

Vendors occupy footpaths, parking lots in city

Elbow out pedestrians to walk on roads



ROOPA LALL



PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ The Port Blair Municipal Council has started removing unauthorized stalls/carts/kiosks & abandoned vehicles from various places in the city. PBMC officials have already removed the food kiosks from the Bathubasti parking areas. Encroachments on footpaths and roadsides had become a common sight in the city. "Most of these are in the form of temporary shacks on roadsides. People first establish temporary stalls by encroaching roadside payment or footpaths and then convert it into a permanent one at a later stage."

After noticing that a number of unauthorized stalls/carts/kiosks/

The Civic Body has removed unauthorized food kiosks from Bathubasti areas and the drive is likely to intensify in the days ahead

abandoned vehicles are placed in various places of the Municipal area viz., road side and parking lot of PBMC, the Civic Body directed all the unauthorized stalls/cart/kiosks around Municipal areas that are not having certificates of vending and owners of abandoned vehicles to remove their stalls/carts/

kiosks/vehicles within 07 days. Failing which strict action will be taken against the unauthorized vendors and PBMC will evict the entire stalls/carts/kiosks/abandoned vehicle without any prior intimation. The PBMC parking area near Durgapuja parking lot is one such area which has been occupied and many eatery stalls have come up.

With the authorities turning a blind eye to the problem, encroachment of roadside payment has become alarming in the city, causing problems to not only pedestrians, but encroachment of footpaths have also narrowed down the roads, obstructing free flow of traffic. Almost all roadside pavements in the city have been encroached by people by putting up unauthorized stalls/carts/kiosks/

abandoned vehicles, luring motorists to park their vehicles on roads to enjoy the food, causing traffic obstruction. "On several occasions, motorists exchange heated arguments with several people parking their vehicles on roads. But no one is willing to realize their mistake. While some small vendors set up their wares on the footpath itself, plastic sheets are being tied to serve as a shelter", said a motorist.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police have also initiated action to remove all discarded vehicles laying on the roads for the past many years. Abandoned vehicles and discarded carts and unauthorized stalls on the roadside in the city are adding to the traffic chaos and ruining the beauty of the city.

GANG RAPE CASE

SC to hear Ex-CS bail cancellation plea on Monday

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ The Supreme Court will now hear the bail cancellation plea against the former Chief Secretary, Mr. Jitendra Narain on 7th November 2022. According to reports, the former Chief Secretary, who has been accused of alleged gangrape of a 21 years old woman is presently in the islands and has completed SIT investigation recently. The UT administration challenged the anticipatory bail granted to the former CS on the ground that he has tampered with the evidence. Earlier, the Calcutta High Court had granted him interim protection up to 14th November 2022. Meanwhile, the High Court today refused to grant bail to another accused Sandeep Singh (Rinku). The A&N Police has announced a reward of Rs one lakh on Sandeep Singh who has been declared as absconder, along with RL Rishi, another co-accused.

Lethal King Cobra rescued at Kadamtala

KURMA RAO

MAYABUNDER, NOV 4/--/ A lethal King Cobra was rescued from the house of Mr. Nital Halder, R/o Kadamtala in the Middle Andaman on Friday. According to reports, after spotting the huge venomous reptile inside his house, the terrified villager raised an alarm. He immediately contacted Expert snake handler, Mr. Subrata Bas who rushed to the spot and the King Cobra was rescued. The snake was later released into protected surroundings.



Science, Arts & Craft exhibition of GSS Swadeshnagar

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, NOV 4/--/ GSS Swadeshnagar organized a Science, Arts & Craft Exhibition in the school auditorium on 2nd November 2022. Mr. T Palanivelu, Principal, JNV Panchawati was the chief guest of the occasion and



Mr. Debabrata Das, The Pradhan, GP Swadeshnagar, was the guest of honour on the occasion. The exhibition started in the morning in presence of DEO Rangat, Mr. Jaison John, ACF (Forest Dept.), Mr. M Ramesh Kumar, JE (APWD) and Mr.

Hiralal Halder, GTT (GMS Billiground). A number of students from various classes participated in the exhibition. Students presented different types of models which were related to different branches of Science, Arts & Crafts. Food court and flower arrangements also attracted the attention of guests and dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Debabrata Das praised the spirit of teachers and students for presenting such a mesmerizing show and also encouraged them to work on the need based project relevant to present rural society such as Watershed Management project, employment generation in rural households etc. In his address, Mr. T Palanivelu gave motivational speech on how science and technology made things more efficient and the importance of the contribution of young generations to the field of science and technology. Certificates were also distributed to the winners for their excellent efforts. The exhibition concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Swapan Paik, PGT, GSS Swadeshnagar.

NukkadNatak by students of Mayabundercollege



KARTIK

PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week from 31 October 2022 to 6th November 2022, the M.G. Govt. College, Mayabunder has claked

out a befitting programmes. In tune with this, the college students performed 'NukkadNatak' on the topic corruption underscoring the needs for a corruption free society at Rampur Gram

campus, Lucknow on Friday. The Principal, Dr. B. Prabhuram, Co-ordinators, Mr. BB, Mondal and Dr. Shashi Kumar Singh, Pradhan and Up-Pradhan, Rampur village besides a large gathering of general public were present.

Ex-MP, Pradhan, GP Ramnagar meet Comm-Cum-Secy(RD/APWD)



PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, former MP and Mr. Mitun Das Pradhan Ramnagar met Ms. Nandini Paliwal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (RD/APWD) and submitted a letter seeking inclusion of the 03 PMGSY-II road projects of Ramnagar village under PMGSY-III or handing over this road work to APWD for early execution of the project. They apprised the Commissioner, RD that due to inordinate delay in completion of the road projects under PMGSY-II, they fear that the concerned authority in the GoI is likely to exclude the road project

from the plan due to non-awarding of the road project. The ex-MP also apprised the Commissioner through the letter that all the major village roads of Ramnagar were handed over to PMGSY-II during his tenure in the 16th Lok Sabha and under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana of Ramnagar.

But after several years, the failure to carry out the

construction of roads under PMGSY-II has resulted in people losing faith in central schemes. Thus, he requested for inclusion of all the three PMGSY-II roads either under PMGSY-III or handed over to APWD for speedy execution. During the meeting, Pradhan Ramnagar highlighted the hardship faced by the villagers for many years due to the worst road conditions and also

because the UT Administration has limited funds as the road projects are likely to cost about Rs 5 crores. After hearing of the issues, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary assured best possible efforts to resolve this issue. Later the leaders also met Mr. Aditya Kumar Jha, Director Education and informed him about the shortage of teachers at Government Secondary School Ramnagar due to which the education of the students is being hampered. The Director assured us to sort out the issue within a month.



About 80 students of the Air & Sea Cargo Management of Yeshuva Training Academy, Port Blair on Thursday visited the Haddo Harbour for practical training. The students were delighted to visit the harbour and see for themselves the functioning of the port.

WISH YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ON 05/11/2022

MR. N. PEDDI RAJU

State President

A & N Vidhyut Shramik Sangh and National Executive Member

Akhil Bhartiya Vidyut Mazdoor Mahasangh

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MCD polls on Dec 4, results on Dec 7

Filing of nomination to begin from Nov 7

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ Polling for the municipal election in Delhi will be held on December 4 and the votes will be counted on December 7, state election commissioner Vijay Dev announced on Friday. The Model Code of Conduct comes into force in the national capital from Friday itself, Dev said. "The filing of nominations will begin from November 7 and the last date for the same is November 14," he said at a press conference. The election commissioner further said: "Scrutiny of nominations will be done on November 16 while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 19." Candidates can submit their nominations between 11 and 3 pm while the poll time has been set between 8 am to 5:30 pm. The entire process of election will be completed on December 15. According to data shared by the SEC, as on today, total voters in Delhi are 1,46,73,847 -- 79,86,705 male, 66,86,081 female

and 1,061 transgender. There are a total of 250 wards in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Municipal polls were slated to be held in Delhi in April this year. They were put on hold hours before then Delhi election commissioner S K Srivastava was to announce the schedule on March 8 due to the Centre's plan to reunify the three civic bodies. The three civic bodies were reunified by the Centre in May this year and the exercise for delimitation of wards was started in July 2022. According to officials, polls will be conducted at all polling stations using M-2 model of ECIL make EVMs. The State Election Commission (SEC) has already made elaborate arrangements to ensure availability of adequate number of EVMs for smooth conduct of polls. "At least one model polling station would be set up in each assembly constituency and one polling station shall be set up to be manned

exclusively by women officer/officials in each constituency," a senior official said. There will be nearly 13,665 polling stations in 2022. The number of polling stations in 2017 was 13,138. The SEC has upgraded the status of facilities at the polling stations from the earlier concept of Basic Minimum Facility (BMF) to Assured Minimum Facility, he added. The officials said that the maximum limit of expenditure by a candidate at an election to a ward has been fixed at Rs 8 lakh. The reunified MCD had formally come into existence on May 22 with IAS officers Ashwani Kumar and Gyanesh Bharti assuming charge as the new civic body's special officer and commissioner, respectively. The erstwhile MCD, established in 1958, was trifurcated in 2012 during Sheila Dikshit's tenure as the chief minister. It was recently reunified by merging three civic bodies North, South and East Delhi municipal corporations or NDMC, SDMC and EDMC. (PTI)

Delhi, people will choose AAP, says Kejriwal; BJP not to repeat outgoing councilors on 60-70 per cent seats

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accused the BJP of creating mountains of garbage in Delhi during their 15-year tenure in the MCD, asserting that people will choose the AAP in the December 4 civic body polls. "In the last 15 years, BJP has spread garbage everywhere and created mountains of garbage. On December 4, Delhiites will vote for cleanliness. They will vote to make Delhi beautiful. This time, Delhiites will choose the AAP in MCD," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP on Friday hinted at not repeating its outgoing councilors on at least 60-70 per cent of the wards even as the Congress received over 1,000 applications from ticket seekers. The three major contestants -- the BJP, the AAP and the Congress -- have started working on their strategies and candidate selection for the polls to 250 wards of the Municipal

Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the dates of which are likely to be announced soon. The Delhi Congress has already received over 1,000 applications from probables seeking party tickets for the polls. The party will streamline the candidate selection process in back-to-back meetings on Saturday and Sunday, according to party unit chief Anil Kumar. Several Delhi BJP leaders said the reports that the party will replace all its sitting councilors with new faces was technically incorrect. "With several factors playing out like reduced number of wards, rotation of reserved seats for women and SC candidates and delimitation, almost 60-70 per cent sitting councilors will effectively lose the claim over party ticket," said a senior Delhi BJP leader. Not more than 30 per cent sitting councilors will have the chance to be repeated this time even if the party so decides, he said. "There were several reasons that necessitated changed faces in a majority

of wards. Before unification of the three municipal corporations earlier this year, the total number of wards was 272 that has now come down to 250 under the MCD," said a senior Delhi BJP leader. Of the 250 wards, there are many that were earlier reserved for women and Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates. "Duetorotation of wards, many of these that were earlier reserved for women or SC have now become general. Vice versa, many general wards have become reserved," he added. Delimitation has also affected the voter composition of wards, thereby requiring candidate change for the coming polls, he said. The BJP leaders said two surveys -- one by the central leadership and the other by the Delhi BJP -- are being conducted for effective candidate selection for the MCD polls. "The surveys are likely to be wrapped up by third week of November. (PTI)

Delhi, Punjab CMs take responsibility for stubble burning, promise to curb practice by next winter

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann on Friday admitted responsibility for paddy straw (Parali) burning in the border state and promised to curb the practice by next winter amid alarming levels of air pollution in the national capital.

