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# SOUTH ASIAN **Midweek** NEWS WEEKLY

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## INDO-CANADIAN WOMEN IN POWER



**SONIA SIDHU** LIBERAL MP- BRAMPTON SOUTH    **RUBY SAHOTA** LIBERAL MP- BRAMPTON NORTH    **KAMAL KHERA** LIBERAL MP- BRAMPTON WEST    **ANITA ANAND** LIBERAL MP- OAKVILLE    **BARDISH CHAGGER** LIBERAL MP- WATERLOO

## LIBERALS FORM MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

Justin Trudeau is poised for a third term as Canada's prime minister with a minority government he received 158 seats in the federal elections. Trudeau, who was in power from 2015 has now won three general elections in less than six years. Expressing gratitude to Canadians who returned him to power in a closely contested election against Conservative leader, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday pledged to finish the fight against COVID-19 and move the country forward for everyone. The Liberal party leader thanked Canadians for putting trust in his party and "for choosing a brighter future." "Thank you, Canada -- for casting your vote, for putting your trust in the Liberal team, for choosing a brighter future. We're going to finish the fight against COVID. And we're going to move Canada forward. For everyone," Trudeau tweeted. The 49-year-old is poised for a third term as Canada's prime minister reported Canadian broadcasters who projected a win for his Liberal Party in Monday's elections. Trudeau, who was in power from 2015 has now won three general elections in less than six years. In his concession speech, Conservative leader Erin O'Toole said, "Tonight Canadians did not give Mr. Trudeau the majority mandate he wanted." According to New York Times, many voters are still in line casting ballots, perhaps for several more hours, it is unclear whether Trudeau's Liberal Party would regain a majority in Parliament. Canada has multiple time zones and accordingly, the polling stations closed at staggered times on Monday evening. Trudeau, 49, won Papineau, Quebec, according to state broadcaster CBC. The Conservatives, led by Erin O'Toole, are projected to be the main opposition party.



The Liberal party leader Trudeau had called for snap election last month in the middle of the Covid pandemic assuming that his handling of the pandemic would help his government win a majority. However, even as that bet seems to have backfired the poll win puts Trudeau back in a position he has held since the 2015 federal election, which saw the Liberals win a 184-seat majority. COVID-19, climate change, housing affordability and gun control have all featured as major issues with voters, reported CNN but citing one political expert it said that holding a snap election in the summer during a global pandemic has angered many voters who cannot identify a compelling "ballot box" issue to justify the undertaking. A small fierce majority of voters were also opposed to some Covid-19 protocols, especially vaccine and mask mandates and earlier this month a protester threw gravel at Trudeau at a campaign event in Ontario. (ANI)

## MALTON GUNFIGHT- JASTARAN SANDHU, 18, CHARGED WITH MURDER THAT LEAVES 21 YEAR OLD DEAD, 2 INJURED

Officers from the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau are currently investigating the circumstances that led to a man being murdered. On September 17, 2021, at approximately 8 p.m., two groups of men became involved in a disturbance in the area of Hull Street and Airport Road in the City of Mississauga. **| CONTD. ON PAGE 5**

## AMANDEEP MANJ, 35, SHOT DEAD AT VANCOUVER LUXURY HOTEL; NO SUSPECTS ARRESTED

Vancouver Police have identified the victim of this year's 13th homicide as Amandeep Manj. The 35-year-old was found dead in a vehicle in the underground parkade of the Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel yesterday afternoon. Officers and paramedics attended and he was pronounced dead on scene. **| CONTD. ON PAGE 5**



## PRESIDENT BIDEN, PM MODI OR WHO? WANTED A WORLD LEADER AT UNGA THIS WEEK

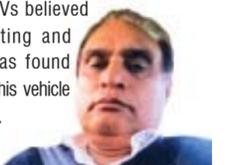


BY ROBINDER SACHDEV

Who could be the 2-3 personalities from among the 200 or so heads of governments, who could rise and shine, and give hope to humanity, freedom and peace, this week at New York? **| CONTD. ON PAGE 6**

## KIDNAPPED PAKISTANI CANADIAN 63-YEAR-OLD FAQIR ALI LOCATED, SON KILLED IN HOME INVASION

Hamilton Police have located two black SUVs believed to have been used in the double shooting and kidnapping yesterday. The first vehicle was found shortly before 9:00 a.m. on Beach Blvd. This vehicle has been seized and is being examined for evidence. **| CONTD. ON PAGE 8**



## 17 INDO-CANADIANS ELECTED MPS AS TRUDEAU FAILS TO WIN MAJORITY



| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

## Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- Starting Sept. 22, proof of vaccination status will be required to eat indoors at restaurants, to enter gym, movie theatre, sporting venue or to use a large meeting & event space.
- Proof of vaccination in Ontario will not be required if someone is simply paying for order or using washroom of indoor establishment where vaccination is mandatory.
- Enhanced vaccine certificate with a unique QR code will be available as of October 22, 2021 in Ontario.
- Over 84% Canadians 12+ inoculated with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, 79% fully vaccinated.
- Over 84.5% Ontarians 12+ inoculated with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, 78% fully vaccinated.

## SIDHU VS SIDHU



AFTER RESIGNING AS PUNJAB CM, CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH SIDHU SAYS 'NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU ANTI-NATIONAL, WILL FIGHT MOVE TO MAKE HIM CM' **| DETAILS ON PAGE 3**



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# PIN YOUR PINK THIS OCTOBER.



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# I RESIGNED AS I FELT HUMILIATED, BUT SIDHU IS A DISASTER: AMARINDER

Senior Congress leader Amarinder Singh on Saturday resigned from his post as the Chief Minister of Punjab after months of political tussle, saying he stepped down as he felt 'humiliated'.

At the same time, he said that the "future politics option is always there and I will use that option".

Amarinder Singh also termed Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh as a 'disaster' who would not be acceptable to him as his successor.

"I have submitted my resignation. The future politics option is always there and I will use that option when the time comes. At the moment, I am still in the Congress," Amarinder Singh, 80, who has been active in politics for the past 52 years, told the media after resigning from the top post.

Making it clear that he would explore and exercise his future options when the time comes, Amarinder Singh said he would decide his future course of action in consultation with his supporters, who have stood by him for over five decades. Justifying his decision to step down months before the state goes to the polls, Amarinder Singh said, "I was humiliated three times by the Congress leadership in the past two months. They called the MLAs to Delhi twice and now convened a CLP here in Chandigarh today.

"Apparently, they (Congress high command) do not have confidence in me and did not think I could handle my job. But I felt humiliated at the manner in which they handled the whole affair." "Let them appoint who they trust," he said, taking a dig at the party leadership.

"I had decided in the morning. I had spoken to the Congress President in the morning. I had told her that I am resigning," he added. Amarinder Singh, who was at the helm in his second stint, also told a news channel that he would never accept Sidhu as the Chief Minister. "He is a total disaster. He could not run a single ministry. How will he run the whole state? I know the man. He has no capability," Amarinder Singh said. Making it clear that he had no intention of quitting politics, Amarinder Singh said there was no question of supporting Sidhu, who was clearly mixed up with Pakistan and danger, as well as a disaster, for Punjab and the country. "I cannot allow such a man to destroy us, I will continue to fight the issues that are bad for his state and its people," said the outgoing Chief Minister, lashing out at Sidhu for his close alliance with the leadership across the border. "We have all seen Sidhu hugging Imran Khan and General Bajwa, and singing praises for the Pakistan Prime Minister at the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor while our soldiers were being killed at the borders every day," he said, pointing out that the ex-cricketer had attended Imran's swearing-in even after he (Amarinder Singh) categorically told him not to. "The government of Punjab means the security of India, and if Sidhu is made the face of the Congress for chief ministership, I will fight him at every step," he added. The resignation of the Chief Minister and his council of ministers came just minutes ahead of a crucial meeting of the Congress



Legislative Party (CLP) to elect a new leader. The decision to call the CLP came in the wake of a fresh letter signed by at least 50 out of the 80 Congress legislators who had expressed their dissatisfaction with Amarinder Singh and demanded his removal from the Chief Minister's post.

## ANGUISHED AT POLITICAL EVENTS, AMARINDER WROTE TO SONIA BEFORE QUITTING

Hours before he formally submitted his resignation to the Governor, Amarinder Singh had written to Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi, apprising her of his decision, while expressing anguish at the political events of the last about five months, which he said were clearly "not based on a full understanding of the national imperatives of Punjab and its key concerns". "Notwithstanding my personal anguish, I hope this will not cause any damage to the hard-earned peace and development in the state, and that the efforts I have been focusing during the last few years, would continue unabated, ensuring justice to one and all," Amarinder Singh had written in his letter to Sonia, indicating his apprehension of instability in Punjab as a result of the political developments in the state unit of the Congress. At the same time, Amarinder Singh expressed his personal satisfaction at having done his best for the people like Chief Minister of Punjab, which, as a border state, "has many geo-political and other internal security concerns, which I tried to handle effectively without any compromise". He said he was happy that the state remained fully peaceful, and there was complete communal harmony with no ill-will towards anyone.

## WITH DALIT CM IN PUNJAB, CONGRESS AIMS AT UP AND UTTARAKHAND

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** After the surprise announcement of the name of Charanjit Singh Channi, a Dalit leader, for the Chief Minister's post in Punjab, the Congress looks at the larger aim of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh which are also going to polls early next year.

Rahul Gandhi, after the announcement of the new Chief Minister's name, congratulated Channi, saying: "Congratulations to Shri Charanjit Singh Channi Ji for the new responsibility. We must continue to fulfill the promises made to the people of Punjab. Their trust is of paramount importance."

Channi, who was also a bitter critic of outgoing Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, has been appointed to tap not only around 32 per cent Dalit votes in the state but also in neighbouring Uttarakhand and UP which go to polls early next year along with Punjab.

