

ALARM BELLS

2010s hottest decade in history, UN says as emissions rise again

AGENCIES
Madrid, December 3

THIS DECADE IS set to be the hottest in history, the United Nations said Tuesday in an annual assessment outlining the ways in which climate change is outpacing humanity's ability to adapt to it.

The World Meteorological Organisation said global temperatures so far this year were 1.1 degrees Celsius (two degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average between 1850-1900. That puts 2019 on course to be in the top three warmest years ever recorded, and possibly the hottest non-El Nino year yet.

Man-made emissions from burning fossil fuels, building infrastructure, growing crops



and transporting goods mean 2019 is set to break the record for atmospheric carbon concentrations, locking in further warming, the WMO said.

Oceans, which absorb 90% of the excess heat produced by greenhouse gases, are now at their highest recorded tem-

peratures.

The world's seas are now a quarter more acidic than 150 years ago, threatening vital marine ecosystems upon which billions of people rely for food and jobs.

In October, the global mean sea level reached its highest on record, fuelled by the 329 billion tonnes of ice lost from the Greenland ice sheet in 12 months. Each of the last four decades has been hotter than the last.

And far from climate change being a phenomenon for future generations to confront, the effects of humanity's insatiable growth-at-any cost consumption means millions are already counting the damage. The report said more than 10 million people were internally displaced in the first half

Climate accord will protect US economy, labour leaders say

TOP CORPORATE executives and labour leaders on Monday issued a public plea in the global pact to avert catastrophic temperature rises, arguing the battle against climate change would protect the nation's economy and create jobs and businesses.

The group that included the heads of Apple, Tesla, Unilever and Royal Dutch Shell said the Paris Agreement on global warming would boost economic health and build competitive companies, in a statement released as UN climate talks started in Madrid.

President Donald Trump's administration plans to pull the United States — one of the world's biggest emitters of planet-warming greenhouse gases — out of the 2015 accord adopted by nearly 200 nations with the aim of limiting global warming to 'well below' 2 degrees Celsius and ideally to 1.5 degrees.

Trump has argued the Paris deal would cost the United States trillions of dollars, kill millions of jobs and hinder the oil, gas, coal and manufacturing industries. It began the formal process of withdrawing from the pact last month.



A renewable-energy ride

Climate activist Greta Thunberg (left) arrives in Lisbon on Tuesday. Greta has arrived by catamaran in the port of Lisbon after a three-week voyage across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States. The Swedish teen sailed to the Portuguese capital before heading to neighboring Spain to attend the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Madrid.

Europe set to overhaul its entire economy in green deal push

BLOOMBERG
Brussels, Dec 3

THE EUROPEAN UNION is gearing up for the world's most ambitious push against climate change with a radical overhaul of its economy.

At a summit in Brussels next week, EU leaders will commit to cutting net greenhouse-gas emissions to zero by 2050, according to a draft of their joint statement for the December 12-13 meeting. To meet this target, the EU will promise more green investment and adjust all of its policy making accordingly. "If our common goal is to be a climate-neutral continent in 2050, we have to act now," Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, told a United Nations climate conference on Monday. "It's a generational transition we have to go through."

The commission, the EU's regulatory arm, will have the job of drafting the rules that would transform the European economy once national leaders have signed off on the climate goals for 2050. The wording of the first draft summit communiqué, which may still change, reflects an initial set of ideas to be floated by the commission on the eve of the leaders' gathering.

The EU plan, set to be approved as the high-profile United Nations summit in Madrid winds up, would put the

EU leaders will commit to cutting net greenhouse-gas emissions to zero by 2050, according to a draft of their joint statement for the December 12-13 meeting

block ahead of other major emitters. Countries including China, India and Japan have yet to translate voluntary pledges under the 2015 Paris climate accord into binding national measures. US President Donald Trump has said he'll pull the US out of the Paris agreement.

In a pitch of her Green Deal to member states and the European Parliament on December 11, von der Leyen is set to promise a set of measures to reach the net-zero emissions target, affecting sectors from agriculture to energy production. It will include a thorough analysis on how to toughen the current 40% goal to reduce emissions by 2030 to 50% or even 55%, according to an EU document obtained by Bloomberg News.

