV. 7

Toyota Motor Corp's cash pile expanded to a record 3.98 trillion yen (\$36.6 billion) by the end of September after Japan's biggest company scaled back its investments in securities.

Cash and equivalents increased by 405.1 billion yen in the first six months of the fiscal year, or 11 per cent above the end of last fiscal year, the automaker said on Thursday. Time deposits jumped 18 per cent to 1.33 trillion yen.

Toyota's investments in securities shrank by 510 billion yen, or 5.9 per cent. About half of those were short-term marketable securities. While overall liquidity was little changed, the figures indicate Toyota is putting its money in safer bank accounts instead of riskier securities.

Toyota isn't the only one sitting on a lot of money. Apple Inc. reported it had \$48.8 billion in cash and equivalents in the latest quarter, while Germany's Volkswagen AG had 31 billion euros (\$34 bn).

— Bloomberg

■ Strategists expect rupee to weaken 1.3% to 71.90 in 12 months

# Slowing economy spells tough times for INR: Poll

INDRADIP GHOSH  
BENGALURU, NOV. 7

A slowing domestic economy will prevent rupee from recouping this year's losses against the dollar in 2020, with optimism around an easing in the US-China trade dispute not enough to give it a further boost, a *Reuters* poll showed.

After falling nearly 9 per cent in 2018, the rupee has shed another 4 per cent this year to touch a 2019 trough of 72.40 per dollar on September 3. It has since popped up over 2 per cent, along with other emerging market currencies, on hopes of a possible trade deal between the world's two largest economies.

But nothing has been agreed yet, let alone a meeting scheduled.

A barrage of rate cuts from the Reserve Bank of India this year — five reductions in succession for a total of 135 basis points off the repo rate, now at 5.15 per cent — has done nothing concrete so far to revive a slowing economy.

Neither have several government fiscal stimulus measures introduced this year, which have become a negative for the rupee's outlook



given it will be difficult for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to meet its fiscal deficit targets.

"We expect the rupee to weaken as risks of sluggish growth and fiscal slippage intensify" said Rini Sen, Economist at ANZ.

"Stable portfolio flows led by equities and global cues like trade negotiations, on top of rate cuts, have led to bouts of optimism. However, we think the currency market is underpricing downside risks to domestic growth."

The November 1-6 *Reuters* poll of over 40 strategists predicted the rupee to weaken about 1.3 per cent to 71.90 against the greenback in 12 months from around 71.00 on Wednesday.

The RBI, the most aggressive major central bank in the world this year for easing, is expected to cut the repo rate at its sixth meeting in a row in December, a *Reuters* poll showed last month, which could put further pressure on the currency.

"Unlike the previous cuts, additional cuts could erode the allure of the rupee as a higher yielder, while (the) growth prospect remains a concern," said Saktiandi Supaat, Head of foreign exchange research at Maybank based in Singapore.

Economic growth has steadily slowed to a six-year low of 5.0 per cent in the April-June quarter from an 8.1 per cent peak in the January-March quarter of 2018 and recent business surveys

indicate it will slow further.

While the year-ahead consensus in latest poll was slightly stronger than 72.50 per dollar predicted last month, it reflects the currency's gain over the past month.

However, nearly two-thirds of 24 common contributors in the October and November *Reuters* polls either downgraded or kept their year-ahead forecasts unchanged.

Currency speculators have cut short bets on the rupee to the lowest since mid-August, a separate *Reuters* poll showed.

The rupee's outlook was also driven by renewed interest among foreign portfolio investors for Indian assets. They bought Rs 160.69 billion of Indian securities in October, the highest in six months, according to Foreign Portfolio Investors' data.

"If whatever measures taken by the government so far do not result in improving the onshore growth scenario, then there is risk that whatever portfolio flows which have come so far might reverse...and could result in INR weakness," said Rohit Garg, emerging market FX Strategist at BofAML, based in Singapore.

— Reuters

## Merc raises bar, pegs V-Class Elite MPV at ₹1.1 cr

MICHAEL GONSALVES  
CHENNAI, NOV. 7

At a time when the struggling car market is still recovering, Mercedes-Benz, India's biggest luxury carmaker, on Thursday expanded its multi-purpose vehicles, or MPV, a new segment it created by introducing top-end Mercedes V-Class Elite priced at Rs 1.10 crore at pan-India showroom.

The Pune-headquartered German automaker had created a new MPV luxury segment in the country in January when it launched the lower version called Mercedes V-Class for business and leisure in two trims called V-Class Expression at Rs 68.40 lakh and V-Class Exclusive at Rs 81.90 lakh.

At present, the imported Mercedes-Benz V-Class has no competition in the country but it will compete with the upcoming Toyota Vellfire MPV.

Mercedes claimed that sales of the V-Class have exceeded expectation, with this brand model selling in the triple digits in the country but shied to give exact sales in the last 10 months.

"We pioneered the MPV luxury segment in January with launch of V-Class and registered triple digit



sales," Martin Schwenk, Managing Director & CEO at Mercedes-Benz India told *Financial Chronicle* without disclosing numbers.

He boasted that this brand model combines highest standards of passenger cars with the functionality and practicality of an MPV.

The versatile vehicle allows customers to choose from a wide range of customization options, as well, he pointed out.

"The V-Class Elite is targeted at a wide array of potential customers comprising large families, sports enthusiasts, business owners, who want a top-end luxury MPV that suits their lifestyles," Schwenk said.

He was confident that the V-Class Elite as a one of its kind product in India will create new benchmarks for luxury travel in the country and expand the segment.

## Wadhawans barred from going abroad

Mumbai, Nov. 7: The Bombay High Court on Thursday restrained Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) promoters Dheeraj Wadhawan and Kapil Wadhawan from leaving the country.

The order came on a petition filed by 63 Moons Technologies seeking recovery of dues of around Rs 200 crore from DHFL. Justice S. J. Kathawalla said the Wadhawans will have to seek permission from the high court if they wish to leave the country.

After the court passed the order, the DHFL counsel submitted a statement in the afternoon session that the Wadhawans will not leave the country before November 14.

— PTI

# Forensic audit of PMC Bank under way: RBI Guv

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

The Reserve Bank of India is closely monitoring the affairs at the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank) and a forensic audit of its accounts is under way, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday. He said an agency has been appointed to assess the realisable value of the bank's assets spread across various states for monetisation.

Das, who was in the capital, to attend the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting chaired by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, said the meeting reviewed all issues pertaining the country's economy, including stress in the financial sector.

He said, the "PMC Bank

situation is being very closely monitored by the Reserve Bank of India. We have had and we are having discussion with the various investigative agencies and... There are two things which are going on.

"Forensic audit, which has been ordered, that is under way. Second thing is the realisable value of the assets which were offered as a security to the PMC Bank are being assessed."

These assets are spread over various parts of Maharashtra and some in other states, he said.

"So, an agency has been appointed and... the market value of these assets is being assessed and we have to also see whether the assets have been encumbered to somebody else..."

"The valuation process is going on, the forensic audit is going on, we have had discussions with the vari-



Shaktikanta Das

ous investigation agencies about the other assets which they have identified. So, based on that, the Reserve Bank will take further decision with regard to the PMC Bank," he said.

