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## PM MODI MEETS INDIAN DIASPORA IN ROME

**NEW DELHI/ROME, (IANS)** On the first day of his visit to Rome ahead of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian diaspora in the Italian capital city. On Friday, the Prime Minister met and interacted with several Indologists and Sanskrit experts from Italian universities. "The Prime Minister noted their interest in Indian culture, literature and practice of yoga and Ayurveda and lauded the role played by them in strengthening the ties between India and Italy," a release from the Ministry of External Affairs said at New Delhi. Modi also met and interacted with various organisations, including the representatives of Italian Congregation for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The Prime Minister appreciated their contribution in several social activities, including spreading the message of Bhagavad Gita in Italy, the release said. He also interacted with the community members and the representatives of Italian Hindu Union-Sanatana Dharma Sangha and lauded the role played by them in propagating Indian culture in Italy.

In a separate meeting, the Prime Minister met representatives of Sikh community and institutions involved in the commemoration of Indian soldiers, who had fought in Italy during World War I and World War II.



## Saudi Arabia agrees to revive financial support to Pakistan

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Saudi Arabia has agreed to revive its financial support to Pakistan, including about \$3 billion in safe deposits and \$1.2bn to \$1.5bn worth of oil supplies on deferred payments, Dawn reported. An agreement to this effect was reached during the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to the kingdom this week, a senior government official told Dawn. However, a formal announcement would be made by the PM's adviser on finance and revenue Shaukat Tarin and Energy Minister Hammad Azhar on Wednesday at a news conference. The development was later confirmed in a midnight tweet by Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. "Saudi Arabia's announcement support Pakistan with 3 billion US dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing refined petroleum products with 1.2 billion US dollars during the year," he wrote. The Saudi government would immediately deposit \$3bn in Pakistan's account for a year and keep it rolling at least until the completion of the IMF programme in October 2023, the official earlier said, as per the report. The facility is expected to help Pakistan convince the IMF about its financing plan. In addition, the Saudi government would provide crude oil to Islamabad on deferred payments worth up to \$1.5bn per annum. Saudi Arabia had also provided \$3bn in cash deposits and promised a \$3bn oil facility to Pakistan to help the latter shore up its foreign exchange reserves in 2018.

## BHUPINDER SANDHU, 36, FROM MISSISSAUGA CHARGED IN SERIES OF BREAKS & ENTERS

**REGION OF PEEL** - Investigators from the 22 Division Break and Enter Unit have arrested a man who is alleged to be responsible for a series of break and enters within the Region of Peel. Between July and September 2021, multiple businesses in Peel Region were broken into, which resulted in the suspect removing automated teller machines. After a lengthy investigation by officers from the Break and Enter Unit, a suspect was identified and arrested.

Bhupinder Sandhu, a 36-year-old man from Mississauga, was charged with the following offences:

- \* Break and Enter x5
- \* Theft Under \$5000 x2
- \* Breach of Probation Order x5
- \* Possession of Property Obtained by Crime
- \* Possession of Break-In Instruments

Bhupinder Sandhu appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on October 27, 2021, in answer to the charges. The investigation continues, and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 905-453-2121, extension 2233.

# I WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY DIWALI!

## Councillor Amanda Yeung Collucci

Ward 6 Councillor  
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From Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and your Liberal MPs

# Happy Diwali

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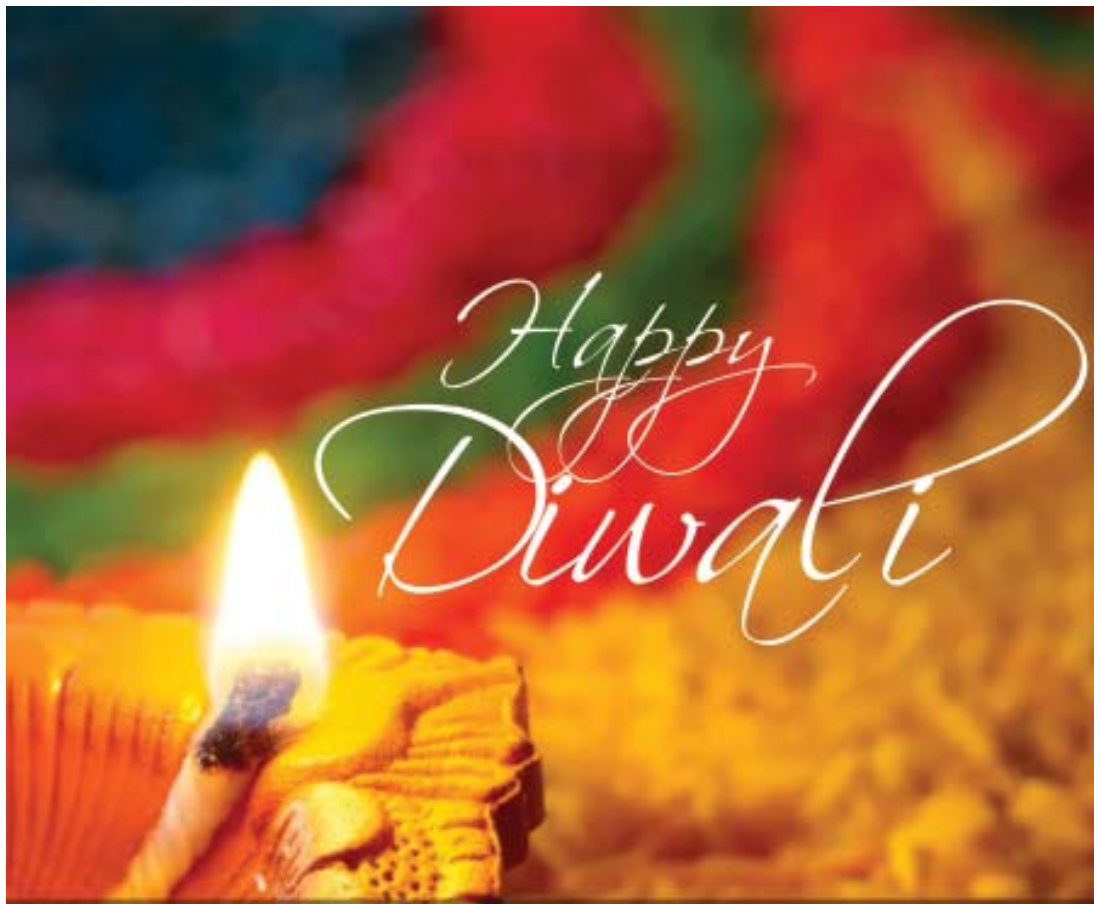
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I am so happy that the community can once again come together to celebrate. Thanks to everyone's sacrifices, we are winning the battle against COVID-19.

Please continue to follow public health guidelines and be responsible as you celebrate.

