



**AAP TO JOIN JAN 26 TRACTOR PARADE 'AS A FARMER':**  
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**US CAPITOL PUT ON LOCKDOWN DAYS BEFORE BIDEN'S INAUGURATION, LIFTED LATER** | P11

**RANVEER SINGH AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR EIGHT YEARS AND ARE STILL DISCOVERING EACH OTHER: DEEPIKA** | P13



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END OF TRUMP ERA?

DONALD TRUMP LEAVES WHITE HOUSE FOR THE LAST TIME, TO SKIP JOE BIDEN'S OATH.

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

# PM TRUDEAU AND PREMIER FORD DISCUSS HOW TO CONTROL RISING COVID NUMBERS

**OTTAWA:** Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with Ontario Premier Doug Ford to discuss the global COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford spoke about the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Ontario and ways to help contain the spread of the virus, including through increased testing and contact tracing, and the additional public health measures announced by the provincial government yesterday. They agreed on the importance of continuing close federal-provincial collaboration in the vaccine rollout, and both supported maintaining a Team Canada approach to protect the health and safety of Canadians. As the federal government continues delivering tens of thousands of vaccines to Ontario every week, the Prime Minister reiterated his full support to Premier Ford in vaccinating as many Ontarians as possible, as quickly as possible.

Both leaders talked about how important it is for Canadians to limit their exposure to others, avoid gatherings, and stay home when possible. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford spoke about the priority vaccination of residents and employees of long-term care homes, and the Prime Minister offered continued federal support for rapid testing and further assistance from the Canadian Red Cross where needed. The Prime Minister and the Premier also spoke about priority infrastructure projects, including broadband, and agreed to continue working together on these and other issues of importance to both governments.



AJINKYA RAHANE'S INDIA END 32-YEAR DOMINANCE OF AUSTRALIA IN GABBA, WIN FINAL TEST TO CLINCH SERIES 2-1. DETAILS ON PAGE 19

**UK INVITES PM MODI FOR G7 SUMMIT**

**NEW DELHI/LONDON:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by his UK counterpart Boris Johnson to attend the G7 summit in the UK as a guest in June this year. The summit will be held in England's Cornwall region from June 11 to 13. Last year, US President Donald Trump had extended an invite to Prime Minister Modi for an expanded G7 meeting to discuss China.



CONTD. ON PAGE 3

**FARM BILLS HAVE POTENTIAL TO REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR AGRICULTURE REFORMS IN INDIA: IMF**

The IMF believes the farm bills passed by the Indian government have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms, but a social safety net is needed to protect those who might be adversely impacted during the transition to the new system, a spokesperson of the global lender said here.



CONTD. ON PAGE 3

**JAISHANKAR CALLS OUT CHINA, PAK ON TERRORISM, UNVEILS 8-POINT PLAN**

**NEW YORK:** Calling out Pakistan for its support for terrorism and China for providing terrorists cover against sanctions, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has unveiled an eight-point plan against the global scourge.



CONTD. ON PAGE 3

**AT 18 MILLION, INDIA HAS LARGEST DIASPORA IN THE WORLD: UN**

**UNITED NATIONS:** The Indian diaspora, one of the most "vibrant and dynamic", is the largest in the world, with 18 million people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020, the UN has said. The United Arab Emirates, the US and Saudi Arabia host the largest numbers of migrants from India, it said. "India has the largest transnational population in the world."



CONTD. ON PAGE 3

**INDIA MAY GET FOUR MORE COVID-19 VACCINES SOON, SII SAYS WORK IN PROGRESS**

In a boost to India's efforts to contain coronavirus, the Serum Institute of India (SII), one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturers, has claimed that four more COVID-19 vaccines are in progress. SII has prepared Covishield, the vaccine which is being used in India. The institute says that the trial of all the vaccines is in full swing and it is expected that it will be completed soon.



CONTD. ON PAGE 10

**PFIZER VACCINE DELAY IS TEMPORARY: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU**

PM Trudeau made the following comments recently on Covid 19 situation & Vaccination efforts. From coast to coast to coast, vaccination is underway. As of last week, we had delivered close to a million doses total to the provinces and territories. There's still a lot of work to do, but these shipments are already bringing relief – and hope – to communities across the country.



CONTD. ON PAGE 6

**ONTARIO ADDING OVER 500 HOSPITAL BEDS TO EXPAND CRITICAL CARE CAPACITY**

**MACKENZIE HEALTH'S NEW CORTELLUCCI VAUGHAN HOSPITAL TO SUPPORT SHORT-TERM PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

**VAUGHAN** — The Ontario government is providing up to \$125 million to immediately add over 500 critical care and high intensity medicine beds to hospitals in areas with high rates of COVID-19 transmission.



CONTD. ON PAGE 5

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## WORLD IS ON BRINK OF 'CATASTROPHIC MORAL FAILURE': WHO CHIEF ON COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICIES



THE WHO CHIEF SAID THAT THE 'ME-FIRST' APPROACH WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING BECAUSE IT WOULD PUSH UP PRICES AND ENCOURAGE HOARDING.

## JAISHANKAR CALLS OUT CHINA, PAK ON TERRORISM, UNVEILS 8-POINT PLAN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Before his speech on Tuesday at a Security Council ministerial meeting, Tunisia's Foreign Minister Othman Jerandi, who presided, issued a consensus statement affirming the obligation of all nations to "to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism" and the need to strengthen international action against terrorism.

The meeting was convened by Tunisia, which holds the Council's rotating presidency this month, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the landmark anti-terrorism resolution adopted following the 9/11 attacks on the US.

The international community must collectively expose and hold accountable those countries that are "clearly guilty of aiding and supporting terrorism, and wilfully provide financial assistance and safe havens" for terrorists, he said speaking through a videolink. Jaishankar did not name Pakistan or China, but he made the references to the countries contextually clear.

"We, in India, have seen the crime syndicate responsible for the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts not just given state protection but enjoying 5-star hospitality," he said in one such reference that pointed to Pakistan hosting Dawood Ibrahim, the crime boss behind the attack that killed 257 people. In his eight-point plan, he criticised the double standards advocated by Pakistan and some others and said: "Terrorists are terrorists; there are no good and bad ones. Those who propagate this distinction have an agenda. And those who cover up for them are just as culpable." As for China, he referred to "the practice of placing blocks and holds on listing requests without any rhyme or reasons which, he said, "must end because this only erodes our collective credibility." Beijing blocked for a decade the listing of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief

Masood Azhar as an international terrorist by a Council sanctions committee. He was behind several terrorist attacks on India. While calling for depoliticisation of the listing of individuals and groups as terrorists for imposing sanctions, Jaishankar also said, "Proposals in this regard merit due examination before circulation."

Pakistan with China's backing floated the names of four Indians, Ajoy Mistry, Gobinda Patnaik, Appaji and Venumadhav Dongara, for inclusion in the al-Qaeda and allied groups sanctions list before the US and other western nations on the Council thwarted the move.

His eight-point plan starts off with a call for an unconditional commitment by all countries to combat terrorism.

Jaishankar suggested that the UN increase cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which should continue to identify and fix weaknesses in anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing mechanisms, he said.

He said that the UN and countries should act against "exclusivist thinking that divides the world and harms our social fabric" that fuel communal hatred and lead to radicalisation.

"The Council should be on guard against new terminologies and misleading priorities that can dilute our focus," he said.

Earlier, the under-secretary-general of the Counter-Terrorism Office, Vladimir Voronkov, warned: "Terrorists are adapting quickly, keen to exploit cyberspace and new technologies, linkages with organised crime, as well as regulatory, human and technical gaps in national capacities."

He said that terrorist groups were exploiting the Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to greater polarisation and amplification of hate speech, while development has suffered.

## AT 18 MILLION, INDIA HAS LARGEST DIASPORA IN THE WORLD: UN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Menozzi said while some transnational populations are really clustered in one country or region, the Indian diaspora is present in all continents and regions - from the Gulf to Northern America to Australia, UK. "It's a very vibrant" and dynamic diaspora in the world, she said.

The report, 'International Migration 2020 Highlights', by the Population Division of UN DESA, released on Friday said in 2020, 18 million people from India were living outside of their country of birth.