About the FSDC meeting, Das said, "We discuss mainly on overall macro-economic issues and the state of economy in details. Besides, the meeting also focussed on cyber-security issues that were one impor-

tant component of the discussion. There were also some inter-regulatory issues, which were also discussed as well."

The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the Finance Minister.

The 21st meeting of FSDC comes against the backdrop of the economy hitting a six-year-low growth rate of 5 per cent in the first quarter of 2019-20. Besides, unsatisfactory industrial output growth in August that contracted by 1.1 per cent and the output of eight core infrastructure industries which contracted by 5.2 per cent in September, created fears that the economy is slowing further.

Das said that the current status of the NBFCs was also discussed in the meeting and there are a large number of NBFCs that are

functioning well.

"Even today, we have quite a good number of NBFCs, a large number of NBFCs which are well-functioning, which are able to access funds from the market which are able to access loans from the banks, and in fact, some of them have got overseas funding also," he said.

The RBI is very closely monitoring the top 50 NBFCs which represent roughly 75 per cent of the asset size of the NBFC sector. "We are having regular interaction with the management of those NBFCs where we see any signs of vulnerability and whenever there is any vulnerable signs are visible, we are asking the management of the company to meet RBI and we asked them to take corrective steps through market mechanisms," he added.

## Apartment sales halve in Kerala

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 7

Apartment sales in Kerala have more than halved and launch of new projects almost come to a standstill ever since the Supreme Court ordered demolition of apartment complexes in Kochi for violating Coastal Regulation Zone norms.

Real estate sector anticipates that the demolition will have a far-reaching impact on the investor interest in apartment projects.

The Supreme Court in September had ordered demolition of four apartment complexes at Maradu in Kochi. Industry finds that after the SC verdict real estate projects in the state have taken a major hit.

"The sales of apartment units have dropped by more than 50 per cent after the incident in Kochi, which is the largest market in Kerala. The market like Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Thrissur and Palakkad



too have seen a decline of more than 30 per cent," said S. N. Raghuchandran, Former Chairman of Credai Kerala and Managing Director of SI Property Kerala.

"Prospective buyers now find Kerala's property market ridden with uncertainties. The turn of events has led to a trust deficit among buyers and has started affecting the cash flow of developers," he said.

According to him, enquiries have almost stopped and new project launches have become negligible. This has affected the prices as well. Real estate prices have been on a downward slide for in

the past few years after job losses started happening in the Gulf region.

"Apartment prices have almost halved from what it was five years back. Non-resident Indian investors used to play a major role in the demand for real estate property in Kerala. Since the job losses started happening in the Gulf region, the prices have corrected by around 30 per cent," he said.

Till 1997, NRIs used to account for up to 80 per cent of the sales in Kerala. This started coming down in recent years and has touched down to 30-40 per cent.

The real estate sector does not expect things to improve in the near or medium term. "Until the government takes up serious measures to rebuild confidence among the buyers, the market may not see a revival. The revised building rules have further added to the confusion. We do not expect things to get better in near future," said Raghuchandran.

## Organic tag for textiles, Ayush goods

New Delhi, Nov. 7: To boost export of organic products, the government plans to extend its existing certification to textile, cosmetics and ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, sidha and homeopathy (Ayush) products, agri-export promotion body Apeda Chairman Paban K. Borthakur said on Thursday.

At present, organic foods are certified through the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda) under the Commerce Ministry and the Participatory

Guarantee System for India of the Agriculture Ministry.

"NPOP, launched in 2001, is the world's largest organic certification programme. As a step further, NPOP now proposes to enter into organic Ayush products, organic textiles and organic cosmetics," Borthakur said after inaugurating the global trade fair on organic products "Biofach India" in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Since 2006, the NPOP has been recognised by the European Union and Switzerland. India has a

similar agreement with the US, he said.

As a result of these agreements, Indian organic products are being exported to these countries without the need for re-certification, he said.

Noting the NPOP has laid the foundation of organic movement in the country, the Apeda chairman said it has played a key role over the years to establish the credibility of India's organic sector in national and international trade.

"NPOP now spans over the entire organic agricul-

ture production scenario and is offering certification services for practically all possible activity starting from crops, livestock, aquaculture, processing and niche segments like mushrooms and sea weeds," he said. In order to further boost export of organic products from the country, Borthakur said the Apeda is targeting to get the recognition for India's NPOP from many more countries including Canada, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

Compared to international trade of about \$97 billion, Indian market seems to be very small, but it is growing very fast, he said.

— PTI

OPENING  
BELL  
PROJECTION FOR TODAY

## Upward momentum building up in market

Rising for a ninth day in last ten, the Sensex advanced on Thursday as the earnings season continued to woo investors. The index ended 183.96 points, or 0.45 per cent, up at its new all-time high of 40,653.74, tracking gains in metal, energy and banking stocks.

The Nifty-50 Index closed above the 12,000 level for the first time since June 4. Nifty ended with a gain of 46 points, or 0.38 per cent, at 12,012.05.

Trading sentiment was bullish after the government on Wednesday approved a Rs 25,000 crore realty fund, which is expected to jumpstart consumption and give a boost to real estate and allied sectors. Strong corporate earnings and sustained foreign fund inflows also kept domestic market sentiment upbeat, analysts said. Twenty-two out of 35 Nifty-50 firms that have reported quarterly earnings so far this season have beaten or matched the average analyst estimate. Foreign investors have bought stocks worth \$323 million in November, after pumping in more than \$2 billion in the previous month.

### Technical View

The Sensex's 50-day moving average last week crossed above its 200-day line to form a so-called golden cross, which some analysts read as a sign that gains may continue.

Shrikant Chouhan, Analyst for Technical Research at Kotak Securities Ltd, said: "Most of the Nifty-50 companies' results were better than or matching expectations, which has also increased optimism in the investor community, thus minimising downside for the market."

Manav Chopra, Head of Equity Research at Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, said, "Momentum is building on the upside with wide participation, which is a good sign."

### Market View

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said: "Reforms and earnings are the market drivers, the measures to support realty sector augers well for the sector to outperform. The proposed measure will help to start the recovery of stalled projects and can see a ripple effect in NBFCs, banks and cement sector...On global front, China agreed with US for phased removal of tariffs that has brightened hope for a trade deal and bring some cheer for markets across the globe."

— FC BUREAU





## Load management

Los Angeles Clippers star Kawhi Leonard continues to manage his workload. The reason for Leonard's absence is 'injury/illness, load management (knee)'



It was a tough decision as the season was great. Thank you for all this year.

— Pliskova after parting ways with coach Conchita Martinez

## SHORT TAKE

### Treat me like Laver, says Court

**Sydney:** Polarising tennis great Margaret Court on Thursday called on Tennis Australia to treat her like Rod Laver and issue a formal invitation to the Australian Open next year to commemorate her calendar-year Grand Slam jubilee. The first Slam of 2020 will mark the 50th anniversary of Court winning all four majors in the same year — the holy grail of tennis. Only two other women have achieved the feat — Maureen Connolly (1953) and Steffi Graf (1988). Don Budge was the first man in 1938, with Laver the only player to win it twice (1962 and 1969). Court claimed a record 24 Grand Slam singles titles in total with only Serena Williams (23) and Graf (22) coming close, and one of the main courts at Melbourne Park is named after her. Yet Court, now a church pastor, told the Sydney Morning Herald she had heard nothing from Australian tennis chiefs about honouring her at the tournament in January. — AFP

# JAZZ HIT SIXERS

## Donovan stars for Utah in win, Rockets rout Warriors

Los Angeles, Nov. 7: Donovan Mitchell scored 24 points as the Utah Jazz slipped past Philadelphia 106-104 Wednesday on an evening when 76ers guard Ben Simmons suffered a shoulder injury.

