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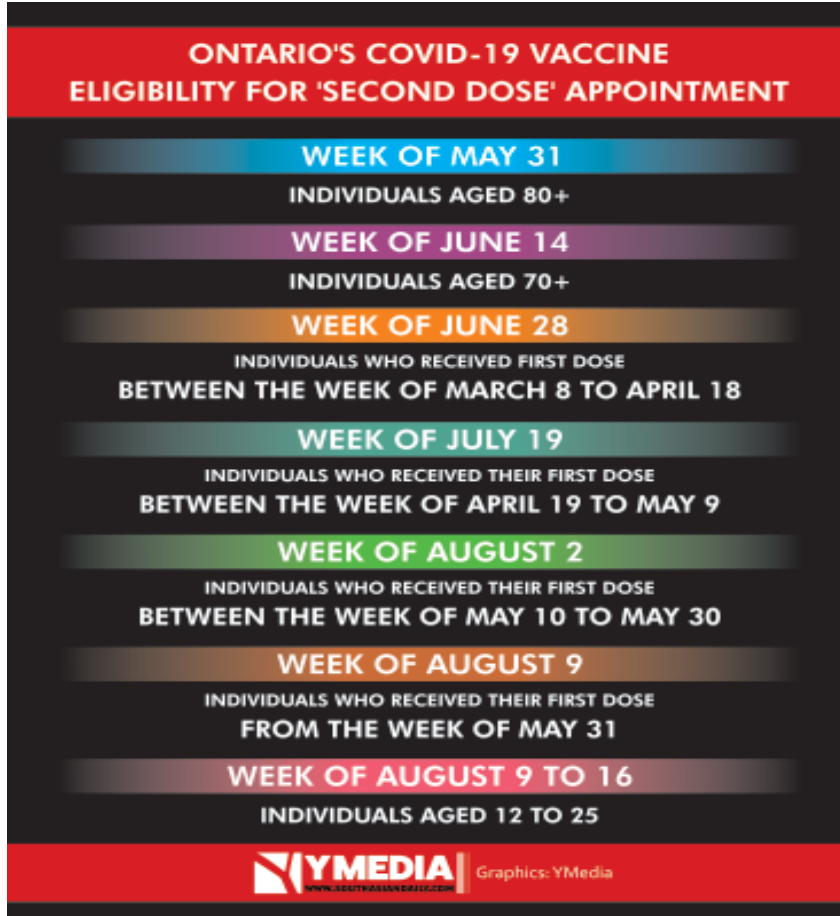
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PM TRUDEAU DELIVERS APOLOGY FOR THE INTERNMENT OF ITALIAN CANADIANS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. | CONTD. ON PAGE 7

# Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- *Ontario accelerates rollout of second shots targeting a two dose summer.*
- *Around 72% Peel adults & 70% Torontonians received first dose of Covid-19 vaccines.*
- *Canada has distributed 26.2 million vaccine doses to Provinces & territories.*
- *Health Canada approves an extension to the expiry dates of two lots (MT0055 and MT0056) of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine by 30 days, from May 31 to July 1.*
- *Ontario has administered first doses to 70% of adults to date.*
- *Around 62% of Canadians received first dose of Covid-19 vaccine.*
- *2.4 million Pfizer doses confirmed to arrive in Canada every week in June.*
- *Canada to receive 2 million Moderna vaccine doses during June 14 week.*
- *Canada recommends Mixing & Matching of Covid-19 vaccine doses.*



## INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S. JAISHANKAR MEETS US SECRETARY OF STATE & DEFENCE SECRETARY, AFFIRMS STRONG TIES



**NEW YORK, (IANS)** Amid the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging India and the rising global tensions, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has capped two days of whirlwind diplomacy in Washington by meeting Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin as they sought to deepen the ties between their countries.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 9

## TAPTEJDEEP SINGH, 36, AMONG 9 VICTIMS OF MASS SHOOTING IN CALIFORNIA

An Indian-origin man, who saved at least one person in a California mass shooting, was among the nine people killed by a railway worker who killed himself in San Jose, according to officials. Taptejdeep Singh, 36, was shot on Wednesday at a railway yard in the city in California's Silicon Valley, by a fellow worker, according to the local Sheriff's Office.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

## HOMICIDE & MISSING PERSON BUREAU INVESTIGATING AS 1 DEAD, 4 INJURED

Investigators from the Homicide and Missing Person Bureau release the name of a 25-year-old man who was shot and killed at a Mississauga food establishment on May 29, 2021. On Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 7:19 p.m., police received a call of a shooting inside a food establishment at The Collegeway and Glen Erin Drive.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 4

## PRESIDENT BIDEN ORDERS US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO INVESTIGATE ORIGINS OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN CHINA

**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** US President Biden has ordered US intelligence agencies to investigate the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic in China as a way to prevent future pandemics, the media reported. While making it clear that the agencies had not reached consensus on how the virus originated, Biden on Wednesday directed the agencies to "redouble their efforts" and report back in 90 days, the New York Times reported on Thursday.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 4

## WILL KHARGE COMMITTEE BE ABLE TO RESOLVE PUNJAB CONG FEUD?



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Congress has constituted a committee to resolve issues in Punjab Congress but the real question is -- will it be able to prevail upon strong chief minister like captain Amarinder Singh, as the committee formed for Rajasthan could not come up with any amicable solution?

| CONTD. ON PAGE 4

## REPUBLIC DAY VIOLENCE- CONSPIRACY TO CAPTURE RED FORD, ALLEGES DELHI POLICE

CHARU NARULA

The Delhi Police in its chargesheet on the Republic Day violence this year has revealed that there was a conspiracy to capture the Red Fort and make it the new site of farmer protest the three new farm laws. The Delhi Police has also filed a chargesheet against 16 people including Punjabi actor-activist Deep Sidhu in connection with the vandalism at the historic site. Apart from Sidhu, the police have mentioned the name of Iqbal Singh, who was doing a Facebook Live session in which he allegedly instigated the protesters.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 4

## Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE : PEEL REGION LEADS VACCINATION FROM THE FRONT



AT EMBASSY GRAND, SOUTH-ASIAN VACCINATION CLINIC, LISA DHILLON, PEEL REGION'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH LIAISON, CONFIRMS 72% OF ADULTS IN PEEL RECEIVED 1ST DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE.



Y MEDIA TEAM COVERS POP-UP COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE DAVIS CAMPUS IN BRAMPTON WHICH IS ADMINISTERING COVID-19 VACCINES TILL JUNE 6.

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# NETANYAHU SEEMS ON WAY OUT AS ISRAEL OPPOSITION CLINCH DEAL



**TEL AVIV, (IANS)** Opponents of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, from the right, centre, and left, are close to striking a deal to form a new government, which will end his over decade-long stint in power, with a key party announcing its support. Former Defence Minister Naftali Bennett of the ultra-nationalist pro-settler Yamina party on Sunday announced he would opt for an alliance with opposition leader Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid. "I will do everything to form a national unity government with my friend Yair Lapid," Bennett said in a televised address, the BBC reported. Lapid has till Wednesday to form a new government, otherwise there will be new elections - the fifth in the past two years with all previous four of them having failed to produce a clear majority. Under the deal between Bennett and Lapid, the two would share the office of Prime Minister, with Bennett initially to take the role for two years, and then to be replaced by Lapid.

Lapid's centrist party came in second in the elections on March 23, behind Netanyahu's right-wing Likud. After the March elections, Netanyahu had failed to form a government, so President Reuven Rivlin appointed Lapid to do so. Lapid's pro-reform party planned to continue coalition talks on Sunday with Gideon Saar's right-leaning New Hope. It has already reached agreements with the left-liberal Meretz Party, the Labour Party and former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party. Lapid is trying to ensure the support of several small parties that are far apart on the political spectrum, in order to form a minority government that would be acceptable to Arab deputies. They are united above all by their rejection of Netanyahu, who is currently being tried for corruption. However, the smaller parties have widely diverging political goals. If Lapid succeeds, it would end bring an end to the era of Netanyahu, in office since 2009, as well as from 1996 to 1999.

# REMAINS OF 215 CHILDREN OF KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL IN B.C. DISCOVERED, FIRST NATION CONFIRMS

## PM TRUDEAU VOWS FURTHER ACTIONS OVER DISCOVERY OF INDIGENOUS KIDS' REMAINS

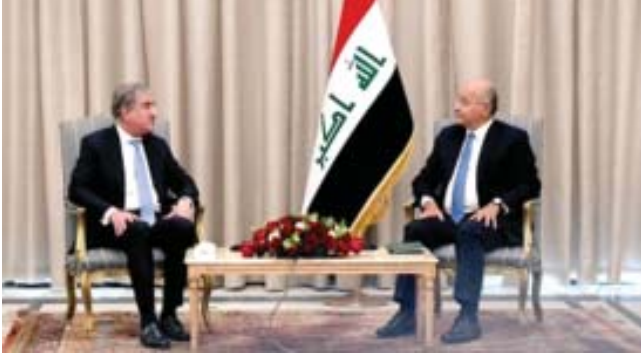
**OTTAWA, (IANS)** The remains of 215 indigenous children were discovered at a former residential school in Kamloops in western Canada, authorities said, adding an investigation into the matter has been launched. In a press release on Friday, the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations said: "It is unknown how many children died and disappeared while attending residential schools in Canada with few known locations of their resting sites. "Indigenous peoples continue to deal and cope with the past genocidal policies and entrenched colonial system. The investigation at this burial site will continue and it is expected that the number of child graves will increase. "It is expected that thousands of unmarked graves exist across Canada of indigenous children who died at residential schools. Families who never saw their children return home experience never-ending grief and continue to live with deep scars." The Tk'emlupstse Secwepemc First Nation in Kamloops city in British Columbia province announced that ground-penetrating radar uncovered the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, reports Xinhua news agency. Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlupstse Secwepemc First Nation said on Thursday that the remains were confirmed last weekend with the help of a ground-penetrating radar specialist. Among the 215 children, some were three years old. The children were assumed to have been lost or runaway in Canada's residential school system. Casimir called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School". The residential school was one of the largest from 1890 until 1969 when the federal government took over the administration before its closing in 1978. "The finding of these graves refreshes the grief and loss for all First Nations in British Columbia as we remember the fear, horror and desperation experienced by families and communities as their children were forcibly taken away to residential schools," said Regional Chief Terry Teegee of British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. "It was a dreadful time of forced assimilation and genocide inflicted by the colonial Canadian state for over a hundred years. Finding these gravesites is urgent work as many families continue to mourn the loss of their missing children and seek information about their fates," he added. Perry Bellegarde, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, called the news painful. "While it is not new to find graves at former residential schools in Canada, it's always crushing to have that chapter's wounds exposed." Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted, "The news that remains were found at the former Kamloops residential school breaks my heart - it is a painful reminder of that dark and shameful chapter of our country's history. I am thinking about everyone affected by this distressing news." British Columbia Premier John Horgan stated that he is horrified and heartbroken to learn that the burial site of 215 children had been confirmed. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, said it was heartbreaking news and promised "to offer the full support of Indigenous Services Canada