Other countries with a large diaspora included Mexico and Russia (11 million each), China (10 million) and Syria (8 million).

The report said India's large diaspora is distributed across a number of major countries of destination, with the UAE (3.5 million), the US (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) hosting the largest numbers of migrants from India.

Other countries hosting large numbers of migrants from India included Australia, Canada, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and the UK.

Between 2000 and 2020, the size of the migrant population abroad grew for nearly all countries and areas of the world. India experienced the largest gain during that period at nearly 10 million, followed in order of magnitude by Syria, Venezuela, China and the Philippines.

Migration from India is largely motivated by labour and family reasons, Director of Population Division at UN DESA John Wilmoth told reporters at the launch of the report here, adding that forced displacement is a much smaller category (about 10 per cent) in the total.

Menozzi said the Indian diaspora is comprised predominantly of people who are working, but also students and people who moved for family reasons.

She said there is a very large presence of migrants who are born in India, in the Gulf countries where they are playing a central role in the economic prosperity of the countries, working in construction, hospitality and care services. The diverse Indian diaspora also includes highly-skilled scientists, engineers and doctors.

The US remained by far the largest country of destination of international migrants with 51 million migrants in 2020, equal to 18 per cent of the world's total. Germany hosted the second largest number of migrants worldwide at around 16 million, followed by Saudi Arabia (13 million), Russia (12 million) and the UK (9 million).

The report said preliminary estimates suggested that COVID-19 pandemic might have slowed the growth in the stock of international migrants by around two million by mid-2020, 27 per cent less than the growth expected since mid-2019.

The report said growth in the number of international migrants has been robust over the last two decades, reaching 281 million people living outside their country of origin in 2020, up from 173 million in 2000 and 221 million in 2010. Currently, international migrants represent about 3.6 per cent of the world's population.

Between 2000 and 2020, the number of migrants grew in 179 countries or areas. Germany, Spain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the US gained the



largest number of migrants during that period. By contrast, in 53 countries or areas, the number of international migrants declined between 2000 and 2020. Armenia, India, Pakistan, Ukraine and Tanzania were among the countries that experienced the most pronounced declines.

In many cases, the declines resulted from the old age of the migrant populations or the return of refugees and asylum seekers to their countries of origin.

In terms of regional migration corridors, between 2000 and 2020, some regional migration corridors grew very rapidly. The corridor Central and Southern Asia to Northern Africa and Western Asia grew the most, with 13 million migrants added between 2000 and 2020; more than tripling in size.

"The majority of that increase resulted from labour migration from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," the report said.

It noted that while it is too soon to understand the full extent, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 may have slowed the growth of this regional migration corridor. In many GCC countries, thousands of migrant workers in the construction, hospitality, retail and transportation sectors lost their jobs due to the pandemic and were required to return home.

The report said according to World Bank projections, the COVID-19 pandemic may reduce the volume of remittances sent to low-and middle-income countries from USD 548 billion in 2019 to USD 470 billion in 2021, a decline of 14 per cent.

Menozzi said India is the main country of recipient of remittances worldwide and in 2019 received USD 83 billion in remittances from its diaspora. The World Bank projects that in 2020, the amount will decline by around 9 per cent to about USD 76 billion.

### UK INVITES PM MODI FOR G7 SUMMIT

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

On Sunday, an official statement issued by the British High Commission in New Delhi said that Prime Minister Johnson will use the G7 presidency to unite leading democracies to help the world build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, fairer and more prosperous future.

The G7 - UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US - along with the EU is the only forum where the world's most influential and open societies and advanced economies come together for close-knit discussions.

The UK has also invited heads of Australia and South Korea to attend as guest countries to deepen the expertise and experience around the table.

The statement said that Prime Minister Johnson's ambition is to use the G7 to intensify cooperation between the world's democratic and technologically advanced nations. Between them the 10 leaders represent over 60 per cent of people living in democracies around the world.

Describing the G7 as the most prominent group of democratic countries, Johnson said it has long been the catalyst for decisive international action to tackle the greatest challenges we face. "From cancelling developing world debt to our universal condemnation of Russia's annexation of Crimea, the world has looked to the G7 to apply our shared values and diplomatic might to create a more open and prosperous planet," he said.

Coronavirus, he said is "doubtless the most destructive force we have seen for generations and the greatest test of the modern world order we have experienced. It is only right that we approach the challenge of building back better by uniting with a spirit of openness to create a better future."

The statement said that as "the pharmacy of the world, India already supplies more than 50 per cent of the world's vaccines, and the UK and India have worked closely together throughout the pandemic."

Recalling that the UK was the first P5 member to support a permanent UNSC seat for India and the first G7 member to invite India to a G7 summit in 2005, the UK government said that as the current BRICS President and G20 President in 2023, India will play a key role in driving multilateral cooperation around the world.

2021 marks a crucial year of international leadership for the UK. In addition to the G7 summit, during February the UK will assume the Presidency of the UN Security Council and later this year, the UK will host COP26 in Glasgow and a global education conference aimed at getting children in the developing world into school.

### FARM BILLS HAVE POTENTIAL TO REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR AGRICULTURE REFORMS IN INDIA: IMF



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Gerry Rice, Director of Communications at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the new measures will reduce the role of the middlemen and enhance efficiency.

"We believe the farm bills do have the potential to represent a significant step forward for agricultural reforms in India," Mr. Rice said at a news conference in Washington on Thursday. "The measures will enable farmers to directly contract with sellers, allow farmers to retain a greater share of the surplus by reducing the role of middlemen, enhance efficiency and support rural growth," he said.

"However, it is crucial that the social safety net adequately protects those who might be adversely impacted during the transition to this new system," the spokesperson said responding to a question on the ongoing protests by farmers against the laws in India.

This can be done by ensuring that the job market accommodates those that are impacted by the reforms, he said.

And of course, the growth benefits of these reforms will depend, critically, on the effectiveness and the timing of their implementation, so need to pay attention to those issues as well with the reform," Mr. Rice said. Thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at several Delhi border points, demanding a complete repeal of the three farm laws and legal guarantee of minimum support price for their crops.

Enacted in September last year, the three laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country. However, the protesting farmers have expressed their apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and do away with the "mandi" (wholesale market) system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.



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RESIDENTS IN EVERY LONG TERM CARE HOME ACROSS PEEL HAVE STARTED TO GET THEIR FIRST DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE. AND OVER HALF OF THE HIGH-RISK RETIREMENT HOMES HAVE TOO. "THAT'S 6,045 DOSES IN THE ARMS OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE - THE VACCINE ROLLOUT CONTINUES!"





A BLIND MAN HAS REGAINED HIS SIGHT AFTER RECEIVING THE FIRST IMPLANT WORLDWIDE OF AN ARTIFICIAL CORNEA DEVELOPED BY ISRAELI STARTUP CORNEAT VISION. WONDERFUL NEWS WHICH WILL IMPACT MILLIONS OF LIVES.

# SELF-ISOLATION

HOW TO PROPERLY SELF-ISOLATE IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS, HAVE COVID-19, OR ARE A CLOSE CONTACT OF SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19.



## Youth & student employment

The summer job application deadline is January 31, 2021  
We offer summer employment to students attending college, university, technical or vocational trade schools.  
Through our Summer Student Program, you'll:  
Earn income over the summer months.  
Gain valuable experience.  
Make new connections.  
Work within an engaging and professional environment all while contributing to our community.  
The summer work term runs from May to the end of August. Students are paid a competitive hourly rate every other week, plus vacation pay.  
Qualifications and requirements  
To qualify for the Peel Summer Student Program, you must be a full-time student enrolled in post-secondary program or entering full-time post-secondary studies



in September 2021 and be legally eligible to work in Canada.  
You may also need to meet other role-specific requirements such as:  
A valid "G" Driver's licence in good standing  
Administrative experience  
Labour experience  
CSA (Canadian Standards Association) approved work boots  
TB Testing and/or Vulnerable Sector Screening  
Summer Student Program positions  
General administrative positions  
In a general administrative role, your responsibilities may include:  
customer service  
filing  
data entry  
reception  
financial or project co-ordination  
Outdoor labourer positions  
As an outdoor labourer, you role might include:  
customer service  
landscaping  
general cleaning and maintenance  
Some specialized positions in civil engineering, health, social services, and marketing and communications may also be available.  
For more detailed information on the various teams and functions at the Region of Peel, refer to our department overview.