Mitchell also had eight assists while Bojan Bogdanovic finished with 20 points and six rebounds and Joe Ingles came off the bench to score a season high 16 points for the Jazz, who ended a two game losing skid.

"I was just trying to find ways to get my teammates involved and make it easier on myself," Mitchell said. "We had more urgency. We lost two games because of offensive rebounds so we practised hard and it showed tonight."

Mike Conley scored 15 points while Rudy Gobert delivered 14 points and 16 rebounds in the win.

Simmons had just two points in 10 minutes before leaving with 5:20 left in the second quarter with right shoulder injury. Simmons reportedly has a sprained AC joint and will be examined by team doctors on Thursday.

The game marked the return of Sixer Joel Embiid who served a two-game ban for an aggressive wrestling match with Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns on October 30. Embiid finished with 27



Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell lays the ball up as Philadelphia 76ers Tobias Harris (front right) and Furkan Korkmaz watch during an NBA game on Wednesday. — AP

points and 16 rebounds but was just five of 16 from the field as Philadelphia lost its second straight game.

Josh Richardson scored 24 points, Tobias Harris added 16 and Raul Neto had 11 for the 76ers.

Elsewhere, the Houston Rockets rolled over the Golden State Warriors 129-112,

sending last season's NBA finalists to their sixth defeat in their past eight games.

James Harden finished with 36 points and 13 assists and shot six of 16 from beyond the arc for the host Rockets in front of a crowd of 18,000 at the Toyota Center arena.

Harden has now shot 13 of 32 from three point range in his last two games after shooting just 17 of 79 in his first six games of the new season.

The contest was expected to be a high-scoring affair as the Rockets and Warriors are 29th and 28th in the NBA in points allowed.

The Rockets give up an average of 123 points per game and the Warriors 120. Neither team has been able to hold their opponent to under triple digits so far this year.

The lineup the Warriors used Wednesday was a shadow of the team that reached the NBA finals last season where they lost to the Toronto Raptors.

Even before Stephen Curry broke his hand recently they were already reeling from a long term injury to Klay Thompson and the loss of Kevin Durant.

Against the Rockets, Golden State was also without D'Angelo Russell and Draymond Green. — AFP

## Russia insist data was not doctored

Moscow, Nov. 7: Russia's sports minister insisted Thursday that data handed to the World Anti-Doping Agency was not doctored, while WADA has asked Moscow to explain "inconsistencies."

"Nothing was removed there, our experts insist this didn't happen," sports minister Pavel Kolobkov said, Interfax news agency reported.

The electronic data handed to WADA investigators early this year came from RUSADA's former Moscow anti-doping laboratory. In September, WADA asked Russia to respond to "inconsistencies" in the data.

"These are technical questions, they are linked to the system," Kolobkov insisted, according to TASS news agency.

Nothing was removed there, our experts insist this didn't happen. These are technical questions, they are linked to the system. These questions may be cleared up.

— PAVEL KOLOBKOV Sports Minister

"At a meeting shortly between specialists from Russia and WADA these questions may be cleared up. "We are doing all we can to fulfil the obligations that we committed to last September and we fulfilled them," Kolobkov added.

"The current controversy had nothing to do with athletes preparing for the Tokyo Olympics," he said. — AFP

## HALL OF FAME!



Dr. Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp (right) was inducted into the Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame in New Delhi on Thursday.

# Avanish, Charan, Medhansh shine

## Gangadhar, Ryan, Gana Prakash, Shubham, Nawaz, Nitin, Aditya, Akshay, Hussain, and Prithvi also impress in various Hyderabad League matches

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Avanish of Gowtham Model School performed exceptionally well, falling just four runs shy of a double century on Thursday. Among bowlers, Aditya and Nitin Sai Yadav came up with brilliant performances at the Hyderabad Cricket Association's U-16 one-day league semifinal matches here on Thursday.

Avanish of Gowtham Model School hit 196 off 135 balls with 18 boundaries and seven sixes to his credit to help his team post 335 in 49.5 overs to defeat Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya despite

Aditya's 5 for 70.

Nitin of Jhanavi Junior College took five Delhi Public School (Nacharam) wickets while giving away just 15 runs to bowl them out for 109. Jhanavi Junior College won by eight wickets.

Charan, Ryan Rodrigues, Abhijeet, Gangadhar and Gana Prakash hit centuries and Medhansh, Akshay, Hussain, Prithvi, Y.V.S.S. Shubham and Nawaz put up a good show with the ball at HCA's one-day league championship.

Prakash and Abhijeet of AB Colony put up a splendid show for their team. Abhijeet chalked up 118 while Prakash made 100 to

help their team post 329 for 3 in 40 overs and later restricted Young Citizens to 92 for 8 in 40 overs.

In another match, Medhansh scalped six wickets for 30 runs for Gunrock CC who beat Sutton CC by five wickets.

Although Akash of Golconda took six wickets, his side could only reply with a paltry 82 in 18 overs to lose to Hyderabad District which made 142 in 31.2 overs. Nawaz from Hyderabad district took five wickets.

In another match, Gangadhar of Manikumar CC hit 100 to lead his side to victory, as the team posted 299 for 8 in 50 overs against Southern Star CC who were bowled out

for 108 in 41.3 overs.

Ryan of Ameerpet CC was the other centurion. He chalked up 124 as his side posted 266 for 7 in 27 overs and later bowled out Walker Town CC for a paltry 28 for 7 in 15.3 overs.

Team SUCC's Charan was the other batsman who put up a splendid show he hit 138 as his side posted 275 for 4 against Lal Bahadur PG who were all out for 140 in 32.2 overs.

Prithvi of RJCC took five Secunderbad Gymkhana wickets while conceding three runs to lead his side to victory, although Hussain took up five wickets for 45 runs for Secunderabad.

## BRIEF SCORES

### U-16 ONE-DAY LEAGUE-CUM KNOCK OUT

**Semifinals**  
■ Gowtham Model School West Marredpally 335 in 49.5 overs (Ayaan 32, **Avanish 196** — 135b, 18x4, 7x6), **Aditya 5/70**) bt Bhavans Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya 153 in 42.3 overs (Krishna Patel 56, Williams 3/31).  
■ Delhi Public School Nacharam 109 in 37.1 overs (**Nitin Sai Yadav 5/15**) lost to Jahnvi Jr College 111/2 in 21.5 overs (Rohit Reddy 70 n.o.).

### ONE-DAY LEAGUE

■ SUCC 275/4 in 35 overs (**Charan 138**, Chandu 58) bt Lal Bahadur PG 140 in 32.2 overs (Khushan 30, Raghav 40, Dilip 3/29).  
■ Ameerpet CC 266/7 in 27 overs (**Ryan Rodrigues 124**, Aditya 52, Nawaz 36, Siddu 4/36) bt Walker Town CC 28/7 in 15.3 overs.  
■ Sutton CC 166 in 40 overs (K. Shanmukh 30, N. Jayesh 41, **Medhansh 6/20**) lost to Gunrock CC 167/8 in 37 overs (Dev Patel 46, Aditya K. 36).  
■ Hyderabad District 142 in 31.2 overs (**Akshay 6/41**, Jayant Patel 3/5) bt Golconda CC 82 in 18 overs (**Nawaz 5/30**).