as the community, and surrounding communities, honor and mourn the loss of these children". An estimated 150,000 indigenous children across Canada were reportedly removed from their homes and forced to attend residential schools between 1890s and as recently as 1996. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada issued its final report on residential schools more than five years ago. The nearly 4,000-page account details the harsh mistreatment inflicted on indigenous children at the institutions, where at least 3,200 children died amid abuse and neglect. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that his government will take further actions in response to the discovery of the remains of 215 children in a former residential school in Kamloops city. Amid calls for accountability and to go beyond lowering flags at federal buildings, Trudeau told the media on Monday that Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett and Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal will discuss what role his government should be playing in response to the development, reports Xinhua news agency. On May 24, the Tk'emlupstse Secwepemc First Nation in Kamloops city, British Columbia, announced that ground-penetrating radar uncovered the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. The horrific discovery prompted calls for a national day of mourning and saw people across Canada set up memorials. "As a dad, I can't imagine what it would feel like to have my kids taken away from me, and as prime minister, I am appalled by the shameful policy that stole Indigenous children from their communities," said Trudeau. "We promised concrete action, and that's how we'll support survivors, families, and Indigenous peoples. "Sadly, this is not an exception or an isolated incident. We're not going to hide from that. We have to acknowledge the truth. Residential schools were a reality, a tragedy that existed here, in our country, and we have to own up to it," the Prime Minister added. Opposition MPs urged the Trudeau government to fully fund the investigation of other former residential school sites and to put more sustainable funding towards healing initiatives. Green Party Leader Annamie Paul said the terrible discovery once again highlights "the absolute genocidal tragedy of our residential school system", calling on the Trudeau government to demand the Catholic church apologize for its role in the residential school system. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its final report on the inhumane mistreatment inflicted on Indigenous children at residential schools, concluding that they constituted a cultural genocide. The Commission's register of confirmed deaths identified 3,200 students but work is still ongoing to uncover what could be thousands of more deaths that went undocumented. More than 150,000 indigenous children were reportedly forced into residential schools between the 1870s and 1996. The last residential school closed in 1996.



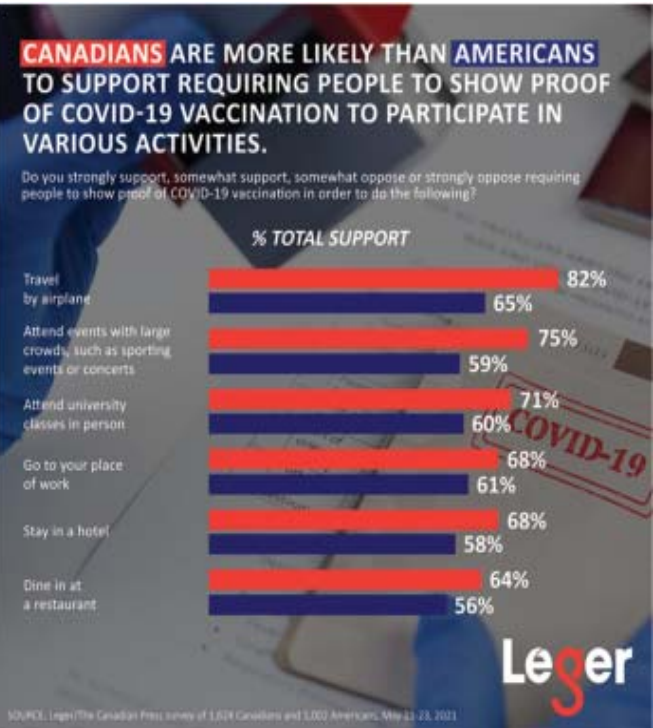
## PAK FM MEETS IRAQI LEADERS TO BOOST BILATERAL TIES



**BAGHDAD, (IANS)** Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held meetings with Iraqi leaders during his official visit to Baghdad to strengthen bilateral ties in various fields. Iraqi President Barham Salih met with Qureshi on Saturday, and the two sides discussed bilateral relations and stressed the importance of cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism to stabilise the region and the world, Xinhua news agency reported. "The world and the region, in particular, are facing the challenges of terrorism, extremism, and the escalation of tensions that affect global security and stability," Salih said. "Iraq's close relations with the Arab world, Islamic neighbouring countries, and its relations with the international community are a cornerstone of security, stability, and development in the region." For his part, Qureshi affirmed "his country's commitment to supporting Iraq's security and sovereignty and expressed aspiration towards consolidating bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields with Iraq". Qureshi also met Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, as the two discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Baghdad and Islamabad in the security, economic and military fields. They also discussed the file of religious visits as Pakistan wants to facilitate visa procedures for Pakistani visitors to Iraq. Moreover, Qureshi conveyed an invitation from the Pakistani leadership for al-Kadhimi to visit Pakistan. Qureshi also met his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein. At a press conference after the meeting, Hussein said that he discussed with Qureshi "the export of Iraqi oil to the Pakistani market, cooperation in the agricultural and industrial fields, in addition to encouraging religious tourism between the two countries". For his part, Qureshi told reporters that his country is looking forward to more cooperation with Iraq in the fields of combating terrorism and religious tourism, stressing Pakistan's commitment to supporting Iraq in all fields. Qureshi arrived at Baghdad airport on Friday and was received by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Salih al-Tamimi.

## ONLY 20% OF CANADIANS WILLING TO RETURN TO OFFICE FULL-TIME POST COVID-19: LEGER SURVEY

- \* 82 per cent of respondents who have worked from home during the pandemic have found the experience to be very or somewhat positive
- \* just 20 per cent Canadians want to return to the office every day, 19 per cent never want to go back
- \* Only 17 per cent described working from home as somewhat or very negative
- \* Instead of celebrating, half of Canadians (52%) and Americans (49%) are anxious about going back to how things were before the pandemic.
- \* 27% of Canadians think the plans their premier has announced to ease COVID-19 safety measures are going too fast, 53% think they are proceeding at the right pace, and 20% think they are not going fast enough.
- \* 44% of Canadians and 49% of Americans think that the safety measures put in place by their provincial/state government over the past year were tough but appropriate given the context.







# EDITORS' SPECIAL

**Y MEDIA LAUNCHES NEW SHOW - EDITORS' TAKE ON CHANNEL Y IN WHICH Y MEDIA'S GROUP EDITOR, YUDHVIR JASWAL WILL PROVIDE HIS EXPERT & DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LATEST & CURRENT EVENTS HAPPENING WORLDWIDE SHOW WILL AIR EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY AT 10 AM, 4 PM & 10 PM.**

## Will Kharge committee be able to resolve Punjab Cong feud?

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The Congress has constituted a three-member committee comprising Malliakarjun Kharge, Harish Rawat and J.P. Agarwal -- to resolve the issues between Navjot Singh Sidhu and the Chief Minister. Rawat is also Punjab Incharge of the Congress.

Sidhu has been attacking the Chief Minister, saying that he is waiting as the high command has intervened. Sidhu dared the chief minister to prove his allegations.

But seeing the fate of the committee in Rajasthan the disgruntled group says that this is to buy time as nothing much is expected and the AICC will not take risk of replacing the Chief Minister as there is nobody of his stature to face the Akali Dal specially the Badal family, the Congress will have to devise a middle path as 20 MLAs are reported to be unhappy with the Chief Minister's style of functioning.

Sidhu while attacking the Chief Minister over comments of his joining another party said, "Prove one meeting that I have had with another party's leader, I have never asked anyone for any post till date. All I seek is Punjab's prosperity and was invited and offered Cabinet berths many times but I did not accept."

"Now, our Esteemed High Command has intervened, Will wait," he said. While after talks failed with chief minister on induction in the cabinet, sources say Sidhu wanted his choice of portfolio, but has now set his eyes on the state President post which is held by Sunil Jakhar.

While Harish Rawat has categorically said that the change of leadership is not required but he insisted that there is communication gap between the two leaders which will be resolved soon. The panel constituted by Sonia Gandhi has met and deliberated on the issues regarding the infighting. Rawat said, "Our aim is to strengthen the party and the government and to help unite the Congress in Punjab and ensure its victory in the 2022 assembly polls." The assembly polls are slated in 2022 in Punjab.

It was understood that that interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have taken feedback on the situation. Rahul Gandhi was expected to meet all the legislators and MPs from Punjab to end the impasse ahead of the Assembly polls. But now the work has been assigned to a committee.

In a bitter war of words last week, Sidhu had advised the Chief Minister to stop firing from his "colleagues' shoulders".

A defiant Sidhu had reminded Amarinder Singh that "his soul demands justice for Guru Sahib".

## Navjot Singh Sidhu meets Cong panel, says 'people's power' should return to people

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Disgruntled Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has targeted Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on various issues including the 2015 Guru Granth Sahib sacrilege case, on Tuesday met the Congress panel for Punjab and presented his version. Interacting with reporters after the meeting, he said: "I came here on the call of the party high command and I have presented people's voices from grass root level to the part.... my stand on democratic power remains the same that the 'power of the people' must return to the people. "Every Punjabi must be made a shareholder in Punjab's progress ... Jittega Punjab, Jittegi Punjabiya, Jittega har Punjabi." On Monday, Congress state chief Sunil Jakhar met the committee constituted by party president Sonia Gandhi and comprising of Malliakarjun Kharge, J.P. Aggarwal and General Secretary in charge of the state Harish Rawat. Apart from Jakhar, state ministers Sunder Sham Arora, Charanjit Channi, Aruna Chowdhry, Brahm Mohindra, O.P. Soni, Manpreet Badal, Tript Bajwa, Rana Sodhi and Sukhjinder Randhawa also met the committee. The committee will continue its consultations on Wednesday.



