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INDIA'S FARMERS AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT Yudhvir Jaswal, Group Editor at Y Media MacNeil

YUDHVIR JASWAL (GROUP EDITOR - Y MEDIA) DISCUSSES PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S COMMENTS ON FARMER PROTESTS IN INDIA, INDIA CANADA RELATIONS ON CBC NEWS WITH HOST CAROLE MACNEIL. I DETAILS ON PAGE 4

BEGINNING OF THE END

249,000 COVID 19 VACCINES ARRIVING IN DECEMBER 2020

he Government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to ensure that Canadians have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible.

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced today that following successful negotiations, Canada will receive up to 249,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020, contingent on Health Canada authorization of the vaccine.

These doses are part of the up to 76 million doses Canada has secured through its existing agreement with Pfizer. As with all COVID-19 vaccine candidates, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must be authorized by Health Canada before being administered to Canadians.

Pfizer, the Public Health Agency of Canada with the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Provinces and Territories are working together to finalize preparations at the first point-of-use sites this week, including training on how to handle the product, which must be transported and stored at -70 degrees Celsius.

Important logistical tests are planned, beginning with a dry run with Pfizer this week, led by the National Operations Centre. This dry run will be used to confirm the ordering, shipping and importation processes from the point of manufacture to the point of use across Canada. In this initial dry run with Pfizer, a shipping container with dry ice and a data-logger will simulate a shipment of the vaccine.

The Government of Canada expects to conduct other rehearsals to confirm ordering and shipping processes for additional vaccines as they become available. These test activities are important to ensure

Canada's COVID-19 immunization timeline

	2020 December	2021 January- March	2021 April- June	2021 July- December
Number of Canadians able to be vaccinated	125K	3M	15-19M	38M
Percentage of Canadians able to be vaccinated	>1%	8%	40-50%	100%

Information is based on regulatory approval and anticipated delivery schedules of vaccine supply.

that the Provinces and Territories have the necessary infrastructure and equipment in place and are able to plan to effectively and efficiently administer COVID-19 vaccines as they roll-out.

Pfizer submitted an application for regulatory review of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate under Health Canada's interim order on October 9, 2020. Results of this review are expected soon. CONTD. ON PAGE 4

Our goal continues to ensure that Canada has the vaccines, logistics systems and supplies in place to further combat COVID-19. We will not rest until we climb this mountain. THE HON. ANITA ANAND Minister of Public Services and Procurement I DETAILS ON PAGE 4

MIRA NAIR'S "A SUITABLE BOY" NOW STREAMING IN US/CANADA EXCLUSIVELY ON ACORN TV



The acclaimed miniseries hit A SUITABLE BOY has now premiered in North America and is currently streaming exclusively on the streaming service Acorn TV. The first two episodes of the Mira Nair-directed series are now available to watch with new episodes debuting weekly through January 4, 2021. More information on Acorn TV is available at http://signup.acorn.tv where a free trial is also being offered.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 14

SERENE SINGH IS CROWNED 2020-2021 NATIONAL ALL-AMERICAN MISS



This past weekend, Serene Singh, 23-years-old, won the coveted National American Miss pageant held in Orlando, Florida at the Hyatt Regency Orlando. Singh represented her home state of Colorado competing in the world's largest pageant with this year's numbers totaling over 700 women from across the country. | CONTD. ON PAGE 15

PEEL POLICE COMPLETES BRAMPTON **GURDWARA INVESTIGATION, INCIDENT NOT** HATE OR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

REGION OF PEEL - Officers from the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have concluded an investigation that occurred at a Brampton Gurdwara on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. On Thursday, December 3, 2020, police responded to a call for service at a Gurdwara in the area of Ebenezer Road and Nexus Avenue in Brampton. Reports indicated that an unknown man attended the property and was provided with Holy Scripture, specifically, a Sukhmani Sahib Gutka. The man was believed to be responsible for causing damage to the Sukhmani Sahib Gutka.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 7

ONTARIO IDENTIFIES KEY GROUPS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF INITIAL COVID-19 VACCINES

TORONTO — The Ontario government is ready to distribute COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are received, beginning with vaccinating vulnerable populations and those who care for them. As recommended by the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, the province has identified key populations to receive the vaccine first, including longterm care and retirement home residents and the staff who provide care to these groups. The government's approach is informed by science and prioritizes population groups that are at greatest risks of COVID-19.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 7



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A CHILD SHOUTS SLOGANS AT SINGHU BORDER DURING THE FARMERS' PROTEST AGAINST THE NEW FARM LAWS, IN NEW DELHI.

PROTESTING FARMERS THREATEN TO BLOCK RAILWAY TRACKS IF DEMANDS NOT MET

NEW DELHI: The farmers who have been agitating for the past two weeks against the new agriculture laws on Thursday announced that they will block railway tracks if their demands are not met by the

The farmer unions, which held a meeting on Thursday, said they will soon announce a date for blocking tracks across the country.

Addressing reporters at the Delhi's Singhu border where they have been protesting for almost two weeks to demand a rollback of the agri laws, the farmer unions also reiterated that they will intensify their agitation and start blocking all highways leading to the national capital. "We will block railway tracks if our demands are not met. We will decide on the date and announce it soon. The blocking of tracks will not be limited to Haryana and Punjab but it will be done across the country," farmer leader Boota Singh said at the press conference.

The announcement by farmers came on the day Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said it was not proper to announce the next stage of agitation when talks were continuing and urged the unions to return to the discussion table.

Tomar also urged farmer union leaders to consider proposals sent to them to break the deadlock over protests against the three new farm laws and said the government was ready for further discussions with them any time. "The Centre has admitted that laws have been made for traders. If agriculture is a state subject, the central government does 19 pandemic, but despite this, we will continue our protest until our not have right to make laws on it," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, another demands are met," Kakka added.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at various border points for almost two weeks seeking a repeal of the new agri laws, which they claim were aimed at benefitting corporates by weakening the 'mandi' system and the minimum support price (MSP) regime for procurement of farm produce.

The government had on Wednesday proposed to give a "written assurance" that the existing MSP regime for procurement would continue. However, the farmers' unions rejected the proposal and said they would intensify their agitation until the government accepts their demand for a complete repeal of the three laws.

The government has also proposed to make necessary amendments on at least seven issues, including one to allay fears about the weakening of the 'mandi' system.

"Five rounds of talks have already been held with the government, but they remained inconclusive. So far, the government has not sent us any invitation for another round of talks. If government sends us proposal for a meeting, we will decide it in our meeting," said farmer leader Shiv Kumar Kakka.

Asked about solution to ongoing standoff with the government, Kakka said, "Only God knows."

"We are facing a lot of difficulties due to cold weather and the COVID-

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING WILL BE WITNESS TO CREATION OF SELF-RELIANT INDIA: PM MODI



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LAYS THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN NEW DELHI ON THURSDAY.

If the old Parliament House gave direction to India post-independence, the new building would be a witness to the creation of a self-reliant India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. The PM made the remarks during his address at the ground-breaking and foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Parliament building, which is projected to come up by 2022 at a cost of Rs 971 crore.

Describing the laying of foundation stone of the new Parliament build-

ing as a "milestone in India's democratic history", PM Modi said it would "will exemplify the existence of the new and the old". "If work was done to fulfill the needs of the country in the old Parliament building, then the aspirations of 21st century India will be fulfilled in the new building," he said. Amid the continuing standoff between farmers and the Centre over the contentious farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invoked the teachings of Guru Nanak, asserting that "dialogue must go on". "Apart from governance, democracy has always been a medium to resolve differences of opinion. Differences strengthen a democracy. While there should be space for differences, there should not be any discon-

Citing the teachings of Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, the PM said, "Guru Nanak had said, jabtak sansar rage, tabtak sambad rahe (so long as the world exists, dialogue must go on). Speaking and listening is at the heart of dialogue. This is the soul of democracy. There can be differences in policies and politics but there should not be any differences in the end goal of serving people." His comments came a day after farmer unions rejected the draft proposal of the government on addressing objections raised by them on the newly promulgated ordinances. Earlier in the day, Modi performed bhumi pujan (ground breaking ceremony) for the new Parliament building in the presence of six priests chanting Sanskrit shlokas. The ritual was followed by a sarva dharma (inter-faith) prayer meeting.

Biden promises vaccination for 100 mn people in hundred days



WASHINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden has said that in the first 100 days of his administration, he would mandate everyone to wear a mask, ensure 100 million Covid vaccinations and reopen the majority of schools. He assured Americans that his "crisis-tested" team of experts would deliver better healthcare and revive the economy.

The US is in the midst of a deadly pandemic that has infected almost 15 million Americans and killed 2,86,000. Globally, there are 68.2 million Covid cases and the pandemic has claimed more than 1.5 million lives. Announcing his national health team, Biden asked the Trump administration to act now to purchase the doses it has negotiated with Pfizer and Moderna and to work swiftly to scale manufacturing for the US population

and the world. "This can be fixed. If it does, my team will be able to get at least 100 million vaccinations done in my first 100 days. Third, it should be a national priority to get our kids back into school and keep them in school," he said on Tuesday. "If Congress provides the funding we need to protect students, educators, and staff, and if states and cities put strong public health measures in place that we all follow, then my team will work to see that the majority of our schools can be opened by the end of my first 100 days," he added. Meanwhile, Britain has advised that people with a history of significant allergies do not get Pfizer-BioNTech's covid vaccine after two people reported severe adverse reactions on the first day of the rollout.

RAHUL GANDHI ACCUSES MODI **GOVT OF SNATCHING** FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF POOR



On international human rights day on Thursday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused the Modi government of snatching away the fundamental rights of the poor and said doing so was a crime against humanity.

The rights of every class of people must be respected for the country's future, Gandhi added.

"The Modi government is snatching the fundamental rights of the poor. It is a crime against humanity. For the better future of the country, we have to respect the rights of every class," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Congress has been attacking the government over alleged atrocities on the poor and vulnerable sections of society, including the Dalits.

