

First time in 91 years: Bungling India whitewashed 0-3 at home

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: The fortress had been breached already. On Sunday, it just crumbled to the ground with the Indian dressing room sitting stone-faced, trying to process a fall so spectacular that nobody saw it coming.

For the first time in their Test history, which goes back to 1933, the 'Tigers' at home had been whitewashed in a series of three or more games.

The humiliation was inflicted by New Zealand, a side that landed here after being thrashed 0-2 by a Sri Lankan team that is in transition. The Black Caps were also without their biggest batting star -- Kane Williamson, thanks to injury.

Yet, it was a full-strength India that looked confused and short of preparation throughout a rubber they were expected to win and win comfortably at that.

The 25-run loss in the third Test in front of a buzzing Wankhede crowd, that just a few months ago feted a T20 world champion Indian side, was a stunning reminder of how fortunes swing wildly in sport.

Having already conceded the series 0-2, the Indians should have been able to pull one back. It wasn't an unfair expectation, the chase was a mere 147 runs but it was on a track that looked like a minefield to the entire home line-up except Rishabh Pant (64).

On Sunday, all Pant needed or wanted was for someone to hang in there. Nobody seemed capable.

From Virat Kohli to skipper Rohit Sharma to Shubman



Gill to Sarfaraz Khan, none looked to have learnt their lessons.

Five key wickets were lost for a mere 16 runs at the start of an embarrassing collapse with the Jogeshwari's very own Ajaz Patel making them dance to his tunes for a haul of 11 wickets in the match.

The left-arm w spinner now has a staggering 25 Test wickets at the Wankhede in just two matches, making him the most successful overseas bowler at the venue after the great Ian Botham (22).

"Something like this will be a very low point of my career and I take full responsibility for it. With the bat, I was not good enough," a desolate Rohit admitted in the post-match press conference struggling to explain clearly just what has gone so wrong with this team.

Coach Gautam Gambhir, who has remained bullish up until now, will certainly have a few questions to answer going forward if the tide does not turn dramatically in Australia, starting November 22.

With this truly humbling result, the Indians were thrown off the top position in the World Test Championship points table.

A spot in the final next summer, which once seemed quite certain, will now have to be fought for and that too quite vigorously.

It is the first time that an Indian team has been whitewashed in a three-match series. The last time India suffered a humiliation of this scale was more than two decades ago in 2000 when it lost 0-2 to South Africa.

Interestingly, a World Cup-winning stalwart in Kapil Dev was in charge of the team as head coach even at that time. That result had ended the great Sachin Tendulkar's run as captain of the team and Kapil's tenure as coach.

What happens after the current loss will be eagerly watched.

Chase gone wrong and Pant heroics

With 55 runs needed in the post lunch session and five wickets intact, India's hopes rested on Pant but he ended up falling to a contentious third-umpire call.

It ended a heroic push-back from the fearless man, who pulled the side out of a rut after it had ben reduced to 29 for five.

India's ineptness had exerted pressure on Pant, who could not have responded any

better against the odds until the ghosts of inaccurate technology in the game arrived to haunt him and India.

Pant had belittled every challenge that New Zealand threw at him, blasting nine fours and a six to make 64 from only 57 balls.

Having not taken a review earlier in the morning session for a leg-before, New Zealand burned one when they took against Pant for a caught-behind but the replays showed Patel's delivery in the 22nd over had neither been in contact with the bat or the gloves.

But on the next, Pant was contentiously adjudged out caught-behind by third umpire. DRS replays showed a tiny spike, which Pant felt was the sound of his bat brushing the pads, but former Australia player and third umpire Paul Reiffel ruled it against the Indian.

Until he fell to Patel for his fifth wicket in the innings and 10th in the match, Pant had thoroughly dominated the New Zealand spinner, clobbering five fours and a six to collect 34 runs off his 27 deliveries.

For yet another instance, captain Rohit's ultra-aggressive approach to take on the bowlers, when a calculated approach was required in a tricky situation, had him walking back and perhaps for the last time at his home turf.

Rohit's (11) erroneous attempt to play his signature pull shot off Matt Henry on a delivery which was barely waist-high led to his fall.

As soon as Rohit's top edge went up, Henry broke into

celebration knowing it was headed towards Glenn Phillips - one of the best fielders - who ran behind from midwicket to take a fine catch.

Coming off a fine 146-ball 90, Gill shouldered arms on a delivery from Patel (4/43) expecting the ball to turn away but it straightened to crash into his off-stump.

Kohli (1) marched onto the ground once again with his bat trained on his shoulder, perhaps to exude confidence, but he could not reach the pitch of a floated delivery which took the edge of his bat to the first slip.

From the other end, Yashasvi Jaiswal (5) watched this surrender and he too became a part of it when he was beaten by Phillips (3/42) for a leg-before.