His reaction came after seven ministers had demanded the suspension of Sidhu from the party for indiscipline and launching verbal attacks on Amarinder Singh.

The ministers urged the party high command to take action against Sidhu for his open rebellion against the state party leadership.

Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday hoisted the black flag at his ancestral residence in Patiala town. Appealing to every Punjabi to support the farmers, Sidhu, accompanied by his wife Navjot Kaur, in a video posted on his Twitter handle, said: "From the past three decades, Indian farmers are worried due to rising debts and dropping income."

### PUNJAB CONGRESS MLAS SUMMONED TO DELHI

The three-member Congress committee which was constituted to resolve issues in Punjab between chief minister Amarinder Singh and Navjot Singh Sidhu, has summoned 25 MLAs to Delhi on Monday to take their feedback on the ongoing tussle in the party, sources said. The meeting is scheduled at Congress war room in Delhi.

The Congress has constituted a three-member committee comprising Malliakarjun Kharge, Harish Rawat and J.P. Aggarwal -- to resolve the issues between Navjot Singh Sidhu and the Chief Minister. Rawat is also Punjab Incharge of the Congress.

Sidhu has been attacking the Chief Minister, saying that he is waiting as the high command has intervened. Sidhu dared the chief minister to prove his allegations. But seeing the fate of the committee in Rajasthan the disgruntled group says that this is to buy time as nothing much is expected and the AICC will not take risk of replacing the Chief Minister as there is nobody of his stature to face the Akali Dal specially the Badal family, the Congress will have to devise a middle path as 20 MLAs are reported to be unhappy with the Chief Minister's style of functioning.

Meanwhile, sources indicated that there is no talk of replacing the Chief Minister, but only rehabilitation of important leaders. The Congress high command will not take the risk of replacing the Chief Minister as there is nobody of his stature to face the Akali Dal, especially the Badal family. The Congress will have to devise a middle path as 20 MLAs are reported to be unhappy with Amarinder Singh's style of functioning. Most of these MLAs complained about arbitrary actions by the CM but the key concern was the government's inability to bring to book the culprits in the desecration of Guru Granth Sahib and police firing during peaceful protests in 2015, when the Akali Dal-BJP government was in power, as promised in the party's election manifesto. Sidhu, who has even dared Amarinder Singh to prove his allegations of joining another party, wants his rehabilitation either in the government or the party. He saying that he is waiting as the high command has intervened. Sources said the committee will perform a balancing act between the two factions. Sidhu and one non-Sikh leader may be appointed as Deputy Chief Ministers. The committee is expected to submit its report this week itself.

## PRESIDENT BIDEN ORDERS US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO INVESTIGATE ORIGINS OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN CHINA

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In a statement, Biden said he had received the intelligence officials' report on the virus's origins, before asking for "additional follow-up". The intelligence community had "coalesced around two likely scenarios," he said, but they had not definitively answered the question, the NYT said. "Here is their current position: While two elements in the IC (intelligence community) leans toward the former scenario and one leans more toward the latter — each with low or moderate confidence — the majority of elements do not believe there is sufficient information to assess one to be more likely than the other," Biden said. Biden's statement indicates that his administration takes seriously the possibility that it was accidentally leaked from a lab, as well as the prevailing theory that it was transmitted to humans by an animal. The statement follows top health officials' renewed appeals this week for a more rigorous investigation; and after growing criticism of an

international team's report dismissing the possibility of Covid's accidental escape from a Chinese laboratory, the NYT said.

The White House had earlier downplayed the need for an investigation led by the US and insisted that the World Health Organization (WHO) was the proper place for an international inquiry.

"What has changed is, he wants to give another 90 days to dig a little deeper, to double down — the IC to double down their efforts," Karine Jean-Pierre, the deputy White House press secretary, was quoted as saying. "The WHO doing their thing and the IC doing what they're doing currently is not mutually exclusive," Jean-Pierre said.

A joint WHO-China inquiry, whose findings were released in March, dismissed as "extremely unlikely" the possibility that the virus had emerged accidentally from a laboratory. The theory was further drowned by some scientists' accounts of its likely path from an animal host to humans in a natural setting, the report said.

## SUPREME COURT OF INDIA SEEKS DETAILS OF PM CARES FUND SCHEME TO HELP KIDS ORPHANED BY COVID-19



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to provide details of the scheme recently announced under PM Cares Fund to help children who were orphaned due to Covid and how the scheme will be implemented. Amicus curiae, advocate Gaurav Agrawal submitted before the top court that the government announced a scheme on May 29 to benefit children orphaned due to the pandemic. He added that they don't know yet how many children are beneficiaries of this scheme, though it said children who have lost parents, adoptive parents, etc would be its beneficiaries. A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose asked the Centre's counsel to file an affidavit regarding the announcement of package made under PM Cares Fund. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that the details of the scheme, including identification of beneficiaries would be filed before the court. According to the scheme, all children who lost both parents or a surviving parent, legal guardian or adoptive parents due to Covid-19 disease will be supported by a corpus of Rs 10 lakh from the PM Cares Fund. This corpus will be used for providing a monthly stipend for five years when the children are 18 years of age. The top court was hearing an application filed in a suo motu matter on prevention of Covid-19 in child care institutions across the country. According to an affidavit filed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the pandemic orphaned over 1,700 children, led to 140 children being abandoned while more than 7,400 children lost one of their parents.

## 'ILL-INTENT, MOTIVATED': DELHI HC DECLINES TO STOP CONSTRUCTION AT CENTRAL VISTA, SLAPS RS 1 LAKH COST

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Delhi High Court on Monday said the petitioners seeking to halt construction activity in connection with the Central Vista redevelopment project had "ill-intent and lack of bonafide", as it junked their plea and slapped Rs 1Lakh cost on them.

A bench comprising Justice Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh did not mince words in questioning the genuineness of the petition. "We are of the view that this is a motivated petition preferred by the petitioners and not a genuine public interest litigation." The bench added that the whole Central Vista Project is an essential project of national importance, where the sovereign functions of Parliament are also to be conducted and the public is vitally interested in this project. "It is obvious that petitioners have selectively chosen only one project which is of national importance, at a vital place where Republic Day celebrations are held in Delhi and is a part and parcel of the larger project, namely, Central Vista Project", said the bench.

## HOMICIDE AND MISSING PERSON BUREAU INVESTIGATING AS 1 DEAD, 4 INJURED

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It is alleged that the unknown man entered the premise and began shooting at the staff, striking the 56-year-old owner, his 44-year-old wife; his two sons aged 22-years-old and 25-years-old, and a 58-year-old male employee. 25-year-old Naim Akl from Oakville, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The four other victims were transported to trauma centers and remain in stable condition.

## REPUBLIC DAY VIOLENCE- CONSPIRACY TO CAPTURE RED FORD, ALLEGES DELHI POLICE



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According to the chargesheet the conspiracy was hatched in November and December 2020 during which tractors were bought in large numbers in Punjab and Haryana. The chargesheet also said that the Republic Day was chosen as the day of protest to embarrass the government. According to the Delhi Police's chargesheet, the purchase of tractors saw a huge growth in Punjab ahead of the protest. It stated that the purchase of tractors increased by 43 per cent in November 2020, and by 94 per cent in December. Similarly, in Haryana too, the purchase of tractors increased after the introduction of the bills.

A senior police official said, "We have filed around 3000 pages of chargesheet before the Duty Magistrate on May 18 at the Tis Hazari Court. We have arrested 16 persons and 13 of them are on bail. In an unfortunate series of events, on January 26 this year protesting farmers broke through police barricades on their tractors to hoist their own flag 'Nishan Sahib' at Red Fort. Several people were arrested in connection with the violence on Republic Day in the national capital. Following this, the police resorted to lathicharge and teargassing across the national capital as farmers tried to break away from the designated rally routes and pelted stones at security personnel. Several farmers were also mobilised to bring the plan to fruition.

Soon after the Delhi Police filed its chargesheet, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) slammed the Central government for trying to defame the farmers' agitation by allegedly filing a politically motivated chargesheet. It further asserted that the chargesheet accuses the farmers of 'conspiring' to turn the historic Red Fort into a protest site. Former minister Daljit Singh Cheema in a statement said it was shocking that Delhi Police had filed a chargesheet accusing the farmers of trying to capture the Red Fort on January 26 with the aim of turning it into a protest site. He further added that this was furthest from the truth. "It is a matter of record that the entire established leadership of the Kisan Andolan as well as thousands of protesters took a predetermined route as finalised after talks with Delhi Police. Only a small section of people reached the Red Fort." He further asserted that it was clear that Delhi Police had not done a professional investigation into the entire case. "The factual position on the ground has not been taken into consideration while framing the chargesheet."



