

## IMMIGRATION MINISTER MENDICINO ANNOUNCES PARENTS AND GRAND PARENTS PROGRAM



Y MEDIA  
EXCLUSIVE

DETAILS ON PAGE 7

## Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE - MP RUBY SAHOTA

## 2ND WAVE - HOW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL HELP CANADIANS?

BY - SIDDHARTHA SHARMA

With the rise in Covid-19 cases daily in Ontario to numbers that were not even seen during the start of the pandemic, the concerns among healthcare workers and communities are growing. Y Media's Group Editor and CEO, Yudhvir Jaswal brings you an exclusive interview with Ruby Sahota, MP, Canadian Liberal. In this interview Ruby Sahota, talks about the new benefits that Canadians will be able to take under the newly passed legislation on CERB.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** A lot of Canadians are confused about the new legislation that's passed, can you please elaborate for our readers.

**MP Ruby Sahota:** 9 Million people at the beginning of CERB benefits were helped initially, however at this moment there are approximately 3 million people are taking CERB.

The plan seems to be working for helping Canadians during this pandemic. A lot of people initially thought that this was an incentive for people not to work, however numbers speak a different story. Initially, there were 9 million people taking this benefit, and as time passed, people got back to work again and now there are only 3 million people who are taking this benefit.

The EI provisions have also been eased out now. Canadians who were eligible for EI, they are automatically getting enrolled in this new benefit now since the eligibility has been reduced to just 120 hours now. The self-employed workers will need to apply for the new benefits. This benefit is retro active since September 27 and the

application is available only for a few days. The bill is now passed and after the Royal ascent Canadians will be eligible to apply for the three new benefits that are announced.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** So, are the new benefits rolled over automatically to only 2.9 million people who were already under CERB or the out of the initial 9 million Canadians, some of those who are now again out of work are also eligible for these new benefits?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** Yes automatic roll-over will only happen for this 2.9 million people who were already availing the benefit, people who let go of CERB and are now again not working will have to update their job status and apply again. That is my. Understanding as of now.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** The 3 Million people who were under CERB are now under CRB, how will the payouts happen to them now?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** All the information is now on canada.ca, it's a new benefit for Canadians. If your CERB payments are over you'll have to apply to CRB again now. In order to be eligible for \$500 per week for 26 weeks you'll have to apply again. Under CRB that's valid for a year you can only take this payment from. The relief fund for only 26 weeks in a year. Since, we don't know the time frame for this pandemic to end, the reason why this support is there.

You can even work and if your income is reduced by 50% or your hours are reduced and you are not getting the same amount of income at home that was offered by the employer, you can apply for this recovery benefit. Rest all the requirements are the same as that was in CERB for the new CRB. Voluntarily if you leave the job you won't be covered under this new law. **CONTD. ON PAGE 5**



## "LIVING WITH WELLNESS" BY V SERVE CANADA & ARRA ARTS"



"CEO, ARRA ARTS ANU SRIVASTAVA AND CGI TORONTO APOORVA SRIVASTAVA HANDING OUT SAMSUNG TABLETS TO SENIORS CLUB IN MISSISSAUGA"

DETAILS ON PAGE 14

## SENIOR DEMANDS MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING COVID -19

"SHAMBHU DUTT SHARMA, PRESIDENT - NEW HOPE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OF BRAMPTON" SIDDHARTHA SHARMA

"On September 23, 2020 Gov. Gen. Julie Payette delivered the Throne Speech from the Senate chamber in Ottawa, that reassured Canadians that their health is the "governments number one priority." The Liberal government has promised to extend emergency support for Canadians hit by the COVID-19 crisis while building a more resilient economy. The Throne speech also touched upon empowerment of women to boost the economy, fights climate change and addresses systemic racism.



CONTD. ON PAGE 7

## QUAD: A POTENTIAL FORCE TO COUNTER CHINA NEEDS TO MOVE BEYOND SYMBOLISM



Four countries have one agenda to stop China's efforts to dominate the Indo-Pacific. China's expansionism threat is not new and neither the 'Quad' or the Quadrilateral alliance between India, Australia, United States and Japan. However, in the past, the group has been shy of openly declaring its intentions.

The group met for the first time in 2017 and a few years before this these countries had joined hands for ad hoc relief operations after the 2004 tsunami. The prime ministers of India, Japan, Australia met with the then US Vice President Dick Cheney.

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## RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS APPROVED BY HEALTH CANADA

The Government of Canada is protecting the health and safety of all Canadians, while moving quickly to have access to a safe and sustainable economic recovery. This includes taking steps so Canadians can quickly and easily access COVID-19 testing. The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, today announced that the Government of Canada has signed a new agreement with Abbott Rapid Diagnostics to purchase up to 20.5 million Panbio COVID-19 Antigen rapid tests.



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## RAVI SINGH OF KHALSA AID EXTREMELY WEAKENED AFTER COVID 19



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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sat and Sunday: Current affairs

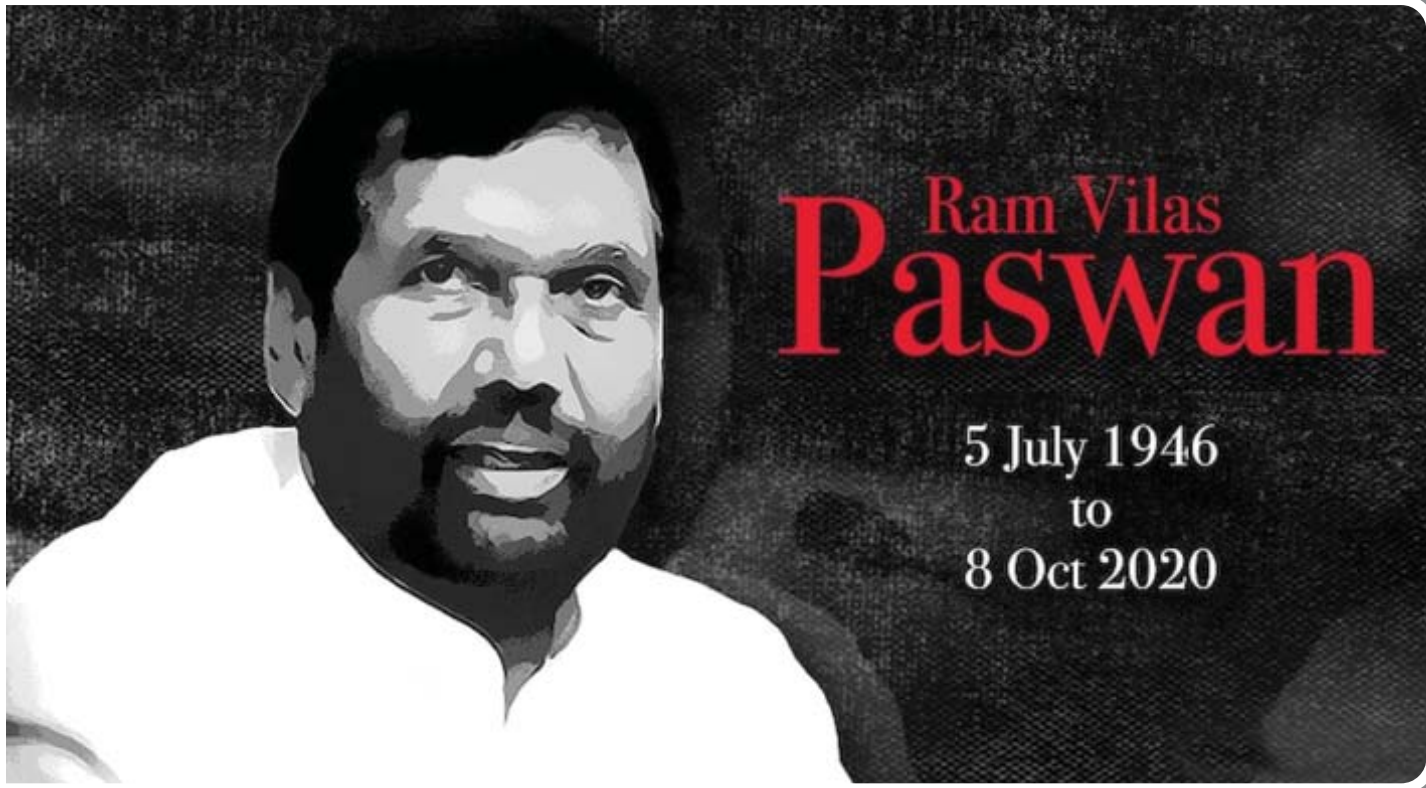
Wed: Economic updates

3pm, 6pm, 9:30 pm





## Socialist icon, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan dies aged 74



UNION MINISTER RAM VILAS PASWAN, A SOCIALIST AND ANTI-EMERGENCY CRUSADER WHO BROKE THROUGH BIHAR'S DEEPLY CASTE-STRATIFIED SOCIETY TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INDIAN POLITICS IN A CAREER SPANNING FIVE DECADES, DIED OF HEART FAILURE IN NEW DELHI ON THURSDAY. HE WAS 74.

Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, a socialist and anti-Emergency crusader who broke through Bihar's deeply caste-stratified society to establish himself at the highest level of Indian politics in a career spanning five decades, died of heart failure in New Delhi on Thursday. He was 74.