CONGRESS BATS FOR EARLY ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN J&K



If District Development Council (DDC) polls can be held in times of COVID-19, Assembly elections can too, Jammu and Kashmir Congress in-charge Rajni Patil said on Thursday as she demanded for an elected government in the union territory. She said the BJP ferried dozens of Union ministers, national leaders and film personalities to campaign in Jammu and Kashmir as it feared it would lose in these local elections. Flanked by state unit president Gulam Ahmed Mir, Patil also hit out at the administration for withdrawal of security and vehicles of Congress leaders, claiming the move was aimed at stopping them from campaigning for the DDC polls. 'If they (government) can hold DDC elections during the Covid times, I appeal and demand holding of assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir soon, and put in place an elected government. They should do it. It is our demand,' Patil told repor ters here. Patil is the only national leader of the Congress to have hit the campaign trail for the DDC elections in Jammu and Kashmir. She criticised the government for holding the polls at a time when the COVID-19 situation is still not under control. 'They took a wrong decision to hold these polls now. Our several top leaders were infected with Covid-19, including youth and women Congress unit heads and former ministers. It is difficult to campaign,' Patil said. On the withdrawal of security and vehicles of several Congress leaders including himself, Mir said, 'Life and death is in the hands of Almighty. They withdrew the security of our leaders, former ministers and former legislators during this period. It is clear that they want us restricted to our homes.' Pleading for a uniform security policy, he said that while former ministers, former legislators and leaders are housed in ministerial bungalows with Z or Z-plus security, many opposition legislators in the UT have often faced full withdrawal of security and government accommodation. 'This is sheer discrimination,' Mir added.

MAMATA BANERJEE TRAINS GUNS AT CENTRE AS BJP ALLEGES ATTACK ON NADDA CONVOY



On a day the convoy of BJP national president J P Nadda was allegedly pelted with stones in her state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee trained her guns at the Centre, claiming democracy was being bulldozed and voices muzzled in the country while asserting that her government was committed to "upholding human rights". Taking to Twitter on Human Rights Day, Banerjee posted, "Today is Human Rights Day. Nowadays, there is a big trend to bulldoze democracy, crush fundamental rights, and muzzle the voice of the people. Our government is committed to upholding human rights." "The GoWB has set up 19 human rights courts in the last nine and half years. It was after repeated protests and movements by me that the West Bengal Human Rights Commission was set up in 1995. My best wishes to all," she added. However, her remark stood in contrast with the BJP's claims on Thursday that Nadda's convoy in Kolkata had been attacked by workers of the ruling Trinamool Congress. A number of cars, including that of BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and the party's Bengal chief Dilip Ghosh, were damaged in the attack. "Trinamool workers sporting party flags and armed with lathis attacked our convoy at multiple places. Stones and bricks were hurled at us. Several cars have been damaged. Police were mute spectators in some places and missing elsewhere," said Ghosh.

Y Media Exclusive: Canada has the most diverse vaccine portfolio: Minister Anita Anand

It is almost the end of the year, and the novel coronavirus cases are surging worldwide. Everyone knows vaccine is around the corner. Canada's Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand, finally shares the updates related to the process of securing and storing the vaccine. She openly discusses her opinions with Y Media's Group Editor, YudhvirJaswal, who highlights the vaccine's questions and its distribution. Read on.

YudhvirJaswal: Could you please specify the timeline for the procurement of the vaccine by Canadians?

Minister Anita Anand: We need to make sure that the vaccine is safe and effective for Canadians. Health Canada, as our regulatory body, will provide us with that assurance, and then, we will begin to roll out vaccines as soon as possible. In terms of the timeframe, it is the first quarter of 2021 or as early as possible in the year...

YudhvirJaswal: How are we expecting to roll-out and store the vaccines? Minister Anita Anand: The aim is to roll them out in the first guarter of 2021. We are putting all our systems in place for that to occur. We have a logistics provider that we are going to sign a contract with this week. We have procured 126 freezers to store 33.5 million doses of the vaccine that Pfizer makes. We need to refrigerate the Moderna vaccine as well. So, in other words, we have the logistics systems in place. Besides, we have procured millions of needles, syringes, and vials to ensure that we can support the provinces by giving out the doses one by one to Canadians.

YudhvirJaswal: How would you distribute the vaccine to the Canadians? On what basis is this distribution prioritized?

Minister Anita Anand: While we have agreements in place with seven of the world's leading vaccine suppliers and secured up to 440 million doses, there is still the need to examine how these vaccines will work in terms of the approval process for different sectors of the population. It may be possible that certain vaccines are more effective in certain areas or individual members of our population. That's why in our seven agreements, we have diversity. We have the MRNA technology, the protein subunit technology and the viral vector technology. It is to ensure that we have access to effective vaccines for Canadians. And that is the information we don't have at the current time. In the province's jurisdiction, it is to decide which are the priority populations because they are in charge of dispensing health care. We very hard for Canadians.

do have a National Vaccine and Immunization Task Force. And the provinces are working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to discuss priority populations. There is also a group within the federal jurisdiction to make those decisions and discussions about priorities.

YudhvirJaswal: Do you think the premiers' direct contact with the vaccine providers could create conflicts or confusion?

Minister Anita Anand: Our approach has been from the very beginning to work collaboratively with the provinces. And we'll have to remember that the vaccines that we have procured will be available free of charge to every Canadian, and that is something that the federal government is taking on itself. We want and will work with the provinces in terms of establishing the deployment or distribution mechanism. To that end, we have members working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure the efficient and effective distribution of vaccines across this country.

YudhvirJaswal: Where are we with our vaccine manufacturing companies? Minister Anita Anand: I want to indicate that we have two tracks of our procurement here. We've got the seven agreements, but we also made sure that we are investing \$126 million in Canadian biomanufacturing to the National Research Council of Montreal facility at Royal Mount. And we are making sure that other labs across the country are well positioned with additional funding for research. And that is on top of what we're already doing to procure vaccines here and now. So let's remember that Canadian science is also very important. And we are investing in a Canadian company called Medicago to produce a vaccine here. And that's one of our seven suppliers. **YudhvirJaswal:** Is there any misinformation that you need to clarify?

Minister Anita Anand: It's really important to remember that the facts matter, and I wanted to clear up a doubt. We have secured 126 freezers for ultra frozen and frozen vaccine storage. The public health agencies have already received more than 30 freezers, and in Canada, deliveries are continuing. There was some ambiguity about our freezers' procurements, and I wanted to say that indeed we have procured them. We're putting logistics systems in place. Public services and procurement Canada have worked extremely hard throughout this crisis. Whether it is in terms of procuring 2 billion items of PPE, or conducting 40 million rapid tests or signing seven diverse agreements to secure 440 million doses, our public servants have been working

YUDHVIR JASWAL DISCUSSES PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S COMMENTS ON FARMER PROTESTS IN INDIA, INDIA CANADA RELATIONS ON CBC NEWS WITH HOST CAROLE MACNEIL

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently made comments on farmers' protest in India. Indian government has strongly objected to the comments made by the Canadian Prime Minister Y Media Group Editor and CEO. Yudhvir Jaswal, discussed the farmers' protest, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's comments, and relations between India and Canada in his recent interview with CBC News correspondent Carole MacNeil. Read on.

Carole MacNeil: Could you please provide background on why farm- Indian government so much?

ers are upset in India and the ongoing situation? YudhvirJaswal: In India, more than 50 per cent of the 1.4 billion population is working in the farming sector. The agricultural industry only contributes around 15 per cent to the GDP. Now, this is not a very profit-making business. Hence, reforms are needed. The government of India has brought three new laws that they claim will reform the agricultural sector. When the government brings in the private sector to buy their produce, the farmers are concerned that the latter will make the farmers vulnerable, because with the private sector comes big corporate houses. The farmers are protesting and demanding from the government to scrap all these three laws. While the government is emphasizing that

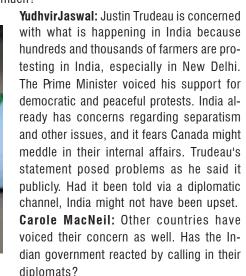
these laws will benefit farmers, the latter contradicts this. Carole MacNeil: Why are the farmers afraid of implementing these

laws?

YudhvirJaswal: The sticky point is MSP or the minimum support price. Up until now, the farmers will get their produce sold with the government. Through this MSP, farmers were guaranteed an amount, and some sort of procurement by the state government, backed by the central government. The farmers believe that when these private sectors enter, then the existing structure where the government buys the produce at a minimum support price will be affected. Eventually, the government might even take back this structure, and they will not

be supporting this minimum support price. Then, the farmers will be left with big corporate houses. This is the primary concern and fear of the farmers. Yet, the government says it will be supporting MSP, and the private sector has been introduced to invest money, which is much needed in the farming sector. The farmers disagree entirely

Carole MacNeil: What was it that Justin Trudeau said that angered the



YudhvirJaswal: Their primary concern is that this one was publicly done. Other countries have voiced their problems, but it was mainly done through diplomatic channels.

Carole MacNeil: What is the source of the tension between our two countries?

YudhvirJaswal: I think the issue of separatism (Khalistan) has been one of the irritants points between both countries for quite some time. India feels Canada has been soft on the issue of separatism. However, the Canadian counterparts claim this to be untrue and remark that they have nothing to do with separatism. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, while he was in India, said Canada stands for United India.

The dry run with Pfizer in December will allow for the validation of logistical processes prior to distribution on a national scale. The Government of Canada has signed agreements with the following

companies to secure access to their COVID-19 vaccine candidates: Pfizer, which will supply a minimum of 20 million doses and up to 76 million doses of its messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine candidate developed with BioNTech, BNT162b2.

Medicago, which will supply up to 76 million doses of its virus-like particle vaccine candidate.

AstraZeneca, which will supply up to 20 million doses of its viral vector vaccine candidate AZD1222.

Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline, which will supply up to 72 million doses of their protein subunit vaccine candidate. Johnson & Johnson, which will supply up to 38 million doses of its

viral vector vaccine candidate Ad26.COV2.S. Novavax, which will supply up to 76 million doses of its protein

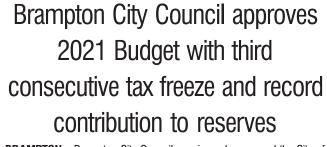
subunit vaccine candidate NVX-CoV2373. Moderna, which will supply up to 56 million doses of its mRNA

vaccine candidate mRNA-1273.

All vaccine candidates must go through pre-clinical and clinical trials. Health Canada will continue to review evidence of safety, efficacy, and manufacturing quality for each vaccine candidate as it becomes available to decide whether the product will be approved for use in Canada.

At this time, there are no vaccines authorized for the prevention of COVID-19 in Canada.

