



Raising Hopes

In UK election campaign Britain's home secretary Priti Patel promises new, faster visas for doctors from India



One of the responsibilities of the state is to ensure public order and security

— Pinera Sebastian
Chile president

IN BRIEF

Missing tourist hand inside shark

Saint Denis: The hand of a missing Scottish tourist has been discovered in the stomach of a tiger shark caught off the coast of Réunion. The 44-year-old man, who has not been named, disappeared while snorkelling off the coast of the Indian Ocean island. His wife identified his wedding ring recovered during an autopsy of the shark. The shark was one of five caught for research purposes in the Indian Ocean. It was found about four miles from the lagoon where the victim was last seen. It is not known whether the man was eaten by the shark after being drowned.

Brazil court ruling may free Lula

Brasilia: Brazil's supreme court voted to overturn a ruling requiring convicted criminals to go to jail after losing their first appeal, paving the way for leftist icon Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to be freed. The decision means thousands of convicts could be released from prison, including Lula, who is among dozens of political and business leaders caught up in a sprawling corruption probe. They would remain free until they had exhausted their rights to appeal their conviction — which critics say could take years in cases involving people with deep pockets. Lula's lawyers said they would seek the 'immediate release' of the former president after speaking to him.

Auction of early Mozart score

Paris: An original score of two minutes composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart when he was just 16 is to be put up for auction in Paris later this month, Sotheby's said. The asking price for the handwritten score dating from 1772 has been set at 1,50,000-2,00,000 euros, the auction house said. It goes on sale on November 18. "It's the only version," said Simon Maguire, a specialist in musical manuscripts at Sotheby's in London. "Mozart always wrote first versions" without subsequently reworking them, "unlike Beethoven who revised (his scores) endlessly," the expert said. The minutes, which are types of dances, have never been published.

ALL 39 DEAD IN UK TRUCK VIETNAMESE

London, Nov. 8: Vietnam said it was working to repatriate 39 bodies now identified as Vietnamese nationals found in a truck near London last month, in a case that exposed the deadly risks of illegal migration to Europe. The country's embassy in London said a government delegation already in Britain was coordinating with officials to get the bodies home at the earliest. The British police confirmed that those discovered in the refrigerated truck on October 23 all came from the southeast Asian nation. In a letter to the families of the 31 men and eight women who died, Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said the tragedy had caused them and Vietnamese people worldwide 'endless pain' and vowed to 'soon bring the victims back to the homeland'. Essex Police investigating the gruesome discovery, said a coroner had now formally identified all the victims and their families informed. "This is an important step in the investigation and enables us to work with our Vietnamese colleagues to support the families of those victims," a cop said.



Protesters light candles to pay homage to Chow Tsz-Lok, who fell off a parking garage after police fired tear gas during clashes with anti-government protesters, died in a rare fatality after five months of unrest.

Student death fuels unrest in HK

Thousands of Hong Kongers hold vigils for Chow, first student fatality since outrage

Hong Kong, Nov. 8: A student at a Hong Kong university who fell one floor in a parking lot during pro-democracy protests at the weekend died on Friday, the first student death in months of demonstrations in the Chinese-ruled city and a likely trigger for fresh unrest. Chow Tsz-lok, 22, an undergraduate at the University of Science and Technology, died of injuries he suffered, when he fell from the third to the second floor of a parking lot during a police dispersal operation. Chow's death, on graduation day for many students, is expected to fuel anger at police, who are already under pressure amid accusations of excessive force as the city grapples with its worst political crisis in decades. The university students trashed a campus branch of Starbucks, part of a

Students have been at the forefront of the lakhs who have taken to streets to press for greater democracy, among other demands, and rally against perceived Chinese meddling in the Asian financial hub

franchise perceived to be pro-Beijing, and rallies are expected across the territory, when violence traditionally picks up. "Condemn police brutality," they wrote on the restaurant's glass wall. Demonstrators had thronged the hospital this week to pray for Chow, leaving flowers and hundreds of get-well messages on walls. Students also staged rallies at universities across the former British colony.

"He was a nice person. He was sporty. He liked playing netball and basketball," friend and fellow UST student Ben, 25, said in tears. "We played netball together for a year. I hope he can rest in peace. I really miss him." Students and young people have been at the forefront of the hundreds of thousands who have taken to the streets since June to press for greater democracy, among other demands, and rally against perceived Chinese meddling in the Asian financial hub. The protests, ignited by a now-scrapped extradition bill allowing people to be sent to mainland China for trial, have evolved into wider calls for democracy, posing one of the biggest challenges for Chinese President Xi Jinping since he took charge in 2012. Two pro-Beijing newspapers ran full-page ads, commissioned by "a group

of Hong Kong people," calling for a postponement of the lowest-tier district council elections set for Nov. 24, a move which would infuriate those calling for democracy. Protesters have thrown petrol bombs and vandalised banks, stores and metro stations, while police have fired rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannons and, in some cases, live ammunition in scenes of chaos. Chow had been pursuing a two-year undergraduate degree in computer science. His death came on graduation day for many students at his university, located in the picturesque Clear Water Bay district on the Kowloon side of the harbour. The university called for an independent investigation. The government expressed "great sorrow and regret".

— Reuters

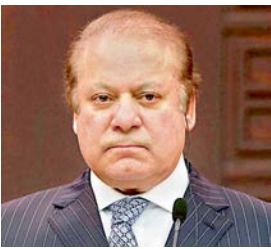
CHINA BRANDS HONG KONG PROTESTERS MOBSTERS

Beijing, Nov. 8: China has slammed radical protesters in Hong Kong as 'mobsters' using violence to influence upcoming local elections, after a pro-Beijing lawmaker was injured in a stabbing. With Beijing and Hong Kong's unpopular leader Carrie Lam refusing to offer a political solution to the protesters' grievances, violence has spiralled on both sides of the ideological divide. In the latest incident, a man holding a bouquet approached pro-Beijing lawmaker Junius Ho as the politician was campaigning in his constituency near the border with China. The attack was 'not only

a serious criminal act but also pure election violence,' Xu Luying, spokeswoman for the Hong Kong and Macau affairs office of China's central government, said. Xu said radical protesters in Hong Kong 'intend to create a 'chilling effect' by threatening and intimidating their candidates and their supporters', in order to 'affect the election results of the district councils and realise their purpose of seizing political power'. Xu also called for 'strong punishment' against violence in Hong Kong and for a 'fair, just, safe and orderly environment' for the district elections. — AFP

Ailing Sharif may be treated in UK

Lahore, Nov. 8: Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has heeded doctors' advice and given in to his family's request to fly to London for the treatment of his diseases, a media report said. Sharif was shifted to his Jati Umra Raiwind residence in Lahore after his two-week stay at a Pakistani hospital for treatment of multiple diseases. He 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. "Nawaz Sharif has finally agreed to go to London after the doctors



Nawaz Sharif

told him categorically that they had already exhausted all medical treatment [options] available in Pakistan and going abroad is the only option left," a family member said. Sharif might leave after his name is removed from the Exit Control List by the government. — PTI

Impeachment to overturn 2016 results: Ivanka

Rabat, Nov. 8: Ivanka Trump on Friday weighed in on the House impeachment inquiry of her father from half a world away. President Donald Trump's daughter and White House adviser said in an interview that she shares his oft-repeated view that the impeachment investigation is about "overturning the results of the 2016 election." But she seemed to part ways with the president and allies who have been pressuring the news media to publicly identify the whistleblower whose complaint helped launch the investigation. "Basically since the election, this has been the experience that our administration and our family has been having,"

THE STORY SO FAR

House impeachment investigators have released a transcript of testimony from George Kent, a career official at the state department.

- Kent said Trump wanted to hear three words from Ukraine's president: investigations, Biden and Clinton
- Ex-NSA John Bolton failed to appear for an interview. Democrats say they will simply use the no-shows as evidence of the president's obstruction of Congress.
- The Oval Office has emerged as such a sought-after destination that Ukraine's new president was hell-bent on getting there and the White House was unafraid to dangle it as leverage.

- Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney is scheduled to provide a deposition but is not expected to appear
- US diplomat William Taylor said that Trump was withholding military aid for Ukraine unless the country's president agreed to probe Democrats

Ivanka Trump said of persistent criticism of the president. "Rather than wait, under a year, until the people can decide for themselves based on his record and based on his accomplishments, this new effort has

commenced." Ivanka Trump said that the whistleblower's identity is "not particularly relevant" to the impeachment inquiry and declined to speculate on the motives behind the whistleblower's complaint. The whis-

tblower should no longer be a "substantive part" of the conversation, she said, noting that the individual was not among administration officials who heard President Trump ask Ukraine's leader during a July 25 telephone conver-

sation to investigate former vice-president Joe Biden, currently a leading contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination to challenge Trump. Ivanka is wrapping up a three-day visit to Morocco. — AP

LIVING IN GRIEF Residents urge Mexico to accept the American government's offer to help destroy the gang

Mexican cartels worse than ISIS: Massacre victims' kin



A relative attends the burial of victims killed in a hail of bullets in an attack authorities have blamed on a drug cartel, at a cemetery in Mexico. — AFP

Bavispe, Nov. 8: Angry kin of nine American citizens massacred in a suspected gangland ambush in northern Mexico urged the government to accept US help to destroy drug cartels that one grieving relative described as being "as bad or worse than ISIS." Funerals of the three mothers and six children began to be held in Mexico after the government said they were caught in the crossfire of a territorial feud between the Juarez Cartel and its rival the

Sinaloa Cartel. The victims belonged to three families of dual US-Mexican citizenship born to breakaway Mormon communities founded in the north of Mexico several decades ago, and mourners came from thousands of miles to pay their last respects. Sadness and anger gripped grieving relatives, and some urged Mexico's leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to accept US President Donald Trump's offer to help crush the gangs.

"I really believe that the cartels in Mexico have moved to another level of barbarity, they are as bad or worse than ISIS, ISIS have an ideology," said Rosa LeBaron, 65, whose cousins, nieces and nephews died in the attacks. "These sicarios [hitmen], why are they doing it? Out of greed and pure evil." She said Mexico needed to overcome pride, and accept outside help from a neighbouring country or international coalition, like the United Nations, to

stamp out the cartels. "This is so beyond comprehension, we're living like we're in Afghanistan, 100 miles from the US border," said LeBaron. More than 2,500 Mexicans have been killed in the mounting violence that has gripped the country since 2007, many of them victims of drug related violence. "They have to wipe these bad men out of Mexico just like the coalition that goes into Syria and these places." Julian LeBaron, another

relative of the victims and a local activist, said he would welcome outside assistance to find the killers, adding that he didn't think Mexico's government was capable of stopping violence and impunity. President Lopez Obrador said he believed that Mexico could resolve its security problems without foreign "intervention," but he has opened the door to FBI cooperation provided the country's national sovereignty is not violated. — Reuters

The process that causes cracks to appear in road pavements

To attack a political opponent in a particularly vicious, partisan manner

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Flap in Kerala as babu defends killing Maoists



John Mary

It came as a yorker to the LDF government as Kerala chief secretary Tom Jose, in a newspaper article, justified the police slaying of Maoists even as chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, citing propriety, did not go into the details on Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and his government's action against armed combatants in jungles in the state's north.

Mr Jose penned the piece in the wake of the public outcry against the state special force of Thunderbolts gunning down four Maoists at Agali near Attappadi in Palakkad on the border with Tamil Nadu on October 28-29 and the subsequent arrests of two CPI(M) activists for alleged Maoist links.

A fact-finding team of the Communist Party of India

(CPI), the second-biggest LDF Constituent, reported to the government that the deaths were part of fake encounters. This has been the CPI stand on all seven Maoist slayings since the LDF has come to power.

First, the salient points of Mr Jose's article, which appeared on November 5:

► According to the UN's definition, people who use violence to achieve political objectives and put civilians in harm's way are terrorists.

► State intelligence has identified 16 organisations having sympathisers in urban areas: They are the human face of terrorists, benign but malignant and vicious, plotting terror against innocents.

► Security forces carried out their duty to protect citizens from terrorists.

► No rationale in arguing Maoists, indulging in armed conflict, have the same human

rights as normal citizens.

► Kill or be killed: Security forces fight an asymmetrical war with Maoists. Soldiers on the border get applause while cops protecting innocent citizens get all the blame for it.

The article had come as a counter, mainly to the CPI's criticism and the Congress-led Opposition's campaign of "police lynching".

It is incontestable that the article, without the usual caveat of "views are personal", is a breach of propriety as he had spoken out of turn. The CM, being the top political executive, is yet to make any policy elucidation, not because the government lacks it, but not to influence the litigation and the outcome of ongoing probes.

