

COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN J&K: PM AT ALL-PARTY MEET



DETAILS ON PAGE 13

AFTER DRONE ATTACK, PM MODI DISCUSSES FUTURISTIC CHALLENGES IN DEFENCE SECTOR AT HIGH-LEVEL MEET

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other top bureaucrats to discuss the prevailing security issues the country is facing. Sources said the Prime Minister also held discussions on the “futuristic challenges in the defence sector and equipping the armed forces with modern equipment”.

The meeting took place two days after a drone was used in a bid to attack an Indian Air Force base in Jammu, which left two personnel injured. Such kind of threat is the beginning of a new security threat for the country. Both blasts took place within six minutes of each other, injuring two IAF personnel.

Earlier in the day, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took up the investigation into the drone attack on the Jammu Air Force station. On Monday, India had told the UN General Assembly that the possibility of the use of weaponized drones for terrorist activities against strategic and commercial assets calls for serious attention by the global community. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, V.S.K. Kaumudi, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, said, “Another add-on to existing worries is the use of drones”, explaining that they are a “low-cost option and easily available”.

The utilization of these aerial/sub-surface platforms for sinister purposes by terrorist groups, such as intelligence collection, weapon/explosives delivery and targeted attacks has become an imminent danger and challenge for security agencies worldwide, Kaumudi said.

Modi also discussed ways to promote startups and engage the youth in more research and development works. He took a stock of the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative with the involvement of industry, academia and startups.

INDIAN ARMY TO TEST DRONES FOR LOAD CARRYING IN KASHMIR

CHENNAI, (IANS) The Indian Army will carry out logistics trials in Kashmir with the drones of city based Garuda Aerospace. “The Indian Army has asked us to demonstrate the load carrying capabilities of drones in medium and high altitudes. The demonstration is being held at Gulmarg in Kashmir,” Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Managing Director, Garuda Aerospace, told IANS. According to Jayaprakash, the trials for the army will be held next month. The army has asked for drones with a capacity to carry 10 to 20 kg to higher altitude at a distance of five to ten kilometres. Last month, India's space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) trialed drone-based delivery of medicines, vegetables and spraying of disinfectants at its staff quarters located in rocket launch town Sriharikota. Similarly, Varanasi Smart City carried out public dissemination, sanitisation and medicine delivery operations on trial basis within Varanasi with Garuda Aerospace drones. According to Jayaprakash, different agencies are looking at the use of drones in their monitoring operations.

PANORAMA INDIA ANNOUNCES INDIA DAY 2021 GRAND CELEBRATIONS- FIRST-EVER UNIQUE AND HISTORICAL DRIVE-THRU PARADE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

With the support of the Consulate General of India, Toronto, Panorama India announces a first-ever and first of its kind, India Day Drive-Thru Parade 2021. **CONTD. ON PAGE 10**



PAKISTAN PM UNDER FIRE FOR 'WOMEN WEARING VERY FEW CLOTHES' REMARK



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan is facing protests and calls for a public apology after suggesting that there would be fewer sexual assaults if women dressed more modestly, Washington Post reported. **CONTD. ON PAGE 14**

16 PUNJABI CANADIANS CHARGED BY POLICE FOR THEFT

REGION OF PEEL – After a six-week investigation; Officers from the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have charged 16 parties with over 140 offences, including mail theft, fraud over \$5000, identity theft, uttering a forged document, possession of the stolen property, and possession of controlled substances. **CONTD. ON PAGE 8**

SANGITA SHARMA MURDER: PEEL POLICE ARRESTS 2 MORE SUSPECTS

Investigators from the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau arrested a third suspect in a 2020 murder investigation. Video footage of the alleged suspect is being released.

On Thursday, August 13, 2020, emergency services attended a residence on Treeline Boulevard in the City of Brampton. They located the victim, Sangita Sharma, a 56-year-old woman, suffering from a gunshot wound. After a lengthy investigation, on Friday June 4, 2021, members of the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau arrested Fiseha Girmay Habtegabir, a 19-year-old man from London, Ontario. On June 23, 2021, Malik Essue, a 22-year-old man also from London, Ontario, was arrested. Both men were charged with First Degree Murder, held for bail hearings, and appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. **CONTD. ON PAGE 7**



35 YEARS ON, AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182 BOMBING STILL REMEMBERED

On June 23, 1985, the bombing of Air India Flight 182 claimed the lives of 329 innocent people, including citizens of Canada, India, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries. PM Trudeau says, “This despicable act of terror remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canada's history. Sadly, it was not the last time Canada had to confront the malice of terrorism.” **CONTD. ON PAGE 8**

FOR PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN, HOLD TERRORISM SUPPORTERS ACCOUNTABLE: JAISHANKAR

UNITED NATIONS, (IANS) As Afghanistan prepares for the pullout of the US troops, peace there requires zero tolerance for terrorism and those supporting terrorists must be held accountable, according to India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.



CONTD. ON PAGE 12



EYEING PUNJAB POLLS, CM KEJRIWAL PROMISES 300 UNITS OF FREE POWER TO ALL

DETAILS ON PAGE 11



BSP TO CONTEST ASSEMBLY POLLS IN UTTAR PRADESH, UTTARAKHAND ALONE

DETAILS ON PAGE 4



NAVJOT SIDHU VS AMARINDER SINGH

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

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Community Update

William Osler Health System
Summer 2021



Message from
Osler President and CEO

The communities served by William Osler Health System (Osler) have been among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. These last few months have been exceptionally challenging but our health care heroes have been unwavering in their commitment to delivering compassionate, high-quality care for all our patients.

After a year like no other, we are proud to showcase some of the many remarkable moments of compassion and resilience in our newly-released online Annual Report.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our community, health care and government partners for all their support – from staff and physicians who took on different roles to help in so many ways, to partner hospitals that accepted the transfer of patients when we needed them most.

We look forward to what lies ahead and are proud to play a critical role in the vaccination of the residents in our community. The vaccines are our beacon of hope. We are also cautiously optimistic that we can begin to carefully and gradually resume some priority non-urgent surgeries and procedures. Given that we remain in one of Ontario’s COVID-19 hot spots, we know that our recovery may look very different from that of other hospitals and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

We are grateful for the support we have seen from our community and we are counting on everyone’s help to continue to work together to keep each other safe and come out the other side to better days.

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



Visiting our hospitals:
The truth behind the myths

Myth #1 – I’m going to catch COVID-19 if I go to the hospital.
Osler continues to be a safe place to come for care. We take every precaution to ensure the safety of everyone who comes through our doors including active screening, providing masks, enhanced cleaning practices, physical distancing and our limited visitor policy.

Myth #2 – I don’t need to go to the Emergency Department during the pandemic, I think my symptoms will go away.
If you have concerning health symptoms like chest pain, stroke symptoms, severe abdominal pain, bleeding that won’t stop with pressure, a mental health crisis or suicidal thoughts, please call 9-1-1 or go to your closest Emergency Department.



For more than a year, Osler’s staff, physicians and volunteers – our Health Care Heroes – have been at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing compassionate care for some of the hardest hit communities. **Now, they need you.**

Donations to the Osler Foundation *Compassion Fund* will support the most urgent wellness and respite needs of our Health Care Heroes, including on-site counselling, 24-hour respite resources and programs to keep them strong. The Compassion Fund will also support equipment needs, to ensure our heroes have the tools to continue delivering exceptional health care when you need it most.

Our Health Care Heroes are tired, but they are strong. **Now, you can be their hero.** Donate today to help them be strong for tomorrow: oslerfoundation.org/covid19

Osler COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic locations:

- **Brampton Civic Hospital, Auditorium**
2100 Bovaird Drive East, Brampton, Ontario
- **Century Gardens Recreation Centre**
340 Vodden Street East, Brampton, Ontario
- **Osler-Humber College COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**
207 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario

For more information about hours of operation and second dose eligibility, please visit williamoslerhs.ca/coronavirus



Dr. Frank Martino, Chief of Staff at William Osler Health System, administers the second COVID-19 vaccine shot to the Honourable William G. Davis, former Premier of Ontario.

More than **200,000** vaccine doses administered at Osler’s COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics to date.

Virtual Urgent Care Service

See an Osler physician for urgent health care needs from the comfort of your home

The service is intended for local residents with non-life threatening medical issues, such as:

Minor injuries including cuts, sprains, head injuries

New abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting

Cough, nasal congestion, cold symptoms

Patients will need to have a valid OHIP card and must be three months old or older.

Book an appointment or learn more:
www.williamoslerhs.ca/virtual-urgent-care

Osler’s Emergency Departments remain open 24/7 and anyone in need of emergency care should immediately come to the Emergency Department or call 9-1-1.



Osler is one of Canada’s largest community hospitals, serving diverse communities across Brampton, Etobicoke and surrounding areas. Together, we are bringing patient-centred health care to the forefront, using innovation, compassion and a safety-first mindset in our delivery of care.

If you are looking to join an organization dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment, providing best-in-class care and developing future leaders, come join our diverse team at Osler. View our available career opportunities at williamoslerhs.ca/careers

Together, we are Osler Strong.

In a year that tried to tear us apart, we came together and found the strength and resilience to be there for our patients, community and one another with courage and compassion.

This year’s Annual Report captures our extraordinary journey and shows how, in a year like no other, we came together to **Go Beyond.**

Visit www.oslerreport2020.com to read it!

Osler Strong
Going Beyond,
Together
Annual Report
2020-21

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX- STATES ELECTIONS, INDIA

BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY TO CONTEST ASSEMBLY
POLLS IN UTTAR PRADESH, UTTARAKHAND ALONE

LUCKNOW, (IANS) Bahujan Samaj Party President Mayawati has said that her party would contest the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand alone.

In a series of tweets on Sunday, she ruled out reports that the BSP would join hands with Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM in Uttar Pradesh.

"This news is being circulated that the AIMIM and BSP will fight the upcoming assembly elections in UP together. This news is completely false, misleading and baseless. There is not even an iota of truth in this, and BSP vehemently denies it," she said.

She further said that the BSP would like to clarify that, except for Punjab, the party will contest the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand alone.

The BSP and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) have allied to contest the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections.

The BSP, which stormed to power in 2007 by winning 206 seats, was left with just 80 seats in 2012.

In 2014, Mayawati's party did not win a single Lok Sabha seat, and in the 2017 Uttar Assembly elections, it bagged only 19 seats.

With BSP's support base dwindling over the years, the BJP and the Samajwadi Party have been trying to woo the Dalit voters ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2022.

In April, Akhilesh Yadav announced that Samajwadi Party (SP) will constitute a Baba Saheb Vahini named after Dalit icon Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

The Baba Saheb Vahini aims to bring Dalits into the Samajwadi fold and assure them protection against social exploitation.

The BJP has now announced that it will build a memorial in the name of Ambedkar.

The SP and BSP were allies in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

However, immediately after the Lok Sabha elections, Mayawati snapped ties with the party announcing that her party would never ally with SP again.

BJP WORKING TO BALANCE SOCIAL EQUATION IN UP

(IANS) Ahead of next year's Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is working on to balance the social equation in its favour by reaching out to all the castes and communities in the state.

The saffron camp believes that it will clear the air about the false narrative that the BJP is ignoring some communities or favouring some and so social equation will play an important role in next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls to repeat the party's 2017 performance.

Apart from some major caste groups, there are many who have influences in different parts of the state. "There are many sub-castes or communities having influence in few districts like big one having presence across the state. These small groups will be playing a crucial role deciding results in seats of their influence. Every caste and community is important and we are trying to reach them," a senior Uttar Pradesh BJP leader said.