Kejriwal said air pollution in the winters was not a "Delhi-specific problem", adding that it affected entire northern India and that there should be no blame game and politics on the issue. He also urged the Centre to take steps to prevent Parali burning, adding it was wrong to hold farmers alone responsible. Thick smog blanketed Delhi as the city's air quality remained in the 'severe' category for the second consecutive day, primarily due to unfavourable meteorological conditions and raging farm fires in Punjab. The overall air quality index (AQI) of Delhi stood at 445 at 2 pm. An AQI of above 400 is considered 'severe' which can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses. "We (AAP) have our government in Punjab and we are responsible if Parali is being burnt there. We accept the responsibility for Parali burning in Punjab.

"We admit Parali is being put on fire in Punjab but farmers are not responsible for it. The farmers need a solution, they will stop burning Parali the day they have a solution," the Delhi chief minister said in a joint press conference with his Punjab counterpart. Mann said the AAP government in Punjab had just a few months to



Arvind Kejriwal, Bhagwant Mann

address the problem. He promised the issue would be brought under control by next November. Kejriwal said it was not a problem for Delhi alone and the entire north India was suffering from pollution. He claimed the air quality in many cities in Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was in the 'severe' or 'very poor' category. "Evidently, AAP or Kejriwal or (AAP) governments in Delhi and Punjab are not merely responsible for this. There are several reasons, including local and regional ones," he said. Kejriwal also urged the Centre to come forward and take specific steps to save north India from pollution. "We have governments in Punjab and Delhi. This is not the time for pointing fingers, blame games or name calling. It's not the time for politics over such a sensitive issue. It does not produce any solution and people need solutions," the Delhi chief minister said.

"The pollution level is high in many cities in Bihar for which Parali burning cannot be responsible," he said. "Several things, including joint meetings of chief ministers and employing experts for their opinion are needed to address the issue." Kejriwal said several specific and stringent steps would be taken with Punjab farmers. "But we do not want any blame game in this. If Parali is burning in Punjab, we are responsible for it and our government is responsible for it," he said. However, just holding Kejriwal alone responsible for everything and abusing him will not solve the country's pollution problem. It will only happen with a constructive approach and by working together, he added. "The AAP government in Punjab got just six months to address the problem of Parali burning. We need one more year to solve the problem. We will do everything, including management of Parali and crop diversification, to ensure considerable reduction in incidences of Parali burning," he said.

Mann said the farmers in Punjab did not want to burn Parali as it also affected them and their children. There are 10-12 days between harvesting the paddy crop and sowing the wheat crop and the farmers just have matchsticks, said the Punjab chief minister. He added that the Punjab government had deployed 1.20 lakh machines to bury stubble in the fields and an app was developed for farmers to fetch these. "Still, if Parali is burning in Punjab, we accept responsibility for it. (PTI)



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar being felicitated at the 3rd Global Alumni Meet in Panjab University, Chandigarh, on Friday

SC to examine provision empowering EC to remove, reduce period of disqualification of lawmakers

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the constitutional validity of a provision of the Representation of the People Act which provides power to the poll panel to "remove" or reduce the period of disqualification of a lawmaker.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission on a PIL filed by NGO Lok Prahari through its general secretary and former IAS officer S N Shukla. Impugned provision of the act deals with the power of the poll panel on "removal or reduction of period of disqualification". "The Election Commission may, for reasons to be recorded, remove any disqualification under this Chapter I (except under section 8A) or reduce the period of any such disqualification," the provision reads. Shukla, at the outset, said that the provision needed to be either struck down or read down as it suffered from the vice of "excessive delegation" of power to the poll panel.

Before issuing notice on the PIL, the bench orally observed, "What is so bad about Section 11. Parliament itself felt that power could be delegated to the Election Commission of India." (PTI)

Himachal: Cong promises 1 lakh jobs, restoration of pension scheme, financial assistance for women

KANGRA, NOV 4 /--/ Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday said her party will provide 1 lakh jobs, restore the Old Pension Scheme and provide financial assistance of Rs 1,500 to every woman in the state if it is voted to power in the upcoming Assembly polls. Addressing a rally here, Priyanka said the Congress will also fight the drug menace, which is ruining the future of the youth and build English-medium schools in every Assembly constituency. She also targeted the state government, saying the state has "drowned" in debt under the BJP dispensation and 63,000 government posts are lying vacant. Citing the work done by the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the only two states where the party is in power on its own, the Congress leader said her party will fulfil its promises in Himachal as well. "The Congress will create 1 lakh jobs... Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel is sitting here, he has provided 5 lakh jobs in three years. The Congress government in Rajasthan has provided 1.30 lakh jobs," she said.

Today, Chhattisgarh has the lowest unemployment rate, Priyanka added. She said the Congress, if voted to power, will finalise the decision to provide 1 lakh jobs to the youth of Himachal Pradesh in the first cabinet meeting. "We are also saying that we will try our best to provide 5 lakh jobs in five years. This is our guarantee," she stated. Priyanka said the decision to restore the Old Pension Scheme will also be finalised in the first cabinet meeting if the Congress is voted to power. The Congress leader said she understands the burden shouldered by women, who work at home and outside. "This is why the Congress wants to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,500 to every woman. This scheme is called the 'Har Ghar Lakshmi Yojna'," she said.

Besides, the Congress wants to build four English-medium schools in every Assembly constituency and fight the menace of drugs. Hitting out at the BJP, Priyanka said the party does not want to do anything for the people and works for its selfish interests. The Congress leader claimed 63,000 government posts in Himachal Pradesh have been lying vacant for the last five years and the state has a debt of Rs 70,000 crore. "When we say that we will provide 1 lakh jobs, their (BJP) chief minister says that is not possible. But when they want to sell the country's assets, PSUs to their corporate friends, it is possible," she said. The BJP says there is no money for restoring the Old Pension Scheme, Priyanka said. "You have waived loans worth Rs 10 lakh crore of big corporates. You had money for that but do not have money for a worker's pension," she asked. Priyanka said the Centre has failed to address issues like inflation and has in turn saddled people with more taxes. "The public is asking for freedom from inflation and you say, take GST and more tax. Even the GST on cartons used for packing apples has been increased. This is the answer you get," she said. Priyanka exhorted people to cast their votes after evaluating who has pure intentions. (PTI)

Indian aerospace ecosystem seeing unprecedented growth towards becoming self-reliant: IAF chief

BENGALURU, NOV 4 /--/ Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Friday called upon the Aircraft and System Testing Establishment (ASTE) to increase its outreach to capitalise on the unprecedented growth in the Indian aerospace ecosystem.

The Indian Air Force chief also advocated the need to use new technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), and big data analytics in flight training and testing methodology. "ASTE has served as a vital link across the entire spectrum of design, development, testing, evaluation, operationalisation and training with regards to war-waging equipment and personnel. The time is right now to increase your outreach to seamlessly integrate with the industry, certified (flight testing) community and end users to make it an all stakeholders approach," he said. (PTI)

CHANGE OF NAME	
I, Sanchita Date of Birth-02-08-1975 is legally wedded Spouse of No 6491339-X Biku Paul residing at Vill-LP Scheme Palta, P.O.- Bengal Enamel, P.S.- Noa Para, Dist-24 Parganas (N), PIN - 743122, (W.B) have changed my name and date of birth from Sanchita, Date of Birth - 02-08-1975 to Sanchita Paul, Date of Birth - 02-08-1978 vide affidavit No 426 Dated 02-11-2022 before the Notary Public at Barasat, North 24 Parganas, (W.B).	

CHANGE OF NAME	
I, Shri Dilip Sarkar, (Ex Servicemen No 14920904-N Rank Havildar) resident of Chinili, PO- Dighari, P.S - Gopalinagar, District - North 24 Parganas, PIN - 743290 (W.B) declared that henceforth my mother's name and date of birth has been changed from SUDHA RANI, Date of Birth - 15-03-1939 to SUDHARANI SARKAR, Date of Birth - 01-01-1944 vide affidavit No 297/2022 Dated 21-10-2022 before the Notary Public at Barasat, North 24 Parganas, (W.B).	

CHANGE OF NAME	
I, Shri Subrata Mondal, (Ex Servicemen No 1491307-A Rank Ex Spr) resident of Sewli, P.O.-Sewli Telini Para, P.S.-Titagarh, Dist- 24 Parganas (N), PIN- 700 121 (W.B) declared that henceforth my daughter's name has been changed from SNEHA MANDAL to SNEHA MONDAL vide affidavit No 42908 Dated 21-10-2022 before the Notary Public at Barasat, North 24 Parganas, (W.B).	