Paswan, one of India's tallest Dalit leaders who nurtured relationships across political parties, held the portfolios of food, public distribution, and consumer affairs. He was an eight-time Lok Sabha member from Bihar's Hajipur and, since 2019, was a member of the Rajya Sabha from Bihar. Paswan was admitted to Delhi's Fortis Escorts Heart Institute with heart failure and kidney problems on September 11. He was subsequently put on ventilator and Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

(ECMO), but his condition deteriorated in the past 24 hours. He passed away at 6.05pm, read a statement from the hospital. "Papa... Now you are not in this world but I know you are always with me wherever you are. Miss you Papa," tweeted Paswan's son Chirag Paswan. The national flag will be flown at half mast on Friday in Delhi and capitals of all states and Union territories, and Paswan will be accorded a state funeral, the government announced. Often called a "kingmaker" in Bihar, Paswan was known to be affable and approachable. His death capped an eventful and consummate political career that saw him become a national leader, serve as a minister under six different prime ministers and earn for himself the sobriquet of "weathervane of Indian politics" for his ability to gauge the mood of the electorate.

## Trump, positive for COVID-19, says won't participate in virtual debate

**WASHINGTON:** President Donald Trump said on Thursday he would not participate in a virtual debate, throwing into doubt the second presidential debate between Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, scheduled for October 15.

His words came moments after the commission that oversees the debates said the event would be conducted from remote locations in the wake of his COVID-19 diagnosis.

"That's not acceptable to us," Trump said on a phone call with Fox Business, adding he thought the virtual format would allow the moderator to cut him off. Trump said he would not attend the debate if he was contagious but that he thinks he is now well enough to hold

campaign rallies. The Commission on Presidential Debates said the debate would remain a town hall-style conversation and that voters and the moderator will ask the candidates questions from the original debate site in Miami.

The Biden campaign welcomed the move.

"Vice President Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people and comparing his plan for bringing the country together and building back better with Donald Trump's failed leadership on the coronavirus that has thrown the strong economy he inherited into the worst downturn since the Great Depression," said deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield.

## PROTESTERS UP ANTE, CORPORATES FEEL HEAT



**PATIALA:** Upping the ante in their protest against the contentious agriculture Acts, farmers are now not letting the toll plazas on the national and state highways here to collect the charges from commuters, thereby, almost turning these into freeways. In Patiala, farmers are protesting at toll plazas at Dharreri, Chahal on Amlloh road, Rakhra on Nabha road and Asarpur Chupki on Samana road. The plazas haven't been operative for the past six days.

They have also laid siege to three petrol stations owned by corporate houses and plan to protest outside departmental stores and malls in the district. "The farm Acts have been enacted to profit the corporate houses. We, therefore have decided to stop the toll plazas from collecting the charges to send a message to business houses that we won't let them spoil our future," said Bhinder Singh, a protester from Badholi Gujran village. Swaran Singh, general secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Sidhupur), said they would continue to lay siege to toll plazas until the Union Government withdrew the draconian Acts. He said, "Before the Independence, Britishers had developed railway lines, roads and other infrastructure for their commercial interests in India. But the collective will of the people forced them to leave the country. Similarly, big corporates will meet the same fate, if our concerns aren't addressed." Ranjit Singh, a farmer leader, said they had been getting support from commuters, who gave them salutes and thumbs up to continue their battle.

## GIVE FARMERS RELIEF FOR NOT BURNING STRAW: SAD

**BATHINDA:** Reacting sharply to two news reports being carried in The Tribune's Wednesday edition on stubble-burning, former Union Cabinet minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal took to her Twitter handle to criticise the state and Central governments' stance on the matter. Harsimrat tweeted: "Unfair and unjustified! Governments blatantly ignore the SC order to incentivise farmers for handling paddy straw but don't get punished. However, when our beleaguered farmers, finding no government assistance, burn stubble, they are slapped with criminal cases." She also reacted to another report on SC order on MSP. She tweeted: "Instead of forcing governments to implement the SC order to incentivise farmers for handling paddy straw, some anti-farmer forces are mooted proposals to impose a cut on #MSP of the crop."

A red Ford Edge SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view, driving on a paved road. The car is positioned in the lower half of the frame. In the background, the Toronto skyline is visible under a sunset sky, with the CN Tower being the most prominent feature. A dark blue banner covers the top left portion of the image, containing white text and graphics. At the bottom left, there is a logo that says "BUILT Ford PROUD". At the bottom right, there is text that says "FIND OUT MORE AT FORDTO.CA" and "Toronto Area Ford Dealers" next to the Ford oval logo.

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RAHUL GANDHI, AMARINDER SINGH AND PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF SUNIL JAKHAR (DRIVING THE TRACTOR) DURING A RALLY AGAINST THE FARM LAWS, AT BADHNI KALAN IN MOGA SUNDAY.

## RICH WORLD COULD BE CLOSE TO NORMAL BY LATE 2021 IF VACCINE WORKS: BILL GATES



Rich countries could be back to close to normal by late 2021 if a Covid-19 vaccine works, is ready soon and distributed properly at scale, billionaire Microsoft founder Bill Gates said on Tuesday. "By late next year you can have things going back pretty close to normal - that's the best case," Gates, 64, told The Wall Street Journal CEO Council. "We still don't know whether these vaccines will succeed," Gates said. "Now the capacity will take time to ramp up. And so the allocation within the U.S., and between the U.S. and other countries will be a very top point of contention." The vaccines developed by Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca/Oxford University are two of the leading candidates in the race for the first jab to get regulatory approval in the West to prevent Covid-19. Gates added that in the United States people should be thinking about ways to reduce hesitancy about having a Covid-19 vaccine when one is ready. Asked about Russian and Chinese vaccines, he said the Western companies were further ahead on Phase III studies. "The one Russian construct and six of the Chinese constructs are perfectly valid constructs actually with some similarities to what the Western companies are doing, but the Western companies are further ahead on doing these phase three studies," Gates said.

## MICHELLE OBAMA SLAMS DONALD TRUMP; CALLS HIM 'RACIST', 'NOT UP TO THE JOB'

Former first lady Michelle Obama on Tuesday launched a scathing attack at President Donald Trump, accusing him of being a "racist" and not being "up to the job" and urged fellow Americans to make informed and engaged choice in the presidential election to regain stability in the country. Pitching for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, she made an impassioned plea through a 24-minute video, saying that the country is in chaos and the voters should know what is at stake. Titled 'Closing Argument', the video was released on social media platforms and also by the Biden campaign.

"Believe it or not, the election is right around the corner. Votes are already being cast. And if you're still deciding who to vote for, or whether to vote at all, I wanted to take a moment to remind you what's at stake and to urge you to make a plan to vote today. Because let's be honest right now, our country is in chaos because of a president who isn't up to the job," she said in the video.

While the presidential elections are scheduled for November 3, early-voting and mail-in-voting has already started in states across the country. Alleging that the president, already hit by the coronavirus, continues to "gaslight the American people by acting like this pandemic is not a real threat," Michelle said, "so what the president is doing is once again, patently false. It's morally wrong, and yes, it is racist. But that doesn't mean it won't work because this is a difficult time, a confusing time. And when people hear these lies and crazy conspiracies repeated over and over and over again, they don't know what to think with everything going on in their lives." She said that to regain any kind of stability, "we've got to ensure that every eligible voter is informed and engaged in the selection. Because the stakes are on display every day, not just in the headlines, but in our families." "If you are a parent like me, you're feeling the consequences of this



president's failure to take this pandemic seriously from his constant downplaying of the importance of mask and social distancing to his relentless pressure on schools to open with offering a clean plan or meaningful support to keep students and teachers safe," she said. Trump returned to the White House on Monday night after spending four days at a military hospital where he was treated for coronavirus. Urging people to vote for Biden, the former first lady said that Americans have the chance to elect a president who can meet this moment, a leader who has the character and the experience to put an end to this chaos, start solving these problems and help lighten the load for families all across the country. "The one thing this president is really, really good at is using fear and confusion and spreading lies to win," she alleged. Former president Barack Obama and Michelle have not campaigned much in person this election season. But they have been issuing videos in support of Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris. Obama has also attended a number of fundraisers for Biden and Harris.

## 4-nation Quad gets cemented at Tokyo meet, sends stern message to China

Hours before heading into the Quad security dialogue in Tokyo, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo on Tuesday backed formalising the informal grouping to build a "true security framework" that could counter the challenge posed by an aggressive China. Other countries, Pompeo told Nikkei Asia in an interview, could become part of this framework at "the appropriate time."

Tuesday's meeting was the first face-to-face interaction between the foreign ministers of the four Indo-Pacific countries - the US, India, Japan and Australia - since the coronavirus pandemic broke out in China's Wuhan in December last.

The foreign ministers had taken the first step to revive the security dialogue and upgrade it to a ministerial level in September last year when they met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. In his initial comments at the Quad meet, foreign minister S Jaishankar underlined that the world had "profoundly transformed" since then.

India, which had been preparing to host Chinese President Xi Jinping, has spent the last 150 days engaged in a bitter standoff with China's People's Liberation Army that has led to deaths on both sides.

China's relations with the three other Quad members have also nosedived over the last one year after Beijing, blamed for the spread of coronavirus disease that has infected 35 million and killed more than 1 million, adopted a hawkish approach elsewhere too.

"This is the Chinese using coercive power. This isn't how great nations operate. So our mission is to reduce that," Pompeo told Nikkei Asia. Pompeo was particularly unsparing of China in his public comments ahead of the Quad meeting as well.