INDIAN ARMY TO TEST DRONES FOR LOAD CARRYING IN KASHMIR

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According to Jayaprakash, the trails for the army will be held next month. The army has asked for drones with a capacity to carry 10 to 20 kg to higher altitude at a distance of five to ten kilometres.

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According to Jayaprakash, different agencies are looking at the use of drones in their monitoring operations.

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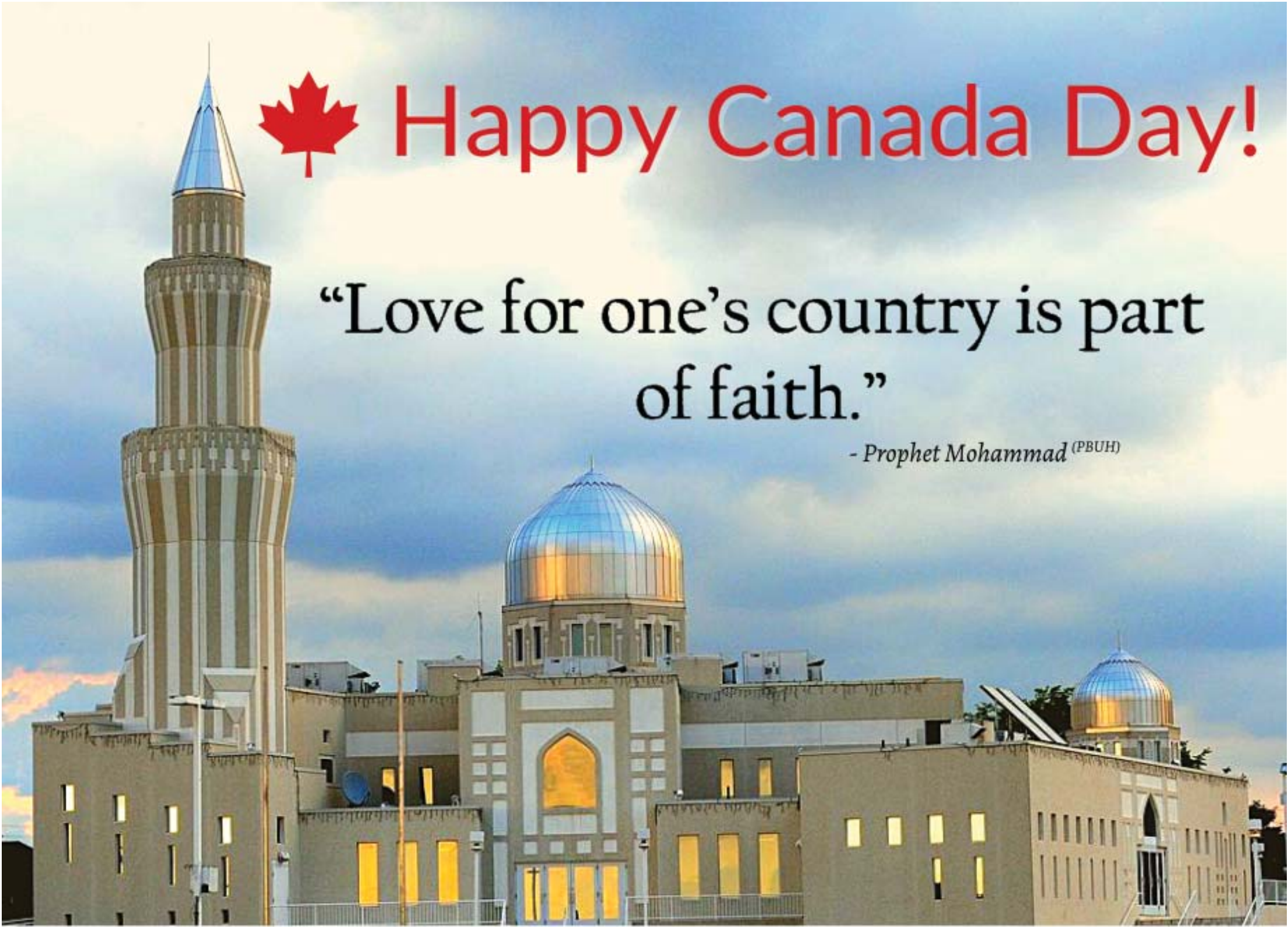
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Ontario enters Step 2 on June 30th

Learn more at ontario.ca/reopen

Over 70% of adults have one dose
Over 20% are fully vaccinated

Continuing improvements in key public health and health care indicators

Small indoor social gatherings permitted

Small, well-managed crowds, with restrictions including capacity limits

Limited indoor services begin to reopen

With restrictions, including capacity limits, for small numbers of people indoors

Expanding outdoor activities

Larger outdoor gatherings, events and attractions with restrictions

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

ONTARIO MOVING TO STEP TWO OF ROADMAP TO REOPEN ON JUNE 30

TORONTO — With key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve, the province-wide vaccination rate now surpassing the targets outlined in the province’s Roadmap to Reopen, and on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is moving the province into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

“Because of the tireless work of our health care heroes, and the record-setting success of our vaccine rollout, we are able to move into Step Two ahead of schedule on June 30 with the support of our public health experts,” said Premier Doug Ford. “We are proceeding safely with the re-opening of our province and will continue to work around the clock until the job is done.”

In order to enter Step Two of the Roadmap, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 70 per cent of adults with one dose and 20 per cent with two doses for at least two weeks, ensuring a strong level of protection against COVID-19. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Ontario’s health care partners, as of June 23, 2021, over 76 per cent of the population in Ontario ages 18 and over have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and over 29 per cent have received their second dose. More than 13.3 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered province-wide.

Before entering Step Two, the province also needed to see continued improvement in key public health and health care indicators, including hospitalizations, ICU occupancy and the weekly cases incidence rates. After entering Step One, during the period of June 11 to 17, 2021, the provincial case rate decreased by 24.6 per cent. As of June 22, the number of patients with COVID-19 in ICUs is 305, including 10 patients from Manitoba, as compared to 450 two weeks ago. The province expects these positive trends to continue over the coming days before entering Step Two. “Due to a continued improvement in key indicators, Ontario is ready to enter Step Two of our Roadmap, allowing us to safely and gradually ease public health measures while continuing to stop the spread of COVID-19,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy

- **Ontario will move into Step 2 of its 'Roadmap to Reopen' on June 30.**
- **All Ontarians 18+ who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) can book second dose of vaccine appointment.**
- **More than 77% Canadians inoculated with one-dose of Covid19 vaccine, over 26% fully vaccinated.**
- **Ontario has administered 14 million Covid-19 vaccine doses; over 4 million Ontarians fully vaccinated to date.**
- **In August, Ontario permits boards to welcome students back into the classroom for summer learning.**
- **Covid survivors may take a year to get back taste, smell: Study.**

Premier and Minister of Health. “Thank you to the Ontarians who rolled up their sleeves to help us reach this exciting milestone. Every dose administered brings us one step closer to the things we’ve missed, so please sign up to receive the vaccine when it’s your turn.” Step Two of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of more outdoor activities and limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn, with other restrictions in place. This includes, but is not limited to: Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people; Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 5 people; Essential and other select retail permitted at 50 per cent capacity;

‘DELTA VARIANT GREATEST THREAT TO US, ACCOUNTS FOR 20% OF COVID CASES’: DR. ANTHONY FAUCI



WASHINGTON, (IANS) The Delta variant has emerged as the greatest threat to the efforts of combatting the coronavirus pandemic in the US as it now accounts for more than 20 per cent of cases in the country, top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci has said. “As was the case with B117 — we seem to be following the pattern with the Delta variant, with a doubling time of about two weeks if you look from the May 8th with 1.2, to 2.7, to 9.9, and as of a couple of days ago, 20.6 per cent of the isolates are Delta,” Fauci said at a White House briefing on Tuesday.

“Similar to the situation in the UK, the Delta variant is currently the greatest threat in the US to our attempt to eliminate Covid-19,” he added. US President Joe Biden had earlier set a target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the country’s adult population with at least one dose by July 4. However, it looks like the country may narrowly miss the target. Currently, 65 per cent of the adult population has gotten at least one shot and 56 per cent are fully vaccinated, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At current rates, the US is on track to get to about 67 per cent of people with at least one shot by July 4. “Our aspirational goal for July 4th was 70 per cent of the adult population receiving at least one dose, but that is not the goal line, nor is it the endgame. The endgame is to go well beyond that, beyond July 4th, into the summer and beyond, with the ultimate goal of crushing the outbreak completely in the United States,” Fauci said. Under-vaccinated people, particularly the young individuals between 18 and 26 are the main obstacles for that, said Fauci, who is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Further, he said that the Delta variant is a growing threat and is more transmissible than the original Covid virus and Alpha variant. “The transmissibility is unquestionably greater than the wild-type SARS-CoV-2, as well as the Alpha variant. It is associated with increased disease severity, as reflected by hospitalization risk, compared to Alpha. And in lab tests, associated with modestly decreased neutralization by sera from previously infected and vaccinated individuals,” Fauci noted.

However, the good news is that the vaccines Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca are effective against the Delta variant, said the 80-year-old Coronavirus pandemic advisor to the US President. “The effectiveness of the vaccines — in this case, two weeks after the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech — was 88 per cent effective against the Delta and 93 per cent effective against the Alpha when you’re dealing with symptomatic disease.

Happy Canada Day

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Happy Canada Day



Maninder Sidhu, MP
Member of Parliament
Brampton East



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NIRAV MODI LOSES FIRST STAGE OF EXTRADITION APPEAL IN UK COURT

LONDON, (IANS) Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who is wanted in India in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, has lost the first stage of his extradition appeal in the UK High Court. An official of the high court confirmed that the permission to appeal was “rejected on paper” on Tuesday. The latest rejection leaves Nirav Modi with one chance to make his case at a brief oral hearing in the high court with a renewed “leave to appeal” application for a judge to determine if it can proceed to a full appeal hearing. Nirav Modi has five business days to apply for such an oral consideration, giving him time until next week. The appeal was filed before a high court judge for a decision “on the papers” submitted for the appeal to determine if there are any grounds for an appeal against the Home Secretary’s decision or the Westminster Magistrates Court’s February ruling in favour of Nirav Modi’s extradition to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering. Nirav Modi’s extradition to India was ordered on April 16 this year by UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in the Rs 13,500 crore PNB fraud case. He has been lodged in a prison in London since his arrest in March 2019. On February 25 this year, a UK court had allowed the extradition of Nirav Modi to India. Nirav Modi is facing a probe by the CBI for a large-scale fraud upon PNB through fraudulently obtaining LoUs or loan agreements. He is also being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case related to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud.