■ AB Colony 329/3 in 40 overs (Sourav 42, **Gana Prakash 100**, **Abhijeet 118**, Tarun 51) bt Young Citizen 92/8 in 40 overs.

■ Manikumar CC 299/8 in 50 overs (**Gangadhar 100**, Shrvan 30, Govind 56, S. Mahin Krishna 3/35) bt Southern Star CC 108 in 41.3 overs (Sai Charan 35, Mahesh 3/33, Shrvan 4/20).  
■ Ameerpet CC 277 in 47.2 overs (Atherva Mishra 44, Anil 75, Aditya 37, **Y.V.S.S. Shubham 5/60**) vs Yadav Dairy CC (w/o).

■ RJCC 227 in 34.4 overs (Riaz 34, Ameer 33, Avinash 51, n.o., Dinesh 67, **Hussain 5/45**, Vyomakesh 3/37) bt Secunderbad Gymkhana 36 in 12.2 overs (Dinesh 3/19, **Prithvi 5/3**).

■ Kakatiya CC 220 in 43.3 overs (Wajeed 17, Pavan 30, Ayub 3/40) bt Vijayapuri Willowmen CC 117 in 33 overs (Vijay 3/44, Rahul 3/27).  
■ Sacred Heart CC 94 in 22.4 overs (Anthony 51, Vijay 3/33) vs Marredpally Blues (Washed Out).

■ Anu CC 81/9 in 20 overs (Jitender 3/8) lost to Ameerpet CC 82/1 in 7.1 overs (Balaji Thakur 35).

■ RJCC 254/9 in 40 overs (Dinesh 57, Zeeshan 86, Avinash 3/40, V. Pranai 3/13) bt Youth CC 151 in 31.2 overs (Arjun 31).

■ Sacred Heart CC 90 in 34.4 overs (Hatrack 46, Vignesh 3/7) bt Secunderbad Gymkhana 65 in 32.5 overs (Jeraad 3/20).  
■ Southern Star CC 214 in 43 overs (G. Nirmal Tej Reddy 86, Aaryan 3/28, Nirupam 3) bt Tirumala CC 115 in 42.2 overs (Shreyas 4/8).

■ PPM CC 164/7 in 25 overs (Amit Kare 41, T. Harish 3/31) bt Red Hills 127 in 24.4 overs (Tiruya Asad 44, Mahesh 38, Dattatreya 3/23, Sai Abhinav 3/9).

■ Red Hills 71 in 28.1 overs (Vijay 4/23) lost to Manikumar CC 72/3 in 10.3 overs (Ravi 40).

■ Lal Bahadur PG 62 in 31 overs (Md. Zaid 3/24) lost to Boys Town 63/1 in 6.1 overs (Mirza Houzeef Baig 47).  
■ Boys Town 143/9 in 25 overs (Md. Salmam Khan 39) bt Vijaynagar CC 99 in 23.3 overs (C. Kaushik 47, Md. Zaid 3/9, Md. Saleh Amoodhi 3/11).  
■ Victoria CC 174 in 35.4 overs (Bunny 56,

Akshar 4/25) vs Hyderabad Patriots CC 21/0 in 3.2 overs.

■ Team Kun 67 in 32.3 overs (Siddharth 4/15) lost to Mayur CC 70/1 in 11.4 overs.  
■ Vijay CC 74 in 33 overs (Arjun 3/4) vs Superstar CC 33/4 in 16 overs (washed out).

■ Swastik Union CC 230/8 in 40 overs (Prathan Mishra 50, Vrishab Reddy 40, S. Karthik 30, Govardhan S. A. 35, Vineeth Kumar 3/44) bt Consult CC 119 in 33 overs (Vineeth 46, S. Manish 3/22, S. Yathish 3/23).

■ HCA Academy 127/5 in 30 overs (V. A. Lakshan 62 n.o.) lost to Superstar CC 128/5 in 29 overs (Rohan 37, Bhargav 30, CH Anvith Reddy 4/20).

■ Universal CC 199 in 37.1 overs (Adil 83, Md Nawaz 3/30) bt Hyderabad District 39 in 16.5 overs (Huzafa 3/0).  
■ SA Amberpet CC 160 in 39.3 overs (Mujtaba Kareem 41, Bakhar 46, Aditya Singhal 3/31) bt Shanthi XI 31/6 in 20 overs.

■ Akshit CC 75 in 19 overs (Aditya Malhotra 4/31) lost to Universal CC 79/3 in 11 overs (Aazeez Ahmed 49 n.o.).  
■ Raju CC 93 in 24.3 overs (Aadharsh 40, Nishal 4/5) lost to Satya CC 94/3 in 17.5 overs (Rahul 31 n.o., Adi 31 n. o.).

# Australian Barty hungry for Fed Cup triumph

Perth (Australia), Nov. 7: World number one Ashleigh Barty has enjoyed a career-changing season and is "extremely hungry" to end it on a high by steering Australia to their first Fed Cup in 45 years.

The seven-time champions have not tasted success in the tournament since the days of Evonne Goolagong in 1974, with two-time winners France standing in their way on the hardcourts at Perth Arena starting Saturday. It will mark the last Fed Cup final played under the current format, with an overhaul next year

seeing 12 nations compete in a six-day event in Budapest. While there will be a huge boost in prize money, it spells an end to home ties, following a similar change to the men's Davis Cup. Barty, fresh from being crowned WTA Finals champion in Shenzhen on Sunday, leads a team that boasts world number 51 Ajla Tomljanovic making her debut, veteran Samantha Stosur (96), Astra Sharma (108) and Priscilla Hon (126). They are banking on passionate home support to get them over the line. "This was a week I

circled at the beginning of the year that I wanted to target, and to be able to finish the year playing as a team for your nation is pretty special and I've been looking forward to it for a long time," said Barty. "All of us are extremely hungry — it's taken us probably two or three years to get into this position and now it's about coming out and enjoying it this weekend."

France captain Julie Benneteau kept faith with the team who sealed their semifinal win over Romania, led by Kristina Mladenovic. — AFP

## PLISKOVA PARTS WAYS WITH COACH MARTINEZ

Prague, Nov. 7: World number two and recent WTA Finals semifinalist Karolina Pliskova said on Thursday that she was parting ways with her Spanish coach Conchita Martinez.

"I decided I will no longer work with Conchita," 27-year-old Czech wrote on her Facebook page. "It was (a) tough decision as the season was great. Thank you for all this year and wish u only the best. Life is a change!!!! added the 2016 US Open finalist.