Sarfaraz (0) went for a pre-meditated sweep shot on the first ball for the second time in the Test and paid a heavy price too, top edging it for Rachin Ravindra to move in from deep square leg and complete a pair for the batter.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

MACKAY: India A wicket-keeper-batter Ishan Kishan was embroiled in a ball-change controversy, facing accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" during their seven-wicket defeat to Australia A on the final day of the first 'Unofficial Test' here on Sunday.

Resuming at the overnight score of 139 for 3 while chasing 225, skipper Nathan McSweeney (88 not out) and Beau Webster (61) remained unbeaten, stitching unconquered 141 runs for the fourth wicket to ensure the comfortable win for the hosts.

However even before play began, a group of Indian players were involved in a heated exchange with umpire Shawn Craig after the change of ball at the start of day four.

The umpire was heard saying it had been replaced because of scratches with Kishan termning the decision to change the ball as "stupid".

Umpire Craig was heard

in stump microphone explaining his decision to change the ball : "Scratch it, we change the ball...no more discussion, let's play."

Kishan retorted: "So we are going to play with this ball...that's a very stupid decision."

To which Craig responded: "Excuse me, you'll be on report for dissent. That's inappropriate behaviour. Because of your actions we changed the ball."

However, Cricket Australia later issued a statement, saying Kishan will not be charged with dissent after match officials clarified the ball was changed "due to deterioration".

CA added that captains and managers of both teams were informed of the decision prior to start of the final day's play, and no further action was required.

Even though the ball was changed, Australia A were not awarded five penalty runs as stated in the Law 41.3.4 for when umpires consider the ball has been "unfairly changed".

Altering the condition of the ball is a level three charge under Cricket Australia's code of conduct.

"Any action(s) likely to alter the condition of the ball which are not specifically permitted under Law 41.3.2 may be regarded as 'unfair'.

"The following actions shall therefore, not be permitted (this list of actions is not exhaustive but included for illustrative purposes): (a) deliberately throwing the ball into the ground for the purpose of roughening it up; (b) applying any artificial substance to the ball; and applying any non-artificial substance for any purpose other than to polish the ball;

"(c) lifting or otherwise interfering with any of the seams of the ball; (d) scratching the surface of the ball with finger or thumb nails or any implement," the code reads.

The second first-class match between the two sides begins at the MCG on Thursday.

BCCI to discuss NZ whitewash, some star seniors could be phased out post Australia series

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The future of some senior India players will be decided after the tour of Australia as the BCCI evaluates the shocking 0-3 drubbing against New Zealand at home while rolling out a structured phaseout policy before the start of the next WTC cycle.

There is a high possibility that the five-match Test series against Australia could be the final one for at least two of the four seniors among Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin, who are in the last leg of their international careers.

"Look, I don't think we can look that far ahead. It's important to focus on the next series, which is Australia," Rohit said when asked for his thoughts on India's Test future given there is limited time left in his captaincy.

"I'm not going to look beyond Australia series. Australia series, for us is now very, very important. We will try and focus on that rather than thinking what happens after," he said.

An informal discussion could take place between BCCI bigwigs and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, head coach Gautam Gambhir, and skipper Rohit about the way forward for an ageing team.

"Stocks will be taken certainly and it could be of informal nature since the team leaves for Australia on November 10. But this has been a huge debacle but, with Australia series round the corner and the squad already announced, there won't be any tinkering," a senior BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

"But if India doesn't qualify for WTC final in England, one can be rest assured that all four super seniors won't be on that flight to UK for the ensuing five-Test series. In any case, all four have likely played their final



Test at home together," the source added.

It is understood that the BCCI is not keen on repeating the 2011 saga when suddenly an old team was found to be out of sorts and hence the selectors, especially chairman Agarkar and head coach Gambhir, would need to talk to the senior cricketers about the plan ahead.

For India to not depend on any other calculations to qualify for the WTC final, they would require a 4-0 result Down Under, which as of now looks next to impossible.

India can still qualify after losing the Border Gavaskar-Trophy if other teams don't fare well.

But once the Australia series is over and if India don't qualify -- the next cycle will start with five Test series in England from June 20 next year at Leeds -- the selection committee might be compelled to look at long-term prospects with chances given to players like Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, who look ready for international cricket.

With Washington Sundar emerging as a strong prospect for the next 10 years, Ashwin's future in India whites could be up for discussion once the Australia series gets over.

Jadeja, with better fitness and handy

batting on foreign tracks, might be persisted with although there is a ready replacement for Indian conditions in Axar Patel, with Manav Suthar being third in the pecking order.

In case of batters, between February 2021 to the current match, skipper Rohit Sharma scored 1210 runs from 35 innings in home Tests at an average of 37.81 with four hundreds, but in the last 10 innings, there has been six scores of less than 10 runs and two scores of less than 20, with two half-centuries.