In the next step, the commission will propose an EU law in March that would "make the transition to climate neutrality irreversible," von der Leyen told the UN meeting. She said the measure will include "a farm-to-fork strategy and a biodiversity strategy" and will extend

the scope of emissions trading. The EU Emissions Trading System is the world's largest cap-and-trade market for greenhouse gases. It imposes pollution caps on around 12,000 facilities in sectors from refining to cement production, including Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BASF SE. Von der Leyen eyes the inclusion of road transport into the market and cutting the number of free emission permits for airlines.

Some of the transportation industry's biggest polluters have already stepped up efforts to reduce their environmental impact. In June, France's Airbus SE, its US rival Boeing Co. and other aviation companies pledged to reduce net CO2 emissions by half in 2050. EasyJet Plc, the UK-based discount airline, has promised to offset all of its carbon emissions by planting trees and supporting solar-energy projects, while Air France will take similar steps on its domestic routes.

Germany's Volkswagen, the world's largest automaker, aims to become CO2 neutral by 2050, while Daimler AG plans to reach that target for its Mercedes-Benz luxury car lineup by 2039. To ensure that coal-reliant Poland doesn't veto the climate goals next week, EU leaders will pledge an "enabling framework" that will include financial support, according to the document, dated December 2.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that our client, M/s. Muthoot Finance Ltd. (GSTIN 32AABCT0343B127), Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Muthoot Chambers, Banerji Road, Kochi - 682018, Kerala, India CIN: L65910KL1997PLC011300, Ph: +91 484-2396478, 2394712, Fax: +91 484-2396506, mails@muthootgroup.com, www.muthootfinance.com is conducting Auction of ornaments (NPA accounts for the period up to 30.09.2018) in its favour, by the defaulting Borrowers, as detailed hereunder. All those interested may participate.

Date of Auction: 12.12.2019
Waidan (MP): MAL-216, 241, MHL-29, MSL-1357, 1412, 1419, 1425, 1457, 1486, 1499, 1556, MUL-17, 31, 80, 89, 98, 155, 206, 213, 225, 228, 238, 239, 241, 252, 299, 304, 333, 363, 382, 386, 387, 389, 404, 422, 442, 443, 476, 501, 509, 518, 553, 594, 607, 632, 655, 678, 692, 700, 722, 723, 728, 730, 740, 769, 788, 793, 838, 868, 879, 889, 890, 908, 912, 938, 961, 968, 969, 979, 991, 1001, 1022, 1037, 1038, 1043, 1047, 1051, 1063, 1076, 1080, 1082, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1092, 1099, 1113, 1121, 1127, 1137, 1207, 1225, 1232, 1242, 1246, 1249, 1252, 1273, 1321, 1327, 1393, 1404, 1424

Auction of Spurious/Low purity ornaments, (Accounts for the period up to 30.04.2019)
Date of Auction: 12.12.2019
Waidan (MP): MUL-102, 540, 944, 1313

The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.

However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date then the auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be in this respect.

Kohli & Sobti, Advocates,
A 59A, First Floor, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi - 110024

Note: Customers can release their pledged ornaments before the scheduled auction date, against payment of dues of our client. Customer can also contact Email ID: auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com or Call at 7834886464, 7994452461.

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
1911 से आरम्भ किए, "सेंट्रल", "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911
BRANCH OFFICE: VIKAS MINAR, NEW DELHI
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Appendix -IV [See Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Vikas Minar, New Delhi Branch**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 06/07/2019, calling upon the **Borrowers: MRS. SANGEETA CHAUHAN**, to repay the amount mentioned in notice being **Rs.7,24,103/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Three Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 on this day **28.11.2019**. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **Central Bank of India, Vikas Minar, New Delhi Branch**, for an amount of **Rs.7,24,103/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Three Only)** and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of Land in the name of **Sangeeta Chauhan** covered under Entire Second Floor without Roof Rights of Property No.C-11, Out of Kharsa No.15/33, situated at Village Khureji Khas in the Abadi of Hazra Park Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110051. Area of Property - 102 Sq. Yds. **Bounded:**
North: Property of others
South: Property of others
East: Property of others
West: Road
PLACE: DELHI
DATE: 28.11.2019
Authorised Officer,
Central Bank of India