# INDIAN PM MODI 2ND TERM REPORT CARD



ACCORDING TO YOU, WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SECOND TENURE OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT?			
% within Location	Location		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Revocation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir	53.7%	44.7%	47.4%
Supreme Courts decision on Ram Temple	20.2%	25.2%	23.7%
Law to ban Triple Talaq	6.4%	5.6%	5.8%
Citizenship Amenment Act	5.3%	6.5%	6.1%
Others	14.5%	18.0%	16.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: C Voter-ABP News

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST FAILURE OF THE SECOND TENURE OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT?			
% within Location	Location		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Failure to handle the the Corona crisis effectively	44.2%	39.8%	41.1%
Dissatisfaction and anger in the farming community over new farm laws	19.5%	24.7%	23.1%
Riots in national capital during protests against CAA	9.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Border dispute with China	7.2%	9.7%	8.9%
Others	19.9%	17.2%	18.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: C Voter-ABP News

DO YOU THINK IMPOSING COUNTRYWIDE LOCKDOWN LAST YEAR WAS A RIGHT DECISION?			
% within Location	Location		Total
	Urban	Rural	
Yes, it was a right decision	75.8%	65.2%	68.4%
No, it was a wrong decision	17.1%	24.9%	22.5%
Can't say anything	7.0%	9.9%	9.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: C Voter-ABP News

## COVID CRISIS BIGGEST FAILURE OF MODI 2.0: SURVEY



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** For the first time in seven years, red lines have been breached on the approval ratings of the Narendra Modi government. As per ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card, voters say that abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir is the biggest achievement of the Modi government, while not handling the Corona crisis effectively is its biggest failure. The sample size of the survey was 1.39 lakh with the samples spread across 543 Lok Sabha seats. The fieldwork was done between January 1 and May 28. The survey shows that on many issues, voters are disappointed with the Modi government and the high popularity ratings enjoyed by the Modi government in the last seven years are now dissipating. As many as 47.4 per cent respondents in the survey said that abrogation of Article 370 has been the biggest achievement of Modi 2.0. The biggest failure is handling of the Corona crisis with 41.1 per cent respondents saying so. Also, 23.1 per cent said dissatisfaction and anger in the farming community over the new farm laws is the second biggest failure of the Modi government. In a castigation of the Centre, more than half or 52.3 per cent said that government help did not reach them during the lockdown. Voters are also unhappy with the poll campaign during the second wave of the pandemic. To a question on "Do you think it was appropriate for Prime Minister to participate in the poll campaign and address election rallies during second wave of the pandemic in the country", a massive 59.7 per

cent said as Prime Minister of the country, Modi's participation in election campaign was wrong. While there may be anger against the government, voters still do not want Congress scion Rahul Gandhi, who has been very critical of government's handling of the pandemic. On a question, "Do you think Rahul Gandhi would have handled the Corona crisis in a better manner, if he was Prime Minister of the country? Or you believe that PM Narendra Modi is handling it in the best possible manner", 63.1 per cent said Modi is handling the situation in the best possible manner. Most voters - 60.8 per cent -- think that the Assembly polls in five states/UT and panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh should have been postponed. A majority of 55.3 per cent of the respondents said that the Kumbh Mela should have been held symbolically from the beginning, in view of the second wave of the pandemic. As many as 47 per cent of the respondents hold the Central government responsible for the rise in diesel and petrol prices. In a criticism of the Modi government, a massive 64.4 per cent said that big corporate houses benefitted the most in economic terms from the works of the Modi government. A total of 44.8 per cent said China's encroachment in Laddakh region is a failure on the part of the Central government. However, voters are very happy with the government's handling of Kashmir, and improvement in relations with foreign countries, but feel that the demands of the farmers should be met.

### NEARLY 1/3RD INDIANS SUPPORT MODI'S DECISION ON LOCKDOWN IN 2 COVID WAVES

**New Delhi, (IANS)** At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic and its fallouts are having huge impact on the lives of the people across India, nearly one-third of the population has supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two key decisions -- imposing nationwide lockdown during the first wave last year and not imposing a similar countrywide shutdown during the ongoing second wave this year - as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card. According to the ABP-C Voter survey, 68.4 per cent of the respondents feel that Modi government's decision to impose countrywide lockdown last year was right, while 53.4 per cent said that not imposing nationwide lockdown this year was the right decision taken by the Prime Minister. The survey was carried out between May 23 and May 27 on 12,070 people across the country. Asked "do you think imposing countrywide lockdown last year was a right decision", 68.4 per cent said "Yes", 22.5 per cent said "No" and 9.1 per cent replied, "Can't say anything". Over 75 per cent people from the urban areas and 65.2 per cent respondents from the rural areas supported the decision to impose nationwide lockdown last year. Asked "Do you think not imposing countrywide lockdown this year is a right decision of the Modi government", 53.4 per cent replied "Yes", 33.1 per cent said "No", and 13.5 per cent mentioned "Can't say anything". Of them, 56.9 per cent from urban and 51.9 per cent from rural areas said the Modi government's decision of not imposing lockdown this year was correct.



### Revocation of Article 370 biggest achievement of PM Modi: Survey

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Revocation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir is the biggest achievement of Narendra Modi government in its second term, as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card. As per the ABP-C Voter survey, 47.4 per cent respondents said that abrogation of Article 370 is the biggest achievement, while 23.7 per cent feel that the Supreme Court decision on Ram Temple is the biggest achievement. The sample size of the survey was 1.39 lakh with the samples spread across 543 Lok Sabha seats. The fieldwork was done between January 1 and May 28, 2021. Voters are also supporting the government on lockdowns, the survey found. A massive 68.4 per cent said imposing countrywide lockdowns last year was a right decision. Similarly, 53.4 per cent said not imposing countrywide lockdowns this year is a right decision of the Modi government. There is support for the Central Vista project with 41.8 per cent respondents backing the Modi government's decision to start and continue with the project during Corona times.

### 41.9% feel Centre should have accepted farmers' demands

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Around 40 per cent people in the country believe that the Union government should have accepted the demands of the protesting farmers, according to the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card. The C Voter-ABP News survey found that only 41. 9 per cent respondents feel that the Centre should have accepted the demands of the farmers. Farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been protesting at the borders of the national capital for over six months now, demanding the three Central farm laws be repealed. About 32. 8 per cent respondents said that the Centre should not accept the farmers' demands, while 25.3 per cent did not comment on the matter. Interestingly, the survey found that more urban people in comparison to rural population feel that the government should have accepted the farmers' demands.

### Over 60% feel India's foreign relations improved under PM Modi

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** More than 60 per cent people believe that India's relations with different countries of the world improved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card. The ABP-C Voter survey found that 62.3 per cent of the respondents feel that the country's relations with different nations of the world have improved during the current tenure of the Modi-led government which is into its second term. The survey was carried out between May 23 and May 27 on 12,070 people across the country. About 16.9 per cent respondents believe that India's relations with other countries have worsened and 17.1 per cent feel that the country's relations with other nations have remained the same. About 3.7 per cent were unable to say anything.

### 47% Indians hold Centre responsible for hike in auto fuel prices

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Around 47 per cent people hold the Central government responsible for the rise in petrol and diesel prices, as per the ABP-C Voter Modi 2.0 Report Card. The ABP-C Voter snap poll found that a total 21.2 per cent of people hold the state governments responsible for the price rise. Similarly, 18.4 percent of respondents hold the oil companies responsible for the hike in petrol and diesel prices. In urban areas, 43.9 per cent of people hold the Centre responsible for the rise in auto fuel prices, while 48.3 per cent respondents in the rural areas feel the same. A total 18.6 per cent of the people in the urban areas hold the states responsible for the rise in petrol and diesel prices, while in the rural area, 22.3 per cent hold similar views. The survey further stated that 21 per cent in urban areas hold the oil companies responsible for the price rise, while 17.2 per cent in rural areas feel the same. This survey was carried out between May 23 and May 27 on 12,070 people across the country. The petrol and diesel prices in India are decided by keeping the international fuel prices as a benchmark. A rise in global fuel prices results in a price hike in the domestic market. The state-run oil marketing companies, including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum, align the rates of domestic fuel with that of global crude prices by taking into account any changes in the foreign exchange rates.

### INDIAN PM MODI 2ND TERM REPORT CARD (C-VOTER SURVEY)

- **63% SAY PM MODI HANDLED COVID CRISIS WELL; 22% FEEL RAHUL GANDHI WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER**
- **60% INDIANS FEEL POLLS SHOULD HAVE BEEN POSTPONED IN VIEW OF COVID WAVE**
- **52% INDIANS FEEL GOVT'S HELP DIDN'T REACH THEM DURING LOCKDOWN: C-VOTER SURVEY**
- **53.3% BACK PM MODI GOVT'S DECISION TO IMPLEMENT CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENTS ACT (CAA)**
- **59% FEEL SITUATION IN J&K IMPROVED IN LAST 2 YEARS; OVER 50% FEEL SCRAPPING OF ARTICLE 370 SOLVED THE J&K ISSUE**
- **45% INDIANS BELIEVE CHINESE ENCROACHMENT IN LADAKH IS CENTRE'S FAILURE: C-VOTER SURVEY**
- **64.4% INDIANS BELIEVE CORPORATES BENEFITTED ECONOMICALLY FROM MODI GOVT'S WORKS**
- **47% INDIANS HOLD CENTRE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIKE IN AUTO FUEL PRICES**
- **41% BACK GOVT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT**



COVID & VACCINE REPORT



POP-UP COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC OPENS AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE DAVIS CAMPUS IN BRAMPTON TILL JUNE 6.

## Doctors launch Vaccine Center and Promote Vaccine Confidence with This Is Our Shot Campaign in Region of Peel

**TORONTO** – Together with the support of the South Asian Taskforce and Peel Public Health, Dr. Raj Grewal and Dr. Priya Suppal have launched a vaccination clinic at the Embassy Grand Banquet Hall in Brampton with a focus on serving the L6P postal code in Brampton. The Embassy Grand vaccine clinic will support a community that has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Here, essential workers that cannot work from home, living in multigenerational homes, have borne the brunt of the pandemic due to limited paid sick leave and their work, which has kept \$1.8 billion of essential goods and services moving from Peel to the rest of Ontario every single day. (2019 figures)

It was 10 months into the pandemic before Brampton and L6P was able to obtain its first Covid testing assessment centre from Ontario Health to help target the diverse South Asian community in Peel. During the third wave, testing has helped demonstrate the risks taken on by this community with COVID positivity rates above 20% at the peak. On May 17th, 2021 with a lot of excitement Dr. Grewal, Dr. Suppal and the volunteers from the South Asian Covid Taskforce started to vaccinate the community of Peel.

“Growing up in the L6P postal code, where my parents still live, I know as both a doctor and a community member, there is a huge need for vaccine clinics that are accessible and have staff available in multiple languages. The latter is key as it provides an



opportunity to build vaccine confidence and receive information from healthcare professionals that speak and look like the residents of the communities they are trying to protect. This was true for testing center and still holds true for vaccinations, which is why we advocated for this much needed vaccine clinic in our community”, says Dr. Raj Grewal, MD and Co-Director of the Embassy Grand Vaccination Centre alongside long time Peel family doctor, and Co-Director Dr. Priya Suppal. The vaccine clinic is also the latest in the long line of initiatives led by the South Asian Covid Task Force. On April 28th, 2021 the Task force alongside 200 influencers including actor Ryan Reynolds, Olympian and newly minted Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser and a group of grassroots organizations launched the national “This Is Our Shot” campaign. To date, the This Is Our Shot movement has taken off across Canada with over \$90,000 raised for the Kids Help Phone, an increasing list of influencers and partners, and 60,000 shirts shipped across Canada.