The Government of Canada has purchased 126 freezers to store COVID-19 vaccines, including 26 freezers to store ultra-low temperature vaccines such as the Pfizer vaccine. To date, 9 ultralow temperature freezers have been delivered.



BRAMPTON – Brampton City Council unanimously approved the City of Brampton's 2021 Budget at a Special Council Meeting today. This is the third consecutive year that this Term of Council will deliver a

0% property tax increase to fund the City's Budget, while making a record contribution of \$114M to reserves.

Alongside the third consecutive tax freeze, the City continues to invest in infrastructure and transit through dedicated levies and a record contribution to reserves in this budget, ensuring sustainability in its asset base and meeting growing demands for transit. The contribution to reserves also includes the stormwater charge revenue, resulting in a \$114M investment in capital works through the 2021 budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected residents and businesses, and the 2021 Budget aims to support and strengthen our community as a result. This Budget focuses on a lower baseline budget to maintain service levels, and timely investments to build a connected, vibrant, green, and healthy and safe city that nurtures economic growth opportunities.

The approved 2021 Budget will result in a 0% property tax freeze on the City's portion of the tax bill

The City's net operating expenditures are increasing by \$13.4M. This will be funded through assessment growth and a lower baseline budget.

The total 2021 Budget is \$1.2B, consisting of a \$767M Operating budget (Staff salaries, maintenance, utilities, reserves) and a \$476M Capital budget (Purchase, major repair and replacement of assets: roads, buildings, etc.).

The City's Budget includes the largest-ever annual contribution of \$114M to City reserves, strengthening financial position and preparing for future contingencies and emergencies, and supporting infrastructure and transit

Highlights

By the numbers

\$26.1M over three years as part of City investment with the Riverwalk project in downtown Brampton to boost economic opportunities and mitigate flood risks

\$10M to support healthy community living

\$1.5M over three years to implement the Environmental Master Plan, to expedite the implementation of climate change, sustainability, and natural heritage priorities

\$250,000 to continue the Community Garden and Backyard Garden Programs, eco-friendly initiatives to help support food security

Eight replacement buses to maintain fleet reliability; 40 new transit shelters; \$175M towards third transit maintenance and storage facility to meet future growth

Strengthening the Innovation District in downtown Brampton by attracting activity through: Brampton Entrepreneur Centre, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, Ryerson Venture Zone, Research Innovation and Commercialization Centre

Strengthening Enforcement resources to keeping our community safe and responsive to increased demand in service

Shaped by the community

The City invited the public to provide their input on the 2021 Budget, including by email, phone, and a telephone town hall that engaged approximately 7,850 participants. The City also heard from many residents, organizations and stakeholders that presented to the Budget Committee in November.

"With financial responsibility top of mind, we will deliver Brampton's third consecutive tax freeze to support our community through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Budget also maintains a record contribution to reserves to keep up the investment momentum in priorities that shape our future, such as transportation, sustainability, economic growth, and healthy living."

Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton; Chair, Budget Committee "The people of Brampton made their choice clear about the importance of maintaining service levels and keeping their tax bill affordable. We engaged with more than 7,850 participants during our budget process and focused on delivering the best value for our citizens and excellence in the services we provide for our diverse, vibrant community."

ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS NEW INDIGENOUS YOUTH PROGRAM AT RIVERWOOD

PILOT COURSE WILL STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS STUDENTS' SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING THROUGH NATURE EDUCATION

MISSISSAUGA- Through a grant of over \$70,000, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) will back the creation of a nature-based education program at The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC) that aims to foster social and emotional resilience in secondary students who self-identify as Indigenous.

The pilot project will see the development and delivery of a summer school class in July 2021 that is tailored for Indigenous youth enrolled in Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) secondary schools. This date is subject to change based on the evolving situation around COVID-19. Students facing social and emotional challenges will benefit from Indigenous elder-led teachings, nature-based training that helps manage stress, and mentor relationships that build confidence.

"We're thrilled that the natural spaces and wildlife habitat we've helped preserve at Riverwood can be utilized as a unique outdoor classroom that will have a lasting and positive impact on Indigenous youth in our community," says Douglas Markoff, Executive Director of The Riverwood Conservancy.

The initial course will host 26 students, with more anticipated in subsequent years should the course become an ongoing program. Additionally, four undergraduate students from the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) will participate in the program as mentors.

The four-week course will take place at Riverwood, a 150-acre nature preserve situated in Mississauga. Course content will be developed cooperatively by an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, TRC, UTM, and the DPCDSB, with guidance from the Board's Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

BEGINNING OF THE END 249,000 COVID 19 VACCINE ARRIVING **IN DECEMBER 2020**

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1 QUOTES

"The Government of Canada continues to do everything possible to protect Canadians from COVID-19. This includes securing the world's most extensive portfolio of vaccines and taking all necessary measures to ready the country to receive doses once they are authorized for use."

The Honourable Anita Anand

Minister of Public Services and Procurement

"We continue to prepare for distribution with provinces and territories, as experts and scientists of the government of Canada are assessing the safety of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Canadians can be confident that when a vaccine is ready, Canada will be ready."

The Honourable Patty Hajdu

Minister of Health **QUICK FACTS**

The Public Health Agency of Canada is working with all levels of industry, government and health agencies to have 14 locations across Canada ready to receive the Pfizer vaccines in December

Up to 249,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine will arrive in a series of

shipments, not all at once.

Osler moving COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Centres to indoor locations

RELOCATING INDOORS WILL ENSURE SAFE AND COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR PATIENTS AND STAFF AS WINTER APPROACHES

BRAMPTON/ETOBICOKE – William Osler Health System (Osler), which operates COVID-19 Testing Centres in Brampton (South Fletcher's Sportsplex) and Etobicoke (Highway 27 and Queen's Plate Drive), is moving both Testing Centres to indoor locations, starting the week of December 7.

With winter approaching, Osler is relocating the Testing Centres indoors to ensure the health, safety and comfort of patients and staff, as well as the continuity of its testing efforts throughout the colder months.

The Brampton Testing Centre at South Fletcher's Sportsplex will move to Osler's Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness on December 10, while the Etobicoke Testing Centre will move to Osler's Etobicoke General Hospital on December 8. Both Testing Centres will continue to serve those who have appointments and meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing.

"Drive-thru testing centres require significant outdoor infrastructure to mitigate the impact of weather, and moving these services indoors will ensure that patients and staff have a safe and comfortable environment as the harsher winter weather approaches," said Kiki Ferrari, Chief Operations Officer, William Osler Health System. "Testing remains a key aspect of Osler's COVID-19 response and it is important to us to ensure continued access for our community throughout the course of this pandemic." Osler's Testing Centres, which will no longer operate as a drive-though model at the new locations, will be situated in self-contained areas of both hospital sites to ensure the health and safety of everyone. Both Peel Memorial and Etobicoke General provide dedicated spaces for testing and as a result, the new Testing Centres will not impact other inpatient and outpatient services at either site. The moves to these new locations may be temporary as Osler continues to work with community partners to secure larger indoor spaces that are suitable for COVID-19 testing over the longer term.

What do I need to know about Osleri | s COVID-19 Testing Centres?

- * Anyone who meets the criteria for COVID-19 testing can schedule a test at an Osler Testing Centre online or by phone: o Online: Visit www.williamoslerhs.ca/coronavirus o Phone: (905) 487-1249, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven days a week
- * The Brampton Testing Centre (South Fletcheri¦s Sportsplex) will close on December 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m. It will reopen at Peel Memorial (20 Lynch Street, Brampton) on December 10, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. for the first scheduled
- * The Etobicoke Testing Centre (Highway 27 and Queeni¦s Plate Drive) will close on December 7, at 7:00 p.m. It will reopen at Etobicoke General (101 Humber College Boulevard, Etobicoke) on December 8, at 11:00 a.m. for the first scheduled appointment.
- * The normal hours of operation for both COVID-19 Testing Centres will be 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., daily.
- $\ensuremath{^{\star}}$ The health and safety of our patients, staff, physicians, volunteers and commu-

nity is a top priority Osleri¦s COVID-19 Testing Centres are safe and do not pose a risk of COVID-19 exposure. Osler will continue to take every precaution to ensure the health and safety of everyone who comes through our doors. "h Osleri¦s COVID-19, Cold and Flu Clinic at Peel Memorial remains open and continues to provide care to patients who are eligible for testing and those who have symptoms and want to see a physician. The Clinic is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, and no appointment is required. "h For more information about Osleri¦s Testing Centres, COVID-19, Cold and Flu Clinic, Osleri¦s COVID-19 response, and other testing options, visit: www.williamoslerhs.ca/coronavirus

Other Testing Centre Options in Brampton, Etobicoke and Mississauga:

Brampton Lawn Bowling Facility Flower City Community Campus, 8910 McLaughlin Road South, Brampton Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Book an appointment by calling 905-796-4922

Ebenezer Community Hall 4494 Ebenezer Rd, Brampton Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Book an appointment online at https://switchhealth.clinic/ontario-health-gore-meadow or call 647-374-467

Snelgrove Community Centre 11692 Hurontario Street, Brampton COVID-19, cold and flu assessment (physician and testing): Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Testing only: Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Book an appointment online at https://www.queensquarefht.ca/covid-19 or call 905-796-0040 x 2122

Four Corners Community Health Centre Westwood Square, 7205 Goreway Drive, Unit 75, Mississauga Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Book an appointment by calling 416-312-0566

Kingsway Paramedic Station 7120 Hurontario Street, Mississauga Monday to Friday from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Book an appointment online at https://switchhealth.clinic/ontario-health-kingsway or call 647-374-4676

Professors Lake Recreation Centre 1660 North Park Drive, Brampton

Tuesday to Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Book an appointment online at: https://switchhealth.clinic/ontario-health-professorslake or call 647-374-4676

Mississauga Health Cough and Flu Clinic CarePoint Health Complex 2695 North Sheridan Way, Suite 120, Mississauga Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Book an appointment by calling 905-361-1448

Rexdale Community Health Centre 21 Panorama Court, Unit 15, Etobicoke Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Book an appointment by calling 416-748-4650 or 416-748-4654

Pop-up COVID-19 Testing Centres

Thistletown Community Centre 925 Albion Rd, Etobicoke December 5, 12 & 19 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

222 Dixon Rd., Etobicoke December 8 & 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Follow up, Desecration of Sikh Scriptures by an unknown individual at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar, Brampton