**Bonnie Crombie**  
Mayor of Mississauga

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## BRAMPTON'S SAVE MAX SPORTS CENTRE TO RE-OPEN FOR COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ON NOVEMBER 2

The Brampton Save Max Sports Centre will reopen its doors on November 2 to residents and will be accepting both appointments or walk-ins to receive either their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Third doses continue to be offered to those already identified by provincial direction. Save Max Sports Centre hours of operation:



Reopening date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
Days and hours of operation: Walk-ins or pre-booked appointments available Tuesdays-Saturdays, 1:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.  
The reopening of this vaccine clinic is supported by strong partnerships with our local community organizations who have close ties with neighbourhoods and communities. These partnerships help to build trust and remove barriers to vaccination. Through the fall and into winter, residents will have access to hundreds of locations, to get their COVID-19 vaccine, including:

- Public health clinics in Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga
- Mobile clinics and "Vax Vans" inaccessible and convenient locations, such as malls and parks (weather permitting)
- Community clinics in trusted locations, such as schools and places of worship, co-designed with community partners
- Primary care and pharmacy clinics
- In-home vaccinations for those living in long term care, retirement homes or cannot get out of their homes

Residents can get their first or second dose at any Peel clinic. New locations are added regularly as community needs are identified.

To find a location near you, check [peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine](https://peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine)

## Covid-19 virus test results may vary based on time of day: Study

**NEW YORK, (IANS)** Are you wondering why your Covid test result taken during daytime is different from that at night? The virus might act differently depending on the time of day and the body's circadian rhythms claimed a study. The study led by researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center showed that people were up to two times as likely to have an accurate positive test result if they tested in the middle of the day compared to at night. Their results, published in the Journal of Biological Rhythms, indicate that viral load is lower after 8 p.m. If people choose to get tested at that time, there could be a higher chance of a false-negative result. False negatives can be harmful to the community and for the patient, who might not seek additional care due to their negative test result. The data support the hypothesis that Covid-19 acts differently in the body based on our natural circadian rhythm, which has also been implied by studies of other viral and bacterial infections. Covid-19 virus shedding — when infected cells release infectious virus particles into the blood and mucus — appears to be more active in the middle of the day due to modulation of the immune system by our biological clock.

### INDIA EXTENDS BAN ON INT'L COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TILL NOV 30

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** To deal with the ongoing Covid pandemic, India's civil aviation regulator on Friday extended the ban on scheduled international commercial flights till November 30. In the notification, the Directorate General of Central Aviation (DGCA), however, said: "This restriction shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA." It also said that scheduled international flights might be allowed on selected routes on a case to case basis. The Central government had banned the operation of international flights on March 23 last year to contain and control the spread of Covid-19. Flight restrictions, however, were later eased under air bubble arrangement with certain countries.





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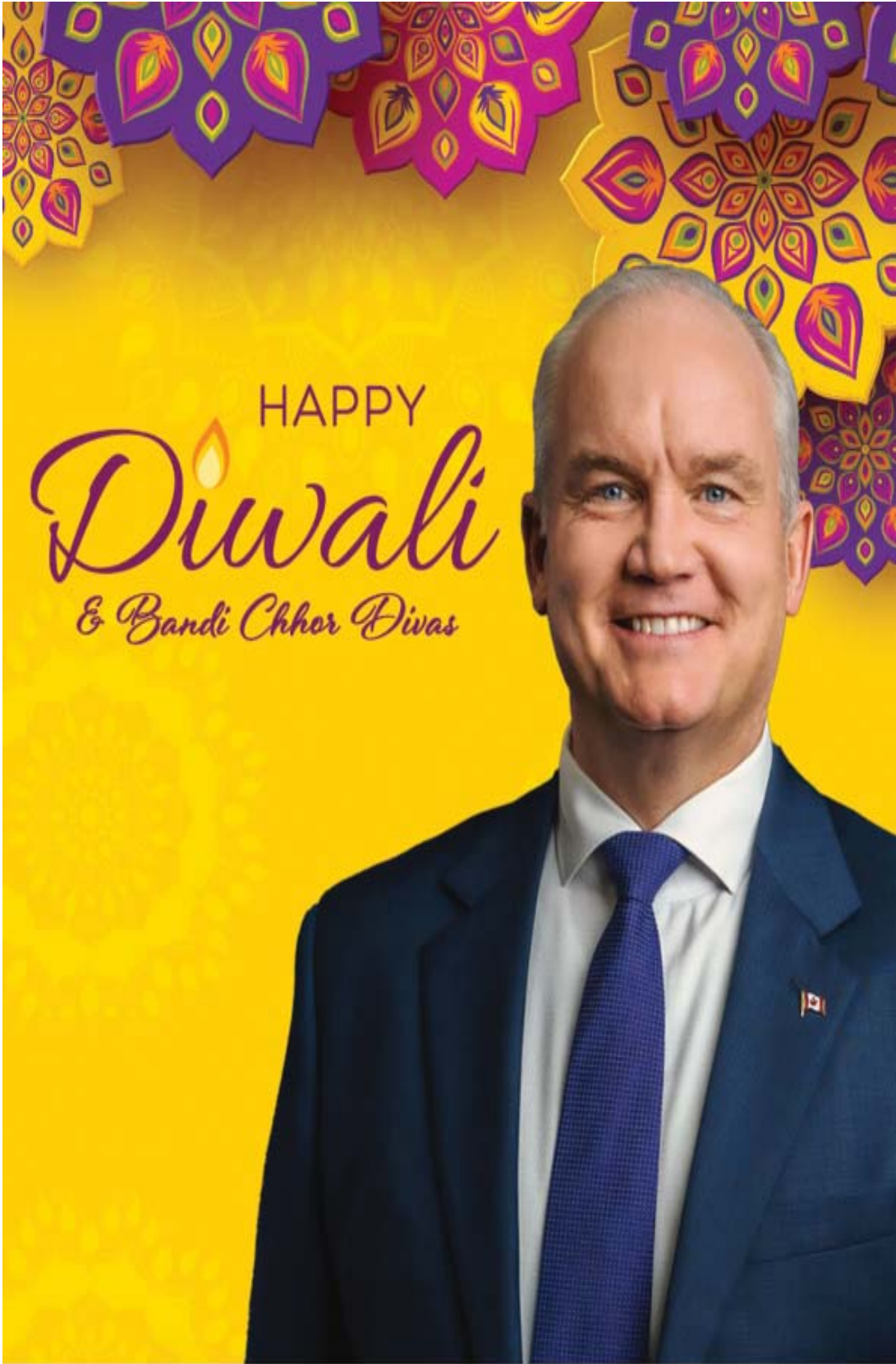