There are two opinions on whether the chief secretary had broken the all-India service conduct rules 1968. Apparently, he runs afoul of Rule 6 and violates the spirit of Rule 7 respectively — for not marking his views as personal and indirectly touting an opinion that would embarrass the government.

There is an argument that the chief secretary is entitled to explain the government's stand but Mr Vijayan nailed it

Kerala chief secretary Tom Jose, in a newspaper article, justified the police slaying of Maoists even as CM Pinarayi Vijayan, citing propriety, did not go into the details on Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and his government's action

in the Assembly by saying that Mr Jose did not have the government's mandate and that whatever mentioned were his personal views and they would not influence the government.

Again, the chief secretary is also the secretary to the Cabinet. He is on oath not to disclose without the council's mandate what may have transpired in Cabinet discussions, either directly or indirectly. This is the convention and the set pattern in parliamentary democracy.

Discussions on the anti-Maoist operations were possibly discussed in the state Cabinet post-October 29. The chief secretary, who is privy to the Cabinet discussions, generally refrains from making any public statement that can be

presumed to reflect such discussions. In this case, a perception is strong that he justified the killings possibly because there was such a view among ministers.

The written piece has been unprecedented, either by a chief secretary or a Cabinet Secretary. But a minuscule section of bureaucrats justifies the well-intentioned article in the face of a real Maoist menace, which the chief secretary reviews every quarter in districts concerned.

Even the Election Commission designated 162 locations in Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and the high-profile Wayanad (Rahul Gandhi's seat) as "LWE-affected" ahead of the April 23 Lok Sabha polls.

What Mr Jose says may be in concord with the Centre's stand and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oft-heard "terrorists do not have human rights". But he breached his brief as the top officer of a state government headed by the LDF, whose approach to tackling LWE on the fringes of the southern state is different. Elsewhere, security forces' encounters may not attract as much criticism given the gory trail of killings. Here, the con-

sensus is to trace terror elements and bring them to book.

It was also sub-judice for the bureaucrat to comment on matters pending in the courts because his stance could prejudice the trial and probe. A junior civil servant tasked with the magisterial probe may not want to earn the displeasure of the boss and botch his annual confidential report. What if the officer tones down the truth, in case it runs counter to assertions and findings by the chief secretary?

Further, the article tends to create a scary situation. Unlike the north, Kerala does not experience tribal extremism. The article refers to war. Mr Jose asserts, quoting Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".

The fact is that the court has ruled it is no crime to be a Maoist sympathiser. It has laid down a 16-point guideline for arrests/terror hunts.

But lost in the debate is the state's preparedness to tackle the Maoist menace. The state intelligence has to brace ahead for proactive action against potential troublemakers. Countering terror with terror, employing the savage tactic, does not suit a civilised soci-

ety: It can lead to a police state.

On the political front is a persistent challenge for the LDF, which takes the high ground on human rights but has to ensure protection for the life and property of its people from perpetrators of violence. In the 1970s, the Naxal menace loomed over Kerala. One morning, residents at Nagarur-Kummil on the Kollam-Thiruvananthapuram border were greeted by the severed head of a landlord in the middle of the road.

The threat looms. The CPI (Maoists) believe in "the immediate aim and programme to carry on and complete the already ongoing and advancing New Democratic Revolution... protracted people's war with the armed seizure of power remaining as its central and principal task, encircling the cities from the countryside and thereby finally capturing them".

Kerala had asked the Centre to include the Maoist-affected districts in the Security Related Expenditure Scheme to tackle LWE. A unified command was formed under the CM's chairmanship to review the situation. However, the government's view is to confront "ideology with ideology".

With polls in UK, will Brexit vote remain binding? Or not as such?



Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings

"So many questions and none to do
With the ultimate meaning of life.
Why didn't Shah Jahan build the Taj
For his concubines instead of his wife?
Why does steam come off scrambled eggs
Only when they are moved from the fire?
And the edges of shirts get creased in the wash?
What's the difference between love and desire?
No answers to these questioning prayers
From the God, who created all things
— Is bewilderment my dharma or fate?
— Look, Science grins from the wings"
From Robins Aren't Round by Bachchoo

Curiouser and curiouser! Cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English).
Speaking good English has never been my central concern as what's good enough for Alice is good enough for me. As an immigrant who has spent many years of my short and happy life in Britain, I claim exemption from what Queen Elizabeth II or the present leader of the House of Commons, Jacob Rees-Mogg, would consider "good

English". As for Her Majesty, I happen to have noted that her late daughter-in-law, Princess Diana in several TV interviews used the word "hopefully", not as an adverb as Jacob would insist it be used, but as the neologism meaning "I hope that!"
That's an aside. As an immigrant taking liberties with good English I would, when looking around me at Britain in the process of a fresh general election, say that things grow "ironiker and ironiker".
Why, gentle reader, do I take this Alician liberty? The present government, led by Boris Johnson, who boasts that his grandfather was Turkish and keeps quiet about his ex-wife being half-Sikh, called for this election. They claimed it was the only way that they could get a majority in Parliament to "Get Brexit Done". This government, and the Labour Party, who may displace it, stake their future on the single promise that they will pull the UK out of the European Union as soon as they have a parliamentary majority. Boris makes other promises: to extend jail sentences, build more prisons and fund health and schools, but their main plank is leaving the EU. The unspoken part of that promise is that they will make most deals with Europe later, but "Getting Brexit Done" will stop European immigrants coming to Britain straight away.
This single factor, this "keep

Three years ago Britain's electorate voted to leave the EU. Two years ago they voted in the present Parliament. Boris and gang insist that the Brexit vote is binding and forever, but that Parliament has to be subject to a fresh vote.

the European wogs out, regardless of whatever else you do with the EU" is the policy that both the Tory and the Labour Party, without saying so, are embracing as their hope of electoral appeal.
So, lets begin with irony number one. Leave aside the Prime Minister's immigrant grandparent, in the Cabinet we have Sajid Javid, the chancellor who avidly wants to keep the immigrants out. Who's he? The son of a Pakistani immigrant who settled here when there wasn't this anti-immigrant prejudice dominating British politics.
And there's Dominic Raab, the foreign secretary whose father came from Czechoslovakia as an immigrant. Oh yeah — keep these poor Europeans out and I can remain as foreign secretary — hippopotamic hypocrisy?
What of Priti Patel, the home secretary in this Cabinet, whose parents are first generation Ugandan immigrants to Britain? She wants to stop European immigration with her Brexit stance. Gentle reader, I remember being part of a very active street satyagraha movement to demand that Ugandan Asians be let into the country in 1968 when the government tried to deny them the right. And now Priti

and her dad, who stood for the far-right's very anti-everybody UK Independence Party (UKIP) want to keep immigrants out.

There's also James Cleverly in the Cabinet, whose mother is an immigrant to Britain from Sierra Leone.

None of them see it. If they had been in power that generation earlier, they wouldn't be here.

The Labour Party leadership in their manifesto for the election again say they will get a deal to leave the European Union in six months of their being elected as a government. They want to stay in the customs union, in the single market, to adopt the EU regulations that protect workers' rights and the environment. So why do they still leave open the door to exiting the EU? Because Brexit will keep the European immigrants out. Simple.

The irony is that this policy is supported by so-called "Socialists" and even by supposed "Trotskyists" who decry the way Stalin oppressed Eastern Europe but don't want the workers of those worlds coming to Britain to honestly earn a living. Does one hear a rumble or a minor earthquake in a Mexican graveyard as Trotsky rotates down under?

But back to Lewis Carroll, *mercy yaaron*:



'Alexa, find the light at the end of the tunnel.'

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less".

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master — that's all."

The word in question in Britain's present political crisis is "democracy". Boris and his advisers and Cabinet use the word to bolster their Brexit claim, pointing out that three years ago 51 per cent of Britain's electorate voted to leave the EU. True. Two years ago they voted in the present Parliament. Boris and gang insist that the Brexit vote three years ago is binding and forever, but that the Parliament has to be subject to a fresh vote. They absolutely oppose a fresh referendum even though the Opposition truthfully claims that the leave campaign lied in the last one, that voters had no information about the economic upheaval of Brexit and that a fresh referendum would be more informed. So "democracy" for this government means a PM appointed through the party's vote of 0.06 per cent of the British population and the denial of a people's vote which will probably demand staying in the EU.

Alcohol is the perfect cure for deafness



Taki

A busy ten days, or nights rather, with some heroic drinking thrown in for good measure. Hangovers discriminate against the old nowadays, but no one is doing anything about it — not in Washington, not in New York, not in London. Our former chairman Algy Cluff's dinner party at a gentleman's club, followed by an extremely funny speech given by him, started me boozing and things didn't let up. One drinks to enhance an enjoyable evening, never to relieve boredom. Also, one drinks when one can't hear, as in extremely noisy New York restaurants.

I made a big mistake recently, when I had Prince and Princess Pavlos of Greece and Michael and Victoria Wolff for dinner at Avra, a Greek restaurant on the Upper East Side that I thought might be a quiet tavern like the ones you find below the Acropolis back home. The place turned out to be larger than Grand Central and noisier than when Krupp's Big Bertha was firing off shells against the allies. When my wife rang to make the reservation, they took down my name and assured her that the best table would be available for little ole me "and my important guests". Great, I thought, they must have heard of me, and prepared in my mind the questions I had for Michael Wolff, whose book on Trump was a runaway bestseller. Nothing could have been further from the truth. It was an old Bagel trick — to make people feel important so that you get their custom.

Funny how the Bagel is crawling with restaurants, but a good intimate place to eat is hard to find. Minetta Tavern, owned by my old buddy Keith McNally, a Brit, is such a place, but it's a long way down-

town and the traffic is horrific. Robin Birley is opening a place uptown, though, and that should solve my dining problems. Minetta Tavern, in the meat-packing district, was a hangout for Papa Hemingway when he was slumming downtown. E.E. Cummings and Ezra Pound used to join him and reminisce about the old days in Paris. Papa would be appalled with downtown today. The place is full of tourists looking to make a statement, dressed in the contrived dishevelment they think is cool.

The man you should be going after is the King of Siam, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who has four beautiful wives — his last one is a former flight attendant — but who dismissed a consort, Sineenat Wongvajirapakdi, for overt ambition and acting like a queen. I like the king because, unlike most monarchs nowadays, he has about 30 billion big ones and has spent much of his time in Germany with women who like him for many reasons. He also designates women as consorts (not to be confused with wives and other such female labels). Thai women are among the most beautiful creatures on earth, and the last time I was there, 47 years or so ago, I fell for a waitress who brought me breakfast at the Dusit Thani Hotel. I was on my way to Nam and swore to her I'd be back to get her and take her West with me. It never happened and by now she must be a very old lady while I'm sort of set in my ways. Reading about the king's consorts brought back memories. I should have made her my consort, but I was young and stupid back then. Girls, go after King Maha. Harvey has spent all his moolah on lawyers.

By arrangement with the *Spectator*

Prophet Muhammad: The messenger of mercy



Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi

Eid Milad-un-Nabi — the holy birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) — falls on November 10 this year, which is known as the 12th Rabi' ul-Awwal according to the Hijri calendar. However, Shia Muslims, who equally venerate and celebrate the Prophet's birthday, celebrate it on the 17th Rabi' ul-Awwal.

Significantly, this occasion is marked by dissemination of the true, essential and universal teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Besides taking out the *julus* processions and parades consisting of large crowds all day long, Muslims in India organise gatherings of what they call Milad Shareef. The traditional reciters of Milad, popularly known as *milad khwans*, beautifully explain the Sirah (lifetime and message) of the Prophet (pbuh). They recount moving moral and ethical stories

from the Prophet's life which stress his noblest personality traits such as being truthful (*al-sadiq*), trustworthy (*al-amin*) and generous (*al-Sakhi*). The most remarkable Prophetic character in which he is personified as "Rahmatul lil A'lamin" (mercy for all worlds) becomes the theme of most spiritual discourses on this occasion.

A former Roman Catholic nun and practitioner of a mystical Christian path, Karen Armstrong, wrote one of the best books on the life of the Prophet (pbuh)

Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time. She avers that Prophet Muhammad's actual teachings are more relevant today than ever before, because "they offer crucial insight into the true origins of the misinterpreted and increasingly radicalised version of Islam". Countering those who wrongly attribute to the Prophet (pbuh) a fanatical, retrogressive, misogynist and violent narrative of the faith, Ms Armstrong offered a moderate portrait of

the Prophet (pbuh) and describes him as a "compassionate messenger" who lived a wholly merciful life.