"As partners in this Quad, it is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the CCP's (Chinese communist party) exploitation, corruption and coercion," Pompeo said. "We see it in the South and East China Seas, the Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Strait."

Stephen Biegun, the US deputy secretary of state, had hinted what a formalised Quad could look like last month when he noted at an online seminar that the Indo-Pacific region didn't have "strong multilateral structures".

## VACCINE LIKELY FOR INDIA IN EARLY 2021

A vaccine for the coronavirus will likely be ready by early 2021 but rolling it out safely across India's 1.3 billion people will be the country's biggest challenge in fighting its surging epidemic, a leading vaccine scientist told Bloomberg. The country, which is host to some of the front-runner vaccine clinical trials, currently has no local infrastructure in place to go beyond immunising babies and pregnant women, said Gagandeep Kang, professor of microbiology at the Vellore-based Christian Medical College and a member of the WHO's Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety. The timing of the vaccine is a contentious subject around the world. In the US, President Donald Trump has contradicted a top administration health expert by saying a vaccine would be available by October. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had promised an indigenous vaccine as early as mid-August, a claim the government and its top medical research body has since walked back.



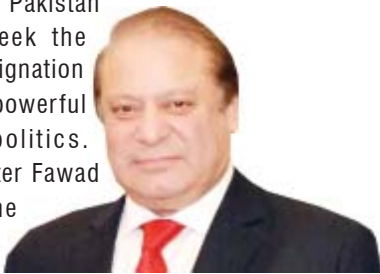
## COVID-19 VACCINE MAY BE READY BY YEAR-END: WHO'S TEDROS ADHANOM

A vaccine against Covid-19 may be ready by year-end, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday, without elaborating. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, addressing the end of a two-day meeting of its Executive Board on the pandemic, said: "We will need vaccines and there is hope that by the end of this year we may have a vaccine. There is hope." Nine experimental vaccines are in the pipeline of the WHO-led COVAX global vaccine facility that aims to distribute 2 billion doses by the end of 2021.



## IMRAN KHAN GOVT TRIES TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM SEDITION CASE AGAINST NAWAZ SHARIF

The Imran Khan government is now seeking to distance itself from the sedition charges against former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif, while the local police said the case was registered on a complaint by a private citizen, and not by the state or its institutions. The sedition charges were filed as Pakistan's opposition parties are set to hold their first combined rally against the government on October 16, weeks after launching the Pakistan Democratic Movement to seek the "selected" prime minister's resignation and an end to the role of the powerful military in the country's politics. Science and technology minister Fawad Chaudhry tweeted that Prime Minister Khan was unaware of the sedition case.



## NDA SEAT-SHARING PACT SEALED, NITISH KUMAR JABS EX-ALLY CHIRAG PASWAN

The Janata Dal (United), or JD (U), will contest 122 seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party 121 seats in the 243-member assembly, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference with BJP leaders, Nitish Kumar said the JD (U) will allot seven seats to Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) out of its share of seats. This effectively means that JD (U) would be contesting 115 seats, the number it won in the 2010 elections. The Bihar assembly elections will take place on October 28, November 3 and November 7, with vote-counting set for November 10.



## INDIA COVID-19 RECOVERY RATE 84%; 77% ACTIVE CASES IN 10 STATES: HEALTH MINISTRY



Active Covid-19 cases have been below 10 lakh for the last two weeks while the recovery rate of India is 84%, Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. Addressing a press briefing, Bhushan said, "Recovered cases have crossed 56 lakh mark which is the highest in the world. Active cases are below 10 lakh for the last two weeks and the recovery rate is 84%. Over 8 crore tests have been conducted and approximately 80 lakh tests were done in last week." Bhushan said average daily positivity rate has been coming down while new recoveries have been more than new cases in the recent days.

## INDIA FAILED TO APPOINT LAWYER TO REPRESENT JADHAV: PAK COURT INFORMED

A Pakistani court was on Tuesday informed that India has failed to appoint a lawyer to represent death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav in the case of the review of his death sentence by a military court in this country. This comes after Pakistan on Thursday once again rejected India's demand that an Indian lawyer or a Queen's counsel should be appointed for Jadhav to ensure a free and fair trial in the case. Fifty-year-old retired Indian Navy officer Jadhav was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had last month set a new deadline for India to appoint a legal representative for Jadhav. The three-member bench headed by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah, while hearing the law ministry's request on Tuesday to provide a counsel to Jadhav was informed that India had failed to appoint a lawyer by October 6 as was instructed by the court despite it being conveyed for the second time to do so.







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## Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE - MP RUBY SAHOTA 2ND WAVE - HOW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL HELP CANADIANS?

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If you also have a reduction in income by 50% because you are a caregiver for your child or elder and are forced to take an unpaid leave, you can apply for the new benefits as well. The third benefit is maximum for a two week period, if due to Covid-19 you have to be in quarantine, until the time you can come back. Wage subsidy and spending has been extending this benefit till Dec 31, 2020. I am happy that all the parties have supported this bill and it has passed unchallenged.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** There is a talk that you cannot earn more than \$38,000 to avail the benefit. But say if someone earns \$42,000 by the end of the year what will the government do to take it back?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** If something like this happens, 50% of the benefit amount under CRB given by the government will be recovered from the individual if such a case happens. CERB did not have this rule, but under CRB has a \$38,000 income slab.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** Wage subsidy bill is also passed and small business are happy with it as well. Earlier it was 75%, then we had slabs, how is this going to continue in the future?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** There are discussion about wage subsidy among the community, however internally there have been no discussions yet. Business are worried, we do understand that and taking everything into consideration before we announce new measures.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** Seniors are asking for financial support from the government amidst the pandemic, is the government considering new support systems?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** We are considering to increase OIS for seniors over the age of 75 years, we have



promised on our election platform as well. This year however there are no changes to this benefit. We understand that the cost of living is rising and it's difficult on the pensions for many of them, however for this year one time payments and other benefits are locked as of now.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** What are your views on news that's been doing the rounds about phoney temples, fake gurudwara's and immigration scams? Are there plans to regulate these institutions by the government?

**MP Ruby Sahota:** These issues have been under investigations internally. People who are doing these acts that are illegal as per Canadian laws will face the consequences for sure. However, I'll encourage the community to come forward and report such illegal practices to the authorities. Immigration minister and department is also looking into these claims in the news reports.

There are many temples and gurudwara that are legally helping the community, so would request the community not to paint the one's that are doing great work to paint them with the same brush. Immigration fraud problem is a problem in Canada, but it's not just pertinent in the Indian community but across other communities as well.

**Yudhvir Jaswal:** Any message that you would like to give the community in Ontario?

**Ruby Sahota:** We should be patient during these tough times. We need to be alert to stop the spread of Covid-19. Please refrain from going to social gathering and weddings. Finally, I would request all to download the Covid Alert app on your smartphones to stop the spread of Covid-19 in community and also enhance the contact tracing process. This will also help the healthcare sector to better tackle this pandemic.

## Ontario Fire Marshal Promotes Fire Safety in the Kitchen

**TORONTO** — To mark Fire Prevention Week 2020, Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal encourages all Ontarians to take action to ensure they are safe from kitchen fires at home. The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen."

"Fire Prevention Week is an excellent time to teach and remind people what they can do to promote fire safety," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With more people working at home than ever before, this week will focus on tips and tools for fire safety in the kitchen. I encourage all individuals and families to take the time to review their cooking practices to prevent fires and keep loved ones safe."

Simple steps to stay safe in the kitchen include:

Always stay in the kitchen when cooking and turn the stove completely off if you must leave.

Keep a proper fitting lid near the stove. If a pot of oil catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pot. Never throw water on a burning pot.

Keep anything that burns - plastic utensils, dishcloths, paper towels - a safe distance from the stove.

Cook responsibly. To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You are not alert if you have consumed alcohol or drugs. Wear tight-fitted clothing or roll up your sleeves when using the stove. Loose, dangling clothing can easily catch fire. Keep young kids one metre away from the stove. Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge so pots can't easily be knocked off. If you burn yourself while cooking, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes. If the burn is severe, seek medical attention. "For most Ontario families, preparing food at home is part of daily life," said Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg. "Unfortunately, cooking fires occur all too often in Ontario. Making small changes to stay fire-safe can make a big difference in protecting you and your family." Fire Prevention Week runs from October 4 to 10 in communities across the province.

### QUICK FACTS

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in Ontario.

Cooking is the second leading cause of fatal home fires in Ontario.

Ontarians can now follow the Office of the Fire Marshal on Twitter @ONFireMarshal for fire protection tips and information.

## Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown

Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister and the Mayor spoke about the high number of COVID-19 cases in Brampton and the wider Peel region, and ways to help contain the spread of the virus and keep people safe, particularly through testing. Both leaders emphasized their appreciation for essential workers, including those working in the food processing sector and those protecting Canada's supply chains.

Prime Minister Trudeau restated his commitment to help municipalities, provinces, and territories in their response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister and the Mayor also discussed the importance of protecting all Canadians against hate speech and misinformation, including by denouncing discrimination against people of different backgrounds. The Prime Minister and the Mayor agreed to continue working together on the response to COVID-19, in order to protect the health and safety of the people of Brampton, and all Canadians.

## QUAD: A POTENTIAL FORCE TO COUNTER CHINA NEEDS TO MOVE BEYOND SYMBOLISM

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The first 'Quad' summit happened on the sidelines of the ASEAN Forum. Since then, the idea of the alliance has been around, made news, but fallen short of taking any substantive action.