Brampton, a city of more than 700,000 in the Greater Toronto Area had a COVID-19 test positivity rate of 22.7 per cent from April 18 to 24, according to data from Peel Public Health. That’s more than double Ontario’s highest, daily test positivity rate during that same period, which reached 10.5 per cent on April 19. “Since the beginning of this pandemic, we’ve known that we needed to support Brampton. It’s why we advocated for a testing centre at the Embassy venue in January,” says Guri Pannu, lawyer and Chair of the SACTF and the Co-Chair of the This is Our Shot campaign. “Its amazing to see a separate vaccination site in the same area where the community already has trust and access.”

“We ask each person what they want to do after they get the vaccine, and listening to their answers just makes me so hopeful that we will slowly come out of this together,” says Dr. Anju Anand, MD and on the SACTF and Co-Chair of the This is Our Shot campaign.

“The launch of the Embassy Grand clinic is extremely welcome, given its focus on serving one of our highest priority communities in a culturally congruent manner,” says Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health, Peel Region. “As a collaborative partner with the Region of Peel’s overall Mass Vaccination Plan efforts, I am grateful that Drs. Suppal, Grewal, and the South Asian Taskforce are working with us to break down barriers. This clinic is represents a critical component of our broader outreach efforts to ensure all residents have the opportunity to access this vital protection.”

The Embassy Grand clinic currently operates from 12-8pm, 7 days a week and appointments can be booked in a unique online portal in English, French, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi at [www.peelvaccine.ca](http://www.peelvaccine.ca). On site, staff speak various South Asian languages and service all eligible age groups from all walks of life and ethnicities.

“I am very happy to see this vaccine clinic open. I encourage residents in East Brampton to get vaccinated. This clinic will help us achieve our 75% goal of first dose vaccinations within the Peel community. I want to thank Drs. Suppal, Grewal, and the South Asian Taskforce that are organizing this clinic at the Embassy Grand Convention Centre. Your efforts are greatly appreciated”, said Mayor Patrick Brown

The South Asian COVID Task Force is a grassroots, volunteer organization made up of physicians, researchers, and other professionals across Canada. Their mission is to establish and strengthen networks and partnerships in communities and across all faith and cultural groups to support the COVID 19 pandemic response. The This Is Our Shot campaign is a national grassroots movement aimed at turning vaccine hesitancy into vaccine confidence. The goal is encourage all Canadians to get vaccinated when it’s their turn. The organization was formed through several grassroots organizations across the country coming together including the South Asian COVID, Task Force, 19 to Zero, Canadian Muslim COVID Task Force, Black Physicians of Canada, Black North Initiative, Latin American COVID Task Force, Siksika Health, Toronto Jewish Community COVID19 Task Force, Science Up First, and 55 rush alongside ambassadors such as Hayley Wickenheiser, Clara Hughes, Ryan Reynolds and other community partners.

## STUDY CLAIMS COVID-19 NOT NATURAL, BUT RESULT OF WUHAN LAB-LEAK



**LONDON, (IANS)** The coronavirus disease did not develop naturally, but was created by Chinese scientists in a Wuhan lab, who then tried to cover their tracks by reverse-engineering versions of the virus to make it look like it evolved naturally from bats, according to a breakthrough research conducted by a team of researchers.

The research, conducted by British Professor Angus Dalglish and Norwegian scientist Birger Sorensen, is forthcoming in the scientific journal Quarterly Review of Biophysics Discovery, the DailyMail.com reported on Friday. In the 22-page paper, the researchers describe their months-long “forensic analysis” into experiments done at the Wuhan lab between 2002 and 2019. It concludes that “SARS-Coronavirus-2 has no credible natural ancestor” and that it is “beyond reasonable doubt” that the virus was created through “laboratory manipulation”.

The paper also alleges of “unique fingerprints” in Covid samples that could only have arisen from manipulation in a laboratory and that “the likelihood of it being the result of natural processes is very small”.

“A natural virus pandemic would be expected to mutate gradually and become more infectious but less pathogenic which is what many expected with the Covid-19 pandemic but which does not appear to have happened,” the scientists wrote in the paper, according to the Daily Mail report.

“The implication of our historical reconstruction, we posit now beyond reasonable doubt, of the purposively manipulated chimeric virus SARS-CoV-2 makes it imperative to reconsider what types of Gain of Function experiments it is morally acceptable to undertake. Because of the wide social impact, these decisions cannot be left to research scientists alone,” they added. Dalglish and Sorensen wrote that they have had “prima facie evidence of retro-engineering in China” for a year, but their theory was rejected by academics and major journals, the report said.

Dalglish is a professor of oncology at St George’s University, London, while Sorensen is a virologist and chair of pharmaceutical company Immunor. Many experts have until recently denied the lab-leak theory and claimed that Covid-19 originated as a natural infection leaping from animals to humans.

## 'B.1.617 COVID VARIANT COULD BECOME A BIG PROBLEM IN UK'



**LONDON, (IANS)** The B.1.617 coronavirus variant could “pick up speed and become a big problem” in the UK as the country further eases its lockdown, an expert has warned. The UK’s fight against coronavirus could turn bad “very, very quickly” unless the government acts cautiously on easing lockdown further. Xinhua news agency quoted Professor Tim Gowers from the University of Cambridge as saying to the Guardian on Saturday. “So I think if that’s the way you’re going to play things, then you should be very, very cautious about every step you take... And maybe everything (will) be okay maybe the number of people who are vaccinated will be just enough. “But if it’s not OK, we know, because of mathematics, that things will get bad very, very quickly. “Or at least, maybe it won’t look that quick to start with, but it’ll grow exponentially. So it’ll pick up speed and become a big problem,” he said. Meanwhile, Professor Anthony Harnden, deputy chair of the UK’s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), also warned that the variant is “clearly more transmissible”. “We need to be reassured that we’re in a very different position now in that we’ve got a highly vaccinated population and we just need to continue moving at speed,” he told the BBC on Saturday. “We do know that with this particular variant you do need two doses to offer complete protection, and so we’re very, very keen to make sure that all those, particularly higher risk groups, that’s the over-50s and those with underlying illness, receive their second vaccination as soon as feasible.”

## US ON TRACK FOR JULY 4 VACCINATION TARGET: CDC



**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** The US is on track to reach a target calling for 70 per cent of adults to have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine by July 4, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

New CDC data released on Saturday indicates that more than half of all adults in the US, or more than 51 per cent, are now fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, marking another milestone in the country’s pandemic recovery, reports dpa news agency. Some 167.2 million people 18 years or older have received at least one dose, according to the CDC data.

President Joe Biden set a goal earlier this month of hitting the first milestone by July 4, when Independence Day is celebrated. The target was expected to be reached hit, with the number standing at 61 per cent more than a month out. Still, the pace of vaccinations varies across the country, with the north-east and west coast among the regions with the highest take up while the south has moved more slowly.

# MidWeek

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# PM Trudeau delivers apology for the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War



The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today delivered a formal apology in the House of Commons for the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War.

Following Italy’s declaration of war against Canada on June 10, 1940, the Government of Canada interned more than 600 people of Italian heritage. Around 31,000 Italian Canadians across the country were declared “enemy aliens”, and many experienced discrimination, lost their jobs, or saw their businesses boycotted or vandalized. The government’s actions violated the values that our country was fighting to secure during the Second World War, including freedom, equality, and justice, and had serious impacts on families and the Italian Canadian community.

The Prime Minister apologized to those who were interned, their families, and the Italian Canadian community for the pain and hardship they endured because of this historical injustice. He recognized Italian Canadians’ many contributions, including in business, arts and culture, science and technology, politics, and skilled professions, that have helped build our country, from coast to coast to coast. He also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to a strong, diverse, and more inclusive Canada.

**QUOTE**

“Canadians of Italian heritage have helped shape Canada, and they continue to be an invaluable part of the diversity that makes us strong. Today, as we acknowledge and address historical wrongs against the Italian Canadian community, we also show our respect for their great contributions to our country.”

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

**QUICK FACTS**

In 1940, after Italy joined the Second World War as an ally to Germany, over 600 Italians were interned in camps under the authority of the War Measures Act and the Defence of Canada Regulations. Approximately 31,000 Italian Canadians were declared “enemy aliens”, and had to report to local registrars once per month. Registrars were appointed by the Minister of Justice, and were provincial or municipal police officers, including Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers, or postal clerks.

The War Measures Act, as well as the Defence of Canada Regulations that were brought into effect on September 3, 1939, gave the government the legal authority to detain without charge, seize property from, and limit activities of Canadian residents born in countries that were at war with Canada.

In 1990, at a gathering of Italian Canadian organizations, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney offered an apology for the treatment of the Italian Canadian community during the Second World War.

In September 2018, RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki delivered an official expression of regret in a ceremony attended by family members of Italian internees, members of the Italian community, and RCMP employees.

Through the Community Historical Recognition Program, the Government of Canada made \$5 million available in grants and contributions from 2008 to 2013 for eligible projects to commemorate and recognize the experiences of the Italian Canadian community in relation to the Second World War internment in Canada.

Today, Canada is home to approximately 1.6 million Italian Canadians – one of the largest Italian diasporas in the world.

## TAPTEJDEEP SINGH, 36, AMONG 9 VICTIMS OF MASS SHOOTING IN CALIFORNIA

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

Singh was a train operator for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, a local light rail system.

San Jose Mercury News quoted Singh's brother, Bagga Singh, as saying that his brother "put a lady in a control room to hide. He saved her and rushed down the stairway."

He said that although his brother may be considered a hero, "he should have saved his life, too. We lost a good person."

The newspaper said that Singh's brother-in-law, P.J. Bath, who also works as a light rail operator, said that Singh was working the early shift.

He said that Singh "was always helpful to everyone and caring."