As we are all aware of the unfortunate despicable incident at Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar, Brampton where an unknown person entered the Gurdwara sahib got access to a Gutka Sahib (Printed teachings from Guru Granth Sahib), walked out towards the Parking lot and started ripping the pages from the Gutka Sahib. We have been in constant contact with the Gurdwara Sahib, Brampton's political leaders, and the leadership at Peel Regional Police regarding this incident and this morning held a virtual meeting with Mayor Patrick Brown, Councilor Harkirat Singh, Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah and his team, and Ron Chatha from the Peel Police Services Board. Peel Police have completed their investigation and found the act was carried out by a member of the community who is dealing with serious mental health issues. This incident was brought to a close with cooperation from this individual's family. There was an open discussion on the case incident and going forward what we as the community, the political leadership and Peel Police is willing to do so as to prevent such incidents from happening. Peel police outlined various community policing aspects of the investigation and we are pressing them to be more open with the Sikh institutions so as to the

resources available to the community and its institutions. The Peel Police was also impressed upon the role that foreign political interference plays in local politics and the community, which often results in a detrimental effect on communal harmony. We asked them to be vigilant of such forces which when trying to scuttle issues and peaceful protests in the native homeland create an atmosphere of distrust locally when the powers that be in the Native land find support detrimental to their Political agendas. The help of the community in this investigation was greatly welcomed and appreciated and an appeal on behalf of the Peel police to let the law enforcement and Mental Health Professionals resolve this to the best of their ability and not to take matter in one's own hands or issue any unnecessary threats on the Social media. They sympathize with us and are whole heartedly behind us. In these tough Covid-19 pandemic times we all look for some hope towards normalcy in our lives, let's pray for everyone's health and happiness. God is great, have faith and things will be right soon in near future.

Ontario Protecting Workers and Employers during COVID-19

Proposed legislation will ensure WSIB premiums and compensation remain stable

TORONTO - The Ontario government introduced the Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2020 that would, if passed, protect employers from an unexpected increase in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums, while maintaining an increase to the maximum earnings cap for worker benefits.

The loss of jobs among lower wage workers, including those in the retail, hospitality and the service sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in the average industrial wage (AIG) of Ontario workers by 7.8 per cent, compared to an average increase of 2-3 per cent. The proposed amendment would limit the impact the increase the AIG has on WSIB premiums to 2 per cent, making sure struggling business owners aren't subject to sudden undue costs during these challenging times.

Additionally, this new amendment will not impact the 7.8 per cent increase in the earning cap for workers, ensuring they will continue to be fairly compensated for work-related injuries and occupational diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our government is protecting jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic by giving employers the support they need to get through this difficult time," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "Our proposed amendments will help businesses, while making sure that we continue to support workers who are injured on the job."

Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans

Ottawa: Small businesses continue to face challenges and uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic and the government is providing support to ensure they can stay in business. Since the spring, the Canada Emergency Business Account has helped almost 800,000 small businesses and not-for-profits in Canada. Today the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, announced the expansion of the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA).

Starting on Friday, December 4, 2020, eligible businesses facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are able to access a second CEBA loan of up to \$20,000 – on top of the initial \$40,000 that was available to small businesses.

Half of this additional financing, up to \$10,000, will be forgivable if the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022.

This means the additional loan effectively increases CEBA loans from the existing \$40,000 to \$60,000 for eligible businesses, of which a total of \$20,000 will be forgiven if the balance of the loan is repaid on time.

As announced in the Fall Economic Statement, the application deadline for CEBA has also been extended to March 31, 2021. To apply, eligible businesses and not-for-profits need to contact the financial institution that provided their initial CEBA loan and provide the appropriate information and documentation.



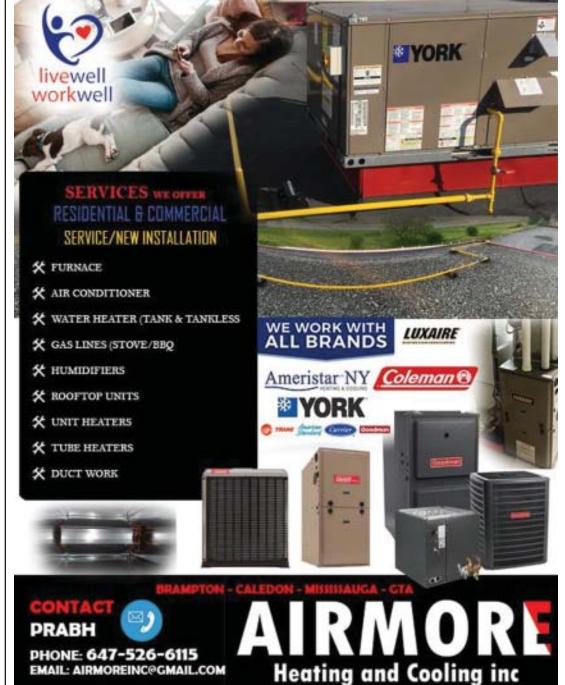
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ONTARIO MOVING THREE REGIONS TO NEW LEVELS IN COVID-19 RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

Framework Introduces Preventative Measures Earlier to Limit Transmission of COVID-19

TORONTO — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local medical officers of health, and other health experts, is moving three public health regions to new levels with stronger public health measures as set out in the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework. These steps are being taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 in order to keep schools open, safeguard health system capacity, and protect the province's most vulnerable populations. "Over the last seven days we have seen the trends in key public health indicators continue to go in the wrong direction in these three regions," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By taking proactive action and moving these regions to a higher level in the framework, we are helping them to reduce transmission in the community and avoid broader closures. The health and well-being of Ontarians remains our top priority." Based on the latest data, the following public health regions will move from their current level in the framework to the following levels effective Monday, December 7, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.: Orange-Restrict

Middlesex-London Health Unit; and Thunder Bay District Health Unit. Yellow-Protect

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.
All other public health regions will remain at their current level.
Please visit Ontario.ca/covidresponse for the full list of public health region classifications.

For long-term care homes, visitor restrictions apply to those homes in the public health unit regions that are in the Orange-Restrict level or higher. In addition, long-term care homes must implement recently enhanced testing requirements.

Trends in public health data will continue to be reviewed weekly to determine if public health units should stay where they are or be moved into a higher level. Public health units will stay in their level for a minimum of 28 days, or two COVID-19 incubation periods, at which time, the government will assess the impact of public health measures to determine if the public health unit should stay where they are or be moved to a different level. The Ministry of Health will continue to consult regularly with local medical officers of health on local context and conditions to help inform the classification of their public health unit region.

nearn unit region. All Ontarians should avoid close contact with anyone not living in the same household. People who live alone may have exclusive close contact with one additional household to prevent feelings of isolation and mitigate against negative mental health impacts. Ontarians should also follow all required public health measures, and public health advice, as we approach the holiday season.

No matter where you live in the province, the safest way to spend the holidays this year is by only celebrating in person with the people you live with and celebrating virtually with everyone else. People who live alone may have exclusive close contact with one additional household.

"As we continue in our fight against the second wave of COVID-19 and begin preparing for the holiday season, it remains crucial for all Ontarians to continue following public health measures and advice," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "By limiting close contact to those who you live with and by adhering to public event and social gathering limits, we can once again bend the curve and prevent the need for further restrictions."

The following recommendations apply to all public health unit regions in the province:

Stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are mild; Maintain two metres of physical distancing from everyone else; Avoid social gatherings and limit close contacts to your household or the people you live with;

Adhere to the restrictions in your region on public and private gatherings;

Wear a face covering indoors and wear one outdoors if physical distancing may not be maintained or if wearing one is required;

Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly; Cover your cough;

Get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you've been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert mobile app;

Individuals and families from higher transmission regions should avoid travel to lower transmission regions, except for essential reasons; and

Download the COVID Alert mobile app.

QUICK FACTS

Find out what level and which regional public measures are in place for your area.

Get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you have been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert app. Visit Ontario.ca/covidtest to find the nearest testing location.

To find the right supports, visit COVID-19: Support for People, which has information about the many available and free mental health services and supports.

The Ontario government is now providing \$600 million in relief to support eligible businesses required to close or significantly restrict services due to enhanced public health measures, doubling its initial commitment of \$300 million made in the 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support Recover. If you have questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

To stay safe, you can download the COVID Alert App free from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

Farmers Protest – A Perspective

TORONTO: Canada India Foundation (CIF), a nonpartisan organization, working to strengthen the bilateral ties between Canada and India, responded to the recent turn of events that has put new strains on an otherwise healthy relationship. Certain remarks by Canadian leadership over the protests by farmers in India have been flagged as unwelcome by the Indian Government. India enacted significant reforms to its agricultural sector through a series of bills recently. The need to reform agriculture in India and to bring it par with modern standards was never controversial. There was consensus among most experts that India was losing out by sticking to an old way of doing agriculture. The latest legislation was enacted through the most democratic manner—discussions and dialogues among various political parties, scholars, and stakeholders. Intense deliberations and debates preceded at multiple levels.

The current reforms were first mooted twenty years ago and have seen it cropping up occasionally only to be swallowed up in the reality of political compulsions, allowing vested interests to prolong their stranglehold on state institutions like the APMCs (Agricultural Produce Market Committees). According to report by NITI Aayog, "(the new act) takes forward the unfinished agenda of reforms started in 1991 and the fragmented, piecemeal, somewhat patchy reforms undertaken across states to their ultimate culmination". Several deficiencies in the agricultural sector may have led the Government to enact these laws. The farm industry has lagged behind other sectors ever since 1991 reforms were put in place. Over the years, the disparity between a farmer and a worker in the non-agricultural sector widened. The situation continued to worsen; the tragic case of farmers' suicides in their thousands in recent years indicates that everything was not perfect with the sector. Structural reforms in the farming sector are inevitably warranted. The sector has faced enormous challenges like overproduction, not enough diversified and open market places to sell their produce, lack of storage and efficient distribution systems, almost no innovation in agri-marketing, no capital infusion, to cite a few. To address such long plaguing issues over the farming sector, the Indian Government enacted this legislation.