A decade later, though, the alliance was resurrected in 2017 and the members of 'Quad' had a working-level meeting. And now, amid the pandemic, the foreign ministers have met in Tokyo, which reflects a clear sense of purpose, an urgency to take a harder stand against China. America is not mincing words on China and Australia has named the Asian giant as a threat in its strategic assessment. Australia's department of defence has said that China is engaged in active pursuit of "greater influence in the Indo-Pacific".

India has already locked in a border standoff with China and since May, New Delhi has imposed curbs on Beijing's investments.

More than 100 Chinese apps have been banned in India. And, Japan's territorial disputes in the East China Sea have flared up again. Japan was the country that proposed this alliance and now it has become the host for the meeting of the group's foreign ministers.

**What will the 'Quad' do?**

The US wants the alliance to have a clear military dimension. Reports suggest Washington is considering inviting air forces of the group's allies for training at the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam

The Guam base is a key US military facility in the Pacific and may also be China's first target if hostilities escalate between the two countries. Last month, the Chinese Air Force released a propaganda video that simulated an attack on the base. But eagle-eyed fact-checkers were quick to point out how Chinese stole clips from Hollywood movies to make this fake video. In recent months, China has made its intentions clear. It is indulging in more fights and staking a claim on more territories. The time is right for all the four nations to move beyond being a symbolic alliance. It must set out clear objectives and each ally must commit to tangible contributions. They could start by naming China as the common enemy first.

## Online fireworks vendor training open for Diwali and New Year's Eve

**BRAMPTON**— The City of Brampton has opened its online training process for vendors who plan to sell fireworks this year for Diwali and New Year's Eve. The training is mandatory and completion of this course is compulsory before vendors can be licensed to sell.

To register for the course, vendors can call the Brampton Fire Prevention division at 905.874.2740 or email fire.prevention@brampton.ca and details of the course will be emailed to the applicant.

Due to health and safety restrictions in place for COVID-19, the training will be delivered in an online format in five easy steps:

Submit payment for 2020 Fireworks Retailer course and apply for fire inspection

Watch the Fireworks Retailer Training Video

Complete the Fireworks Retailer Questionnaire

Submit licence application and registration fee. Contact licensing@brampton.ca for details.

Obtain the 2020 Fireworks Retailer Licence in person from City Hall. Appointment mandatory before visiting City Hall.

The fireworks vendor training covers the types of fireworks allowed for sale, rules for storing, displaying and selling, customer ID requirements and safety guidelines for distribution to buyers.

For vendors with multiple locations, at least one operator from each location is required to complete the course. Vendors must also note that the deadline to apply for fire inspection is noon on Friday, October 23, 2020. The City of Brampton's Fireworks By-law allows the sale and personal use of only short-range fireworks (those that tend to fly less than 3 metres or 10 feet when lit) four times a year - Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve.

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# PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN TO CREATE JOBS AND GROW THE ECONOMY



**OTTAWA:** Canadians across the country are feeling the impacts of COVID-19, and the Government of Canada will continue to be there to offer support for those who need it. As we work toward our economic recovery from the pandemic and begin to build back better, the government will continue to make investments in infrastructure that will create good jobs for Canadians, build stronger communities, and make our economy more sustainable and resilient for everyone.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced \$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives to create jobs and economic growth. The Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) Growth Plan will help Canadians get back to work and is expected to create approximately 60,000 jobs across the country. The three-year plan will connect more households and small businesses to high-speed Internet, strengthen Canadian agriculture, and help build a low-carbon economy.

**The Growth Plan will invest in five major initiatives:**

- \$2.5 billion for clean power to support renewable generation and storage and to transmit clean electricity between provinces, territories, and regions, including to northern and Indigenous communities.
- \$2 billion to connect approximately 750,000 homes and small businesses to broadband in underserved communities, so Canadians can better participate in the digital economy.
- \$2 billion to invest in large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency and help make communities more sustainable.

\$1.5 billion for agriculture irrigation projects to help the agriculture sector enhance production, strengthen Canada's food security, and expand export opportunities.

\$1.5 billion to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure so Canadians can have cleaner commutes.

To accelerate the delivery of projects in which the CIB intends to invest, it will also allocate \$500 million for project development and early construction works.

Today's announcement is part of the government's campaign to create over one million jobs to rebuild from the pandemic, and our more than \$180 billion commitment to invest in new infrastructure across Canada. The government will continue to focus on making investments to strengthen the middle class, create new jobs, and grow the economy, as we work together to fight COVID-19 and build a more resilient Canada. Together, we can create a Canada that is healthier and safer, cleaner and more competitive, and fairer and more inclusive for future generations.

**QUOTES**

"By investing in infrastructure, we are strengthening our communities and ensuring good jobs for today and in the future. We will continue to do what it takes to support Canadians through this crisis, safely get our economy back up and running, and get people back to work."

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

"Canada's infrastructure plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across the country, and builds stronger communities. The Canada

Infrastructure Bank is critical to expanding Canada's ambition by bringing in the private sector to get more infrastructure built. The Bank's \$10-billion Growth Plan, focused on investments in broadband, clean energy, retrofits and agricultural irrigation, will create 60,000 jobs, grow the economy and help build a low-carbon future."

The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"One of the defining features of the Canada Infrastructure Bank is attracting private investment to new infrastructure. Every dollar of public investment in these initiatives is intended to attract additional dollars from private and institutional investors. In that way, the CIB can have bigger impacts that benefit Canadians and Canada's economy. We will be moving forward quickly to implement the \$10 billion Growth Plan and deliver results."

Michael Sabia, Chair of the Canada Infrastructure Bank

**QUICK FACTS**

Through the Canada Infrastructure Bank, the federal government has committed \$35 billion to support infrastructure projects across the country. This includes the Bank's \$10 billion Growth Plan announced today.

The CIB was announced as part of the Government of Canada's historic, over \$180 billion Investing in Canada Plan. It was created to work in partnership with provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous partners, and leverage the private sector, to build infrastructure across Canada. The CIB attracts private sector and institutional investment to build sustainable infrastructure projects that are in the public interest.

## MidWeek

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## ONTARIO REVISES COVID-19 SCREENING GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE

### UPDATES REFLECT LATEST PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE

**TORONTO** — In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is updating its COVID-19 school and child care screening guidance. This additional information will help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19. The school and child care screening guidance is being updated with two sets of questions about symptoms and information to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school or child care, need to consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19. The guidance can be found immediately at the COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care, and the refreshed online tool will launch on Friday, October 2 for download.

"Ensuring that children can attend school with minimal interruption is an important part of their healthy growth and development," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "Based on a review of the current evidence and consulting with paediatric infectious diseases experts, we are updating the list of symptoms in the COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care to ensure that our children receive the education and care that they need while minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission."

The first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or cough. Students and children with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

The second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache: Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to

stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school or child care if their symptoms are improving.

Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, based on the latest public health guidance the symptom list for children in school and child care no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

"We are grateful to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health for contributing significantly to the development of Ontario's Back-to School Plan," said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. "Our focus continues to be on limiting the spread within our schools by listening to and acting upon the best available medical advice, which includes ensuring all layers of prevention are in place to keep kids safe."

**QUICK FACTS**

With a recent increase in cases of COVID-19 it is critical for everyone to follow public health advice to continue to protect vulnerable populations and stop the spread. This includes: staying home when ill, or keeping your child home from school when ill; practising physical distancing with those outside your household; wearing a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge or where it is mandatory to do so; washing your hands frequently and thoroughly; and adhering to gathering limits and rules.

For additional protection, the Ontario government is encouraging everyone to download the new COVID Alert app on their smart phone from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

## PROJECT DRIFT: DRIFTING, STREET RACING AND TAKE-OVERS

**REGION OF PEEL** – Peel Regional Police recently collaborated with York Regional Police and the Ontario Provincial Police to address brazen illegal street racing activities occurring on the streets and highways of the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

Project Drift stands for Dangerous Racing Investigative Focus Team. This team was created to support officers involved with the ongoing Eliminate Street Racing on Streets Everywhere (E.R.A.S.E.), program. The E.R.A.S.E. program is a joint forces operation that began in 1999, with a focus on both targeted enforcement and educational components for those who engage in illegal street racing. The driving behaviours that were captured far exceeded the threshold of what constitutes a dangerous driving charge. Investigators were able to determine that those who involved themselves in these types of activities, were engaged in highly-organized and coordinated attacks on our roads, including taking over entire intersections and disrupting travel of other residents. Those involved with these groups are not car enthusiasts, and are responsible for dangerous disruptive vehicle manoeuvres including staged street races, drifting, stunting and other hazardous driving behaviours which often occur in the presence of large crowds.

