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SHARES PIC OF RANVEER'S 'EARLY
MORNING LOOK' | P16







ON SEPTEMBER 20

VOTE

LIBERAL

- ✓ For \$10 a day child care
- ✓ For housing affordability
- ✓ For a permanent increase to GIS payments for seniors

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Leader of Canada's Conservatives

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BAJAJ**
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CONSERVATIVE



**Vote For NAVAL BAJAJ
to secure your future
ON SEPTEMBER 20TH**

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CONSERVATIVE



BAJAJ, NAVAL
CONSERVATIVE



BAJAJ, NAVAL
CONSERVATIVE



BAJAJ, NAVAL
CONSERVATIVE



**YOU CAN VOTE BETWEEN
9:30 AM – 9:30 PM**

CANADA'S RECOVERY PLAN



1. **SECURE JOBS**
by recovering the 1 million jobs lost during the pandemic within one year.



2. **SECURE ACCOUNTABILITY**
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3. **SECURE MENTAL HEALTH**
through our Canada Mental Health Action Plan.



4. **SECURE THE COUNTRY**
by creating a strategic stockpile of essential products and building the capacity to manufacture vaccines at home.



5. **SECURE OUR ECONOMY**
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MIDWEEK
NEWSPAPER



Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE: CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION 2021

DIFFERENT POLL SURVEY PREDICT WE ARE HEADING TOWARDS MINORITY GOVT. IN CANADA.

Y MEDIA POLL SURVEY- HEALTHCARE, HOUSING & AFFORDABILITY, ECONOMY & JOBS, CRIME MAJOR ISSUES

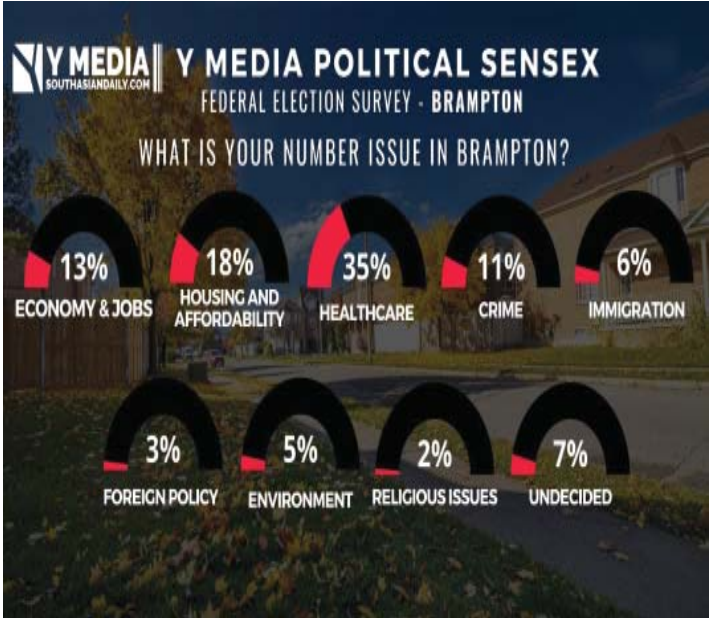
POOJA LUTHRA

Y Media asked respondents from Brampton about their top issues ahead of the Sept. 20 federal election, as well as the factors that are most likely to shape their vote. About 35% of respondents said, unprompted, that healthcare is the single biggest issue facing Brampton, while 18% said that it is the housing and affordability, and 13% considered economy and jobs to be their number one issue. Other issues of note included crime (11%), immigration (6%), environment (5%), foreign policy (3%) and religious issues (2%). Detailed and in-depth analysis of this survey was done on Channel Y by Group Editor, Yudhvir Jaswal and panelists. Watch Y Media Channel Y live show for Federal Election Result on Monday, Sept. 20, from 7 p.m.

Y MEDIA METHODOLOGY

Globacon conducted a comprehensive public opinion of 3062 participants in the city of Brampton via telephone IVR on September 13 and 14. Around 70% of these respondents were eligible to vote in the federal election. The poll was evenly distributed over five federal ridings of Brampton: Brampton West, Brampton East, Brampton Centre, Brampton North and Brampton South. The respondents were asked three questions regarding the Canadian federal election and the number one issue that matters most to them in Brampton. The respondents had the option to participate in the poll in four languages, namely, English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. The public opinion poll was commissioned by Y Media and is the first one ever to be done by an ethnic media. The margin of error is +/- 4.1% 19 times out of 20.