On the other hand, the farmers have some real concerns, and they are coming out to express their grievances. They have every right to do so. What are their demands? Going by recent reports, they seem to be worried over two main issues. They believe the Minimum Support Price mechanism (that has been in place during times of shortage or plenty) might be scrapped. The other criticism

is that by allowing Contract Farming, the Government is inviting the Corporate sector to take over the farm sector. These are fears and points of criticism that the Government of India needs to address. Punjab farmers have been at the vanguard of India's food revolution. The protesters ask- (1.) to be heard by the central leadership in New Delhi and (2.) changes to the law. According to the latest information, government representatives are actively engaged in a dialogue with them.

CIF welcomes the Indian Government's willingness to listen to the concerns of the farmers. In a democracy, peaceful negotiations are the only way to resolve differences. The expectation in India and the diaspora is that both parties will choose a peaceful and mutually respectful method to arrive at an agreement.

The issue further got complicated because of the recent statements by Canadian leadership imputing state violence by the Indian administration to deal with the protesters. The political compulsions to appeal to a section of Canadian voters who have deep roots in Punjab's farming communities perhaps played a role in such public pronouncements. The Government of India has let its displeasure known for what it considers as an 'interference in its internal affairs.'

India today is a major world player in many areas. One of the key contributions to fighting the current pandemic will come from India set to produce three billion doses of vaccines when approved. India is also a big market for a whole host of products and services that Canada can offer. It is also one of the most attractive destinations for investment at time pension funds, and other institutional investors are looking for higher returns on each dollar. We in Canada are also the beneficiaries of immigration by hardworking and qualified, skilled workers from India, More recently, we also have attracted India's young and bright minds to our educational institutions, adding billions of dollars to our economy. There is a lot that Canada and India can achieve together for their citizens. Our bilateral engagement is vibrant and multilayered; business/investment, trade and immigration. There is plenty of good news. And yet, occasionally, a hasty tweet here, or a quick comment there, from leaders in responsible positions from Canada are known to roil the calm waters. Both Canadian and Indian leadership will be better served if due diligence is employed to deal with each other's sensitive issues. CIF is confident that mature leadership on both sides will smoothen the latest wrinkle in ties and fully embrace the great promise and potential inherent in a healthy and respectful Canada India relationship.

MidWeek

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NEW UNION STATION BUS TERMINAL TO OFFICIALLY OPEN

LARGER TERMINAL OFFERS GREATER SAFETY, COMFORT AND BETTER TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

TORONTO — The Ontario government is enhancing passenger safety and customer experience with the official opening of the new Union Station GO Bus Terminal. Beginning tomorrow transit riders will have full access to the new two-level, indoor terminal located on the north-east corner of Bay Street and Lake Shore Boulevard. It will provide riders travelling in and out of the Greater Toronto Area with more direct connections to GO trains, the TTC, VIA Rail and UP Express.

"Our government is building accessible, modern transit infrastructure, and making public transit a safe and attractive option," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "The opening of the new Union Station Bus Terminal demonstrates our government's promise to bring a better travel experience to the everyday lives of Ontarians."

The new terminal provides a larger indoor, climate-controlled space of more than 23,000 square feet. This will enable customers to comfortably and safely wait for their bus and board without leaving the building, and access to convenient amenities such as charging ports and free Wi-Fi. For enhanced safety, gates to platforms will remain closed until buses are ready to board or de-board, making it easy for customers to stay safely away from moving vehicles.

"This milestone is part of our government's broader vision to deliver better, safer and more reliable travel options for the people of Ontario," said Kinga Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA). "By making significant investments and building historic transit projects now, we are ensuring that future generations have access to a world class public transit system."

A new indoor glass pedestrian bridge built above Bay Street connects the terminal to Scotiabank Arena, the PATH and Union Station, allowing customers to easily transfer between buses and trains and get to other downtown attractions.

"The Union Station Bus Terminal is an integral part of our GO bus network and an important step forward in the overall enhancement of Union Station," said Phil Verster, Metrolinx President and CEO. "The larger and more comfortable space will offer an even better experience for customers who are catching a bus at the terminal or connecting to the other parts of the city or the region. We can't wait to welcome our customers into the new home of the GO bus."

"This bus terminal provides a harmonious connection between work and home for all CIBC SQUARE building occupants, eliminating stress from the workday commute," said David Hoffman, General Manager, CIBC SQUARE.

ONTARIO IDENTIFIES KEY GROUPS FOR **DISTRIBUTION OF INITIAL COVID-19 VACCINES**

PROVINCE READY TO DELIVER LIFE-SAVING VACCINES TO **VULNERABLE SENIORS, HEALTH WORKERS**

Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy medical advice and scientific evidence. "Due to the limited supplies we Premier and Minister of Health, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones and General Rick Hillier (retired), Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force. "We must deploy these first shipments of a safe and effective vaccine where they will make the most impact and save lives. That means vaccinating our vulnerable seniors and those who care for them as soon as possible," said Premier Ford. "We are working diligently with General Hillier and the task force to ensure anyone in Ontario who needs a vaccine will get one when we receive them from the federal government. Until then, we are asking people to look out for their elderly loved ones and protect themselves by continuing to follow the public health measures."

Groups receiving the early vaccine doses in the first few months of the Ontario immunization program will include:

Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of congregate living settings (e.g., long-term care homes and retirement homes) that provide care for seniors as they are at higher risk of infection and serious illness from COVID-19;

Health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals, and other health care personnel;

Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and

Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

"Ontario is ready to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to Ontarians as soon as they are available, and that starts with vaccinating our most vulnerable and those at greatest risk," said Minister Elliott. "Our priority continues to be the health and safety of all Ontarians, so we will make sure that no matter where they are receiving a vaccine, they will have a fast and safe immunization experience." Ontario will also be prioritizing the rollout of the vaccine in regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection, including those in the Red-Control and Lockdown zones. The immunization program will focus on healthcare workers and the most vulnerable populations in those regions. At first, COVID-19 vaccines are expected to only be available for non-pregnant adults over the age of 18 years old based on early clinical trials. As further information becomes available from clinical trials and from Health Canada approvals, the groups for which the vaccines are authorized for use could change.

Ontario's approach is based on evidence available, the guidance of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, as well as recommendations from the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force. Members, including exofficio members, of the task force include experts in public health and immunization, health and clinical domains, ethics, behavioural science, operations and logistics, federal-provincial and Indigenous relations, and information technology and data.

As further information is made available about the various type of vaccines and availability of doses, additional details related to the implementation of the COVID-19 immunization program will be provided based on the latest

expect to receive from the federal government, our initial distribution of vaccines will focus on Ontarians who are most vulnerable and at greatest risk," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "Our government continues to take all measures necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19 while prioritizing the health and well-being of communities." "That is why, based on the guidance of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the recommendations of our COVID-19 task force, the government will prioritize those living in long term care homes, retirement residences as well as our frontline health care workers who are so critical to our COVID-19 response," noted General Rick Hillier. Vaccination is expected to be an effective way to prevent the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19. Only vaccines that Health Canada determines to be safe and effective will be approved for use in the country. Before any vaccines are available in Ontario or Canada, they will undergo rigorous clinical trials to determine if they are safe and effective, and be evaluated and authorized for use by Health Canada using rigorous standards. Once a vaccine is approved and in use, Health Canada will continue to monitor it to ensure it continues to be safe and effective. As the province prepares for the arrival of vaccines, it remains critically important that all Ontarians continue following public health advice to protect our communities and most vulnerable populations, and to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes staying home if you have any symptoms, even mild; maintaining two metres of physical distancing from everyone else other than household members; avoiding social gatherings; adhering to the restrictions in your region on public and private gatherings; wearing a face covering indoors and wear one outdoors if physical distancing may not be maintained or if wearing one is required; washing your hands thoroughly and regularly.

PEEL POLICE COMPLETES BRAMPTON **GURDWARA INVESTIGATION, INCIDENT NOT** HATE OR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Peel Regional Police takes incidents targeting religious property seriously, and we do look at all aspects, including hate-motivation. Investigators worked with the Gurdwara and the community and were able to identify the man with assistance from his family.

Based on all of the evidence discovered by investigators, officers are confident that this was an isolated incident and was not hate or politically motivated. Due to the privacy rights of the individual involved, we cannot share further specific details of the investigation.

We understand the impact that this incident has had on the community and have worked with community partners to alleviate concerns and address questions that may have arisen.

Ontario Appoints Members of the Ministers' COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

TORONTO — The Ontario government announced the appointment of nine members of the new Ministers' COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force. The task force, chaired by General (retired) Rick Hillier, former Chief of Defence Staff for the Canadian Forces, will oversee the delivery, storage and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, confirmed the following individuals will join

General Hillier to advise on the planning and execution of the province's COVID-19 immunization program: Dr. Dirk Huyer, Ontario's Chief Coroner and Coordinator of Provincial Outbreak Response

Dr. Homer Tien, trauma surgeon and President and CEO, Ornge

Dr. Maxwell Smith, bioethicist and assistant professor, Western University

Dr. Isaac Bogoch, infectious diseases consultant and internist, Toronto General Hospital

Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald of Taykwa Tagamou Nation

Dr. Regis Vaillancourt, Director of Pharmacy and Integrated Pain Services, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Linda Hasenfratz, CEO, Linamar Corporation Angela Mondou, President and CEO, TECHNATION

Mark Saunders, former Toronto Police Chief

"This is a critical stage in our fight against COVID-19. The task force we have assembled will play a key role in developing and implementing Ontario's immunization program," said Minister Elliott. "I am confident that with the collective knowledge, experience and advice from these experts, Ontario will be ready to deliver the vaccines in an ethical, timely and effective manner as soon as they are available."

Erin O'Toole calls for concrete economic supports for businesses

OTTAWA, ON - The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of Canada's Conservatives and the Official Opposition, today released the following statement on the Conservative Opposition Day motion calling on the Trudeau Liberals for concrete economic supports to help businesses:

"Until rapid testing and vaccines can be fully rolled out across the country, the Liberal government should be doing everything it can to remove needless barriers to job creation.

"We need to reduce taxes and regulations on businesses and workers. "So today we are calling on the Trudeau Liberals to take concrete action to help small businesses and workers before the holidays. "We are asking for the complete details on the Highly Affected

Availability Program (HASCAP) to be shared by December 16. This must include the criteria for which businesses can apply, which sectors are eligible, when repayment will be required, and how much forgiveness will be offered.

"Heading into Christmas, Canadian business owners need clarity from their government in order to plan for their future.

"We are also calling on the Liberal government to fix the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) by reducing restrictions and amending the interest rate schedule.