After a Dalit CM in Punjab, the Congress is eyeing gains in Uttarakhand but it is unlikely that the party will get much traction in UP as Mayawati is a formidable force in the state and non-Jatav Dalits have mostly aligned with the BJP. Sources say that Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa's name was proposed by majority of MLAs but Rahul Gandhi decided in favour of Channi who was the leader of opposition for a brief period during the previous Akali government.

Apart from other names, Congress wanted even former Union Minister Ambika Soni to become the Chief Minister but she refused. However, she emerged as the main trouble shooter in the Punjab episode in the aftermath of the resignation of Amarinder Singh. Soni held late night meetings with party chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at least twice and has some role in the appointment



of the new Chief Minister. It was her statement in favour of a Sikh Chief Minister that went against the top choice, Sunil Jakhar.

Sensing Soni could be the Chief Minister, the state leaders made a consensus that the Chief Minister should be among the MLAs, and hence Randhawa's and Channi's names emerged but Rahul Gandhi who has special focus on Dalit leadership decided in favour of Channi.

## RIFT IN TALIBAN FACTION AMID POWER STRUGGLE DESPITE AFGHANISTAN'S CAPTURE

Even though the Taliban has managed to capture Afghanistan and form a government, an internal rift between the faction has started emerging, according to media reports.

Writing for The Spectator, David Loyn, said that Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar had expected to run the government but was instead given a deputy's role. He wanted more roles for Afghanistan's many ethnic minorities in the government and has also argued that the green, red and black Afghan national flag should still be flown alongside the white Taliban flag.

"Tempers flared in a meeting in Presidential Palace in Kabul and spilled over into a fight between Baradar's supporters and those of Khalil Haqqani. Some accounts said there was gunfire, although this has not been verified," Loyn said.

Gunfire heard in Kabul earlier this month was actually a power struggle between two senior Taliban leaders - group co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Afghan Taliban leader, Anas Haqqani, according to some accounts.

The incident took place over an alleged disagreement among the Taliban leaders on how to resolve the Panjshir situation.

The information about reported gunfight was shared through the unverified Twitter handle of Panjshir Observer, which describes itself as an independent news outlet covering Afghanistan and Panjshir. Following the fight, Baradar disappeared for some days, resurfacing in Kandahar, where the group's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada is said to be based.

"While these very public disagreements have been played out, the whereabouts of the leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhundzada, are not known. He has not been seen or heard from for some time, and there are many rumours that he is dead," Loyn said.

"This vacuum at the top has allowed for arguments between the Taliban factions to erupt in a way that they did not when the Taliban were last in power, and the word of the leader of the movement Mullah Omar was law, even though he never came to Kabul. The titular head of the government formed earlier this month, Mullah Hassan Akhund, does not hold real power," Loyn said, adding that "there is no one to rein in the Haqqani network, who are very much off-message in their public statements."



It is been over a month when the Taliban captured Kabul after an aggressive and rapid advance against Afghanistan government forces after US military drawdown.

The country plunged into crisis last month after Kabul fell to the Taliban and the democratically elected government of former president Ashraf Ghani collapsed.

Loyn stated that it is difficult to predict how Pakistan will manage their new power in Afghanistan.

Pakistan intelligence chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed arrived in Kabul earlier this month leading a delegation of Pakistani officials. Hameed's emergency visit affirms that the Taliban are merely an ISI puppet.

Pakistan and its notorious intelligence agency have been accused of supporting the Taliban in taking over Afghanistan.

Experts believe that Pakistan has been a key player in removing the elected Afghan government from power and establishing the Taliban as a decisive power in Afghanistan.

Recently, a UN Monitoring report has said that a significant part of the leadership of Al-Qaida resides in Afghanistan and Pakistan border region. Former Afghan Vice-President Amrullah Saleh has asserted that the Taliban are being micromanaged by Pakistan's notorious intelligence agency--the ISI, adding that Islamabad is in charge of the war-ravaged country effectively as a colonial power.

## BIDEN SAYS QUAD PARTNERSHIP 'ELEVATED', US WILL DEFEND ALLIES



**UNITED NATIONS, (IANS)** US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that the Quad alliance of India, the US, Japan and Australia has been "elevated", as he declared that Washington will stand up for its allies and friends.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly Summit, Biden said, "We elevated the Quad partnership among Australia, India, Japan and the United States to take on challenges ranging from health security to climate to emerging technologies, engaging with regional institutions."

Biden's statement came ahead of his first Quad summit on Friday with Prime Ministers Narendra Modi of India, Yoshihide Suga of Japan and Scott Morrison of Australia.

"Make no mistake, the United States will continue to defend itself, its allies and its interests against attacks, including terrorist threats," he declared.

He also made a resolute commitment to fight terrorism.

"We know the bitter string of terrorism, which is real," Biden said, as he referred to the terrorist attack in Afghanistan last month that killed "13 American heroes and almost 200 innocent Afghan civilians".

"Those who commit acts of terrorism will continue to find a determined enemy in the United States," he said.

Biden also offered US cooperation to partners on emerging technologies and scientific breakthroughs.

"As new technologies continue to evolve, we'll work together with our democratic partners to ensure that new advances in areas of biotechnology, quantum computing, 5G (telecommunications), artificial intelligence and more are used to lift people up to solve their problems," he said.

In a message to China without taking its name, Biden said the US "will stand up for our allies and our friends, and oppose attempts by stronger countries to dominate the weaker ones and bring changes to territory by force, economic coercion, technical exploitation or misinformation".

At the same time, he said, "We are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs."

"The United States is ready to work with any nation that steps up to pursue peaceful resolution of shared challenges even if we have intense disagreement in other areas, because we'll all suffer the consequences of our failure to come together," he said. Biden, who has made fighting climate change a pillar of his domestic and foreign policies, echoed UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' warning about the imminent dangers of global warming, which he called "Code Red".

He said that every nation has to bring "their highest possible ambitions" for fighting climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the table at the UN climate change conference in November in Glasgow".

The US has set an ambitious new goal under the Paris Agreement on climate change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent to 52 per cent below the 2005 levels by 2050, he said. Biden came to the UN facing a credibility gap with the US allies and partners after the disastrous troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the dispute with France over the plan to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia undercutting a major defence deal between Paris and Canberra. France has withdrawn its envoy from Washington and French President Emmanuel Macron has cancelled his US speech that was scheduled for Tuesday.

## AUKUS DOESN'T HAVE ANY IMPACT ON QUAD: INDIA



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** India on Tuesday said that the trilateral military treaty among Australia-UK-US or AUKUS was not very relevant from its perspective and also does not have an impact on the functioning of the QUAD.

Addressing a media briefing here, Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that QUAD and AUKUS were not groupings of a similar nature.

"The QUAD is plurilateral grouping - a group of countries having a shared vision of their attributes and values QUAD is designed to cater to requirements of the Indo-Pacific region", he said. QUAD is a grouping of US, Australia, Japan and India.

He said that AUKUS was a military alliance of the three nations and India was not a party to this alliance. From our perspective, it was neither relevant nor will it have any impact on its functioning, he added.

Informing about the QUAD's initiatives, Shringla said, "It has adopted a positive pro-active agenda that has wide array of initiatives at the global level to address some of the issues of the day, this includes dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, including supply of vaccines to Indo-Pacific region. It includes working on new emerging technologies, it includes working on issues like climate change, infrastructure, maritime security, education and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)."

## Y MEDIA COVID &amp; VACCINE REPORT



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STARTING SEPTEMBER 22, ONTARIANS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF VACCINATION TO ACCESS CERTAIN BUSINESSES AND SETTINGS (CHRISTINE ELLIOT/TWITTER)

## Booster shots necessary to beat Covid-19 virus: Dr Fauci

**LONDON, (IANS)** Booster shots of Covid-19 vaccines will soon become necessary for people to gain maximum protection against Covid-19, US top infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci said on Sunday, after a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel rejected the broader use of the third dose among people aged 16 and above.

Pfizer made the proposal in a 52-page presentation to the US FDA, which included data from the recent Israeli study which showed that a booster dose of its Covid-19 vaccine can prevent both infections and severe illness in adults older than 60 shortly after the injection.

It was also backed by President Joe Biden's administration. However, the panel has approved a booster shot of Pfizer's Covid vaccine to people aged 65 and above. "I believe it's going to turn out that the proper regimen, at least for an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer's, is the two original doses, the prime, followed in three to four weeks by a boost, followed several months later by a third shot," Fauci, Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was quoted as saying by the Telegraph.

"I'm favourably disposed to boosts based on the waning of immunity, as we're seeing very, very clearly in the data in the US and even more dramatic data from our Israeli colleagues.

"There is some indication of waning in the UK, which is the reason the UK has or will soon be vaccinating people 50 years of age and older, as well as healthcare providers and those who are immunocompromised," he noted. The Pfizer study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that about 12 days after the booster dose, the rate of infection was eleven-fold lower and of severe disease nearly twenty-fold lower in those who received a booster compared with those who had received only two doses.



Similarly, Moderna has also claimed that protection from its mRNA vaccine against Covid-19 can last only for about six months, pitching a strong case for booster shots. While many countries like Israel, the UAE, Russia, France, Germany and Italy have already proceeded with the booster doses, several scientists, including the World Health Organisation, have called against the third Covid shot. In a recent review published in The Lancet, an international group of scientists argued that vaccine efficacy against severe Covid is so high, even for the delta variant, that booster doses for the general population are "not appropriate" at this stage in the pandemic.

AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot wrote in the Telegraph that a third dose of vaccines against Covid-19 may not be needed for everyone.

## LONG COVID IN KIDS RARELY LAST BEYOND 12 WEEKS: STUDY



**SYDNEY, (IANS)** Long Covid symptoms rarely persist beyond 12 weeks in children and adolescents unlike adults, suggests a review. The review, published in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, analysed 14 international studies involving 19,426 children and adolescents who reported persistent symptoms following Covid-19. The findings showed that long covid among children is less common than feared.

The most common symptoms reported four to 12 weeks after acute infection were headache, fatigue, sleep disturbance, concentration difficulties and abdominal pain.