**WHAT IS SELF-ISOLATION**  
Self-isolation means temporarily staying apart from others.  
It's important to keep a physical distance from others because the virus spreads when we are close to each other and through droplets when we cough, speak, laugh or sing. Self-isolation reduces the chance that others will get sick with COVID-19.  
When self-isolating you need to:  
stay home  
avoid contact with others.  
keep a distance.  
wash your hands.  
cover your coughs and sneezes.  
wear a mask over your nose and mouth.  
**WHO MUST SELF-ISOLATE**  
Self-isolation is a requirement for Peel residents as outlined by the Medical Officer of Health. Find out what the Class Order on self-isolation means to you.  
You must self-isolate if you:  
Have tested positive for COVID-19.  
Have symptoms of COVID-19.  
Had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms.  
Received a notification from the COVID Alert app that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.  
Returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days.  
The length of time you have to self-isolate will depend on your situation. Find out what you should do if you have symptoms, have been exposed to someone who is sick, are diagnosed with COVID-19, attend school or child care, or have travelled outside Canada.  
If you're a health care worker or work in a health care facility, follow the occupational health policy at your workplace and refer to our health care workers section for self-isolation guidance.  
Help is available for anyone in Peel who can't safely self-isolate at home.  
Our voluntary isolation centre provides a hotel-quality room that's private and safe. Room amenities include:  
Private 3-piece bathroom  
One queen size bed with sofa and/or twin beds  
Free television  
WiFi connection  
Telephone line with extension for assistance  
3 meals daily  
Transportation to and from home is provided  
No OHIP health card is required. There is no cost for the program.  
Peel Region has established the COVID-19 isolation and recovery program with funding from the Government of Canada.  
You can stay for the full 14 days of self-isolation or when you receive a negative COVID-19 test result.  
Children under the age of 16 will stay with a parent or guardian.  
**HOW TO SIGN UP**  
To use the isolation centre you must meet the following criteria:  
Have tested positive for COVID-19 or may have COVID-19, or are a vulnerable household contact of someone who has COVID-19.  
Can't safely self-isolate at home away from others in your household.  
Are 16 years or older (or will stay at the isolation centre with a parent or guardian).  
Agree to stay at the centre for up to 14 days.  
Can complete daily activities (such as walking with or without an assistive device, bathing and dressing yourself, eating and drinking) with minimal support or supervision.  
You can be referred to this program by hospital staff or public health.  
Call Peel Region Human Services 905-281-1269 to sign up or get more details about the program.  
You can download a flyer on the isolation centre program in multiple languages.



**Tim S. Uppal** ✓ @TimUppal

For over 20 years @Khalsa\_Aid has been helping people in desperate situations around the world. In my capacity as a federal Member of Parliament and with the support of @PrabSarkaria and @patrickbrownont, I am nominating Khalsa Aid for a Nobel Peace Prize.





# ONTARIO ADDING OVER 500 HOSPITAL BEDS TO EXPAND CRITICAL CARE CAPACITY

## Mackenzie Health’s New Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital to Support Short-Term Pandemic Response

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

A portion of the funding will also be used to temporarily transition Mackenzie Health's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital into a systemwide resource supporting the province's COVID-19 response when the new hospital is scheduled to open on February 7, 2021. These initiatives will help relieve pressures on nearby hospitals due to rapid increases in hospitalization and ICU occupancy rates.

Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

"The Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital is the first newly built hospital in three decades and this net new capacity will be critical until we are in a position to widely administer vaccines across the province," said Premier Ford. "I want to especially thank Mackenzie Health for stepping up to allow us to temporarily use this new facility to support our COVID-19 response and take pressure off other hospitals in the region. It's these kinds of innovative partnerships that make a world of difference in our fight against this deadly virus."

Initially, Mackenzie Health's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will provide a total of 185 beds, including over 35 critical care beds and 150 general medicine beds, which will support patients from other hospitals and alleviate hospital capacity pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once COVID-19 capacity pressures have stabilized, the new hospital will provide care and services to patients from across the western York Region as originally planned, including emergency and modern surgical services, and offer advanced diagnostic imaging capabilities, intensive care beds, medicine, birthing, pediatrics and mental health services, as well as the York Region District Stroke Centre. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario's government has been working with its hospital partners to create unprecedented capacity and be ready to respond to any scenario. The province invested an additional \$2.5 billion in our province's hospital sector this year, and the new beds announced today at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital and across the province are in addition to the more than 3,100 beds funded by the province as part of its COVID-19 response.

"Our government is using every tool at our disposal to support our hospitals as they respond to COVID-19," said Minister Elliott. "This new funding will help to alleviate capacity pressures being faced by hospitals, allowing our health care system to work more seamlessly and effectively to keep Ontarians safe. We will continue to work together with all our hospitals and health care partners to care for those affected by this

deadly virus."

To further support frontline health care workers caring for patients during the pandemic, Ontario has also amended O. Reg 74/20 (Work Redeployment for Certain Health Services Providers) in response to the increasing demands on hospitals and retirement homes. The amended order will allow hospitals to temporarily redeploy health care workers to other hospitals or retirement homes that urgently need additional support. The order was previously amended to allow hospital staff to temporarily work in long-term care homes.

The province continues to work with its hospital partners to further enhance capacity as required.

**QUICK FACTS**

The government is investing \$18 billion over the next 10 years in hospital infrastructure projects across Ontario that will lead to \$27 billion in capital investments and \$175 million in repairs and upgrades to 129 hospitals this year through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

Operations at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital will continue as they are while Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital temporarily focuses on supporting the province's short-term pandemic response. The Emergency Department at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital will remain open to serve the community. The Emergency Department at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will not open until the system has stabilized. Program transfers planned for Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, such as Woman and Child, Inpatient Mental Health and Inpatient Integrated Stroke, will not proceed at this time.

As Ontario's first net new hospital in over 30 years, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital was built to help solve hospital capacity challenges in the Greater Toronto Area and end hallway health care.

As part of Mackenzie Health, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital will feature fully integrated smart technology systems and medical devices that have the capability to interact directly with one another to provide real-time information and anticipate the patient's and the hospital's needs to enhance the patient experience. The latest modelling projects ICU occupancy to be as high as 1,000 beds by early February in the most severe, but realistic scenarios, with deaths expected to double from 50 to 100 deaths per day between now and the end of February.

Effective Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., a stay-at-home order is in effect. Ontarians are required to remain at home except for essential purposes such as food, health care, exercise, or work. Stay home, stay safe, save lives.

# FORD NEEDS TO STOP PUNTING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FEDS OVER PAID SICK DAYS

**TORONTO --** Mike Schreiner released the following statement on paid sick days:

"Doug Ford wants us to believe that he can't do anything about paid sick days and it's best left for the federal government. This is a shame. In 2018 it was the Ford government that revoked paid sick days in Ontario, forcing low-wage and essential workers to choose between health and income.

I've been calling on the Premier to not only restore paid sick days, but to legislate ten days so when workers are sick they can focus on their health and not worry.

The federal CRSB program falls short of protecting workers. It doesn't pay adequately, it involves a delayed application process and wait times. Workers living paycheck-to-paycheck cannot afford to depend on the CRSB alone. They deserve stability and adequate protection that employers can provide through paid sick days. I also understand that providing this crucial benefit can be difficult for small businesses, so I'm calling on the Premier to provide the support necessary to small businesses to help them implement paid sick days. This is not rocket science. This is about health and safety and during our biggest public health crisis, the Premier has a responsibility to act."

# LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN NOW CHECK OSLER’S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS’ WAIT TIMES ONLINE AND IN HOSPITALS

**BRAMPTON/ETOBICOKE:** Local residents can now view the current expected wait time to see a doctor or nurse practitioner at William Osler Health System's (Osler) Emergency Departments, before coming to a hospital for care. The wait times for both Brampton Civic Hospital and Etobicoke General Hospital Emergency Departments (ED) are now available on Osler's website and in the hospitals' emergency department waiting rooms, providing patients and those seeking care with information that lets them know what to expect so they can plan ahead when possible, and make informed decisions about their care.