"And finally, we are calling on the Liberal government to postpone the increase of CPP payroll taxes set for January 1, as well as the increase of the carbon tax and the alcohol escalator tax planned for next year. "Canadian small businesses and workers deserve certainty from this government.

"This is going to be a very difficult Christmas for many Canadians. "We want all parties, including the Liberals, to work with us to ensure our small businesses and workers can head into the holiday season with a little bit of hope, knowing these important measures will help them in the new year"

The Conservative Opposition Day motion is:

That, given that,(i) Canadian businesses are in distress and need help to survive as a rapid testing and vaccination plan rolls out, (ii) according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, 46% are worried about the survival of their business, (iii) the federal government must support employment by removing barriers to job creation, such as taxes and regulation, the House call on the government to:(a) provide complete details on the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program by December 16, 2020, including criteria, when businesses can apply, which sectors are eligible, when repayment will be required, and how much forgiveness will be offered; (b) fix the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility by reducing restrictions and amending the interest rate schedule; (c) postpone the increase of the Canada Pension Plan payroll taxes planned for January 1, 2021; and (d) postpone the increase of the carbon tax and the alcohol escalator tax planned for 2021.

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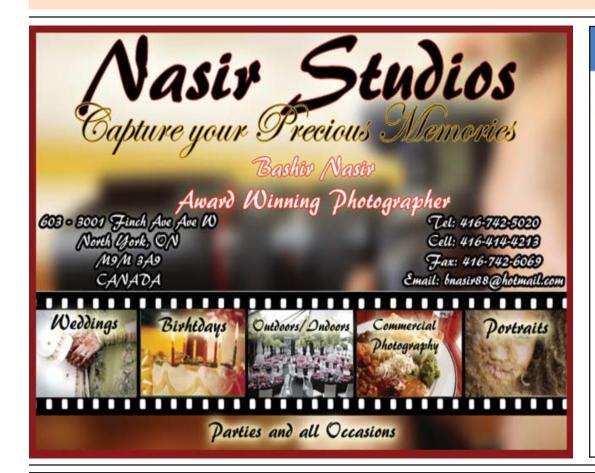
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FARMERS' UNIONS REJECT CENTRE'S PROPOSAL, SAY WILL CONTINUE AGITATION



A FARMERS' FORUM RECEIVED A PROPOSAL FROM THE UNION GOVERNMENT AND HELD A MEETING AT SINGHU BORDER TO ANALYSE THE PROPOSAL

NEW DELHI: Farmers' unions on Wednesday rejected a fresh draft proposal by the Centre and said that they would continue their struggle against the three contentious farm laws.

With the Centre-farmer talks ending in a stalemate, thousands of farmers stayed put at Delhi borders on Wednesday to press for repeal of the agri marketing laws.

A farmers' forum received a proposal from the Union government and held a meeting at Singhu border to analyse the proposal.

A meeting called by Home Minister Amit Shah ended in failure on Tuesday night as farmer leaders rejected the government's offer to amend new farm laws, saying they would settle for nothing less than the scrapping of the legislations.

The sixth round of talks between the government and farmer unions to end the protests on Delhi's various borders, which was scheduled on Wednesday, has been cancelled. This comes after many farm leaders had threatened to boycott the talks. As the protests continued,

traffic was disrupted at border points with farmers agitating on the Singhu, Tlkri and Ghazipur borders of Delhi. Taking to Twitter, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted commuters about that the Tikri, Jharoda, Dhansa Borders are closed for any traffic movement. However, Jhatikara border is open only for two-wheelers and pedestrian movement. It also said that those travelling to Haryana can take Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera Borders.

"Singhu, Auchandi, Piao Maniyari, Mangesh borders are closed. NH-44 is closed on both sides. Take alternate routes via Lampur, Safiabad, Saboli, NH8/Bhopra /Apsara borders /Peripheral expressway, the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

It also said that the traffic has been diverted from Mukarba and GTK road and suggested commuters to avoid Outer Ring Road, GTK road, NH-44. Farmer leaders have been firm on their demand for repeal of three new farm laws enacted in September.

INDIA, JAPAN DISCUSS 5G, NEW PROPOSALS ON OPTICAL FIBRE PLACEMENT, AI AND SMART CITIES



India and Japan on Tuesday discussed cooperation in 5G and took up new proposals for cooperation in the Information Technology sector at the virtual meet of telecommunications Ministries of Japan and India. In 5G sector, both countries discussed wireless planning and standardization of technology. Remember earlier this year, during the visit of External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar to Japan, both countries finalized the text of the cybersecurity pact that promotes cooperation in areas such as 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI). The new proposals that were discussed included issues such as future submarine optical fibre placement, smart-city, and Artificial intelligence (AI) utilization in the field of healthcare. Both countries have taken a collaborative project at the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology in Hyderabad where a software utilizes AI to assist

colonoscopy diagnosis.

Both the ministries met virtually under the framework of 6th India-Japan ICT Joint Working Group (JWG). Japan was represented by Vice Minister of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Telecommunications Yoshida Mabito and India by Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash and K Ramchand from the department of telecommunication. Interestingly, the virtual meet took place through the web platform developed by India's C-DOT. Japan and India JWG was established under the Japan-India ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework in January 2014. In the past, it has taken several concrete steps including, laying of submarine optical fibre cable connecting Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar by Japan's NEC. Earlier this year, PM Modi had inaugurated the 2300 km undersea cable.

RAJASTHAN, TELANGANA AND ARUNACHAL POLL RESULTS SHOW PEOPLE PREFER BJP: JAVADEKAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) performance in the zila parishad elections in Rajasthan, in the local body elections in Telangana and in the gram panchayat elections in Arunachal Pradesh is an indication that the people prefer the party and that there is groundswell of support for reforms in agriculture, said Union minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday.

"Despite the Corona pandemic, global economic crisis and the Opposition's propaganda against the farm reforms, people everywhere are opting for the BJP," he said, addressing the media.

The party has won 14 of the 21 zila parishads in Rajasthan which is a Congress-ruled state. "The election result is phenomenal for

BJP. The people in the rural areas have given a decisive mandate to the BJP defeating the Congress with a huge margin," Javadekar said. "The margin of wins is also big. In (deputy CM) Sachin Pilot's Tonk area, the zila parishad election has also been won by the BJP. At least four ministers could not save the zila parishad in their respective areas. This is an indication of what is to come. It shows how voters across India prefer BJP," Javadekar said. He said since a bulk of the voters who cast their ballot in the zila parishad polls are farmers or those associated with agriculture, it shows people support the farm reforms. "In Rajasthan, a trend has been reversed. There, zila parishad elections used to be won by the party in power; it happened in 2010 when the Congress was in power and in 2015 when the BJP was in power. But this time, the BJP has won," he said. Referring to the recent gains that the party made in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections where it won 49 seats, up from the previous terms four seats, the minister said there is a pan India preference for the BJP. "It is notable that while the BJP won 49 seats and the TRS 55, it is the BJP that bagged more votes than the TRS," he said, suggesting the popularity of the party in the southern state. "Even in Arunachal Pradesh, the BJP has got success. Out of the 240 seats in the zila panchayat, it won 96 unopposed. Of the 8,291 gram panchayats seats, the BJP won 5,410 seats unopposed," he said.



ARE PROTESTS LOSING RELEVANCE AND BECOMING TOOLS IN HANDS OF POLITICAL PARTIES?



The Bharat Bandh called by the farmers on December 8 was supported by 20 opposition parties. But when was the last time you saw such a movement or protest on the streets become successful? Even if an agitation in the last 73 years turned out to be successful, its shelf life was very short.

The Bharat Bandh called by the protesting farmers got a mixed response. States ruled by opposition par ties reported the major effect of the bandh but those states ruled by the BJP saw a lukewarm response, which means that the bandh did not go as expected.

In West Bengal, workers of left parties sat on the railway tracks, due to which many trains were cancelled and delayed. In Maharashtra too, there was a partial effect of this shutdown. During the bandh in Uttar Pradesh, several opposition parties carried out demonstrations. The Samajwadi Party leaders and activists who were protesting at several places in Uttar Pradesh were taken into custody by the police. In Karnataka, Congress workers forcibly closed shops.

RJD and Left parties ransacked and created an uproar in Patna. A sick woman in Katihar, Bihar, was not allowed to be taken to a hospital by the protesters.

The shutdown in Delhi was a damp squib. Most markets remained open and the metro service was also not affected due to the closure. However, a lot of politics took place in Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party accused the Delhi Police of arresting Arvind Kejriwal in his house and a protest was also staged by the party supporters. The Delhi Police, however, denied the allegations. Shutting down markets, closing roads is a complete loss for the country. This mode of protest during the British period was fine but not during the era of emails and Wi-Fi. Organizations and political parties across the country should therefore think how to make such protests modern and constructive. Based on data, you can call India the World capital of protests. During 18 years, from 1990 to 2018, the highest number of protests in the world was held in India. And most of it was violent. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, most of the protests in North India are supported by Labor Unions, whereas in the rest of India, the protests are backed by political parties

But now it seems that the protests in North India are also being hijacked by political parties. The biggest example of this was the participation of left parties who turned out to be aggressive in the movement.

Left parties forget that Kerala does not have the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) - a major cause for the farmers' agitation- but they still want to be a part of this agitation. Recently, there was opposition to the new citizenship law and NRC which has now caught up with the new farm bills. Some people are also opposing the construction of the new Parliament House. It would not be surprising if some people backed by political parties now begin protesting against the coronavirus vaccine.

But what is achieved out of all these protests? In 2011, there was a big movement in Delhi regarding Janlokpal law but till date, the Janlokpal law as demanded by the movement spearhead Anna Hazare has not been passed. The Bofors scandal was fiercely opposed but what was the role of Rajiv Gandhi is still not clear even today.

Hence a positive and constructive way of protesting should be adopted but it is a long struggle. It takes hard work and no political party has the patience nor intention to do so. However, there is a lot to learn from America.

Former presidents of America, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton of the Democratic Party and Republican George W Bush have announced that they will publicly get the coronavirus vaccine administered in order to instil faith amongst the people in the vaccine. Is it ever possible that all the political parties of India come together on issues like Balakot Airstrike, China and hanging of Terrorists? This definitely looks like a distant dream. During the last 73 years, the Congress or its supported parties have ruled India for nearly 54 years. It is clear that most of the movements and protests were also against the Congress but the party still exists. During the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi, Jai Prakash Narayan launched a huge agitation against the Congress. For a few years, the party lost power at Centre but in 1980 the Congress came back to power and Indira Gandhi again became the Prime Minister of the country.