"It is reassuring that there was little evidence that symptoms persisted longer than 12 weeks suggesting long Covid might be less of a concern in children and adolescents than in adults," Nigel Curtis, Professor at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne, Australia.

A recent study, led by University College London and Public Health England researchers, showed that up to one in seven children and young people who caught SARS-CoV-2 may have symptoms linked to the virus about three months later.

Another study published in the journal Lancet Child and Adolescent Health in August, noted that most children with Covid recover within a week, only a small percentage had long-term symptoms. The study, by researchers at King's College London, showed that less than one in 20 children with symptomatic Covid-19 experienced symptoms lasting longer than four weeks, and almost all children have fully recovered by eight weeks. However, the existing studies on long Covid in children have not pointed to long lasting symptoms unlike adults. The most common symptoms reported in children have been headaches, tiredness (fatigue), a sore throat, and loss of smell (anosmia). Reassuringly, there have been no reports of serious neurological symptoms such as fits or seizures, impaired concentration or attention, or anxiety.

Yet more studies are required to investigate the risk and impact of long Covid in young people to help guide vaccine policy decisions, said Curtis. "The low risk posed by acute disease means that one of the key benefits of Covid vaccination of children and adolescents might be to protect them from long Covid," he said. "An accurate determination of the risk of long Covid in this age group is therefore crucial in the debate about the risks and benefits of vaccination." Many countries, including the US, Canada, Denmark, Spain, France have rolled out Covid vaccinations for children aged 12 and above.

## INDIA TO RESUME VACCINE MAITRI, TO EXPORT JABS FROM OCTOBER

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said that India will be resuming export of vaccines under 'Vaccine Maitri' in the fourth quarter starting from October. He said that vaccine export will resume to fulfill the commitment towards COVAX in line with the motto 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam' (the world is one family). The decision to restart the vaccine export has come ahead of PM Modi's visit to Washington starting Tuesday where vaccines are likely to be discussed at a summit of the leaders of the Quad countries. Mandaviya said that the surplus supply of vaccines will be used to fulfill the commitment towards the world for the collective fight against Covid-19. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. He added that it is due to the relentless efforts and guidance of PM Modi that India was simultaneously undertaking Research and production of Covid vaccines in line with the global developments.

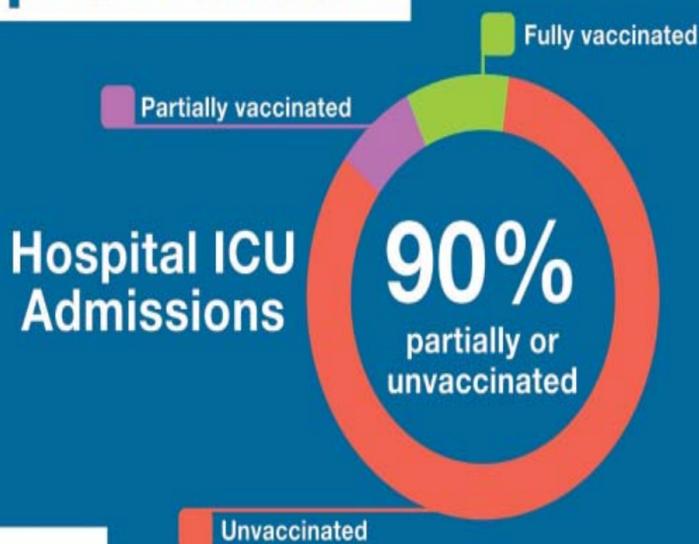
The minister said that India's vaccination drive has been a role model for the world and it is marching ahead with great speed. More than 4 times we have crossed one crore mark since the drive commenced on January 16. While talking about the vaccine production in coming months, Mandaviya said that more than 30 crore doses will be produced in October and more than 100 crore doses in the coming quarter. India stopped vaccine exports in April amid second Covid surge to jabs its own population.

## J&J SAYS COVID BOOSTER SHOT SHOT 94% EFFECTIVE

**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** Johnson & Johnson on Tuesday announced that its booster shot, given two months after the first shot, provided 94 per cent protection against Covid-19 in the US. When given two months after the first shot, the antibody levels rose four to six times higher than observed after the single shot, the company said in a statement.

A booster shot post six months after the first increased antibody levels nine-to 12-fold four weeks after the booster, regardless of age. "We now have generated evidence that a booster shot further increases protection against Covid-19 and is expected to extend the duration of protection significantly," said Paul Stoffels, Chief Scientific Officer at Johnson & Johnson, in the statement. While the 94 per cent efficacy rate for the J&J booster shot is for the US, globally, a booster shot given about two months after the first dose is 75 per cent effective against symptomatic infection, according to the company. It also demonstrated 100 per cent effectiveness against severe and critical disease, it said. The company has provided the available data to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and plans to submit the data to other regulators, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) worldwide to inform decision-making on local vaccine administration strategies, as needed. The company also released data from a real-world study that compared 390,000 people who received the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine versus 1.52 million unvaccinated people. The findings showed that a single dose of J&J vaccine provided strong and long-lasting protection against Covid-related hospitalisations, demonstrating 81 per cent effectiveness after several months.

# Vaccines reduce your risk of hospitalization.



Based on data from September 16, 2021

Source: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data/hospitalizations>

'THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOURSELF OUT OF THE ICU IS TO GET VACCINATED:' ONTARIO PREMIER DOUG FORD (TWITTER).

# Unvaccinated people are 43 times more likely to be in the ICU

Compared to fully vaccinated people in Ontario

UNVACCINATED ONTARIANS ARE 43X MORE LIKELY TO END UP IN THE ICU (DOUG FORD/TWITTER).

# PAKISTAN'S PM IMRAN KHAN SAYS PAKISTAN HAD TO ENDURE A 'TERRIBLE' RELATIONSHIP WITH US



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that his country had to endure a "terrible" relationship with the US which turned out to be disastrous for Islamabad. In an interview with CNN, Khan also called out the US for repeatedly accusing Pakistan of harbouring terrorists, Dawn news reported. "What are these safe havens? The area of Pakistan along the border of Afghanistan had the heaviest surveillance by the US drones, surely they would have known if there were any safe havens?" The premier said that Pakistan was unable to take military action against the Afghan Taliban because they were not attacking Pakistan. "Pakistan had its own internal matters to look at, such as attacks from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)." He said that had he been in the government at that time, he would have taken a different course of action.

"I cannot destroy my country to fight someone else's war," he said. "My responsibility would have been to the people of my country." Khan also said that he did not speak to US President Joe Biden after the Taliban took over Afghanistan. "He did not call as he is a busy man," the Prime Minister added. When questioned whether he supports the Taliban's treatment of women, especially excluding them from sports, Khan said: "I feel very strongly that it is a mistake to think that someone from the outside will give Afghan women their rights (because) Afghan women are strong. Give them time, and they will get their rights." With regards to women having the same rights as men in public and private lives, he said: "Women should have the ability in society to fulfil their potential in life (but) you cannot impose women's rights in Afghanistan from abroad."

# CANADIAN REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION SAYS, 'NATIONAL HOME SALES EDGED BACK 0.5% ON A MONTH-OVER-MONTH BASIS IN AUGUST'

Statistics released today by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) show national home sales were little changed between July and August 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- National home sales edged back 0.5% on a month-over-month basis in August;
- Actual (not seasonally adjusted) activity was down 14% on a year-over-year basis;
- The number of newly listed properties ticked up 1.2% from July to August;
- The MLS® Home Price Index (MLS® HPI) rose 0.9% month-over-month and was up 21.3% year-over-year;
- The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average sale price posted a 13.3% year-over-year gain in August.

### NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL STATISTICS

Home sales recorded over Canadian MLS® Systems edged back a slight 0.5% on a month-over month basis in August 2021, as transactions appear to be stabilizing at more sustainable but still historically active levels. (Chart A) It was a fairly even split between the number of local markets where sales were up and those where they were down, and without any commotion anywhere. Small declines in the GTA and Montreal were offset by gains in the Fraser Valley, Quebec City and Edmonton. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) number of transactions in August 2021 was down 14% on a year-over-year basis from the record set for that month last August. That said, it was still the second-best month of August in history. "Ideas on how to fix the housing market have taken centre stage in this election, with many long-simmering issues having had a big spotlight shone on them over the last year-and-a-half by COVID," said Cliff Stevenson, Chair of CREA. "The numbers for August provided more evidence of what many of us already knew or suspected to be the case –this housing crisis will not go away on its own. As such, it's encouraging to see all of the major parties looking at longer-term solutions to an issue that's been around for a while. It also highlights how there are no quick fixes here, so this market will remain challenging for those who choose or have to engage in it. That's why your best bet is to consult with your local REALTOR® for information and guidance about buying or selling a home in these unprecedented



times," continued Stevenson. "Canadian housing markets appear to be stabilizing somewhere in between pre- and peak-pandemic levels – which is to say, still extremely unbalanced," said Shaun Cathcart, CREA's Senior Economist. "As far as campaign promises around building more homes, at least we are finally having the right conversation. But as anyone who has tried to get even a small project done in the last year knows, availability of materials and skilled labour are not dials that can simply be turned up to 11 whenever we decide we need them. And that's not to mention all the other barriers to building, of which there are many. It's definitely easier said than done." The number of newly listed homes ticked 1.2% higher in August compared to July. As with sales activity, it was a fairly even split between markets that saw declines and those that saw gains. Among bigger Canadian markets, new supply declines in the GTA and Ottawa were offset by gains in Vancouver and Montreal. With both sales and new listings relatively unchanged in August, the sales-to-new listings ratio remained a tight 72.4% compared to 73.6% in July. The long-term average for the national sales-to-new listings ratio is 54.7%. Based on a comparison of sales-to-new listings ratio with long-term averages, a small majority of local markets remain in seller's market territory. The remainder are in balanced territory. There were 2.2 months of inventory on a national basis at the end of August 2021, down a bit from 2.3 months in July. This is extremely low – still indicative of a strong seller's market at the national level and in most local markets. The long-term average for this measure is more than twice where it stands today. It was also the first time since March that this measure of market balance tightened up.