The home of the shooter, maintenance worker Samuel James Cassidy, 57, went up in flames around the time the shooting began.

The area around the train depot and station were put in a lockdown as law enforcement searched the area for bombs. Mourning the deaths and the impact on families of the trade "union brothers and sisters," President Joe Biden renewed his call for stricter gun laws in a country which sees frequent mass shootings.

Just over the weekend, a mass shooting in New Jersey killed two people and injured several others.

Officials said that Cassidy apparently killed himself.

A motive for the shooting was not known as of Thursday morning, but San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said that his co-workers had "expressed generalised concerns about his mental health."

**AMERICAN SIKH COUNCIL SHOCKED AT THE SLAUGHTER AT THE VTA IN SAN JOSE, CA**

The American Sikh Council (ASC) is horrified at the murder spree by a disgruntled employee, David Cassidy who shot and killed nine employees at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency (VTA) in San Jose, CA.

Most of the dead were longtime employees. The Santa Clara County coroner's office released the names of all the victims as; Taptejdeep Singh 36; Adrian Balleza, 29; Jose Dejesus Hernandez, 35; Paul Delacruz Megia, 42; Timothy Michael Romo, 49; Alex Ward Fritch, 49; Michael Joseph Rudometkin, 40; AbdolvahabAlaghmandan, 63, and Lars Kepler Lane, 63.

ASC extends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families of those involved in Wednesday morning's massacre at the VTA.

The gunman David Cassidy opened fire around 6:30 am on Wednesday at a light rail yard in San Jose, CA. In the chaos that ensued one of the victims Taptejdeep Singh rushed out of an office where his co-workers were hiding and according to eye-witnesses, called others trying to warn them while running through the building and trying to secure it. According to news reports he even helped save a woman by hiding her in the control room but got gunned down in the stairway.

According to news reports, family members will choose to remember their loved one as a true hero. Taptejdeep Singh even in this tragedy lived by the Sikh values, which is to live in the service and protection of others. Taptejdeep Singh was a genuine practicing Sikh. He leaves behind a wife, son and a daughter.

All the victims leave behind families and dear ones - broken hearted!

ASC Vice-President S.Jasbir Kaur stated, "Our deepest condolences to the victims and their loved ones. Our nation's leaders need to step up and acknowledge a flawed system of gun ownership. All concerned Americans from every religious tradition must help support sensible gun reform legislation on military style weapons, because based on the past pattern sadly these killings will continue. This kind of violence on innocent hard-working Americans cannot be tolerated."

The American Sikh Council (ASC) stands in solidarity with all brothers and sisters across America, who continue to be impacted by random violence. We pray for all the departed and their families who lost their loved ones in this shocking tragedy.

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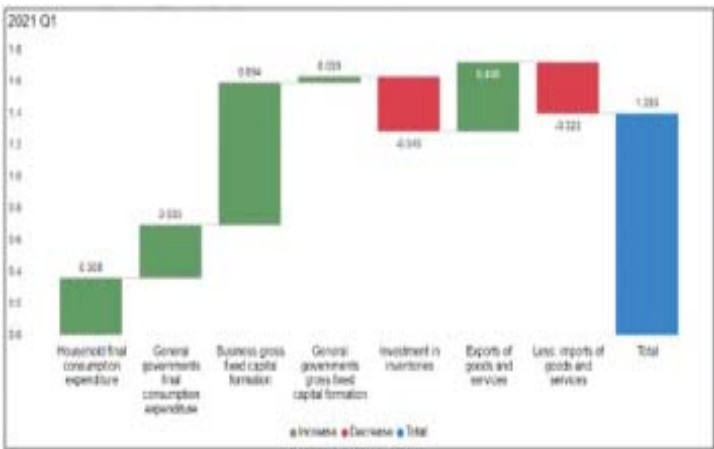
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# REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW 1.4% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021: STATSCAN

Real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 1.4% in the first quarter of 2021, following increases of 9.1% in the third quarter and 2.2% in the fourth quarter of 2020. These gains more than offset the sharp drop (-11.3%) in the second quarter of 2020. Real GDP was up 0.3% compared with the first quarter of 2020. Real gross national income rose 2.7%, largely fuelled by higher prices of exported products, including crude oil, crude bitumen and refined petroleum. Final domestic demand rose 1.6%, primarily because of higher housing investment and consumer spending. The increase in GDP in the first quarter of 2021 reflected the continued strength of the economy, influenced by favourable mortgage rates, continued government transfers to households and businesses, and an improved labour market. These factors boosted the demand for housing investment, while rising input costs heightened construction costs. The GDP implicit price index, which reflects the overall price of domestically produced goods and services, rose 2.9% in the first quarter, driven by higher prices for construction materials and for energy used in Canada and exported. The sharp increase in prices boosted nominal GDP (+4.3%). Compensation of employees rose 2.1%, led by construction and information and cultural industries, and surpassed the pre-pandemic level recorded



at the end of 2019. Strength in oil and gas extraction, manufacturing of petroleum products, and construction industries led to a higher gross operating surplus for non-financial corporations (+11.5%). Higher earnings from commissions and fees bolstered the operating surplus of financial corporations (+3.9%), coinciding with the sizeable increases in the value and volume of stocks traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX).

# OSLER LAUNCHES YOUTH PAD VACCINE CLINIC FOR INDIVIDUALS 12-17 YEARS OF AGE

Osler partners with local youth groups and corporate sponsors to provide interactive vaccination area designed for youth. On June 1, 2021, William Osler Health System (Osler) will open the Youth Pad at the Century Gardens Recreation Centre COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic. The first of its kind in Peel Region, the Youth Pad is an interactive space that will provide Peel residents 12-17 years of age with a safe, comfortable and interactive space to receive their vaccine. All individuals 12-17 years of age will receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the only COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized for use in this age group. Youth have the option to receive their vaccine in a family-friendly space for the full duration of their visit. Local pediatricians, family physicians and pharmacists will administer the COVID-19 vaccines. Osler will also offer a separate space for younger children who are accompanied by a family member or guardian. Also unique to the Youth Pad will be the "Wellness Corner" for those who may require time to step away from the vaccination space. Various safe games, colouring activities, a photo booth and music will all be a part of this youth-friendly vaccination experience. The Youth Pad was developed with input and direction from local youth groups, including BAPS Charities Youth Group, South Asian COVID-19 Youth Task Force and This is Our Shot to ensure this space reflects the unique needs of 12-17-year olds. The development of the Youth Pad was made possible through the generous support and do-



nations of IKEA Canada. "Vaccination is key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic and the Youth Pad is yet another way of ensuring the vaccine is widely accessible to our community," said Kiki Ferrari, Chief Operating Officer, William Osler Health System. "Providing a unique, interactive space where our youth feel safe and comfortable is an important step in building vaccine confidence among our community's youngest members and their families." Since Osler opened its COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in December 2020, it has administered more than 175,000 COVID-19 vaccinations, in alignment with the Ontario Government's three-phased Vaccine Distribution Plan and Peel Public Health. Osler remains committed to sharing more information about vaccine rollout plans as it becomes available. Osler Vaccine Clinic locations open to individuals 12 years and older: Century Gardens Recreations Centre 360 Voddan Street East Brampton, Ontario Hours of operation: 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., every day Youth Pad Hours of Operation: 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., every day Brampton Civic Hospital 2100 Bovaird Drive East Brampton, Ontario Hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., every day Osler-Humber College COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic 207 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario Hours of operation: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

## ONTARIO MAINTAINS COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AS STAY-AT-HOME ORDER IS SET TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 2

**TORONTO:** As was previously announced, Ontario's Stay-at-Home order will expire on June 2, 2021. When it does, all other public health and workplace measures will remain in place provincially until Ontario enters Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen, at which point some restrictions will ease with an initial focus on outdoor settings. "We've seen great progress in our fight against COVID-19 in recent weeks, but now is not the time to let our guard down," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the Stay-at-Home order set to expire, we need to provide people with certainty so that they can continue to follow public health guidance. Doing so will help us to meet our goal of starting to gradually lift some restrictions when we enter Step One of the Roadmap when it is safe to do so." On April 7, 2021, in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission driven by new, more contagious variants, the Ontario government declared a provincial emergency and issued a Stay-at-Home order as well as enhanced public health measures. In a concentrated effort to reduce mobility and opportunities for transmission, the Stay-at-Home order required Ontarians to remain at home except for the purposes set out in the order, such as exercise, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, or accessing health care services. Once the Stay-at-Home order expires on June 2, these restrictions will no longer be in effect. However, all other existing measures will remain in place provincially, including restrictions on gatherings, businesses, services and activities. This includes limiting indoor gatherings to households only and outdoor gatherings to up to five people, subject to limited exceptions, maintaining a cap of 25 per cent capacity for essential retail where only certain goods are permitted to be sold, restricting non-essential retail to curbside pickup and delivery only as well as limiting short-term rentals to individuals in need of housing and allowing Ontario Parks and campgrounds on public lands to be used for day-use only, subject to limited exceptions. Ontarians will be able to leave home to travel within the province to a secondary residence for any reason, however, they are not be permitted to host members of another household indoors except for a person from another household who lives alone or a caregiver.

## CANADA RECOMMENDS MIXING & MATCHING OF COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES

- **If Canadians received first dose of AstraZeneca (COVISHIELD) Covid-19 Vaccine, National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that people should receive either the same vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) for second dose.**
- **If first dose was an mRNA vaccine, NACI recommends the same mRNA vaccine be offered for the second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be offered for the second dose.**



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## India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets US Secretary of State & Defence Secretary, affirms strong ties

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

His meetings on Friday with the two cabinet officials and earlier with national security officials and Congressional leaders signalled the high priority the two countries gave to strategic cooperation. With those leaders and business groups, Jaishankar also discussed the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic and the joint efforts to fight it.

In a tweet after meeting Jaishankar, Blinken tweeted that they discussed the "India-China border situation", although Jaishankar and State Department Spokesperson Ned Price made no mention of that topic. India has faced border incursions by China and a clash with fatalities over the last two years, during which Washington backed New Delhi.