The movements against the Congress during that period did have an impact but they were not strong enough else Indira Gandhi's family would still not have been wielding power after her.



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READY TO GIVE WRITTEN ASSURANCE ON CONTINUING MSP: GOVT'S PROPOSAL TO AGITATING FARMERS



THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES TO MAKE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS ON AT LEAST SEVEN ISSUES, INCLUDING ONE TO ALLAY FEARS ABOUT THE WEAKENING OF THE MANDI SYSTEM

NEW DELHI: As thousands of farmers continue to protest at various borders of the national capital demanding the repeal of three new farm laws, the government on Wednesday proposed to give a "written assurance" that the existing Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime for procurement would continue.

The government also proposed to make necessary amendments on at least seven issues, including one to allay fears about the weakening of the mandi system.

In a draft proposal sent to 13 agitating farmer unions, the government said it is ready to provide all necessary clarifications on their concerns about the new farm laws enacted in September, but it did not mention anything about the main demand of protesting farmers for the repeal of the laws.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Tuesday night's meeting with 13 union leaders had said the government would send a draft proposal on key issues raised by the farmers regarding the three farm laws, even though the meeting had failed to break the ice with farm union leaders who are insisting for repealing these laws.

The sixth round of talks between the government and farm union leaders, which was scheduled for Wednesday morning, has also been cancelled.

In the proposal, sent by Agriculture Ministry Joint Secretary Vivek Aggarwal, the government said it is ready to consider with an open heart the objections which farmers have on the new farm laws.

"The government has tried to address the concerns of farmers with an open heart and with respect for the farming community of the country. The government appeals the kisan unions to end their agitation," it said. On farmers' fears that mandis would weaken after the new laws, the government said an amendment could be made wherein state governments could register the traders operating outside mandis. States can also impose tax and cess as they used in APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis on them. On concerns that farmers may be duped as anyone having just a PAN card is allowed to trade outside APMC mandis, the government said to rule out such

apprehensions, the state governments could be given the power to register such traders and make rules keeping in mind the local situation of farmers.

On the issue of farmers not getting the right to appeal in civil courts for dispute resolution, the government said it is open to making an amendment to provide for an appeal in civil courts. Currently, the dispute resolution is at the SDM level.

On fears that big corporates will take over farmlands, the government said it had already been made clear in the laws, but still, for clarity's sake, it could be written that no buyer could take loans against farmland nor any such condition would be made to farmers. On attaching farmland under contract farming, the government said the existing provision is clear but still it can be clarified further if required. On fear about the scrapping of the MSP regime and shifting of trade to private players, the government said it is ready to give a written assurance that the existing MSP will continue.

On demands to scrap the proposed Electricity Amendment bill 2020, the government said there won't be any change in the existing system of electricity bill payment for farmers.

On farmers' demand to scrap the Air Quality Management of NCR Ordinance 2020, under which there is the provision of penalty for stubble burning, the government said it is ready to find an appropriate solution. The draft proposal has been sent to 13 farm union leaders, including Joginder Singh Urgrahan of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), one of the biggest among nearly 40 agitating unions.

"Farmer unions have received the draft proposal from the government," Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait told PTI. He is one of the many union leaders participating in the ongoing negotiations with the government. The government has proposed seven amendments in the two new laws - The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. However, it has not touched The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 at all.

AAP CLAIMS KEJRIWAL'S MOVEMENT STILL 'RESTRICTED', DELHI POLICE DENY CLAIM

NEW DELHI: The AAP on Wednesday alleged Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's movement is still "restricted" and the main gate of his residence remains closed at the behest of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a claim denied by the city police.

Police sources said the chief minister left his residence around 11 am to attend a programme.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had on Tuesday alleged the Delhi Police put Kejriwal under house arrest after he met farmers protesting against the Centre's agriculture reform laws at the city's Singhu border.

However, a senior Delhi Police officer dismissed the claim as "totally baseless". Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha said there is an atmosphere of "undeclared emergency" around the chief minister's residence.

"I am telling you with full responsibility that the movement of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is still restricted at the behest of the (Union) home minister. The main gate of the chief minister's residence is still closed," Chadha said.

"In a way, there is an atmosphere of undeclared emergency. All this, just because we did not allow the stadiums to be converted into prisons for farmers," he said.

A senior police officer said there is no restriction on any kind of movement of the chief minister.

"The police deployment outside the chief minister's residence is part of security protocol." he said.

According to police sources, Kejriwal left his residence around 11 am to attend a programme.

On Tuesday, Kejriwal came out of his residence after hours of drama outside. Addressing party workers, he said the Centre tried its best to ensure that he did not step out.

He said if he was not stopped, he would have gone and supported farmers in their Bharat Bandh movement.

Kejriwal claimed the Centre was "very angry" as his government did not allow Delhi stadiums to be used as prisons for farmers.

India emerging as most preferred destination for mobile manufacturing: PM Modi

India is emerging as the most preferred destination for mobile manufacturing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In his address at the India Mobile Congress via video conferencing, he said that every village in India will have high-speed optical fibre data network connectivity in three years.

"India is emerging as the most preferred destination for mobile manufacturing. We have also come up with a production linked incentive scheme to promote telecom equipment manufacturing in India. Let us work together to make India a global hub for telecom equipment, design, development and manufacturing," PM Modi said.

"We need to work together to ensure a timely roll-out of 5G to leapfrog into the future and empower millions of Indians," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the country will embark on one of the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive with the help of mobile technology. "Today we are a country with billion-plus phone users, we have a billion-plus people with unique digital identity, we have over 750 million users, the scale and speed of internet penetration can be seen by following facts," he said.

"Half of the total internet users in India were added in the last 4 years, half of the total internet users are in rural areas, our digital size and digital appetite are unprecedented. We are in a country where the tariff is the lowest in the world. We are one of the fast-growing mobile app markets in the world. The digital potential of our nation is unparallel," he added.

Modi also assured that the government is able to provide benefits worth billions of dollars to millions of Indians due to mobile technology. "Because of mobile technology that we were able to help the poor and vulnerable quickly during the pandemic. Because of mobile technology that we are seeing billions of cashless transactions which boost formalisation and transparency. Because of mobile technology that we will enable smooth contactless interface on toll booths," he said. PM Modi said that it was difficult to imagine the kind of impact the mobile revolution had in our country, society and the world ten years ago.

"It is important to think and plan how do we improve lives with the upcoming technology revolution. Better healthcare, Better education, Better information and opportunities for our farmers, Better market access for small businesses are some of the goals we can work towards," he said, "It is due to your innovation and efforts that the world was functional despite the pandemic. It is due to your efforts that a son connected with his mother in a different city. A student learnt from his teacher without being in the classroom. A patient consulted his doctor from his home A trader connected with a consumer from different geography," he added.

Delhi police Vs AAP: 'Glad Bharat Bandh was successful, I prayed for protesting farmers', says Delhi CM



Tuesday saw a tussle between the Delhi Police and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, even as the country observed Bharat Bandh called by farmers protesting against the central government's new farm laws.

Earlier in the day, to Aam Aadmi Party's allegations of putting the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal under house arrest, the Delhi Police issued a clarification citing that entry to his residence will be allowed to all, after consultation with the CM. According to the Delhi police the regular deployment outside CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence was for his safety. "The deployment which is being seen outside the residence of CM Kejriwal is the regular deployment for the security of the Hon' CM. We're coordinating with the CM's residence. Anyone whom they say they want to allow inside, we will allow," said Anto Alphonse, DCP North, Delhi Police.

Meanwhile later in the day, addressing AAP members from his residence, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said, "I had planned that today I would go to the border not as CM but as a common man to express my solidarity with the farmers. I think they came to know about my plan and they did not let me go." The Delhi CM said, "If I wasn't stopped, I would have gone and supported farmers in their Bharat Bandh call," adding "I am glad Bharat Bandh was successful. I prayed for protesting farmers while sitting inside."

AAP had claimed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was put under house arrest after his visit to the farmers protesting the three central farm laws at the national capital's Singhu border. They even launched a sit-in protest outside the Delhi chief minister's residence. "BJP's Delhi Police has put Hon'ble CM Shri @ArvindKejriwal under house arrest ever since he visited farmers at Singhu Border yesterday. No one has been permitted to leave or enter his residence," the party tweeted.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had alleged that the public was not being allowed to meet the Chief Minister. "CM denied permission to convert stadiums into temporary jails for protesting farmers. Now, public is not being allowed to meet him. Does this mean he is under house arrest? Why are all these security personnel posted here?," Sisodia questioned. Delhi Police had refuted the claim saying, "This claim of CM Delhi being put on house arrest is incorrect. He exercises his right to free movement within the law of the land. A picture of the house entrance says it all." Following the police's clarification, the party again tweeted, this time with pictures of heavy deployment outside the CM's residence. "No! This is not LOC. This is CM's residence. Does the Chief Minister of India's capital deserve this treatment? His crime? He supported India's farmers," the party wrote on Twitter.

Kejriwal supported the farm bills, opposition bent on disturbing law and order: Union Minister Smriti Irani



There is a mixed response of Bharat Bandh called by the farmers protesting against the Centre's new farm laws. The Bharat Bandh has been supported by over 20 political parties. Demonstrations by protestors continue in different parts of the country. Amid the protest, Union Minister Smriti Irani has attacked the opposition over the farm bills, saying that they couldn't get public support through vote so they're breaking the law and order for political benefits.

"The opposition, which could not get the support of the public through the vote, has come out today to break the law and order so that it can shine its politics. Somewhere there is political interference that anarchy spreads," she said.

"When the bills were present in the parliament, the opposition had portrayed that government will stop MSP operation and shut the APMC mandis. The govt didn't do it. In fact, the government assured that MSP operations will be improved further," she added. Launching a scathing attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the union minister said that he supported the bills when he notified a gazette. "Arvind Kejriwal had shown his support for the farm bills when he notified a gazette. Gazette is notified when the government accepts a bill administratively and politically. So he has given his acceptance to this bill already," Irani said. This comes as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi has claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been put under house arrest on Tuesday. "CM met farmers at Singhu border yesterday. He had said that we'll serve them like 'Sevadars' and support them. After he returned, Delhi Police barricaded his residence from all sides, putting him in a house-arrest like situation, at the behest of Home Ministry," AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said at a press conference. The Delhi Police has, however, denied the claims and said that the CM hasn't been put under house arrest. "It is a general deployment to avoid any clash between AAP and any other party. CM has not been put under house arrest," DCP North Delhi Anto Alphonse said.