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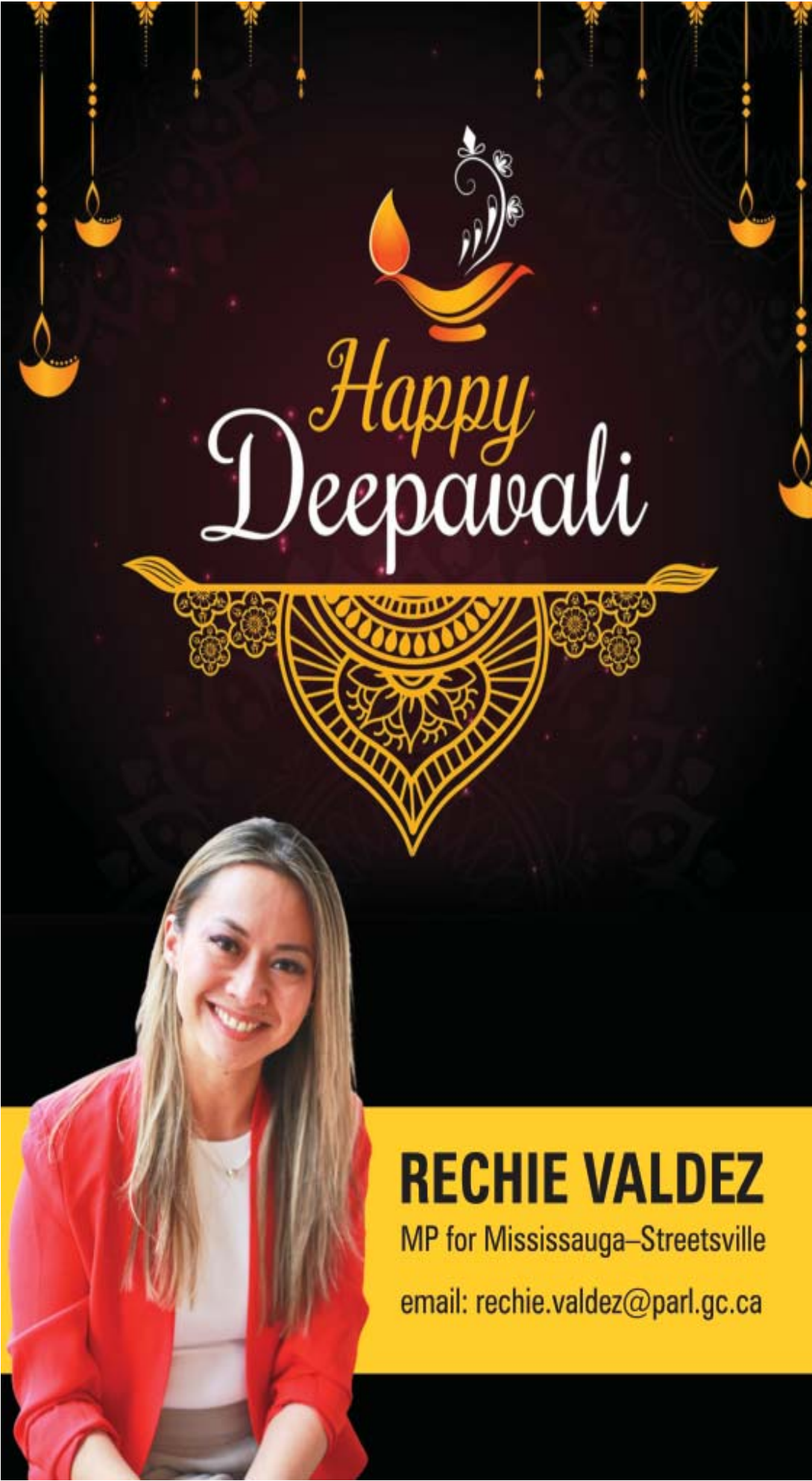


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**Happy Deepavali**

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# Social Media: A saviour or a predator?

BY ASAD MIRZA

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These documents included company's internal communications on various aspects of running the app and monitoring the content. The Wall Street Journal had previously reported on some of the pandemic-related revelations in the papers, including how Facebook struggled to police anti-vaccine comments.

## THE CONTROVERSY

According to the information available, Facebook researchers allegedly had deep knowledge of how coronavirus and vaccine misinformation moved through the company's apps. It allegedly itself conducted multiple studies and produced large internal reports on what kinds of users were most likely to share falsehoods about the deadly virus. However, allegedly this information was not shared timely and properly with the academics and lawmakers though the White House urged Facebook for months to be more transparent about the misinformation and its effects on the behaviour of its users, the company refused to share much of this information publicly, resulting in a showdown with President Joe Biden's administration. Taken together, the documents underline just how extensively Facebook was allegedly studying coronavirus and vaccine misinformation on its platform as the virus tore across the world, unearthing findings that concerned its own employees.

Yet, in public blog posts and in congressional testimony, executives focused on more positive aspects of the social network's pandemic response, such as how many pieces of misinformation it had taken down and its work to help its users find vaccine clinics near them. The disconnect between what was known and shared bolsters demands from lawmakers, who are increasingly amenable to proposals to force greater transparency from tech giants, with some directly supporting Haugen's assertion that a separate regulatory body is needed to study algorithms and internal research and keep an eye on the social media platforms.

## FACEBOOK'S INFLUENCE

How Facebook, which is particularly popular with older Americans, has affected perceptions around vaccines has been a key part of discussion about the pandemic. In July, as the disease's delta variant triggered a massive new surge and the rate of new vaccinations levelled off, the White House began placing some of the blame on the social media channels. President Biden told reporters that Facebook was "killing people", though he later backed off the comment. Haugen left Facebook in May, before the public fight between the company and the White House, so it's unclear what kind of information the company had during that time. But employees were looking into the issue well before the public spat. Employees noted that algorithmic dynamics created "self-reinforcing" feedback loops, where vaccine-sceptical posts were overwhelmingly supported in the comments and reactions. Anti-



**FACEBOOK FOR MONTHS TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT ABOUT THE MISINFORMATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF ITS USERS, THE COMPANY REFUSED TO SHARE MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION PUBLICLY, RESULTING IN A SHOWDOWN WITH PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S ADMINISTRATION. TAKEN TOGETHER, THE DOCUMENTS UNDERLINE JUST HOW EXTENSIVELY FACEBOOK WAS ALLEGEDLY STUDYING CORONAVIRUS AND VACCINE MISINFORMATION ON ITS PLATFORM AS THE VIRUS TORE ACROSS THE WORLD, UNEARTHING FINDINGS THAT CONCERNED ITS OWN EMPLOYEES.**

vaccine comments got boosted with many "like" and "love" reactions, while people who posted pro-vaccine content were met with derision in the form of "angry", "sad" or "haha" reactions, the researchers wrote.

Among other things, the reports have claimed that Facebook allegedly sat on research that showed Instagram harmed teenage mental health, and struggled to remove hate speech from its platforms outside the US.

In addition, Frances Haugen who is currently in the UK has told British MPs that Facebook is "unquestionably making hate worse", as the MPs consider what new rules to impose on big social networks.

While talking to the Online Safety Bill Committee in London, Haugen said Facebook safety teams were under-resourced, and also warned that Instagram was "more dangerous than other forms of social media".