Shiv Sena leader Sudhir Suri shot dead in Amritsar

AMRITSAR/CHANDIGARH, NOV 4 /--/ Shiv Sena leader Sudhir Suri was shot dead by unidentified people in Punjab's Amritsar on Friday, police said. The incident took place outside Gopal Mandir on Majitha Road -- one of the busiest places in the city -- where Suri and some other leaders of the party were holding a protest, they said. According to police, more than five shots were fired at Suri after which he fell down and lost consciousness. He was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to bullet injuries, they said. The accused has been arrested and the weapon used in the crime seized, police said. Suri was in the hit list of several gangsters for a long time and was provided security by the government with around eight Punjab Police personnel being attached with him, they said. Reacting to the incident, Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma said the law and order situation has completely broken down in the state. (PTI)

THE COCHIN MALABAR ESTATES AND INDUSTRIES LTD.							
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Phone No.: 033- 22309601 • CIN No.L01132WB1991PLC152586							
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS ENDED 30.09.2022							
(Rs. in lakhs)							
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Six Months Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.22	30.06.22	30.09.21	30.09.22	30.09.21	31.03.22
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(16.19)	(18.01)	(13.89)	(34.20)	(30.52)	(59.24)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(16.19)	(18.01)	(13.89)	(34.20)	(30.52)	(59.24)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(16.19)	(18.01)	(13.89)	(34.20)	(30.52)	(59.24)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	(16.19)	(18.01)	(13.89)	(34.20)	(30.52)	(59.24)
6	Equity Share Capital	177.19	177.19	177.19	177.19	177.19	177.19
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	-	(454.55)
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (Not Annualised)						
a. Basic :		(0.91)*	(1.02)*	(0.78)*	(1.93)*	(1.72)*	(3.34)
b. Diluted :		(0.91)*	(1.02)*	(0.78)*	(1.93)*	(1.72)*	(3.34)
Note:							
1 The Above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the Quarter and Six Months Ended September 30, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the said Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.cochinmalabar.in)							
2 The above financial results for the Quarter and Six Months Ended September 30, 2022 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 4th November, 2022.							
For The Cochin Malabar Estates And Industries Limited							
C.P. Sharma							
(Wholetime Director)							
DIN : 00258646							
Place : Kolkata							
Date : 4th November, 2022							

RUNIT INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED					
CIN: L6924WB1981PLC034400					
Regd. Office : Diamond Heritage, Suit No. 1411, 16, Strand Road, Kolkata-700001					
Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2022					
(Rs. in lakhs)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		30.09.2022 Un-Audited	30.06.2022 Un-Audited	30.09.2021 Un-Audited	31.03.2022 Audited
1.	Revenue from operation				
	(a) Net sales/income from operations (Net of excise duty)	0.00	0.00	11.87	37.95
	(b) Other operating income	-	-	-	-
	(c) Net gain on fair value changes*	10.11	3.59	3.24	31.28
	Total income from operations (net)	10.11	3.59	15.11	69.23
2.	Expenses				
	(a) Cost of materials consumed	-	-	-	-
	(b) Purchases of Traded Goods	3.89	4.48	3.44	15.10
	(c) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work-in-progress and stock-in-trade	3.83	3.83	4.68	18.61
	(d) Employee benefits expenses	3.55	5.87	3.94	13.96
	(e) Depreciation	11.27	14.18	12.06	47.66
	(f) Other expenditure	-	-	-	-
	Total expenses [2(a) to 2(g)]	11.27	14.18	12.06	47.66
3.	Profit/(Loss) from operations before other income, finance costs and exceptional items (1-2)	1.16	(10.59)	3.05	21.57
4.	Other income	4.91	1.61	3.75	28.76
5.	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before finance costs and exceptional items (3+4)	3.75	(8.98)	6.80	50.33
6.	Finance Cost	0.00	0.00	8.24	26.71
7.	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after finance costs but before exceptional items	3.75	(8.98)	(1.44)	23.62
8.	Exceptional items	-	-	-	-
9.	Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities before tax (6+7)	3.75	(8.98)	(1.44)	23.62
10.	Tax Expense	-	-	-	12.67
11.	Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax (8-9)	3.75	(8.98)	(1.44)	10.95
12.	Extraordinary items (Net of Tax)	-	-	-	-
13.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (11+10)	3.75	(8.98)	(1.44)	10.95
14.	Other Comprehensive Income				
	(a) Items not reclassified to Profit & Loss**	-	-	-	-
	(b) Items reclassified to Profit & Loss	-	-	-	-
15.	Total comprehensive income for the period (12+13)	3.75	(8.98)	(1.44)	15.69
16.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value- Rs. 10/- per share)	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
17.	Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserves as per balance sheet of previous accounting year	-	-	-	-
18(i)	Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised) :				
	(a) Basic	1.88	(4.49)	(0.72)	5.48
18(ii)	Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised) :				
	(a) Basic	1.88	(4.49)	(0.72)	5.48
	(b) Diluted	1.88	(4.49)	(0.72)	8.76
Audited Standalone Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 30th Sep. 2022					
		As at 30.09.22	30.09.21	Note:	
		Unaudited	Unaudited		
Assets				1. The above results have been approved by the Audit Committee and have been taken on record by the Board of Directors at the respective meeting held on 9th October, 2022 and a Limited Review of the same has been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.	
Financial Assets					
(a)	Cash and cash equivalents	0.30	26.72	2. The above results have been prepared in accordance with Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) to the extent applicable.	
(b)	Trade Receivables	0.41	-		
(c)	Loans & Advances	334.88	-	3. Provision for Gratuity Liability will be considered at the end of the year. Provision for Bonus Liability has not been accounted for.	
(d)	Investments	828.94	1,132.54		
	Sub-total Financial Assets	1,164.53	1,159.26	4. Provision for Current Tax & Deferred Tax will be considered at the end of the year.	
Non Financial Assets					
(a)	Current Tax Assets	-	-	5. Previous year figures were rearranged/regrouped wherever necessary.	
(b)	Investment Property	-	-		
(c)	Property Plant and Equipment	210.89	228.99	RUNIT INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED	
(d)	Other Tangible Assets	-	29.15		
(e)	Other Non-Financial Assets	22.61	10.22	Navin Kumar Bhartiya Director	
	Sub-total Non-Financial Assets	233.50	268.35		
	Total Assets	1,398.03	1,427.63	DIN : 00259552	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
LIABILITIES				Place: Kolkata Date: 25.10.2022	
Financial Liabilities					
(a)	Trade Payables	4.95	3.40	RUNIT INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED	
(b)	Borrowings (other than Debt Securities)	208.53	252.18		
(c)	Deposits	0.00	0.00	Director	
(d)	Other financial liabilities	4.86	3.12		
	Sub-total Financial Liabilities	218.35	258.71	RUNIT INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED	
Non Financial Liabilities					
(a)	Provisions	18.64	16.46	Navin Kumar Bhartiya Director	
(b)	Deferred tax Liability (Net)	74.35	58.51		
(c)	Other non financial liabilities	1.46	0.00	DIN : 00259552	
	Sub-total Non Financial Liabilities	94.45	74.97		
EQUITY				Place: Kolkata Date: 25.10.2022	
(a)	Equity Share Capital	20.00	20.00		
(b)	Other equity-Reserves & Surplus	1065.23	1073.95	RUNIT INVESTMENTS COMPANY LIMITED	
	Total Equity	1085.23	1093.95		
	Total Equity and liabilities	1398.03	1427.63		

Bharat Scouts & Guides rally at Diglipur



PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ The Bharat Scouts & Guides wing of Diglipur Educational Zone has conducted an awareness rally on the theme "SAY NO TO PLASTICS" on Friday from Govt. Primary School,

Aerial Bay to Aerial Bay Jetty, Diglipur. Smti. Kala Devi HM (P) GPS Aerial Bay has welcomed the gathering. The chief guest, Mr. B V R Reddy, VP Govt. Secondary School, Keralapuram highlighted the importance

of this rally and flagged off the rally. About 50 Scouts and Guides and 10 Scout masters and Guide Captains participated in the rally. The rally concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Mr Thirupati Scout Master.

Minority Ministry implements NaiRoshni-scheme for leadership development of Minority women

PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/The Ministry of Minority Affairs, GoI is implementing NaiRoshni- the Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women. The target group includes women belonging to all minorities notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 viz. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains. The objective of the scheme is to empower and instill confidence among minority women, including their neighbours from other communities living in the same village/locality, by providing knowledge tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. The leadership development training scheme shall be implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through selected

organizations. The selected organizations should implement the project directly through their organizational set-up in the locality/village/area. The Central Government and UT Administration training institutes including universities and institutes of higher learning can also implement the scheme. Organizations which would be eligible for applying for financial assistance under this scheme are Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860; a public Trust registered under any law for the time being in force, a private limited non-profit company registered under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956; Universities/ Institutions of higher learning recognized by University Grants Commission(UGC), Training institutes of Central and State Government/UT

Administration including Panchayati Raj Training institutes and Duly registered Cooperative Societies of Women/ Self Help Group. The selected organization would have the responsibility to motivate, identify and select women to be trained in accordance with the criteria of the scheme from villages/urban localities having a substantial minority population. The organizations will involve Head of the Gram Panchayat/ Municipal Body/ Local Authority for identification/ selection of women trainees. The details of the trainees will be submitted by the organization before the start of training through the Online Application Management System (OAMS) for NaiRoshni, once the project is approved. Although there will be no annual income bar, a woman/

parent or guardian of woman having annual income not exceeding Rs.2.50 lakh from all sources would be given preference in selection. They should be between the age group of 18 years to 65 years. The proposal should be submitted in the prescribed format through Online Application Management System (OAMS). The link of OAMS is available on official website of Ministry of Minority Affairs i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. After filling up the complete proposal in the OAMS, a print of the same may be taken and submitted to the District Collector/ District Magistrate for their recommendation in the prescribed format. The detailed guidelines of the scheme are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

Polit Bureau Member of CPI(M) to arrive today



PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ Mr. G. Ramakrishnan, Polit Bureau Member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is reaching Port Blair on 5th November 2022 from the mainland. The senior leader will attend a series of meetings, including the State Organising Committee meeting scheduled on 5th November 2022 at Shaheed Bhavan, Port Blair.

Admission in DBRAIT

PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ The admission forms for the new admission in 2 yrs Pre-Sea Training for Diploma Holders (Post Diploma in Marine Engineering course) at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT) may be collected from the Maritime Section of DBRAIT from Nov. 7 to 19, 2022. This course is duly approved by DG Shipping, Mumbai and is a residential course. The course is of 24 months duration and the entry qualification is Diploma in Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering/ EEE/ Marine Engineering / Ship Building Engineering with 50% marks overall in Diploma and 50% marks in English either in class X or XII. For further details about the course, fees structure candidates may contact the Maritime Section of DBRAIT during working hours over mobile nos. 9679553501/9933224884.

India dominates Asisan Chess Championship



PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ India dominated the 2022 Asian Chess Championship, which came to an end in New Delhi on 3rd November 2022. Indian players swept the podium in both open and women's sections, with R Praggnanandhaa and P V

Nandhidhaa winning the titles. 140 players from 13 Asian countries which include 31 Grandmasters, 46 International Masters, 14 Women Grandmasters and 17 Women International Masters took part in the prestigious championship.

Last date for Online submission of application in TGCE

PORT BLAIR, NOV 4/--/ The last date for online submission of application forms for admission to two years B.Ed. Degree Programme in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair is 10th November, 2022. The provisional merit list of the candidates who have applied for admission to two years B.Ed. Degree Programme will be published on 11th November, 2022 at 2 pm in the admission portal at <http://collegedadmission.andaman.gov.in> under 'Announcements'. Candidates can submit their claims and objections in person or through email at tagoremail2481@gmail.com up to 15th November, 2022. After attending claims and objections, final merit list will be published on 16th November, 2022 at 2 pm. Counseling for admission to these courses is scheduled on 18th November, 2022 at Tagore Auditorium from 9.30 am onwards.