# MALTON GUNFIGHT- JASTARAN SANDHU, 18, CHARGED WITH MURDER THAT LEAVES 21 YEAR OLD DEAD, 2 INJURED

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

During this disturbance, two men were struck by gunshots, at which point the group involved in the disturbance fled the area. The two men were transported to area hospitals, where one of the men, a 21-year-old man from Brampton, died as a result of the injuries he sustained. The second male was treated and later released from hospital. A third male involved in the disturbance was treated by paramedics for a non-gunshot related injury, transported to a hospital for further treatment and later released. "Gun violence carries tragic outcomes which will not be tolerated by our community or our service," said Nick Milinovich, Deputy Chief of Investigations and Emergency Services. "We will be relentless in our pursuit to of those responsible for this incident. Similarly, we are committed to working with our communities to prevent other tragedies from occurring." On September 18, 2021, investigators arrested Jastaran Sandhu, an 18-year-old man from Mississauga. He has been charged with First Degree Murder and will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 18, 2021. This investigation is still in its early stages. Anyone with information on this incident, surveillance footage, or dashcam that may have captured the moments leading up to, during or after the incident, is asked to contact investigators at 905-453-2121 extension 3205. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

# AMANDEEP MANJ, 35, SHOT DEAD AT VANCOUVER LUXURY HOTEL; NO SUSPECTS ARRESTED

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Homicide detectives continue to investigate. No arrests have been made. "Early this morning, witnesses called police to report a vehicle on fire near Charles and Pentiction streets in East Vancouver," says Constable Tania Visintin. "Our investigators are working to determine if there is a connection between this arson and yesterday's murder." Anyone with information is asked to call VPDs Homicide Unit at 604-717-2500 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



# BRAMPTON FINALIZES FUNDING FOR PEEL POLICE SATELLITE STATION

### BRAMPTON, ON-

At its September 15th meeting, Brampton City Council unanimously approved a budget of \$271,000 for the construction of a Peel Regional Police satellite station located at Gore Meadows Community Centre in Ward 10. Planning for the station commenced in November 2020 following the passing of Councillor Gurpreet Singh Dhillon's motion, and has now completed the architectural design and funding phases. Construction will begin in early 2022. "The funding approval is the final step before construction, and I thank Council for their support in ensuring Brampton's east end gets the police presence it urgently requires," noted Councillor Dhillon. "This satellite station will allow for quicker response times and an increased police footprint in Wards 8, 9, and 10, while also providing residents a greater sense of security."



### Notes:

- Currently the Peel Regional Police has no buildings, stations, or offices east of Bramalea Road, which represents more than a third of Brampton's population.
- It takes officers nearly 25-45 minutes to travel from 21 Division near Bramalea City Centre to the corner of Mayfield and Highway 50.
- Ward 8, 9, and 10 saw crimes against property increase by 34% and crimes against person increase by 50% from 2014 to 2018.

# PAK SAYS CRICKET CANCELLATIONS LINKED TO 'NO' TO US FOR AFGHAN BASE



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry, implied on Tuesday that the withdrawal of England and New Zealand cricket teams from their scheduled series in Pakistan was a result of Prime Minister Imran Khan saying "absolutely not" to the US on using Pakistan as a base for the latter's Afghan operations, the Express Tribune reported. In July, Imran Khan had categorically stated that he would not allow the US to use Pakistan as a base for its Afghan operations and the statement had caused quite a stir, generating debate on mainstream media and social media alike. In a press briefing after a cabinet meeting chaired by Khan on Tuesday, Chaudhry said that Pakistan is paying the price for saying "absolutely not" to the US, saying nations have to pay such kind of prices if they want to hold their head high, adding that this is in fact a small price to pay and proud nations keep paying such prices, the report said. "If you say absolutely not, then there's a price that you have to pay," the information minister said in response to a question about the cabinet's discussion on the back-to-back withdrawals by England and New Zealand, adding: "I think the nation is ready to pay the price and tackle such challenges." Chaudhry said the back-to-back withdrawals by the New Zealand and England cricket teams have caused a loss of roughly Rs 200 million to Rs 250 million to the Pakistan Television (PTV) alone.

What you'll need to show to access certain indoor businesses and settings **starting September 22:**



Proof of vaccination



Proof of identity



HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO SHOW WHEN ENTERING SOME BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS (DOUG FORD/ TWITTER).

# PRESIDENT BIDEN, PM MODI OR WHO?

## WANTED A WORLD LEADER AT UNGA THIS WEEK

BY ROBINDER SACHDEV

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

As the United Nations convenes its annual General Assembly in New York City this week, a galaxy of world leaders is arriving to address the world's most important podium, and audiences. They will step up to the podium to share their 2 cents, in their 2 minutes of speech time (ok, may be 7-8 minutes), to give solutions to the challenges and opportunities in the present and future of humankind, and co-existence on, and with planet Earth.

Make no mistake, this year the gathering is historic. In fact, the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly should rather have been named as 'The 1st UN General Assembly Meeting in Year 1 of the Post-Covid Era'.

A once in a century pandemic, unprecedented and quantum leaps in technology, the shambolic end of America's longest war of 20 years, and the dark shadow of a looming China - all have created perfect conditions for a once-in-a-century storm, as the post-Covid era begins.

Other global re-calibrations and tectonic shifts, too, are underway. Including a reality that climate change is knocking at our door-steps, with wild-fires, floods, droughts destroying our homes and lives, among other dire scenarios.

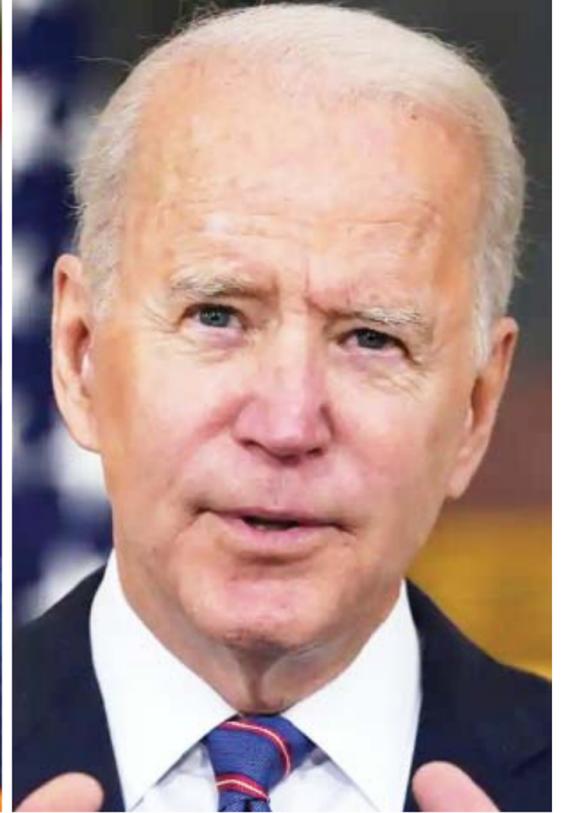
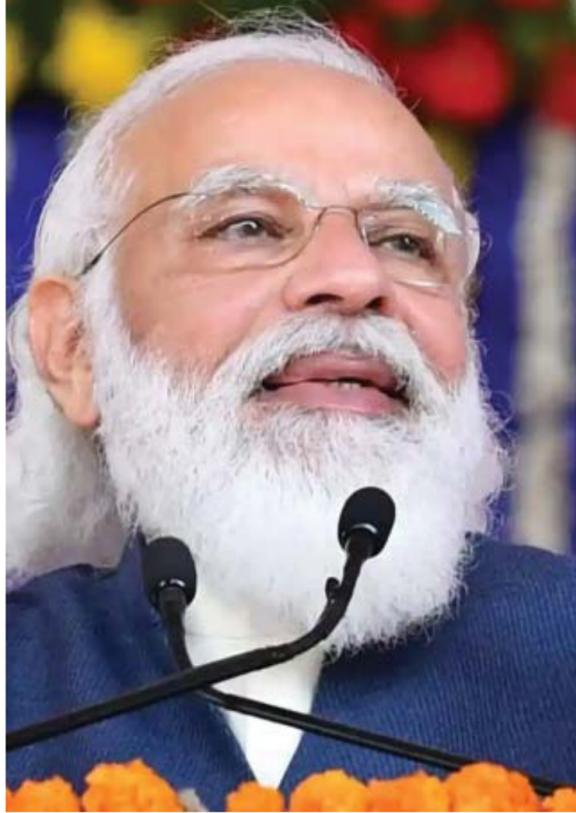
The UN may be much derided and has not delivered on what its founding principles were, but yet it remains and is the only world platform which can be nearest to a global problem-solver-in-chief. That the global problem-solver-in-chief is itself in deep problems that cannot be resolved, is another matter, and the world will have to manage whatever best can be.

But still there is hope. And there is scope. Some leader must, and has to, show leadership.

After all, mere words will not do. Firstly, there has to be depth behind the words, and a will and a path to take the words ahead into measurable outcomes. Secondly, the country that the leader represents, on which s/he builds the edifice of a powerful, persuasive world-vision, must have material strengths of population size, economic heft, and military power.

And thirdly, the leader must also bring a legacy, showcase some simple but big human, humane, and social principles, and inspirational energy for the good of humanity that has emanated in the last 100-200 years from the country that s/he represents.