During this project, members of the investigative focus team gathered information and evidence which culminated in the execution of several warrants and resulted in the arrests of the following individuals:

Jonathan Rooptal, a 25-year-old man from Toronto has been charged

with:

- Dangerous Driving (aiding and abetting) x2
- Obstruct Person in Lawful Seizure
- Cause Disturbance
- Dangerous Driving

Tyler Kendall, a 29-year-old man from Brampton has been charged with:

- Dangerous Driving (aiding and abetting) x12
- Obstruct Peace Officer

Mohamed Djebel-Ameli, a 22-year-old man from Richmond Hill has been charged with:

- Dangerous Driving (aiding and abetting) x4

Torrell Campbell, a 22-year-old man from Barrie has been charged with:

- Dangerous Driving (aiding and abetting) x11

Harmanjot Rehal, a 23-year-old man from Mississauga has been charged with:

- Dangerous Driving (aiding and abetting) x4

Amidulla Baluch, a 21-year-old man from Toronto has been charged with:

- Drive While Prohibited
- Fail to Comply with Recognizance
- Breach of Probation
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime x2
- Breach of Probation Order



## Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE

### IMMIGRATION MINISTER MENDICINO ANNOUNCES PARENTS AND GRAND PARENTS PROGRAM

BY - SIDDHARTHA SHARMA

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, recently announced details for the opening of the 2020 Parents and Grandparents (PGP) Program, building further on the government's commitment to reuniting families.

Over a 3-week period, from 12 p.m. EDT on October 13, 2020, to 12 p.m. EST on November 3, 2020, Canadians and permanent residents who wish to sponsor their parents and grandparents to come to Canada will have an opportunity to submit an interest to sponsor form online. Y Media's Group Editor Yudhvir Jaswal spoke to the Canadian Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship on his daily radio show on what new benefits this program will bring to Canada. Read on.

**Yudvir Jaswal:** On Oct 13 you have opened up the 2020 Parents and Grandparents Program, tell us what's new or different in this years program as compared to the earlier provisions?

**Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino:** This is a very happy moment as we get to launch one of the most in demand and popular program to reunite families with the launch of the 2020 Parents and Grandparents Program. We announced that. Over the course of next couple of months beginning with an allocation for 10000 spaces for 2020, followed by an allocation for 30000 in early 2021, bring the total to 40000 spaces for the Parents and Grandparents Program.

I am so proud to be able to demonstrate our governments on going commitment to reunite as many families as possible, while at the same time protecting the health and safety of Canadians throughout the pandemic.

This year we'll have a 3-week window within which people who wish to take advantage of the 2020 Parents and Grandparents Program can express interest. And then it'll be followed by a process where we'll identify those and invite those to complete the application process. So there will be three weeks to submit the

application and then we'll move forward with it.

Let me also add that this builds on the announcement that I made about three weeks ago, where we are going to accelerate and prioritise the approval of up to 49000 family sponsorship applications by the end of 2020 and another announcement where we created pathways that allow more families to reunite as well as those people who wish to come or need to come to Canada for compassionate reasons. So very solid announcements for Canada immigration from us.

**Yudvir Jaswal:** There have been concerns in national news reporting about religious places that are not actually complying as religious places but bringing in people to Canada. How is the government and you making sure that these malpractices are stopped and the people that are coming here via this route are not exploited?

**Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino:** Our government takes such allegations very seriously! We have put in additional resources into our law enforcement agencies, that will be cracking down on people who fraud the system. We will continue to take those measures that are necessary. But at the same time I also want to assure people that we do have pathways that allow for people of faith and religion, to come to meet the needs of the community here in Canada. There is a process by which it occurs and it's very transparent, and there is an integrity to that process. We will also continue to work with communities to make sure that there is no



defrauding of the rules and at the same time ensuring that the community is also able to exhibit and practice their faith and culture in a way that they wish to.

**Yudvir Jaswal:** Some of the immigration consultants have had some charges laid down on them that they are offering job letters in lieu of money and getting people to Canada, what are your views on that?

**Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino:** As I said we take allegations of fraud very seriously, I am implementing a new regulatory enforcement college that will crackdown on allegations of abuse. It is important that we identify and hold to account these consultants to take advantage of the vulnerable and backdoor the system. We are also putting in place a new regulatory body to accomplish that goal, along with additional money and resources into the system to enforce the rules, because it's very important that everybody plays by the same rules and law. At the same time we want to ensure that the people that are able to come to Canada and do so in a way that's transparent and fair, including working closely with the religious communities here.

**Yudvir Jaswal:** Due to covid and border closures the immigration to Canada saw a bit of a halt, is your department putting in new steps to get more immigrants to Canada?

**Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino:** I am very enthusiastic about making a case for immigration. immigration is the foundation of our country. I am a son of an immigrant family, I think people relate to the immigrant journey, it enriches our social fabric, it makes us who we are, but equally it's about driving our economic recovery.

There are many gaps between our labour force and our economy, which are critically dependant on immigration.

My case around continuing to grow is around meeting those needs, both in the short and the long term, and I will be very excited to provide and update in parliament in the next 4-5 weeks on that front.

**Yudvir Jaswal:** As much as we needs students for the economy, but there have been concerns on how do we integrate them well. Will the immigration department offer any help in that area?

**Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino:** Well, international students contribute over \$21 billion to the economy every year in Canada. So, the international students are a tremendous economic contributor. They are also enriching our communities but since we are in the middle of a second wave of Covid-19, we have to be sure that we welcome them back responsibly and also put in place the necessary health protocols. We are working very closely with all provinces as well as schools, and only those schools which have been designated by the provinces as deemed Covid-19 ready. We'll do it in a way that is going to ensure that it is responsible and protect the health and safety of all Canadians first. I am looking forward to the program continuing to be a success.

### Prime Minister announces reappointment of Canada's top scientist

**OTTAWA:** Science is essential to ensuring Canada has the tools, opportunities, and expertise needed to address the most pressing questions we face as a country. The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced Dr. Mona Nemer's reappointment as Canada's Chief Science Advisor. In this role, Dr. Nemer will continue to promote science and its benefits for Canadians, and provide impartial scientific advice to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Cabinet. Over the past few months, she has also been advising on the latest scientific developments in COVID-19 research to assist with the response to the global pandemic. Dr. Nemer has served as Canada's Chief Science Advisor since September 2017. Her reappointment will allow her to build on the achievements of her first term, which include the creation of science advisor positions across federal organizations, and guidance and recommendations on a \$2.8 billion investment to build federal science and technology facilities. She also helped develop a policy to guide federal scientists, departments, and employees conduct and use federal research and science responsibly, and to better communicate the results to Canadians. Dr. Nemer is a distinguished medical researcher in the field of molecular cardiology. Before becoming Chief Science Advisor, she spent more than ten years as the Vice-President of Research at the University of Ottawa, and was the Director of its Molecular Genetics and Cardiac Regeneration Laboratory.

### "THRONE SPEECH NOT IN FAVOUR OF ELDERLY IN CANADA"

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"However, on Channel Y, we spoke to Shambhu dutt Sharma New Hope for Senior Citizens of Brampton, who says that many seniors are not happy with the Throne Speech, as it did not talk about any increase in funds for senior citizens and their support due to the global pandemic. "There was a mention of Elders in the speech by Gov. Gen. Julie Payette when she said. "Elders deserve to be safe, respected, and live in dignity, although long-term care falls under provincial and territorial jurisdiction, the federal government will take any action it can to support seniors while working alongside the provinces and territories." "Shambhu dutt Sharma, speaking on South Asian 360 live show on Channel Y said that the Throne Speech misses on addressing the healthcare needs of elders in Canada. He further added, " There is no talk or decision taken about any further financial aid to seniors during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is no increase in the OAS as well which is a disheartening." "Currently, The payment for seniors provides support through a one-time payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security pension, and an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement. "These measures will give a total of \$500 to seniors who receive both the Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19. "However when it comes to the date of payment, the funds for the one-time payment are not available after September 30, 2020. In order to meet the distribution deadline, individuals who may be eligible for OAS or income-tested benefits in June 2020 needed to have their application processed or file in order before September 2020 to receive the one-time tax-free payment for seniors. "Shambhu dutt Sharma, President - New Hope for Senior Citizens of Brampton, also added on the South Asian 360 live program, that the government should not let the elders of this country be in limbo about additional monetary support. Because of the pandemic the cost of living for elders in Canada have also escalated, and the government should look into the realignment of OAS policy to benefit the elders of Canada. He also added that, "Canada should not forget the contribution and experience of elders to the community.

### RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS APPROVED BY HEALTH CANADA

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Health Canada has authorized this test for use in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada will deploy these tests to provinces and territories to support them in ramping up COVID-19 testing. COVID-19 testing technologies are advancing as the pandemic continues. On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to pursue additional agreements to secure access to the most promising candidates.

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# 'Must protect world against weaponisation of AI by non-state actors': PM Modi at RAISE 2020



STRESSING ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND INDIA'S GROWING ROLE IN THE SEGMENT, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON MONDAY CAUTIONED AGAINST WEAPONISATION OF AI BY "NON-STATE ACTORS" AT RAISE 2020.

Stressing on the significance of artificial intelligence (AI) and India's growing role in the segment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday cautioned against weaponisation of AI by "non-state actors" at RAISE 2020. In his address at the inaugural session of RAISE 2020, a virtual summit on AI, Modi said that using AI properly remains a collective responsibility. "It remains our collective responsibility to ensure trust in how AI is used. Algorithm transparency is key to establishing this trust. Equally important is accountability. We must protect the world against weaponisation of AI by non-state actors," he said. Non-state actors generally refer to organisations and individuals that are not affiliated with, directed by, or funded through any government.