Individual wait time is determined by the seriousness of a patient's illness/condition and the number of patients who are awaiting care, meaning the sickest patients will be seen most quickly. Regardless of the wait time displayed on the 'ED Wait Clocks', anyone who is in need of emergency care should immediately come to the Emergency Department or call 911.

"We're pleased to be able to provide this resource to our patients and community, and provide anyone coming into our Emergency Departments with useful information at their fingertips to help make their experience less stressful," said Kiki Ferrari, Chief Operating Officer, William Osler Health System. "Sharing timely information about the expected wait will have a significant positive impact in improving the patient experience by helping to keep patients and families informed."

The current estimated wait time includes the time it takes a patient to be triaged, registered, and seen by a physician or nurse practitioner. Refreshed every 30 minutes, Osler's ED Wait Clocks also provide information on how many patients are being treated, how many patients are waiting to be treated, as well as predicted wait times over a 24-hour period. Wait times reflect the 90th percentile – meaning nine out of 10 patients are likely seen within this time.

"One of the most frequent questions patients in our Emergency Departments ask is "How much longer will it take for me to see a doctor?" and the ED Wait Clocks are another way to help keep people informed during what can be a very stressful time" said Dr. Andrew Healey, Chief of Emergency Medicine, William Osler Health System. "It's important to stress that patients should not make decisions about their care solely based on the wait time, and should use the seriousness of their symptoms to guide their decision to come to the Emergency Department."

The ED Wait Clocks can be found on the homepage of Osler's website: [williamoslerhs.ca](http://williamoslerhs.ca)

# Ontario Achieves Key Milestone with Vaccinations in Long-Term Care

**TORONTO —** Ontario has reached a key milestone in the fight against COVID-19, completing the first round of vaccinations ahead of schedule in all long-term care homes in Toronto, Peel, York and Windsor-Essex, the four regions with the highest COVID-19 transmission rates. The first round of vaccinations has also been administered at all long-term care homes in the Ottawa Public Health Region, Durham Region and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

"This is the first of many victories to come against this deadly and ruthless enemy we face," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are making steady progress, but we will not rest until the residents and staff of every long-term care home and all Ontarians have had the opportunity to get a vaccine. Only then will we be able to get our lives back and return to normal." To date, more than 40 percent of all long-term care homes across the province have had an opportunity to receive the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 83,000 long-term care residents, staff and essential caregivers have been vaccinated.

"Meeting this milestone is an important step towards keeping our most vulnerable and those who care for them safe," said Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care. "While we continue to vaccinate our loved ones, we must remember that our long-term care homes are still at risk from community spread. It's important that all of us continue to stay home as much as possible and follow the public health measures so we can stay safe and save lives."

Progress continues to be made with the goal of administering vaccines in all long-term care homes across the province by February 15, 2021. "To have the first round of vaccinations completed at long-term care homes in these hard-hit regions is a significant achievement, and I'd like to recognize all those who contributed to this effort," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Together with our partners we continue to expand our capacity and we are ready to administer more doses as soon as we receive them."



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## City of Mississauga Selects Deryn Rizzi as Fire Chief

The City of Mississauga has selected Deryn Rizzi as its Fire Chief and Director, Emergency Management effective February 2, 2021. Ms. Rizzi replaces Tim Beckett who retired last year. “I am excited to have Deryn at the City of Mississauga and my thanks to Nancy Macdonald-Duncan for her leadership as Acting Chief during the transition period. Deryn brings a wide range of experience at the federal, provincial and municipal level in leading day-to-day operations and also in strategic support for all areas of the fire service,” said Shari Lichterman, Commissioner, Community Services. “Beyond her work in fire halls, Chief Rizzi is a trusted, respected and sought-after thought leader, committed to mentoring and educating about proven and emerging best practices on emergency preparedness and response. We are proud to welcome her as Mississauga’s first permanent female Fire Chief.” Chief Rizzi has 20 years’ experience in the fire service, beginning her career in the City of Vaughan as a firefighter and gaining progressive roles including Deputy Fire Chief and most recently as Fire Chief. Her work at Vaughan garnered many awards including the Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC) Innovative Management Award, the Portraits of Giving recipient, and Diversity and Inclusion Award from the Fire Service Women of Ontario.

Her career highlights include working in the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre in the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management where she provided leadership and guidance on operations, education and training related to emergencies. Chief Rizzi completed a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts from Queen’s University and graduated from York University with both a Masters of Arts, Disaster and Emergency Management and a Disaster and Emergency Management Certificate. Chief Rizzi has completed a Diploma in Public Administration from Western University and holds a Masters Certificate in Municipal Leadership from the Schulich School of Business. She is also a graduate of the Ontario Fire College and has extensive teaching credentials at Humber College, George Brown College, York University and the Ontario Fire College, to name a few. Chief Rizzi has had numerous speaking engagements including “Using Social Media to Inspire Fire Service Women to Lead and Encourage Empowerment” at the International Association of Fire Chiefs Leadership Symposium and “Understanding and Supporting our LGBTQ+ Community” at the Fire Rescue International Conference. Chief Rizzi served as the Vice President of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, she chaired the Human Relations Committee for the International Association of Fire Chiefs and is a member of the Hospice Vaughan Board of Directors.

## PANORAMA INDIA TO CELEBRATE INDIA'S 72nd REPUBLIC DAY VIRTUALLY ON JANUARY 31st, 2021 7-Hour Celebration of India's Culture and Heritage

**TORONTO:** Panorama India, with the support of the Consulate General of India, Toronto, will be virtually celebrating India's 72nd Republic Day on Sunday, January 31st, 2021, featuring over 8 hours of cultural and celebratory programming. Panorama India is proud to announce this year our celebrity judge for the 12th annual Panorama Idol will be Mrs. Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam presented by SBI Canada Bank. To add to the grandeur of the event, the high-light headline segment “Two Legends One Night” featuring an exclusive chat with the power couple from the world of music and art Mrs. Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam and Dr L Subramaniam. “The Republic Day celebration is important as its our community's celebration. We have artists performing across GTA and some across Canada, over 45 community organizations are engaged in the folk dance and other segments. For the first time we have a very special segment where our seniors are participating in the celebrations. Panorama India has gone fully digital and I am so grateful for the response from the community. We work hard to ensure most, if not all, states and languages are represented during the celebration,” said chairperson Sumeeta Kohli. The event kicks off with opening ceremony and patriotic programming at 11:00 AM on Sunday January 31, 2021.

**Region of Peel @re...**  
Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause side effects?

Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine can cause side effects. Around 10% of people may experience arm soreness, fatigue, headache, or muscle pain. Serious side effects are rare.



## Prime Minister's remarks updating Canadians on the COVID-19 situation and vaccination efforts

CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

Every day, more vulnerable people in long-term care homes and more health care workers are getting vaccinated. And in Indigenous and northern communities, too, the immunization campaign is ongoing. Last week, on Vancouver Island, 600 doses arrived for the Cowichan Tribes. Within just two days, every single one had been administered. Over the weekend, nine Cree communities in northern Quebec received boxes of doses. And in the coastal Inuit community of Nain, Nunatsiavut, Canadian Rangers were deployed and did great work to support the vaccination efforts. This is what teamwork looks like. To everyone who's part of this effort: thank you. When we work towards a common goal, we get results for all Canadians. Now, even with this good news, the situation is still critical. Our fight is not over. That's why we have the plan Canada needs to get you and your family vaccinated as soon as possible, and to deal with any roadblocks that come up in our way. For example, Pfizer's global supply issues are not ideal, but that's why we were so ambitious in the large numbers of contracts we signed and doses we secured. I can tell you that Minister Anand is in contact with the company every day. Remember: This situation with the Pfizer delay is temporary. Our vaccination objectives for the first quarter of the year – January to March – are not changing. The total number of doses committed to us is still the same, with every Canadian who wants to get vaccinated able to get vaccinated by September. When I say that everyone has to do their part, I am also speaking to travellers. Now is not the time to travel abroad. If you have plans to leave the country, please, on behalf of all Canadians, cancel them. A trip south or elsewhere is not worth catching COVID-19 and bringing it back to Canada. As you know, travellers must quarantine when they return to the country and the consequences are very severe for those who do not do it. As for the new variants of the virus – in England, Brazil, and South Africa – we are monitoring the situation very closely. But one thing is certain: with these new mutations, circumstances could change very quickly. So, again, we are asking all Canadians to stay here, in the country. Especially since ministers are continuing to assess various issues day-to-day, and new measures could be imposed without notice, depending on the situation. More than ever before during this pandemic, our personal choices affect the safety and health of others. Let us continue to be vigilant. We must continue to help one another. When we do not follow guidelines, it is our health care workers and our most vulnerable that we put at risk. But remember, this situation is temporary. Vaccines are coming.