Pfizer vaccine: British doctor says, 'remarkable' achievement as UK begins mass vaccination



As Britain begins mass vaccination process on Tuesday, a British doctor said that having a vaccine ready less than a year after treating the first patient with COVID-19 has been a 'remarkable' achievement.

"This is the most incredible. It has been the fastest, most remarkable piece of work," said Dr. Nikita Kanani, a medical director for primary care at NHS England as vaccinations began, adding that she felt emotional. Health workers started inoculating the most vulnerable with the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. The Pfizer vaccine that must be stored at -70C, is a test case for the rest of the world.

Margaret Keenan, a 90-year-old grandmother from Northern Ire-

the world on Tuesday to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shot outside of a trial as Britain began vaccinating its population. Keenan received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at a local hospital in Coventry, central England, on Tuesday. In Newcastle, married couple Hari and Ranjan Shukla were among the first to receive their vaccinations. "I feel happy that I've been able to contribute a little," said Hari as he and Ranjan posed for photographs after getting their jabs, wearing stickers to show they had been vaccinated. The launch of the vaccine, one of three shots that have reported successful results from large trials, will fuel hope that the world may be turning a corner in the fight against a pandemic that has killed more than 1.5 million people.

SHORTAGE KILLS COVID PATIENTS PESHAWAR: Seven workers at a Pakistan hospital who left scores of Covid-19 patients without sufficient land, became the first person in oxygen for hours have been suspended after several of their charges died, authorities said. Five patients in the Covid isolation ward and one in the intensive care unit at the government-run hospital in Peshawar died due to the delay in sourcing

oxygen, a preliminary report said

late Sunday. The chronic oxygen deficiency "went unnoticed, unsupervised and unchecked," the report said, adding that no backup oxygen supply had been put in place. The hospital director was among those suspended with immediate effect.

Taimur Saleem Jhagra, a provincial health minister, told AFP that authorities will hold a second detailed inquiry over the next five days. "The hospital was low on

oxygen from around 8pm in the evening, how come they couldn't manage to solve the issue until after 12pm?" Jhagra said. "Some of the staff were off, some were absent and there wasn't any alternate arrangements, even the emergency squad was not available," he added. Hospital spokesman Farhad Khan told AFP Sunday a disruption in oxygen supplies affected some 200 people, including nearly 100 with coronavirus. Pakistan has reported more than 400,000 cases of coronavirus -- including over 8,000



Embarrassment for Pakistan at UN as over 100 countries decline to extend support to resolution backed by it

In a first, a Pakistan back UN resolution saw over half the members of the New York headquarter body not voting for it. The resolution "Promotion of interreligious & intercultural dialogue", saw 52 abstentions, and 51 countries not voting for. This makes 104 members of the UN, out of 193 strength not supporting the resolution. Most of the countries, who did not vote were from Africa and small island countries, many of whom did not wish to be identified by going for abstentions. While the resolution co-sponsored by Pakistan-Philippines was adopted by 90 countries in favor, it divided the world body. The abstentions were majorly from the European Union and the west over a straitjacketed view of ongoing freedom of expression versus religion debate. EU saw the resolution, while barely taking a stance on freedom of expression, focused on "religious symbols". India had its own concerns, specifically on the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, with New Delhi highlighting how Islamabad has transferred the administration of the Gurudwara to a non-Sikh body. It said, "We have protested against this very strongly with the Pakistani side since this runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large." India also raised concerns over Indic religions--Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism being discriminated when it comes to persecution against them vis a vis Abrahamic religion, and the stance was well received by many countries. Pakistani mission to United Nations said the resolution is part of "diplomatic campaign to raise awareness about Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hatred & defamation of religious personalities & symbols", something that is seen as onesided and coming from a country with a poor track record on safekeeping its own minorities. In the last 15 years, the resolution on "culture of peace" has always been adopted without a vote and adopted with a consensus. Pakistan is now keen that United Nations declares an "International Day to Combat Islamophobia", an action that focuses on one religion and expectedly in the future will be used to slam India. With the resolution being taken, UN's role has also come under scrutiny. The resolution said it, "welcomes efforts undertaken by the high representative for the United Nations Alliance of civilizations...and takes note of his recent "call for mutual respect". This irked EU, and was seen a something that went against France and the right to expression.



deaths -- since it arrived in late February. Intensive care units in hospitals across the country are now

almost full, with provincial governments struggling to deal with the soaring caseload.

PAKISTAN SUSPENDS STAFF AFTER OXYGEN

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William Osler Health System

COMMUNITYupdate



WINTER 2020

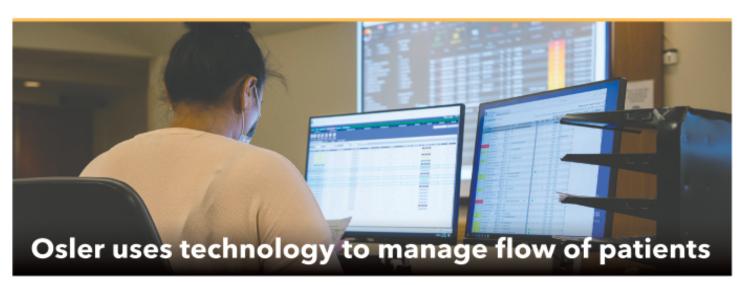


ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PROVIDES Osler with funding for more hospital beds

William Osler Health System (Osler) hosted Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, at Brampton Civic Hospital on October 27, where they announced immediate funding for 87 additional beds across Brampton Civic Hospital and Etobicoke General Hospital.

This funding will further increase Osler's ability to provide care to a growing number of patients in the time ahead.

"This announcement is good news for the communities we serve and comes at a time when Osler's dedicated health care teams are working tirelessly to combat COVID-19 and are managing the flu season and winter surge," said Dr. Naveed Mohammad, President and CEO, Osler. "This will allow us to address some of the current capacity pressures Osler is experiencing and further enable us to continue providing high-quality compassionate care to our patients."



Earlier this year, during the height of the first Wave of COVID-19, Osler launched its Operational Command Centres. These physical and virtual 'hubs' located at each hospital offer health care teams a 24/7 birds-eye view of where every inpatient is from admission at the Emergency Department, to an inpatient bed.

"We wanted to find a more timely way to safely move people needing inpatient care out of our emergency departments and into the beds best suited to meet their needs," says Clint Atendido, Vice President, Clinical Services.

Osler is using the Operational Command Centres and other approaches to help reduce patient gridlock, enhance quality and patient safety, and support an improved patient and staff experience – all of which are critical during this busy time due to COVID-19 and seasonal flu pressures.



When the pandemic began, Osler staff and physicians jumped into action – without hesitation – to give every patient the critical care they need to survive.

And now, they need you.

This holiday season, you can help fulfill our Health Care Heroes' wish list. On it are vital pieces of equipment like ventilators, vital signs monitors, stretchers and personal protective equipment.

Making a donation to help purchase these items is a meaningful way to show our Health Care Heroes that they're not alone in the fight against COVID-19.

This holiday, give a gift that tells our Health Care Heroes that you're in the fight, too.

Donate today at www.oslerfoundation.org.



Long-time Etobicoke General Hospital volunteer, Marlin Morrell was the recipient of a Toronto. com 2020 Urban Hero Award, in recognition of her contribution to the local community. Marlin has volunteered at Etobicoke General for more than 35 years and has served over 15,000 hours at the hospital. She is also former President of the William Osler Health System Volunteer Association and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for William Osler Health System Foundation.

Visiting a patient at Osler?

Please be reminded that visitor restrictions are in place at Osler's hospitals to protect the health and safety of patients, staff, physicians and volunteers.

Virtual visitation continues to be available to patients and their loved ones. Visit Osler's website to learn more about who can visit in person: www.williamoslerhs.ca

Stay informed about the latest news at Osler Sign up for Inside Osler, the hospital's electronic

newsletter. Sign up by email today:

publicrelations@williamoslerhs.ca



This year has been one for the history books. I know it has been challenging and we appreciate the many sacrifices you have made to keep yourself, your loved ones and our community safe.

From the very start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our health care workers have been there – working tirelessly to serve our community. We have relied on your support to fuel our efforts. Your kindness and generosity has made all of the difference and for that we are truly grateful.

Osler is proud to serve this community and I am thankful to our many dedicated health care heroes who go beyond daily to provide safe, quality, compassionate care. As we prepare for a holiday season that is unlike any we have experienced, know that our health care teams are here for you.

During this holiday season, I ask that each of us continue to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Practice preventative measures and follow public health guidelines. These are important steps that help protect our own health and safety, and that of our friends, family, and the community.

Thank you for doing your part. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy holiday season.

Dr. Naveed Mohammad President & CEO, William Osler Health System

HOLIDAY SEASON HEALTH CHECKLIST

- Know your doctor's holiday hours and the hours of COVID-19 testing centres near you.
- Schedule any needed medical appointments before the holidays.
- Make sure you have enough medication and medical supplies for you and your family.
- Discuss your care plan with your health care team to know who can provide support and how you can reach them over the holidays.
- Become familiar with the public health guidelines for your region.

Holiday Health Care Options

Telehealth Ontario: **1-866-797-0000**Walk-in clinics • Family doctor offices
Family health teams

EMERGENCY CARE

Go to the **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT** if you have a serious injury or condition such as:

Chest pain / Abdominal pain / Seizures

Stroke symptoms such as, loss of movement of half your body, loss of speech, severe dizziness

Shortness of breath / Dizziness/fainting / Numbness or weakness in arms or hands

Fever in infants under three months old / Pregnancy-related emergencies

Overdose/poisoning / Mental health issues

Sprains, strains or broken bones

Serious allergic reactions and skin rashes / Asthma attacks / Burns

Cuts that may need stitches / Conditions related to your eyes / Infections

Any serious condition you feel is getting worse

For information about COVID-19 testing and care options near you, or to learn more about Osler's response to COVID-19, visit: www.williamoslerhs.ca/coronavirus