MoE sets up panel to strengthen assessment, accreditation of higher educational institutions

NEW DELHI, NOV 4/--/ The Ministry of Education has set up a high-level panel to strengthen the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions, officials said on Friday. The panel will be headed by Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur. He is also the chairperson of the Standing Committee of IIT Council. "The mandate of the committee includes strengthening the assessment and accreditation processes and preparing a road map for the National Accreditation Council envisioned in the National Education Policy, 2020. India has one of the largest and diverse education systems in the world," a senior MoE official said. "Accreditation plays a vital role in making quality assurance an integral part of the functioning of higher educational

institutions. Accreditation assists the institutions to understand their strengths and weaknesses through an informed review process, thus facilitating identification of internal areas of planning and resource allocation by them," the official said. Other members of the committee include Mridul Hazarika, Vice-Chancellor, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Assam; Bharat Bhasker, Professor, IIM, Lucknow and Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. "Accreditation status of any higher educational institution serves as a source of reliable information for the students, employers and the society regarding the quality of education being offered in the institution," the official said. (PTI)

SC upholds validity of Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme of 2014, quashes Rs 15,000 salary limit



NEW DELHI, NOV 4/--/ The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the validity of the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme of 2014 but quashed the threshold limit of Rs 15,000 monthly salary for joining the pension fund. The 2014 amendment had capped the maximum pensionable salary (basic pay plus dearness allowance) at Rs 15,000 per month. Prior to the amendment, the maximum pensionable salary was capped at Rs 6,500 a month. A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices Aniruddha Bose and

Sudhanshu Dhulia, however, read down certain provisions of the scheme. Employees who have not exercised the option to join the pension scheme must do so within six months, the bench said. It added that eligible employees who could not join the scheme by the cut-off date should be given an additional chance as there was a lack of clarity on the issue in view of judgments passed by the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi. The bench further held as invalid the condition in the 2014 scheme that

required employees to make a further contribution at 1.16 per cent on salary exceeding Rs 15,000. It held that the condition to make an additional contribution on the salary exceeding the threshold limit to be ultra vires but added that this part of the judgement would be kept in suspension for six months to enable the authorities to generate funds. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation and the Centre challenged the verdicts of the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi, which had quashed the 2014 scheme. (PTI)

Face-painting of 'daivas': Woman tenders apology for depiction

MANGALURU, NOV 4 --/A young woman from Hyderabad, drawing flak on the social media for her portrayal of Daiva Mukhavarnike' (face-painting of Daivas) mimicking the film Kantara', offered a penalty to Lord Manjunatha temple in Dharmasthala and tendered an apology to 'dharmadhikari' D Veerendra Hegde. The woman painted her face to resemble the Daiva character in the Kantara.' However, she painted the Yakshagana costume while trying to portray the role of daivaradhaka (worshipper) which drew widespread criticism from netizens of the coastal region. Reacting to

this, she told reporters on Thursday that she mistook the Yakshagana costume with that of Daiva Mukhavarnike and committed an error. After the outrage on the social media, she realised her mistake and apologised to daivaradhakas and coastal Karnataka people for hurting their sentiments. Her comments on Daiva Mukhavarnike and Daiva's role in the film had also received flak on the social media. Kantara', the blockbuster Kannada movie by Rishab Shetty, deals with man's conflict with nature in the backdrop of the traditional beliefs on Daivaradhane' in Dakshina Kannada region of Karnataka. (PTI)

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If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere
Frank A. Clark

India: A major defence manufacturing hub

The ‘Make-in-India’ mantra appears to be fast changing to the ‘Make-for-World’ approach. At least the recent developments in the country’s defence sector makes one believe this. India has inked a pact with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 aircraft, worth Rs 21,935 crore, to replace the IAF’s ageing Avro-748 planes of 1960’s. The first 16 aircraft will be delivered between September 2023 and August 2025 in ‘fly-away’ condition from Airbus’s assembly line in Seville at Spain and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) at Vadodara plant in Gujarat between 2026 to 2031 under a mutual agreement. The C-295 aircraft are special transport aircraft of 5-10 ton capacity with latest technology, has a maximum speed of 480 kmph with a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para-dropping of troops and cargo, capable of short take-off and landing from semi-prepared surfaces and Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs). The C-295 plane is used for tactical transport of up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers, for logistic operations to locations that are not accessible to current heavier aircraft, can also be used for casualty or medical evacuation as well as for special missions for disaster response and maritime patrol duties.

With this deal, the Indian private sector has entered into the technology-intensive and highly competitive aviation industry as over 13,400 parts, 4,600 sub-assemblies and all the seven major component assemblies of the aircraft will be done in India. Only the engines, landing gear and avionics will be provided by Airbus to be integrated at the Vadodara plant which will have capacity of approximately 96% of the work that Airbus does in Spain to produce the plane. It is a matter of strategic importance and pride that for the first time C-295 aircraft will be manufactured outside Europe and subsequently it will be exported to other countries and private players. State-run Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Limited will provide an indigenous electronic warfare suite to be fitted in all 56 aircrafts. The project will be capable of generating 600 highly skilled jobs directly, over 3,000 indirect jobs and an additional 3,000 medium-skill employment opportunities with more than 42.5 lakh man-hours of work within the aerospace and defence sector, in addition, approximately 240 engineers will be trained at the Airbus facility in Spain.

Manufacturing of C295 aircraft in Vadodara will not only give strength to the military but it will also create an aerospace ecosystem, a milestone in India’s quest for becoming self-reliant in defence as the government of India aims at achieving a turnover of USD 25 Bn including export of USD 5 Bn in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025. India is already exporting defence equipment to 75 countries with defence export growth of 334% achieved in the last five years. India is the 3rd largest military spender in the world, with its defence budget accounting for 2.15% of the country’s total GDP. Government has also established two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) has signed 69 MoUs with potential investment of Rs 10,545 crore, and Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC) 42 MoUs having investment potential of Rs 11,359 crore. These initiatives have reduced the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources to 36% from 46% of the overall expenditure in the last four years, a really big achievement by any standards.

US sanction on Chinese chips threat to global economy

REFLEX ACTION

Prabir Purkayastha

broad that it includes technologies used by IBM even in the early 90s!

The sanctions also encompass any company that uses US technology or products in its supply chain. This is a provision in the US laws; any company that "touches" the US while manufacturing its products is automatically brought under the US sanctions regime. It is a unilateral extension of US national legal jurisdiction and can be used to punish and crush any entity – a company or any other institution – that is directly or indirectly linked to the US. These sanctions are designed to completely decouple the supply chain of the US and its allies from China.

The other part of the latest US sanctions, apart from specific companies already on the sanctioned list of Chinese companies, is adding 31 companies to an "unverified list". These companies must provide complete information to the US authorities within two months, without which they will be barred as well. Furthermore, no US citizen or one domiciled in the US can work for those sanctioned or unverified companies, not even to maintain or repair equipment supplied earlier. How big is the global semiconductor industry? What are the likely consequences of the US sanctions?

The semiconductor industry’s size is currently more than half a trillion dollars and is likely to double its size to more than one trillion by 2030. According to a Semiconductor Industry Association and Boston Consulting Group Report – Turning the Tide for Semiconductor Manufacturing in the US – China is expected to account for approximately 60 per cent of that

The US has gambled big in its latest, across-the-board sanctions on Chinese companies in the semiconductor industry, believing it can kneecap China and retain its global dominance. From the slogan of globalisation and "free trade" of the neoliberal 90s, it has reverted to good old technology denial regimes followed by the US and its allies during the Cold War. While it might work in the short run in slowing down the Chinese advances, the cost to the US semiconductor industry of losing China – its biggest market – will also have significant consequences. In the process, the semiconductor industries of Taiwan and South Korea and equipment manufacturers in Japan and the European Union are likely to become collateral damage. It reminds us again of what Kissinger once said: "To be an enemy of the US is dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal!"

The purpose of the US sanctions, the second generation of sanctions after the earlier one in August 2021, is to restrict China’s ability to import advanced computing chips, develop and maintain supercomputers, and manufacture advanced semiconductors. Though its sanctions are cloaked in military terms – denying China access to technology and products that can help China’s military – in reality, its sanctions are targeted at almost all leading semiconductor players in China and, therefore, its civilian sector as well. The fiction of "barring military use" is only to provide the fig leaf of a cover under WTO exceptions on having to provide market access to all WTO members.

What are the specific sanctions?
*Advanced logic, such as AI and High-Performance Computing chips

*Equipment for 16nm logic chips, and non-planar logic chips include FinFET and Gate All Around

*Memory chips: NAND with 128-layers or more and DRAM with 18nm half-pitch

Specific equipment bans go even further, including many older technologies as well. For example, one commentator pointed out that the prohibition of tools is so



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), G. Kishan Reddy at the 'Ganga Utsav- The River Festival 2022', in New Delhi---PIB

Strong laws to protect Encryption the need of the hour

FOCUS

Prachi Arya

“Encryption safeguards the personal security of billions of people and the national security of countries around the world.” The opening statement on the About page of the Global Encryption Coalition (‘GEC’), which consists of 180 members from among civil society organisations, companies and individuals, captures the essence of encryption.

Once considered a wartime necessity, encryption has steadily become the technological backbone for secure online communications, digital privacy and protection of national critical information infrastructure (‘CII’). Indeed, it is crucial to protect data at a time when data breaches are only increasing.

For instance, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (‘CERT-In’), a nodal executive agency which monitors cyber security incidents in India, has reported a steady increase in data breaches since 2017, in a response to a question in the Rajya Sabha. Section 70 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (‘IT Act’) defines CII as a “computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety”.

Previously, the Union Government has notified the Unique Identification Authority of India-related facilities, assets and infrastructure as CII. Once declared as ‘protected system’ under section 70, any unauthorised persons accessing these resources may be jailed for up to 10 years, and fined. Nonetheless, vulnerabilities are often exploited by malicious actors. For instance, in June 2021, a personal data breach of millions of public distribution system (‘PDS’) beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu, including Aadhaar details, was reported, after an online vendor claimed access to nearly 2 terabytes of PDS data on a hacker’s

platform and demanded a payment of USD 1,950 in cryptocurrency for handing over the decryption code. Governments and law enforcement agencies (‘LEAs’) are also increasingly undermining encryption to tackle crimes and criminal communications. This includes the ‘going dark’ challenge wherein, with strong encryption protecting all kinds of data, criminals use online communications channels to hide their plans and activities. In such cases, LEAs struggle to read investigation-related information and actively oppose encryption. The most worrying of these has been the Five Eyes alliance which is composed of the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It voices the views of many LEAs in its unequivocal belief that “privacy is not absolute”.

A 2020 joint statement released by the Five Eyes, India and Japan goes against not just end-to-end encryption, but also a range of encrypted services available, including device encryption, custom encrypted applications and encryption across integrated platforms, purportedly to deal with potential child sexual abuse material. In another statement, on countering child sexual exploitation and terrorism, it stated that “tech companies should include mechanisms in the design of their encrypted products and services whereby governments, acting with appropriate legal authority, can gain access to data in a readable and usable format.”