We need to hang on for the next few months. Like you, I can't wait for spring to arrive. It's absolutely critical that everyone keeps doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. We owe it to ourselves, to our families, and to everyone around us. In a few months, spring will be here. So now is not the time to abandon our efforts. I think of the tragic and unacceptable situation in long-term care facilities in Ontario and across the country. Our parents and grandparents deserve better. Our nurses deserve better. So to the residents: We're doing everything we can to get you your vaccine as quickly as possible. And to the workers: I know your families are worried, as you are worried about them. I know that your kids are afraid to lose you every time you go to work, and you're afraid of bringing home the virus. So if you haven't already received it, we're getting you your vaccine as soon as possible. So thank you for everything that you do. Your dedication, your commitment to Canadians impress us all. There's a lot more work to be done, but we're making important progress. Last Friday, Mayor Watson here in Ottawa said that all long-term care homes in the city have finished their first round of vaccination. In Quebec, three quarters of long-term care home residents have had their first shot. More doses are coming and we won't stop until everyone is safe. As many provinces announced stricter measures to stop the spread of the virus in recent weeks, many people are still worried about their jobs and about the future. Our government has created programs to help you, and we will be there for you for as long as it takes. During the Cabinet retreat, the team considered our strategy to continue supporting families, workers, and businesses. To get a picture of the national and global economies, we received presentations from two experts – Kevin Milligan from the University of British Columbia and Frances Donald from Manulife – and we talked about the recovery. As Canada recovers from this global crisis, we want to make sure that everyone – every worker, parent, and young person – lands back on their feet. To help do that, part of our strategy is ensuring that Canada becomes the global clean tech leader, and that Canadian workers be at the forefront of that vision. On that note, it's great to see that Unifor members ratified their agreement with General Motors Canada to build battery-electric commercial vans here in Canada. Including this agreement, deals that have been announced over the past few months have secured nearly \$6 billion of investments in the Canadian automotive sector. These deals are protecting and creating good, middle-class jobs. And they're creating new opportunities right across the country. With these investments, Canadian automotive workers and businesses will continue to lead in growing markets for efficient, electrified, and smart vehicles.

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# Ageing Dams Pose Growing Threat: UN

By 2050, most people on Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of large dams built in the 20th century, many of them already operating at or beyond their design life, according to a UN University analysis. The report, "Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk," by UNU's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, says most of the 58,700 large dams worldwide were constructed between 1930 and 1970 with a design life of 50 to 100 years, adding that at 50 years a large concrete dam "would most probably begin to express signs of ageing."

Ageing signs include increasing cases of dam failures, progressively increasing costs of dam repair and maintenance, increasing reservoir sedimentation, and loss of a dam's functionality and effectiveness, "strongly interconnected" manifestations, the paper says.

The report says dams that are well designed, constructed and maintained can "easily" reach 100 years of service but predicts an increase in "decommissioning" -- a phenomenon gaining pace in the USA and Europe -- as economic and practical limitations prevent ageing dams from being upgraded or if their original use is now obsolete. Worldwide, the huge volume of water stored behind large dams is estimated at 7,000 to 8,300 cubic kilometres -- enough to cover about 80% of Canada's landmass under a meter of water. The report provides an overview of dam ageing by world region and primary function -- water supply, irrigation, flood control, hydropower, and recreation. It also details the increasing risk of older dams, the rising maintenance expense, the declining functionality due to sedimentation, the benefits of restoring or redesigning natural environments, and the societal impacts -- pro and con -- that need to be weighed by policymakers deciding what to do. Notably, "the nature of these impacts varies significantly between low- and high-income countries."

The analysis also includes dam decommissioning or ageing case studies from the USA, France, Canada, India, Japan, and Zambia & Zimbabwe. Climate change will accelerate the dam ageing process

"This report aims to attract global attention to the creeping issue of ageing water storage infrastructure and stimulate international efforts to deal with this emerging, rising water risk," says co-author Vladimir Smakhtin, Director of UNU-INWEH.

"Underlined is the fact that the rising frequency and severity of flooding and other extreme environmental events can overwhelm a dam's design limits and accelerate a dam's ageing process. Decisions about decommissioning, therefore, need to be taken in the context of a changing climate." Notes lead author and UNU-INWEH Senior Researcher Duminda Perera: "This problem of ageing large dams today confronts a relatively small number of countries -- 93% of all the world's large dams are located in just 25 nations."

"Large dam construction surged in the mid-20th century and peaked in the 1960s - 70s," he says, "especially in Asia, Europe and North America, while in Africa the peak occurred in the 1980s. The number of newly-constructed large dams after that continuously and progressively declined." According to the report, the world is unlikely to witness another large dam-building revolution as in the mid-20th century, but dams constructed then will inevitably be showing their age. China has 23,841 large dams (40% of the world's total). And 32,716 large dams (55% of the world's total) are found in just four Asian countries: China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea -- a majority of which will reach the 50-year threshold relatively soon. The same is true of many large dams in Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe. The pace of large dam construction has dropped dramatically in the last four decades and continues to decline in part because "the best locations for such dams globally have been progressively diminishing as nearly 50% of global river volume is already fragmented or regulated by dams," the report says. As well, there are strong concerns regarding the environmental and social impacts of dams, and large dams in particular, as well as emerging ideas and practices on the alternative types of water storage, nature-based solutions, and types of energy production beyond hydropower.

Drivers of dam decommissioning

Public safety, escalating maintenance costs, reservoir sedimentation, and restoration of a natural river ecosystem are among the reasons driving dam decommissioning.

However, most dams removed to date have been small; decommissioning large dams (defined by ICOLD as 15 or more metres from lowest foundation to crest, or 5 to 15 metres impounding more than 3 million cubic metres) is "still in its infancy, with only a few known cases in the last decade."

"A few case studies of ageing and decommissioned large dams illustrate the complexity and length of the process that is often necessary to orchestrate the dam removal safely," adds co-author and UNU-INWEH Adjunct Professor R. Allen Curry, based at the University of New Brunswick.

"Even removing a small dam requires years (often decades) of continuous expert and public involvement and lengthy regulatory reviews. With the mass ageing of dams well underway, it is important to develop a framework of protocols that will guide and accelerate the dam removal process."

Decommissioning will also have various positive and negative economic, social, and ecological impacts to be considered in a local and regional social, economic, and geographic context "critical to protect the broader, sustainable development objectives for a region," the report says.

"Overall, dam decommissioning should be seen as equally important as dam building in the overall planning process on water storage infrastructure developments."

"Ultimately, value judgments will determine the fate of many of these large water storage structures. It is not an easy process, and thus distilling lessons from and sharing dam decommissioning experiences should be a common global goal. Lack of such knowledge and lack of its reflection in relevant regional/national policies/practices may progressively and adversely affect the ability to manage water storage infrastructure properly as it is ageing." In addition to the three UNU-INWEH experts, the report was co-authored by Spencer Williams, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. and Taylor North of McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.