**Y MEDIA-POLITICAL SENSEX- WATCH
CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS
LIVE - MONDAY, SEPT. 20 STARTING 7 PM ON
CHANNEL Y**



FORMER PPC RIDING PRESIDENT, SHANE MARSHALL, 25, CHARGED FOR TRUDEAU GRAVEL-THROWING INCIDENT

On Monday, September 6, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was at an event in London as part of the current federal election campaign. At approximately 6:00 p.m., a male threw gravel at the Prime Minister as he was boarding his campaign bus. The Prime Minister was uninjured. **| CONTD. ON PAGE 7**

FARMERS LEADERS TELL POLITICAL PARTIES TO SUSPEND CAMPAIGNING IN PUNJAB

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Fearing losing momentum in the agitation against the three contentious Central farm laws, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, a group of 32 farm unions, on Friday asked the political parties in Punjab to suspend their campaigning till the assembly elections, slated in early next year, were announced. **| CONTD. ON PAGE 9**

MODI TO VISIT US ON SEP 24 TO PARTICIPATE IN QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in person in the Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in Washington DC on September 24, 2021, being organised by the US. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and US President Joe Biden will also be attending the Summit to review the progress made since their first virtual Summit on March 12 this year and discuss regional issues of shared interest.



POLITICAL TWIST TO REMARKS ON FARM AGITATION UNFORTUNATE: PUNJAB CM

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said it was unfortunate that the farmers agitating against the "black" farm laws had "given a political twist" to his remarks, "instead of understanding the pain and misery caused to the people on account of their protests". **| CONTD. ON PAGE 9**



EX-PRESIDENT GIANI ZAIL SINGH'S GRANDSON, INDERJEET SINGH, JOINS BJP



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Inderjeet Singh, grandson of former President Giani Zail Singh, on Monday joined the BJP in the presence of union minister and election in-charge of Punjab Hardeep Singh Puri at party headquarters here. After joining BJP, Singh said his grandfather's wish fulfilled. Also present were national general secretary and state in-charge Dushyant Gautam and nation media head Anil Baluni and spokesperson Sardar R.P. Singh. Welcoming Singh in the party, Gautam said that he has been involved in social work in Punjab and across the country. Highlighting the work of Narendra Modi government, Gautam said, "Modi government has ensured justice to 1984 riots victims and construction of Kartarpur corridor."

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.**
- **Peel Region launches Vax Van, a mobile Covid-19 vaccination clinic at Westwood Square Mall, Mississauga from 2 p.m. To 6 p.m.**
- **Over 84.5% Ontarians 12+ inoculated with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, 78% fully vaccinated.**

**Y MEDIA-POLITICAL SENSEX- WATCH CANADA'S FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS
LIVE- MONDAY, SEPT. 20 STARTING 7 PM ON CHANNEL Y**



Y MEDIA - POLITICAL SENSEX- FEDERAL ELECTION, 2021: Y MEDIA'S GROUP EDITOR YUDHVIR JASWAL DISCUSSED Y MEDIA POLL "SURVEY RESULTS WITH RAMONA SINGH (EXTREME LEFT) & SARABJIT KAUR (MIDDLE) ON CHANNEL Y (BELL FIBE 828, ROGERS 857, TELUS 2418, IGNITE 707)