As the sun rises on a post-Covid world order in the 21st century, there are very few countries that have a combo-pack of above three vectors. One, of course is the United States, which is the world's oldest democracy, the world's largest economy, with the



**IN FACT, THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD RATHER HAVE BEEN NAMED AS 'THE 1ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN YEAR 1 OF THE POST-COVID ERA'.**

**A ONCE IN A CENTURY PANDEMIC, UNPRECEDENTED AND QUANTUM LEAPS IN TECHNOLOGY, THE SHAMBOLIC END OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR OF 20 YEARS, AND THE DARK SHADOW OF A LOOMING CHINA - ALL HAVE CREATED PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR A ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY STORM, AS THE POST-COVID ERA BEGINS. OTHER GLOBAL RE-CALIBRATIONS AND TECTONIC SHIFTS, TOO, ARE UNDERWAY. INCLUDING A REALITY THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR-STEPS, WITH WILD-FIRES, FLOODS, DROUGHTS DESTROYING OUR HOMES AND LIVES, AMONG OTHER DIRE SCENARIOS. THE UN MAY BE MUCH DERIDED AND HAS NOT DELIVERED ON WHAT ITS FOUNDING PRINCIPLES WERE, BUT YET IT REMAINS AND IS THE ONLY WORLD PLATFORM WHICH CAN BE NEAREST TO A GLOBAL PROBLEM-SOLVER-IN-CHIEF. THAT THE GLOBAL PROBLEM-SOLVER-IN-CHIEF IS ITSELF IN DEEP PROBLEMS THAT CANNOT BE RESOLVED, IS ANOTHER MATTER, AND THE WORLD WILL HAVE TO MANAGE WHATEVER BEST CAN BE.**

largest military today. The other, China, though a rightful claimant, rules itself out since it advocates an authoritarian governance, control on human lifestyles, and is contra-freedom of thought and choices. Another up and coming force for good in the world is India - which is the world's largest democracy, with a rising economy and military might. More than that, India brings a voice of calm, co-existence and peace. The challenge for India is to bundle all its assets and offerings into a cohesive, demonstrable message, and to drive a buy-in and mobilisation across the world. Whoever it may be, will have to persuade, lead by example, and give the world some simple mantras and do-able solutions. It is equally possible that none of the leaders soar and truly inspire in their speech, bring nothing new, remain parochial and non-futurist, churn out same old arguments, and prescribe the same non-doable solutions that are routinely parroted out, year after year. Thus, the world is looking eagerly, nay desperately, to US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to hear their vision of a new world order, and to know how they will execute on the mission that they define for themselves, their nation, and the world. Or maybe

they will be insipid and disappoint. At same time, this year a surprise, last-minute, wild-card entry to this club may be France - led by President Emmanuel Macron. France has all three of the above cited vectors in reasonable proportion, and for long it has been aspiring to play a global role. The geopolitics of 21st century is in a flux, including on how to deal with China's rise, and the outcomes of Afghanistan. And for France, additionally, it is now a downhill trust in a US-led world order as a consequence of the US-UK-Australia submarine deal and formation of the AUKUS military alliance. Thus, while the world has much to look forward this week from Biden and Modi, I will not be surprised if Macron, and France, may have reached a tipping point wherein Macron sketches a world vision that may well see the birth of a new world-pole in geopolitics. After all, it is the French who gave the world the French Revolution.

*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within this article are the personal ideas of the author. The facts and conclusions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Y Media and Midweek Newspaper, and Y Media does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.*

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## STARTING SEPT. 22, ONTARIO TO REQUIRE PROOF OF VACCINATION IN SELECT SETTINGS

**TORONTO** - To further protect Ontarians as the province continues to confront the Delta-driven fourth wave of the COVID-19, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, will require people to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to access certain businesses and settings starting September 22, 2021. Requiring a proof of vaccination in these settings reduces risk and is an important step to encourage every last eligible Ontarian to get their shot, which is critical to protecting the province's hospital capacity, while also supporting businesses with the tools they need to keep customers safe, stay open and minimize disruptions.

"As the world continues its fight against the Delta variant, our government will never waver in our commitment to do what's necessary to keep people safe, protect our hospitals and minimize disruptions to businesses," said Premier Ford. "Based on the latest evidence and best advice, COVID-19 vaccine certificates give us the best chance to slow the spread of this virus while helping us to avoid further lockdowns. If you haven't received your first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please do so today."

As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with a photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:

- \* Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
- \* Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
- \* Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
- \* Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;
- \* Sporting events;
- \* Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
- \* Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
- \* Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
- \* Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).

## 17 INDO-CANADIANS ELECTED MPS AS TRUDEAU FAILS TO WIN MAJORITY

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's gamble to seek a majority by calling a snap election has not paid off even as 17 Indo-Canadians were elected as MPs.

In the elections held on Monday, Trudeau's ruling Liberal Party again ended up 14 seats short of the 170-mark in the 338-member House of Commons.

The Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (NDP) will again hold the balance of power as it increased its tally from 24 to 27. The main opposition Conservative Party ended up with a tally of 122 seats, one up from the dissolved House.

Among the 17 Indo-Canadian winners are Jagmeet Singh, former Minister Tim Uppal and three current Cabinet Ministers Harjit Singh Sajjan, Bardish Chaggar and Anita Anand.

Defence Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan again won from Vancouver South by beating Sukhbir Gill of the Conservative Party.

Chaggar, Minister of Diversity, too retained her Waterloo seat as did Public Service Minister Anand her Oakville seat.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh also retained his Burnaby South seat in British Columbia.

In British Columbia, three-time Liberal Party MP Sukh Dhaliwal retained his Surrey-Newton seat by beating fellow Punjabi Avneet Johal of the NDP.

Two-time Liberal Party MP Randeep Singh Sarai also won the Surrey Centre seat by beating Sonia Andhi of the NDP.

In Quebec, the sitting Indo-Canadian Anju Dhillon retained her Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle seat.

In Alberta, Jasraj Singh Hallan retained the Calgary Forest Lawn seat, but his fellow Conservative MP Jag Sahota lost to fellow Sikh George Chahal of the Liberal Party.

Uppal is back once again after retaining the Edmonton Mill Woods seat for the Conservative party.

He is the brother-in-law of Congress MLA from Jalandhar Cantt, Pargat Singh.

In Ontario, the Punjabi-dominated city of Brampton again re-elected all the four sitting Indo-Canadian MPs Maninder Sidhu, Ruby Sahota, Sonia Sidhu and Kamal Khera against fellow Indo-Canadians Naval Bajaj, Medha Joshi, Ramandeep Brar and Gurprit Gill, respectively.

The winners belong to Trudeau's Liberal Party.

Chandra Arya too retained the Napean seat in Ontario.

Lawyer Iqinder Gaheer, who won the Mississauga-Malton seat for the Liberal Party, will be one of the youngest MPs to go the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Sitting Conservative Party MP Bob Saroya was another known Indo-Canadian face to lose on Monday.

## 'CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ROSE 4.1% ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS IN AUGUST.' STATISTICS CANADA

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 4.1% on a year-over-year basis in August, the fastest pace since March 2003, up from a 3.7% gain in July. The increase in prices mainly stems from an accumulation of recent price pressures and from lower price levels in 2020. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 3.2% year over year. The monthly CPI rose 0.2% in August, down from a 0.6% increase in July. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.4%.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, durable goods have been a major contributor to the increase in the CPI. Durable goods rose at a faster pace in August (+5.7%) compared with July (+5.0%), with passenger vehicles (+7.2%), furniture (+8.7%) and household appliances (+5.3%) contributing the most to the increase. In addition, prices for services have accelerated for the fifth consecutive month, rising at a faster pace in August (+2.7%) compared with July (+2.6%) amid easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Year over year, prices for traveller accommodation rose 19.3%. Reopening of businesses and summer travel contributed to the price increases. Prices rose in seven of the eight major components in August, with transportation prices contributing the most to the all-items increase. Conversely, consumers paid less for clothing and footwear, as prices declined year over year.

### Gasoline prices rise in August

Year over year, gasoline prices rose 32.5% in August, mainly driven by lower production from oil-producing countries compared with pre-pandemic levels. Also contributing to the year-over-year increase were the low price levels observed in August 2020. Gasoline prices rose 0.4% month over month in August. Upward pressure on prices near the end of the month—as some offshore production was suspended due to Hurricane Ida—was partially offset by slowing global demand due to concerns associated with the rise of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

### Homeowners' replacement cost index rises at the fastest pace in more than three decades

The homeowners' replacement cost index, which is related to the price of new homes, continued to trend upward, rising 14.3% year over year in August—the largest yearly increase since September 1987. This was the fourth consecutive month of double-digit price growth. Similarly, the other owned accommodation expenses index, which includes commission fees on the sale of real estate, rose 14.3% year over year in August.



## EVIDENCE SHOWS COVID VAX IS SAFE, EFFECTIVE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**LONDON, (IANS)** Vaccination against Covid-19 is effective in patients with cancer, whose immune systems get weakened by various anti-cancer medicines, according to studies presented at the annual congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology.

The findings revealed that individuals with cancer have an appropriate, protective immune response to vaccination without experiencing any more side-effects than the general population. Indirect evidence also suggests that a third "booster" shot could further increase the level of protection among this patient population.

One of the studies, named VOICE, showed that patients with cancer who took Covid jab were protected regardless of the current oncology treatment. The study enrolled 791 patients from multiple hospitals in the Netherlands in four distinct study groups comprising individuals without cancer, patients with cancer treated with immunotherapy, patients treated with chemotherapy and finally patients treated with a chemo-immunotherapy combination, to measure their responses to Moderna's two-dose mRNA-1273 vaccine. At 28 days after administration of the second dose, adequate levels of antibodies to the virus in the blood were found in 84 per cent of patients with cancer receiving chemotherapy, 89 per cent of patients receiving chemo-immunotherapy in combination and 93 per cent of patients on immunotherapy alone. These results compare favourably with the antibody responses seen in almost all (99.6 per cent) of the group of individuals without cancer, according to Dr Antonio Passaro, lung cancer expert at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Italy, not involved in the study.

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## Ontario Opens Highway 427 Expansion on September 18



**NEW LANES WILL REDUCE TRAVEL TIME BY UP TO 25 MINUTES DURING PEAK PERIODS.**

**VAUGHAN** – The Ontario Government is opening a 10-kilometre expansion of Highway 427 from Finch Avenue to Major Mackenzie Drive to help improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and move people and goods safely.

"I am pleased to announce the new and widened sections of Highway 427 will be open to the public on September 18," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "As part of our vision for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, our government is investing in highway infrastructure to address congestion and keep up with the growing needs of Ontarians."