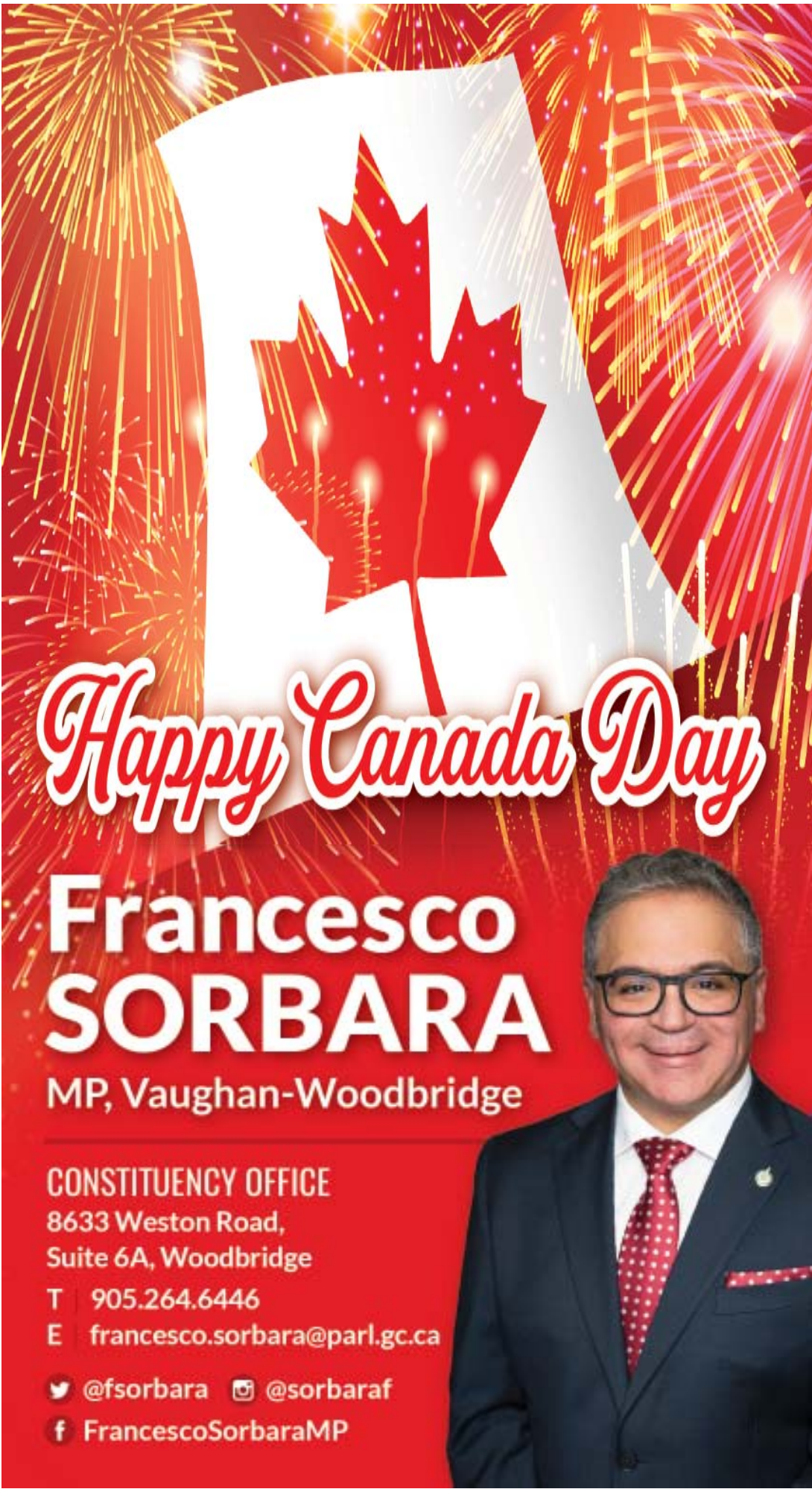


Pakistan remains in FATF grey list, hit by \$38B loss

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Pakistan has been hit with massive losses to its GDP worth \$38 billion because of the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) decision to retain the country on its grey list since 2008, according to a research paper published by the Islamabad-based independent think-tank, Tabadlab. The paper titled, “Bearing the cost of global politics -- the impact of FATF grey-listing on Pakistan’s economy”, has been authored by Naafey Sardar. This comes against the backdrop of a fresh grey listing tag for Pakistan. Pakistan was retained on the grey list, or list of countries under “increased monitoring”, as the Paris-based UN watchdog judged it deficient in prosecuting the top leadership of UN Security Council-designated terror groups. The list includes Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e Mohammad, Al Qaeda and the Taliban. As per the paper, results suggest that FATF grey-listing, starting in 2008 and till 2019, may have resulted in cumulative real GDP losses of approximately \$38 billion. Moreover, estimates indicate that a large proportion of this response (58 per cent) was driven by reduction in consumption expenditures (both household and government). Exports and inward foreign direct investment are also partially responsible for this decline in GDP, with associated cumulative losses of \$4.5 billion and \$3.6 billion respectively. These results point to the significant negative consequences associated with FATF grey-listing.

Edgy Pak relies on Taliban as anti-India element in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Pakistan’s security establishment, fearful of strategic encirclement by India, apparently continues to view the Afghan Taliban as a relatively friendly and reliably anti-India element in Afghanistan, as per a brief prepared by the US Congressional Research Service. The document on US policy in Afghanistan says Pakistan’s security services maintain ties to Afghan insurgent groups, most notably the Haqqani Network. Afghan leaders, along with US military commanders, have attributed much of the insurgency’s power and longevity either directly or indirectly to Pakistani support. Despite official Pakistani leadership’s statements to the contrary, Islamabad may view a weak and destabilized Afghanistan as preferable to a strong, unified Afghan state (particularly one led by an ethnic Pashtun-dominated government in Kabul; Pakistan has a large and restive Pashtun minority), the brief said. Afghanistan-Pakistan relations are further complicated by the presence of over one million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, as well as a long-running and ethnically tinged dispute over their shared 1,600-mile border. “Pakistan’s security establishment, fearful of strategic encirclement by India, apparently continues to view the Afghan Taliban as a relatively friendly and reliably anti-India element in Afghanistan”, it added. “India’s diplomatic and commercial presence in Afghanistan-and US rhetorical support for it-exacerbates Pakistani fears of encirclement. India has been the largest regional contributor to Afghan reconstruction, but New Delhi has not shown an inclination to pursue a deeper defense relationship with Kabul,” the brief said.




Happy Canada Day

Francesco SORBARA

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AS WE REFLECT ON THE PAST AND WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER CANADA, LET'S ALSO CELEBRATE

- delivering millions of dose of safe, free, and effective vaccine every week
- rebuilding a greener and more inclusive Canada
- investing in our communities and a robust economic recovery

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SETS MANDATORY TARGET FOR ALL NEW LIGHT-DUTY CARS & PASSENGER TRUCKS SALES TO BE ZERO-EMISSION BY 2035

To build a cleaner, more prosperous economy that fights climate change and creates good jobs, the Government of Canada is taking action to cut pollution from all sectors of the economy – including from the transportation sector, which accounts for one-quarter of our greenhouse gas emissions.

The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, and the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, announced that the Government of Canada is setting a mandatory target for all new light-duty cars and passenger trucks sales to be zero-emission by 2035, accelerating Canada’s previous goal of 100 percent sales by 2040.

Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport said, “Only bold climate policies lead to bold results. Through measures aimed at accelerating the transition to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles sales, we will continue building a cleaner and more resilient economy, while also creating good jobs and opportunities for all Canadians. We will also continue to support the automotive sector, including through our investment of \$8 billion to accelerate the industrial transition thanks to the Net Zero Accelerator.”

To ensure Canada gets to this goal, and to provide certainty about the pathway to get there, the Government of Canada will pursue a combination of investments and regulations to help Canadians and industry transition to achieve the 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035. It will work also with partners to develop interim 2025 and 2030 targets, and additional mandatory measures that may be needed beyond Canada’s light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emissions regulations. “This initiative is another great example on the way in which the Government of Canada leads by example when it comes to building a climate-resilient economy. Public Services and Procurement Canada is proud to advance the procurement and installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations infrastructure at federal buildings and we will continue to support the conversion of our government’s fleets to zero-emission vehicles,” said Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement.

Today’s announcement is coupled with existing measures to support increased zero-emission vehicle adoption – from incentives that help with the upfront costs of zero-emission vehicles, to investments in zero-emission charging infrastructure, to partnerships with auto manufacturers which are helping them re-tool and produce zero-emission vehicles right here in Canada. Taken together, the government is setting the country on a clear path towards Canada’s new 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales goal and a prosperous net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

“Cutting our transportation emissions is one of the most readily achievable and economically beneficial paths Canada can take on the road to net-zero emissions by 2050. That’s why we are committed to aligning Canada’s zero-emission vehicles sales targets with those of the most ambitious North American jurisdictions. We will work with the United States to harmonize performance-based greenhouse gas regulations and greenhouse gas emission standards. We’re investing in consumer rebates, charging stations, business tax breaks and industry transition costs to make the shift to zero-emission vehicles as seamless as possible for drivers, workers and entre-



preneurs,” said Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

The Government of Canada also remains committed to aligning with the most ambitious light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission regulations in the United States. Supporting a strong and unified North American automotive sector to transition towards zero-emission vehicles contributes to Canada’s climate change goals, and positions Canadian and American workers alike to benefit economically from this global shift.

Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Natural Resources Canada said , “Today, we take another important step on the road to net zero by accelerating our zero-emission vehicle targets to 2035. Achieving this target will require all Canadians, and businesses big and small, to embrace the change and go electric. That is why we will continue to invest in measures that put Canadians in the driver’s seat to a net zero future.”

Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage said, “Transportation accounts for one-quarter of Canada’s emissions. The Advisory Council on Climate Action, which I co-chaired, made the uptake of zero emission vehicles across Canada a key element of its recommendations in 2019. By increasing our ambitions on zero-emission vehicles, and by taking the measures needed to achieve them, we’re joining an increasing number of other jurisdictions, including Quebec, which have set 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales targets. This important additional step today will help meet our goal of net zero emissions by 2050.”

Quick facts

Canada’s accelerated zero-emission vehicle sales target will support the new 2030 climate reduction targets, which are 40 percent to 45 percent below 2005 levels. With light-duty vehicles remaining in service for about 15 years, requiring 100 percent of vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035 will also help put Canada on a path to achieving its long-term goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

Today’s announcement will bring the Government of Canada’s level of ambition on zero-emission vehicles in line with other leading jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom, and California. Within Canada, British Columbia and Quebec have also set 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales requirements.

Following the United States announcement, the Government of Canada will complete consultations with Indigenous Peoples, other levels of government and stakeholders to confirm Canada’s approach to ensure we meet 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales target by 2035.

The Government of Canada will assess whether alignment with these regulations enables Canada to meet its more ambitious zero-emission vehicles sales target, or whether additional mandatory measures are required. Building on ongoing stakeholder engagement on zero-emission vehicles held to date, the Government will consult industry, non-governmental organizations, and other levels of governments on its approach to meet its 100 percent zero-emission vehicle sales target by 2035. These consultations will include engaging Inuit and Northern communities to address barriers to zero-emission vehicle uptake in remote regions.

To date, the Government has invested more than \$1 billion in measures to support increasing zero-emission vehicle adoption, including:

Providing \$587 million towards Transport Canada’s Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles program, which has helped over 92,000 Canadians and Canadian businesses make the switch to zero-emission vehicles; and

Providing more than \$460 million to support the build out of a coast-to-coast network of electric vehicle fast chargers, electric vehicle chargers where Canadians live, work and play, natural gas stations along key freight corridors, and hydrogen stations in metropolitan centres. To date these investments have supported projects that will result in more than 16,500 new electric vehicle chargers, 10 hydrogen stations, and 20 natural gas stations.

The auto industry is investing hundreds of billions of dollars to accelerate their vehicle electrification plans, including recent commitments to re-tool several Canadian factories to build zero-emission vehicles.

The Government of Canada has also introduced new measures to support Canada’s automotive sector transition to zero-emission vehicles, including a 50 percent corporate tax cut for businesses manufacturing zero-emission vehicles and components in Canada.

The \$8 billion Strategic Innovation Fund – Net Zero Accelerator is advancing projects that will help decarbonize heavy industry, support clean technologies and help meaningfully accelerate domestic greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030, including in the auto-manufacturing sector.

The Government of Canada is making investments to support the transformation towards electrification, including \$295 million to the Ford Motor Company of Canada’s \$1.8 billion project to build electric vehicles at its Oakville Assembly Complex.