She said while other social networks were about performance, play, or an exchange of ideas, "Instagram is about social comparison and about bodies... about people's lifestyles, and that's what ends up being worse for kids. She said Facebook's own research allegedly described one problem as "an addict's narrative" - where children are unhappy, can't control their use of the app, but feel like they cannot stop using it. The Online Safety Bill Committee is fine-tuning a proposed law that will place new duties on large social networks and subject them to checks by the media regulator Ofcom in the UK.

Ms Haugen also urged the committee to include paid-for advertising in its new rules, saying the current system was "literally subsidising hate on these platforms" because of their algorithmic ranking. And she also urged MPs to require a breakdown of who is harmed by content, rather than an average figure - suggesting Facebook is "very good at dancing with data", but pushes people towards "extreme content".

Haugen also warned that Facebook was unable to police content in multiple languages around the world - something which should worry UK officials. She further said that dangerous misinformation in other languages affects people in Britain and US also.

"Those people are also living in the UK, and being fed misinformation that is dangerous, that radicalises people. When I worked on counter-

espionage, I saw things where I was concerned about national security, and I had no idea how to escalate those because I didn't have faith in my chain of command at that point," she told the committee. Similar problems plague Facebook's Oversight Board, which can overturn the company's decisions on content, she said. She repeated her claim that Facebook has repeatedly lied to its own watchdog, and said this is a "defining moment" for the Oversight Board to "step up". This is not the first time that Facebook has come under criticism and allegations of interfering in other country's internal politics. In the past it has been charged with interfering in two US presidential elections, parliamentary elections in the UK and India and the role played by it during the last year's Delhi riots.

## FACEBOOK'S FUTURE

Meanwhile amid reports that in the current year Facebook has earned \$9 billion despite whistle blower scandal, came news that Facebook is going to change its name to Meta. Zuckerberg says he's chosen Meta, because of its meaning in Greek - "beyond". It also alludes to the "Metaverse", an online virtual oasis that he wants to build. Critics believe Facebook has done this because the brand has become toxic. Further, Zuckerberg seems to be more interested in creating virtual worlds, which he thinks will transform the human experience. However, we'll have to wait and see whether people will go along with it.

But meanwhile questions why Facebook alone amongst all tech and social media giants was targeted have also started being aired. Various anti and pro lobby's are being identified for this but just like whether the Corona pandemic is really a pandemic and not a plandemic, these questions might be answered in the future, by which time we might have experienced the Metaverse.

*Disclaimer: Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. The opinions expressed within this article are the personal ideas of the author. The facts and conclusions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Y Media and Midweek Newspaper, and Y Media does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.*

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## "WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE": PEEL REGION ANNOUNCES FALL AND WINTER VACCINATION PLAN

**BRAMPTON - (OCTOBER 29, 2021)** - With more than 2.5 million doses already delivered, Peel's vaccine system is rapidly expanding and will almost double by December 1 as new directives for COVID-19, like third doses and pediatrics, are approved by the Ontario government.

To achieve this, Peel will be offering a variety of clinic styles, large and small, across the community, so residents can choose the clinic that best meets their needs. Options include:

\* 5 Public Health clinics (2 each in Brampton and Mississauga and 1 in Caledon)

\* 275 System clinics (pharmacies, primary care clinics, hospital clinics and Ontario Health Team hubs)

\* 150 community clinics including clinics at schools, places of worship, shopping malls, community agencies and homebound.

Expanded clinic capacity means Peel can also deliver routine immunizations for school-aged children that have been missed during the pandemic. Peel is also delivering flu vaccine to more than 700 doctor's offices, walk-in clinics, and pharmacies to help further protect the community.

The plan focuses on three main areas for COVID-19:

\* The last mile - continuing to target 1st and 2nd doses for the unvaccinated

\* Pediatric vaccination for children aged 5 - 11 - 1st dose, as soon as it is approved

\* Expanded eligibility for third doses - as identified by the Province



"We are focussed on getting vaccines to people who want it in a way that is convenient for them. We are working hard to double our system capacity to ensure we are ready to meet the needs of our community while at the same time be ready to launch COVID-19 pediatric and 3rd dose immunizations for priority populations once approved by the province. I urge all residents, if you are eligible, please get vaccinated and if you have fears or concerns about vaccination, there are people in your community who you can speak to, to help ease those fears. Getting vaccinated remains our most effective way to exiting the acute phase of the pandemic," said Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health, Peel Region.

## ELON MUSK IS FIRST PERSON EVER TO BE WORTH OVER \$300BN

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Tesla CEO Elon Musk has become the first person to cross the \$300 billion net-worth threshold after his fortune surged by \$10 billion in a day thanks to a Tesla share spike, a day before Microsoft regained the title of world's most valuable company, Daily Mail reported.

Musk's net worth hit \$302 billion as of Thursday, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires' Index.

The increase of \$10 billion was due to a rise in Tesla shares on Thursday, after the electric car firm inked a huge deal with Hertz for the rental giant to buy 100,000 of its vehicles.

The mogul is now worth over \$100 billion more than the second-richest person on earth, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. His fortune sits at \$199 billion.

On Friday, Microsoft regained its perch as the world's most valuable company, with a \$2.46 trillion market cap, after an Apple share slump saw the iPhone maker's overall value plunge around four per cent to \$2.41 trillion.

This came after Apple fell just under 4 per cent after lower than expected fourth-quarter revenues. Microsoft climbed 1.1 per cent to blow past Apple after higher than expected revenue estimates for an 11th straight quarter, the report said.

Microsoft is now more valuable than Apple for the first time since



early 2020. The company is on pace for its biggest weekly gains since January, the report said

Musk is now worth more than the annual GDP of nations like Egypt, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Greece, Qatar and Finland.

He's also worth more than the market value of PayPal, the company he co-founded, as well as streaming giant Netflix.

## 3 PUNJABIS FROM BRAMPTON CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

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Beginning in April 2021, investigators commenced a project with a focus on an organized crime group operating in Peel Region, the Greater Toronto Area and Golden Horseshoe.

The suspects would steal tractors and empty cargo trailers and then would attend logistic companies, freight forwarders and various other commercial properties, where loaded trailers of various cargo would be located. The stolen vehicles were then used to remove loaded cargo trailers containing freight ranging from consumable goods to appliances.

The suspects used storage facilities throughout the Greater Toronto Area to hide the stolen property until it could be sold to purchasers. Many of the items would end up in food markets, liquidators and dollar stores, where unsuspecting consumers would purchase the illegally obtained items.

On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, three suspects from the organized crime group were arrested after search warrants were conducted at their residences. Evidence that would support the alleged offences was located during the search.

As a result of the numerous search warrants conducted throughout the project, 20 stolen cargo loads, tractors and trailers, with an approximate value of \$4 million were recovered. Many of the stolen goods were successfully returned to their owners as a result of a partnership with Equity Association.