Her manager and husband Michal Hrdlicka said they were in talks with a new coach, without disclosing the name. — AFP

## TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD COIMBATORE CIRCLE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FORM OF CONTRACT "LUMP SUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM) Tender Notice No.SCB/548/DB/2019 Dated: 07.11.2019 For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover are invited from the registered contractors under Class - I and above in TNSCB/Government Departments / Government undertakings/ Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Selvapuram, Shivalaya Mahal (opp), Perur North, Coimbatore - 26. upto 3.00 PM on 10.12.2019 and the same will be opened at 3.15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

S. No	Name of Work	Tender Value including GST Rs. In Lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of 204 individual Houses including sanitary and electrification at Kadaisinakolli for tribals in Devarsola T.P., Nilgiris district under HFA CER.No.26/HFA/2019 - 20.	1491.81	7,56,000
2	Construction of 120 Nos of Slum Tenements adopting T.D.No. HA-30/2017 (G+2 storied) with internal water supply, sanitary and electrification works including development works at Vellore Olapalayam in Perundurai Taluk of Erode District under Housing For All CER.No.25/HFA/2019 - 20.	968.97	4,95,000

The cost of tender schedule and EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque/ fixed deposit from Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, payable at Coimbatore in the prescribed form in favour of Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, TNSCB, Coimbatore in SI.No.1 & Executive Engineer, Tiruppur Division, TNSCB, Tiruppur in SI.No.2. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, TNSCB, Selvapuram, Shivalaya Mahal (opp), Perur North, Coimbatore - 26. upto 3.00 PM on 09.12.2019. 1 The conditions and other details may be seen in the tender documents and also the same will be made available on all working days in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle TNSCB, Coimbatore - 26. 2 The tender documents are also available at [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) in which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the preceding date of tender. Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in). The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. Superintending Engineer Coimbatore Circle DIPR/4153/Tender/19 Perur North, Coimbatore - 26.

## छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 58009/निविदा सूचना क्र. 11/वलेलि/2019-20,

बेमेतर दिनांक 04.11.2019

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 03.12.2019 17:30 तक ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

कार्य का नाम - बेमेतर जिले के विकासखण्ड बेमेतर की मरजादपुर तालाब के बंड पर सुधार कार्य, मुख्य नहर आर.डी. 0 मी. से 4740 मी. तक एवं पिछवा माईनर की आर.डी. 0 मी से 540 मी. तक मरमत एवं सी.सी. लाईनिंग कार्य तथा 12 नग पक्के कार्य एवं 11 नग कोलाबा फिकिसंग कार्य।

अनुमानित लागत - रु. 294.70 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 19.11.2019 समय 17.31 बजे से देखें तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

नोट : निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतर  
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,  
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

G-74622/3





## Shakera returns

Allrounder Shakera Selman returns to the West Indies' 14-member squad for their five-match Twenty20 series against India

# Cricket

PAGE  
15

DECCAN CHRONICLE

FRIDAY | 8 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

# INDIA ROAR BACK

## Beat Bangla Tigers by 8 wickets in second T20

Rajkot, Nov. 7: Skipper Rohit Sharma smashed 85 off 43 deliveries as India beat Bangladesh by eight wickets in the second Twenty20 international on Thursday to level the three-match series at 1-1. Sharma, playing his 100th T20I, put on 118 runs for the opening wicket with Shikhar Dhawan, who made 31, as the hosts achieved their target of 154 in only 15.4 overs in Rajkot.

Earlier, Indian bowlers led by Yuzvendra Chahal made an impressive comeback to restrict Bangladesh to a sub-par 153 for 6 in their must-win T20. Put into bat, Bangladesh could not capitalise on a good start as Chahal's (2/28) double breakthrough in the 13th over pegged the visitors back. A quick-fire 30 off 21 balls by skipper Mahmudullah Riyad helped them cross the 150-mark.

Openers Liton Das (29 off 21 balls, 4x4) and Mohammad Naim (36 off 31 balls, 5x4) shared a 60 run opening stand. Naim slammed profligate left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed (1/44 from 4 overs) for three successive boundaries to start on rousing note.

Seamer Deepak Chahar (1/25) and off-spinner Washington Sundar (1/25) did manage to stem the flow of runs but Khaleel's poor show continued. Chahal, on his introduction, had almost removed a set Liton, but Rishabh Pant's urge to complete glove work quickly gave the batsman lifeline.

The TV replays showed that while whipping the bails off, Pant collected the ball in front of the stumps and hence it was declared no-ball. As per the law, every part of wicketkeeper's gloves has to be behind the stumps. Das then hammered two successive fours to add insult to injury. He got another reprieve on 26 after skipper Rohit Sharma dropped him at square-leg following a mix-up with Shivam Dube and Pant. But Pant made up for his mistake and ran Das out, with a direct hit in the eighth over, to break the opening stand.

Das's wicket slowed the scoring rate and that put Naim under pressure, who then gave a dolly to Shreyas Iyer at deep-mid-wicket off Washington as Bangladesh slumped were 83/2 in the 11th over. And then Yuzvendra picked two wickets in the 13th over — Mushfiqur Rahim (4 off 6 balls), who gave a sitter to Krunal Pandya and then removed



India's Rohit Sharma (right) and his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan take a run during their 118-run partnership in their second T20 against Bangladesh in Rajkot on Thursday. India won the match by 8 wickets. — AFP

a set Soumya Sarkar (30 off 20 balls; 2x4, 1x6) — as Bangladesh were struggling at 103/4. Sarkar was stumped by Pant. Mahmudullah and Afif Hossain (6) tried to steady the ship with a 25 run-stand but Khaleel broke the stand dismissing Hossain to leave Bangladesh teetering at 128 for 5 and then they just managed to cross the 150-run-mark as the bowlers bowled in right areas. — PTI

## Women power



Indian women's cricket team pose with the trophy after defeating West Indies by six wickets in their third ODI match, winning the series 2-1. — BCCI

## Champions likely to ring Eden bell

Kolkata, Nov. 7: Reigning and former world chess champions Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand in all likelihood would ring the customary Eden bell on one of the days during the historic day/night India-Bangladesh Test here from November 22-26.

The Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI, which is organising the first ever day/night Test in India, is awaiting a confirmation from the Norwegian world champion, who would be competing in the Tata Steel Chess India - Rapid & Blitz 2019, the penultimate leg of the Grand Chess Tour.

"The BCCI has invited Carlsen to ring the Eden bell and if time permits, he along with Anand will be seen at the stadium in one of the five days," Jeet Banerjee, director of Gameplan Sports, the official sponsors and branding partner of the tour, said here on Thursday.

According to Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) sources, Anand has already accepted the invitation and they are now awaiting a nod from Carlsen.

Working out the logistics could be a concern as the timings of both the events too are almost clashing, one of the organisers said.

● Chess stalwarts Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen in all probability will ring the customary Eden bell during India's first day/night Test against Bangladesh in Kolkata.

"While the Test will get underway at 1 pm, the GCT Kolkata circuit will start at 2 pm at the National Library," he said.

The Day One's proceedings of the first Test is slated to begin with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ringing the Eden Bell.

A galaxy of Indian sports stars including cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, tennis star Sania Mirza, world badminton champion P.V. Sindhu and six-time boxing world champion MC Mary Kom among others would be seen in the Test.

The CAB will felicitate the team members of Bangladesh-India first ever Test in 2000, a game where Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI president, made his debut as Test captain. The first day of the match could see a helicopter revolving around the Eden Gardens. — PTI

## Was not ready for captaincy: Haque



I was not ready at all. It was completely unexpected. I never thought even in my dreams that I will be the captain of Bangladesh or I will captain the Test side.