As the common service provider for the Government of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) leads and enables greening government operations, and will lead the procurement of electrical fleet vehicles as well as the procurement and installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations infrastructure in federal buildings. PSPC will run a pathfinder project over the coming years to support the greater deployment of zero-emission vehicles infrastructure, with the installation of chargers in crown-owned (and lease purchase) buildings with floor areas greater than 500 m2, which is required to meet the Government’s greening government zero-emission vehicles targets. The procurement and installation of zero-emission vehicles infrastructure at crown-owned federal buildings’ parking areas will prioritize the charging of the federal fleet, and make the overflow available to visitors seeking services from provided service counters to charge their personal vehicles.

SANGITA SHARMA MURDER: PEEL POLICE ARRESTS 2 MORE SUSPECTS



Malik Essue

Abdulla Kaddoura

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

On June 29, 2021, investigators located a third suspect in London, Ontario. With the assistance of London Police Service, Abdulla Kaddoura, a 28-year-old man from London, Ontario, was arrested and charged for First Degree Murder. He appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on June 30, 2021, for a bail hearing.

“Violent crime is a priority for our community and we are committed to preventing it whenever possible. When this isn’t possible, we are devoted to ensuring those responsible are held accountable. This is a complex investigation which continues along with our investigators devotion to ensuring justice and answers for Sangita Sharma’s loved ones,” said Deputy Chief Nick Milinovich.

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SIKH LEADERS MEET UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS G. KISHAN REDDY OVER CONVERSION OF SIKH GIRLS IN KASHMIR

NEW DELHI, (IANS) A delegation of Sikh leaders on Tuesday met Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy over the recent incident of forcible religious conversion of two Sikh girls in the Kashmir valley and submitted a memorandum in this regard. The delegation led by BJP national spokesperson, Sardar R.P. Singh demanded action over the forced conversion of Sikh girls to which the minister has assured necessary action.

“The delegation submitted a memorandum about the alleged forced conversion and wedding of Sikh girls in Kashmir. I will discuss the matter with the Union Home Minister about the action that is required to be taken,” Reddy said after meeting with the delegation. Singh said that the delegation demanded a law in Jammu & Kashmir to protect girls of the Sikh community from forceful conversion. “Kashmir is not Pakistan where Sikhs can be forced to convert, we won’t allow this to happen. Jathedar Akal Takht Sahib has written a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to bring a law against ‘Love Jihad’. He should write a similar letter to the Punjab Chief Minister against religious conversion in the state,” Singh said.

Secretary, Delhi BJP, Impreet Singh Bakshi, who was also part of the delegation, said, “We requested the Minister of State for Home Affairs to bring an ordinance against conversion and he assured proper action.”



16 PUNJABI CANADIANS CHARGED BY POLICE FOR THEFT

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

As investigators scrutinized over 100 reports of mail thefts and mischiefs in the Region of Peel between January and April of 2021, they discovered links to numerous parties residing in Brampton. In May 2021, investigators began collaborating with their partners at Canada Post, Halton Regional Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, and numerous financial institutions.

Investigators learned that the accused parties would allegedly steal mail by breaking into Canada Post mailboxes or individual roadside residential mailboxes targeting cheques, credit cards, and identification documents. The accused’s would then allegedly alter and deposit the stolen cheques into various banks before withdrawing the funds fraudulently.

By Wednesday, May 19, 2021, investigators began arresting the accused parties. On Wednesday, June 16 and 17, 2021, two search warrants were conducted at residences in Brampton, where officers located hundreds of pieces of mail, stolen/altered cheques, printers, scanners, and other tools used to forge documents. Throughout the six weeks, investigators also located six stolen vehicles used by suspects involved in mail thefts. The below residents of Brampton, Mississauga, and York Region have all been charged for various offences.

Gurdeep Bains, a 46-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Theft of Mail, Fraud over \$5000, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Possession of Forgery Instruments, Breach (x3), Possession of Identity Documents (x6), Possession of Credit Card Data (x10), Utter Forged Document and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Hartinder Randhawa, a 37-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Theft of Mail (x3), Fraud Over, Utter Forged Document, Possess Identity Documents (x2), Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Instruments of Forgery, Possess Credit Card Data (x4), Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Fraud over \$5000, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Utter Forged Document and Breach of Court Order.

Taranjeet Virk, a 37-year-old man from Woodbridge is charged with the following:

Fraud Over Utter Forged Document, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2).

Harmeet Khakh, a 28-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of Counterfeit Currency

Gurdip Singh, a 28-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (x2), Obstruct Police, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2).

Harjinder Singh, a 31-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the

following:

Possession of Stolen Property (x3), Breach of a court order (x3), Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Fail to Stop at the Scene of an Accident, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x3)

Possession of Credit Card Data, Possess Identity Document (x3).

Gurkamal Mehmi, a 38-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of Stolen Property, Possession for the Purpose (x2) and Trafficking a Controlled Substance (x2).

Gurvinder Kang, a 38-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Breach of a court order (x3), Possession of Stolen Property, Fraud over \$5000, Breach (x2), Theft of Mail, Utter Forged Document, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2).

Gurpreet Singh, a 21-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Theft Under (x2), Breach of Court Order, Possession stolen property x5, Fraud x5, Utter Forged Document, Possession of Instruments of Forgery, Making a False Document, Identity Fraud and Obstruct Police.

Suhail Kumar, a 21-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Theft of Mail, Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (x2).

Rattan Preetam, a 26-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Breach of Court Order.

Rupinder Sharma a 25-year-old from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

Joga Singh a 30-year-old from Toronto is charged with the following:

Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

Varinderpal Kooner, a 43-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Breach (x2), Possession of Stolen Property (x4), Possession of Instruments of Forgery and Making a False Document. Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Possession of Identity Documents, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Credit Card Data and Breach of Court Order (x2). Two outstanding arrest warrants for property and fraud-related offences were also executed.

Harman Singh, a 21-year-old man from Brampton is charged with the following:

Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2) and Breach of a Court Order.

Kuldeep Sandhara, a 27-year-old from Brampton was charged as a result of an outstanding warrant for robbery-related offences.

Further arrests and charges are anticipated in relation to this investigation.

35 YEARS ON, AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182 BOMBING STILL REMEMBERED

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

From the attack at the National War Memorial and Parliament Hill in 2014 to the most recent deadly hate crime targeting a Muslim family in London, Ontario, our country and world continue to suffer from the devastating consequences of terrorist acts. “Terrorists seek to instill fear in Canadians, divide us, and make us question our democratic institutions through their cowardly acts of violence. We must continue to address racism, misogyny, hatred, and intolerance in our society, and uphold the values of diversity, inclusion, and pluralism - values that are stronger than fear, hatred, and intolerance.

“Canada condemns all forms of terrorism. We will continue to work closely with our allies and international partners to prevent radicalization to violence, to modernize and enhance our security efforts, defend peace and justice, and promote human rights both at home and abroad. As part of our commitment to the Christchurch Call to Action, Canada and other countries are stepping up efforts to halt the spread of violent extremist and terrorist content online and to strengthen the resilience and inclusiveness of our societies against terrorist and violent extremist ideologies. “On behalf of the Government of Canada, Sophie and I extend our deepest sympathies to all those who have lost a loved one to or been harmed by terrorism. We also acknowledge the many community leaders across the country - from teachers to faith leaders - who continue to work to bring people together and to prevent radicalization to violence. And we thank our women and men in uniform, diplomats, as well as the security, intelligence, and law enforcement community in Canada and around the world who work hard every day, often at great personal risk, to keep us all safe and make Canada and the world a better place.”

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALLISTON LAUNCHES ITS LATEST FUNDRAISING EVENT, THE RUN4YOUTH, SOUTH SIMCOE

The Rotary Club of Alliston is pleased to announce the launch of its latest fundraising event, the Run4Youth, South Simcoe. This is a community participation event whose goal is to raise funding for youth mental health, which has suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns. Net proceeds from the event will go to support the important work of two organizations serving at-risk youth in South Simcoe – New Path Youth & Family Services and Youth Haven.

“The pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of young people,” explained Louise Jones, Director of Fund Development at Youth Haven. “Through our helplines, we are witnessing increased stress, anxiety and depression in young people as a result of the current crisis. Social isolation, the disruption of routine, health fears, and families under duress are all factors that are leading to increased mental health challenges, especially during an already vulnerable time of their life.” George Scott, President of the Rotary Club of Allison, outlined the virtual program: “Run4Youth, South Simcoe invites people of all ages to run, walk, hike or bike any distance they choose on any day or days between the 1st of July and the 30th of September. They can raise pledges from friends and business associates to support their efforts or make their own donations. Anyone raising \$200 or more will earn a swag bag of goodies and all participants receive an event reflective wristband.” He continued: “We invite every resident of South Simcoe to join in. You’ll not only be showing your support for the community, but outdoor exercise is also a great way to relieve pressure and stress. To register, buy your ticket for as little as \$15, or \$30 for a family, with group discounts also available, at <https://runforyouth.ca>.

And go to www.Strava.ca to download the app and search under Clubs for Run4Youth South Simcoe to engage with other participants and track your progress.” The title sponsor for the event is Flato Developments Inc., a community-focused home builder with current projects in Beeton, Markham, Caledon, Brampton and Dundalk.

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Ontario's Premier Doug Ford received his second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine at an Etobicoke pharmacy (Doug Ford/ Twitter).

‘RETAIL SALES WERE DOWN 5.7% TO \$54.8 BILLION IN APRIL’: STATISTICS CANADA

Retail sales were down 5.7% to \$54.8 billion in April. The decline coincided with the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and was the largest decline in retail sales since April 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic. The largest declines were observed in clothing and clothing accessories stores (-28.6%) and general merchandise stores (-8.1%). Sales decreased in 9 of 11 subsectors, representing 74.2% of retail trade. Core retail sales—which exclude gasoline stations and motor vehicle and parts dealers—decreased 7.6%. In volume terms, retail sales decreased 5.6% in April. Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, provincial governments continued to enact public health measures in several regions across the country, which directly affected the retail sector. In light of continuing restrictions, both retailers and consumers have adapted to these business conditions. Based on respondent feedback, 5.0% of retailers were closed at some point in April, compared with approximately one-third of retailers being closed at the same time last year. The average length of the shutdown was one day, compared with eight days in April 2020. Despite these challenging times, most respondents reported their sales figures and Statistics Canada thanks them for their continued collaboration. Given the rapidly evolving economic situation, Statistics Canada is providing an advance estimate of retail sales, which suggests that sales declined 3.2% in May. Owing to its preliminary nature, this figure will be revised. This unofficial estimate was calculated based on responses received from 62% of companies surveyed. The average final response rate for the survey over the previous 12 months has been 91%. Core retail sales fell 7.6% in April, the largest decline in a year and second-largest decline on record. The decline was concentrated in those retailers deemed “non-essential,” with all store types except food and beverage stores (+0.6%) and miscellaneous store retailers (+0.9%) posting declines. Sales at clothing and clothing accessories stores fell 28.6% in April. The decline was led by lower sales at clothing stores (-31.3%) and shoe stores (-32.1%). In April, 22.0% of clothing and clothing accessories stores were closed for an average of five days. This represented a widespread re-closing of stores, as 5.1% of clothing and clothing accessories stores reported closures in March. Sales declined by 8.1% at general merchandise stores. This was the largest decline since the onset of the pandemic in April 2020. Despite the decline in



sales, only 0.6% of general merchandise stores were closed during April. Stores may have been impacted in other ways such as restrictions on the types of products they could sell. Sales at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers declined for the first time in nine months (-10.4%). Despite the decline, sales remained above levels reached in February 2021. The decline comes after record sales of hardware, tools, and renovation and lawn and garden products in March. **Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations fall for the first time in four months** Sales fell by 1.4% at motor vehicle and parts dealers. Sales were down in all four subsectors, led by new car dealers (-1.1%) and automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (-3.5%). Sales at gasoline stations fell 4.1% in April. Gasoline prices were on the rise in April, in part due to production cuts by OPEC+ countries (countries from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus). In volume terms, sales at gasoline stations declined 3.5%. **Sales down in seven provinces** In Ontario, sales declined 13.4%, the largest decline since the onset of the pandemic in April 2020. Sales declined 8.7% in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Toronto, whereas sales fell by 16.3% in the rest of the province. The decline in sales was largest at general merchandise stores and clothing and clothing accessories stores. Quebec (-1.8%) posted the second largest provincial decline. In the CMA of Montréal, sales fell 0.3%, and in the rest of Quebec, sales declined 3.1%.