The expansion of Highway 427, which serves as a heavily-used commuter route to the City of Vaughan and neighbouring communities, is expected to save commuters up to 25 minutes of total travel time for a two-way trip during peak periods compared to driving along parallel municipal roadways.

A 6.6-kilometre extension of the highway includes eight new lanes from Highway 7 to Rutherford Road and six new lanes to Major Mackenzie Drive. Three new interchanges at Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive have also been constructed to connect roadways without interruption.

"Our government continues to make investments in Ontario's roads, bridges, and highways. By improving infrastructure in our communities, we are improving the quality of life for the people of Ontario. The completed Highway 427 expansion project is an excellent example of our government's work, as it will enhance our roadways, reduce the amount of time people spend in their vehicles, and give them more time to enjoy their family and friends," said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure.

A four-kilometre segment has also been widened to eight lanes from

Finch Avenue to Highway 7 along with an upgraded full interchange at Highway 7.

"The Highway 427 expansion will greatly benefit the people of Vaughan-Woodbridge. Not only will it help take vehicles causing crippling gridlock off our local roads, but it will also make our community safer while reducing travel times for commuters and commercial vehicles," said Michael Tibollo, MPP for Vaughan – Woodbridge. "Most of all, it means the creation of new opportunities like we have never seen before." Ontario will also be opening one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction of Highway 427 to further help improve traffic flow. The new northbound HOV lane will be located between Highway 409 and Rutherford Rd. The southbound HOV lane will start north of Rutherford Road and connect to an existing HOV lane south of Finch Ave.

Stephen Lecce, MPP King-Vaughan said, "Our government is expanding subways in York, improving all GO Stations in King and Vaughan, and completing the Highway 427 expansion to reduce congestion and get people moving. This expansion is critical to supporting families, commuters and small businesses who need to efficiently move across the GTA without the headache of debilitating gridlock." Improving highways, roads and bridges across the province is a key part of the government's commitment to be a world leader in moving people and goods safely while driving economic growth and job creation by investing in transportation infrastructure.

"We are excited and pleased about the opening of the Highway 427 expansion on Saturday, September 18. We are proud to have delivered this important piece of transportation infrastructure that will serve people travelling through and around the GTA," Michael Lindsay, President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario said.

## PEEL REGION CONFIRMS FIRST PROBABLE HUMAN CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS THIS YEAR



Peel Public Health has received confirmation of the first probable human case of West Nile virus in a Peel resident this year. West Nile virus is an infection transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Peel Public Health reminds all residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and to remove standing water where WNV-carrying mosquitoes can breed.

"While the risk of getting West Nile virus in Peel is low, this case reinforces the need for all residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites when outdoors and to remove mosquito breeding sites from their properties. Mosquitoes will remain active until the first frost," says Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel. West Nile virus symptoms usually develop between two and 14 days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito. Most people who contract the disease will show no symptoms, and approximately 20 per cent will experience mild flu-like symptoms. In very rare cases (fewer than 1 per cent) the infection can cause more severe symptoms including severe headache or confusion. Residents can protect themselves from mosquito bites by: Applying an approved insect repellent containing an ingredient effective against mosquitoes, such as DEET or icaridin, to exposed skin and clothing. It is important to read and follow the manufacturers' directions for safe use. Avoiding areas with high mosquito populations and taking extra precautions between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, and at any time in or near shady, wooded areas. Wearing light-coloured, tightly woven, loose-fitting clothing such as long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks to protect exposed skin. Making sure all window and door screens fit securely and are free of tears and holes. Ensuring that openings to rain barrels are always covered with a screen mesh. Removing or draining items on your property that hold stagnant water. Water that is stagnant for more than seven days is an ideal breeding site for mosquitoes. You can report stagnant water sites to Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or online. Register online at <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/vbd/> to receive email notifications and information about where mosquitos have tested positive for West Nile virus found in Peel. For more information about the West Nile virus, visit the Vector-borne diseases page or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Caledon residents can call toll-free at 905-584-2216.

## KIDNAPPED PAKISTANI CANADIAN 63-YEAR-OLD FAQIR ALI LOCATED, SON KILLED IN HOME INVASION

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

Police are encouraging anyone with video to check their cameras on Beach Blvd between the hours of 4:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. for a black 2015 Ford Edge SUV with licence plate CSKC 111 observed on their system.

Faqir Ali and his son are recovering in hospital and remain in stable condition. Hamilton Police can confirm that 21-year-old Hasnain Ali, affectionately known to his family as Nano, was killed during the incident. In the interest of privacy, the name of Mr. Ali's surviving son will not be released.

The investigation has now shifted from a rescue mission to a homicide investigation. The investigation continued throughout the night in an effort to identify those responsible. Police are searching for three male suspects. At this time, Hamilton Police have suspect descriptions for two males:

Suspect 1 – Black Male, 6'0 – 6'1, thin or skinny, dark skin, dark pants and a dark top. Suspect 2 – Black Male, wearing a grey tracksuit and a wrap described as a "doo rag" on his head.

These suspects were last seen headed fleeing Niagara Bound on Eastport drive towards Nikola Tesla Blvd in the second black SUV. This black SUV has since been located and seized in Hamilton by police. No further details of this vehicle will be provided at this time as the details surrounding its recovery are under investigation.

Thanks to the swift response from the public and media, Mr. Ali was safely located at 9:00 a.m. yesterday morning near Beach Blvd. Investigators received a number of tips and calls from the public that led to his safe recovery. Investigators do not yet have a motive for this crime. Police are asking anyone with information to come forward.

Hamilton Police Major Crime continues to investigate the homicide and encourage anyone with information to come forward. If you have video or information that you believe could assist police with the investigation into this crime you are asked to contact Det Lisa Chambers at 905-546-3843. To provide information anonymously, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit your anonymous tips online at <http://www.crimestoppershamilton.com>.

## NO INJURIES REPORTED AFTER RADIO HOST JOGINDER BASSI ATTACKED BY GUNMAN AT HIS RESIDENCE; POLICE LOOKING FOR SUSPECTS

Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau are seeking witnesses to an incident, that led to shots being fired at a home in Brampton. On September 14, 2021, just before 9 p.m., unknown suspects attended a home in the area of Sunny Meadow Boulevard and Bovaird Drive in Brampton, fired several gunshots at a home and fled the area. The home was occupied, but fortunately, there were no physical injuries to any of the residents. Anyone with information on this incident, surveillance footage or dash cam is asked to contact investigators at 905-453-2121 extension 2133. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), by visiting [peelcrimestoppers.ca](http://peelcrimestoppers.ca).

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## PAMA CONTINUES ITS ONGOING COMMITMENT TO THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN PEEL REGION AND BEYOND

**BRAMPTON:** The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives' (PAMA) commitment and mandate is to be an accessible safe space for the diverse communities of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga to come together and celebrate arts and culture. PAMA strives to be a place where Region of Peel communities see themselves reflected and actively contribute to building a 'Community for Life'.

In honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Sept. 30, and Culture Days which begins Sept. 24, PAMA has invited two artists this September to showcase their work and their stories in two outdoor installations.

Katherine Takpannie: One  
Outdoor Installation: On now – Jan. 3, 2022

Artist Talk: Wednesday, Oct. 20

Inuk photographer Katherine Takpannie takes centre stage on PAMA's outdoor banners. Seen from behind, she is a solitary figure enveloped by the whiteness of a snow-covered, winter landscape.

Evoking a sense of meditative calm in which the female figure becomes one with her surrounding, Takpannie is reflecting on the connection of the Inuit people to the sublime land, and the female body in its reproductive state as mother nature. Takpannie, who is pregnant with her first child, signals the dawn of new life through her amautik (a mother's parka).

Tracey-Mae Chambers: Hope and Healing Canada

Outdoors Installation: Sept. 30 – Oct. 3

Join Tracey-Mae Chambers as she creates her site-specific art installation #hopeandhealingcanada on the front lawn at PAMA. Stop by throughout the day or follow along with PAMA on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @visitpama to see the process on Sept. 30. The temporary installation will be on display until October 3.

Tracey-Mae Chambers grew up as a stranger to her own story; adopted and re-named, grafted into a family tree. The discovery in adulthood of her Ojibwa-Métis heritage was a revelation that set her on a path of discovery. Her work is in the powerful tradition of the vessel as metaphor for individuals; we fill and re-fill ourselves throughout life to create our own story.

#hopeandhealingcanada is Tracey-Mae Chamber's reaction to Covid-19 and her hope for healing by reconnecting with other people and our environments. More importantly the installation speaks to the lack of meaningful connection between settler Canadians and Indigenous, Inuit and Métis people.

PAMA continues its ongoing commitment to the Indigenous communities in Peel Region and beyond by continuing to share, educate and showcase art and history of Indigenous Canadians.

In 2013 PAMA opened the We Are Here: The Story of Aboriginal People in Peel exhibition, developed in partnership with Indigenous community members and advisors. We Are Here aimed to give visitors an understanding of the rich, vibrant and enduring cultures and experiences of Indigenous people who have called this land home for thousands of years ago and still do today. The exhibition engages visitors with interactives, video, stories, art and objects which highlight significant roles and contributions made by Indigenous people, and the issues and challenges that Indigenous communities have survived and continue to face. During the current PAMA closure due to the pandemic, and now as we upgrade our airflow systems and plan to re-open in 2022, PAMA will be conducting community consultations with our Indigenous partners. We are committed to listening and learning how we can update our We Are Here exhibit and help facilitate further conversations and learning.

## 27 Fast and Easy Fix Ups to Get the Best Price for Your GTA Home

**TORONTO** - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

Order your free report today. To order a FREE Special Report, visit [www.yellowhomes.ca/27tips](http://www.yellowhomes.ca/27tips) or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-855-907-2934 and enter 8023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW.



## IS MAMATA'S TRINAMOOL LOOKING TO MAKE POLITICAL SPLASH IN GOA?

**PANAJI, (IANS)** Is West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress founder Mamata Banerjee looking to make a political splash in 2022 Goa assembly polls?