On the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, we need to revisit the true prophetic personality traits that we often overlook. We should particularly recall the Prophet's mercifulness for all mankind, besides his truthfulness, forgiveness, generosity and magnanimity. The *milad khwans* must also dwell on how gently the Prophet (pbuh) treated people of other faith-traditions on different historical occasions, especially with the pagans of the Makkah during the Hudybiya peace treaty, the Jews of Medina, Christians of Najran and Habsha (Avicenna), and even those who professed no conventional belief. One of those

moving moments was when the Prophet (pbuh) was sitting with a group of his companions and a Jewish funeral passed by. He stood up in respect of the deceased soul. But some of his companions, who had recently embraced Islam, asked him: "O Messenger of Allah, why did you stand up for the funeral of a Jew who used to live in denial of your message?" The Prophet replied: "Wasn't he a human soul?"

With his mercy and magnanimity for all people of religions, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) rejuvenated the compassionate messages of all previous prophets of God, and therefore, he is called "Rahmatul lil A'lamin" (mercy for all the worlds).

Ghulam Rasool Dehlvi is an alim (classical Islamic scholar) and a Delhi-based writer. He can be contacted at: grdehlvi@gmail.com

Leopard shot dead in Hyderabad

By a staff reporter

HYDERABAD,

November 8.

A full-grown leopard, which has been striking terror among the residents of Mettuguda since early this morning, was finally shot dead by noon, but not before it had mauled five persons.

The animal, five feet long and looking well-fed, was first sighted at about 5.20 am as it was sneaking out of the house of one Mr. Mustaq Hussain. Since then it had been prowling in the areas, taking refuge in the bushes in the compound of the railway quarters there.

In the process, it attacked whomever it came across, the victims including a student of the Indian Railways

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN

Chronicle

School of Telecommunications, two passers by, one shikari and a police constable.

Finally, it fell to a series of bullets fired by a Police Sub-Inspector, a youngster of 22 years, and the shikari. Then it was 11.45 am and the police and the local inhabitants had scanned the area for hours before sighting the animal on the run. It was in the compound of a high railway official, Mr. A. Lakshmi Narayanan, that the animal was shot dead.

Bad debt lower, but problem intact

M&M Q2 net slips 27%, revenue down 14.5%

Overleaf

quickBITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,323.61	-0.81
Nifty 50	11,908.15	-0.86
S&P 500	3,085.00	-0.01
Dollar (₹)	71.29	+0.46
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.30	+0.29
Euro (₹)	78.63	+0.18
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,706*196	-0.50
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	62.38	+0.14
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.554	+0.815
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.910	-0.624

* As of 9:30 pm IST

MMTC to import onions to check rising prices

To keep a lid on rising retail prices of onion which have skyrocketed up to Rs 100 per kg, the Centre on Friday decided to import "substantial" quantity of the key kitchen staple from Dubai and other countries to augment the domestic availability. State-run trading agency MMTC has issued a tender in this regard, it said. This is the second tender the agency has floated.

Google names Gupta as Country Manager

Google said it has appointed ex-Disney India Executive Sanjay Gupta as its new Country Manager and Vice-President of Sales and Operations for India. He will take on the role early next year and will be based out of Mumbai working closely with the teams based in Gurugram, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The move comes after Rajan Anandan had quit in April 2019 to join Sequoia.

Synthetic rubber import from Korea under lens

India has initiated a probe into an alleged increase in imports of a Korean synthetic rubber, used in tyre making, which is impacting domestic industry following a complaint by Reliance Industries. According to a notification of the DGTR an application has been filed by RIL alleging increased imports of 'Polybutadiene Rubber' from Korea causing serious harm to the domestic producer.

EasyJet buys Thomas Cook airport slots

British no-frills airline EasyJet said it had bought UK take-off and landing slots that belonged to collapsed travel group Thomas Cook. EasyJet has paid 36 million pounds (\$46 million, 42 million euros) for 12 summer and eight winter slot pairs at London's Gatwick airport — and for seven slot pairs in total at Bristol airport in western England.

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Govt slams rater, says growth rate stays unchanged

Moody's cuts India credit rating outlook to negative

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Citing increasing risks to the country's economic growth that will remain lower than in the past, global rating agency Moody's Investors Service on Friday changed its credit rating outlook on India to "negative" from "stable", but the government remained firm on its stand, reiterating that India would remain among the fastest growing major economies and her relative global standing remains unaffected.

However, Moody's categorically pointed out that the outlook partly reflected the government's policy ineffectiveness in addressing economic weakness, which led to an increase in the debt burden from already high levels.

The rating agency, however, affirmed the Baa2 foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings. Moody's also affirmed India's local-currency senior unsecured rating and other short-term local-currency rating. The government coun-

Rupee tumbles 31 paise

Mumbai, Nov. 8: The rupee plunged by 31 paise on Friday to 71.28 against the US dollar, the lowest level since October 16, after Moody's cut India's rating outlook to negative. On weekly basis, the rupee has weakened by 47 paise against the greenback.

The rupee came under more pressure tracking

subdued sentiment in domestic equity market and stronger dollar against key rivals.

The yield on benchmark 10-year bonds rose five basis points, the most in a month, to 6.56 per cent.

The Sensex halted its record-setting rally, dropping 330 points after scaling a new high the previous day.

—FC Bureau

hold India's outlook as stable, Moody's said India's growth outlook got deteriorated sharply in 2019 and credit crunch in banking as well as non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) mainly paralysed the corporate sector; mostly in retail businesses, car-makers, home sales and heavy industries.

"The drivers of the economic deceleration are multiple and mainly domestic. While government's measures to support the economy should help to reduce the depth and duration of India's growth slowdown, prolonged financial stress among rural households, weak job creation, and, more recently, a credit crunch among NBFIs, have increased the probability of a more entrenched slowdown," Moody's said.

"Moreover, the prospects of further reforms that would support business investment and growth at high levels, and significantly broaden the narrow tax base, have diminished. A prolonged period of slower economic growth would dampen income growth and the pace of improve-

Health insurers may offer you fitness goodies

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

Your health insurance policy may soon help you follow a fitness regime by offering routine health and dental checkups, offer discounts on your protein supplements / health boosters, medicines and even connect you to a yoga centre or nearby gym. If you follow the wellness regime, you could get be rewarded with discounts on premium or an increase in the sum insured at the time of renewing your policy.

In order to enhance the scope of services offered under wellness and preventive features/benefits of health insurance products, the insurance regulator-The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Thursday released an 'exposure draft on guidelines on wellness and preventive features'.

According to the proposed norms, "Based on fitness and wellness criteria stipulated and disclosed, insurers may endeavour promoting wellness amongst health insurance policyholders by offering: health specific services provided by network providers or other empanelled hospitals / service providers for outpatient consultations or treatments, pharmaceuticals, health checkups/diagnostics including discounts on all the above



by redeemable vouchers."

"The redeemable vouchers to obtain protein supplements and other consumable health boosters / supplements, redeemable vouchers for membership in yoga centres or gymnasiums for participating in fitness activities. Discounts on premiums and/or increase in sum insured at the time of renewals based on wellness regime followed by policyholders in the preceding policy period," said the Irdai.

The increase in the sum insured should be independent and should not be linked to the cumulative bonus offered by insurers or to the coverage to non-payable/non-admissible items of cost of treatment said the regulator.

"The costs towards the wellness services shall be factored into the pricing of the underlying health insurance product and price factored shall be disclosed in all insurance advertisements wherever wellness features are disclosed and promoted," said the Irdai.

Sudden spurt in G&J exports from Kochi SEZ

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

Contrary to the trends in other Special Economic Zones, Kochi SEZ has recorded a phenomenal growth in the exports of gems and jewellery in the past two years. Gem and jewellery exports from Kochi Special Economic Zone shot up 529 per cent in the past two years, while the total exports from the country has been declining. Kochi SEZ has not added any major manufacturing unit in these years.

In FY19, Kochi SEZ exported Rs 40,888 crore worth gems and jewellery, which was 95 per cent of the total exports from the zone. In FY17, the gems and jewellery exports stood at Rs 6,501 crore and this went up to Rs 19,149 crore in FY18—a growth of 529 per cent in two years and 114 per cent in one year.

Gold sees worst week in 3 years

Nov. 8: Gold headed for the biggest weekly loss in three years as progress in US-China trade talks hammered demand for havens and sent miners' shares tumbling.

The metal dropped 3.7 per cent this week, the most since November 2016, as China and the US indicated they are heading toward an interim

deal to halt the trade war. Some signs of stabilisation in the global economy have also dented gold's allure, and JPMorgan Chase & Co and Citigroup Inc closed out their bets on the traditional haven. Other precious metals also plunged, with silver losing 7.6 per cent of its value this week.

—Bloomberg

According to SEZ officials, gold jewellery, medallions and coins are largely exported from the SEZ under the gems and jewellery category. Of the total gold jewellery, medallion and coin export from the country, Kochi SEZ alone has a share of 45 per cent. When we take gold jewellery exports from all the SEZs in the country as well as medallion and coin exports, Kochi SEZ's share is 61 per cent.

In FY19, gold jewellery aggregate exports from all other SEZs in the country has declined 6 per cent from Rs 21,146 crore in FY18 to Rs 19,860 crore in

No NEFT charges from January



FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

Your NEFT payments will not attract charges from next year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks not to charge savings account holders for NEFT with effect from January 2020.

The RBI this year had done away with charges on NEFT and RTGS transactions and asked banks to pass on the benefit to their customers.

Among other provisions, the apex bank has also proposed that FASTags would be enabled to pay for parking fee and even at fuel stations.

Digital payments constituted a high 96 per cent of the total non-cash retail payments during the period October 2018 to September 2019 said the RBI. The retail digital transactions volume has

increased by 60 per cent CAGR to about 2,846 crore during this period while in value terms the retail digital transactions reached Rs 302 lakh crore during the same period. During this period, the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) systems handled 252 crore and 874 crore transactions with year-on-year growth of 20 per cent and 263 per cent respectively. "This rapid growth in the payment systems, inter-alia, has been facilitated by a series of measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India," the RBI said.

The central bank will also be constituting a committee "to assess the need for plurality of QR codes and merits of their co-existence or convergence from both systemic and consumer viewpoints".

DeMo Day: Garg says ₹2K notes being hoarded

New Delhi, Nov. 8: On the third anniversary of demonetisation, former Economic Secretary S. C. Garg said the Rs 2,000 note, which the Modi government brought replacing older 500 and 1,000 notes, were being hoarded and should be demonetised.

Three years ago, on this day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the shock announcement of banning the use of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes with a view to curb black money, promote digital payments and make the country a less-cash economy.

"Cash is still quite high in the system. There is also stocking of Rs 2,000 notes in evidence," Garg, who took VRS from government service after he was abruptly shifted out of the Finance Ministry, said in a note.

Garg headed the department that overseas currency circulation, said the Rs 2,000-notes account for about one-third of currency notes in circulation in value terms.

"A good chunk of Rs 2,000 notes are actually not in circulation, having been hoarded. Rs 2,000 note, therefore, is not presently working as a currency of transaction," he said advocating that they may be demonetised or withdrawn from circulation.

—PTI

Cait ups ante, rejects govt proposal

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

Small traders' body has rejected government's proposal to bring about a truce between them and e-commerce companies.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had recently met the e-commerce companies and had asked them to engage with small traders and make them part of their growth story.

The Confederation of All India Traders (Cait) on Friday rejected this idea and said that there is no question of joining hands with any business entity who is not following the policy of the government

and law of the land.

"If the reports are correct, then it is most surprising that instead of directing such e-commerce companies to fall in line with the policy, the government is encouraging them to continue with their existing business model," Cait said in a release.

"So far we have not received any such communication nor have we held any talks with any e-commerce entity on joining hands. It is a complicated matter as the offline business has suffered business loss of about 50 per cent in recent Diwali festive sea-

son due to e-commerce players who are indulging in predatory pricing, deep discounting, loss funding, controlling inventory, preferential treatment, influencing of prices which are in violation of the FDI policy. As per an estimate, the Diwali festival sale of small traders every year is about Rs. 6 lakh crore and this year they could generate sales of about Rs.3 lakh crore only," Cait Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said.

Cait has planned a nation-wide movement against the e-commerce companies. It has also convened an emergency meet-

ing of its National Governing Council on November 10 at New Delhi to take stock of the situation and finalise the strategy of the movement scheduled to be launched from November 13.

Cait has also invited leaders of logistics bodies, small industries, hawkers, farmers, consumers, self-employed groups and women entrepreneurs for the agitation.

Meanwhile, commenting on the minister's suggestion to work with small traders, Amazon said it was already doing so. "Amazon works closely with over 5.5 lakh sellers," its spokesperson said.

Suzuki, others having rethink on India auto outlook

ADITI SHAH
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Suzuki Motor Corp said it was no longer gung-ho about India's auto market, the world's fourth-largest, where it has seen relentless growth in the past seven years. And the parent of the country's biggest car maker is not alone.