ONTARIO BREAKS GROUND ON FIRST OF FOUR PRIORITY SUBWAY PROJECTS

SCARBOROUGH SUBWAY EXTENSION WILL BRING FAST AND CONVENIENT SERVICE FROM KENNEDY STATION TO SHEPPARD AVENUE AND MCCOWAN ROAD

TORONTO: The Ontario government has officially broken ground on the future three-stop Scarborough Subway Extension, marking the start of construction on the largest subway expansion in Canadian history. The new subway extension will deliver better, faster and more reliable transit that the people of Scarborough need and deserve. "For far too many decades, the people of Scarborough have waited for better transit. Today, our government is getting shovels in the ground and delivering on our election promise to bring fast, convenient subway service into Scarborough," said Premier Ford. "This long overdue project will create thousands of jobs, significantly increase ridership capacity and cut down daily travel times for more than a hundred thousand Scarborough commuters." In May, the province announced that Strabag was the winning team to design and deliver the tunneling work for the Scarborough Subway Extension. With preparatory work now complete, the experienced Strabag team will build the launch shaft, where the tunnel boring machine will be lowered into the ground to start tunnelling the extension next year. "Since our government took office, we have prioritized building much-needed transit for the people of Ontario. Our multibillion-dollar priority subway projects for the Greater Toronto Area will not only deliver improved transit but spur economic activity and help support our recovery efforts as the province looks towards a more prosperous and brighter future," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "Both the federal and municipal governments have endorsed Premier Ford's historic subway plan, and Ontario is now pushing full steam ahead." The project is estimated to support as many as 3,000 jobs annually during construction and unlock better access to employment spaces, schools and other key destinations throughout the city for Scarborough residents. To expedite work on the Scarborough Subway Extension, tunnelling for the 7.8-kilometre extension from Kennedy Station to McCowan Road and Sheppard Avenue will take place first. Advanced tunnelling will be followed by contracts for the balance of

the work. "Our government tabled a very clear plan to deliver better, faster transit for neighbourhoods that have long been neglected. Scarborough was at the top of our list," said Stan Cho, Associate Minister of Transportation. "This ground-breaking is about our government's unwavering commitment to get critical transit built faster to make life easier and more affordable for Ontarians." In April 2019, the province announced its historic new transit vision for the Greater Toronto Area, with a preliminary estimated cost of \$28.5 billion. In addition to the Scarborough Subway Extension, this plan includes the all-new Ontario Line, the Eglinton Cross-town West Extension and the Yonge North Subway Extension. Last month, the federal government endorsed Premier Ford's historic transit plan and agreed to pay their 40 per cent share, up to \$10.7 billion, of Ontario's four nationally significant subway projects. **Quick Facts** * The Scarborough Subway Extension will extend the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) Line 2 7.8 km further into Scarborough, with stations at Lawrence Avenue and McCowan Road, Scarborough Centre, and Sheppard Avenue and McCowan Road. * It is expected that the extension will provide an estimated 38,000 people with walking distance access to rapid transit and see 105,000 daily boardings by 2041. * The project is estimated to support as many as 3,000 jobs annually during construction. * The extension is estimated to reduce the number of vehicle kilometres travelled during rush hour by 30,000 km, significantly reducing traffic congestion and auto-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 10,000 tonnes annually. " In July 2020, the Building Transit Faster Act became law, providing the province with the tools to expedite the planning, design and construction process of the four priority transit projects. " The 2021 Ontario Budget, outlines the province's investment of \$61.6 billion over 10 years to build new and expanded transit infrastructure across Ontario.

PROJECT TAKE-OVER: 70 ARRESTED, 61 CARS CONFISCATED IN YORK POLICE'S ORGANIZED STREET RACING & STUNT DRIVING BUST



York Regional Police, in partnership with Peel Regional Police, the Toronto Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police, has laid hundreds of charges, impounded more than 60 vehicles and arrested 70 people in Project Takeover, a joint-forces initiative focused on organized street racing and stunt driving. In 2020, police organizations across the Greater Toronto (GTA) area saw a significant increase in street racing and stunt driving incidents. Officers determined that these groups were highly organized. They planned and promoted these events, including ways to avoid detection and law enforcement. In January 2021, police identified several groups involved in the organization of these illegal gatherings, stunting and street races. Project Takeover was launched in May 2021, led by York Regional Police but working closely with partnering police agencies in order to work beyond jurisdictional boundaries. This project was intelligence-led, using an investigative approach, aimed at dismantling these groups and disrupting the dangerous activities occurring across the GTA. Suspects were identified utilizing covert and overt surveillance, gathering intelligence and using specialized equipment like the York Regional Police helicopter, Air2. Between May 1 and June 24, 2021, officers arrested 70 people, laid 67 criminal charges, 279 provincial offences charges, impounded 61 vehicles and issued 57 licence suspensions. These drivers should know that we are, as police services, willing and able to change our investigative techniques and our enforcement focus to combat these groups, no matter how they try to adapt. Beyond Project Takeover, York Regional Police and our partners across the GTA are committed to keeping the pressure on as we move into the summer with Project ERASE – Eliminate Racing Activities on Streets Everywhere. Police services across the GTA have operated Project ERASE every summer for many years and this will continue throughout the summer and fall. Street racing groups are known to move locations frequently, so partnerships are crucial among law enforcement agencies as well as partnerships within our community. Members of the community are encouraged to help us stop street racing by calling the police immediately if you see dangerous driving behaviours on the road that could jeopardize the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$300,000 TO COMBAT ISLAMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS



TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing in a plan to counter Islamophobia and ensure classrooms are free from discrimination. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and Kaleed Rasheed, MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville and Associate Minister of Digital Government, announced that in collaboration with community partners, funding will be provided for initiatives to support Muslim students and families with an emphasis on enhancing resources and training for educators, targeted supports for students, and digital resources for parents. "Every student deserves the opportunity to learn and succeed in our schools, free from Islamophobia and any kind of hate or discrimination. Our government is committed to investing in initiatives that support our young people and work to ensure they feel safe and are successful, no matter their background," said Parm Gill, Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship. According to the most up-to-date data from Statistics Canada, hate crimes have been on the rise in Canada, with a nine per cent increase in anti-Muslim attacks in 2019, when compared to the previous year. Tragic and disturbing reports and incidents across Canada and the world over the past years underscore the need for action. "It is unacceptable that many Muslim students continue to face discrimination in our schools, on our playgrounds and in communities across this country," said Minister Lecce. "That is why we are investing and partnering with community leaders — who are leading this effort — to counter racism and better support Ontario's Muslim students and their families. For Premier Ford, Minister Rasheed and myself, we believe in our core that every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and engaged in learning in inclusive classrooms." Kaleed Rasheed, MPP for Mississauga East-Cooksville and Associate Minister of Digital Government, "No parent wants their child to experience the pain and humiliation of discrimination at any time, and especially not in the classroom. These initiatives in our schools and communities will help ensure that our students can thrive in an environment free of discrimination, so they can focus on learning and growing. We are sending a strong message that hate speech, bigotry, racism or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated in Ontario's public schools and I thank the Minister for taking decisive action in this regard. " As part of the Safe Return to Class fund, Ontario's government is providing \$225,000 to the Muslim Association of Canada to create digital resources for educators, students and parents to raise awareness about Islamophobia. These resources will provide information about Islamic practices, values and misconceptions, root causes of Islamophobia and ways to help end Islamophobia, racism and discrimination.



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DRIVE-THRU INDIA DAY 2021 PARADE 2021
Sunday, 15th August 2021

FIRST TIME EVER

FREE ENTRY REGISTRATION
Link to Follow

Date & Time
Sunday, 15th August 2021
11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Location:
PARAMOUNT FINE FOODS CENTRE
5500 Rose Cherry Pl, Mississauga

Live Performances
Indian State pavilions
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PANORAMA INDIA ANNOUNCES INDIA DAY 2021 GRAND CELEBRATIONS- FIRST-EVER UNIQUE AND HISTORICAL DRIVE-THRU PARADE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

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Presented by ICICI Bank Canada’s Indian@Heart Club and in partnership with Tourism Mississauga, the Drive-Thru Parade will be a historic event held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre in Mississauga from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. “I am excited to see Panorama India put such an event together that is safe and brings out our community to celebrate this auspicious occasion,” said Hon. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto.

“India Day is a celebration for the community and ICICI Bank Canada’s Indian@HeartClub is proud to be the presenting sponsor for the India Day Grand Parade” shared Sandeep Goel, President and CEO of ICICI Bank. We invite all to come and experience India from the safety of their car. The event is free to the public. There will be a pre-registration link that will be shared at the end of July for the larger community to access and register their cars. Panorama India is pleased to announce that the event will be tied to a food drive. All attending will be asked to bring a food donation that can be dropped off at the entrance for pick-up by the food banks. We are pleased to declare that the donations will be directly supporting both Seva Food Bank and Sai Dham Foodbank. “Panorama India is pleased that in an effort to bring back the feeling of live celebration and yet ensure safety and all covid protocols we are working diligently to deliver a successful event. Panorama India is proud to be working with such passionate community float partners and sponsors who all want to make the first ever India Day Drive Thru Parade a unique and special event” stated the Chairperson of Panorama India, Sumeeta Kohli. Once again, we are pleased to announce the “Best Parade Float competition”. All who attend can participate in public voting for their favourite float. A voting link will go live on the day of the Parade, Sunday, August 15th. “Tourism Mississauga is thrilled to sponsor the Panorama India Drive Thru Parade. Mississauga is home to people and cultures from around the world, and we invite everyone to come and celebrate the diversity that our beautiful city has to offer. As we slowly start to reopen, we are excited to welcome people back to visit Mississauga and this event is a great way to experience something new, celebrate India Day, and spend the day in the city – safely” shared Victoria Clarke, CEO of Tourism Mississauga. Join us for this once in a lifetime event that is safe and full of live performances, India State Pavilions, and lots of giveaways! “When you attend you will be able to see live performances from the States of India from the safety of your car. This will be a different but fun experience” shared Anusha Iyer, Director of Programming at Panorama India. In addition, the event will be live streamed directly to the 24-27 Digital Media partners across Canada, US and India. “We want to ensure, whether it is in person or at home, you can experience the India Day 2021 celebrations with us” stated Sanjay Agarwal, Vice Chair – Sponsorship and Vendor Management at Panorama India. Panorama India is also pleased to announce that we will be celebrating India Day from August 1 – August 22 with several virtual, online events in addition to the in-person India Day Drive Thru Parade. We are excited to launch the India Day Virtual Expo to be held on Sunday, August 8th, 2021, from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, an online marketplace for vendors from Canada and India. “The online marketplace will allow the community to chat live at online booths with unique vendors serving our community and also watch live webinars conducted by our vendors” stated Arun Chauhan, Director of Digital Technology at Panorama India. Vendor Registration is now open.