"As friends, we will work together to address these areas of shared concern," Blinken added mentioning also regional security and economic priorities, US Covid-19 relief efforts, and support for Afghanistan, from where the US is scheduled to pull out its troops after a 20-year deployment.

Jaishankar tweeted after their discussions with Blinken, "Today's talks have further solidified our strategic partnership and enlarged our agenda of cooperation."

With Lloyd he had "a comprehensive conversation about further developing our strategic and defence partnership (and) Exchanged views on contemporary security challenges," Jaishankar tweeted.

US spokespersons said after the separate meetings on Friday that the leaders pledged to continue to deepen ties between the two countries.

State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said that Blinken "reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to deepening the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership".

He added that "a shared commitment to combating the climate crisis and enhancing multilateral cooperation" was another topic in their talks.

Jaishankar tweeted that they had "also focused on Indo-US vaccine partnership aimed at expanding access and ensuring supply." He added, "Appreciated strong solidarity expressed by US at this time."

He said that the Indo-Pacific and the Quad -- made up of the two countries and Japan and Australia -- and Afghanistan, Myanmar, the United Nations Security Council, where India is currently an elected member, and other international organisations were discussed.

And Pentagon Spokesperson John Kirby said that Austin and Jaishankar pledged to continue "strengthening the US-India Major Defense Partnership. They also discussed opportunities to deepen coordination amid the resurgence of Covid-19 cases."

Kirby said that they discussed "shared priorities in the US-India strategic partnership and exchange views on a range of regional security challenges". Austin said he "looks forward to hosting Minister Jaishankar and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this year" that the US is scheduled to host, Kirby added.

In his tweet, Jaishankar said that he "expressed appreciation of the US military role in responding to the Covid situation" in India.

The US Air Force flew in supplies of oxygen, equipment to make the gas, personal protection gear and other material to help India face the deadly second wave pandemic. On Thursday, Jaishankar had met with the top strategic officials, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Director of Na-

tional Intelligence Avril Haines. Jaishankar tweeted that he had "wide-ranging discussions including on Indo-Pacific and Afghanistan" with Sullivan and "conveyed appreciation for US solidarity in addressing the Covid challenge" where "India-US vaccine partnership can make a real difference".

About his meeting with Haines, he tweeted, "Look forward to working closely together to address contemporary security challenges and advance our strategic partnership."

The administration of President Joe Biden recently came out in support of a request by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organisation to waive patents for vaccine and after meeting US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, Jaishankar said in a tweet that he welcomed her "positive stance" on the issue and her support for efficient and robust supply chains.

He added, "Our trade, technology & business cooperation are at the core of our strategic partnership. Enhancing them is vital to post-Covid economic recovery."

On Capitol Hill, Jaishankar's outreach to Congressional leaders went off smoothly without any interference from Indian American member of the House of Representatives Pramila Jayapal, who is a critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In 2019, a meeting between Jaishankar and the House Foreign Affairs Committee was cancelled after Jayapal was added to the list of participants although she was not a member of the panel.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who just ended her unsuccessful run for president, jumped into the fray criticising Jaishankar. "It's wrong for any foreign government to tell Congress what members are allowed in meetings on Capitol Hill," implying that an Indian leader could not have any autonomy and is obligated to be subservient to US politicians.

Jaishankar has so far not met Harris, who by protocol does not have to meet him. While she has had telephone conversations with several prime ministers and foreign ministers as part of her foreign policy apprenticeship, she has not spoken to any Indian leaders.

Jaishankar met with Gregory Meeks, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Michael McCaul, the Republican leader on the panel and discussed the Quad and cooperation on vaccines, the minister tweeted. He added that he recognised "their leadership in building stronger ties".

He also met with the Co-chairs of the House India Caucus Brad Sherman, a Democrat, and Steve Chabot, a Republican.

Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting, "The US Congress has been a tremendous pillar of support as India meets the Covid challenge."

He and India's Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu also had dinner with Sherman, who tweeted afterwards, "Learned how #India is fighting #COVID19 and working to disentangle its economy from China."

Members of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and the US Global Task Force on Pandemic Relief also met Jaishankar.

The Indian embassy tweeted that he "appreciated the US private sector's swift response in India's fight against the pandemic" and the participation of CEOs of US companies, their support for India's efforts against the pandemic, and the "US industry's firm commitment to advance India-US trade, investment and technology partnership".

### INDIA'S COVID-19 & VACCINE REPORT CARD

#### OVER 69% INDIANS OPEN TO TAKING PART IN COVID VACCINE TRIAL



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Over 69 per cent people said they would participate in a vaccine trial, if given a chance, according to IANS-CVoter Covid tracker. The survey, conducted on a total of 56,685 participants between January 1 to May 27, showed that 48.9 per cent said that they would be very likely to participate in a Covid vaccine trial in the country, while another 20.6 per cent said that would be likely to take part. Meanwhile, 2.6 per cent said they were somewhat unlikely to participate, and another 23.2 per cent said they would not like to participate in a vaccine trial at all.

#### OVER 9% SAY WILL NEVER TAKE COVID VACCINES

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Even as India battles a brutal second wave of the Covid-19, fighting to protect its people from the pandemic and struggling to get vaccinated as early as possible, 9.6 per cent of citizens in a survey revealed they have not taken even a single dose of the vaccine nor will they in future as well.

The IANS-CVoter Covid tracker conducted between January 1 to May 27, in which a total of 56,685 people participated, showed 15.7 per cent have received the first dose of Covid vaccine.

During the same period, around 8 per cent people replied they have received both doses of vaccines. Out of total participants, 59.5 per cent people replied they haven't got vaccinated but will get vaccinated. The survey report suggested that 7.3 per cent people were yet to decide whether to get vaccinated or not.

#### Majority expects no improvement in living standard for another year

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Majority of Indians reported that in the last one year or so their overall living standard has dropped significantly. This happened almost a year back and that red line has not come down since then. Worse is, the ever-optimistic Indian is so much spiralling down the pessimism way at the moment that they don't see any ray of hope in the coming 12 months either, as per the IANS C Voter Covid Tracker. To a question in the survey on how many days of Ration/medicine etc. or money for ration/medicine etc. is available for your family in your house, as 53.2 per cent said they have less than three weeks of rations. Things are bleak on the employment and income front too. As many as 37.6 per cent respondents said they are working under regulations and safety measures but income/salary has decreased. 21.1 per cent said income or salary is the same while 10.9 per cent said they are completely laid off or out of work. 5.6 per cent respondents said that they are working from home but their salary or income has decreased. In total, large segments are reporting reduced salary or income or no income at all. Even in the worst of the times during the Wave 1 of Covid pandemic last year, the country was still optimistic and general opinion was that the country is moving forward even in the difficult times. But everything seems to have changed in last one month or so. Now majority of the Indians are saying that their personal life as well as the Country, both are in poor state, as per the IANS C Voter Tracker. The sample size of the Covid-19 tracker was 56,685 and the period of the survey was 1st January-27th May 2021 covering all 542 Lok Sabha segments.

#### 58.9% healthy people died due to Covid, 36% from - 45 age group

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** After more than 3 lakh deaths during the pandemic, an IANS-CVoter survey showed 58 per cent people who lost their lives were completely healthy before getting infected. The respondents also said 10.9 per cent of the deceased did not have any serious ailments but were not completely healthy; 17.5 of the victims had serious ailment like heart disease, diabetes, TB, Cancer, while 13.3 per cent did not know about it. A 21.2 per cent of the deaths were in the age group of above 66 years; followed by age group of 36 to 45 which had 19.1 per cent deaths due to Covid; 18.3 deaths occurred in age group of 56 to 65 years, while 16.1 per cent lost their lives in the group of 46 to 55 years. More and more analysis revealed that most of the deaths occurred in the agegroup below 45. which was 36 per cent of the total deaths. This was followed by 34.4 per cent in age group of 46 to 65 years while 21 percent died above this age group. The field survey was done between January 1 and May 27, 2021 and samples were spread in all 542 Lok Sabha seats across all states, with error of +/- 3% at macro level and +/- 5% at micro level with Sample Size of 56685 India on Sunday reported 1.65 lakh fresh Covid-19 cases in 24 hours with 3,460 deaths -- one of the lowest since April 12, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry said. India's overall tally stands at 2,77,29,247 with 22,28,724 active cases, and 3,22,512 deaths, so far. In 18 days India had recorded over 68,000 deaths. India registered record deaths due to Covid on May 21 with 4,529 deaths -- the highest number of fatalities from Covid infection in any country since the coronavirus outbreak was reported in China's Wuhan in December 2019.

## FUGITIVE BUSINESSMAN MEHUL CHOKSI CAN'T BE MOVED OUT OF DOMINICA: LAWYER CLAIMS

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi cannot be moved out Dominica until further orders, a court said while hearing the petition of the businessman, who has been captured in Dominica on Wednesday.

Choksi is wanted in India by the CBI and the ED in Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case. He had gone missing from Antigua and Barbuda on Sunday, sparking a massive manhunt. He was captured in Dominica on Wednesday.

Choksi's lawyer Vijay Agarwal told IANS: "Upon filing of habeas corpus petition titled Mehul Choksi versus Attorney general of Commonwealth of Dominica and chief of police, Dominica court has ordered a restraint on removing Choksi from the land of Dominica until further order."

He said that the Dominica court has also permitted legal assistance and access to lawyers to Choksi. Agarwal said that the matter shall be now heard on Friday morning in Dominica. On Thursday night, Agarwal had said Choksi was forced to get into a vessel from Antigua and he was taken to Dominica.

He also claimed that Choksi was kept there and then on Monday he was taken to the police station but the news of his arrest was broken only on Wednesday and there are marks on his body of the force.

The advocate said: "Choksi has narrated his horrifying experience which is an eye-opener and vindicates my stand that he would not have gone from Antigua voluntarily. Choksi has said that he was forced to get into a vessel from Jolly Harbor in Antigua and he was taken to Dominica."

Agarwal also said that Choksi was kept there, and then on Monday he was taken to the police station. Since then he has been there and this news to the world was broken only on Wednesday.

He claimed that there are marks on Choksi's body of the force. "There is something fishy and I guess it was a strategy to take him to another place so that there are chances of sending him back to India. So I don't know what forces are operating. The time will tell," he said.