The Japanese automak-

er issued the warning after it reported a slump in quarterly profit this week on tumbling sales at its Indian unit, Maruti Suzuki.

"We no longer think that growth in India will be an uninterrupted move upwards," Suzuki President Toshihiro Suzuki cautioned.

India's auto sector has gone into a tailspin this

year as tight liquidity at shadow banks, high taxes and a weak rural economy have sapped consumers' buying power.

Global players like Ford, Volkswagen and Fiat are already re-evaluating their strategy as they struggle to make inroads in a market dominated by small cars.

"Car makers are getting very cautious regarding

their future investments in India. Most of them are either deferring or just scrapping their India new model plans," said Puneet Gupta, an autos sector expert at IHS Markit.

Auto executives and analysts point out that some car makers are focussing on their strengths in terms of products instead of chasing volumes with small cars. Some others

are taking drastic steps to reduce their exposure.

Ford has agreed to sell a majority stake in its India arm to Mahindra & Mahindra, ending its independent operations in the country after two decades and highlighting the challenges automakers face in growing profitably in Asia's third-largest economy.

A cocktail of higher

taxes under a new goods and services tax regime, flip-flop over electric-vehicle policy, and a boom of ride-sharing firms such as Uber and Ola have all plagued global automakers in India. Not having the right cars and smaller sales network have also hurt, some executives say.

"When you have policy instability it becomes very hard to convince

headquarters to invest more in the country," an executive at a western automaker said.

India is largely a small-car market and that is not a strength for most global automakers, who sell more SUVs and luxury cars elsewhere such as in China and the US—the world's top two car markets, the executive added.

—Reuters

Ask almighty or Nilekani about Infy: Sebi chief

Mumbai, Nov. 8: Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Friday said a probe is on into the Infosys matter and quipped one needs to ask either Nandan Nilekani or God on the IT major Chairman's assertion about even God can't change the company's numbers.

Under fire in the wake of whistleblower complaints about alleged accounting lapses at the country's second largest software exporter, Nilekani had said processes at the company are so strong that even God cannot change the numbers.

"You have to ask him or you can ask God," Tyagi told reporters when asked about his view on Nilekani's comments.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event organised by industry body CII here, Tyagi said Sebi is probing the matter and that he has nothing to say on the allegations at present.

"Investors should draw their own conclusions. Whatever we have to do, we are doing. Whatever is the outcome you would know," Tyagi noted.

— PTI

IGL, Info Edge added to MSCI India Index

New Delhi, Nov. 8: MSCI, the world's biggest index compiler, has added eight Indian stocks, including HDFC Asset Management, Info Edge (India) and Indraprastha Gas Ltd to its India Index, while removing Vodafone Idea, Yes Bank and four others that have seen significant market capitalisation erosion this year.

It has added eight companies and deleted six from the MSCI India Domestic Index. Those deleted include Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Indiabulls Housing Finance, L&T Finance Holdings, Vodafone-Idea and Yes Bank.

Those added to the MSCI India Index include Berger Paints, DLF, HDFC Asset Management, ICICI Prudential Life, Indraprastha Gas, Info Edge (India), SBI Life Insurance Co and Siemens India.

MSCI added seven stocks and deleted four from MSCI Global Standard Index. The additions included Berger Paints, Colgate, DLF, HDFC AMC, ICICI Prudential Life, SBI Life, and Siemens.

Mutual fund AUM rises to ₹27 L cr in Oct.

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Mutual funds' asset base increased to Rs 26.33 lakh crore in October-end, a rise of 7.4 per cent as compared with the preceding month, on the back of robust inflows in equity and liquid schemes.

The 44-player industry logged an assets under management (AUM) of Rs 24.5 lakh crore in September-end, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). Mutual fund houses witnessed an overall inflow of Rs 1.33 lakh crore last month after a redemption of Rs 1.52 lakh crore in Sept. Of these, liquid funds alone witnessed an impressive over Rs 93,200 crore last month.

Fund managers attributed growth in the asset base to higher retail participation and robust inflows in equity schemes and liquid funds.

The open-ended equity schemes witnessed an infusion of Rs 6,026 crore, while there was a small outflow of Rs 11 crore in close-ended equity plans, taking total equity inflows to Rs 6,015 crore last month.

— PTI

■ Quarterly profit beats analysts estimate by a wide margin

M&M Q2 net slips 27%, revenue down 14.5%

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 8

Mahindra and Mahindra, India's biggest utility vehicle maker, on Friday reported a 26.5 per cent drop in quarterly net profit as the company struggled to sell cars, trucks and tractors amid a slowdown in Asia's third-largest economy.

The Mumbai-headquartered company's September quarter net profit stood at Rs 1,355 crore against Rs 1,778.8 crore in a year-ago period.

However, the maker of popular model such as Bolero and Scorpio beat the beat analysts' average estimate for a profit of Rs 1,150 crore, according to Refinitiv data.

Ashok Leyland net dips 93%

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Ashok Leyland reported a 92.61 per cent decline in its net profit to Rs 39 crore for the second quarter ended September 30.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 528 crore in the July-September period of 2018-19.

Its revenue stood at Rs 3,929 crore, down 48 per cent as compared with Rs

7,621 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. "The industry has witnessed a 53 per cent decline in volumes. Volumes for Ashok Leyland also witnessed a significant drop in this quarter, despite this, we have been able to achieve an Ebitda of 5.8 per cent," Ashok Leyland Chairman Dheeraj G. Hinduja said. — PTI

Its revenue was down 14.5 per cent at Rs 10,935 crore compared to Rs 12,790 crore last year.

The tax expense for the

quarter stood at Rs 403.4 crore as against Rs 519.4 crore incurred in the previous year.

The earnings before inter-

est, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) was down 16.7 per cent at Rs 1,541 crore as against Rs 1,849.3 crore while the Ebitda margin was down marginally at 14.1 per cent.

Its automotive business revenue fell 18.4 per cent at Rs 6,892.8 crore while the EBIT margin was down at 5.8 per cent year-on-year.

Mahindra's farm equipment business also revenue declined 9.8 per cent at Rs 3,631.5 crore compared with Rs 4,028 crore last year; and the EBIT was down 13.7 per cent at Rs 702 crore as against Rs 803 crore year-on-year.

The company sold 1.10 lakh vehicles in Q2 FY20, lower by 21 per cent from 1.41 lakh units in Q2 FY19.

Bad debt lower, but problem intact

NUPUR ANAND
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

Indian banks wrote off more than \$30 billion worth of bad debt in the year to June 30, helping to lower stressed loans on their books by 8.5 per cent, according to central bank data reviewed by *Reuters*.

The write-offs illustrate the urgent problem of bad loans as borrowers struggle to service, let alone pay-off, their debt in a stuttering economy.

As of June 30, total stressed assets on the books of Indian banks were at Rs 9,768.47 billion (137.50 billion), down from Rs 10,672.29 billion (\$150.22 billion) a year ago, according to central bank data reviewed by *Reuters*.

A large part of this reduction reflected the write-off by banks of loans worth Rs 2,165.08 billion (\$30.64 billion) in the last financial year, the data obtained by *Reuters* via a right to information filing showed.

And in the period ending June 30 — the first quarter of the current financial year — write-offs amounted to Rs 445.77 billion (\$6.31 billion), the data showed.

Without the write-offs and with the incremental bad debt the pile may have ballooned to nearly \$175 billion by the end of June. Moreover, analysts warn the shaky shadow banking industry could worsen an already harsh climate for lenders.

Soaring bad debt levels, especially on the books of state-run lenders, have choked the Indian banking system and crippled its ability to generate fresh lending and revive economic growth that has slumped to a six-year low. The trail growth has put the brakes on sectors like autos and real estate, causing fresh heartburn for banks.

Although the Indian government and central bank has said the worst of India's bad loans crisis may be over,



many analysts and market insiders remain skeptical given fresh cracks in the large shadow banking industry following the collapse of infrastructure lending behemoth, IL&FS late last year.

"Because of the new stress that building up in real-estate, autos, non-banking financial companies, and other sectors we expect that the worst is not over and there may be an increase in the stressed assets pile," said Karthik Srinivasan, Head of financial sector ratings at rating agency Icria, the Indian unit of Moody's.

"The slower than expected resolution process also means that there is unlikely to be any reduction in the numbers," he said. A Credit Suisse report from earlier this year also warned that while banks NPAs had declined from 11.7 per cent in March 2018 to 9.6 per cent in the first quarter of this financial year, the stressed loans are expected to top 12 per cent in the coming quarters.

As of June 30, total outstanding dues on accounts where sums to banks have remained unpaid for between 60-90 days stood at Rs 732.2 billion (\$10.4 billion), while overdues ranging between 30-60 days were at Rs 618.79 billion (\$8.8 billion). These accounts will only be classified as non-performing assets after the 90-day period.

— Reuters

BoB net profit jumps 73% to ₹737 cr

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Bank of Baroda reported a jump of 73.2 per cent in its net profit to Rs 736.68 crore in the second quarter ended September 30.

The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 425.38 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Its total income rose to Rs 22,097.91 crore, compared with Rs 13,429.95 crore a year ago, the bank said.

The lender improved on its bad assets, with the gross non-perform-

ing assets (NPAs) coming down to 10.25 per cent (Rs 69,968.95 crore) of the gross advances, compared with 11.78 per cent (Rs 55,121.37 crore) in the year-ago period. Net NPAs fell to 3.91 per cent (Rs 24,894.38 crore) from 4.86 per cent (Rs 21,059.22 crore).

However, the bank raised the provisions for bad loans and contingencies to Rs 4,209.16 crore for the quarter, from Rs 2,429.54 crore a year ago.

— PTI

Allahabad Bank loss widens to ₹2,103 cr

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Allahabad Bank reported widening of net loss to Rs 2,103.19 crore for the September quarter 2019-20 due to higher provision for bad loans.

The bank posted a loss of Rs 1,816.19 crore during the year-ago period. It clocked a profit of Rs 128 crore. Total income rose to Rs 4,725.23 crore from Rs 4,492.23 crore in same period last fiscal, the company said.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans increased to 19.05 per cent (Rs 31,467.53 crore) of the gross advances from 17.53 per cent (Rs 27,236.19 crore) by the same period of 2018. Net NPAs came down to 5.98 per cent (Rs 8,502.09 crore) from 7.96 per cent (Rs 11,082.74 crore) in the year-ago period, it said.

The provisioning for bad loans spiked to Rs 2,721.97 crore in the second quarter, from Rs 1,991.88 crore in the year-ago period.

During the quarter, the bank made additional provision of Rs 1,982.41 crore over and above the provisions required to be made in terms of prudential norms issued by the RBI, to ensure compliance with the PCA norms of the net non-performing advances, it added.

— PTI

IDBI narrows Q2 losses to ₹3,459 cr

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Improving asset quality and better margins helped the crippled IDBI Bank to marginally narrow its net losses at Rs 3,459 crore in the September quarter, even though the lender chose to make accelerated provisions for stressed assets.

The LIC-controlled bank, which has been under the RBI's prompt corrective action for more than a year, had reported a net loss of Rs

3,602 crore in the year-ago period.

The management attributed the losses to "accelerated provisions to the tune of Rs 3,425 crore, helping it take the provision coverage ratio to 91.25 from 68.72 from a year ago."

Managing Director and Chief Executive Rakesh Sharma told reporters that total provisions during the quarter stood at Rs 4,453 crore.

— PTI

Optimism index down 19%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

The Dun & Bradstreet Composite Business Optimism Index in Q4 2019 fell by 19.5 per cent compared to Q3 2019 and 29.1 per cent against Q4 2018. All the six optimism indices registered a decrease compared to Q3 2019.

The index stood at 56.4, against 70 in Q3 2019 and 79.5 in Q4 2018.

Among the six key indices, optimism for new orders and selling price was the lowest in over 18 years. Optimism for net sales and net profits was the lowest in nearly three years and two years respectively.

Optimism for net profits stood at 59 per cent — a decrease of 7 percentage points against Q3 2019. Optimism for new orders decreased 22 per cent and optimism for volume of sales was down 4 per cent.

Ninety per cent of the respondents expect no change in the selling price for Q4 2019 and 61 per cent anticipate no change in inventory level. Optimism in terms of size of workforce decreased 6 percentage points.

"Multiple other demand

Among the 6 key indices, optimism for new orders and selling price was the lowest in over 18 years

indicators are also performing poorly: vehicle sales, domestic air passenger traffic, petroleum consumption and rural wages. Moreover, the floods in many states during the monsoon appear to have impacted rural demand and which had been already subdued. Internationally, concerns on the trade war and protectionist policies are reflected in the indices. The government has taken measures to counter these economic headwinds, but our respondents are not seeing signs of revival as yet. We expect further action in the coming months," said Manish Sinha, Managing Director, Dun and Bradstreet India.