The report is available post-embargo at <http://bit.ly/UNU-dams>

By the numbers

General

58,700: large dams registered in the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) database, a large dam is defined as 15+ metres in height, measured from lowest foundation to crest, or 5 to 15 metres high impounding more than 3 million cubic metres (0.003 km3). Within the 58,700 large dam total, roughly one in eight has a 100 million cubic metre (0.1 km3) capacity

7,000 to 8,300 km3: volume of water stored behind large dams worldwide -

- about one-sixth of all river discharge worldwide each year -- enough to cover roughly 80% of Canada's landmass under a meter of water

50 to 100 years: design life of dams constructed between 1930 and 1970 (when most existing large dams were built). Average life expectancy: 50 years

~16,000: large dams 50 to 100 years old in North America and Asia

~2,300: large dams 100+ years old in North America and Asia

USA / Canada

56: average age of 90,580 US dams (all sizes)

85%+: US dams in 2020 operating at or beyond their life expectancy

75%: US dam failures that occurred after 50 years of age

US\$ 64 billion: estimated cost to refurbish US dams

1,275: dams removed in 21 US states in the last 30 years; 80 removed in 2017 alone

50%+: large dams in Canada over 50 years old

Asia / Pacific

China

56%: proportion of the world's large dams located in China and the US (the top 25 countries account for more than ~93%)

23,841: large dams in China (the most of any country, and 40% of the world's total)

60%: proportion of the world's large dams in Asia

55%: proportion of the world's large dams in just four countries -- China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea -- the majority of which will soon reach 50 years of age

India

1,115+: large dams in India that will be roughly 50 years old in 2025

4,250+: large dams in India that will be 50+ years old in 2050

64: large dams in India that will be 150+ years old in 2050

3.5 million: the approximate number of people at risk if India's Mullaperiyar dam, built 100+ years ago, were to fail. The dam, in a seismically active area, shows significant structural flaws and its management is a contentious issue between Kerala and Tamil Nadu States

Japan

100+ years: average age of large dams in Japan

Australia

650: large dams in Australia, half of them 50+ years old; 50+ have been in operation for 100+ years. Portion of Australia's electricity generation from hydropower: 65%

UK / Europe

100+ years: average age of large dams in the UK

~10%: large dams in Europe 100+ years old

Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) and CUPE Ontario attended a Rally and released official statement to show solidarity for Indian Farmers



The Ontario Federation of Labour, alongside several unions, has declared full support for the farmers in India who are currently protesting against legislation that will deregulate agricultural markets and favour corporate interests over those of small food producers through measures such as removing minimum support pricing. OFL's Secretary Treasurer Ahmad Gaied, CUPE local Past President & Labour Advocate Tim Fitzgerald Maguire along with CUPE Ontario representative Pamela Arancibia attended a rally yesterday Jan 14 in Toronto in solidarity with the Indian farmers. Many organizations such as Sikh Motorcycle Club, United Sikhs and many community activists gathered to show their disappointment with the Indian government for favouring corporates and making vulnerable farmers suffer.

## Statement from Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole on Keystone XL

**Ottawa, ON** — The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of Canada's Conservatives and the Official Opposition, today released the following statement addressing reports that President-elect Joe Biden will cancel the Keystone XL pipeline extension: "If true, this move will devastate thousands of Canadian families who have already been badly hurt by the economic crisis. We need a recovery for all Canadians, in every part of Canada, in every sector -- including energy. Keystone XL is a project of national significance that supports countless workers on both sides of the border. "At a time when both countries need to focus on job creation, and strengthened bilateral relations, I call on the Prime Minister to immediately reach out to the incoming U.S. administration to stop this from happening and stand up for working Canadians across Canada. I also call upon the incoming U.S. administration to meet with our Prime Minister and affected workers prior to making this decision."

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## India Starts World's Largest COVID-19 Vaccination Drive



A HOSPITAL STAFF RECEIVES A COVID-19 VACCINE AT A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN SRINAGAR, INDIAN CONTROLLED KASHMIR.

**NEW DELHI** — India started inoculating health workers Saturday in what is likely the world’s largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway. India is home to the world’s largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs. But there is no playbook for the enormity of the current challenge.

Indian authorities hope to give shots to 300 million people, roughly the population of the U.S and several times more than its existing program, which targets 26 million infants. The recipients include 30 million doctors, nurses and other front-line workers, to be followed by 270 million people who are either over 50 or have illnesses that make them vulnerable to COVID-19. For workers who have pulled India’s battered health care system through the pandemic, the vaccinations offered confidence that life can start returning to normal. Many burst with pride.

“I am happy to get an India-made vaccine and that we do not have to depend on others for it,” said Gita Devi, a nurse who was one of the first to get a shot. Devi has treated patients throughout the pandemic in a hospital in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state in India’s heartland. The first dose was administered to a sanitation worker at the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in the capital, New Delhi, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi kick-started the campaign with a nationally televised speech. “We are launching the world’s biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world our capability,” Modi said. He implored citizens to

keep their guard up and not to believe any “rumors about the safety of the vaccines.” It was not clear whether Modi, 70, had received the vaccine himself as other world leaders have in an effort to demonstrate the shot’s safety. His government has said politicians will not be considered a priority group in the first phase of the rollout.

Health officials haven’t specified what percentage of India’s nearly 1.4 billion people will be targeted by the campaign. But experts say it will almost certainly be the largest such drive globally.

The sheer scale has its obstacles and some early snags were identified. For instance, there were delays in uploading the details of health care workers receiving the shots to a digital platform that India is using to track vaccines, the Health Ministry said.

Shots were given to at least 165,714 people on Saturday, Dr. Manohar Agnani, a Health Ministry official, said at an evening briefing. The ministry had said that it was aiming to inoculate 100 people in each of the 3,006 vaccination centers across the country. News cameras captured the injections in hundreds of hospitals, underscoring the hope that getting people vaccinated is the first step to recovering from the pandemic that has devastated the lives of so many Indians and bruised the country’s economy. India is second only to the U.S. in the number of confirmed cases, with more than 10.5 million. The country ranks third in the number of deaths, behind the U.S. and Brazil, with over 152,000.

## DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE ISSUES ADVISORY AHEAD OF REPUBLIC DAY PARADE REHEARSALS

The route for the rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade 2021, which will be held on January 17, 18, 20, and 21 on Rajpath, will be from Vijay Chowk till 'C' Hexagon, crossing on Raj Path, India Gate, informed Joint Commissioner of Traffic Police Manish Kumar Agrawal in a notice. There will be restrictions on the movement of traffic crossings at Rafi Marg, Janpath, and Man Singh Road from 09:00 hours to 12:00 hours on the rehearsal days.

The route of Rajpath from Vijay Chowk to India Gate will also remain closed for traffic, it added. Flying of sub-conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para-motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft, hot air balloons, small size powered aircraft, quadcopters or para-jumping from aircraft etc have been prohibited in Delhi from January 18 to January 31.

Traffic advisory also suggests the routes to be taken during the rehearsal period. For the traffic movement from North to South the routes of Ashram Chowk-Sarai Kale Khan - I.P. Flyover - Rajghat, Lajpat Rai

Marg- Mathura Road-Bhairon Road-Ring Road, Aurobindo Marg - Safdarjung Road - Kamal Attaturk Marg - Kautilaya Marg -Sardar Patel Marg - Mother Teresa Crescent - RML. - Baba Kharak Singh Marg to reach New Delhi, Prithvi Raj Road - Rajesh Pilot Marg - Subramaniam Bharti Marg- Mathura Road - Bhairon Road -Ring Road, and Burfkhana - Azad Mkt - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Punchkuian Road - Hanuman Murti - Vande Matram Marg - Dhaula Kuan routes can be taken. Motorists coming to Vinay Marg, Shanti Path, and going to New Delhi and beyond are advised to take Sardar Patel Marg - Mother Teresa Crescent - R/A RML - Baba Kharak Singh Marg or Park Street -Mandir Marg and proceed further to North Delhi/New Delhi.

The buses going to New Delhi Railway Station should take the route via Sardar Patel Marg-Simon Boliver Marg-Upper Ridge Road-Shankar Road - Park Street/Mandir Marg.

The full dress rehearsals will take place on January 23 and the final parade on January 26, for which a separate advisory will be issued.

## Gujarat: PM Modi appointed chairman of Somnath temple trust, becomes second prime minister to hold post



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been appointed the new chairman of the trust which manages the renowned Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district, becoming the second Prime Minister to hold the post.

The trustees unanimously chose Prime Minister Modi as the next chairman of the trust, to guide it in the times to come. The post of the Somnath Trust's chairman fell vacant after the death of Keshubhai Patel in October last year. Patel had served as the chairman for 16 years (2004-2020).