Further, since 2019, India is part of an international working group to deal with criminals online which states: “According to the participants, encryption is designed with no means of lawful access; it allows terrorists, drug dealers, child molesters, fraudsters, and other criminals to hide incriminating evidence.”

Governments are trying to undermine encryption due to this issue through legislation, such as by introducing stipulations that erode strong end-to-end encryption deployed by many tech companies to protect consumer privacy and the integrity of personal communications. This includes tracing the first originator of messages on instant messaging freeware service Whatsapp. Since there is no way of knowing who may be subject to investigations, companies are required to store all communications in order to ascertain who said what, when they are required to do so. However, broad surveillance adversely impacts anonymity on the internet, access to strong encryption, the issue of traceability, and laws on identifying the first originator of a message. In 2018, Australia enacted the Assistance and Access Act, to allow LEAs access to messages on platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. It enforced conditions on tech companies and service providers to build surveillance capabilities, such as through push notifications that download malware to a target’s computer or phone.

It was modelled after the U.K.’s Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (‘UK Act’),

called the “Snoopers Charter” by its critics. The UK Act contains mandatory, broad and secret decryption obligations for service providers. It allows for the U.K. government to order telecommunication providers to remove any electronic protection measure. Thanks to a series of cases by civil society organisations Liberty and Privacy International, the U.K. High Court of Justice found that it is unlawful for British security services like the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service and the Government Communications Headquarters, to obtain an individual’s communications data from telecom providers without prior independent authorisation, while carrying out criminal investigations.

However, it still allows indiscriminate snooping on people irrespective of whether they are suspected of crimes, although this is being appealed. That the Australian law followed the footsteps of the UK Act is hardly unique. A similar trajectory is noticeable with other countries. The first in the series of similar Asian laws came from the People’s Republic of China (‘PRC’) which took the big brother trope to its farthest extent. PRC is considered the world’s largest surveillance State. Under the Cybersecurity Law of the PRC, 2017, companies must store users’ data on local servers and decrypt the data on request from State authorities.

The vaguely worded law enables policing and monitoring of the entire population for an expansive list of ideas like political, social and religious beliefs, and the online activities of at-risk populations, such as Tibetans, Uyghurs and Chinese human rights defenders, for which they face draconian criminal penalties like being unlawfully and secretly detained. (IPA/To be continued)

growth, displacing the US as the global leader. This is the immediate trigger for the US sanctions and its attempt to halt China’s industry from taking over the lead from the US and its allies.

While the above measures are intended to isolate China and limit its growth, what is the downside for the US and its allies in sanctioning China? The problem is that for the US, more so for Taiwan and South Korea, China is their biggest trading partner! Imposing such sanctions on equipment and chips also means destroying a good part of their market with no prospect of an immediate replacement. This is true not only for China’s East Asian neighbours but also for equipment manufacturers like the Dutch company, the world’s only supplier of Extreme Ultra Violet (EUV) lithographic machines. For Taiwan and South Korea, China is not only their biggest export destination for the semiconductor industry but also its other exports as well as its biggest supplier for a range of products. The forcible separation of its supply chain in the semiconductor industry is likely to be accompanied by separation in other sectors as well.

So why has the US started a chip war against China at a time that its ability to win such a war is limited? It can, at best, postpone China’s rise as a global peer military power and the world’s biggest economy. An explanation lies in what the military historians claim as the Thucydides Trap: when a rising power rivals a dominant military power, most such cases lead to war.

According to Thucydides, the rise of Athens led to Sparta, the dominant military power, then going to war against it, destroying both – therefore, the trap. While such claims have been disputed by other historians, when a dominant military power confronts a rising one, it does increase the chance of either a physical or economic war. If the Thucydides Trap between China and the US restricts itself to only an economic war – the chip war – we should consider ourselves lucky! (IPA)

Conventional Crossword															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
9								10							
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										18	19			20	
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24								25	26				27		
28															
30															

ACROSS								DOWN							
1	Revolve							1	Swift						
6	Make brown							2	Be indebted						
9	Conscious of							3	Sample						
10	Grotto							4	Craft						
11	Annoyances							5	Examine						
12	Meadow							6	Story						
13	Natural gift							7	Exact satisfaction for						
15	Exploit							8	Tidy						
18	Swarm							14	Fate						
21	Gloomy							16	Show clearly						
24	Insect							17	Water storage						
25	Entertain							19	Ooze out						
28	Move quickly							20	Encounters						
29	Military trainee							21	Morse element						
30	Female bird							22	Stupefy						
31	Held principles							23	Shoestrings						
								26	Homo sapiens						
								27	Become firm						

SUDOKU : 3686

									2
8	2							9	
7	4	1	8				3		
					8	5	7	3	
1			7			4			9
	5	7	3	2					
		5				6	8	9	1
		6						5	4
9									

Yesterday's Solution 3685

4	3	5	9	6	1	8	2	7
7	2	8	4	5	3	1	9	6
1	6	9	2	8	7	5	4	3
2	8	1	3	9	5	6	7	4
5	9	3	7	4	6	2	1	8
6	4	7	1	2	8	3	5	9
9	5	4	6	3	2	7	8	1
3	7	2	8	1	4	9	6	5
8	1	6	5	7	9	4	3	2

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1694

D	E	A	R			S	T	O	W
A		N					A	P	E
P	O	I	S	E		A	R	I	D
P		M	E	A	L	S		A	
E	R	U	P	T		S	E	T	A
R	E	S	T		T	U	N	E	S
	G		E	X	E	R	T		P
G	I	S	T		N	E	R	V	E
E	M	U				E			C
M	E	N	U			J	E	S	T

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An anti-smog gun is used to spray water to curb air pollution, in New Delhi

ED raids in Jharkhand, West Bengal in money laundering case

KOLKATA/RANCHI, NOV 4 /--/ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday raided a dozen locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand as part of a money laundering probe into alleged use of forged papers for sale of defence land in these states, officials said.

The federal agency searched about eight locations in Ranchi and adjoining areas, besides multiple places in Kolkata including the premises linked to arrested businessman Amit Agarwal. The ruling UPA in the state, however, decried the raids saying they were conducted only to topple the Hemant Soren government. The officials said that some real estate dealers, private persons and linked entities were searched by the ED teams. Employees working under Agarwal were also being questioned, an ED official said. "At Agarwal's office in Nonapukur in the southern part of Kolkata, two close associates of the businessperson were questioned for over an hour to find out if he has any other property in West Bengal apart from the places that we have raided," he said. The official said that searches were conducted at the office of another businessperson, who is closely associated with Agarwal, in the posh Salt Lake area. "We started conducting raids from 6.40 am today. Searches are still underway. Our detectives are questioning employees of Agarwal inside his office. Some of our officers are looking for clues at Agarwal's apartment and his high-end vehicle," he told PTI.

The probe stems from a Jharkhand Police FIR filed to investigate alleged use of forged papers in sale and purchase of defence land, they said. Agarwal was arrested by the ED last month on charges of alleged conspiracy to "trap" Rajeev Kumar, a lawyer representing a petitioner in two PILs filed against Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren. This case also has links to the alleged illegal mining case being probed by the ED in which it recently summoned Soren and has arrested one of his aides and two others. (PTI)

NHRC summons chief secys of Delhi, 3 neighbouring states over air pollution

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ Alarmed over the rise in pollution in Delhi-NCR, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the chief secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to appear before it on November 10 to discuss the matter, an official statement said on Friday.

The NHRC said it is "not satisfied" with the actions taken so far to address the issue and that "much more" needs to be done to reduce pollution in Delhi. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi stood at 426 (severe) at 9:30 am on Friday, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. An AQI above 400 is considered 'severe' and can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses. The NHRC asked the chief secretaries to inform it within a week about the steps taken by their respective governments to stop stubble burning. "Their reports must also inform about the effect of smog towers and anti-smog guns. It should also have information on how many anti-smog guns are operational and what further steps the Delhi and other governments are taking in the near future. "The report of Punjab and Haryana must also specifically inform about the effect of the scheme of in-situ management of crop residue," the NHRC statement said.

The commission said its directions follow a report and material on record received from the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC) in response to a notice issued by it on June 22. It said it had issued the notice after taking suo motu cognisance of media reports alleging that air pollution is a great threat to human health in India and might reduce life expectancy for the people of Delhi. "The commission has noted the measures taken so far but observed that these are not enough to reduce the pollution level in Delhi-NCR. It is of the considered view that much more needs to be done to reduce the pollution level immediately," the statement said. Despite several directions from time to time, "nothing much has improved". One of the major causes of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region is stubble burning in the states surrounding it, it said. The NHRC further stated that "notwithstanding several directions of the Supreme Court, the National Green Tribunal and other authorities, the air quality in Delhi-NCR has not seen required improvement for a human-friendly environment, which cannot be allowed to remain so perpetually". As many as 31 out of the 36 monitoring stations in Delhi recorded 'severe' AQI, the CPCB data at 9:10 am showed. Delhi's 24-hour average AQI stood at 450 at 4 pm on Thursday, just a notch short of the 'severe plus' category. (PTI)

Delhi govt orders 50 per cent of staff to work from home, asks private offices to follow suit

Primary schools to be closed from today

NEW DELHI, NOV 4 /--/ Alarmed by hazardous pollution levels in Delhi, environment minister Gopal Rai on Friday ordered 50 per cent staff of the Delhi government to work from home and said an advisory will be issued to private offices to follow suit.

Earlier in the day, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said primary schools will be closed from Saturday in a bid to protect children from the effects of worsening air quality. At a press conference, Rai said schools will be asked to curtail outdoor activities of senior students. He said the Delhi government has decided to implement the anti-pollution curbs recommended by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), including a ban on non-BS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles. "At a meeting with departments concerned, it has been decided that 50 per cent staff of government offices will work from home from Monday and an advisory will be issued to private offices to follow suit," Rai said. In a bid to ramp up public transport, the government will also launch 'Paryavaran Bus Service' which will include 500 privately-run CNG buses. Rai said a six-member panel chaired by the special commissioner, transport, has been set up to monitor the implementation of curbs on anti-polluting activities. It will have two members each from the transport department, traffic police and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee. Revenue commissioners have been asked to prepare a plan for staggered timings of markets and offices. The Delhi government will request Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to divert trucks from the entry point of peripheral expressways around Delhi. Resident welfare associations will be asked to provide electric heaters to security staff to prevent burning of coal and firewood.