Some of the other factors that seem to have led to decline in optimism are contraction of the Index of Industrial Production by 1.1 per cent in August 19, lowest since Decemssssssber 2012, decline in the capacity utilisation of manufacturing companies to 73.6 per cent in Q1 FY20, lowest in seven quarters, contraction of core Wholesale Price Index inflation and contraction of bank credit to micro and small companies.

New Delhi, Nov. 8: India, which is currently witnessing a spike in retail onion price up to Rs 100/kg on tight supply, should explore low-cost modern technology models from countries like Israel and Brazil for storing the commodity, industry body Ficci said on Friday.

The government's Tomato Onion Potato (TOP) scheme announced in the 2018-19 Budget was expected to address the problem of surplus in producing areas, but the scheme has not taken off, it said, adding that the government should provide railway rakes for reducing transportation cost.

Ficci stated that ad-hocism in export bans had serious repercussions and there was a need to remove onion from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act and undertake agriculture marketing reforms to facilitate direct purchase from the farmer in a transparent way.

Onion, being high in water content, is a delicate commodity to store. Up to 40 per cent of the total produced onions can be damaged in some areas in periods of high rainfall due to non-availability of appropriate post-harvest storage facilities, it added.



"Many factors have contributed to the run-up in onion prices this year ... However, the seasonal price and arrival pattern of onion, could give some directions to strategise a sustainable policy in future," the Ficci said in a report submitted to the government.

To address the current onion crisis, Ficci said the government should focus on a long-term solution including studying the Israel and Brazil models and making investment in low cost modern technology for storing onion.

"In Israel, onions are stored in open ventilated warehouses with continuous forced air-ventilation through a stack of sets in bulk or bulk bins. Adoption of such measures will help in storage of onions with

innovative methods during the bumper production seasons and reducing the fluctuations in the onion prices. Such methods should be studied and customised for Indian conditions," it said.

For ensuring cost-effective storage of onions, Ficci said the emphasis should be laid on building low-cost farm gate storage.

In Brazil, for the procurement and storage of onions, low-cost ventilated silos system is being used at farm level. They also use refrigerated storage rooms which is the most efficient system, it said.

In India, startups such as Infocold Inc are using multi-commodity efficient farm level cooling systems for perishables. Low-cost thatched bamboo storage have been promoted by the government under the

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture. "However, we need better technology to reduce losses during monsoon," it said.

Onion is cultivated in various parts of India almost throughout the year and can be made available in fresh form, except in the months of July, August and September.

To maintain regular supply in this lean period of about three months, onions are being traditionally stored in ventilated warehouses (in bulk) where the losses are very high (range between 20-40 per cent mainly because of poor pre-harvest and post-harvest practices).

"There is a need to invest in research to find optimum technological solution for storage of onion. The losses are likely to come down to about 5-10 per cent by following standard operating procedure of storage," the Ficci said.

Besides that, the method of storing onion crop should not be considered similar to normal agriculture produce such as grains and potatoes.

"Technological innovations for storing onions are required in long run," the Ficci said.

— PTI

OPENING BELL

Selling pressure seen near 12K levels

The Sensex dropped 330 points on Friday after Moody's Investors Service flagged domestic growth risks and cut its ratings outlook for the country to negative. The ratings agency also cut its ratings outlook for a clutch of companies to negative, including HDFC Bank, SBI, IOC and Infosys.

Profit-booking in the market following the recent record-setting run and unease over frothy valuations also took their toll, analysts said. Trading on a weak note, the Sensex ended 330.13 points, or 0.81 per cent, lower at 40,323.61. The Nifty-50 plunged 103.90 points, or 0.86 per cent, to end at 11,908.15.

For the week, the Nifty made a gain of 0.15 per cent, while the Sensex gained 0.39 per cent. The Sensex had closed at fresh lifetime highs in three of the five sessions this week, while the Nifty had reclaimed the key 12,000-mark after five months.

Technical View

Chandan Taparia, Analyst-Technical & Derivatives, MOFSL, said: "The Nifty failed to hold the gains above 12,000 level and drifted sharply towards the 11,888 level. It formed a bearish candle on the daily scale and a Doji on the weekly scale. Selling pressure is seen near 12,000 and 12,050 levels. The index has to continue to hold above 11,850 level to witness an up-move towards 12,035 and then 12,103 levels, while on the downside supports are seen in the 11,780-11,750 zone."

Market Outlook

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said: "Rating downgrade forced investors to book profit in a volatile market... Trend of the market will be dictated by macro releases. India's CPI inflation is expected to be on the higher side at 4.3 per cent due to rise in vegetable prices as per consensus estimates... However, global concerns related to trade war has eased and the same could provide comfort for investors."

Jitendra Panda, Chief Executive Officer at Peerless Securities Ltd, "The Sensex had climbed to a record high in the previous session and investors expected a small decline in stocks. It is more of profit-booking rather than jitters due to the Moody's."

—FC BUREAU

Private equity spies profit in India's distress

ANDY MUKHERJEE

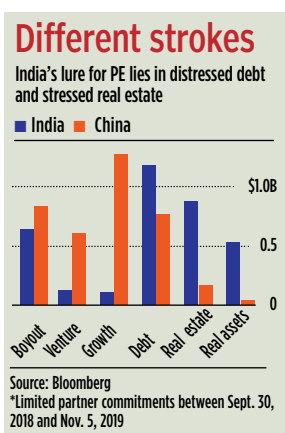
India's financial crisis has hit ordinary people hard. School teachers and electrical engineers have seen their pension savings get stuck in bonds of defaulted institutions. More than a million depositors of a cooperative bank can't access their cash. Homeowners have spent billions of dollars on apartments that will never be finished.

Yet for workers in rich nations, the blowup in India's shadow-banking and real-estate industries is an opportunity.

Ever since troubles first surfaced in September last year, AustralianSuper Pty, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, California State Teachers' Retirement System, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement

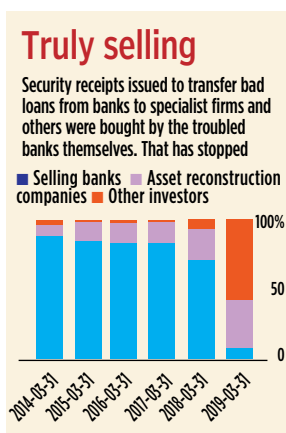
System have committed between \$100 million and \$400 million each to private-equity funds investing in India. Of the total PE funds raised from limited partners, the biggest chunk of \$1.2 billion is for finding opportunities in debt. Another \$900 million is for real estate. Infrastructure has received another \$500 million in commitments.

The \$2.6 billion set aside for Indian debt may appear insignificant when compared with, say, Masayoshi Son's \$100 billion Vision Fund. Nonetheless, it's almost triple what limited partners have earmarked for debt and hard assets in China. While larger sums are still getting allocated to China-oriented funds focused on buyouts, new ventures and growth opportunities, none of those strategies have seen much inter-



est when it comes to India. Distress is all that excites PE investors right now.

India's stressed corporate debt is a \$260 billion problem, according to Fitch Ratings' calculations. Skeptics would be right to wonder whether \$2.6 billion



of foreign money will make any dent. The important thing is that these commitments are pure equity, the one thing that's in woefully short supply in the domestic economy. The asset reconstruction

business in India has grown to \$15 billion from under \$2 billion six years ago. Of late, though, the pace at which specialist firms acquire troubled loans from banks has slowed to a crawl. That's because earlier it was common for a lender selling stressed assets to provide the financing for most of the purchase. However, the central bank has made it progressively difficult for lenders to engage in this sleight of hand. Now the deals are fewer, but more real.

Will India keep its end of the bargain? Foreign investors would be reassured if the thinking around distress resolution was less muddled. For instance, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced an enlarged \$3.5

billion fund, with money from the government as well as domestic institutions such as Life Insurance Corp. to give new loans to stalled realty projects. A half-built apartment complex that has run up

years of accrued interest on existing debt can't suddenly earn to pay new and old creditors. A much better use of domestic long-term money would be for it join private-equity investors in buying out all the debt from banks and mutual funds at say, 40 cents to the dollar, sell apartments by slashing prices and hope to recover 60 cents in two years for a decent 25 per cent annual return.

That isn't all. State workers' pension plans in Virginia, South Carolina and New York have invested in

funds started by the likes of Edelweiss Financial Services, Kotak Investment Advisors, Hong Kong-based SSG Capital Management, Canada's Brookfield Asset Management Inc. and several others. More would come if it weren't for the country's three-year-old insolvency law, which is fast becoming a burial ground for capital with four times as many firms getting liquidated as have been restructured.

Long-drawn legal battles, weird judicial orders and authorities swooping down to seize assets are all very real problems. For workers of the world to unite and get a decent recovery rate on savings that workers in India have lost, New Delhi has to offer a fair, time-bound, rules-based corporate insolvency process. That's the least it can do.

— Bloomberg



Injured

The NBA's Philadelphia 76ers will be without Ben Simmons for at least one game and maybe more after the Australian guard sprained his right shoulder in a loss to the Utah Jazz



As a player, I got the captain's attention. Three great minds to help me.

— Tiger Woods, after picking Team USA for President's Cup

SHORT TAKES

KV Bolarum are football champs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Karan and Sameer of Kendriya Vidyalaya (Bolarum) put up brilliant performances as they scored winning goals for their side to win the M. K. Rao Memorial Football Tournament conducted by Bhavan's School on Friday. K. V. Bolarum defeated K. V. Trimulgherry 2-0 in the final. Earlier in the semifinals, K. V. (Bolarum) defeated home team Bhavan's 4-1 after scoring via Yash, Sameer, Sahil and Saurav in the penalty shootout, in which goalkeeper Sonu Kumar performed brilliantly to stop three shots.

In the quarterfinals, Gaurav and Karan did well for K. V. Bolarum as they defeated APS Bolarum 2-0. **THE RESULTS** ■ **Final:** K. V. (Bolarum) (Karan 1, Sameer 1) bt K. V. Trimulgherry 2-0. ■ **Semifinal:** K. V. (Bolarum) bt Bhavan's 4-1 in penalty shootout (Yash, Sameer, Sahil, Saurav scorers). ■ **Quarterfinal:** K. V. Bolarum bt APS Bolarum 2-0 (Gaurav, Karan).

■ **First round:** K. V. (Bolarum) bt Pallavi Model High School I-0 (Sameer).

Djokovic, Nadal vie for supremacy

London: Novak Djokovic can end his season with a flourish by equalling Roger Federer's record haul of six titles at the ATP Finals and pipping Rafael Nadal to the year-end number one spot. Germany's Alexander Zverev shocked Djokovic in last year's final but the Serbian will start as the firm favourite after cantering to victory at last week's Paris Masters. Djokovic and Nadal have shared the spoils at this year's four Grand Slams, refusing to yield to the next generation. — AFP

Dortmund look to bash Bayern

Berlin, Nov. 8: Borussia Dortmund coach Lucien Favre says his side have "nothing to lose" as they look to inflict more woe on crisis-hit Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena on Saturday. Niko Kovac was sacked last Sunday as Bayern coach after a 5-1 drubbing at Eintracht Frankfurt, with Hansi Flick taking over as interim boss for two games.

The former Germany assistant coach oversaw a 2-0 midweek win over Olympiakos which sealed

a Champions League last-16 place with two matches to spare.

But Bayern sit fourth in the Bundesliga, one point behind second-placed Dortmund and four adrift of leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach. Dortmund beat Bayern 2-0 at Signal Iduna Park in the German Super Cup in August, but Dortmund have unfinished business in Munich after suffering a 5-0 thrashing in April before their rivals went on to pip them to the title by two points.

"In the last five years, it

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Bayern v Dortmund
from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2 & HD

has been hard to win there. But, we have nothing to lose. We respect Bayern — we don't fear them," said Favre. Bayern have lost two of their last four league

games and laboured against Olympiakos until Robert Lewandowski continued his incredible run of having scored in every Bundesliga and Champions League match this season, before Ivan Perisic netted late on. Their 18 points from the opening ten matches is Bayern's lowest tally since the 2010-2011 season — when Dortmund finished as champions.

Favre's men mounted a stunning fightback from two goals down to beat Inter Milan 3-2 on Tuesday in the Champions League

and claim a third straight win.

Bayern have won six and lost four of the last 10 meetings against Dortmund, whose sporting director Michael Zorc says he wants them to "play like blokes" after being repeatedly muscled off the ball in April.