— MOMINUL HAQUE  
Bangladesh's Test captain

Dhaka, Nov. 7: Mominul Haque was "not ready at all" for Test captaincy but the thought of leading Bangladesh against India makes him feel good.

Mominul said he was completely taken by surprise at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to hand him the Test captaincy in place of banned Shakib Al Hasan.

Shakib was banned last week by the ICC for two years (one year suspended sentence) for failing to report corrupt approaches. "I was not ready at all. It was completely unexpected. I never thought even in my dreams that I will be the captain of Bangladesh or I will captain the Test side," Mominul said.

Mominul, 28, has never led a top domestic team but has been entrusted with the big responsibility to captain the national side for a high-profile assignment starting next week. "I am very excited as I think Virat Kohli is the

best player in the world, the best batsman in all formats combined. Thinking about that makes me feel good," he said. — PTI

## Dada opened up team for cricket

New Delhi, Nov. 7: Former left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi on Thursday credited former captain and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly for eradicating factionalism and regionalism from Indian cricket.

"I must tell during our days you could have played for India only if you are a North Indian from North India or Maharashtra from Mumbai or from South. The first Indian to bring oneness and Indianness in Indian cricket is Sourav. Tiger (Pataudi) was also there but Sourav stood out."

— DILIP DOSHI  
former Indian left-arm spinner

created a fear among spinners. Spinners fear to flight the ball but a real spinner is who has the courage to give flight. To add to it smaller grounds and bigger and heavier bats are also reasons behind spinners decline."

Doshi called on the custodians of the game to bring some regulations which would give a new life to the art of spin bowling.

"Some regulations have to be introduced whether it is increasing the size of the boundaries or decreasing the size of bats. It is unfair for spinners. The administrators really need to look into these issues," Doshi said.

Former India batsman Abbas Ali Baig agreed with Doshi. — PTI

## SHORT TAKES

### 2 more cricketers arrested for fixing

**Bengaluru:** Two more domestic cricketers were arrested on Thursday in connection with the Karnataka Premier League fixing scandal, taking the total number of those detained to six.

Bellary Tuskers captain C.M. Gautam, a former Karnataka wicketkeeper-batsman and his teammate Abrar Qazi were arrested by the city Central Crime Branch, which is investigating charges of fixing in the last two seasons of KPL.

"We have arrested two players with regard to KPL fixing," Additional Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil said, adding some more arrests may be made.

Police said the two were involved in fixing in the KPL 2019 finals between Hubballi versus Ballari. "They were paid ₹20 lakh for slow batting, and for other things. Also, they fixed another match against Bengaluru team," an investigation officer said. The arrest comes close on the heels of the detention of Bengaluru team player Nishant Singh Shekhawat earlier this week. — PTI

### 7,000 tickets for Indore Test sold

**Indore:** Over 40 per cent of the total season tickets of the India-Bangladesh cricket test match beginning November 14 have been sold out so far in the last four days, Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) president Abhilash Khandekar said on Wednesday.

He said 7,000 season tickets have been bought by spectators so far and remaining 9,000 tickets are expected to be sold soon. "Apart from season tickets, we are also considering selling the daily tickets of the test matches," he said.

Another MPCA official informed that the capacity of the Holkar Stadium in Indore is around 27,000 spectators. "16,000 tickets of the test match are available for sale. Remaining seats have been reserved for sponsors, BCCI representatives, MPCA members, former players, distinguished personalities, government officials etc," he said. The official informed that online sale of the season tickets started at 6 am on November 3 and will continue till 6 pm on November 10, provided tickets are available for sale. — PTI

## UMPIRES WILL SURVIVE, SAYS TAUFEL

**Chennai:** Former ICC Elite Panel umpire Simon Taufel doesn't think cricket's increasing reliance on technology has rendered his ilk irrelevant but says they need encouragement for making decisions.

"I don't think so," the five-time ICC Umpire of the Year winner said when asked if umpires are losing relevance. "But we should encourage umpires to use good techniques and to make decisions, we shouldn't just abrogate the responsibility that we are making decisions (after referring) everything upstairs, we should be backing our cricket umpires to call it as they see it. "The umpires get to the top because they make good decisions."

Asked if technology was taking the charm out of cricket, he said right balance has to be maintained.

"What's really important to me is that we (need to) keep a good balance of human endeavours and skills together with technology."

He is all praise for India captain Virat Kohli and said he is someone who is setting an example for his team.

"I have used Virat Kohli as an example of someone who's developing their leadership skills in a positive way," Taufel said. — PTI

### SCORECARD

**Bangladesh:** Liton Das run out (Pant) 29, Mohammad Naim c Shreyas Iyer b Washington Sundar 36, Soumya Sarkar st Pant b Chahal 30, Mushfiqur Rahim c Krunal Pandya b Chahal 46, Mahmudullah c Shivam Dube b D. Chahar 30, Afif Hossain c Rohit b Khaleel Ahmed 68, Mosaddek Hossain (not out) 79, Aminul Islam (not out) 55. **Extras (b-2, lb-0, w-3, nb-1) 6. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs) 153.** **FoW:** 60-1, 83-2, 97-3, 103-4, 128-5, 142-6.

**Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-25-1, K. Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-44-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-25-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-28-2, Shivam Dube 2-0-12-0.

**India:** Rohit Sharma c (sub) Mithun b Aminul Islam 85, Shikhar Dhawan b Aminul Islam 31, Lokesh Rahul (not out) 8, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 24. **Extras (b-0, lb-1, w-5, nb-0) 6. Total (for two wickets in 15.4 overs) 154-2.** **FoW:** 118-1, 125-2.

**Bowling:** Mustafizur Rahman 3.4-0-35-0, Shafiqul Islam 2-0-23-0, Al-Amin Hossain 4-0-32-0, Aminul Islam 4-0-29-2, Afif Hossain 1-0-13-0, Mosaddek Hossain 1-0-21-0.

I knew that Rajkot is a good track, knew (it) will be difficult for bowlers in the second innings. We took advantage of that, had a great powerplay. After that, it was all about going on.

— ROHIT SHARMA  
after his 43-ball 85-run knock

## MITHALI-LED TEAM BEAT WINDIES, WIN SERIES 2-1

**North Sound (Antigua), Nov. 7:** Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues hit half-centuries to lead the Indian women's team to a 2-1 series victory over the West Indies with a comfortable six-wicket win in the deciding third ODI, here.

Mandhana, who missed the first two matches of the series due to a toe injury, smashed a 63-ball 74 and raised a match-winning 141-run partnership with fellow opener Rodrigues (69 off 92).

India cruised to the 195-run target in 42.1 overs after the Indian bowlers did a commendable job of bowling out the hosts for 194 in 50 overs. — PTI

**Brief Scores:** West Indies 194 in 50 overs (S. Taylor 79, S. Ann-King 38, J. Goswami 2/30) lost to India 195/4 in 42.1 overs (S. Mandhana 77, J. Rodrigues 69; H. Mathews 3/27).





## Ready for new role?

Arsene Wenger is reportedly in talks with Bayern Munich to potentially become their new head coach



Rodrygo doesn't surprise me. He has a bit of everything. He is intelligent, he learns very fast and wants to learn and improve.