During the same period, Virat Kohli has played 25 innings at home for 742 runs at an average of 30.91, and one century on a flat Ahmedabad deck.

"No doubt pitches in Australia will be far better for batting but erasing self doubts after this kind of humiliation will be a difficult ask," a former selector said.

While Kohli with his supreme fitness can overstay his invitation despite poor returns for close to four years, one can't see Rohit playing beyond this cycle of World Test Championship.

Jasprit Bumrah has been named vice-captain but he might not be the long-term solution due to his workload management, with Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant being the two candidates who look suitable for Test leadership.

Severe storms in Oklahoma injure at least 6 people and leave tens of thousands without power

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

OKLAHOMA CITY (US): Severe storms and tornadoes battered Oklahoma early Sunday, tossing cars and ripping roofs off buildings in the middle of the night and leaving more than 90,000 homes and businesses without power. At least six people were injured, authorities said.

The scale of the damage came into clearer focus as daylight broke following the powerful overnight storms that marched through Oklahoma City, the state capital, and set off tornado warnings that extended toward the Arkansas border.

Local television footage showed downed power lines, walls peeled off homes, flipped-over vehicles and neighbourhood streets littered with debris.

At least six people were transported to hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening, Oklahoma City Police Department Capt Valerie Littlejohn said.

Nearly 95,000 customers were without power in the



state, according to PowerOutage.us.

In the small town of Choctaw, just outside Oklahoma City, authorities said a tornado hit one neighbourhood shortly after midnight. Firefighters and police officers went door to door to ask about injuries and officials opened an elementary gym as a shelter, according to the Choctaw Police Department.

"There is significant damage to homes in the area," the department posted on Facebook.

At the University of Oklahoma, school officials had urged students and staff to seek shelter and move to the lowest floor as the storms approached campus after midnight. The National Weather Service office in Norman also issued urgent warnings, posting on social media that "If you're in the path of this storm, take cover immediately!" Parts of Oklahoma remained under risk for more heavy rainfall and thunderstorms later Sunday.

Man killed by speeding car while bursting firecrackers in Pune

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

PUNE : A 35-year-old man was killed when a speeding car hit him while he was bursting firecrackers in the Pimpri Chinchwad area in Pune, police said on Sunday.

A CCTV footage of the accident, which took place in the Ravet locality on November 1, has surfaced on social media.

A senior police officer from the Ravet police station said, "The victim, Soham Patel, was bursting firecrackers on the road on the eve of Diwali when a speeding car ran him over."

The victim sustained severe injuries and died, he said, adding that a case has been registered against the unidentified driver.

"We have recovered the CCTV footage of the incident, and the matter is being probed," the official said.

Residents of the locality have demanded strict action against the accused driver and warned of a protest if the police fail to apprehend him, it was stated.

Farm fires cross 4,000 mark in Punjab after 216 fresh cases

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHANDIGARH : Farm fire cases crossed the 4,000 mark in Punjab with the state witnessing 216 fresh such incidents on Sunday.

From September 15 to November 3, Punjab has seen a total of 4,132 active fire events, according to the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data. The state reported 1,779 farm fire cases in the last five days.

Punjab saw 219 such incidents on October 29, 110 on October 30, 484 on October 31, 587 on November 1, and 379 on November 2, the data showed.

Of 216 fresh cases reported on Sunday, Sangrur saw 59 stubble-burning incidents, which is the maximum in the state. Among other districts, Ferozepur reported 26 farm fires, Moga and Mansa 19



each, and Tarn Taran 18.

Paddy harvesting is still underway in Punjab. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in the state. Among other districts, Ferozepur reported 26 farm fires, Moga and Mansa 19

November.

As the window for rabi crop wheat is very short after paddy harvest, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue for sowing of the next crop. Punjab recorded a total

of 36,663 farm fires in 2023, registering a 26 per cent drop in such incidents.

The state recorded 49,922 fire events in 2022, 71,304 in 2021, 76,590 in 2020, 55,210 in 2019 and 50,590 in 2018.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KOLKATA : Two minor girls were allegedly sexually assaulted by their neighbours in Hooghly and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal over the past 24 hours, police said.

According to a police official, the perpetrators in both the cases have been arrested.

TMC MLA Manoranjan Byapari and senior minister Firhad Hakim have called for strong punishments against the offenders, emphasising that this is a social evil that must be addressed nationwide.

In North 24 Parganas' Mogra, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by her neighbour when she was home alone on Saturday

night. The accused has been arrested and charged under relevant sections of the BNS and POCSO laws, police said.

In a similar incident at Gaighata, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly abducted by a neighbour on her way to tuition on Saturday. She was taken to a nearby jungle and allegedly raped before being dropped near her home later that night, police said and added that the medical examination of the girl is scheduled for Monday.