Bayern have off-field distractions in their hunt for a new head coach, having turned down former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. But Zorc warned Dortmund against expecting the Bavarian giants to be off their game. — AFP

Gymnast Akshiti bags 5 medals at CBSE event

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Akshiti Mishra of Telangana bagged five medals — three golds and two silvers — at the CBSE Junior National Gymnastics competition organised by the CBSE Board at Khel Gaon Public School in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

Akshiti, a ninth class student of Oakridge International School, won a gold for her all-round performance with 36.95 points.

Students of CBSE from all over India are participating in this competition.

The medals were awarded for balancing beam, floor exercise, table vault and uneven bars. Akshiti won gold in



Akshiti Mishra poses with her medals.

the balancing beam followed by Meghanshi and Komal, who took silver and bronze respectively. In the floor exercises Akshiti clinched another gold as Komal and Snigdha had to be content with silver and

bronze respectively. In the table vault category, Akshiti finished second as Komal Rajat secured gold and Snigdha won bronze. Akshiti finished second in the uneven bars too. Komal clinched the top spot while Gauri settled for a bronze medal.

THE RESULTS (Junior Category)

■ **Balancing Beam:** 1. Akshiti Mishra, 2. Meghanshi, 3. Komal Rajat. ■ **Floor Exercise:** 1. Akshiti Mishra, 2. Komal Rajat, 3. Snigdha. ■ **Table Vault:** 1. Komal Rajat, 2. Akshiti Mishra, 3. Snigdha. ■ **Uneven Bars:** 1. Komal Rajat, 2. Akshiti Mishra, 3. Gauri. ■ **Allround performance:** Akshiti Mishra 36.95 points.

10K Run on November 24

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

The official race T-shirts, finishers medals and team trophies for the Hyderabad 10K Run to be held on November 24 were unveiled in the City on Friday.

The themes for this year — #MyCity My Run and #RunToBeFree — are drawn with a motive to promote health, fitness and sports and drive home the idea 'Every Step Counts' and encourage them to live a happy and healthy life.

The 17th edition of the

Run will have five primary categories — Elite 10K Run, Open 10K Run with Timing chip, Open 5K Run, SHE and the Family Run.

The Elite 10K will be open to professionals who have completed the 10K run in 35 minutes (men) and 40 minutes (women) in the last one year.

The Freedom Family Run encourages families to run together and adopt a healthy habit and SHE, a new category introduced this year, encourages women to participate in the 5km

Run in large numbers and support women's education, empowerment, safety, health and pride.

Speaking on the occasion Race Director Murali Nannapaneni said: "We are truly excited and greatly encouraged by the response from enthusiasts in the city. The route will enable runners to witness the beauty of Hyderabad. The race will start at People's Plaza, cover the distance all around Hussainsagar Lake and conclude at People's Plaza."

Vishal, Varun allround performers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Jahnvi Junior College triumphed over Gowtham Model School clinching the Hyderabad Cricket Association's U-16 one-day league title here on Friday. In the final, Nitin Sai Yadav performed well for Jahnvi as he hit 72 not out while his team posted 182 for 2 replying to Gowtham Model School's 178 in 50 overs.

Meanwhile, A. Dheeraj Vishal of Rakesh XI and Y. Sai Varun of Concorde CC were star performers as they turned in allround performances in the two-day league matches.

Gopi, Sai Charan, Abhinash Tiwari, Md

Minah Uddin, Raghavendra Satwik and Omer hit centuries while, S. V. Santosh, B. Suresh, M. Ritwik, Atul Vyas, N. Naresh, Neel C, Shaik Majid, Dhanush, J. Rohith Kumar, Trishank Gupta and P. Abhishek Reddy came up with performances with the ball.

Dheeraj hit an unbeaten 203 off 226 balls with 25 boundaries and six sixes to his credit to help Rakesh XI post 319 in 81.2 overs. Later, he also scalped seven wickets while conceding 84 runs to consign Elegant CC to defeat.

In another match, Varun hit 135 off 123 balls with 18 boundaries to help Concorde CC post 382 in 70.4 overs even as Naresh took five wickets. Later, Varun

also scalped eight wickets while conceding 44 runs to bowl Aggarwal Senior CC out for a paltry 90.

Gopi of Charminar CC hit 133 off 71 balls as teammate Trishank Gupta turned in an allround performance. He hit a decent 85 and later took five Mahmood CC wickets while his team posted 356 for 9.

Santosh of Mega City was another bowler who put up a splendid show as he snared six wickets although his wicket haul went in vain as Mega City lost to Galaxy.

Minah hit 113 while Rohit took five wickets to bowl Nizamabad District to victory over Venus Cybertech, for whom Ritwik also took a six-wicket haul. Venus Cybertech replied to

Nizamabad's 355 with 210 for 8.

Abinash and Neel performed well for Zinda Tilismath. The former hit 112 while the latter took five wickets for 38 runs against Deccan Wanderers for whom Shaik Majid took a five-for. Replying to Zinda Tilismath's 288/8, Deccan Wanderers were out for 69.

Sai Charan of Warangal District was the other centurion. He hit an unbeaten 140 as teammate Suresh scalped six HUCC wickets. Atul Vyas of HUCC also took five wickets in a losing cause.

Raghavendra (116) of Oxford Blues and Omer (100) of Crown CC were the other batsmen who hit centuries.

BRIEF SCORES

U-16 ONE-DAY LEAGUE-CUM-KNOCKOUT ■ **Final:** Gowtham Model School 178 in 50 overs (Saadwik Reddy 36, Ashish 54) lost to Jahnvi Junior College 182/6 in 49.2 overs (Rohit Reddy 38, Nitin Sai Yadav 72 n.o.).

TWO-DAY LEAGUE ■ Charninar CC 356/9 decl in overs (Trishank Gupta 85, Gopi 133 — 71b, 12x4, 9x6), Mudassir 4 6) bt Mahmood CC 165 in 35.1 overs (C Vinay Kumar 32, Ram Reddy 39, Kamal Sawariya 3/30, Trishank Gupta 5/42). **Points:** Charninar 4, Mahmood 0. ■ Sayi Sathya 128 in 45.4 overs (Patel Abhishek Reddy 34, N Vijay Akash 50, B Mannas 3/28, Farham Abuzar 4/13) lost to Budding Star 130/6 in 33.1 overs (Rishiket Sisodia 41, P. Abhishek Reddy 5/56 — 14-1-56-5). **Points:** Budding Star 4, Sayi Sathya 0. ■ Nizamabad District 355 in 68.5 overs (Md. Minha Uddin 113 — 142b, 11x4, 6x6), S Vamsi Krishna 94, B Aravind Reddy 50, M. Ritwik 6/84 — 21.5-3-84-6, Anirudh Raj 3/92) bt Venus Cybertech 210-8 in 80 overs (Ruchit Kapoor 33, P Nirbhal Sai Reddy 37, T Prem Reddy 30, V



Santosh S. V.



N. Naresh

Nitin 3/56, J. Rohith Kumar 5/21 — 23-13-21-5). **Points:** Nizamabad District 4, Venus Cybertech 0. ■ Zinda Tilismath CC 288/8 in 60.2 overs (Abhinash Tiwari 112 — 157b, 9x4, 1x6), Sai Suprith 40, Shaik Majid 5/56 — 20-2-2-66-5) bt Deccan Wanderers 69 in 26.2 overs (Neel C. 5/38, Ahmed 3/13). **Points:** Zinda Tilismath 4, Deccan Wanderers 0. ■ Warangal District 355 in 79.3 overs (Sai Charan 140 n.o.), Pavan 71, Sushmith 3/51) bt HUCC 75 in 33 overs (P Vishnu 38, B. Suresh 6/21 — 14-6-21-5). **Points:** Warangal District 4, HUCC 0. ■ Galaxy 215 in 42 overs (Koushik Reddy 42, Pruthvi Raj 89, Santosh S. V. 6/31 — 11-2-31-6, T. Gourav 3/65) bt Mega City 175 in 51 overs (Aryan Cariappa 35, Darsh Mohan Lal 4/16). **Points:** Galaxy 4, Mega City 0. ■ Oxford Blues CC 259 in 74.5 overs (Raghavendra Satwik 116 — 190b, 16x4, 3x6), T. Bharadwaj 44, Kishore 4/67) lost to Karimnagar District 263/7 in 55 overs (M. Ajay 89, T. Raju 53,

G. Sai Vinay 34, T. Bharadwaj 3/67, Yeshwanth Chowdhary 40). **Points:** Karimnagar District 4, Oxford Blues 0. ■ Crown CC 439 in 77 overs (Omer 100 — 88b), Sameer 80, Rajashekhar Reddy 60, Manav Aggarwal 50, Zaheer 44, Ravi Shankar 3/112) bt Hyderabad Blues CC 40 in 17.2 overs. **Points:** Crown 4, Hyderabad Blues 0. ■ Sri Shyam CC 188 in 52.3 overs (Md Ibrahim Ali Siddiqui 38, S. Sai Revanthi Rahul 41, Ghouse 37, Rahul Reddy 3/16, Dhanush 5/54 — 15-0-54-5) lost to Ours CC 189/6 in 51.3 overs (Ameer 33, Ravikumar Vignesh 58, D. Sai Siddhartha 40, Md Ibrahim Ali Siddiqui 3/44). **Points:** Ours 4, Sri Shyam 0. ■ Secunderabad Nawabs 180 in 50.4 overs (Dinesh Mohan 99, G. Arjun 3/52, V. L. Sashank 4/27) lost to Baalaj CC 183/0 in 30.4 overs (Paras Raj 99 n.o., Siddharth Naidu 76 n.o.). **Points:** Baalaj CC 4, Secunderabad Nawabs 0. ■ Team Speed 142 in 51.2 overs (B. Rishikesh Reddy 34, K. Himateja 50, Ranjith Kumar 3/30, KVS Nikhil 3/42) bt Kosaraju CC 120 in 37.2 overs (Sahil K 4/38, D. Manish 3/31). **Points:** Team Speed 4, Kosaraju 0. ■ Saleemnagar CC 217 in 65.3 overs (Mahesh 77, Bharath 53 n.o., Abhilash 3/78, Sai Pratheek 3/42) bt Manchester CC 210 in 45.3 overs (M. Tharun Reddy 30, Srikanth Sharma 36, Saif Ali 3/67, Bharath 3/22). **Points:** Saleemnagar 4, Manchester 0. ■ Cheerful Chums 179 in 59.1 overs (Sree Madhav 46, Koushik 31, Hari Krishna 31, Chiranjeevi 3/33) lost to Nizam College 182/3 in 28.5 overs (Yashwanth 66, Abhinav Kumar 57, Chiranjeevi 34 n.o.). **Points:** Nizam College 4, Cheerful Chums 0.



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

कार्यालय संयुक्त निदेशक, प्रेवेंशन निदेशालय, चेन्नई जोनल कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, CHENNAI ZONAL OFFICE

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F. No. ECIR/CEZO/05/PMLA/2016

Date: 09.11.2019

FORM II

(See Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 6)

NOTICE FOR TAKING POSSESSION

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION (8) OF THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, 2002)

Whereas the immovable properties mentioned below which are of the nature of productive asset or running factory, etc., have been provisionally attached under Sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (15 of 2003) vide Provisional Attachment Order No. 04/2019 dated 26.03.2019 issued by the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Enforcement, Chennai Zonal Office, Chennai:

S.No.	Doc No./Year Registered in the Name of S/Shri/Smt.	Details of the Property / Value
1.	2531/2005 dated 10.08.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1016 1-3-1017 1-3-1018 1-3-1019 1-3-1020 1-3-1021 EXTENT: 1070SQ.Yds BUILT: 1050SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: NEIGHBOURS HOUSE NO 1-3-1013 TO [1-3-1015] OF NARSUBAI [S] PREMISES NO [1-3-1022] OF V LINGIAH & SONS [E]: RAMGOL MATH (OPEN LAND) [W]: MAIN ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
2.	1203/2005 dated 13.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1022 EXTENT: 193SQ.Yds BUILT: 173SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: PASSAGE TO DOOR NO 1-3-1016 TO 1-3-1021 [S] DOOR NO 1-3-1023 TO [1021] [E]: HOUSE OF VENDOR [W]: 40' ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.
3.	1201/2005 dated 13.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1023 EXTENT: 200SQ.Yds BUILT: 1600SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: SHARE OF V MANOJ [S] H NO 1-3-1024 [E]: OPEN YARD [W]: 40' WIDE ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
4.	1202/2005 dated 13.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1023 EXTENT: 200SQ.Yds BUILT: 850SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: SHARE OF AMARLINGESHWARA RAO [S] SHARE OF V MANOJ [E]: OPEN YARD [W]: 40' WIDE ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
5.	1204/2005 dated 13.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1023 EXTENT: 200SQ.Yds BUILT: 850SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: SHARE OF V VINOD [S] SHARE OF V VENKATESHWARA RAO [E]: OPEN YARD [W]: 40' WIDE ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
6.	1205/2005 dated 13.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1023 EXTENT: 200SQ.Yds BUILT: 1700SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: HOUSE NO [1-3-1022] [S] SHARE OF V VINOD [E]: OPEN YARD [W]: 40' WIDE ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
7.	2320/2005 dated 18.07.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 14.51SQ.Yds BUILT: 671SQ. FT SHOP NO 9 & 10 Boundaries: [N]: PASSAGE [S] PROPOSED SHOPS [E]: SHOP NO 11 [W]: SHOP NO 8 ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
8.	2319/2005 dated 18.07.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 7.47SQ.Yds BUILT: 336SQ. FT SHOP NO 8 Boundaries: [N]: PASSAGE [S] LIFT [E]: SHOP NO 9 [W]: INTERNAL PASSAGE ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
9.	2175/2005 dated 04.07.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 5.22SQ.Yds BUILT: 235SQ. FT SHOP NO 15 Boundaries: [N]: CORRIDOR [S] PASSAGE [E]: SHOP NO 16 [W]: SHOP NO 14 ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
10.	2174/2005 dated 04.07.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 5.69SQ.Yds BUILT: 256SQ. FT SHOP NO 17 Boundaries: [N]: CORRIDOR [S] PASSAGE [E]: CORRIDOR [W]: SHOP NO 16 ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
11.	2173/2005 dated 04.07.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 5.69SQ.Yds BUILT: 256SQ. FT SHOP NO 16 Boundaries: [N]: CORRIDOR [S] PASSAGE [E]: SHOP NO 17 [W]: SHOP NO 15 ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
12.	1802/2005 dated 07.06.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/L.TBUNDRD ST.FR.GOV.TARRACKSHO W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 APARTMENT: GANESH TOWERS EXTENT: 16.06SQ.Yds BUILT: 723SQ. FT SHOP NO 1 AT KAVADIGUDA Boundaries: [N]: PASSAGE [S] COMPOUND WALL [E]: RAMP [W]: ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
13.	1450/2005 dated 03.05.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 EXTENT: 440.26SQ.Yds BUILT: 2106SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: PREMISES BEARINGNO 1-3-1023 BELONGING TO V VENKATESHWARA RAO&NO [1-3-1022] [S] LAND BELONGING TO SRI K CHANDRASEKHAR [E]: GRAVE YARD AND HUTS [W]: ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
14.	1426/2005 dated 30.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 EXTENT: 12.68SQ.Yds BUILT: 571SQ. FT SHOP NO 14 Boundaries: [N]: CORRIDOR [S] PASSAGE [E]: SHOP NO 15 [W]: SHOP NO 13 ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
15.	1295/2005 dated 21.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 EXTENT: 1190.66SQ.Yds BUILT: 2388SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: PREMISES NO 1-3-1023 (BELONGING TO V VENKATESHWARA RAO) & H NO [1-3-1022] [S] BY LAND BELONGING TO SRI K CHANDRASEKHAR [E]: BY GRAVE YARD AND HUTS [W]: BY ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
16.	1294/2005 dated 21.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 EXTENT: 1190.66SQ.Yds BUILT: 2388SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: PREMISES NO 1-3-1023 (BELONGING TO V VENKATESHWARA RAO) & H NO [1-3-1022] [S] BY LAND BELONGING TO SRI K CHANDRASEKHAR [E]: BY GRAVE YARD AND HUTS [W]: BY ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
17.	1291/2005 dated 21.04.2005 registered in the name of M/S MINERVA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED	VILL/COL: Hyderabad/KAVADIGUDA W-B: 1-3 HOUSE: 1-3-1024 EXTENT: 1190.66SQ.Yds BUILT: 2388SQ. FT Boundaries: [N]: PREMISES NO 1-3-1023 (BELONGING TO V VENKATESHWARA RAO) & H NO [1-3-1022] [S] BY LAND BELONGING TO SRI K CHANDRASEKHAR [E]: BY GRAVE YARD AND HUTS [W]: BY ROAD ALONG WITH SUPER STRUCTURE.**
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** The 53rd Annual Report 2017-18 of M/s Viceroy Hotels Ltd., vide Page 81, states that this Property is originally in the name of Minerva Enterprises Pvt Ltd and these were transferred to M/s Viceroy Hotels Ltd., through a scheme of arrangement approved by Hon'ble High of Court of Andhra Pradesh vide its order dated 1st May 2007. However, the revenue records are required to be updated to reflect the above title change.

Whereas the said Order was subsequently confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority constituted under Section 6 of the Act, Provisional Attachment vide Order dated 11.09.2019 in OC. No. 1118/2019.

Whereas, in compliance of the provisions contained under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 8 of the Act (15 of 2003), the undersigned has taken constructive possession of the aforesaid properties, which shall be at the disposal of the Directorate of Enforcement until further order and that such properties shall be kept intact by all concerned for further proceedings under the Act, and officer in-charge of the aforesaid properties or concerned with the properties shall deposit the gross income and all other monetary benefits accrued there from in the Account of the Directorate of Enforcement.

I, Dr. Rama Gopala Reddy, K. IRS Deputy Director, Directorate of Enforcement, Chennai Zonal Office - I, Chennai, therefore, order that all concerned are hereby prohibited and restrained until further order of the undersigned from transferring or charging the aforesaid properties by sale, gift, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise in any manner whatsoever and that all concerned are hereby prohibited and restrained from receiving the same by purchase, gift, mortgage, pledge or otherwise in any manner whatsoever.

Issued on this day 09th of November, 2019

BY ORDER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR/AUTHORIZED OFFICER,
CHENNAI ZONAL OFFICE- I, CHENNAI



England call-up

England recall Jonny Bairstow (in pic) for their two Tests against New Zealand as cover for the injured Joe Denly

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Cricket

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MATCH | FIXING



C.M. Gautam (left) and Abrar Kazi in this photo.

7-day custody for Gautam, Abrar

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, NOV. 8

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) is expected to question more players from Bellary Tuskers, Bengaluru Blasters and Hubli Tigers in connection with the ongoing investigation into the Karnataka Premier League (KPL) match-fixing scandal. The CCB is interrogating cricketers C.M. Gautam and Abrar Kazi, who were arrested on Thursday for their alleged role in spot-fixing in the recently concluded Karnataka Premier League (KPL).

The duo were produced before a local court on Friday which granted their seven-day CCB custody till November 13.

DCP (CCB) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain told this newspaper that they suspect the involvement of more players as they believe that one of the cricketers influenced others to accept money from bookies for spot-fixing the matches. Gautam and Kazi were reportedly involved in spot-fixing during the KPL final this year between Hubli Tigers and Bellary Tuskers, which Hubli Tigers won by eight runs. While Gautam was allegedly paid ₹20 lakh for batting slow, Kazi was given ₹5 lakh for ceding more runs. The two were also reportedly involved in fixing another match against Bengaluru Blasters, Joint Commissioner (Crime) Sandeep Patil had said after their arrest. It was the arrest of Bengaluru Blasters player Nishant Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday that led the police to Gautam and Kazi. Shekhawat's name cropped up while the police interrogated Bengaluru Blasters bowling coach Vinu Prasad and opening batsman M. Vishwanathan, who were arrested on October 25.

Former Karnataka Ranji

● **C.M. Gautam and Abrar Kazi were reportedly involved in spot-fixing during the Karnataka Premier League final this year between Hubli Tigers and Bellary Tuskers.**

● **Gautam was allegedly paid ₹20 lakh for batting slow, Kazi was given ₹5 lakh for ceding more runs. The duo have been remanded to a seven-day custody with the Central Crime Branch.**

wicketkeeper-batsman Gautam who captained Bellary Tuskers also represented Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Daredevils in the IPL. Kazi has represented Karnataka in Ranji.

Meanwhile, KSCA suspended Gautam and Kazi from all activities in the state and barred them from using its facilities at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. It also suspended Prasad, Vishwanathan and Shekhawat. On October 2, CCB sleuths arrested Bhavesh Bafna, one of the two bookies against whom an FIR was registered, for his role in match-fixing, while another bookie, Sanam, is absconding. The two bookies allegedly also approached Ballari Tuskers team to give "more than ten runs per over, but the bowlers refused".

The first arrest in the case was that of Belagavi Panthers franchise owner Ashfaq Ali Thar after his role in betting was established. He had allegedly placed bets with a bookie based in Dubai and was in touch with players of other teams during the league.

Sanctions follow for alleged fixers

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, NOV. 8

The arrests of former Karnataka players C.M. Gautam and Abrar Kazi for alleged spot-fixing serve a timely reminder that corruption is still rampant in the game and much more effort is still required to weed out the ill practices of spot-fixing.

As news trickled in on Thursday that the Bengaluru police arrested C.M. Gautam and his teammate Abrar Kazi on allegations of spot-fixing in the final of the Karnataka Premier League (KPL), the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) released a statement later in the day. "The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) is committed to organising cricket tournaments which are fair and transparent that would enhance the credibility of the game, the brand, and the organisation," the statement read.

IMMEDIATE FALLOUT

Gautam who shifted to Goa Cricket for this season and was supposed to captain the side to take part in the

● **C.M. Gautam, who moved to Goa, saw his contract getting terminated by the Goa Cricket Association.**

● **Gautam and Abrar Kazi cannot take part in any cricketing activities organised by the KSCA till the suspension ends.**

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament saw his contract terminated by the Goa Cricket Association (GCA).

He was an integral part of the Karnataka Ranji sides that dominated the domestic landscape during the 2013/14-14/15 seasons. Kazi had shifted to Mizoram this season and featured in a single game in the IPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The duo of Gautam and Kazi are also suspended by the KSCA and cannot take part in any cricketing activities organised by the KSCA till the suspension ends and stand to face 'stringent action' if found guilty.

All about timing

Rohit reveals simple secret behind his power-hitting

Spinners need to be calm: Washington

Rajkot, Nov. 8: Swash buckling Indian batsman Rohit Sharma says good timing, and not big muscles, is what is essential to hitting the kind of massive sixes that he strikes.

Hero of India's eight-wicket win over Bangladesh here on Thursday with a 43-ball 85, the stand-in skipper was on 'Chahal TV', an interview-based show conducted by Yuzvendra Chahal for the BCCI's official website.

"You don't need muscles to hit sixes, even you (Chahal) can hit them," the stand-in skipper told Chahal, who broke into a chuckle at the suggestion.

"In any case, sixes are not just about power but also timing, head should be still, position should be good. All this will ensure that you hit sixes," he explained.

Sharma's knock on Thursday night was studied with half a dozen maximums, including three consecutive in the 10th over.

Asked whether he was targeting six consecutive sixes, Sharma said, "I was keen but once I missed the fourth I thought I will take singles. I was trying to hit without moving."

Sharma also stressed on the need for one batsman to hold the innings like he did here.

"It was important for someone to play long because when one batsman plays for long, then he can take the team home. I am happy with myself and more importantly with the team," he said.

"We were under a bit of pressure because we had lost the first match but we did everything that was required. Obviously we can always do better," he added.

The series-deciding third and final match will be played on Sunday in Nagpur, followed by a two-Test assignment, the last of which will be the two teams' first ever Day/Night clash.

— PTI



Rohit Sharma hits a shot in this file photo.

— BCCI

Rajkot, Nov. 8: Indian off-spinner Washington Sundar feels tweakers have a huge role to play in T20 cricket even though they are most susceptible to being hit all over the park in the shortest format.

Sundar's assertion came after the second T20 International against Bangladesh, which India won by eight wickets here on Thursday night.

The spin duo of Chahal's double

breakthrough in the 13th over that helped India restrict Bangladesh to a sub-par 153 for 6., which the hosts chased easily.

"It's all about knowing what to do, knowing where the batsmen is going to hit you and other small things. Obviously it is important to keep things simple and be calm and composed. You can get hit badly in a few games but that happens in this format of the game," he added.

— PTI

Give Rishabh some time, says Ganguly

Kolkata, Nov. 8: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday firmly backed the struggling Rishabh Pant, calling the wicketkeeper-batsman a "superb player" who will mature slowly and do just fine.

The 21-year-old is enduring a woeful run of form in the ongoing T20 International series against Bangladesh and has struggled to make an impact both with the bat and behind the stumps. But Ganguly supported him.

"He's a superb player. Give Rishabh Pant time, he will be fine," the former India captain said

when asked if India is missing Mahendra Singh Dhoni's safe hands behind the wickets.

"He will mature slowly, you have to give him time. India played really well last night," he added.

The swashbuckling Delhi-player had a forgettable night at his home ground in Delhi as India suffered their first-ever loss against Bangladesh in a T20I.