Dharwant Gill, a 39-year old man from Brampton is charged with:

\* Possession of Stolen Property x22

\* Possession of Stolen Property for the Purpose of Trafficking x20

Ravneet Brar, a 25-year-old man from Brampton is charged with:

\* Possession of Stolen Property x23

\* Possession of Stolen Property for the Purpose of Trafficking x21

Devesh Pal, a 23-year-old man from Brampton is charged with:

## PEEL POLICE OFFICER, PAWAN SANDHU, CHARGED WITH ASSAULT FROM AN OFF-DUTY INCIDENT

**REGION OF PEEL** – On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Peel Regional Police Internal Affairs Bureau arrested and charged Constable Pawan Sandhu, a 5-year-member of the service, with one count of Assault, Assault Cause Bodily Harm, and Utter Threats. These charges stem from an off-duty incident that occurred within the City of Brampton.

Constable Pawan Sandhu was suspended with pay as per the provisions of the Police Services Act and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Monday, January 10, 2022. Once the criminal court proceedings have been completed, a Police Services Act investigation will follow.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT ALERT: TORONTO POLICE SEEKING ASSISTANCE IDENTIFYING MAN

The Toronto Police Service is alerting the public to a sexual assault investigation and seeking the public's assistance identifying a man.

The incident occurred on Monday, February, 15, 2021, in the Williams Parkway and James Potter Road area in Brampton.

It has been reported that:

- a man sent an unknown vehicle/driver to pick up an 18-year-old woman from her residence
  - she was picked up and sent to an undisclosed location
  - the woman was sexually assaulted by a man
  - the man told the woman he sexually desires 13-year-old girls
- The man is described as in his thirties, 5'6", short black hair, brown eyes, and had an accent.

A photograph has been released.

Police are concerned there may be more victims.



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## EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 30, INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS CARRYING PASSENGERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO LAND AT 8 ADDITIONAL CANADIAN AIRPORTS



The Government of Canada is prioritizing the health and safety of all people in Canada by continuing to take a risk-based and measured approach to re-opening the border. Canada's phased approach to easing border measures is informed by the available data and scientific evidence, including the vaccination rate of Canadians, and the improving epidemiological situation.

The strict vaccine travel requirements that will be fully phased in by November 30, and the pan-Canadian proof of vaccination credential now available for travel, are creating opportunities for safe travel for vaccinated Canadians. As a next step in increasing travel opportunities, Transport Canada is easing the restriction on international flight arrivals. The department is expanding the scope of the existing Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that currently directs international passenger flights into 10 Canadian airports. Effective on November 30, 2021, international flights carrying passengers will be permitted to land at the following additional Canadian airports:

St. John's International  
John C. Munro Hamilton International

Region of Waterloo International  
Regina International  
Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International  
Kelowna International  
Abbotsford International  
Victoria International

These airports, in cooperation with the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency and Transport Canada, are working to implement the measures necessary to start safely welcoming international passengers as of November 30.

Consideration will be given to adding additional airports as conditions dictate, based on demand, operational capacity, the epidemiological situation in Canada, and recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The Government of Canada continues to work closely with airports and aviation operators to ensure appropriate procedures are put in place to protect travellers and workers. Border and public health measures remain subject to change as the epidemiological situation evolves.

## PM Trudeau concludes successful G20 Leaders' Summit in Italy & announces enhanced & ambitious climate action to cut pollution at COP26 summit

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During the event, he highlighted Canada's support for international climate finance as critical to helping developing countries address climate change, and underscored the central role that the private sector has to play in meeting climate finance goals. To date, Canada's support for climate action in developing countries has helped them move toward a cleaner future and contributed to cutting global pollution - the equivalent of removing about 47 million cars from the roads for one year. They have also helped at least 5.9 million people adapt to the effects of climate change and mobilized significant contributions from the private sector.

During the Summit, the Prime Minister took part in discussions with G20 leaders on sustainable development in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. He reiterated the need for collective G20 action and leadership in working toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emphasized that this work should prioritize gender equality and the protection of the most vulnerable. He also highlighted the importance of investments in quality infrastructure for sustainable and inclusive development.

Through the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative, Canada has helped to bring leaders together to develop practical policy approaches to help achieve the SDGs while responding to the impacts of the pandemic. Canada will continue to take a leadership role in development finance, including for gender equality and women's economic empowerment, in financing for COVID-19 vaccines, and in advocacy on behalf of Small Island Developing States.

PM Trudeau said, "While we aim to finish the fight against COVID-19, we must not lose sight of the existential threat posed by climate change. Canada has worked with our G20 partners to address global challenges, promote our shared values, and create jobs and opportunities for people in our countries. Now, we join together again to call for accelerated action on tackling climate change, so we can build a cleaner, better world for the generations to come."

Since signing the historic Paris Agreement in 2015, the Government of Canada has taken significant action to address climate change. As a climate leader, Canada has put in place measures to reduce pollution to work toward meeting our Paris commitments and achieving a net-zero economy by 2050. As the world shifts to a cleaner and greener economy, Canada will continue to take a leadership role in the fight against climate change, so we can keep creating new middle-class jobs across all sectors and building a better future for everyone. The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced Canada's ambi-



tious and enhanced plans to support the global phase-out of thermal coal, help developing countries transition to clean fuel alternatives as quickly as possible, and reduce pollution in the oil and gas sector. Ending coal power emissions is one of the single most important steps the world must take in the fight against climate change. That is why the Prime Minister today announced that Canada is working toward ending exports of thermal coal by no later than 2030. The ban would follow action already taken, including accelerating the phasing out of conventional coal-fired electricity in our country by 2030 and putting in place investments of more than \$185 million to support coal workers and their communities through the transition to cleaner energy.

To further support the global community's efforts to phase out coal-fired electricity, the Prime Minister also announced up to \$1 billion for the Climate Investment Funds Accelerated Coal Transition Investment Program, through Canada's international climate finance contribution, to help developing countries transition from coal-fired electricity to clean power as quickly as possible. This investment will lead to the successful implementation of country-level strategies and associated kick-start projects, build support at the local and regional levels, and accelerate the retirement of existing coal mines and coal power plants while enabling new economic activities and contributing to a socially inclusive and gender-equal transition. In addition, the Prime Minister announced \$25 million in funding to the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, a partnership with the World Bank. This will help develop and implement clean energy alternatives and support low- and middle-income countries in the transition to a cleaner economy.

## Bank Of Canada Maintains Key Rate At 0.25%, Ends Quantitative Easing

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The global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is progressing. Vaccines are proving highly effective against the virus, although their availability and distribution globally remain uneven and COVID variants pose risks to health and economic activity. In the face of strong global demand for goods, pandemic-related disruptions to production and transportation are constraining growth. Inflation rates have increased in many countries, boosted by these supply bottlenecks and by higher energy prices. While bond yields have risen in recent weeks, financial conditions remain accommodative and continue to support economic activity.

The Bank projects global GDP will grow by 6½ percent in 2021 – a strong pace but less than projected in the July Monetary Policy Report (MPR) – and by 4¼ percent in 2022 and about 3½ percent in 2023.