Special task forces will be constituted to curb air pollution at hotspots. Thirteen teams of the DPCC will monitor industrial areas, Rai said. The minister said the odd-even car rationing scheme will be implemented if need arises and discussions on it are on. According to a study conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute in 2018, vehicular emissions account for around 40 per cent of the PM2.5



Students pose for a photo as they leave their school after attending their classes, in New Delhi

pollution in the capital. The CAQM -- a statutory body formed in 2021 to tackle air pollution in Delhi-NCR -- had in an order on Wednesday said state governments may take a call on the closure of educational institutions, non-emergency commercial activities and plying of vehicles on odd-even basis. Almost all air quality monitoring stations reported "severe" air quality, while 13 of them logged an AQI of more than 450. According to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the concentration of lung-damaging fine particles known as PM2.5 was above 600 micrograms per cubic metre, around eight times the national standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre, in many areas. According to the World Health Organization, a 24-hour average PM2.5 concentration of up to 15 microgram per cubic metre is considered safe. The 24-hour average AQI in the capital had jumped to 450, just a notch short of the 'severe plus' category, on Thursday, prompting authorities to invoke the final stage of anti-pollution curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan, including a ban on non-BS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles. (PTI)

'I was hit by 4 bullets,' says Imran Khan in first address to nation after assassination bid

LAHORE, NOV 4 /--/ Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said he was hit by four bullets on his right leg during the assassination attempt by two shooters a day earlier, when he was leading a political march in Punjab province.

Addressing the nation from the Shaukat Khanum Hospital here, in his first address since the assassination attempt, Khan said that he was aware of the plot to kill him. "I'll come to the details of the attack later. I got to know the day before [the attack] that either in Wazirabad of Gujrat, they planned to kill me," the 70-year-old chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party claimed. "I was hit by 4 bullets," Khan, whose right leg was plastered, said. Dr Faisal Sultan, who is treating the cricketer-turned-politician, said X-rays of Khan's right leg showed that his tibia was damaged and in fact fractured. "In this scan, the line you see on right leg is the main artery. The bullet fragments were very near it," Sultan said. Khan suffered a bullet injury on the right leg when two gunmen man fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government. The former Prime Minister described the attack on his life and said he was on the container when a "burst of bullets" was directed at him, causing him to



get shot in the leg and fall down. "Then a second burst comes, there were two people," he said, narrating the incident. Khan said that if the two bullet sprays had been synchronised, he would not have survived. "Because I fell down, I think he [the shooter] thought I had died and fled," he said. Khan noted that one suspect, claiming to be an extremist, had been arrested. "He is not an extremist. There was a plan behind the attempt [and] we will uncover it," he said.

The former Prime Minister said that three others, separate from the ones who he had named in a tape stashed abroad, had plotted to kill him. "How did I find out? Insiders told me. "Firstly, they accused me of blasphemy, they made tapes and released them and PMLN projected it, I knew who was doing it...This [the attempted assassination] happened exactly according to the script," he said. Khan, who was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, has talked about a 'threat letter' from the US and claimed that it was part of a foreign conspiracy to remove him as he was not acceptable for following an independent foreign policy. The US has bluntly rejected the allegations. He has been demanding early elections and he is leading the long march towards Islamabad to force his demands. The term of the National Assembly will end in August 2023 and fresh elections should be held within 60 days. (PTI)



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra offering prayers during a visit to the Jwala Devi Temple, in Kangra

Set up for 'final ascent', aiming to expedite India-UK FTA in next few months: British envoy

MUMBAI, NOV 4 /--/ India and the United Kingdom are set up for the "final ascent" on signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and expediting the pact in the next few months is one of the main aims of the two sides, British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis said on Friday. Ellis said the two sides have got through the majority of the negotiations, but there are "tough issues" like the security of investments of British companies where some in the past had found difficulty in regard to the now-scrapped retrospective tax, in an apparent reference to the long-drawn Vodafone case. On extradition to India of economic fugitives like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, Ellis said it is no longer a government matter. The

British home secretary had signed the extradition of businessman Mallya over three years ago and it is the issue that now lies with the court, he said. "The wheels of justice turn slowly, but they do turn," he said at the India Today Conclave here. Mallya, accused of cheating and fraud in India, has been declared a proclaimed offender by a Mumbai court. India and Britain launched negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in January with an aim to conclude talks by Diwali (October-end), but the deadline was missed due to a lack of consensus on several issues. Ellis drew a parallel to the signing of the FTA to long climb up a mountain. "We have walked up the valley. We have now got up to the base camp. And now what we have to do a

short and steep ascent. That's tough and it requires trust on both sides. We got to adapt. We have got through the majority of the negotiations already



and now we are set up for the final ascent," said the High Commissioner. The long-pending FTA issue was also discussed during an interaction

between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak, who took charge of his new responsibility late last month. "So I think there will be a push and when the two prime ministers spoke last week, almost immediately after Rishi Sunak became Prime Minister, they agreed this is one of the main aims for the next few months," Ellis said in response to a question on by when he thinks the negotiations will be completed and the agreement signed.

Stressing that FTA will deliver growth and jobs in both the countries, he said any trade agreement comes down to balance and added the UK wants access to the goods market in India which has high tariffs. India, too, would also like to access the UK

market, said the British envoy. The High Commissioner said India nationals topped visas for students, overtaking China this year, and 45 per cent of skilled workers coming into his country on a visa were from India. On Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has entered its ninth month, Ellis termed it as unjustified and said it is a matter that affects the entire world. High prices of fertilisers, oil and energy are affecting every country, he said. The British envoy said NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries are allowing Ukraine to defend itself from territorial aggression, "a military invasion that is unjustified, unwarranted and deeply harmful to everybody".(PTI)

Iran marks 1979 US Embassy takeover amid nationwide protests

DUBAI, NOV 4 /--/Iran on Friday marked the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran as its theocracy faces nationwide protests after the death of a 22-year-old woman earlier arrested by the country's morality police.

Iranian state-run television aired live feeds of various commemorations around the country, with some in Tehran waving placards of the triangle-shaped Iranian drones Russia now uses to strike targets in its war on Ukraine. But while crowds in Tehran looked large with chador-wearing women waving the Islamic Republic's flag, other commemorations in the country appeared smaller, with only a few dozen people taking part. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, speaking to people gathered in front of the former US Embassy, criticised those protesting the theocracy. "Anyone taking the smallest step in the direction of breaching security and riots, must know that they are stepping in the direction of enemies of the Islamic Revolution," he said. Americans think they can execute the plan they carried out in some countries like Syria and Libya here. What a false dream! Those at the commemoration also waved effigies of French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Signs and chants from the crowd called out: Death to America! Death to Israel!

The demonstrations that have convulsed Iran for more than six weeks after the death of Mahsa Amini mark one of the biggest challenges to the country's clerical rulers since they seized power in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

At least 300 protesters have been killed and 14,000 arrested since the unrest began, according to a Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that's been monitoring the crackdown on demonstrators. Iran's government has not offered an overall death toll, with one state newspaper even making the counterfactual claim that no one had been killed by security forces over the 49 days of protests. Later on Friday, protests began in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, which has seen weeks of unrest. Online videos purported to show people marching in the streets, with the crackle of gunfire in the background. Some protesters appeared bloodied. It wasn't immediately clear how many people had been injured. A Shiite cleric reportedly was shot dead on Thursday in Sistan and Baluchestan, a long restive province that's predominantly Sunni. Hard-liners within Iran long have bussed government workers and others into such November 4 demonstrations, which have a carnival-like feel for the students and others taking part on Taleqani Street in downtown Tehran. This year, however, it remained clear Iran's theocracy hopes to energize its headline base. Some signs read We Are Obedient To The Leader, referring to 83-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say over all matters of state in the country.

The weeks long demonstrations have included cries calling for Khamenei's death and the overthrow of the government. The annual commemoration marks when student demonstrators climbed over the fence at the embassy on November 4, 1979, angered by then-President Jimmy Carter allowing the fatally ill Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to receive cancer treatment in the United States. The students soon took over the entire, leafy compound. A few staffers fled and hid in the home of the Canadian ambassador to Iran before escaping the country with the help of the CIA, a story dramatized in the 2012 film Argo.

The 444-day crisis transfixed America, as nightly images of blindfolded hostages played on television sets across the nation. Iran finally let all the captives go the day Carter left office on Ronald Reagan's inauguration day in 1981. That enmity between Iran and the US has ebbed and surged over the decades since. The US and world powers reached a nuclear deal with Iran in 2015 that drastically curtailed its program in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions.

However, then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018, sparking years of tensions since. Late Thursday in California at a rally before the US mid-term elections, President Joe Biden also stopped his speech to address a crowd that held up cellphones displaying the message FREE IRAN. (AP)



People visit an exhibition organised to support small business owners at a hotel in Gaza City

Third of world heritage glaciers under threat, warns UNESCO study

LONDON, NOV 4 /--/A third of the glaciers on the UNESCO World Heritage list are under threat, regardless of efforts to limit temperature increases, a study conducted by the UN body has found.

However, the study said, it was still possible to save the other two-thirds, if the rise in global temperatures did not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era. UNESCO said this would be a major challenge facing delegates at the upcoming COP27. The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, or COP27, will be the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference. It will be held from November 6-18, 2022 in Egypt's

Sharm El Sheikh. "This report is a call to action. Only a rapid reduction in our CO2 emission levels can save glaciers and the exceptional biodiversity that depends on them." "COP27 will have a crucial role to help find solutions to this issue. UNESCO is determined to support states in pursuing this goal," UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said.

In addition to drastically reduced carbon emissions, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is advocating for the creation of a new international fund for glacier monitoring and preservation. Such a fund would support comprehensive research, promote exchange networks between all stakeholders and implement early

warning and disaster risk reduction measures, the study said. Half of humanity depends directly or indirectly on glaciers as their water source for domestic use, agriculture, and power. Glaciers are also pillars of biodiversity, feeding many ecosystems, it said. "When glaciers melt rapidly, millions of people face water scarcity and the increased risk of natural disasters such as flooding, and millions more may be displaced by the resulting rise in sea levels," IUCN Director General Dr Bruno Oberle said. "This study highlights the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and invest in nature-based solutions, which can help mitigate climate change and allow people to better adapt to its impacts," he added.

Fifty UNESCO World Heritage sites are home to glaciers,

representing almost 10 per cent of the Earth's total glacierised area. They include the highest (next to Mt Everest), the longest (in Alaska), and the last remaining glaciers in Africa. The UNESCO study, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), showed that these glaciers have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO2 emissions, which are warming temperatures. They are currently losing 58 billion tons of ice every year equivalent to the combined annual water use of France and Spain and are responsible for nearly five per cent of observed global sea-level rise. The glaciers under threat are in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania, the study said. (PTI)

Bid on Imran's life : Spectre of political assassinations continues to haunt Pak

ISLAMABAD, NOV 4 /--/ The shootings and terrorist attacks for more than seven decades have taken the lives of several politicians in Pakistan, with former premier Imran Khan becoming the latest to join the long list of leaders who faced assassination bids.