Amid reports that the West Bengal-based party's scouts have reached out to several politicians across party lines ahead of the assembly polls, a former Congress MLA Agnelo Fernandes on Tuesday said that he had received feelers from the TMC over the last few days.

"I have been with the Congress through thick and thin. Feelers have been sent to us, saying Congress wants to take (Ports Minister Michael Lobo) Michael, why are you with the Congress? But I refused to participate in such a conversation," Fernandes told IANS on Tuesday. Fernandes and Lobo, a BJP MLA, are political rivals vis a vis the Calangute assembly constituency in North Goa. However, with Lobo repeatedly questioning the leadership of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, speculation is rife about him looking to switch political party in the

months leading to the polls. Reports about the Trinamool Congress' possible foray in the Goa polls come at a time when a several member-strong team of I-PAC, a political lobbying agency headed by political strategist Prashant Kishor has been in Goa for the last couple of weeks to assess the political ground reality in the poll-bound state. The team has been meeting politicians, journalists, social activists, businessmen and a cross section of the state's population.

A section of the local media has mentioned the name of former two-time Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro, as one of the potential targets for Mamata Banerjee's party. Responding to the reports, Faleiro told IANS: "Lot of people are doing surveys. They are meeting all the leaders". If the Trinamool Congress does make a political play in Goa, it would not be its first. The party made its first venture into state politics in the 2012 state assembly polls, when the party's Goa unit was headed by former Chief Minister Dr Wilfred de Souza.

## AAP is original, BJP duplicating policies: Kejriwal in Goa

**PANAJI, (IANS)** Accusing the BJP-led coalition government of "duplicating" initiatives of the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal said the people of Goa should elect the "original" AAP, instead of the BJP, which merely duplicates its policies. "(Chief Minister Pramod) Sawant said that water will be free in Goa. I was very happy. We did it four years ago in Delhi. I have heard that they have started doorstep delivery of services. We started it in Delhi three years ago," Kejriwal told a press conference in Mapusa town in North Goa. "I believe that whatever is happening in Delhi, he (Sawant) is copying it in Goa. When the original is available, why do you need a duplicate? When the people of Goa can vote for the original, why do you need a duplicate? The duplicate person will end up

doing 'gadbad' (confusion)," Kejriwal said. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders in Goa have been engaged in a war of words and pre-poll announcements over the last few months ahead of the state Assembly polls, which are due in the coastal state in early 2022. After the AAP announced free power to the tune of 300 units to domestic households in the state, the BJP-led coalition government has announced 16,000 free litres of water in every household. The AAP on Tuesday also promised 80 per cent reservations for domiciled Goans and also made promises to allot doles to the tune of Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 to unemployed youth and households, whose livelihoods were linked to the flagging tourism and defunct mining industry with no assured earnings.

## Mamata will win by huge margin in Bhabanipur, says BJP leader Rajib Banerjee

**KOLKATA, (IANS)** Embarrassing the Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP leader Rajib Banerjee said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will win with a huge margin and it would have been better if the party had not fielded any candidate against her.

"The people gave her a mandate and she has come back to power with 213 seats. She is contesting from Bhabanipur and the Congress has decided not to put up any candidate against her. We cannot or should not ignore the people's verdict and the people want her to be the chief minister of the state. She is going to win by a huge margin in Bhabanipur. It would have been the right gesture if the BJP had also stayed away from the election. They should not have fielded any candidate against her," the former Trinamool Congress minister who switched over to the BJP just before the assembly polls said.

Banerjee who lost in this election to the Trinamool Congress was also critical about Suvendu Adhikari's approach towards the chief minister. Speaking to the media, Banerjee said, "People brought her back to power with 213 seats and so it is not decent to speak foul about that

person. To make comments like 'Fufu', 'Kahlu', 'Begum' has created a wrong impression about us. One should be careful when speaking about a leader of her stature." Banerjee was speaking about the Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari who accused Mamata Banerjee of divisive and partisan politics. Speaking on an issue like religious division, the BJP leader said, "I have occasionally warned the party not to follow religious lines because religious divisive politics will not work in West Bengal but the party has not paid any heed. The party has suffered for that." Rajib Banerjee was a member of the earlier West Bengal cabinet. But just before the assembly elections he joined the BJP and contested from Domjur assembly constituency, where he was the MLA earlier, but was defeated. Soon after his defeat, he became a rebel and started making anti-party statements and avoiding party meetings. Banerjee was accused of meeting Trinamool Congress All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and several Trinamool leaders and he was show-caused for that. According to a senior BJP leader Rajib Banerjee was show-caused twice for his anti-party activities but he did not reply.

## UP CM YOGI ADITYANATH TERMS HIS TENURE 'MEMORABLE'

**LUCKNOW, (IANS)** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that the four-and-half years of his government in state was a "memorable" tenure that was devoted to good governance.

Addressing a press conference here on the occasion, Adityanath said that his government had struck at the root of the mafia and paved the way for a safer and secure state.

"We put the criminals in jail, confiscated their properties and not a single communal riot took place in Uttar Pradesh in the past four and a half years. Our priority was security for women as we set up the Anti-Romeo squad, pink booths for women and launched the third phase of Mission Shakti to empower women on all fronts," he said.

The Chief Minister said that while previous governments built houses for themselves, his government built houses for the poor. "We have a sense of stability to the state administration unlike previous government that had turned transfers into an industry. We encouraged officers to work better and be more responsive toward the public."

He said that his government gave jobs to 4.5 lakh youths and set up a transparent system for this, adding that the state rose in ranks on the ease of doing business platform and investments started coming in.

Further listing the achievements of his government, the Chief Minister said that the state hosted the Kumbh Mela, Deepotsav in Ayodhya, Rangotsav in Mathura, Investors' Summit and the Chauri Chaura Utsav and won accolades for the impeccable arrangements. Referring to the Ram temple, he said that was fortunate that the construction of the temple began during his tenure.

"Those who kept taunting us with the date of construction of the temple, finally got an answer when the 'bhumi puja' was performed by Prime Minister in August last year." Adityanath said that his government had developed places of religious interest into tourist destinations. "We implemented the National Education Policy and also gave a network of expressways to the state," he added.

The Chief Minister said that the state's model of Covid management has been acknowledged not only in the country but also globally. "We managed to contain the virus with maximum testing and maximum vaccination in the country," he added.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's Central leadership for their guidance and the state organisation and the media for taking his government's achievements to the people.

Yogi addresses media on completing 4.5 years in office



## DON'T USE THE WORD DALIT TO IDENTIFY SOMEONE: PUNJAB SC PANEL



**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** Taking note of the word 'Dalit' being used for newly-appointed Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi by the media, the Chairperson of the state Scheduled Castes Commission, Tejinder Kaur, on Tuesday issued instructions not to use the nomenclature to mark the identity of any person belonging to Schedule Castes. In a statement issued here, Kaur said the nomenclature Dalit does not find mention in the Constitution or any other statute. Even the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has directed all state governments and Union Territory administrations to use the word Scheduled Caste instead of Dalit for persons belonging to SCs. Acting on the reports of violations being made by the media, the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has issued a notice to private satellite TV channels, asking them to comply with an order passed earlier by the Bombay High Court to not use the word Dalit in reports, Kaur said.

## CONG SAYS CHANNI & SIDHU TO LEAD IN POLLS AFTER DIFFERENCES SURFACE

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Congress has contradicted Harish Rawat, the Punjab in-charge, on the issue of leadership and said elections will be fought under both the chief minister and the state party president. AICC general Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "Media please do not spread confusion and stop attack on the Dalit chief minister. Charanjeet Channi will be our face as Chief Minister and Sidhu as State President." The Congress had to begin damage control on the day of the swearing in of the new Chief Minister in Punjab as differences arose over the statement of Harish Rawat who said that the next election will be fought under Navjot Singh Sidhu. Former state party president Sunil Jakhar who missed the bus due to the consideration of a Sikh Chief Minister has criticized him. "On the swearing-in day of Sh @Charanjit\_channi as Chief Minister, Mr Rawat's statement that "elections will be fought under Sidhu, is baffling. It's likely to undermine CM's authority but also negate the very 'raison d'être' of his selection for this position." said Jakhar in a tweet. Sources say that after cutting the "Gordian knot" of Amarinder Singh, the Congress will checkmate Sidhu also in a similar way as his statements have not been doing any good to the party. Congress leaders say that obviously Channi, the new chief minister, will have the main role in the elections. The Punjab saga may have ended in the eyes of the Congress leadership, but state leaders will assert themselves till the elections and the path for Sidhu will not be smooth. In the legislative party meet Sidhu was the last choice amongst the MLAs while Jakhar and Randhawa had majority support. Randhawa could not make it as Sidhu was adamant on the appointment of a Jat Sikh as the CM and had objections to Jakhar. Though senior Congress leader Ambika Soni refused to become Chief Minister and was backing Randhawa, amid all this Channi came as a surprise and a compromise candidate.

## INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY CAN'T BE IMAGINED WITHOUT CRPF: AMIT SHAH

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that the internal security of the country cannot be imagined without the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and over 2,000 troopers have so far sacrificed their lives for the country.

After planting a sapling at the CRPF training ground at Mudkhed in Nanded district of Maharashtra, Shah said that the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have achieved the target of planting one crore saplings in the country. Shah said, "It was Narendra Modi who first understood the seriousness of climate change and ensured its institutionalised management and created a new ministry in the Gujarat Cabinet. Many chief ministers focus on building roads, ensuring education facilities and drinking water schemes, but he worked on climate change and plantation drive." Shah also said that to maintain the balance between nature and carbon emission, tree plantation is the only solution.

Describing global warming and climate change as enemies, Shah said that people have to protect the environment and natural resources.

"The government can plant saplings, but the CRPF should protect them. I urge every CRPF jawan to protect one sapling. The trees being planted in this drive have a life of over 100 years," he said.