In Canada, robust economic growth has resumed, following a pause in the second quarter. Strong employment gains in recent months were concentrated in hard-to-distance sectors and among workers most affected by lockdowns. This has significantly reduced the very uneven impact of the pandemic on workers. As the economy reopens, it is taking time for workers to find the right jobs and for employers to hire people with the right skills. This is contributing to labour shortages in certain sectors, even as slack remains in the overall labour market.

The Bank now forecasts Canada's economy will grow by 5 percent this year before moderating to 4¼ percent in 2022 and 3¾ percent in 2023. Demand is expected to be supported by strong consumption and business investment,

and a rebound in exports as the US economy continues to recover. Housing activity has moderated but is expected to remain elevated. On the supply side, shortages of manufacturing inputs, transportation bottlenecks, and difficulties in matching jobs to workers are limiting the economy's productive capacity. Although the impact and persistence of these supply factors are hard to quantify, the output gap is likely to be narrower than the Bank had forecast in July. The recent increase in CPI inflation was anticipated in July, but the main forces pushing up prices – higher energy prices and pandemic-related supply bottlenecks – now appear to be stronger and more persistent than expected. Core measures of inflation have also risen but by less than the CPI. The Bank now expects CPI inflation to be elevated into next year, and ease back to around the 2 percent target by late 2022. The Bank is closely watching inflation expectations and labour costs to ensure that the temporary forces pushing up prices do not become embedded in ongoing inflation. The Governing Council judges that in view of ongoing excess capacity, the economy continues to require considerable monetary policy support. We remain committed to holding the policy interest rate at the effective lower bound until economic slack is absorbed so that the 2 percent inflation target is sustainably achieved. In the Bank's projection, this happens sometime in the middle quarters of 2022. In light of the progress made in the economic recovery, the Governing Council has decided to end quantitative easing and keep its overall holdings of Government of Canada bonds roughly constant. We will continue to provide the appropriate degree of monetary policy stimulus to support the recovery and achieve the inflation target.

### STRONGER TOGETHER

THROUGH COLLABORATION AND AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PATIENT CARE, ONE OF ONTARIO'S HARDEST- HIT HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGED THROUGH THE THIRD WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

This has had a profound impact on Osler's staff, physicians and volunteers who have put forth an unprecedented effort to continue delivering safe, quality care to an influx of patients.

At the height of the third wave of the pandemic, Osler would have been challenged to meet the health care needs of its communities without the unrelenting support of its hospital partners. While providing care to their own communities during this extraordinary time, close to 40 hospitals and other health care facilities graciously accepted the transfer of more than 800 patients from Osler's inpatient hospitals – Brampton Civic Hospital and Etobicoke General Hospital. More than 100 health care professionals, including those from the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Ontario Home and Community Care sector, Kemptville District Hospital and the Canadian Red Cross, also answered the call and volunteered their time and expertise – some even arriving by military aircraft to support Osler! With the help of all our health care partners, as well as the support of the Ontario Government, Ontario Health, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Royal Canadian Air Force, Osler was able to provide care for an exceptionally high number of patients with COVID-19 when they needed it most. Our entire team at Osler is profoundly grateful to all those who supported us to care for our patients during this difficult time. This support ensured all patients from Osler's communities, including many who were critically ill at the time of transfer, received quality, compassionate care at other hospital facilities. It has been a challenging time for all hospitals across Ontario, and we appreciate the ongoing partnerships and collaboration that help make us stronger together. The significance of Diwali is especially meaningful this year as we begin to recover as a community and health system, reflect on the sacrifices made in the community and by Osler's health care partners, and look forward to what lies ahead. From all of us at Osler, I want to wish you a happy Diwali! Dr. Naveed Mohammad is President and CEO of William Osler Health System which includes Brampton Civic Hospital, Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness and Etobicoke General Hospital, and serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke and the surrounding communities within Ontario's Central West region.

### WINNIPEG STREET NAMED FOR FIRST INDIAN-BORN CANADIAN ELECTED TO LEGISLATURE

**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** A new street in Winnipeg, Canada, has been named after Gulzar Singh Cheema, the first Indian-born Canadian doctor to be elected to a legislative assembly in the country in 1988. It is now called Cheema Drive.

Cheema, who now practises family medicine in British Columbia, was re-elected in 1990 for the Liberal party in The Maples.

"We were knocking doors and they shut the door, sometimes and not all the time. So our campaigns made them nervous," Gulzar said while recalling his earlier election campaigns.

Describing the city as remarkable, he said, while unveiling the new street name in northwest Winnipeg last week: "I am here in the city where it all started. We shall never forget this place."

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022, ONTARIO TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15 AN HOUR



**TORONTO** — As part of the 2021 Fall Economic Statement, the Ontario government will introduce legislation that, if passed, would raise the general minimum wage from \$14.35 to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2022. Under the proposed changes, the special minimum wage rate for liquor servers would be eliminated and they would be entitled to the general minimum wage. Students under 18, homeworkers and hunting, fishing and wilderness guides would also see an increase in their special minimum wage rates. Details were shared today by Premier Doug Ford, Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development and Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance.

"Ontario's workers have been the unsung heroes of this pandemic, as they've stocked shelves, kept our supply chain moving and helped so many of us enjoy a meal among family and friends at a local restaurant," said Premier Doug Ford. "When we asked labour leaders what their priorities were, increasing the minimum wage was at the top of the list. As the cost of living continues to go up, our government is proud to be working for workers, putting more money into their pockets by increasing the minimum wage."

Liquor servers have previously received below the general minimum wage, based on the belief customer tipping can make up the difference. However, many of these workers have increasingly seen their tips pooled and redistributed among many staff, making it harder for them to make ends meet. If the legislation is passed, liquor servers would be treated more fairly and see an unprecedented 19.5 per cent increase in their minimum hourly wage, as it changes from \$12.55 per hour to the harmonized \$15 per hour minimum wage. The Ontario government is introducing legislation to increase minimum wages as the cost of living has increased considerably over the past several months, but wages for many have not kept pace. "Over the past few weeks, our government has rolled out a historic number of reforms to rebalance the scales," said Minister McNaughton. "Building on these actions, today, our government is ensuring workers who need our help the most receive their fair share of the economic pie. We will continue to use every tool in our toolbox to help workers in our province find meaningful careers that let them earn themselves bigger paychecks and build better lives for themselves and their loved ones."