DRIVE-THRU INDIA DAY 2021 PARADE 2021

Sunday, 15th August 2021

If interested, we ask vendors to contact our team directly. In addition, Panorama India once again announces our Live Virtual Art Competition presented by our sponsor Colour Happy for children ranging from kindergarten to Grade 9. The competition will be conducted on Saturday, August 7th. All registered children will receive a secure and private link to access the live competition. “Once again, we are looking to use themes such as the National Flag, Indian Cultural Scenes and other India Day topics to allow children to showcase their love for India via art. Make sure you register your children before the spots fill up” shared Vaidehi Bhagat, Vice-Chair – Sponsorship and Community Relations at Panorama India. “It is important to us that most, if not all, states and languages are represented in this celebration, and we are thrilled at the response of all the community organizations working hard to create their state pavilions. We can’t wait for you to come and experience all of India in one day from the safety of your car” said Thomas K. Thomas, Director of Community Relations and Logistics. “Panorama India’s website will have all the latest information, voting links and access to the vendor fair” stated Tanvir Kaur, Director of Digital Media and Logistics at Panorama India. Panorama India will be releasing more information on our social media throughout the month of July as we get closer to the India Day Celebration kick-off on August 1, 2021. The link to register for the India Day Drive-Thru Parade will be released through our various social media channels. “Secure your spot as its first come first serve” shared Shibani Sahney, Director of Social Media at Panorama India. “Panorama India is a non-profit organization and conducts all events for free. We can only do this with the help of our sponsors and community organizations. Thank you to our Diamond Presenting Sponsors -ICIC Bank Canada and Tourism Mississauga. We also want to thank our Gold Sponsors – HSBC Bank Canada, SBI Bank Canada, City of Mississauga and Kotamarti Group” stated Janak Bhawani, Chief Finance Officer at Panorama India. **Panorama India Board** Sumeeta Kohli – Chairperson, Janak Bhawani – Chief Finance Officer, Sanjay Agarwal – Vice-Chair, Sponsorship & Vendor Management, Vaidehi Bhagat – Vice-Chair, Community Relations & Sponsorship, Anusha Iyer – Director of Programming, Arun Chauhan – Director of Digital Technology, Tanvir Kaur – Director of Digital Media and Logistics, Shibani Sahney – Director of Social Media. Panorama India is a not-for-profit umbrella organization, and it strives to flourish the ties between India and Canada by nurturing India’s culture and heritage, providing a platform for all Indian cultural associations, groups, and individuals to showcase their arts and culture. Panorama India fosters a better understanding between India and Canada and is proud to build bilateral relations with India and Canada through culture.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$7.7 MILLION IN LANGUAGE & SKILLS TRAINING SUPPORTS TO HELP IMMIGRANTS PREPARE FOR GOOD JOBS

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing \$7.7 million in language and skills training supports to help 2,700 newcomers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic start new jobs. Through 19 programs across Ontario, newcomers will gain the skills they need to work in food manufacturing, healthcare, web development, and other in-demand sectors while supporting Ontario’s economic recovery and future prosperity.

Details were provided today by Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development and Donna Skelly, MPP for Flamborough-Glanbrook.

“The skills that newcomers bring to Ontario play a crucial role in driving our economy forward,” said Minister McNaughton. “Our job is to connect the dots and ensure newcomers have the support they need to pursue the in-demand and fulfilling careers available in their new home and provide for their families. These training investments will go a long way to strengthening our economy and local communities.” As part of today’s commitment to supporting newcomers, YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford will receive \$250,000 to provide free job-focused language training to 80 newcomers interested in, or currently employed in the food manufacturing sector. Starting in fall 2021, the project will include a mix of in-person and online training where participants will learn sector-specific language skills, workplace health and safety and gain an awareness of Canadian workplace culture to start careers and succeed in the industry. The program is being delivered in partnership with Mohawk College and Food and Beverage Ontario.

“I’m looking forward to working with Mohawk College and Food and Beverage Ontario on this pilot,” said Lily Lumsden, Senior Regional Manager, YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. “This project aims to support newcomers and support Food and Beverage Manufacturers with gaining and retaining a skilled labour force. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the critical need for workers to be able to understand and follow strict health and safety requirements. This project will improve newcomer employees’ English language skills to keep them safe and productive at work. It is a great demonstration of the value of partnerships between community agencies, colleges, and the private sector.”

New immigrants were among the hardest hit by COVID with over 34,000 losing their jobs. Through these programs across our province, the government is focused on ensuring new immigrants get the support they need.

“I am so pleased that this investment will target newcomers in Hamilton who are working in or interested in employment in the food manufacturing sector,” said Donna Skelly, MPP for Flamborough-Glanbrook. “When immigrants are given the opportunity to enhance their language skills, it not only benefits them, it also benefits the local economy.”

REGION OF PEEL WILL RUN ‘CRUSHING COVID’, A YOUTH-FOCUSED CLINIC AT THE PARAMOUNT FINE FOODS CENTRE IN MISSISSAUGA ON SATURDAY, JULY 3 FROM 3 P.M. TO 9 P.M.



Brampton, ON– To get more youth vaccinated (and to have a little fun!), the Region of Peel will be running ‘Crushing COVID’, a youth-focused clinic at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre in Mississauga this Saturday, July 3 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. At this clinic, we will administer 1,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to youth 12-17 years old and first doses to their family members who may still need one. We want to continue with our region’s amazing vaccine rollout to get our youth and their families vaccinated before they return to school in September.

Peel youth

Peel youth will be able to book a first or second-dose appointment for ‘Crushing COVID’ starting Tuesday, June 29. Limited walk-in appointments will be available for youth and their family members who still need the first dose. Appointments will be available starting Tuesday, June 29.

Vaccine Progress in Peel

As of June 25, a total of 70,290 vaccine doses have been administered to Peel youth. Peel has administered the first dose to 75% of residents 12 years and older, and 27% of residents 12 years and older have been fully vaccinated (two doses).

“I’m calling on all our youth and their families to help fill these spots at ‘Crushing COVID’! Together, we can keep the momentum going in Peel and get vaccinated. Protecting ourselves and our community will keep us safe through the summer before we head back to school in September,” said Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel’s Medical Officer of Health.

REGION OF PEEL LAUNCHES REAL PEEL, REAL VOICES CAMPAIGN

The campaign complements ongoing work with community partners to reduce vaccination barriers for Peel residents who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The campaign also aims to encourage those who may be undecided about receiving the COVID-19 vaccination or are delaying their first or second dose. This vaccination campaign profiles the stories of diverse segments of our Peel community including languages, ages, occupations, and life stages, all sharing their unique journey to vaccination. Real residents Real vaccine confidence Real community spaces Real languages Real voices Real stories Real influencers Real impact Real Peel, Real Voices is supported by a fulsome communications campaign including social, ethnic media and continued collaboration with our agencies and community partners. The campaign also includes an online webpage to showcase these community stories. Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health said, “The Real Peel, Real Voices campaign is a community-focused approach to continue building vaccine confidence through voices that represent Peel’s diversity of languages, ethnicities and religions. The stories highlight and honour the real challenges that people have faced in dealing with the pandemic as well as the hope that vaccination brings. By mirroring the community, vaccination too becomes relatable. We hope that these real vaccination stories remind all our residents of the importance of getting both doses of the vaccine. This campaign complements the work that we continue to do with our partners, including the community agencies involved in the High Priority Community Strategy and many others who have devoted time and effort to fighting this pandemic.” “This campaign highlights the power of what a community can do when we all come together. Residents in the Region of Peel have stepped up in incredible ways during this pandemic. By working together, and getting vaccinated, we are finding our way through to the other side. These stories showcase the incredible strength, power and resilience of our diverse community, and I could not be more proud,” said Janice Baker, Chief Administrative Officer, Peel Region.

ONTARIO INVESTS \$860K IN HAMILTON MANUFACTURER OF COMPONENTS FOR COVID-19 TESTS

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is investing nearly \$860,000 in Coreprint Patterns through the Ontario Together Fund. The investment will help the family-owned and operated business manufacture critical components for COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for hospitals and labs across the province. Currently, there are no made-in-Ontario sources for these important components, which are difficult to acquire due to high demand globally. Strengthening an Ontario supply chain will increase the availability and stability of these critical supplies. A reliable, local supply chain of these perishable components will reduce the need to stockpile items that expire.

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Cipla gets DCGI nod to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine

IN A BOOST TO INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS, THE DRUG CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA (DCGI) HAS APPROVED THE EMERGENCY USE OF MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE IN INDIA

In a boost to India's fight against coronavirus, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the emergency use of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in India. Confirming the development, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr VK Paul said that Moderna's vaccine has been approved for emergency use. Indian multinational pharmaceutical company Cipla will now be able to import this vaccine into India. "New drug permission has been granted to Moderna, the first internationally developed vaccine. This new drug permission is for restricted use," Dr Paul said, adding that it will be administered in two doses. After Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik, this will be the fourth vaccine that has been approved in India. This is the first international vaccine

and has been developed by American pharma company Moderna. Its efficacy against coronavirus is said to be up to 94 percent. It may be noted that on June 1, DCGI had relaxed the rules for foreign vaccines. As per the relaxations, if a foreign vaccine has been approved by America, Europe, Japan or WHO, then it does not need bridging trial in India. Citing this, Cipla had on Monday submitted an application seeking permission to import the vaccine. Moderna said on Tuesday that the US government has agreed to donate a certain number of doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine through 'Covax' to the Indian government. Approval has been sought from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization for these vaccines.

COVID-19 curbs extended in Punjab till July 10 with relaxations

Amid cases of the Delta Plus variant of coronavirus surfacing in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday extended curbs till July 10, with certain more relaxations, including opening of bars and pubs at 50 per cent capacity beginning July 1. Skill development centres and universities have also been allowed to open conditional to the staff and students having taken at least one dose of the Covid vaccine. IELTS coaching institutes were already allowed to open, subject to students and staff having taken at least one dose of the vaccine. Announcing the relaxations at a high-level Covid review meeting, the Chief Minister made it clear that bars and pubs would have to strictly maintain social distancing protocols, and waiters, servers and other employees should have taken at least one dose of the Covid vaccine.

He made it clear that it would be the responsibility of the owners to ensure that the conditions are met. Expressing satisfaction over the decline in the Covid positivity rate to less than 1 per cent, along with overall fall in the number of active cases, the Chief Minister noted that the positivity rate in some districts still remained over the 1 per cent mark. Two cases -- in Ludhiana and Patiala -- have shown the Delta Plus variant, while in May and June, the Delta variant was most prevalent, Singh pointed out. Of the 198 contacts of the Ludhiana patient traced and tested, one was found positive and the sample has been sent for genome sequencing. In the Patiala case, for which the genome sequencing report was received on June 26, the process of tracing and testing is going on.

AAP PROMISES 300 UNITS OF FREE POWER TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN PUNJAB



CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Eyeing Punjab assembly elections, slated in March next year, AAP national convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Tuesday, announced to provide 300 units of free power to every household in the state. Announcing a slew of pre-poll sops, he said here that his party will provide uninterrupted round the clock power supply and waiver of pending electricity bills, if his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) forms the next government in the state. "It will take three-four years for us to upgrade the infrastructure, and then we will be able to provide uninterrupted power supply," he said. The chief minister said, with the provision of 300 units free electricity to every household, 77-80 per cent households will get zero bill. Taking a jibe at Congress leader and chief minister Amarinder Singh, he said it was surprising that Punjab "makes its own electricity, still is most expensive in the country". He said in Delhi his government provided 200 units of free electricity to every family. "The women are very happy. Women in Punjab are also very unhappy with inflation. The AAP government will also provide free electricity in Punjab," he added.