After former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Narendra Modi is the second Prime Minister who has been elected as the chairman of the temple trust.

During a meeting held in presence of the Prime Minister on Monday, the trustees paid tributes to Keshubhai Patel, ex-Chairman of the trust.

Accepting the responsibility of the trust, Prime Minister Modi appreciated the efforts of team Somnath and expressed hope that together, “the trust will be able to further improve infrastructure, accommodation arrangements, recreation facilities and help establish a stronger connection of the pilgrims with our great heritage”.

Current trustees include BJP leader LK Advani, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat-based scholar JD Parmar and businessman Harshvardhan Neotia.

A review of the facilities, ongoing activities and projects was also carried out during the meeting.

Some of the illustrious past Chairpersons of the Trust include Jamsaheb Digvijaya Singh, Kanaiyalal Munshi, Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Jay Krishna Hari Vallabh, Dineshbhai Shah, Prasanvadan Mehta and Keshubhai Patel.

## Providing official secret info to journalist ‘criminal act’: Rahul Gandhi on purported Arnab chats



Providing official secret information to a journalist is a “criminal act” and both the giver and the receiver will have to go to jail, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday referring to the purported WhatsApp chats of Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami doing the rounds of social media. Addressing a press conference, Gandhi said only five people — Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister, Air Force chief and National Security Advisor — were privy to the information, referring to allegations that the reported chats showed Goswami being privy to the Balakot air strikes beforehand. “Information was with 4-5 people. In such missions, information is not given to the pilot, it was with the Air Chief, Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister and NSA. Out of these five people, one has given information to this person. This is a criminal act. We will have to find out who did it, and both (the giver and the receiver) will have to go to jail,” he said. “This process should start, but this process will not start because the prime minister may have given the information,” he alleged. Addressing a press conference here, Gandhi said, “The law will take its own course, but I have an observation. This was top-secret information, this was not provided to anybody else.” “Giving official secret information to a journalist is a criminal act, both on the part of the person who accepted it and on the part of the person who gave it,” he said. These people call themselves patriots, but there is nothing patriotic about putting the Air Force at risk, the Congress leader said. He said there is nothing patriotic about taking political advantage over the strikes. “If Mr Arnab Goswami knows, if it is on his WhatsApp, I assume the Pakistanis also know it. It is not a very big jump. It is a criminal act and that investigation should begin,” Gandhi said. Referring to the contents of the purported chats, Gandhi said the distressing thing is that after the 2019 Pulwama attack, the journalist said that “this is good for us”. “This is a reflection of the mind of the prime minister that it is good that 40 of our people have been killed and we will win the elections,” he alleged. On February 26, 2019, India had launched airstrikes on what was said to be JeM’s training camp in Pakistan’s Balakot.

## AAP to join Jan 26 tractor parade ‘as a farmer’: Bhagwant Mann



The Punjab unit of Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday announced that it will join the proposed farmers’ “tractor parade” on January 26 in Delhi.

AAP state unit president Bhagwant Mann made the announcement while claiming that the ongoing farmers’ protest has become the “largest agitation in the world” with the participation of such a large number of people in a peaceful manner. Mann said his party volunteers from every village across the state would join the parade with tractors. “The AAP will join this agitation not as a political party but as a farmer,” said the Sangrur MP in a statement while also claiming that the AAP is a party of common people who were mostly farmers and labourers.

He asserted that this fight was not only to repeal the three “black laws” of the Centre but also to “save” the constitution of the country. He said that it was the constitutional right of farmers to take out the tractor march in a peaceful manner which the government was trying to “take away”.

He accused the BJP-led government of trying “all sorts of tricks to crush” farmers’ movement. “The manner in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government has been looting the constitutional rights for a long time and working against the constitution, is very dangerous for the country,” he said, adding the Modi government should give up its “stubborn” attitude and immediately accept farmers’ demands and repeal the three laws. Mann said the AAP had been opposing the “anti-farmer” laws enacted by the central government from the day one. “It was our primary duty to rise above the political party and support this struggle,” he added. Various farmer bodies protesting against the Centre’s farm laws have said they would go ahead with their proposed “tractor parade” on the Outer Ring Road in Delhi on the Republic Day.

# DELHI POLICE TO DECIDE ENTRY INTO CAPITAL, SAYS SC ON REPUBLIC DAY TRACTOR MARCH BY FARMERS



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON MONDAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE CENTRE WILL BEAR THE COST OF VACCINATION OF HEALTHCARE AND FRONTLINE WORKERS.

As agitating farmer unions on Sunday remained adamant on holding a tractor rally in Delhi on Republic Day (January 26), the Supreme court on Monday (January 18) said during a hearing that it is the responsibility of Delhi police to determine who should enter the capital or not. "We have indicated to the Attorney General and Solicitor General that it's totally up to the police to decide who should enter and who should not. Does the Union of Indian want police to be told that they have powers under the police act?," said the bench, after the Attorney General sought an order against the tractor rally. The Chief Justice of India then adjourned the hearing in the matter till Wednesday (January 20). On Sunday, Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav had announced that farmers will carry out a tractor parade along Delhi's Outer Ring Road

on Republic Day. He, however, added that the parade will be conducted peacefully with the national flag. He noted that weapons of any kind, inciteful language, and violent actions would be strictly not allowed in the parade. Yadav expressed hope that Delhi and Haryana Police would not cause hindrances to the parade. "Farmers will carry out a tractor parade with the national flag on the Outer Ring Road of Delhi on Republic Day. Along with jawans, the Kisan will also celebrate the sovereignty of the country," Yadav said at a press conference. It is to be noted that the government had moved the SC seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor march or any other kind of protest by farmers during Republic Day celebrations. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde heard the plea.

# INDIA MAY GET FOUR MORE COVID-19 VACCINES SOON, SII SAYS WORK IN PROGRESS



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

According to Suresh Jadhav, Executive Director of the Serum Institute, work is progressing rapidly on four more vaccines in addition to Covishield. During a webinar, Jadhav said that SII is working on a total of five vaccines against the virus, including Covishield. The Serum Institute of India has partnered with Novavax Inc. to manufacture its potential COVID-19 vaccine for India and other countries. To those raising questions about SII's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin without a complete trial, the Serum Institute has said that this is not happening for the first time. When the Ebola outbreak occurred in Africa four years ago, a Canadian pharmaceutical firm produced the vaccine. Only the first phase of this vaccine was completed and the second phase of the trial was underway. The trial was approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) even before the trial was completed, and the vaccine helped to control Ebola. Jadhav also men-

tioned the H1N1 epidemic, saying that when the H1N1 vaccine was made in 2009, it took more than a year to complete all phases of clinical trials. However, in western countries, the drug makers started marketing such products in less than seven months and no one had questioned them. It is not right to question the use of Covishield, the chief executive said. It may be noted that the opposition is questioning the use of the vaccine without a full trial, to which the company has given a clear answer. A total of 2,24,301 beneficiaries (2,07,229 on day one) vaccinated till 17th January as per the provisional reports, according to the union health ministry. Highest day vaccination number in the world. Higher than the US, UK, and France on Day one. Most of the EEF eyes reported so far are minor like fever headache and nausea et cetera. Meeting with is being held with all states/union territories for review of progress to identify bottlenecks and planned corrective actions, said the Ministry.

# CENTRE'S FARM LAWS DESIGNED TO DESTROY AGRICULTURE; ONLY SOLUTION IS REPEALING THEM: RAHUL GANDHI

The Centre's new farm laws are designed to "destroy" the agriculture sector, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Tuesday and asserted that the only solution to the farmers' issue is to repeal the legislations.

At a press conference, Gandhi also released a booklet highlighting the "plight" of farmers in the wake of the Centre's three farm laws. He alleged that the laws will put the entire agriculture sector in the hands of "three to four crony capitalists".