Rohit Sharma led by example as India levelled 1-1 in an emphatic fashion in the second T20I in Rajkot.

— PTI



Rishabh Pant in this file photo.

— PTI

Sangakkara wants Pant to keep things simple

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara has advised under-fire Rishabh Pant to keep things simple while batting as well as keeping if he wants to regain his lost confidence after a string of failures.

"It's important for him (Pant) to keep things simple and understand his weakness. Once he is able to work on these

areas, he needs to strategise and plan, because for him right now he needs to keep things simple and not be under pressure," Sangakkara said.

"It's also important for someone to talk to him on his batting and keep him off the pressure and let him be free with his game," he added.

Sangakkara felt Pant needs to be "neat and

tidy behind the stumps" as the youngster has been struggling in the ongoing T20I series.

In the first T20I match against Bangladesh, Pant coped criticism for bad DRS calls. In the second game at Rajkot on Thursday, the 22-year-old stumper once again found himself in a spot when he missed out on an easy stumping chance.

— PTI

AUSTRALIA HUMBLE PAK

Perth, Nov. 8: Ruthless opening pair Aaron Finch and David Warner ran riot as Australia routed Pakistan by 10 wickets in Perth to wrap up their Twenty20 series 2-0 Friday in emphatic fashion.

After restricting the visitors to 106 for eight, Finch (52) and Warner (48) whacked five sixes and eight fours between them as they raced to the finish line without loss.

The home team won in Canberra by seven wickets, thanks to a brilliant 80 not out by Steve Smith, and were on track to also triumph in Sydney only for rain to save the visitors.

Their victory in Perth has them on an impressive eight-game winning streak in the shortest format as they build towards the T20 World Cup on home soil next year.

"Really proud of the boys with the way we applied ourselves in the last couple of weeks. Each time we turn up at training, we are improving ourselves and that's the most important thing," said captain Finch.

— AFP

In contrast, Pakistan are struggling and have now lost five of their last six matches.

Despite the poor run, which included an embarrassing 3-0 home series defeat to an under-strength Sri Lanka that cost Sarfaraz Ahmed the captaincy, they remain number one in the rankings.

But their cricket chiefs will be worried about the two Tests against Australia to come, starting this month in Brisbane.

"Very disappointed, but we lost to a good team. We have learnt a lot from this series and we'll take the positives and come back hard in the next series. As captain, I learnt a lot personally too, but there's a long way to go," said skipper Babar Azam.

After being sent in to bat at the Perth Arena, Iftikhar Ahmed's 45 was the only resistance by Pakistan in a repeat performance of poor batting against quality bowling, led by Kane Richardson.

Hyderabad beat Punjab in T20

Chandigarh: Shubman Gill's 48 off 42 balls was not enough as Punjab suffered a narrow two-run defeat against Hyderabad under VJD method in a rain-truncated T20 match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Friday.

Opting to bowl in the Group 'C' match, Punjab restricted Hyderabad to 149 for 7 from 20 overs with Akshath Reddy top-scoring with 47 off just 27 balls.

For Punjab, Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul grabbed three wickets each for 11 and 44 runs respectively.

Punjab's target was reworked to 100 from 14 overs due to rains under VJD method but in the end they could only score 97 for 4 to lose the match by two runs.

In other Group 'C' matches, Chhattisgarh beat Arunachal Pradesh by 9 wickets after the match was reduced to six-over-a-side affair due to rains, while Maharashtra recorded an eight-run victory over Railways.

— PTI

TILAK, ANIKET RAKSHAN, IN CHALLENGER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Three Hyderabad players — Thakur Tilak Varma, Aniket Reddy and Rakshan Reddi — found places on the sides that will play the U-19 Challenger Trophy in Hyderabad from Monday.

Tilak Varma is in the India 'B' team while Aniket Reddy and Rakshan Reddi are part of the India 'A' and 'C' sides respectively in the four-team tournament that also features Nepal 'A'.

THE SQUADS

■ **India A:** Dhruv Chand Jurel (captain & wicket-keeper, UPCA), Yashasvi Jaiswal (MCA), Sai Sudarshan (TNCA), Jay Gohil (Saurashtra CA), Sameer Rizvi (UPCA), Arjun Murthy (TNCA), Nitish Kumar Reddy (Andhra CA), Kritagya Kumar Singh (UPCA), Aman Bhadoriya (MPCA), Rishabh Bansal (UPCA), Purnank Tyagi (UPCA), Prince Yadav (DDCA), Dashrath Kumar (Assam CA), Aniket Reddy (Hyderabad CA), Debopratim Halder (CAB), Coach: Paras Mhambrey.

■ **India B:** Priyam Garg (captain, UPCA), Thakur Tilak Varma (Hyderabad CA), Sagar Dahiya (Haryana CA), Yash Dhill (DDCA), Siddhesh Veer (Maharashtra CA), Krutik Krishna wicket-keeper (KSCA), Divyansh Joshi (CA Mizoram), Athava Anikolekar (MCA), Ravi Bishnoi (RCA), Nirmal Kumar (TNCA), Akash Singh (RCA), Aqib Khan (UPCA), Vivek Kumar (Haryana CA), Nehal Pajni (Haryana CA), Harish Jamwal (HPCA), Coach: Abhay Sharma.

■ **India C:** Shubhang Hegde (captain, KSCA), Divyaansh Saxena (MCA), Arjun Azad (UTCA Chandigarh), Pradost Rajan Paul (TNCA), Shashwat Rawat (Baroda CA), Varun Lavande (MCA), Kumar Kushagra wicket-keeper (KSCA), Sourav Dagar (DDCA), Ravi Roshan (DDCA), Vikrant Bhadoriya (MPCA), CTL Rakshan Reddy (Hyderabad CA), Dhanit Raut (MCA), Vidyadhar Patil (KSCA), Arya Sethi (CA Uttarakhand), Yousuf Mujtaba (JKCA), Coach: Hrishikesh Kantikar.





Morata returns

Alvaro Morata returns to Spain squad for Euro qualifiers after scoring six goals in six games for Atletico Madrid

Games

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Benzema is the best and I think he should definitely have a place in the national team.

— Zinedine Zidane, Real Madrid coach, on Karim Benzema

SHORT TAKES

3 HOOPSTERS INVOLVED IN DRUNK ROW

Bengaluru : The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) has constituted a committee to investigate into the alleged drunken brawl involving three top hoopsters, who are attending a training camp here. "I have constituted a three-member committee which will find out the fact and take all the statements. We are waiting for the medical test report. Whoever is found guilty strict action will be taken against them," BFI secretary general Chander Mukhi Sharma said. The three players are Amjot Singh, Arshpreet Bhullar and Amritpal Singh, who are attending the BFI training camp at Vidyanagar in Bengaluru. On Wednesday night, which was their off day, the trio went out of the campus on two motorcycles without informing anyone, said Sharma adding they later allegedly had liquor. While returning, Amjot who was riding pillion with Bhullar, sustained injuries after their bike skidded off. A police constable patrolling the area was witness to the incident, Sharma added. Amjot accused Bhullar and Amritpal Singh of insisting on going out and said "they will now have to answer for the injuries" and the damage to the bike belonging to one of the staffers, Sharma said. When they reached the campus, they informed their coach about it. — PTI

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Electrician's daughter sparks Oly joy

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 8

Chinki Yadav, daughter of an electrician working in the state sports department of Madhya Pradesh government, earned a berth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics when she qualified for the finals of the women's 25 metre pistol event at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Doha, Qatar, on Friday.

Twenty one-year-old Chinki, a product of MP Shooting Academy, secured India's 11th Tokyo Olympic quota in shooting with a career best qualification score of 588, bolstered by an exceptional 296, shot on Friday at the Lusail Shooting Range.

However, the national championship silver and junior world championship bronze-medallist, could not replicate her qualification form in the final, only managing a sixth-place finish with a score of 116.

"I feel like I am floating on cloud nine. It is my best ever performance," Chinki, who has so



Chinki Yadav

far bagged eight junior national and world championship medals in her career spanning over eight years, told this correspondent from Doha.

"The qualification score of 588 is considered extremely good at the international level. She has a bright chance to clinch a medal at Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the

event (Olympic World Record score in the event is 596)", her coach Jaivardhan Singh who accompanied the India shooters' team, told this newspaper.

Chinki, first year student of a local college in Bhopal, developed interest in shooting during her school days.

"My daughter has nurtured a dream to be an ace shooter since her childhood. She wants to win gold at the Olympics. I allowed her to join the summer camp organised in MP Shooting Academy in 2011, when she was in ninth standard. She won a medal (bronze) on her debut at the National championship in 2013 in the 25m pistol event and since then has never looked back," her father Mehatab Singh Yadav recounted.

Mehatab works as chief electrician in TT Nagar Stadium here, a sports facility of the Madhya Pradesh government.

Chinki had hogged limelight when she won team bronze at the Junior World Championships in 2017.

India has faced drought in shooting events at the Olympics since 2012 when Gagan Narang and Vijay Kumar won bronze and silver respectively in London in different categories.

SATWIK, CHIRAG IN CHINA OPEN SEMIFINALS

Fuzhou (China), Nov. 8: The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty kept alive India's challenge at the China Open by progressing to the semifinals of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event here on Friday.

The unseeded Indian duo stunned local favourites Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen 21-19, 21-15 in a 43-minute quarterfinal clash.

Satwik and Chirag will take on top seeds and World No.1 Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia in the semifinal on Saturday. The World No. 9 Indians had lost to the same pair in the final of the French Open last month.

Satwik and Chirag are the lone Indians left in the tournament.

— PTI

United trump Partizans 3-0

Paris, Nov. 8: Teenager Mason Greenwood scored as Manchester United cruised into the Europa League last 32 with a 3-0 win over Partizan Belgrade at Old Trafford on Thursday, while Celtic stunned Lazio with a last-gasp goal in Rome to progress.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United knew that a third victory in four Group L games would be enough to send them through.

The 18-year-old Greenwood broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute with a cool finish to score his third goal of the season and second in this competition.

Anthony Martial doubled the advantage after the half-hour mark with a brilliant individual goal, before Marcus Rashford lashed home the third four minutes after the interval.

The comfortable victory saw United bounce back after a 1-0

loss at Bournemouth last weekend had ended a three-game winning run.

"I think it was a good performance but there are things we can improve on," Rashford told BT Sport.

"We managed to score three goals but it could have been a lot more."

AZ Alkmaar thrashed Astana 5-0 in Kazakhstan to keep control of the race for second place in Group L behind United, eliminating their hosts and moving four points clear of Partizan.

Olivier Ntcham scored a dramatic injury-time winner to grab Celtic a 2-1 victory at Lazio.

Neil Lennon's outfit remain top of Group E with two games remaining, seven points clear of third-placed Lazio after their second straight win over the Romans.

"It's great to have qualified with two games to spare," Celtic manager Lennon said.

— AFP

INDIA TO HOST 2023 HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Lausanne, Nov. 8: India will host the Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time after the country was picked to host the game's showpiece event in 2023 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) here on Friday.

According to the FIH, the Men's Hockey World Cup will be held in India from January 13 to 29.

In another decision made by the Executive Board during the FIH's last meeting of the year, Spain and the Netherlands were named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women's World Cup scheduled to be held from July 1 to 22.

The venues will be announced by the host nations at a later date.

India will, thus, become the first country to stage four men's Hockey World Cups after having hosted the showpiece in 1982 (Mumbai), 2010 (New Delhi) and 2018 (Bhubaneswar).

The country will be completing 75 years of independence in 2023 and so Hockey India wanted to host the World Cup.

— PTI

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Reinforced steel belt for excellent all-terrain performance

Bold sidewall graphics add to the style quotient

Available for: AUDI: Q3 | FORD: Endeavour/EcoSport (Titanium) | GM: Captiva | HONDA: CRV | HYUNDAI: Creta/Venue/Santa Fe | JEEP: Compass Sport | KIA: Seltos | MG: Hector | MAHINDRA: Bolero/Thar/Marazzo/Scorpio/Rexton/TUV300/XUV300/XUV500 | MARUTI: S-Cross/Vitara Brezza | MITSUBISHI: Pajero Sport/Montero | NISSAN: Kicks/Terrano/X-Trail | RENAULT: Captur/Duster | TATA: Aria/Safari/Sumo Gold/Sumo Victa/Harrier/Hexa/Nexon (XZ+) | TOYOTA: Fortuner/Innova Crysta/Prado. Note: Broad sizes/Rim changing sizes subject to ground clearance. Vehicle manufacturers' recommendation should be considered.

MRF Wanderer A/T (All-Terrain), SPORT, STREET and S/L tyres are available for a range of SUVs at all MRF T&S outlets
MRF TireTok Outlets MRF Exclusive Outlets and MRF Authorised Dealerships

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