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
1911 से आरम्भ किए, "सेंट्रल", "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911
BRANCH OFFICE: VIKAS MINAR, NEW DELHI
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Appendix -IV [See Rule - 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Vikas Minar, New Delhi Branch**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 26/06/2019, calling upon the **Borrowers: M/s. OM SHIV TRADERS**, to repay the amount mentioned in notice being **Rs.45,57,286/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Six Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 on this day **28.11.2019**. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **Central Bank of India, Vikas Minar, New Delhi Branch**, for an amount of **Rs.45,57,286/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Six Only)** and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Equitable Mortgage of all that part and parcel of Land in the name of **Saroj Bala** covered under H. No.1001 Type EWS, Sector-18, Housing Board Colony, Faridabad NIT HO District Faridabad (Haryana) Area of property - 35 Sq. Yrd. **Bounded:**
North: H. No. 1002/EWS
South: H. No. 1000/EWS
East: 24 Ft Wide Road
West: H. No.986/EWS
PLACE: FARIDABAD
DATE: 28.11.2019
Authorised Officer,
Central Bank of India

ASCOM LEASING & INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Our Company was incorporated on December 16, 1986, as "Ascorm Leasing & Investments Limited" under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 with the Registrar of Companies, Andhra Pradesh bearing Registration Number 085128. Our Company received the certificate of Commencement of Business on January 07, 1987. Subsequently, our Company has shifted the registered office from Hyderabad to Surat, vide certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies, Ahmedabad on November 23, 2015. Our Company holds a certificate of registration dated December 17, 2015 bearing registration number B-01.0059 issued by the RBI to carry on the activities of a non-deposit taking NBFC with the RBI under section 45 IA of the RBI Act, 1934. The Corporate Identification Number of our Company is U65993GJ1986PLC085128. For details of incorporation, change of registered office of our Company, please refer to the section title "History and certain Corporate Matters" on beginning page No. 95 of the Prospectus.
Registered Office: 331, 3rd floor, Four Point Complex, Vesu, besides Maniha Park, Surat, Gujarat 395007
Telephone: +91 9825140403; **Contact Person:** Mr. Tushar Rohitbhai Pandya, Managing Director
E-mail: info@ascormfinance.com; Website: www.ascormfinance.com; Ascorm Identification Number: U65993GJ1986PLC085128
PROMOTER OF OUR COMPANY: MR. TUSHAR ROHITBHAU PANDYA
BASIS OF ALLOTMENT

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF 21,08,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF RS. 10.00 EACH, AT AN ISSUE PRICE OF RS. 30.00 PER EQUITY SHARE FOR CASH (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF RS. 20 PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "ISSUE PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO RS. 632.40 LAKHS (THE "ISSUE"), THE ISSUE INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF 1,08,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF RS. 10 EACH AT A PRICE OF RS. 30 PER EQUITY SHARE AGGREGATING RS. 32.40 LAKH FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY THE MARKET MAKER TO THE ISSUE (THE "MARKET MAKER RESERVATION PORTION"), THE ISSUE LESS MARKET MAKER RESERVATION PORTION LE. NET ISSUE OF 20,00,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF RS. 10 EACH FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF RS. 30/- PER EQUITY SHARE, AGGREGATING RS. 600.00 LAKH IS HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET ISSUE". THE ISSUE AND THE NET ISSUE WILL CONSTITUTE 26.99% AND 25.61% RESPECTIVELY OF THE POST ISSUE PAID UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

IN TERMS OF RULE 19(2)(B)(I) OF THE SECURITIES CONTRACTS (REGULATION) RULES, 1957, AS AMENDED (THE "SCRR") THE OFFER IS BEING MADE FOR AT LEAST 25% OF THE POST-ISSUE PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY. THIS OFFER IS BEING MADE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER IX OF THE SEBI (ISSUE OF CAPITAL AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS, 2018, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME ("SEBI (ICDR) REGULATIONS"). FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE REFER SECTION TITLED "ISSUE RELATED INFORMATION" BEGINNING ON PAGE NO. 160 OF THE PROSPECTUS. A COPY OF PROSPECTUS HAS BEEN DELIVERED FOR REGISTRATION TO THE Registrar of Companies as required under Section 32 & 36 of the Companies Act, 2013.

ISSUE OPENED ON: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 AND ISSUE CLOSED ON: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019
The Equity Shares of our Company issued through the Prospectus are proposed to be listed on Emerge Platform of National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE SME"), in terms of the Chapter IX of the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2018 as amended from time to time. Our Company has received an In-Principle approval letter dated October 22, 2019 from National Stock Exchange of India Limited for listing of its equity shares on the Emerge Platform of National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE SME"). For the purpose of this Issue, National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") shall be the Designated Stock Exchange.