The Centre's new farm laws are "designed to destroy" the agriculture sector, the former Congress chief said. "I support the protesting farmers 100 per cent and every single person in the country should support them as they are fighting for us," he said. There is just one solution that these three laws will have to repealed, Gandhi said when asked about the impasse in talks between the government and the protesting farmers. Hitting back at BJP president J P Nadda for his tweets earlier in the day criticising him, the Congress leader said it was an "attempted distraction". The farmers know that it was Rahul Gandhi who stood up in Bhatta Parsaul and over the land acquisition issue, not BJP leader Nadda, he said. "I am not afraid of anyone, neither of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi nor of anyone else. I am a clean person, they can't touch me. They can shoot me, but can't touch me. I am a patriot and I protect my country, and I will keep doing it," he said. Thousands of farmers, mostly from Haryana and Punjab, have been protesting at several border points of Delhi since November 28 last year, demanding a repeal of the three laws and a legal guarantee to the minimum support price (MSP) system for their crops. Enacted in September last year, the three laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country. However, the protesting farmers have expressed their apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of the MSP and do away with the "mandi" (wholesale market) system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.



# NEPAL SEEKS EARLY SUPPLY OF COVID-19 VACCINES, INDIA ASSURES PRIORITY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has assured Nepal that it will be among the first countries to receive India-developed twin Covid-19 vaccines. India said the supply schedule of the vaccines will be announced in the upcoming week, reported Hindustan Times. This assurance was conveyed to Nepalese foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali during his visit to New Delhi for the 6th round of the Joint Commission Meeting with EAM S Jaishankar. Foreign ministers of both countries sat for the 6th round of the Joint Commission Meeting that took place in Delhi on Friday. The meeting saw a key focus being on COVID vaccines, the border issue, and connectivity.

On the COVID-19 vaccine, the Indian side assured that Nepal's requirement will be a priority consideration. That, on a day, when Nepal had approved India's Covidshield Vaccine produced by Serum Institute of India. Nepal wants 20% or around 12 million doses of Covid vaccines from India. A release by India's ministry of external affairs said, "The close cooperation between the two sides in combating COVID-19 pandemic in the region was noted. Nepal congratulated India on the remarkable success in the production of Covishield and Covaxin vaccines in India and requested for early provision of vaccines to Nepal."

India has risen to the occasion in the war against the deadly coronavirus pandemic by not only launching the world's biggest inoculation campaign in the country but also with the production of affordable and easy-to-handle vaccines for which demand is pouring in from Latin America, Africa, Asia and some east European countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated in his address at the UN General Assembly that India, as the largest vaccine manufacturer in the world, would use its "vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all humanity in fighting the coronavirus crisis". Apart from Nepal, the country has also assured its neighbours Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka that it would cater to their needs on a priority basis. In their talks on Friday, Jaishankar and Gyawali held a comprehensive review of all aspects of bilateral ties including border management, connectivity, trade, power, oil and gas, water resources, capacity building and tourism among others.

# PM NARENDRA MODI FLAGS OFF 8 TRAINS CONNECTING STATUE OF UNITY WITH DIFFERENT REGIONS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (January 17) flagged off eight trains connecting the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya in the state of Gujarat with different regions of the country. The prime minister participated in the event through video conferencing. PM Modi suggested that it was probably the first time in history that many trains from different locations were flagged off for a common destination.

"This is probably for the first time in the history of railways that so many trains from different locations of the country get flagged off to the same destination," he said.

PM Modi said in his address that the connectivity of the tourist spot with different areas would be beneficial for tourists and it would also help the local tribal community of Kevadiya. "This connectivity will be beneficial for tourists coming to see the Statue of Unity but it will also help in changing the lives of the tribal community of Kevadiya. It will bring new opportunities for job and self-employment," he said. The eight trains will connect Kevadiya with Varanasi, Dadar, Ahmedabad, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Rewa, Chennai, and Pratapnagar.

PM Modi remarked on the coincidence of it being the birth anniversary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Maruthur Gopalan Ramachandran, popularly known as MGR. "One of the trains flagged off for Kevadiya today originates at Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station. It is a pleasant coincidence that today is the birth anniversary of MGR. His life was dedicated to the service of the poor," said the prime minister.

The prime minister also inaugurated other railway projects in Kevadiya. These include Dabhoi-Chandid gauge converted broad gauge rail line, Chandod-Kevadiya new broad gauge rail line, Pratapnagar-Kevadiya newly electrified section, and new station buildings of Dabhoi Junction, Chandod and Kevadiya.

PM Modi had previously shared the pictures of Vistadome coaches on the Jan Shatabdi Express, which is one of the new trains between Ahmedabad and Kevadiya.

# CHINA, WHO COULD HAVE CONTROLLED COVID-19 BY ACTING EARLIER: INDEPENDENT PANEL



THIS REPORT INDICATES THAT CHINA ALONE IS NOT GUILTY OF PUSHING THE WORLD INTO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, THE WHO HAS ALSO INDIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN IT.

If China and the World Health Organization (WHO) wanted, the coronavirus outbreak could have been controlled in time. This is what the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) has said regarding the disease that affected the whole world and brought it to a standstill. In its second report, IPPR has said that initially some steps could have been taken to prevent the virus from spreading. According to the investigation team, the outbreak was largely hidden, due to which the virus was spread to the whole world.

It is clear from this report that China alone is not guilty of pushing the world into the COVID-19 crisis, the WHO has also indirectly participated in it. Investigators say that due to hiding the pandemic, it spread worldwide. Studies on early cases indicate that steps could have been taken to prevent this. According to the report, the panel has found that China's local and national health administration could have taken quick and serious steps in January. Why didn't the WHO meet?

The investigative panel has criticized the loose attitude of the WHO at the onset of the crisis. It says that the WHO did not hold an emergency meeting until January 22 and took more time to declare the outbreak as an emergency. The report states that it is not clear why the WHO did this. Both China and the WHO have come under scrutiny after this investigation report. While China has been accused of spreading the coronavirus, the WHO has been accused of covering China's operations. However, both have been denying these

allegations. In related news, the WHO has warned that the world faces a "catastrophic moral failure" because of unequal COVID-19 vaccine policies. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was not fair for younger, healthy people in richer nations to get injections before vulnerable people in poorer states.

## 'Karma' to haunt Donald Trump! Kamala Harris may preside over his impeachment trial

If 'Karma' had anything to do, then the outgoing US President Donald Trump is sure to have a tryst with it. Even as the President is facing an impeachment, news is that vice-president-elect Kamala Harris may preside over Trump trial.

Way back in 2020, when US was preparing for Presidential elections and Donald Trump was the unchallenged and sole Republican Party candidate for a second White House term, taunted Kamala Harris for dropping out of the Democratic nomination race, with a snarky "We'll miss you!" tweet. Kamala Harris had then shot back at him saying, "Don't worry, Mr. President. I'll see you at your trial." Well, turns out the wheel of karma could stop exactly there. Following Trump's impeachment in the US House of Representatives, the indictment will now be sent to US Senate which has the power to hold a trial and convict the President.

# US CAPITOL PUT ON LOCKDOWN DAYS BEFORE BIDEN'S INAUGURATION, LIFTED LATER



The United States (US) Capitol complex in Washington DC was shut down for about an hour on Monday (January 18) out of an abundance of caution after a small fire broke out nearby, underscoring security jitters days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.





The Capitol Police in a statement said the lockdown was lifted and the fire nearby was contained. "Out of an abundance of caution the US Capitol complex was temporarily shutdown. There is no threat to the public," the US Secret Service said on Twitter.

The Capitol Police earlier said that as a precautionary measure its acting chief shut down the complex, which consists of the Capitol, its grounds and several buildings. The city's fire department posted on Twitter that firefighters put out a fire outside near the Capitol complex and that no one was injured.

"There were no injuries," the department said. It added, "This accounts for smoke that many have seen."

Participants in the rehearsal for Biden's inauguration were held in the Capitol rotunda and other indoor areas, according to a Reuters witness. President-elect Joe Biden is slated to be sworn in on Wednesday (January 20).

The lockdown follows the January 6 attack on the US Capitol by the supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump, some calling for the death of Republican Vice President Mike Pence as he presided over the certification of Democrat Biden's November election victory. On the day, a mob of Trump supporters managed to get past the security at the Capitol. They entered and looted offices of the US representatives, including that of the House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi. The Capitol security had evacuated the people present in the Senate and the House of Representatives. It was reported that at least four people died, which included a woman who was shot inside the Capitol building.




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