Modi also stressed that despite the growing significance of AI, human creativity and human emotions continue to be humanity's greatest strength. "They are our unique advantage over machines," he said. Emphasising on the government's push towards technology and AI, the Prime Minister said, "We want India to become a global hub for AI. Many Indians are already working on this. I hope many more do so in the times to come." He said that AI can play a major role in agriculture, creating next-generation urban infrastructure and making disaster management systems stronger. Modi also said that the National Educational Technology Forum is being formed, which will create an 'e-Education' unit to boost the digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity.

# INDIA ASSURES MYANMAR ON COVID-19 VACCINE, SPEEDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



India has assured Myanmar on giving the country priority on COVID-19 vaccine and speed up infrastructure projects during the 2-day visit of Army Chief General MM Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) release said, "It was also agreed to deepen cooperation to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. FS indicated India's willingness to prioritise Myanmar in sharing vaccines as and when these become available." Earlier on Monday, Army Chief and FS presented 3000 vials of Remdesivir to Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi as a "symbol" of India's commitment to assist Myanmar in its fight against the pandemic. The Myanmar foreign ministry mentioned both countries discussing the "possibility of joint production of COVID-19 vaccine." On the infrastructure front, operationalisation of the Sittwe Port in early-2021 was a key point of discussion. Remember, this was discussed during last week's virtual India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations also. MEA release on the outcome of the visit explained, "Both sides also discussed progress in the ongoing Indian-assisted infrastructure projects such as the Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project."

Sittwe is part of India-built mega Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which will improve connectivity with Myanmar, by creating transport corridor for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar. The release added, "both sides exchanged views on early initiation of work on fresh initiatives such as the up-gradation of Yamethin Women's Police Academy, Basic Technical Training School and measures to provide long-term sustainability to projects such as the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology." Other than that, India has announced a grant of USD 2 million for the construction of the border haat bridge at Byanyu/Sarsichauk in Myanmar's Chin State, which will provide increased economic connectivity between Mizoram and Myanmar. A quota of 1.5 lakh tonnes of Urad for import from Myanmar till March 31, 2021, was also announced. During the meet, Army Chief and FS called on State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the Commander in Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Army Chief also met Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Armed Services and FS met U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

# MODI, XI JINPING TO ATTEND BRICS SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER

Amid rising border tensions between India and China in Ladakh, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be face to face virtually on November 17 at BRICS Meet. It is for the first time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping will be having a meeting since the standoff along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Ladakh. Earlier on September 17, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had attended a virtual meeting of top security officials of five-nation grouping BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, and China). The Chinese side was represented by State Councillor Yang Jiechi. The meeting that was hosted by Russia exchanged views on combating terrorism and extremism. Global and security issues were also discussed in the meet. The theme of the meeting of the leaders of BRICS countries this time would be "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". India and China have been locked in a bitter battle along the Ladakh border for the last 5 months. On June 15 a violent skirmish had taken place between Indian and Chinese forces in the Galwan valley. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed despite both sides denying to have fired any shots. The Chinese side, however, refrained from making the losses official.



Since then both sides have amassed heavy troops along the LAC besides hundreds of artillery guns, tanks, armoured personnel vehicles and air defence systems. The Indian Air Force and Navy have been put on full operational alert.

# GST COUNCIL MEET: CENTRE TO GIVE RS 20,000 CRORE FOR GST COMPENSATION TO STATES, NEXT ROUND OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 12



The crucial meeting of the Goods and Services Tax Council (GST Council) was held today under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was organised through video conferencing where the Centre and the state governments brainstormed on the issue of GST compensation. However, there was no consensus among the states on several issues in the meeting. The council's next meeting will be held on October 12 for further discussion on the reduction in collections and compensation to states. Talking to the media after the day-long meeting, the Finance Minister said that many important decisions were taken in today's meeting. She said that a compensation cess of Rs 20,000 crore has been collected so far this year and will be distributed to the states today. She also informed that the GST Council has decided to continue with the compensation cess even after June 2022. A disbursement of Rs 24,000 crore to compensate IGST will also be completed by next week. Sitharaman told that a committee has been formed under the leadership of Bihar Finance Minister Sushil Modi to compensate IGST. This committee will study the impact faced by the states regarding revenue collection and compensate them under a formula. The finance minister made it clear that no state will be denied compensation of the losses incurred by the states due to the COVID-19 pandemic. About 20 states are already in agreement with the decision of the minister while some need time. "So the question was 20-21 states deciding to opt for the options one (the RBI window) and others wanting the Centre to borrow. Lot of discussions happened on that... Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Modi suggested that three to five days be given to the states to discuss the issue. I gave eight days and the next meeting will happen on October 12," Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. It is to be noted that the Centre has given the states the option to borrow from the market or from the Reserve Bank to compensate for the decrease in GST collection. According to the estimates of the Centre, the states are likely to witness a deficit of Rs 2.35 crore in the collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the current financial year. The shortfall of about Rs 97,000 crore is due to GST implementation, while the loss of the remaining Rs 1.38 lakh crore is due to COVID-19.

# PREPARED FOR TWO-FRONT WAR: IAF CHIEF BHADURIA ON TENSIONS WITH CHINA AND PAKISTAN



Border tensions between India and China do not seem to cease. Deliberations between both the sides have not yielded any results so far and the situation remains strained. In view of the growing tensions, Indian Air Force Chief RKS Bhaduria said on Monday (October 5) that the Indian Air Force is fully prepared for any kind of an eventuality and very strong deployments have been made in all relevant areas considering the situation. "It depends on how the talks progress. The talks towards disengagement, followed by de-escalation, are on. We hope that the talks will progress along the lines that are expected," said IAF Chief RKS Bhaduria, to ANI. Bhaduria further said, "current progress is slow, what we see is an increase in an effort to dig-in for winter, in terms of forces on ground, in terms of deployment of air assets in airfields close by. Defence forces see ground reality after that. Our further action will depend on ground realities." "China will use Skardu (airfield in Gilgit-Baltistan) is an open-ended question. But if China needs to take Pakistan's help to confront us, I have nothing to say. If Skardu gets used by China then it is a collusive threat and we will deal with it accordingly," the IAF Chief added. Speaking to the media ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8 Bhaduria said "The IAF is ready for any possible conflict, including a two-front war. When asked about the situation in eastern Ladakh, The Air Chief said "Be rest assured that we have deployed strongly to deal with any contingency. We have made deployment in all relevant areas; Ladakh is a small part." In the view of the rising threat from China, India has beefed up troops and heavy weaponry in the high-altitude region. The IAF has pushed its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft to key frontier airbases along the Line of Actual Control. The IAF has also been carrying out sorties of the five newly inducted Rafale jets in eastern Ladakh. Taking their preparation further ahead, the India Air Force can be seen carrying out night time combat air patrols as well. This is a clear message to the Chinese against any misadventure.



## MEA slams UN diplomat's remarks on Hathras case, says 'India has time-tested record of providing justice'



INDIA HAS SLAMMED UNITED NATION'S RESIDENT COORDINATOR RENATA LOK-DESSALLIEN'S COMMENTS ON HATHRAS AND BALARAMPUR CASES, CALLING THEM "UNWARRANTED COMMENTS".

India has slammed United Nation's Resident Coordinator Renata Lok-Dessallien's comments on Hathras and Balarampur cases, calling them "unwarranted comments" and since the investigation process is still underway any "unnecessary comments by an external agency are best avoided." The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a strongly-worded statement said, "UN Resident Coordinator in India should be aware that these cases have been taken extremely seriously by the government," reminding the top UN diplomat in Delhi that, "Constitution guarantees equality to all citizens of India. As a democracy, we

have a time-tested record of providing justice to all sections of our society." The UN resident coordinator had issued a statement on Sunday, saying, it is "profoundly saddened and concerned" at the continuing cases of sexual violence against women and girls in India. The statement said, "Steps being taken by the Government of India to strengthen safety measures for women and girls are welcome and urgent" and "we support the Prime Minister's call for strict action against the culprits" but said, "entrenched social norms and behaviour of men and boys that lead to gender-based violence must be addressed."

## HATHRAS: ATTACKED WITH INK, AAP LEADER SANJAY SINGH SLAMS 'COWARD' YOGI GOVT

AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Rakhi Birla were attacked with black ink today in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, where the alleged gang rape and murder of a 20-year-old Dalit woman took place. Singh slammed Yogi Adityanath's government and called the act 'cowardly.' "Cowardly act in Hathras. Police took us to 'Gudiya's' house and while returning, we were attacked. MLA Rakhi Birla, Ajay Dutt, and Faisal Lala were with me. Yogi Ji, you are not Thakur (caste), you are a coward. File cases against me, baton charge, get me murdered but the fight for justice will go on," Singh later said in a tweet in Hindi. Ink was thrown on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh on Monday when he was on his way to meet the family of the Hathras victim who recently died after being allegedly gang-raped. The incident happened when Singh was about to speak to media persons. A man came and threw ink on his white kurta while shouting "PFI ke dalalon wapas jao". Visuals of the occurrence are viral on social media. Members of the 'Savarn Samaj' (or the upper caste) threw ink at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, after which Singh sat in his car and left the spot immediately. The police have arrested one Deepak Sharma who belongs to the 'Savarn Samaj' group. The state government has said that outfits like PFI have been responsible for hatching a conspiracy to create caste tensions in the state. An open FIR has also been filed against unnamed people in this regard. The AAP delegation, later proceeded to



the Bulgarhi village to meet the bereaved family. Earlier, a Zee News report quoting sources had said that the protests against the Hathras gang-rape and murder were staged by some groups with the intention of creating unrest in Uttar Pradesh. It is being said that a website called 'JusticeForHathras' was created to disturb the law and order situation in the state by disseminating false information related to the incident. The sources have claimed that the website was made to spark caste-based riots across the state. There has been a massive outrage across the country over the incident and protests have been organised in several areas slamming the government on failure to maintain law and order in Uttar Pradesh.