October 16, 1951, stands out in the history of Pakistan as a date when the first prime minister of the country, Liaquat Ali Khan, was shot dead during a public rally in Rawalpindi's Company Gardens, damaging the foundations of a fragile democratic structure of the newly-born nation. The bullets fired in 1951 at the Company Gardens, later renamed Liaquat Bagh, led to the first major assassination but, unfortunately, it was not the last attempt as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman has become the latest to join the long list of politicians, who have faced such attacks. Such attacks which have continued with frequent intervals for more than seven decades took the lives of several politicians, including former premier Benazir Bhutto, her brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto, Gujrat's Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi, Punjab's former home minister Shuja Khanzada and ex-minister for minorities Shahbaz Bhatti.

Several others, including Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Assembly member and Awami National Party's Bashir Ahmed

Bilour and his son Haroon Bilour; religious scholar and ex-senator Maulana Samiul Haq; Muttahida Qaumi Movement's Syed Ali Raza Abidi; and PTI's Sardar Soran Singh were also killed in such attacks. Just like Khan, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)'s incumbent Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has also survived an assassination attempt. Benazir was assassinated on December 27, 2007 by a suicide bomber when she had just finished an election rally in Rawalpindi. Her brother was shot dead along with six associates in a police encounter near his home in Karachi on September 20, 1996, during her tenure.

On March 2, 2011, gunmen killed Bhatti, who spoke about blasphemy law and championed the rights of the country's beleaguered minorities. Singh was gunned down in a targeted attack near his house on April 22, 2016. The attacks have continued in the country and scarred the consciousness of the nation. The spectre of political assassinations continues to haunt Pakistan. The flames have not yet been extinguished and the wounds are still gaping, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. We haven't learnt any lesson from the past. In fact, the frequency of violent attacks has increased, the paper

quoted Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, the president of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), as saying. He said that there had hardly been any plan chalked out to carry out politics in an organised and civilised manner.

The PILDAT president recalled that the only serious effort to deal with violent and extremist incidents as well as the mindset that led to them



was the National Action Plan (NAP), but everyone forgot

about it in a year or so after its birth. Democracy weakens where violence and extremism prevail, Mehboob said. He regretted that democracy did not work in societies, where political opponents were labelled as traitors. Political rivals oppose each other across the globe but they refrain from labelling each other as traitors to gain political

capital, he lamented. Traitor means eliminating the opponent and that's what we have been witnessing for so long, he added. Commenting on the attack on Khan, he said that the reaction over the incident suggested that the tragedy would be used for political gains as the statements from the party leadership did not carry a reconciliatory tone, which could help in putting out the fire of intolerance and polarisation.

Analysts, while regretting that

polarisation was at its peak, said the political leadership as well as the nation would have to come together to take meaningful action to prevent such attacks. They added that attempts were also required to cool down the political temperature. Regardless of the political affiliation and differences, they emphasised a dire need to sit together as violent attacks leading to assassinations were sending a shocking message to the world. (PTI)

Attack on Imran Khan: Pak police arrest 2 more suspects

LAHORE, NOV 4 /--/Police in Pakistan's Punjab province have arrested two more suspects, who they believe had sold the pistol and bullets for PKR 20,000 to Naveed Mohammad Basheer, the assailant who tried to assassinate former premier Imran Khan during a political rally, according to a media report on Friday.

Khan, 70, suffered a bullet injury in the right leg on Thursday, when Basheer fired a volley of bullets at him in the Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the government. Basheer later confessed that he attacked Khan because "he was trying to mislead the public." Police sources said that two other suspects Waqas and Sajid Butt sold Basheer a pistol and bullets for PKR 20,000, adding that the pistol did not have a number or license, Geo.tv reported. They were arrested from Wazirabad in Punjab province, the report said, quoting police sources.

According to eyewitnesses, Basheer fired on the container-mounted truck carrying Khan from a close range. Khan was shifted by road to his own-built Shaukat Khanum medical facility in Lahore where an operation was performed and was stable after it, according to his party. His party said he is stable now, adding that he was determined to continue his protest march. (PTT)

Ukraine's Prez accuses Russia of 'energy terrorism'

KYIV, NOV 4 /--/Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of engaging in energy terrorism after Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy network left millions of residents without power.

About 4.5 million people were without electricity across the country, Zelenskyy said in his nightly address Thursday. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 450,000 apartments in the capital alone did not have on Friday. I appeal to all residents of the capital: save electricity as much as possible, because the situation remains difficult! the mayor wrote on Telegram. State-owned grid operator Ukrenergoreported on Friday that emergency blackouts would be taking place across Kyiv. Russia has carried out missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian



Volodymyr Zelenskyy

power facilities, particularly in recent weeks. In his address, Zelenskyy described the targeting of energy infrastructure as a sign of weakness. The very fact that Russia is resorting to energy terrorism shows the weakness of our enemy," he said. They cannot beat Ukraine on the battlefield, so they try to break our people this way.

Zelenskyy's spoke soon after Moscow-appointed authorities in southern Ukraine's occupied Kherson region said Russian troops were likely to leave the city of Kherson a claim that Ukrainian officials greeted with some skepticism. The Kremlin-installed regional administration

already has moved tens of thousands of civilians out of the city, citing the threat of increased shelling as Ukraine's army pursues a counteroffensive to reclaim the region. Authorities removed the Russian flag from the Kherson administration building on Thursday, a week after the regional government moved out. Ukraine's southern military spokeswoman, Natalia Humeniuk, said the flag's removal could be a ruse and we should not hurry to rejoice. She told Ukrainian television that some Russian military personnel are disguising themselves as civilians. Neither side's claims could be independently verified. Elsewhere, Ukrainian officials reported shooting down drones launched by Russian forces.

Valentyn Reznichenko said eight drones were shot down in the Nikopol area, which was also subjected to artillery shelling. Another drone was shot down over the western Lviv region, Gov. Maksym Kozystsyy said. Local Ukrainian officials said Russian forces shelled the regions of Mykolaiv in the south and Kharkiv in the northeast overnight, although no casualties were reported. The commander of Ukraine's armed forces, Valeriy Zaluzhny, said Thursday night that Russian forces had tripled the intensity of hostilities on certain areas of the front and were carrying out up to 80 attacks every day. (AP)

Pope blasts 'childlike' wars at Bahrain interfaith summit

MANAMA, NOV 4 /--/ With Russia's war in Ukraine raging, Pope Francis joined Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders Friday in calling for the world's great religions work together for peace, telling an interfaith summit that religion must never be used to justify violence

and that faith leaders must counter the childlike whims of the powerful to make war.

On his second day in the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain, Francis closed out a conference on East-West dialogue sponsored by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. It was his second such conference in as many months, following one in Kazakhstan, evidence of Francis' core belief that moments of encounter among people of different faiths can help heal today's conflicts and promote a more just and sustainable world. Sitting around him in the Sakhr royal palace grounds were leading Muslim imams, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, and

U.S. rabbis who have long engaged in interfaith dialogue, as well as the king. Speaker after speaker called for an end to Russia's war in Ukraine and the start of peace negotiations. The Russian Orthodox Church, which sent an envoy to the conference, has strongly supported the Kremlin in its war and justified it on religious grounds.

Francis told the gathering that, while the world seems to be heading apart like two opposing seas, the mere presence of religious leaders together was evidence that they intend to set sail on the same waters, choosing the route of encounter rather than that of confrontation. It is a striking paradox that, while the majority of the world's population is united in facing the same difficulties, suffering from grave food, ecological and pandemic crises, as well as an increasingly scandalous global injustice, a few potentates are caught up in a resolute struggle for

partisan interests, he said.

We appear to be witnessing a dramatic and childlike scenario: in the garden of humanity, instead of cultivating our surroundings, we are playing instead with fire, missiles and bombs, weapons that bring sorrow and death, covering our common home with ashes and hatred, he said. King Hamad, for his part, urged a coherent effort to stop Russia's war in Ukraine and promote peace negotiations, for the good of all of humanity.

The visit is Francis' second to a Gulf Arab country, following his 2019 landmark trip to Abu Dhabi, where he signed a document promoting the Catholic-Muslim fraternity with a leading Sunni cleric, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb. Al-Tayeb is the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning in Cairo, and has become Francis' key partner in promoting greater Christian-Muslim understanding. Al-Tayeb joined Francis in Bahrain and was on hand last month in Kazakhstan too. (AP)



David Warner consoles Rashid Khan after his near-miss

Australia relying on SL after sneaking past Afghanistan

Narrow victory means England will qualify for the semi-finals if they win on Saturday

ADELAIDE, NOV 4 /--/ Defending champions Australia survived a late Rashid Khan onslaught to eke out a narrow four-run win over Afghanistan and keep their slim semifinal hopes alive in the T20 World Cup here on Friday. By virtue of the win, Australia moved to the second spot in Group 1 with seven points from five games, same as New Zealand, who became the first team to qualify for the semifinals on account of a better net run rate. Australia, however, failed to get past England's net run rate as the hosts needed to restrict Afghanistan below 106 after posting 168 for eight. That means if England beat Sri Lanka in Sydney in their final game on Saturday, they too will finish with seven points and will join New Zealand in the semifinal from Group 1 with a better net run rate. Glenn Maxwell was the top-scorer for Australia as he hit a quickfire fifty but Afghanistan pulled things back nicely in the final five overs to limit the defending champions to a decent total. Maxwell made an unbeaten 32-ball 54 that included six boundaries and two hits over the fence after Afghanistan invited Australia to bat.

In response, Afghanistan nearly pulled off a sensational win, riding on Rashid's (48 not out off 23 balls) pyrotechnics but eventually fell short. Rahmanullah Gurbaz got Afghanistan's chase off to a decent start with a 17-ball 30 during which he struck two boundaries and as many sixes but Australia

forged their way back, removing both the openers. Gulbadin Naib (39) and Ibrahim Zadran (26), however, were in no mood to give up without a fight and stitched 59 runs off 46 balls for the second wicket. Both Naib and Zadran used the inside out shots over the infield to good effect and kept the Afghans in the hunt. It took a brilliant piece of work from Maxwell from the outfield to break the stand. Towards the end, Rashid played some lusty blows and together with Darwish Rasooli shared quick 45 runs off 28 balls to reduce the equation to 22 of the last over. Rashid managed to hit Marcus Stonis for two fours and one six in the final over but it was not enough. Earlier, Australia lost Cameroon Green early but David Warner (25 off 18) and Mitchell Marsh (45 off 30) kept up the run rate up with their fiery strokeplay. But two quick wickets in the sixth over in the form of Warner and Steve Smith saw the hosts slump to 52 for 3 in the powerplay. While Warner was bowled by a Naveen-ul-Haq off-cutter as the batter went for an extravagant switch hit, Smith was adjudged LBW three balls later. Marsh then top-edged Mujeeb Ur Rahman (1/42) while going for a slog sweep and Gurbaz took a fine high catch to sent the batter packing as Australia were reduced to 86 for 4 in the 11th over. Maxwell and Stonis (25 off 21) then joined hands and shared 53 runs off just 29 balls for the fifth wicket. (PTI)

ADELAIDE, NOV 4 /--/ Kane Williamson got into the groove with a 35-ball 61 before the spinners foxed Ireland batters with their guile as New Zealand put one foot in the T20 World Cup semifinals with a 35-run win, here on Friday. New Zealand were on course for a 200 plus total before pacer Joshua Little picked up a memorable hat-trick to limit New Zealand to 185 for six. New Zealand spinners Ish Sodhi (2/26) and Mitchell Santner (2/29) stifled Ireland, who ended with 150 for nine. Pacer Lockie Ferguson picked up three wickets. New Zealand are set to top the group with seven points from five games and have a better run rate compared to England and Australia, who can also get to seven points. Ireland failed to advance to the semifinals but can hold their head high after a memorable campaign that included wins against the West Indies and England. Paul Stirling (37 off 27) and captain Andrew Balbirnie (30 off 25) kept Ireland in the game with a 68-run stand off 49 balls for the opening wicket but their dismissal in a space of six balls sealed Ireland's fate. Both Santer and Sodhi made strong comebacks after going for runs in their respective first overs with Stirling and Balbirnie looking in ominous touch. They purposely slowed down their pace to make it tougher for the batters to put the deliveries away and that worked instantly.