## BJP QUESTIONS SONIA-RAHUL OVER CAPTAIN'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SIDHU



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** After Captain Amarinder Singh opened a front against his own party's state president Navjot Singh Sidhu, accusing him of having links with Pakistan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday sought clarifications from Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on the issue. Former Union Minister and BJP leader Prakash Javadekar launched a scathing attack on the Congress, saying that Amarinder Singh had made very serious allegations against Navjot Singh Sidhu by calling him anti-national. Linking the issue with national security, Javadekar questioned the silence of Congress interim national president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and asked whether the Congress would take note of these allegations.

He said that the Congress should come clear on these allegations. After resigning as the Chief Minister of Punjab on Saturday, Amarinder Singh had lashed out at Navjot Singh Sidhu over his Pakistan connection. He raised questions about Sidhu's praise of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and General Bajwa, and even called him anti-national. The Captain had also said that he had informed the Congress high command several times about all these issues.

Captain's allegations against Sidhu have given the BJP an opportunity to target the Congress high command. Many BJP leaders believe that due to his military background, Captain Amrinder Singh's intentions regarding national security can never be questioned, and that he has always supported every step of the Modi government taken against Pakistan.



## MAHA: NON-BJP GROUPS GEAR FOR SEP 27 'BHARAT BANDH'

**MUMBAI, (IANS)** Nearly a 100 groups comprising national political parties, farmers' organisations, trade unions, teachers, women, youth, labourers and others will join the September 27 'Bharat Bandh' called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), top organisers said here on Tuesday. The decision was taken at a state-level meeting of all the groups chaired by AITUC National Working Committee Member Dr. Bhalchandra Kango, held here on Monday with the participation of over 200 leaders of around 100 organisations, said All India Kisan Sabha President Dr. Ashok Dhawale.

The speakers dwelt on the ongoing farmers' struggle, the workers' issues and the importance of the 'Bharat Bandh' against "the bankrupt policies" of the BJP-RSS regime at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

The meeting called upon all organisations in the state and elsewhere to mobilise supporters and make all efforts to ensure the 'Bharat Bandh' is a success in Maharashtra. A delegation called on Congress

State President Nana Patole, NCP State President and Minister Jayant Patil, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and senior NCP Minister Dr. Jitendra Awhad who assured support of the Maha Vikas Aghadi parties to the nationwide action of next Monday. The prominent participants included Vidya Chavan (NCP), Raju Korde (PWP), Meraj Siddiqui (SP), Dhananjay Shinde (AAP), Prabhakar Narkar (JD-S), Dr S.K. Rege (CPI-M), Prakash Reddy (CPI), Ulka Mahajan (Sarvahara Jan Andolan), Teesta Setalvad (Sabrang India), Feroz Mithiborwala (HBKL), Anil Tyagi (SUCI), Kishor Dhamale (SCP), Subhash Kakuste (LNP), Dr Vivek Monteiro (CITU), Prof Tapatil Mukhopadhyay (MFUCTO), Milind Ranade (NTUI), Yuvraj Ghatkal (NAPM), Prachi Hatiwlekar (AIDWA) and leaders of several other organisations. Other major groups included Jan Andolananchi Sangharsh Samiti, SamyuktaShetkariKamgarMorcha, All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, Trade Unions Joint Action Committee, Unorganized Workers Struggle Committee, Hum Bharat ke Log / Nation for Farmers, etc.

## INDIA'S AGRI, PROCESSED FOOD EXPORTS RISE OVER 21% YOY



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** India's agricultural and processed food products exports rose 21.8 per cent in April-August FY22, on a year-on-year basis. According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the overall export of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority increased from \$6,485 million in April-August 2020 to \$7,902 million in April-August 2021. This rise in exports has been achieved notwithstanding Covid-19 restrictions, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement. "The significant spike in agri-exports is seen as a testimony of the government's commitment to increase farmers' income through giving thrust on boosting exports of agricultural and processed food products of the country."

The huge jump in exports of agricultural and processed food products during the first five months of current fiscal is in continuation of growth in exports witnessed in the financial year 2020-21.

As per the WTO's trade map, with the total agri-exports of \$37 billion in the year 2019, India is ranked at ninth position in the world.

## ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD RECOGNISE EUL VACCINES: WHO CHIEF SCIENTIST

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** World Health Organization Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan on Tuesday said that all countries are supposed to follow the WHO recommendations. Talking to IANS on the ongoing row over the new UK COVID travel rules that prescribed that vaccinated Indians also need to go for a 10-day quarantine Swaminathan said, "All countries are supposed to follow our recommendations. They are not binding".

According to the new UK rules, Indian travellers who have received both doses of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) will be considered unvaccinated and will have to undergo self-isolation for 10 days.

The UK government's recent order which has set off a controversy says that persons vaccinated in countries like the UAE, India, Turkey, Jordan, Thailand, Russia, or the continents of Africa and South America, will be considered as unvaccinated and will have to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon their arrival. On being asked about the WHO's next move in this regard, Swaminathan said that the WHO position is clear on this that all countries should recognize EUL vaccines.

## India to likely begin export of Sputnik Light COVID-19 shot this month: Sources

According to sources, India is likely to allow the export of domestically produced Russia's Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine this month as the shot has yet to be approved in India.

As per the local media, the Indian drugmaker Hetero has already manufactured 2 million doses of the single-shot vaccine, for whose approval the country's drug regulator has sought a separate immune-bridging clinical trial. "Sputnik Light exports are expected to begin from this month. Light is not an approved vaccine in India and stocks are available. There's pressure on the government to export," said one of the sources. As far as the manufacturers, Hetero and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories are concerned, they have declined to make any comments about the matter.

Light is the first of two different components of the two-dose Sputnik V vaccine that has been authorised for emergency use in India and elsewhere. Light has also been approved in many countries but Indian experts want to know if the single-dose vaccine would work well on Indians. The South Asian country has administered 907,766 Sputnik V doses so far, out of 839.1 million shots given in total. India will resume exports of approved COVID-19 vaccines, Covishield - mainly a licensed version of the AstraZeneca shot, in the October quarter after shipments were banned in April when infections surged in the country.



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- White, Black & Stainless Steel

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## Covid, climate crisis, Afghanistan to dominate UNGA

**UNITED NATIONS, (IANS)** The annual parade of Presidents, Prime Ministers, Princes and potentates starts off on Tuesday when they meet in person and virtually at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to grapple with global problems, promote their own agendas and engage in diplomacy.

Climate change with the UN climate change conference in Glasgow scheduled for November, the Covid-19 pandemic and Afghanistan are expected to be among the top items on the agenda for the meetings billed as the High-Level Week. These topics are expected to dominate Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's speech at the opening session, according to a UN source familiar with his thinking.

He will sound a "five-alarm" warning on the dangerously deteriorating global situation in these and other areas, the source said. The source said that Guterres is also expected warn about the risks from tensions between the US and China. By tradition, Brazil is scheduled to be first national speaker at the session under the leadership of Assembly President Abdulla Shahid, the Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is to be in person at the Assembly on Tuesday followed by US President Joe Biden. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address the Assembly in person on Saturday at the start of the day's session at 9 a.m. New York time (6.30 p.m. Indian Standard Time) after his visit to Washington for the QUAD summit.

Ahead of his speech, which is expected to highlight India's contribution of vaccines in the global war on the pandemic, New Delhi has announced that it will resume exports vaccines that many countries desperately need.

Global security and terrorism have been the mainstays of his UN speeches and the topics take on urgency after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in New York on Monday for diplomacy on the sidelines of the Assembly. He will represent India at several of the meetings held alongside the Assembly sessions and also hold bilateral talks with many leaders starting with British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss who took over the post last week. The side events dealing with specific topics started off on Monday with an informal roundtable of some heads of state and government on climate change that was convened by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Guterres. A virtual Covid-19 summit convened by Biden on Wednesday will be one of the major events on the sidelines of the Assembly and his Spokesperson Jen Psaki said it will be an effort for "expanding and enhancing our shared efforts to defeat" the pandemic. Amid fears that the UN event could become a Covid super-spreader, the participation has been pared down and 54 of the speakers will address the Assembly virtually. The others will come with smaller delegations. China and Russia are listed among those sending in pre-recorded statements. Russia's virtual representation has been downgraded with only Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov scheduled to speak on Saturday. French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country is engaged in a diplomatic tiff with the US over the submarine deal, cancelled his virtual speech scheduled for Tuesday. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian is expected to speak later in the week. The two countries are at odds over the breach of Australia's contract to buy submarines after the US offered Canberra nuclear-powered submarines. Beijing was originally scheduled to be represented by a Deputy Prime Minister on Saturday afternoon, but on Monday there was a late switch and President Xi Jinping is now scheduled to speak virtually on September 27 at the end of the morning session.



## INDIA'S EMPHASIS ON RE-INTRODUCING TRADITIONAL FOOD: AGRI MINISTER

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** India's Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday said the government has emphasised on re-introducing traditional food items including millets, other nutritious cereals, fruits and vegetables, fish, dairy, and organic products in the diet of the people. "The production of these food items has been phenomenal in India in recent years and India is becoming a destination country for healthy food items," he said while virtually addressing the second day's session of the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting. The theme of the session was 'Working together to achieve the Zero Hunger goal: Successful projects implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture', a release from the Agriculture Ministry said. Reminding that the United Nations has accepted the proposal of the Indian government and declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets, he appealed to the nations to support the celebration to promote nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Tomar stated that the agriculture sector in India has achieved great success after Independence, and had remained unaffected even during the Covid pandemic. He said that the various initiatives of the government to keep the Agri-market dynamic along with the agri-input supply chain during Covid have helped the sector record better performance.

# Proof of vaccination will be required in higher-risk indoor public settings effective September 22, 2021

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | Restaurants and bars                      |  | Sporting events                                  |
|  | Nightclubs and casinos                    |  | Concerts, music festivals, theatres, and cinemas |
|  | Meeting and event spaces                  |  | Racing venues                                    |
|  | Gyms, fitness and recreational facilities | And more...  |  |

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