— Zinedine Zidane, Real Madrid coach

### SHORT TAKES

## Indian colts face Saudi Arabia

**Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia:** India will take on hosts Saudi Arabia in their second match of the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers here on Friday. India went down to a strong Uzbekistan 0-2 in their opening match on Wednesday. "It was not the result that we wanted. But there's no time to sulk on the first loss," head coach Floyd Pinto said. "We have to pick-up and dust ourselves. The recovery process has started and all the players are determined to do everything it takes to win the next match." Saudi Arabia, who clinched the AFC U-19 Championship in 2018, picked up three points in their opening qualifier against Afghanistan and talking about the challenge they pose, Floyd stated that it will be a "difficult" game. The head coach also stressed on the importance of keeping composure and focus throughout the 90 minutes as the two goals against Uzbekistan were scored in the second half. — PTI

## ANAND, CARLSEN TOP NAMES IN KOLKATA CIRCUIT

**Kolkata:** Five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand will aim to seal a World Finals berth in the star-studded Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2019, to be held here from November 22 to 26. The second edition of the Tata Steel event has now become part of the Grand Chess Tour and the showpiece annual circuit will be held in Asia for the first time. The Kolkata circuit has attracted a top-draw with reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen leading the field that will see eight of the top 15 players. The five-day meet will serve as the penultimate leg to determine the top-four spots for the GCT Finals slated in Olympia London from December 2 to 8. The Indian chess wizard is currently competing in the Superbet Rapid & Blitz GCT circuit in Bucharest where he started his campaign emphatically, taming Russia's Vladislav Artemiev. — PTI

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20  
Printed and Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Velachery Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha

## 'AITA DOES NOT WORK IN AN AUTOCRATIC MANNER'

**New Delhi, Nov. 7:** The national tennis federation on Thursday said an unflattering perception was being created about it in the wake of Mahesh Bhupathi's removal as captain when it actually selected Rohit Rajpal because the ITF till the last moment had not given the impression that it will move the Davis Cup tie out of Islamabad. Hours before the ITF announced shifting of the tie to a neutral venue, AITA appointed Rohit Rajpal as new captain in place of Bhupathi, who along with top players had made themselves unavailable for the tie, which ITF rescheduled to November 29 to 30. Exasperated at AITA's decision to remove him, though he was available for the job at a neutral venue, Bhupathi said it is not acceptable to him that he is being fired for not showing up for national duty. The All India Tennis Association's CEO,

Akhouri Bishwadeep, said, that a perception is being created that they take decisions in autocratic manner which was not true. "AITA has utmost regard for Mahesh Bhupathi and other players. The last few months have not been easiest for us due to uncertainties. But a perception of AITA management is being created which is not flattering. On the contrary we wish to state unequivocally that AITA has respect for players and stakeholders," Bishwadeep said. "The decision of change in venue was victory of soft diplomacy and quiet persistence of AITA. However, in the last three months the ITF never gave an impression that it would agree to a change in venue," he added. Bishwadeep said, Bhupathi had even suggested that India should take loser's spot if ITF does not agree to shift the venue. — PTI

# Real Turkish delight

Rodrygo makes history as Madrid put six past Galatasaray



Real Madrid's Rodrygo celebrates after scoring against Galatasaray in their Champions League Group 'A' at Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Wednesday. — AP

**Madrid, Nov. 7:** Rodrygo scored a sensational hat-trick and the fastest two goals in Champions League history on Wednesday as Real Madrid humiliated Galatasaray 6-0.

The 18-year-old had his double after just six minutes and 14 seconds at the Santiago Bernabeu before teeing up Karim Benzema to make it four, after Sergio Ramos had chipped in a penalty.

Benzema then added a fifth late in the second half, leaving Rodrygo to complete his incredible treble in injury-time. Madrid's emphatic victory means they are virtually qualified from Group A, sitting five points ahead of Club Brugge, even if Paris Saint-Germain who are top look certain to claim first place.

It means Zinedine Zidane's side will likely be at the mercy of the draw when it comes to the last 16 but that is their punishment for a miserable opening defeat in Paris and an equally dispiriting draw at home to Brugge.

Yet the knock-out stages are far away and Rodrygo is the man of the moment. After scoring the fastest ever league goal by a Real debutant in September — a sumptuous control and finish after 94 seconds — he now has his name etched into the European record books too.

"Today my dream came true," Rodrygo said. "He's not afraid," said Benzema. "He enjoys the ball and I love a player that plays like that."

Benzema made his own piece of history by equalling and then surpassing Alfredo di Stefano's 49 European Cup goals but the way he hoisted Rodrygo to celebrate his first suggested he knew this was the teenager's night.

### THE RESULTS

**Paris Saint-Germain 1**  
(Icardi 22)  
**Club Brugge 0**

**Real Madrid 6**  
(Rodrygo 4, 7, 90+2, Ramos 14-pen, Benzema 45, 81)  
**Galatasaray 0**

**Bayern Munich 2**  
(Lewandowski 69, Perisic 89)  
**Olympiakos 0**

**Red Star Belgrade 0**  
**Tottenham Hotspur 4**  
(Lo Celso 34, Son 57, 61, Eriksen 85)

**Dinamo Zagreb 3**  
(Petkovic 25, Ivanusec 83, Ademi 89)  
**Shakhtar Donetsk 3**  
(Patrick 13, Moraes 90+3, Tete 90+8-pen)

**Atalanta 1**  
(Pasalic 49)  
**Manchester City 1**  
(Sterling 7)

**Lokomotiv Moscow 1**  
(Al. Miranchuk 12)  
**Juventus 2**  
(Ramsey 4, Costa 90+3)

**Bayer Leverkusen 2**  
(Partey 41-og, Volland 55)  
**Atletico Madrid 1**  
(Morata 90+4)

When club president Florentino Perez presented Rodrygo to the fans last summer, he said they had signed one of the world's "great prodigies", a year after Vinicius Junior had also arrived from Flamengo. Determined to avoid a repeat of losing out on Neymar to Barcelona, Madrid flooded Brazil with scouts, each of them instructed to find the next young gems. — AFP

## Juve, PSG in last 16; City made to wait

**Paris, Nov. 7:** Douglas Costa scored a dramatic injury-time winner to send Juventus into the Champions League knockout stages after a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow on Wednesday, while Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich joined the Italian champions in the last 16.

Mauro Icardi's first-half goal was enough for PSG to edge past Club Brugge 1-0 at the Parc des Princes, as Bayern laboured to a 2-0 victory over Olympiakos.

Manchester City missed the chance to progress from Group C after a dramatic 1-1 draw

at Atalanta which saw right-back Kyle Walker end the game in goal.

Juventus knew three points in Russia would be enough to secure their passage to the knockout rounds, and took a fourth-minute lead through Aaron Ramsey.

Cristiano Ronaldo's free-kick bounced in front of Lokomotiv goalkeeper Guilherme, who inexplicably allowed the ball to squirm through his legs, with Ramsey prodding in from on the goalline.

Aleksei Miranchuk quickly levelled for the hosts. But Brazilian winger Costa came off



Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus (left) in action against Lokomotiv Moscow. — AFP

the bench and netted a magnificent 93rd-minute winner.

PSG reached the last 16 for the eighth straight season, but a nervy display against Brugge will not have boosted hopes of the French champions making the semis for the first time since 1995.