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## CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH RESIGNS FROM CONGRESS; ANNOUNCES 'PUNJAB LOK CONGRESS' PARTY



FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH ON TUESDAY RESIGNED FROM THE CONGRESS AND SENT A SEVEN-PAGE LETTER TO PARTY PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI. HE NAMED HIS PARTY THE PUNJAB LOK CONGRESS. ““I HAVE TODAY SENT MY RESIGNATION TO CONGRESS PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI JI, LISTING MY REASONS FOR THE RESIGNATION. ‘PUNJAB LOK CONGRESS’ IS THE NAME OF THE NEW PARTY. THE REGISTRATION IS PENDING APPROVAL WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA. THE PARTY SYMBOL WILL BE APPROVED LATER,” AMARINDER SINGH INFORMED IN A TWEET.”“SINGH HAD QUIT AS THE CHIEF MINISTER IN SEPTEMBER AFTER A POWER TUSSLE WITH STATE CONGRESS CHIEF NAVJOT SIDHU.

## WILL TURN GOVT OFFICES INTO 'GRAIN MARKETS', WARNS TIKAIT

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday warned the Centre of converting the government offices into "grain markets" if it forcibly evicts the farmers from the protest site where they have been agitating against the three contentious farm laws for the past 11 months.

The warning came two days after the Delhi Police removed all the barricades from Tikri and Ghazipur borders for the smooth movement of traffic. However, the farmers see it as "move" to displace them. "If the farmers fail to sell their produce in mandis at a fair price, then, what better place to do so than the government offices?" Tikait said. He demanded that the Centre engage in dialogue with them and repeal the farm laws.

Earlier, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha had released a statement asserting that before opening all the roads, the Centre will have to open the avenues to fulfill their demands.

Whether the agitation continues or shift to the national capital is a collective decision to be taken at an appropriate time, he asserted. Though the Government and the agitating farmers have met 11 times on the negotiating table, the talks remained inconclusive.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling last week, had held that though the farmers have all the freedom to protest, they cannot "block" the roads causing inconvenience to the public.



## INDIA COMMITS FOR NET ZERO BY 2070 AT CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



**GLASGOW (UK), (IANS)** Offering a new mantra and raising a pledge for combating climate change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told world leaders at the COP26 that India will target a net-zero goal by 2070 and aim at increasing its non-fossil fuel energy to 500 GW in its energy mix by 2030.


Terming it as 'Panchamrut Ki Saugat' – India's contribution to climate action, Modi – on the first day of the High-Level Segment of the 'World Leaders' Summit' (WLS) at the COP26 – said that India will reduce its carbon intensity by 45 per cent by 2030, starting with reducing projected carbon emission from now till 2030 by 1 billion tonnes and committed to having renewable energy component of 50 per cent by 2030.


He gave a new mantra for sustainable development through a sustainable lifestyle. Displaying his penchant for acronyms, Modi said: “‘One Word One World’ movement mantra LIFE, ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ can be a mass movement wherein instead of mindless and destructive consumption, there should be mindful and deliberate utilization.”

## PRIYANKA RAINS MORE PROMISES IN UP: 20L JOBS TO YOUTH, FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR WOMEN



**LUCKNOW, (IANS)** Continuing her series of 'pratiGYA' (promises), Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Sunday, announced that if the Congress came to power in Uttar Pradesh, 20 lakh youths would be given jobs, women would get the facility of free bus travel and fishing would be given the status of farming. "The Nishad community will have rights over rivers and sand mining. We will also set up a university in the name of Guru Matsyendranath (Guru of Gorakhnath)," she said while speaking at a PratiGYA rally in Gorakhpur. She further announced that if the Congress came to power, the ad hoc and contract workers would be regularised and the purchase price of wheat and paddy would be raised to Rs 2,500 while sugarcane MSP would be Rs 400. "Women will be given three free gas cylinders in a year and treatment up to Rs 10 lakh would be free for all. Besides, we will ensure full loan waiver for farmers. ASHA workers would be given an honorarium of Rs 10,000 per month," she added.





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G20 AGREE TO ACCEPT EACH OTHERS' WHO CERTIFIED VACCINES



**NEW DELHI/ROME, (IANS)** The Rome Declaration at the conclusion of the G20 Leaders' Summit on Sunday has agreed to mutually accept Covid-19 vaccines that are deemed safe and efficacious by the WHO, a development that will be useful for opening up the global tourism sector for economic recovery post the pandemic shut down. "Covid-19 immunization is a global public good and the recognition of Covid-19 vaccines, which are deemed to be safe and efficacious by the WHO will be mutually accepted, subject, of course to, the national law and privacy law that countries may have," said Piyush Goyal, India's Sherpa at the G20 and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry. "But more importantly, it has been agreed that everybody will help to optimize the processes and procedures of the World Trade Organization for vaccine approval and emergency use authorization and the WHO will be strengthened so that they can do recognition of vaccines faster," Goyal added as he briefed the media after what he called as the successful culmination of G20 Summit. This was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eighth G20 Summit since 2014 and the first in-person summit since the Osaka Summit in 2019. The theme of the summit under the Italian Presidency was 'People, Planet, Prosperity', with an overarching theme of recovery from the pandemic.

Pak NSA says he will not travel to India for meet on Afghanistan

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Pakistan National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf on Tuesday said that he will not travel to India to attend a conference on Afghanistan being hosted by New Delhi on November 10, Express Tribune reported. In a response to a question during a press conference, Yusuf said that a "spoiler" could not take on the role of a "peacemaker", the report said. India had extended the invitation to Moeed to attend the regional conference. Russia, China, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan will reportedly attend the moot hosted by the Indian national security adviser. While India was not invited at the conference hosted by Pakistan in September and Iran in October, New Delhi was part of the Moscow Format, the report said. India's effort to host the regional conference is seen as an attempt

The Prime Minister participated in all three Summit Sessions on 'Global Economy and Global Health', 'Climate Change and Environment' and 'Sustainable Development'. The leaders adopted the 'Rome Declaration' after over five days of extensive negotiations. Stating that within the overarching theme of the summit, the G20 had delivered "a strong message of recovery from the pandemic, recovery in terms of the economy and of course, different sectors like health, employment, education, tourism and most significantly climate action." The Declaration has also agreed to extend the debt suspension service initiative so that vulnerable countries, low-income countries are not burdened with debt repayment at this critical time. On agriculture, "livelihoods for small and marginal farmers were at the focus of our discussions and everybody has agreed that improving their livelihood is an important global effort that we all have to put in," the Union Minister added. Underscoring the achievement of the G20 framework on base erosion and profit sharing, Goyal said it was a historic accomplishment for a more stable and fairer international tax system. The G20 had acknowledged the importance of shared standards for seamless travel, including testing requirements and results, vaccination certificates and mutual recognition of digital applications, the Minister added.

to deflect domestic pressure and the impression that New Delhi has been left out of Afghan consultations, the report added. At a weekly news briefing, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said that India seemed to be trying to find "some relevance" in the context of Afghanistan while referring to the upcoming conference in New Delhi. Moeed said Pakistan and Uzbekistan shared the same stance on Afghanistan, adding that there was a need to coordinate on Afghanistan for the sake of the Afghan people. He said there was a need for constructive engagement with the Taliban regime in Kabul to avert a humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country. "The world's failure to engage with Kabul would result in a humanitarian crisis," he added.