On Wednesday, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said that the fugitive diamondaire "needs to return to India" where he can face the criminal charges levelled against him.

Antigua News Room, a media outlet, quoted Browne as telling journalists in Antigua and Barbuda: "We asked them not to repatriate him to Antigua. He needs to return to India where he can face the criminal charges levelled against him."

The Antigua Observer also said that Browne has reportedly told the media in India that he has asked Dominican government to detain Choksi for entering their country illegally. "Browne has asked that officials in Dominica make Choksi persona non grata and have him deported directly to India," the Antigua Observer reported. Choksi, an accused in the over Rs 13,500 crore PNB fraud case along with his nephew Nirav Modi, has been residing in Antigua and Barbuda since January 4, 2018. The CBI and ED, which have filed separate chargesheets in the case, are trying for the extradition of Choksi.







FROM BEING THE ONLY INDIAN ATHLETE TO WIN TWO INDIVIDUAL MEDALS IN OLYMPICS TO HIS ARREST ON MURDER CHARGES, CHAMPION WRESTLER SUSHIL KUMAR'S FALL FROM GRACE HAS SHOCKED SPORTING FRATERNITY OF HIS COUNTRY. A BRONZE MEDALLIST IN BEIJING 2008 AND THEN A SILVER WINNER IN LONDON 2012, KUMAR WAS ARRESTED ON MAY 23 FOR HIS "ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT" IN THE MURDER OF FELLOW WRESTLER SAGAR DHANKAR IN DELHI.

## SAGAR DHANKAR MURDER: POLICE LOOKING FOR 3 ASSOCIATES OF SUSHIL KUMAR

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Even as a Delhi Court on Saturday sent two time olympian and star wrestler Sushil Kumar to four-day police custody, the Delhi Police Crime Branch is still looking for three more persons in connection with its probe into the Sagar Dhankar murder case. A senior Delhi Police official related to probe said, that the police has till date arrested nine people in connection with the murder case. Delhi Police on Friday arrested two werestlers -- Rohit and Vijender after their role in the murder case emerged. Sushil Kumar was arrested on May 23 from Delhi after he was on the run for 18 days since May 4. He was involved in the murder of Dhankar at Chhatrasal Stadium. Dhankar was allegedly thrashed by several people in Chhatrasal Stadium over a minor tiff. He later succumbed to his injuries. On Thursday evening, the Crime Branch sleuths had taken Sushil Kumar to Haryana and Chandigarh and was questioned about the places where he stayed during his run and who all were the persons who helped him in getting shelter. Sushil Kumar has reportedly shared several names during his questioning. The Olympian was quietly taken to Haryana and Chandigarh on Thursday evening and returned to the national capital on Friday morning. A crime branch source said that on the basis of the revelations by Sushil Kumar, the police is looking for Vinod Pradhan, Pradeep a.k.a. Bablu and Praveen a.k.a. Choti in connection with the murder case. The source said that all three were present during the incident at Chhatrasal Stadium. Police also recovered a double barrel gun from a vehicle that was recovered from the stadium premises.

He said that the double barrel gun belonged to Pradhan. The source said all the three people belong to Jhajjar district in Haryana and police is collecting information about their whereabouts. Delhi Police has already arrested several people belonging to Neeraj Bawana and Kala Asauda gangs in connection with the murder of Dhankar. Earlier, a Delhi court had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Sushil Kumar Delhi Police had also issued a lookout notice for Kumar who won a bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and silver in the 2012 London Olympic Games. The source also said that Prince, a friend of Sushil Kumar who shot the video of thrashing of Dhankar has turned a witness in the case.

### Delhi issues first global tender for Covid vaccines

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Amid a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines across the country, the Delhi government has issued its first global tender for 10 million doses of vaccines, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday. "We have rolled out global tenders. All our efforts are on but other states that went for it so far did not receive encouraging results," Kejriwal said while inaugurating the drive-through vaccination centre in Chhatrasal Stadium at Model Town on Saturday. He added, "We have floated the tendering and are hopeful, it will be great if any company comes to us. But I think most of the renowned vaccine manufacturers in the world want to talk to the central government. Let's see how successful the state government becomes."

### INDIA'S COVID-19 & VACCINE REPORT CARD

70% PEOPLE SAY, WILL TAKE VAX WHEN IT'S AVAILABLE



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Amid the ongoing vaccination drive in the country, 70 per cent of the respondents have said that they will take vaccine against coronavirus whenever it's available. The IANS-Cvoter survey posed a question to respondents -- if a new Coronavirus vaccine becomes publicly available, will they take it? In response to this, overwhelming 72.8 per cent strongly agreed to take it, while 10.3 per cent strongly disagreed. However, an average of 70 per cent generally agreed for the vaccine. When asked if the new Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe, 48.8 per cent respondents agreed that it's totally safe while 9 per cent disagreed, however, an average of 57 per cent agreed that the vaccine is safe. A total of 67.8 per cent respondents thought that a new Coronavirus vaccine would be important.

### 80% CONSULTED DOCTORS DURING COVID INFECTIONS: SURVEY

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Amid second wave of the pandemic in which many lives were lost, the families suffering from Covid said that they took advice from the Doctor before proceeding for the medication. As per IANS-CVoter Survey on the pandemic, the respondents were either from the family where mortality has been reported or from the family where hospitalisation has happened. When asked, "Was the medication taken after consulting doctor or did you do self-medication or took home remedies?" In reply to this question, 80.9 per cent respondents said they took advice from the Doctor while 11.9 per cent said they did self medication, however, 7.2 per cent people did not say anything on this. On the issue of treatment during the crisis, only 36.7 per cent people said they needed treatment, while 63.7 per cent said that they did not need ICU or ventilator or oxygen supply. But when this question was put to the families which reported hospitalisation, 51 per cent said they got it easily while 8 per cent said they got it with little difficulty. But 31.7 per cent of the respondents said they got it with lots of efforts while 8.4 per cent said they did not get these things despite lot of efforts. The people whose near and dear ones were in hospital did say that these things -- like ICU or ventilator or oxygen, were required during the process of hospitalization.



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**White or Stainless Steel**

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EARLIER, SCIENTISTS AND ADVISERS HAD STATED THAT UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON HAD BEEN SLOW IN BANNING TRAVEL TO INDIA, WHICH HAD LED TO A RISE IN THE CASES.

## UK MAY BE IN THIRD WAVE OF COVID: EXPERTS WARN GOVT AHEAD OF EASE IN RESTRICTIONS

Experts have warned the UK government that Britain may be in the early stages of the third wave of coronavirus. The Guardian reported, expressing apprehension over the lifting of restrictions on June 21. According to Martin McKee, a professor of European public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the current measures in place have not stopped the cases from rising rapidly in several parts of the country. “Unless there is a miracle, opening up further in June is a huge risk. The rise in cases we are seeing now should cause a reassessment of the most recent relaxation,” he said, adding that “this looks very much as if we are now early in a third wave.” On May 17, the UK government had eased restrictions, allowing non-essential travel. Twelve “green list” countries had been identified where people from England would be able to travel quarantine-free. Professor Ravi Gupta of the University of Cambridge told BBC that at least three quarters of the cases were of the variant identified in India. Earlier, scientists and advisers had stated that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had been slow in banning travel to India, which had led to a rise in the cases. Gupta stated that the wave is slow to emerge due to the number of people who have been vaccinated. Though the number of cases is low at the moment, he warned, all waves start with low numbers and become explosive later. “So the key here is that what we are seeing is the signs of an early wave,” he added, stating, “there may be a false sense of security for some time, and that’s our concern.” The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Nadhim Zahawi, exercised caution by announcing that

the unlock plans could be “tweaked.” “We have to look at the data and we will share that with the country,” he said, adding that an announcement will be made on June 14. Zahawi added that the B.1.617.2 was spreading rapidly in some parts of the country while in others “there’s literally no B.1.617.2.” Professor Gupta spoke in favour of delaying the ease in restrictions, stating that it will “put pressure on the NHS at a time when we are trying to get back to normal.”

**UK PM WEDS FIANCÉ IN SECRET CEREMONY: REPORT**  
**LONDON, (IANS)** UK PM Boris Johnson has married his fiancée Carrie Symonds in a secret ceremony at the Westminster Cathedral in front of about 30 close friends and family members, a media report said on Sunday. In its report, Daily Mail said that the 56-year-old Johnson exchanged vows with Symonds, 33, on Saturday morning, becoming the first Prime Minister to marry in office since Lord Liverpool wed Mary Chester in 1822. But the Downing Street has not confirmed the development yet. The couple were engaged on the Caribbean island of Mustique in December 2019 and have one-year-old son, Wilfred. A Westminster Cathedral spokesperson told the Sunday Times: “On Saturday May 29, the wedding of Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson took place in Westminster Cathedral. “The bride and groom are both parishioners of the Westminster Cathedral parish and baptised Catholics. All necessary steps were taken, in both church and civil law, and all formalities completed before the wedding.”

## CBSE CLASS XII BOARD EXAMS CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR IN INDIA



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** In view of the uncertain conditions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and the feedback obtained from the various stakeholders, the CBSE Class XII board exams for 2021 were cancelled on Tuesday. The decision was taken after a key meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet ministers and the concerned officials. It was decided that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will take steps to compile the results of Class XII students as per well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner, the PMO said. It was also decided that like last year, in case some students desire to take the exams, such an option would be provided to them by CBSE, as and when the situation becomes conducive.

## UNDER OBAMA-BIDEN, US SPIED ON TOP GERMAN LEADERS



**NEW DELHI/COPENHAGEN, (IANS)** Under President Barack Obama and then Vice President Joe Biden's administration, the US was spying on Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel from 2012 to 2014, using Denmark's secret service. The scandal was exposed by Danish media, triggering a political storm. This is the second time since 2013, that the US has been accused of spying on European politicians and officials, especially Germany. However, this time the Danish media has gained access to the reports which provide insights into how the Defence Intelligence Service (FE) of Denmark collaborated with the US National Security Agency (NSA) to collect intelligence and information on Germany, an ally of the US. According to the Danish media reports, the spying operation was targeted at Merkel, German President -- and then Foreign Minister -- Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the then opposition leader Peer Steinbrück.

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