Balbirnie played on to his stumps while attempting a cut shot off Santner. In the following over, Stirling went for a slog sweep off Sodhi only to see his stumps disturbed, leaving Ireland at 70 for two. A battling collapse followed with Ireland reduced to 120 for six. Earlier, Williamson batted at a strike rate of more than 100 for the first time in this tournament and got fluent as his innings progressed. His knock comprised five fours and three sixes. The other notable contributions came from opener Finn Allen (32 off 18), the in-form Glenn Phillips (17 off 9) and Daryl Mitchell (31 not out off 21). Left-arm pacer Little put the brakes on the New Zealand scoring rate in the death overs by removing a well set Williamson, Jimmy Neesham and Santner off successive balls in 19th over.

While Williamson was caught in the deep attempting another big hit, Little trapped Neesham and Santner in front of the stumps with two straight deliveries that skidded on. It was this World Cup's second hat-trick after UAE's Karthik Meiyappan achieved the feat against Sri Lanka. The biggest positive for New Zealand was their leader Williamson finding his groove. He struggled for timing initially before changing gears. The skipper brought UP his half-century with a flick off pacer Barry McCarthy that went all the way for six over deep midwicket before depositing one in the same region two balls later for another six. Williamson perished in the 19th as his pull shot off Little did not get the desired elevation. New Zealand were set to cross 200 but Ireland

pegged them back by conceding only 12 runs in the last two overs. New Zealand on Friday became the first team to book a semifinal berth in the T20 World Cup after Australia were restricted to 168-8 by Afghanistan in a crucial game here. After New Zealand beat Ireland by 35 runs in their final super 12 group, defending champions Australia needed to win against Afghanistan by an improbable 185 runs to overtake the net runrate of their Trans-Tasman rivals. The hosts, however, scored 168 for 8 after being invited to bat by Afghanistan, paving the way for New Zealand to qualify for the knockout stage. Australia now will need to limit Afghanistan to 106 or lower to stay alive in the semifinal race, which also involves England. The win over

Ireland saw New Zealand grab the top spot with seven points and a net runrate of +2.113. England (5 points), who will take on Sri Lanka in their final super 12 game, are currently in the second spot with a runrate of +0.547. Australia are placed third, also with five points, but with a runrate of -0.304. If they can restrict Afghanistan to 106 or lower, they can get past England's NRR. New Zealand, led by Kane Williamson, began their campaign in the T20 showpiece with a dominating 89-run win over Australia, before thrashing Sri Lanka by 65 runs following a washout against Afghanistan. Their only loss was against England by 20 runs at Gabba in Brisbane. New Zealand had reached the final of the last edition, where they lost to Australia by eight wickets. (PTI)



MELBOURNE, NOV 4 /--/ Everything looks the same but something still seems to have changed. Virat Kohli is back in his element and has again become the tormentor of the bowlers that he used to be three summers ago. But Kohli the public person seems to have undergone a sea-change. He is still the 'King Kohli' surrounded by people and his distinct swagger remains very much part of his personality but at the same time, he looks a completely different human being and very approachable. Even if you are not a manic cricket fan, you would still like to break a barricade to go near him and may be just say 'hi'. There is every possibility that you will get a smile back in return and that would seem very sincere, deep and genuine. Your day will be made and you will go home a happy man. Cricket is a 'performing art' and as an artist, it is not just his achievements but the connect that he is slowly creating with his fans will contribute immensely to his rich legacy. It is not just about eulogizing the alpha-male who you see on TV screens every night as you savour your dinner. Now the relationship seems far more organic where the adulation from fans and the reciprocation from their hero has become a two-way street. Success teaches you a lot but failure most certainly is the biggest teacher. It makes you perhaps explore your inner vulnerabilities and you start relating more with the common public. In these 14 days across different Australian cities,

watching Kohli connect with his fans, give autographs, selfies, stand for a group picture or a share a moment or two with familiar faces from the media would make one feel that he no longer wants to alienate people. Noted actor Will Smith after the Oscar-gate had referred to what colleague Denzel Washington had told him, "At your highest moment, be careful, that's when the devil comes for you." It is not that he did not stop by for selfies, autographs or a chat earlier but the same Kohli in Australia 2015, England 2017 or 2019 looked like a man from another planet. During his peak, if one looks at some of the selfies that Kohli gave, it seemed like another mandatory exercise. Perhaps the three years of unconditional support as he battled a lean patch made him realize the need to carry people along. In Melbourne, in Sydney, in Perth and in Adelaide, this correspondent met at least 10-15 different people who showed their selfies with Kohli while a few others showed autographs on caps. A few also met him at a mall and some caught hold of him by the coffee shop. One Indian from Canberra, who had come to watch a game in Adelaide, said: "We saw him at the coffee shop with some of the support staff. We were a bit apprehensive if we should approach him but he called us and posed with us." A junior women's club hockey team in Melbourne got to pose with the former India captain in the middle. If he now sees familiar faces in the media, he would greet them with a smile and check on their well being.

He smiled at a journalist turned YouTuber and also spoke to him for a minute while walking back from the practice. The journalists and youtubers (there are way too may) surrounded him. "Aap sab aoo, (you all come)," he called all of them including photo and video journalists and posed with them. He was very livid with a travelling freelancer in New Zealand back in 2020 for an article that he had written. He saw the journalist and asked him to join for a photograph. The videos will garner these youtubers thousands of hits and some of them will laugh their way to the bank. Kohli is the reason for that smile. He is happy and that is reflecting in his game. The effortlessness is back with that smile. As he celebrates his 34th birthday on Saturday, he has hit his second peak and one can bet his last shirt that even if another dip comes, rest assured, a few million pure fans will also join his bandwagon of 'Viratians'. The Indian team management might be wary of changing the playing eleven for the all-important final group league game against Zimbabwe. While Axar Patel (total of 6 overs of bowling and 9 balls of batting) seem grossly under-utilized but dropping him isn't an option because Yuzvendra Chahal doesn't have the batting prowess. However, there is a possibility that India will meet England in the semi-final in Adelaide (it will be clear on Saturday) and Chahal has a better record than any Indian spinner against Jos Buttler's side. (PTI)

FIFA urges World Cup teams to focus on football in Qatar over politics

ZURICH, NOV 4 /--/ Football top officials have urged the 32 teams preparing for the most political World Cup in the modern era to focus on the game in Qatar and avoid handing out lessons in morality. A letter urging teams to "let football take center stage" was sent by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura ahead of intense media focus on coaches and players when World Cup squads are announced next week. "Please, let's now focus on the football!" Infantino and Samoura wrote, asking the 32 football federations to "not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists." Qatar being picked in 2010 as World Cup host sparked scrutiny on its treatment of low-paid migrant workers needed to build projects costing tens of billions of dollars and its laws criminalising same-sex relationships. Eight European teams have committed to their captains wearing heart-shaped armbands — in breach of FIFA rules — to support an anti-discrimination campaign. Several coaches and federations have backed calls to create a compensation fund for migrant workers' families. Denmark's squad is taking a black team jersey as a sign of "mourning" for those who died in Qatar. Iran has also faced calls to be removed before they play England in the second game of the World Cup on 21 November in a group that also includes the United States. Iranian fan groups want the federation suspended for discriminating against women, and Ukraine football officials asked FIFA to remove Iran



from the World Cup for human rights violations and supplying the Russian military with weapons. "We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world," the FIFA leaders wrote in their letter Thursday that did not address or identify any specific issue. "At FIFA, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world. One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if inclusion means anything, it means having respect for that diversity. Infantino and Samoura added: "No one people or culture or nation is 'better' than any other. This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination. And this is also one of the core values of football. They repeated long-standing promises made by Qatar, including by its Emir at the United Nations general assembly in New York in September, that all visitors to Qatar will be welcome "regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation or nationality." About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar during the 29 November – 18 December tournament. (AP)

GAME NOTES

PCB allows players to compete in SA T20 league

KARACHI, NOV 4 /--/ The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to allow its players to make themselves available for the inaugural South African T20 league in which majority of teams are owned by Indians. Initially, the PCB had decided not to issue NOCs to its players for the inaugural Emirates Cricket League and SA League due to international and domestic commitments but with the Pakistan and West Indies boards agreeing to postpone a T20 series the board has changed its stance. The T20 series against the West Indies was scheduled in January 2023 but will now be held in early 2024. "Centrally contracted and non contracted players can now make themselves available for the SA league and also other leagues being held during this time frame excepting the Emirates league," an official source said. He said PCB changed its mind after the South African board had announced that each of the six franchises can now sign an extra wildcard player after the players auction was completed few weeks back. (PTI)

India men's squash team wins maiden gold at Asian Championships

CHEONGJU (SOUTH KOREA), NOV 4 /--/ The Indian men's team, led by the seasoned Saurav Ghosal, clinched its first-ever gold at the Asian Squash Team Championships with a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the final here on Friday. Star player Ghosal sealed the victory after Ramit Tandon had given India the lead with a fluent straight games win over Ali Aramezi (11-5, 11-7, 11-4). Ghosal then made short work of Ammar Altamimi 11-9, 11-2, 11-3 to give the team an unassailable lead. The third match between Abhay Singh and Falah Mohammad was not played as the tie had been decided following wins for Tandon and Ghosal. Having finished with the silver medal on two previous occasions, the Indian men, seeded one, justified its billing and emerged victorious with a dominant performance. . (PTI)

East Bengal 0-1 Chennaiyin FC

KOLKATA, NOV 4 /--/ Chennaiyin FC hold on for their second win of the season, with both coming at the Salt Lake! Vafa Hakhamaneshi's 69th-minute header is the only goal of the game as the visitors take away all three points from a cagey encounter in which both teams played the final 15 minutes with 10 men.