LAHORE DECLARED MOST POLLUTED CITY IN THE WORLD



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Lahore has been declared the most polluted city in the world, leaving its traditional rival New Delhi far behind, Dawn reported. The official Air Quality Index (AQI) of Lahore was reported at 289 (as per the average between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.) and international monitoring bodies put the score at 397. New Delhi stood at less than half of Lahore's pollution level, with 187. Individual areas of Lahore fared worse, with Kot Lakhpat (industrial area) crossing over 500, Fatehgarh housing most of the steel melting industry close to 400 and relatively green areas like Raiwind at 403 AQI. "At 397 AQI, [or particulate matter (PM) 2.5], the pollution concentration is 34.8 times higher than the annual air quality value set by the World Health Organisation. This is, what environmentalists call, hazardous with it getting 'extremely hazardous' at individual points," explains Abdul Rauf, representing an organisation working on air quality of the city, the report said. "What makes the matter dangerous is that it was not smog on Monday, it was pure pollution," claims an official of the environment department. Smog occurs when smoke mixes with fog. On Monday, the humidity level in the city was 60 per cent — and such a level does not form fog. Monday's mist did not cause any eye irritation, which also proves it was not smog. This means that this haze was pure pollution. "Secondly, and what is extremely worrying as well, is the fact that it is purely indigenous. The country is still experiencing westerly winds, which means the wind is flowing towards India and pollution from that side of the border has still not invaded Pakistan. Once the wind changes its direction and carries Indian pollution (mainly smoke emanating from stubble burning) into Pakistan, the situation here would certainly worsen," the official said.


PM MODI MEETS POPE FRANCIS, INVITES HIM TO VISIT INDIA


**NEW DELHI/VATICAN, (IANS)** Pope Francis received Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican on Saturday, the first such meeting between an Indian Prime Minister and the head of the Catholic Church in more than two decades. "Had a very warm meeting with Pope Francis. I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him and also invited him to visit India," Modi tweeted soon after the meeting with the Pope. The Prime Minister's meeting with the Pope came amid his a three-day trip to Italy to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. Several other world leaders who too have reached Italy for the Summit have been meeting the Pope one after another since Friday. "The meeting was scheduled for 20-30 minutes (but) went on for an hour," an official said. Modi was accompanied by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar.



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# 'Russia's relations with US far from being normal': Moscow's Permanent Representative to the UN

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There are a couple of dialogues that started," Nebenzia said, adding one of them is on strategic stability, reports Xinhua news agency. There have been a couple of rounds already and the dialogue has become business-like, not politicised, he said. "People who are there, they're professionals. They speak on the same level. Of course, the issues are very complex. But this dialogue has been resumed, and that's very important," he said. Russia values the Biden administration's reconfirmation of the Gorbachev-Reagan formula that there will be no winners in nuclear war and regards this as a very positive signal, he said. Another important dialogue is on cybersecurity, said Nebenzia. Russia offered many times a meaningful dialogue on cybersecurity with the United States before Biden came to office, but the offer was rejected, he said. "Now, we have restarted, we have the dialogue which we hold. We agreed, as far as I know, with the (U.S.) administration that we will be informing each other on whatever incidents that are concerned to both sides in cyberspace," he noted. Nebenzia said he had good personal relations with his U.S. counterpart, Linda Thomas-Greenfield. "She is a professional. She comes from the State Department. She knows how to address the issues. She understands the language on which we communicate. She is responsive. We had a few opportunities to make sure that we can deal -- like Trump used to like to say -- we can make deals," said the Russian ambassador.



The dialogue is developing on certain areas, but issues remain, he said. On issues such as visas and the functioning of diplomatic representations, primarily embassies, Nebenzia said progress has been slow. On the visa issue, there is some "piecemeal" progress, but the problem generically is not solved, he said. "We have dozens of my colleagues who do not have an extension of their visas. They're sitting here without U.S. visas," Nebenzia said. A staff member of the Russian mission to the UN could not even travel

back home for his mother's funeral, he said. "And he could not go for the funeral, because if he went there, he would never get a visa back. And that's the reality which we are facing." The Russian Ambassador said the situation with regard to visas has improved this year after he personally reached out to Thomas-Greenfield, who said she would be doing all she could to facilitate. "But we are far from the state of relations, which can be called normal, befitting the two great states," he said.

## Jaishankar, Blinken meet in Rome, discuss 'Global Strategic Partnership'

**NEW YORK, (IANS)** India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in Rome to discuss broadening strategic cooperation across the world as the two democracies are raising their relations to new levels. They discussed "efforts to deepen the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership" during their meeting on Saturday on the sidelines of the 16th G20 Summit, according to State Department Spokesperson Ned Price. New Delhi and Washington have turned to the other side of the Indian Ocean that India straddles after firming up cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region multilaterally with the Quad - the grouping of their countries and Australia and Japan. Earlier this month, Jaishankar and Blinken held a virtual meeting with Foreign Ministers Yair Lapid of Israel and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) -- four countries that share many regional strategic interests -- and discussed "future opportunities for collaboration in the region and globally", according to the State Department. Jaishankar tweeted after the Rome meeting that they had a "good meeting" and "discussed a wide gamut of issues relating to our partnership. Updated each other on important regional concerns". Price said that efforts to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region through the Quad and common regional priorities were also discussed. Expanding global access to vaccines was another topic they discussed given India's position as the world's largest producer of vac-



cines, he said. India is the linchpin in the Quad's initiative to supply 1.2 billion vaccines that was reiterated at the summit of the leaders of the four countries last month in Washington. Prime Ministers Narendra Modi of India and Scott Morrison of Australia, US President Joe Biden and the then-Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced at their summit that their Vaccine Partnership was on track to expand the capacity of India's Biological E Ltd to produce at least 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines by the end of next year. Price's readout of the meeting between Jaishankar and Blinken also contained the obligatory reference to democracy, which some in India and in the US would latch on to giving it deeper meanings.

## G20 ROME SUMMIT ENDS WITH COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS MULTIPLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

**ROME, (IANS)** The G20 Summit in Rome ended on Sunday with the adoption of a declaration reaffirming the crucial role of multilateralism and international cooperation in overcoming the global challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The "G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration" pledges to strengthen the common response to the pandemic and pave the way for a global recovery, with particular concern for the most vulnerable, Xinhua news agency reported. The leaders of the world's major economies have pledged to use all available tools to address the consequences of the pandemic, sustain the recovery and remain vigilant to global challenges such as supply chain disruption. Highlighting the essential role of vaccines in the fight against the pandemic, they vowed to advance efforts to ensure timely, equitable and universal access to safe, affordable, quality and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, with particular regard to the needs of low- and middle-income countries. "We will take steps to help boost the supply of vaccines and essential medical products and inputs in developing countries and remove relevant supply and financing constraints," the declaration said. Regarding climate change, the leaders remain committed to the Paris Agreement goal to hold the global average temperature increase well below two degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

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