## Arvind Kejriwal launches mega anti-pollution campaign, says polluted air during COVID can be life threatening



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday (October 5, 2020) launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign named "Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh" in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the campaign, separate plans have been prepared for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city, Kejriwal said during a digital press conference. He said, "Customised plans of action are being made for each area, according to their respective causes of pollution & the thereby execution those plans to deal with all that pollution." Stressing on the harmful effects of polluted air, he said "Polluted air can be life-threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both affect lungs." A "war room" is being set up to monitor all anti-pollution measures being taken by the Delhi government, said Kejriwal. Along with that, the government is also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application, he said. People will be able to bring pollution-causing activities, such as garbage burning or industrial pollution, to the Delhi government's notice by using the application. "A 'Green Delhi' app is being developed which will be launched before the end of this month. It will be a photo-based complaint

lodging application to take action against & redress specific pollution activities which are notified by the citizens of Delhi," the chief minister said. "There will be a deadline to address complaints. I will get a daily report about resolved and pending grievances," he added. Kejriwal has also issued directions to departments concerned to fill potholes to reduce dust emissions, which, he said, is a major contributor to air pollution in the city. "Teams have been inspecting construction sites to check dust pollution," he said. The chief minister pointed out that one of the major reasons for high levels of pollution in Delhi and nearby areas is stubble burning. "Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute here have found an economical way to deal with the problem. They have prepared a solution which can turn stubble into manure," he said. "We are going to prepare this solution at a large scale from Tuesday under the supervision of experts from the institute. This solution will be used in Delhi this year. Next year, we will urge other states to use it," Kejriwal said. The chief minister said that action is also needed against a large number of brick kilns using outdated technology in nearby areas.

## NIRBHAYA'S LAWYER SEEMA KUSHWAHA TO REPRESENT VICTIM'S FAMILY IN COURT



Lawyer of the 2012 Delhi gang-rape victim Nirbhaya, Seema Kushwaha, will fight the case of the Hathras victim. As per reports, the victim's family has allowed Kushwaha to represent them in the court. Notably, Kushwaha has been in regular touch with the victim's family since her death at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. Kushwaha has leveled serious allegations on the district administration and has also accused police of failing to help the victim's family. Kushwaha has also said that the victim's family is not feeling safe in the village. This comes as security agencies have uncovered a plot to instigate riots along caste lines and defame Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh by using the Hathras incident. The protests against the Hathras gang-rape and murder were staged by some groups with the intention of creating unrest in Uttar Pradesh, a Zee News report quoting sources has said. It is being said that a website called 'JusticeForHathras' was created to disturb the law and order situation in the state by disseminating false information related to the incident. The sources have claimed that the website was made to spark caste-based riots across the state. Additionally, the sources said that the victim's family was instructed by some people to speak against the Yogi Adityanath government and not to settle for the compensation offered by it. It was also pushing for holding protests and marches across the country, in places like Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, among others. Using fake IDs, thousands of persons had connected with the website in a matter of a few hours. The users were found on social media platforms spreading misinformation and rumours regarding the Hathras incident, news agency ANI reported. The website closed its operations and shut down as soon as the security agencies got active. However, the information uploaded on them is safe with the agencies. Multiple photoshopped images, fake news, and edited visuals have also been recovered from the website, the report added.

## 'Secret' proceedings in UK delaying Vijay Mallya's extradition, Centre tells SC

The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that beleaguered business tycoon Vijay Mallya's extradition case is over, but some "secret" proceedings are on in the UK and government is not a party to it, which is delaying his extradition to India. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, contended before a bench headed by Justice UU Lalit that it is neither aware of the nature of these secret proceedings nor it is a party to it. It has also not been served with anything. The Centre's counsel submitted that Mallya's extradition was ordered by the highest court of the UK, yet it is not happening. In May, in a major setback Mallya, lost his application seeking leave to appeal in the UK Supreme Court, after the London High Court declined to entertain his appeal challenging the extradition order to India on charges of fraud and money laundering in connection with unrecovered loans to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The bench asked Mallya's counsel Ankur Saigal to inform the court on the nature of these confidential proceedings and when it was likely to get over. Justice Lalit asked Saigal to inform the court when would his client appear before the apex court so that hearing on sentencing could be done in his presence for contempt of court, for which he has already been found guilty.

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# DONALD TRUMP SAYS FEELING BETTER, NEXT FEW DAYS 'REAL TEST' OF HIS COVID-19 TREATMENT



A WHITE HOUSE TEAM OF DOCTORS SAID ON SATURDAY MORNING THAT TRUMP'S CONDITION WAS IMPROVING AND THAT HE WAS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT RETURNING TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

President Donald Trump said from his hospital room on Saturday that he felt "much better" but the next few days will be "the real test" of his treatment for COVID-19, capping a day of contradictory messages from the White House about his condition.

In a four-minute video posted on Twitter, Trump, looking tired and wearing a jacket and open-necked shirt, said he "wasn't feeling so well" when he first arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Friday. "Over the next period of a few days, I guess that's the real test, so we'll be seeing what happens over those next couple of days," Trump said, seated at a round table in front of an American flag. The remarks came hours after differing assessments of his health from administration officials left it unclear how ill the president had become since he tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday night, a matter of enormous public concern.

A White House team of doctors said on Saturday morning that Trump's condition was improving and that he was already talking about returning to the White House. One doctor said Trump told them, 'I feel like I could walk out of here today.'

Within minutes, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows gave reporters a less rosy assessment, telling them, "The president's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care. We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery." Meadows, whose initial comments were delivered on condition that he not be identified, altered his tone hours later, telling Reuters that Trump was doing "very well" and that "doctors are very

pleased with his vital signs."

Meadows did not clarify the discrepancy in his comments. A Trump adviser who spoke on condition of anonymity said the president was not happy to learn of Meadows' initial remarks.

Administration officials have described the move to Walter Reed as precautionary and said Trump would stay at the hospital for several days. Another source who was briefed on Trump's condition said the president was given supplemental oxygen before he went to the hospital. The decision to hospitalize Trump came after he had experienced difficulty breathing and his oxygen level dropped, according to a source familiar with the situation.

White House doctor Sean P. Conley told reporters outside the hospital on Saturday that Trump had not had trouble breathing, and was not given oxygen at Walter Reed.

"The team and I are extremely happy with the progress the president has made," Conley said. He declined to give a timetable for Trump's possible release from the hospital, and later had to issue a statement saying he misspoke after appearing to suggest Trump had been diagnosed as early as Wednesday. In a statement on Saturday evening, Conley said the president was "not yet out of the woods" but his team remained cautiously optimistic. "Today's spectacle - doctors saying one thing, White House sources saying another thing, and both later amending their statements - only reinforces the credibility problems of this administration," said Kyle Kondik, a political analyst at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

# COVID-INFECTED TRUMP GREETES SUPPORTERS IN MOTORCADE OUTSIDE HOSPITAL

Doctors treating President Donald Trump for COVID-19 sent conflicting signals about the severity of his condition on Sunday, hours before the president surprised supporters gathered outside the hospital with an impromptu motorcade.

Trump, 74, wore a mask as he waved from the back seat of a black SUV that crawled in a caravan of vehicles in front of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside Washington, while supporters waving Trump 2020 flags chanted: "USA! USA!"

Trump, who said on Friday morning he had the infectious disease, was swiftly criticized for risking the health of support staff.

It was Trump's first appearance in public since he was evacuated to the hospital on Friday. "It's a very interesting journey. I learned a lot about COVID," he said in a video posted on Twitter shortly beforehand. Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden tested negative again for the disease that has killed more than 200,000 Americans, his campaign said on Sunday. [W1N2BK009] The former vice president, who shared a debate stage with Trump last Tuesday, previously tested negative in two tests on Friday, the day Trump disclosed his coronavirus infection.

Doctors said the president was improving, although they were monitoring the condition of his lungs after he received supplemental oxygen. They said he could be sent back to the White House as soon as Monday. But Dr Sean P Conley said the president's condition had been worse than he previously admitted. Conley said Trump's blood

oxygen levels had dropped in prior days and that he had run a high fever on Friday morning. Asked what tests had revealed about the condition of Trump's lungs, Conley replied: "There's some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern."

Conley's response suggested the X-rays revealed some signs of pneumonia, said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University.

"The expected finding is that he has evidence of pneumonia in the X-ray. If it was normal they would just say it is normal," Adalja said. Other doctors not involved in Trump's treatment said there was evidence his case was severe. Trump is being given dexamethasone, a steroid used in severe COVID cases, as well as the intravenous antiviral drug Remdesivir and an experimental antibody treatment from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

"It would be very unlikely for him to be out and about, and on the campaign trail in less than 14 days," said Dr David Battinelli, chief medical officer at New York's Northwell Health. Administration officials have given contradictory assessments of Trump's health. Conley and other doctors delivered a positive prognosis on Saturday, which was promptly undercut by Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. "I was trying to reflect an upbeat attitude of the team and the president about the course his illness has had," Conley told reporters on Sunday. "I didn't want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction."