The father of the Gaighata victim has demanded death penalty for the accused after a fast-track trial.

In response to the Mogra incident and others like it, TMC legislator Byapari said,

"Had I been present, I would have broken and twisted the hands and feet of the accused and then handed him over to police." He advocated for severe punishment for those who commit crimes against women, adding, "If any action is taken against me for treating those involved in heinous crimes against women as they deserve, I am ready to face the consequences. I will not back down from my words."

Senior state minister Firhad Hakim said, "Any crime against women should be dealt with sternly, with no mercy shown to the perpetra-

tors. This is a social evil and such crimes are occurring frequently in other states. We must adopt a zero-tolerance approach to ensure a safe environment for our sisters and daughters."

BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh from Siliguri criticised the TMC government, claiming that crimes against women have become a daily occurrence in West Bengal under their rule.

"The Mamata Banerjee regime has failed to instill fear in molesters and abusers. The perpetrators have become emboldened," he asserted.

Noteworthy effort': PM Modi hails Bhasha Gaurav Saptah being held in Assam

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the 'Bhasha Gaurav Saptah' being held in Assam, saying it is a noteworthy effort highlighting people's enthusiasm on Assamese being conferred classical language status.

A week-long programme to celebrate Assam's linguistic diversity commenced on Sunday, coinciding with the comple-

tion of a month of classical language status to Assamese.

Programmes are being organised across the state to honour the contributions made to Assamese language during the 'Bhasha Gaurav Saptah'.

Tagging a post by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the initiative, Modi said on X, "Bhasha Gaurav Saptah is a noteworthy effort, highlighting people's enthusiasm on Assamese being con-

ferred Classical Language status.

"My best wishes. May the programmes planned over the week deepen the connect between people and Assamese culture. I also urge Assamese people outside Assam to participate," the prime minister said.

On October 3, the Union Cabinet approved conferring the status of classical language to Assamese, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit and Bengali.

Drivers, boatmen to wear special suits during Mahakumbh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

PRAYAGRAJ (UP) : Drivers, boatmen, guides and cart operators will wear special track suits this Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Sunday.

"Special track suits are being prepared for all four categories. This preparation has been done keeping in mind that pilgrims can easily get the necessary services during the rush in the fair," Regional Tourism Officer Aparajita Singh said in a statement. "Thus, every category will have its own unique identity, so that passengers can easily avail these services," she said. The logo of Kumbh and Tourism Department will be printed on each category track suit to identify the person.

The Mahakumbh will commence on January 13 on the occasion of Paus Purnima and conclude on February 26 on Mahashivratri.

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT JAMMU
(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR JUDICIAL, JAMMU)

In the matter of:-

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE
PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the INHABITANTS OF VILLAGE MANDI WALA BANDWAL, Tehsil Jaurian, District Jammu Through SUNIL KUMAR, age 40 years, S/o Sh. Giridhari Lal R/o Village Mandiwal Bandwal, Tehsil Jaurian, District Jammu as well as through petitioner No. 2, 3, 4 & 5. All resident of Village Mandiwal Bandwal, Tehsil Jaurian, District Jammu has filed before the Hon'ble Court seeking kind indulgence on quashing the CLUP/Permission being No.DCJIS/CLU/PU/Permission/2023-2024/1127-28 dated 22-03-2024 bearing endorsement no. DCJIS/CLU/190 dated 22-03-2024 as well as consent no. PCC/Digital/24014191594 of 2024 dated 15-06-2024 issued in favour of respondent No. 19 namely Smt. POOJA DEVI, Proprietor of M/s Shri Keshav Industry for installation/ Establishment of industry with industrial activity manufacturing Plastic PVC pipes in non-conforming/residential cum Agricultural area in violation of existing norms.

Commanding the respondents to take all appropriate steps and measures to recall CLUP/Permission being No.DCJIS/CLU/PU/Permission/2023-2024/1127-28 dated 22-03-2024 bearing endorsement no. DCJIS/CLU/190 dated 22-03-2024 as well as consent no. PCC/Digital/24014191594 of 2024 dated 15-06-2024 issued in favour of respondent No. 19 namely Smt. POOJA DEVI and to demolish the unauthorized structure-cum-shed raised by the respondent No. 19 to be used for the installation cum-establishment of PVC Industry in the residential-cum-agriculture non-conforming areas without getting permission from the competent Authority.

Commanding the respondent IS (Anti Corruption Bureau) to initiate thorough probe in to the matter so that erring officials who in violation as well as misuse of their official position.

Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that any person interested in prosecution or defending of the writ petition may apply to the Court to be made a party to the writ in person or through his counsel on or before 27-11-2024

No. 9430
Dated: 16-10-2024

Sd/-
(Sandeep Kour)
Registrar (Judl.)
High Court of J&K and Ladakh
Jammu.