SCHOOLS IN DELHI CAN'T DENY ADMISSION IF ONE PARENT'S NAME IS FILLED IN FORM



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Schools in the national capital cannot deny admission to students on the ground that the admission form contains the name of a single parent, the Directorate of Education (DoE) of Delhi government said in a notification on Monday. "All the heads of schools of all managements under the DoE are hereby directed to not deny admission to the candidates who have even one of the parents' name in the application form," the notification read. Sources in the government said the decision has been taken keeping in mind that many children have lost their parents during the Covid-19 pandemic. This decision will also help children living with a single parent.



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photos pre-covid



Sukhbir questioned for Kotkapura police firing

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) After interrogating Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing case in Punjab, on Saturday questioned his son and party SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal for four hours here.

Sukhbir was the Deputy Chief Minister and also the Home Minister when the incidents of the desecration of a religious text and the subsequent police firing took place in Faridkot in 2015.

The SIT team, led by ADGP L.K. Yadav, quizzed the former Deputy Chief Minister.

Earlier this week, the SIT questioned former five-time Chief Minister Badal at his residence here for three hours.

Badal was the Chief Minister of Punjab when the police had opened fire on protesters on October 14, 2015, killing two and injuring others after alleged desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari village in Faridkot district took place. The SIT is to ascertain as to who gave the orders to open fire, whether the cops fired in self-defence and if

standard operating procedure was followed.

After the High Court order on April 9, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has constituted a new SIT.

Responding to the questioning of the Sukhbir, Harcharan Bains, Principal Advisor to party president, said the Kotkapura firing "must be the only incident in the world where the SIT wants to know who ordered firing after the relevant competent authority, the SDM, has already declared that he ordered it".

"It's like SIT telling the SDM please don't say you ordered it. We want to blame it on someone else," he added.

In an interesting development in the case, a former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Kunwar Vijay Pratap, who was handling the probe into police firing after the desecration of Guru Granth Sahib, this week joined Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after opting voluntary retirement from his service. After joining the politics, Vijay Pratap blamed the accused of the sacrilege case for dictating the state government.

FOR PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN, HOLD TERRORISM SUPPORTERS ACCOUNTABLE: JAISHANKAR

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"A durable peace in Afghanistan requires a genuine 'double peace' -- that is, peace within Afghanistan and peace around Afghanistan. It requires harmonising the interests of all, both within and around that country," he said on Tuesday during a Security Council debate. While ensuring that Afghanistan is not used by terrorists to threaten or attack other countries, "those providing material and financial support to terrorist entities must be held accountable", he said "For enduring peace in Afghanistan, terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries must be dismantled immediately and terrorist supply chains disrupted. There needs to be zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including its cross-border one," he said.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, acknowledged the broader impact that developments in that country have beyond its border.

"What happens in Afghanistan remains of global consequence," she said while briefing the Council.

Jaishankar said, "Any political settlement in Afghanistan must ensure that the gains of the last two decades are protected, and not reversed. It should, therefore, preserve the constitutional democratic framework and ensure the protection of rights of women, children and minorities."

In a criticism of Pakistan for limiting Afghanistan's supply routes, he said, "The international community should work towards the removal of artificial transit barriers imposed on Afghanistan and ensure full transit rights guaranteed to Afghanistan under bilateral and multilateral transit agreements without any hindrance."

"For Afghanistan's economic development, it is important to have unhindered access to the high seas," he added.

He said that to India has operationalised air freight corridors and the Chabahar Port to link Afghanistan regionally.

The Chabahar Port developed by India in Iran, close to Afghanistan's border, provides a sea outlet for the landlocked nation. Using the port, Jaishankar said, India has sent 75,000 metric tonnes of wheat to overcome food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lyon told the Council that the US and NATO troop withdrawal announcement has "sent a seismic tremor through the Afghan political system and society at large". "The withdrawal decision was expected but its speed -- with the majority of troops now already withdrawn -- was not. All actors have had to adjust to this new, reality that is unfolding," she said.

She noted the advances made by the Taliban that threatens to put the country firmly in its grip and said, "There is still time, barely but still time, to prevent the worse-case scenario from materialising. Enough has been built in Afghanistan to allow further building... if only there can be peace." She said that "for the Taliban to continue this intensive military campaign would be a tragic course of action". The Taliban has been taking advantage of the disunity in the non-Taliban leadership, but she said that she was "cautiously encouraged" by the efforts of President Ashraf Ghani and two other leaders to discuss security and show unity. US Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that despite the troop pullout, Washington's "commitment to Afghanistan's safety and security endures". She said, "We will continue to support the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in securing their country." "We will use our full diplomatic, economic, and assistance toolkit to support the peaceful, stable future the Afghan people want and deserve," added. But Thomas-Greenfield also acknowledged that "we have now seen months of unacceptable violence, often directed toward ethnic and religious minorities and innocent women and girls".

SISODIA REVIEWS EMC, LAUNCHES WEB APP TO ACCESS LEARNING MATERIAL

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday reviewed Delhi government's ambitious project - entrepreneurship mindset curriculum (EMC), which has been announced earlier in view to prepare the students with business mindset. During a meeting with senior officials of the education department of Delhi government, in further development in the project, a web application was launched on Tuesday which will help school management to access EMC related teaching-learning material. "The purpose of EMC is to work and build on the entrepreneurial mindset of our students. Our school community, especially our teachers and heads of schools need to accept EMC as a subject in their daily teaching and learning," Sisodia, who is also education minister of Delhi, said. During the discussion with officials, Sisodia asserted that the project is not just a scheme but an indispensable subject that will equip students with the mindset and skills needed to triumph any challenge.

NAVJOT SIDHU VS AMARINDER SINGH

Amid infighting in the Punjab Congress, sulking party leader Navjot Singh Sidhu is expected to meet Rahul Gandhi. This meeting is ahead of the Congress peace formula which is to be given by the AICC and rejig in Punjab unit -- both in the government and in the organization. Rahul Gandhi will try to pacify the disgruntled leader and will press for an amicable solution to the infighting between chief minister Amarinder Singh and Navjot Singh Sidhu ahead of next year's crucial assembly election.

Sidhu had also met the three-member panel formed by party chief Sonia Ganshi to resolve the issues. Last week Punjab Congress president Sunil Jharkhar, finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal and MPs Pratap Singh Bajwa and Manish Tewari met Rahul Gandhi and apprised him of the situation after infighting escalated in the state.

Sunil Jakhar said after the meet, "Hope that the current situation will be resolved and some wrong people are advising the chief minister over the decision on jobs to kin of MLAs."

He said the issue of Navjot Singh Sidhu is under discussion by the party leadership. While another bete noire of Punjab CM, Pratap Singh Bajwa also met Rahul Gandhi and said that he discussed the ground reality and current political situation in the state. He asserted, "the party high-command will take decision over the chief ministerial candidate for next assembly elections." Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has stepped in to defuse the tension in the state unit as he met several leaders including Pargat Singh. Some MLAs who met Rahul Gandhi said that they have raised issues regarding the state. Pargat Singh, who is among those MLAs, critical of the chief minister, said: "If CM is ready to address the issues raised by me, then the matter is resolved." Meanwhile, Amarinder Singh expressed his displeasure during the meeting with the party panel for being targeted and said that undue pressure is being created by a few individuals, sources said. However, senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who heads the three-member panel, which has got a larger mandate for poll preparation apart from resolving factionalism in the state party unit, said: "Everybody has said that they will fight the polls together and the party is united under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi." Sources say the panel discussed the political situation in the state and also issues related to Navjot Singh Sidhu and a possible way out to resolve the issue. While Sidhu is not relenting in his attack on the chief minister, he has insisted on an early resolution of issues. State in-charge Harish Rawat has said that the matter is with Sonia Gandhi and refused to comment on statements made by Sidhu.



LIBERAL ONTARIO

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Committed to democratic process in J&K: PM at all-party meet

NEW DELHI (IANS) In the first all-party meeting involving leaders from Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the Centre is fully committed to the democratic process in J&K, and holding Assembly elections in the region just like the successful conduct of the District Development Council (DDC) polls is a priority. Delimitation, roadmap for Assembly polls, restoration of statehood and bringing back Kashmiri Pandits were the key issues discussed in the crucial all-party meeting on Jammu and Kashmir that was chaired by Prime Minister Modi and involved leaders from different political parties in J&K. The meeting lasted for more than three-and-a-half hours with nobody raising cross-border issues, sources said. In the first such meeting held nearly two years after the erstwhile state of J&K lost its special status and was bifurcated into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh -- the Prime Minister heard all the suggestions and inputs put forward by the participants and expressed happiness over everyone sharing their frank and honest views. It was an open discussion which revolved around building a better future for Kashmir with the main focus on strengthening the democratic process in J&K. Restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir, Assembly elections, domicile rules, bringing back Kashmir Pandits and release of political prisoners were among the five key demands raised by the Congress, senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said after the marathon meeting. The President of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Altaf Bukhari, said that each speaker was heard patiently by the Prime Minister and the major discussions were related to the delimitation process and elections in the erstwhile state. It was proposed that the elections could take place soon after the delimitation process, to which most of participants agreed. Delimitation is a prerequisite for conducting Assembly polls -- something which

the authorities and the political class are looking forward to as they seek to kick the political process into a higher gear, an objective which can speed up the development process in J&K. The Prime Minister emphasised the need to strengthen democracy at the grassroots level and work together with the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure their upliftment. He expressed happiness on the commitment to the Constitution and democracy espoused by all the participants and said that even one death in J&K is painful and "it is our collective duty to protect our younger generation". Modi further stressed that "we need to give opportunities to the youth in Jammu and Kashmir and they will give back lots to our country". The developments achieved by J&K were discussed in detail during the meeting, including the many pro-people initiatives. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction with the acceleration of development in J&K and said that it is creating new hope and aspirations among the people. He further said that when people experience corruption-free governance, it inspires trust among them to extend their cooperation to the administration, something which is visible in Jammu and Kashmir today. Modi said that there would be political differences, but everyone should work for the national interest to benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that an atmosphere of safety and security needs to be ensured for all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that he wants to remove the 'Dilli ki Duri' as well as 'Dil Ki Duri'. "We are committed to ensure all round development of J&K. The future of Jammu and Kashmir was discussed and the delimitation exercise and peaceful elections are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in parliament," Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted after the meeting. Four former J&K Chief Ministers were among the 14 leaders who took part in the meeting.

FARMERS URGE PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND TO ‘SAVE AGRICULTURE & DEMOCRACY’

MUMBAI, (IANS) The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has sought President Ram Nath Kovind's intervention to 'Save Agriculture and Save Democracy' on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the Emergency and the completion of seven months of the ongoing farmers' agitation, a top farmer leader said here on Thursday. "We are sending a memorandum from all over India to the President, expressing our deep anguish and indignation, and appeal to him to protect both our agriculture and democracy," said All India Kisan Sabha President and SKM leader Dr Ashok Dhawale. Indian society calls farmers 'annadaatas' (food providers) and in the past 74 years since Independence, they fulfilled that responsibility. "When India became Independent, we used to feed 33 crore citizens, today in the same extent of land, we manage to feed around 140 crore Indians. During the coronavirus pandemic, while the other sectors in the economy decelerated and slumped, we achieved record production in agriculture, ensured that our granaries were overflowing and risked our lives," said the memorandum to the President. However, in return for this service to the entire country, "the Government of India has thrust the 3 anti-farmer black laws" which will destroy our farming as well as our future generations, snatch agriculture from our hands and hand it over to big corporations, it said. There are other swords hanging over the farmers' heads -- penalties or jail for stubble burning in a new Ordinance related to Delhi's air pollution and subsidy withdrawal through the Electricity Amendments Bill, 2020, said Dr. Dhawale. The memorandum -- which will be sent to the President through various state Governors and other channels -- terms the three Central farm laws as 'undemocratic', created without consultations with the farmers, thrust in the form of Ordinances, tabled in Parliament before sending to Committees for further study or debates, and while pushing the Bills voting by division was not allowed in the Rajya Sabha, etc. Dhawale added that as the first guardian of our Constitution created by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and others, the farmers had hoped that the President would refuse to give assent to such unconstitutional and undemocratic anti-farmer laws, but he (President) did not. Seeking justice in the form of remunerative returns for their hard work and toil, the memo said that the farmers are in debt, farming has become an unviable profession and over 4 lakh peasants were compelled to commit suicide in the past 30 years.