# CHINA'S SHADOW OVER MALDIVES RECEDING AS YAMEEN'S LEGACY BECOMES DISTANT PAST

India-Maldives ties have seen a comeback with New Delhi reaching out to the Indian Ocean island country and the latter in turn reaffirming India first policy. But jog back to two years, and the situation was of major concern.

On February 05, 2018, the then President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen, whose closeness with China was well known had declared a state of nation-wide emergency after the Supreme Court overturned criminal convictions against nine major opposition figures. Then the purge started, with rounding up of opposition figures. Those put behind bars included Yameen's own half-brother former illustrious President of the country, Maumoon Gayoom.

Next 10 months were all about reversing the freedoms in the country and, in terms of foreign policy, demolishing the Maldives-India relationship. Tearing the 'India First' policy, Yameen attempted to de-couple India from the Maldives, in all spheres. Recalling Yameen's tenure, it was undoubtedly the lowest point in the Maldives-India bilateral relationship. China had made inroads into almost all aspects of Maldivian government, tourism and economy, both private and public sectors.

The Maldives China Free Trade Agreement was rammed through the Parliament or People's Majlis became the symbol of the larger ties between Yameen administration and China. Interestingly, Yameen's government left no records of the plethora of illegal deals undertaken with shady front companies of Beijing. Yameen had also broken Maldives' ties with the Commonwealth, distanced the country from its major donors USA, Australia, Japan and the EU. What is perhaps unknown is the increase in drug flow through the Maldivian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on Pakistani dhows spiking during this period. His administration had also suspended established joint protocols for keeping the EEZ secure from illicit activities. Yameen era from 2013 to 2018 witnessed the rise of radicalised elements within Maldivian society as street gangs and ultra-religious elements held sway over society, a cause of worry given the geo-strategic location of the country. The elections saw new dispensation led by President Ibu Solih of the Maldivian Democratic Party taking charge in November 2018. Indian Prime minister was present at his oath-taking ceremony, taking a six-hour flight to capital Malé. Solih in his first overseas visit paid a state visit to India in December of 2018 during which India announced \$1.4 billion financial assistance package.

# AMID GROWING ECONOMIC STRANGLEHOLD BY CHINA, KYRGYZSTAN ELECTIONS SET FOR OCT 4



Kyrgyzstan is going to polls on October 4, 2020. About 16 political parties will battle it out for the 120-seat Kyrgyz Parliament 'Jogorku Kenesh'. Close to 3.3 million voters will cast their votes in an election that will be monitored by 24 long-term and 350 short-term observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Every five years there are Parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan and the Member of Parliaments (MPs) are elected on the basis of party lists. To prevent complete dominance of one party a political subject cannot win more than 60 per cent of 120 mandates in the Parliament as per provisions. A 7 per cent national vote threshold is what any party contesting the election has to get for an assured seat in the Kyrgyz Parliament. Currently, the Birimdik Party leads with 28 MPs, followed by Mekenim Kyrgyzstan with 15 and Kyrgyzstan party with 14 MPs. While 100 incumbent MPs are contesting the elections under different party banners. According to the trends the Birimdik Party- backed by the President - will in all probability emerge as the single largest party and form a new government in coalition with Mekenim Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyzstan Party.

Kyrgyzstan has strong business ties with China which also happens to be its largest creditor. Chinese debt constitutes 45 per cent of Kyrgyzstan's total foreign debt which is why analysts believe that Kyrgyzstan may be slowly entering into a Chinese debt trap. The massive debt has forced Kyrgyzstan to request China for a deferment but the Chinese are playing the delayed tactics. This hints towards China mounting pressure in return for some favour, which otherwise would have been difficult.

# FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON DAMPENS HOPES FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE BY EARLY 2021



Amid the global race to find a cure for the deadly coronavirus in the world, French President Emmanuel Macron has dampened the hopes of finding a vaccine by "March or April" 2021. While speaking at the annual BPI France Inno Génération Forum, Macron said that he believes coronavirus will be around for a long time to come.

He said, "The people who tell you 'we'll have a vaccine by next March or April' are sincerely mistaken."

For the uninformed, earlier too, the French President has said that the vaccine against COVID-19 can be expected (earliest) at the end of 2021.

"No one is telling me we'll be able to get a vaccine before winter '21," Macron had said while visiting the Pasteur Institute in Paris, Zee News reported.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, he spoke at the UN Biodiversity Summit about efforts to reverse biodiversity loss, saying it is the life insurance of humans.

"I do not believe that the right of any other living creature is higher than a human right. But I do not believe in the effectiveness of preserving human rights without preserving the ecosystems. For me, this is the philosophical and ethical basis of this battle for biodiversity," Macron said.

# Under pressure from China, Pakistan to merge Gilgit-Baltistan with the mainland

Exploiting the instability caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Pakistan has decided to merge Gilgit-Baltistan with the mainland and make it a full-fledged province.

In a recent media briefing, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur stated that Pakistani Government has decided to change the status of G-B and Prime Minister Imran Khan shall soon visit the region to make a formal announcement.

In the legal set-up imposed on G-B by Pakistan, there are two things to consider — first, the laws governing the region and second, government agencies administering the region. The Pakistani government has been ruling the G-B region through provisional ordinances in order to keep the autonomy intact and to legitimise its arguments of entitling autonomy. After the Karachi Agreement of 1949, Pakistan began to rule the region through the British era Frontier Crime Regulations (FCR). These regulations were abolished in 1975 and civil and criminal laws were extended to the area. In 1994, the area began to be ruled by Northern Areas Council Legal Framework. However, in 2009, Pakistan came up with the Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order (2009) and extended the legislature to G-B.

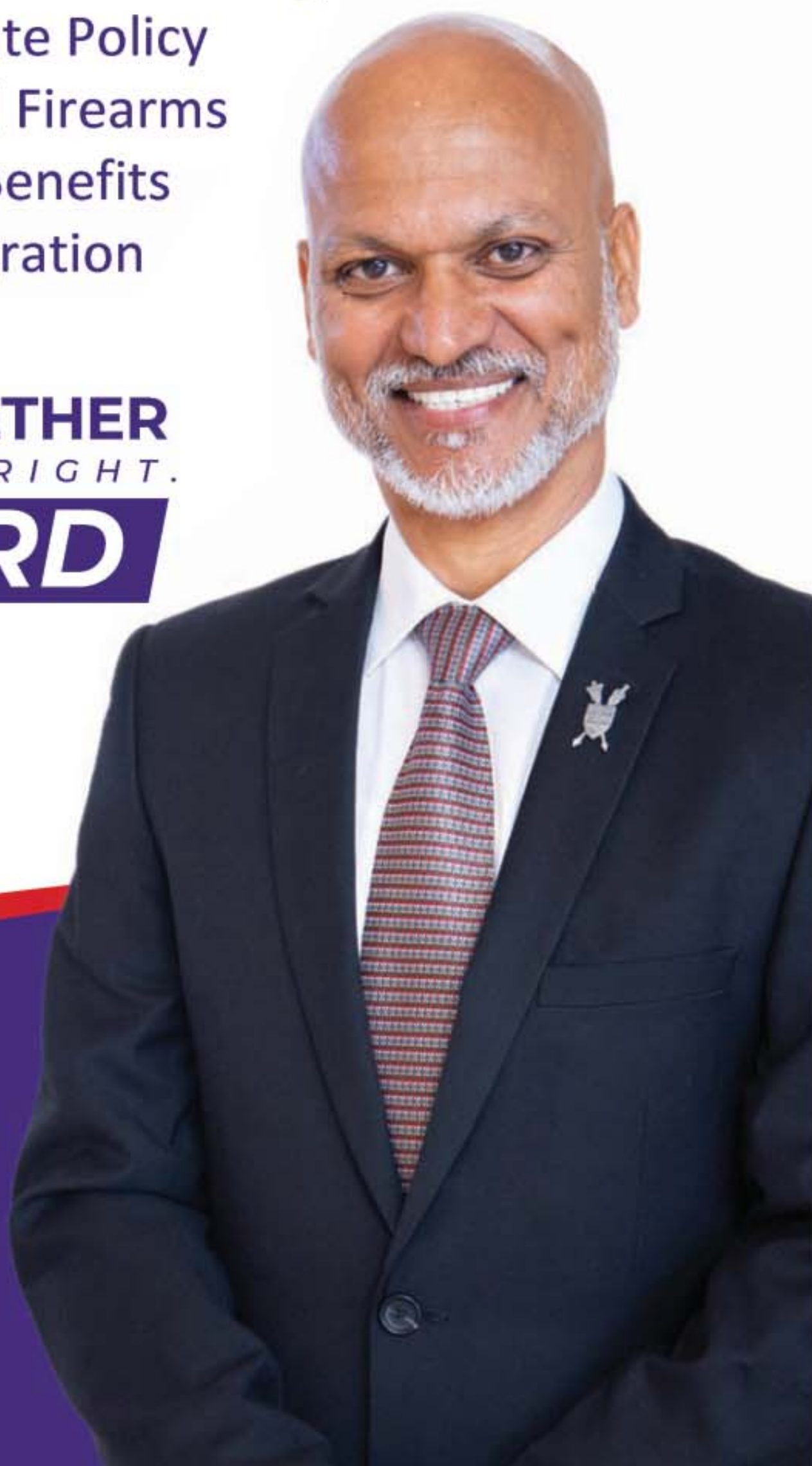


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