All potential investors shall participate in the issue only through an application supported by blocked amount ("ASBA") process providing details about the bank account which will be blocked by a self-certified syndicate banks ("SCSBs") for the same. In terms of SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/DIL/2/CIR/P/2019/50 dated November 08, 2019, it should be noted that SEBI has introduced the use of unified payment interface ("UPI") as a payment mechanism with application supported by blocked amount (ASB) in public issues by retail individual investors through intermediaries (syndicate members, registered stock brokers, registrar and transfer agent and depository participants). For further details, please refer to section title "Issue related Information" beginning on page no. 160 of the Prospectus. A copy of prospectus has been delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies as required under Section 32 & 36 of the Companies Act, 2013.

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS				
The Issue has received 269 applications for 29,32,000 Equity shares (before technical rejections) resulting in 1.39 times subscription (including reserve portion of Market Maker).				
The details of application received (before Technical Rejection)				
Sr. No.	Category	Number of Applications Received	Number of Equity Shares	Subscription (Times)
1	Retail Individual Investors	253	10,12,000	1.12
2	Other than Retail	15	18,12,000	1.81
3	Market Maker	1	1,08,000	1.00
TOTAL		269	29,32,000	

The details of application rejected by the Registrar on technical grounds and multiple rejections are detailed below				
Sr. No.	Category	Number of Applications Received	Number of Equity Shares	
1	Retail Individual Investors	7	28,000	
2	Other than Retail	1	1,48,000	
3	Market Maker	-	-	
TOTAL		8	1,76,000	

The details of application received (after technical and multiple rejection)				
No. of Shares Applied for (Category Wise)	Category	Number of Applications Received	Number of Equity Shares	
1	Retail Individual Investors	246	9,84,000	
2	Other than Retail	14	16,64,000	
3	Market Maker	1	1,08,000	
TOTAL		261	27,56,000	

Allocation: The Basis of Allotment was finalized in consultation with the designation Stock Exchange - NSE Limited on December 03, 2019.											
A. Allocation to the Market Maker (After technical rejections): The basis of Allotment to the Market Maker, at the offer price of Rs. 30/- per equity share, was finalized in consultation with NSE Limited. The Category was subscribed by 1.00 Time. The total number of shares allotted in this category is 1,08,000 equity shares.											
B. Allocation to Retail Individual Investors (After technical rejections): The Basis of Allotment to the Retail Individual Investors, at the offer price of Rs. 30/- per equity share, was finalized in consultation with National Stock Exchange of India Limited. The Category was subscribed by 0.98 Times. The total number of shares allotted in this category is 9,84,000 equity shares to 246 successful applicants.											
The category-wise details of the basis of Allotment are as under:											
Sr. No.	No. of Shares Applied for (Category Wise)	No. of Equity Shares received	% of total	Proportion of shares available	Allocation per Applicant (Before rounding off)	Allocation per Applicant (After rounding off)	Ratio of the Applicants Ratio-1	Ratio of the Allottees to the Applicants Ratio-2	No. of Successful applicants (after rounding off)	Total no. of shares allotted / allotted	Surplus / (Deficit)
1	4000	246	100	984000	100	10,00,000	4065.04	4000	13	246	984000 (16000)

C. Allocation to other than retail Individual Investors (After Technical Rejection & Withdrawal): The basis of Allotment to the Non-Institutional Investors, at the offer price of Rs. 30/- per equity share, was finalized in consultation with National Stock Exchange India Limited, the category was subscribed by 1.66 times. The total no. of shares allotted in this category is 16,64,000 Equity shares to 14 successful applicants.											
The category-wise details of the basis of Allotment are as under											
Sr. No.	Category	No. of Applications received	% of total	Total No. of Equity Shares Applied	% to Total	No. of Equity Shares allotted per applicants	Ratio	Total No. of Shares Allotted			
1.	8,000	1	0.48	8,000	0.39	4,000	1:1	4,000			
2.	16,000	1	0.96	16,000	1.18	12,000	1:1	12,000			
3.	20,000	1	1.20	20,000	1.18	12,000	1:1	12,000			
4.	24,000	1	1.44	24,000	1.57	16,000	1:1	16,000			
5.	36,000	3	6.43	36,000	5.91	60,000	1:1	60,000			
6.	36,000	1	9.19	36,000	0.39	4,000	1:1	4,000			
7.	1,52,000	1	9.33	1,52,000	9.36	92,000	1:1	92,000			
8.	1,64,000	1	9.62	1,64,000	9.45	96,000	1:1	96,000			
9.	1,64,000	1	9.86	1,64,000	9.84	1,00,000	1:1	1,00,000			
10.	1,80,000	1	9.82	1,80,000	11.02	1,12,000	1:1	1,12,000			
11.	1,84,000	1	11.06	1,84,000	11.02	1,12,000	1:1	1,12,000			
12.	3,16,000	1	18.99	3,16,000	18.90	1,92,000	1:1	1,92,000			
13.	3,32,000	1	19.95	3,32,000	20.08	2,04,000	1:1	2,04,000			
14.	100,000	14	100.00	10,64,000	100	10,16,000		10,16,000			

The Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on December 03, 2019 has taken on record the Basis of Allocation of Equity Shares approved by the Designated Stock Exchange viz. National Stock Exchange of India Limited and authorised corporate action form allotment of shares in dematerialised form to various successful applicants.

The CAN and allotment of advice and / or notices shall be dispatched to the address of the Applicants as registered with the depositories / as filed in the application form on or before December 05, 2019. Further, the instructions to the SCRBs shall be issued on December 03, 2019 for unblocking of funds. The equity Shares allotted to successful applicants has been credited to their beneficiary accounts on or before December 05, 2019. In case the same is not received within prescribed time, Investors may contact the registrar to the offer at address given below. The Company is taking steps to get the equity shares traded after trading on the SME platform of National Stock Exchange.

The trading is proposed to commence on or before December 6, 2019 subject to receipt of listing and trading approvals from National Stock Exchange India Limited.

The details of the allotment made will be hosted at the website of the registrar to the Offer at www.skylinetra.com. All future correspondence in this regard may kindly be addressed to the Registrar quoting full name of the 1/Sole Applicant, serial number of the Application form, number of shares applied for and Branch where the application had been lodged and payment details at the address of the registrar given below:

Skyline Financial Services Limited
A/505, Dattani Plaza, Andheri Kurla Road,
Safed Post, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400072
Telephone: +91 22-28511022/0224721245
Email: mumbai@skylinetra.com
Investor grievance email: grievances@skylinetra.com
Contact Person: Mr. Subhash Dhangre
Website: www.skylinetra.com
SEBI Registration Number: INE0000003241
CIN: U74899DL1995PTC071324

For Ascorm Leasing & Investments Limited
On behalf of Board of Director
Mr. Tushar Rohitbhai Pandya
Managing Director
DIN No. 03264783

Place - Surat
Date - December 04, 2019

This level of subscription should not be taken to be indicative of either the market price of the equity shares on listing or the business prospects of the Company.

Note: All capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the respective meanings assigned to them in the Prospectus dated November 19, 2019

China's school kids smartest in the world

BLOOMBERG
Beijing, December 3

CHINESE STUDENTS FAR out-stripped peers in every other country in a survey of reading, math and science ability, underscoring a reserve of future economic strength and the struggle of advanced economies to keep up.

The OECD's triennial study of 15 year-old students across the world found that the four Chinese provinces tested — Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang — outperformed in science and mathematics, even if household income is well below members' average. In reading, the 10% most disadvantaged Chinese students tested had better skills than the OECD average.

"The quality of their schools today will feed into the strength of their economies tomorrow," OECD secretary general Angel Gurría said.

The PISA study of 600,000 students in 79 countries shines a light on the difficulty of improving education, sometimes irrespective of the resources that are dedicated to it. That appears to be particularly problematic for OECD countries that have increased spending on primary and secondary students by more than 15% in the past decade.

"It is disappointing that most OECD countries saw virtually no improvement in the performance of their students since PISA was first conducted in 2000," Gurría said.

Messi wins record 6th Ballon d'Or

JULIEN PRETOT
Paris, December 3

LIONEL MESSI CLAIMED a record sixth Ballon d'Or award on Monday, beating Liverpool's leading nominees and Cristiano Ronaldo to lift soccer's most prestigious individual trophy.

The Argentine, who won the Liga title with Barcelona but only managed third place in the Copa America with his country, added to his 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015 trophies.

He finished above Dutchman Virgil van Dijk and Portugal's third-placed Ronaldo, who has won the award five times.

"I am very lucky, I am blessed. I hope I will continue for a long time," Messi told reporters. "I realise that I'm lucky even if one day it will be time to retire," added