HAPPY CANADA DAY



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PAKISTAN PM UNDER FIRE FOR 'WOMEN WEARING VERY FEW CLOTHES' REMARK

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

In an interview with Axios earlier this week, Imran Khan was asked about whether there was a "rape epidemic" in Pakistan, where advocates believe that a large number of assaults go unreported. "If a woman is wearing very few clothes, it will have an impact on the man unless they are robots. I mean, it's a common sense," he said. Women in Pakistan responded by sharing photographs of the "modest" clothing that they were wearing when they were sexually harassed, as well as anecdotes about inappropriate behaviour they have encountered - such as unwanted touching - even when conservatively dressed in traditional headscarves and shalwar kameez, the report said. At a protest on Saturday in Karachi, women were encouraged to bring a piece of clothing that they or an acquaintance had been wearing when they were subjected to sexual violence. "This is dangerously simplistic and only reinforces the common public perception that women are 'knowing' victims and men 'helpless' aggressors," the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and more than a dozen other civil society groups said. "For the head of government - a government that claims to defend the rights of women and vulnerable groups - to insist on this view is simply inexcusable." The report said it's the second time in recent months that Khan - who was one of Pakistan's top cricket players and a national celebrity before he entered politics - has come under fire for his comments about rape. During a live television broadcast in April, he replied to a question about a perceived rise in sexual assaults by saying that the traditional custom of "purdah," or modesty, was intended to "stop temptation." "Not every man has willpower. If you keep on increasing vulgarity, it will have consequences," Khan said. Khan's latest remarks have led some men in Pakistan to proudly declare

themselves to be robots, a joking reference to the Prime Minister's claim that seeing a woman who is not modestly dressed "will have an impact on the man unless they are robots." The report said Sherry Rehman, a senator from the opposition Pakistan People's Party, questioned whether Khan meant to apply the term to "all the men who are civilized in their behavior and interactions with women." She added sarcastically that she didn't realize Pakistan "had such a large AI population." News Pakistan reported that a large number of women rights and civil society activists took part in a protest in Karachi on Saturday to criticise Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks about the way women dress up and its impact on men, and urged him to offer a public apology for his remarks. The HRCP and other civil society bodies and feminist collectives organised the protest outside the Karachi Press Club. The participating organisations included the Joint Action Committee, Women's Action Forum, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Tehrik-e-Niswan, AuratMarch, Aurat Foundation, and Women Democratic Front. As per the report, calling the premier's comments "factually incorrect, insensitive and dangerous", speakers at the protest said that it only reinforced the common public perception that women were "knowing" victims and men "helpless" aggressors". "Imran Khan has disgraced not only the millions of women but also the high human ideals and values, which are even upheld by the international charter of human rights," said a speaker. Participants also showed their anger at several women members of the ruling party who had jumped to the Prime Minister's defence and justified his comments in "vague and illogical terms". They appealed to the women legislators in the Senate and the national and provincial assemblies to pass a resolution against the Prime Minister, irrespective of their political affiliations, the report said.

WHO URGES FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE TO CONTINUE WEARING MASKS AMID DELTA VARIANT SPREAD



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged fully vaccinated people across the world to continue wearing face masks, follow social distancing and other safety protocols to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading across the world. At a press briefing on Friday, WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted with concern that as some countries ease public health and social measures, there is an increase in transmission around the world. "The Delta variant, first identified in India and the cause of the country's horrific second wave of the pandemic, is the most transmissible of the variants identified so far," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday. After causing the massive second wave of the pandemic in India, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is now spreading rapidly in several other countries around the world. The highly transmissible variant, first identified in India is behind the fresh surge being reported in countries like the UK, Israel, Russia, and Australia. The health organisation's comments come as some countries, including the United States, have largely done away with masks and pandemic-related restrictions as the COVID-19 vaccines have helped drive down the number of new infections and deaths.

CHINA'S BRI IMPORTANT TO NEPAL BUT LESS IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

Former Nepalese ambassador to China, Leela Mani Paudyal on Saturday said Nepal rejects Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and highlighted the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Nepal's foreign policy. The Ambassador was speaking at a Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) Global Conclave, a three-day event organized by Nepal Institute for International Cooperation that will host 220 speakers from 41 countries. "There is a huge gap in Nepal's development financing that BRI can supplement the other source of financing. Nepal expects to develop physical infrastructure like road, railways, transmission line, power, air connectivity. It also expects to revive cultural heritage sites, promote tourism and conserve of biodiversity, promote trade and investment. Air connectivity has been enhanced," the Ambassador said during the "Nepal-China relation" session.

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Israeli FM lands in UAE for 1st official visit

ABU DHABI, (IANS) Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid landed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday, becoming the first senior official from the Jewish state to visit to the Gulf nation. Lapid's office said he has been accompanied by a delegation of senior Israeli officials, including Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz, reports Xinhua news agency. Upon his arrival, he said in a tweet: "Making history: Proud to represent the state of Israel on its first official visit to the United Arab Emirates. Thanks for the warm welcome."

During his two-day trip, he will inaugurate the Israeli embassy in the UAE's capital Abu Dhabi and the consulate in Dubai, according to the office. Lapid, the centrist leader of the Yesh Atid party, was the driving force behind the forming of Israel's new cross-partisan coalition government which was approved by Parliament on June 14. Israel and the UAE signed a US-brokered normalisation agreement in September 2020. The UAE thus became the third Arab country after Egypt and Jordan to agree to formally normalise its ties with Israel.

India-Abu Dhabi flight suspension extended till July 21: Etihad



ABU DHABI, (IANS) The Abu-Dhabi based Etihad Airways said on Tuesday that suspension of flights from India to the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) capital city has been extended till July 21. In a reply to a query on Twitter, Etihad said: "We were expecting some updates regarding the travel ban extension which we just received few moments ago. I can confirm that the ban is not lifted yet and has been extended until 21st of July. Our website will be updated shortly." The UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) had earlier clarified that passenger flights between the Gulf nation and India will remain suspended until further notice, reports the Khaleej Times. On Sunday, Dubai's flagship carrier Emirates said that expects to resume its flights from India from July 7. But said that it was waiting for exact travel protocols and relevant permits from the government authorities. The Dubai-based airline had announced the suspension first on April 24 as a devastating second wave of the pandemic hit India, leading to record high number of daily cases and deaths. In May, it had extended the suspension till at least June 14.

AUSTRALIA TIGHTENS LOCKDOWN AMID DELTA VIRUS OUTBREAK, VACCINE CHAOS



Australia reported a slight rise in COVID-19 infections on Tuesday, while officials in several states tightened movement curbs and pushed for vaccinations to limit flare-ups of the highly infectious Delta variant. After months in which it had nearly stamped out the virus, Australia is battling the variant in five of its eight states and territories, just two weeks after an infection in key city Sydney involving a limousine driver of overseas airline crew. Worries that the variant first detected in India could touch off outbreaks have forced lockdowns in three large cities and curbs of varying strictness in several more, affecting more than 20 million Australians, or about 80% of the population. Northern Queensland state imposed a three-day lockdown in capital Brisbane and neighbouring regions from Tuesday evening. The Western Australian capital of Perth began a four-day lockdown from Tuesday, joining Sydney and Darwin. "The risk is real and we need to act quickly, we need to go hard, we need to go fast," said Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said. The state reported two new local cases. Sydney, home to a fifth of Australia's population, is in a two-week lockdown until July 9, while a stay-home order in the outback city of Darwin was extended by 72 hours to Friday. The Sydney outbreak has grown to nearly 150 cases. Mandatory masks and limits on gatherings are among the curbs across Australia. Police in the most populous state of New South Wales fined Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce A\$200 (\$150) for not wearing a mask inside a petrol station, media said. Joyce, the highest ranking government official to face such a fine, confirmed the incident in a media interview, saying he had gone unmasked to pay for petrol bought for his partner. Even under lockdown, New South Wales reported 19 new locally-acquired infections, up from 18 a day ago. Western Australia reported no new cases, despite going into lockdown, while the Northern Territory detected two.

Kim Jong-un is 'emaciated', admits North Korea in rare TV address about autocratic leader's health

North Koreans are deeply concerned over their supreme leader Kim Jong Un's dramatic weight loss, an unidentified North Korean citizen has said in a highly unusual public broadcast about Kim's health. The citizen was quoted in a segment discussing Kim's "emaciated" condition after photos emerged of him. In the photos, Kim is looking frail and this has raised serious concerns over his health. In a rare TV broadcast about Kim's health, an unidentified Pyongyang resident was quoted as saying: "Seeing respected general secretary (Kim Jong Un) looking emaciated breaks our people's heart so much. Everyone is saying that their tears welled up." It is to be noted that Kim is a heavy smoker and earlier this month he was pictured looking significantly less overweight. According to observers, the North Korean autocratic leader may have lost between 22 and 44 pounds from his estimated weight of 308. The broadcast, however, did not reveal the reason behind dramatic weight loss of 37-year-old Kim. It may be recalled that the speculations over Kim's falling health started doing the rounds last year after he failed to attend the birth anniversary celebrations of state founder Kim Il Sung on April 15. Kim's father Kim Jong-II and grandfather Kim Il-Sung were both chain smokers and both were obese too. They both died of heart attacks. Experts maintain that the sudden decline in Kim's health is not a good sign as it could bring instability in nuclear-armed North Korea.

EX-S.AFRICAN PREZ SENTENCED TO JAIL



JOHANNESBURG, (IANS) The South African Constitutional Court on Tuesday found former President Jacob Zuma guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to a 15-month jail term. A BBC report says that Zuma has been five days to hand himself at a police station. The country's State Capture Inquiry accused Zuma of accepting bribes, gratification and unauthorised payments from other parties in relation to the procurement of the arms worth billions in 1999.

PHILIPPINES EXTENDS TRAVEL BAN ON INDIA UNTIL JULY 15



MANILA, (IANS) The Philippines has extended the travel ban for all inbound travellers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) until July 15, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Tuesday. "This is one of the proactive measures imposed to implement international border control because of the Covid-19 Delta variant," Roque said in a televised press conference. The Philippines has detected the more transmissible Delta variants in the samples taken from 17 returning Filipinos, among whom a seafarer has died, the Department of Health of the Philippines said. The Southeast Asian country initially imposed travel restrictions on India from April 29 amid the devastating second wave of the pandemic in the South Asian giant, reports Xinhua news agency. It widened the ban to include travellers from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka from May 7. It also banned international arrivals from Oman and the UAE from May 15 after overseas Filipino workers who flew in from these countries tested positive for the Delta variant first detected in India. The Philippines has reported a total of 1,408,058 confirmed cases of Covid-19 as of Tuesday with 24,557 deaths.

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