Meanwhile, Premier League champions City were made to wait after Atalanta's second-half fightback at the San Siro. Raheem Sterling put Pep Guardiola's men in front after only six minutes, but Gabriel Jesus dragged a dreadful penalty well wide shortly before half-time. — AFP

## Goa FC win goal-fest to go top

**Mumbai, Nov. 7:** FC Goa returned to winning ways and climbed to the top of the Hero Indian Super League table with a 4-2 win against Mumbai City FC here on Thursday.

The goal-fest began with Lenny Rodrigues giving Goa the lead in the 27th minute. The visitors doubled their lead with a Ferran Corominas (45') strike just before half-time.

The second half saw three goals in the space of ten minutes, with Mumbai City equalising in quick session through Sarthak Golui (49'). Souvik Chakrabarti (55') and later Hugo Boumous (59') putting the visitors back in lead. Carlos Pena (89') scored another late in the game to rub further salt into Mumbai's wounds.

Sergio Lobera's team picked up their second win of the season and are atop with eight points after four rounds. Mumbai are fifth with four points in their kitty.

Mumbai refused to sit back and let Goa pass the ball around in the opening



FC Goa's goal scorers Lenny Rodrigues (left) and Ferran Corominas break into a dance after scoring their second goal against Mumbai City at half time. — ISL

minutes but the hosts, however, failed to test Mohammed Nawaz's goal during that period. This allowed the visitors to get back into the game and draw first blood.

### BLASTERS ON EDGE

In Kochi, Kerala Blasters FC will look to arrest their slide when they play hosts to Odisha FC on Friday.

After the glorious victory against their arch rivals ATK on the opening night of the season, the Kochi-based team have lost their way and suffered back-to-back defeats against Mumbai City and Hyderabad FC.

The onus will be on coach Elco Schattorie to come up with a robust plan to ensure the team returns to winning ways on home soil.

Meanwhile, Odisha FC's form graph has been in stark contrast to that of Kerala Blasters. After starting with two defeats, Odisha thumped Mumbai City 4-2 in their previous match and come into this game on a high. — PTI

## Hyderabad's Esha wins double gold

**Doha, Nov. 7:** Esha won a double gold on the day, capturing both the individual and team titles in the 10m air pistol women junior competition at the 4th Asian Shooting Championship (ASC) in Lusail, Qatar.

Teammate Priya Raghav was third in qualification with 574 and finished in the same position in the final closing out with a 217.6.

Jeong Hyo of Korea won silver while Esha, Priya and Yuvika Tomar won the team gold with a total of 1721, which eclipsed both the Asian and World Junior records in the category.

Meanwhile, Chinki Yadav kept alive India's hopes of securing the second Olympic quota in women's 25m Pistol, clinging to fifth place in the first round qualification.

Chinki shot an exceptional 292 and will be looking to make the final on Friday and take a shot at clinching one of the four available Tokyo berths. Rahi Sarnobat has already secured the other quota place in the event in earlier competitions.

Apart from Chinki, Vivaan Kapoor and Esha Singh won two gold each as India dominated the junior competitions, where they have accounted for 18 of the 23



Esha Singh

medals won so far by the country.

The icing on the cake was the 1-2 finish in the junior men's trap where Vivaan shot his way to an individual gold with compatriot Bhowneesh Mendiratta following him through the day to clinch silver.

The pair also combined with Manavadiya Singh Rathore to secure gold.

Vivaan, who picked up his second and third yellow metal of the competition after winning the junior trap mixed team event on Day One partnering Manisha Keer, continued his good form by topping qualification with a solid 120 out of 125. — Agencies

### CHINA OPEN | BADMINTON

## Satwik, Chirag make quarters

**Fuzhou (China), Nov. 7:** India's men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Thursday stunned sixth seed Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe of Japan to enter the quarterfinals of the China Open here.

Rankireddy and Shetty played their hearts out to get the better of their Japanese opponents 21-18, 21-23, 21-11 in a pulsating second round contest that lasted an hour and six minutes.

For Rankireddy and Shetty, who had reached the French Open final last month, the latest win is their second straight over Endo and Watanabe. The Indians had defeated the Japanese duo in straight games in Paris last month.

Rankireddy and Shetty will face Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the quarterfinals on Friday. Rankireddy and Shetty were the lone Indians left in the tournament after the others bite the dust on Thursday.

Parupalli Kashyap and B. Sai Praneeth were both ousted in the second round of the men's singles event.

World No.11 Praneeth fought hard for one hour 24 minutes against fourth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark before going down

● **For Rankireddy and Shetty, who had reached the French Open final last month, earned their second straight win over Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe with a 21-18, 21-23, 21-11 scoreline.**

20-22, 22-20, 21-16.

Kashyap, ranked 25 in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against seventh seed Victor Axelsen and went down 13-21, 19-21 in a match that lasted 43 minutes. Praneeth's loss marked the end of India's campaign in the singles.

This is the second time Kashyap had lost to Axelsen this year. The former Commonwealth Games champion, who reached the semifinals of India Open and Korea Open earlier this year, had lost to the world number six at the India Open in March this year.

It was also the end of the road for the mixed doubles pair of Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa. The unseeded Indian duo lost 21-23, 16-21 to fifth seeds Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yujung of South Korea. — PTI

Delegates from American & Canadian Institutes invite you to

Apply to 80+ Institutes

Hyderabad 10th Nov (Sunday) 11am-4pm

Hotel Taj Vivanta Mayur Marg, Begumpet

The USA & CANADA

ADMISSIONS WORKSHOP

Application Fee Waivers\* Scholarships options Co-op programs Member of

Meet Delegates of American & Canadian Institutes ICCRC & AIRC

Accepting applications for Diplomas, Bachelors, PG Diplomas & Masters Programs/ MBA

Participating Universities & College from USA & CANADA

Concordia University - New Jersey Institute of Technology - Baylor University - De Paul University - James Madison University - Lipscomb University - Long Island University - Lynn University - Oglethorpe University - Texas A & M-Corpus Christi - The University of Vermont - University of Hartford - West Virginia University - Western Washington University - Centre for Arts and Technology - Royal Roads University - Stenberg College - Avron Technical Institute - Bow Valley College - Camosun College - CCSQ College - CDE College - Herzing College - Northern College - M College - Sault College - Saskatchewan Polytechnic - University Canada West - University of Lethbridge - University of the Fraser Valley

University of Maryland-BC - University of Nebraska - INTO - Colorado State University - Drew University - George Mason University - Hofstra University - Illinois State University - Marshall University - Oregon State University - Saint Louis University - Suffolk University - University of Alabama Birmingham - University of South Florida - Washington State University - Navias - Florida Atlantic University - Queens College - Richard Bland College of - William & Mary - UMass Boston - UMass Dartmouth - UMass Lowell - University of Idaho - University of New Hampshire - Virginia Commonwealth University - The University of Utah - FIC-Simon Fraser University - ICM-University of Manitoba - also apply to many more

WHATAPP your Name, Email-ID, City & Query 89683-00000 Get your Free Priority Pass at canamgroup.com Scan here to Register

This is an Event by : CANAM Call: 8099909091, 7702577721, 7674975007 Hyderabad: #305, V V Vintage Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Raj Bhavan Road, Somajiguda, Tel : 40052202-2216.