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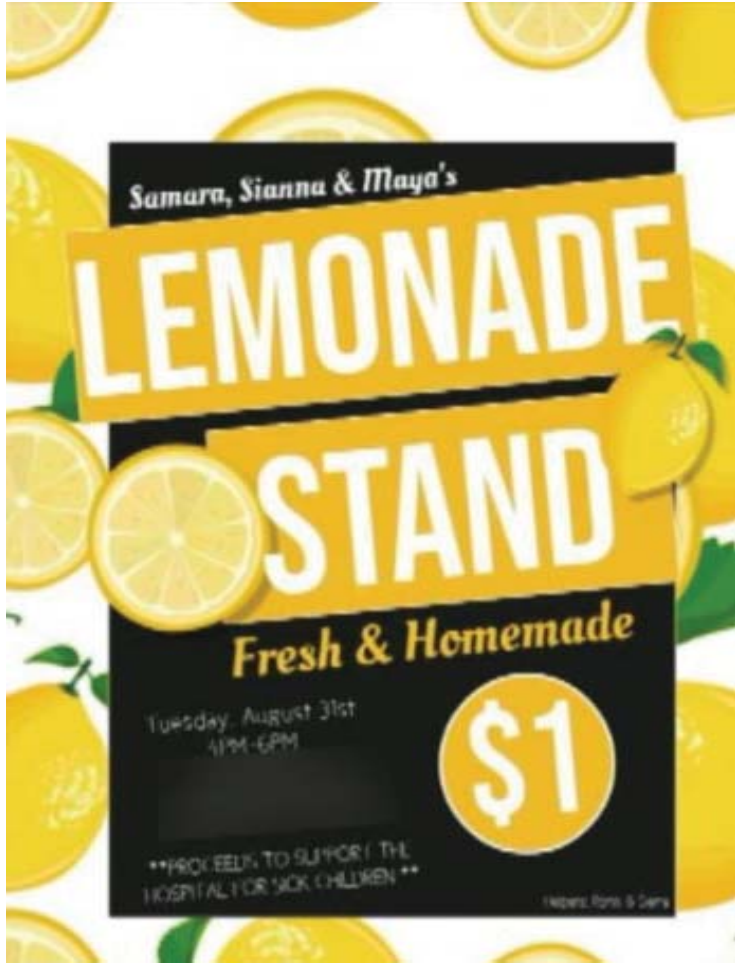
SCAN ME



LEMONADE FUNDRAISER ORGANIZED TO SUPPORT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN



Samara, Sianna and Maya spent the last few days organizing a lemonade stand and thanks to all their hard work, raised \$2000 for the Hospital for Sick Kids. It was so nice to see family, friends, neighbours (and even strangers!) come out and show their support and encourage our young entrepreneurs. A special shout-out goes to Peel Regional Police and Mississauga Fire, who not only showed up with sirens and lights blaring but also stuck around for lemonade, a little shop talk and basketball. The Hospital for Sick Kids has always had a special place in our hearts and it was truly heartwarming when the girls brainstormed and decided that this is where they'd like to donate their money. Thank you to all those that came out and way to go girls! Your dedication, generosity and commitment are an inspiration to all of us!



Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

MODERNA'S COVID VAX MORE EFFECTIVE AGAINST DELTA THAN PFIZER, J&J: STUDY



NEW YORK, (IANS) Moderna's vaccine for Covid-19 is significantly more effective against the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV2 virus than Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson, suggests a new study. The study, published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, suggests that Moderna was 95 per cent effective at preventing hospitalisation among adults ages 18 and older. "These real-world data show that vaccines remain highly effective at reducing Covid-19 related hospitalisation and emergency department visits, even in the presence of the new Covid-19 variant," said researcher Shaun Grannis from Indiana University in the US. "We strongly recommend vaccinations for all who are eligible to reduce serious illness and ease the burden on our healthcare system," Grannis added. The team also found that Pfizer was 80 per cent effective at preventing hospitalisation among adults ages 18 and older. While Johnson & Johnson was 60 per cent effective. For the study, the team analysed more than 32,000 medical encounters from nine states during June, July and August 2021, when the Delta variant became the predominant strain. The results showed that unvaccinated individuals with Covid-19 are 5-7 times more likely to need emergency department care or hospitalisation, similar to the overall effectiveness prior to the variant. The study also found that vaccine effectiveness is lower for people 75 years and older, which has not been shown in previous research. This could be due to a range of factors, including the increased time since vaccination, the researchers noted.

UNVACCINATED MAY BE 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM COVID: US STUDY



WASHINGTON, (IANS) As the Joe Biden administration stepped up efforts to get more people vaccinated, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in three new studies emphasised the importance of Covid shots in preventing death rates, even amid concerns on waning immunity in some populations. The studies appeared in the agency's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. A study showed that people who are not vaccinated against the novel coronavirus disease are 10 times more likely to die from the infection compared to those who have taken the shots. The findings showed that the currently available Covid-19 jabs provide strong protection for most people against hospitalisation and death, even during the delta surge. However, higher hospitalisation and death rates are observed in older age groups, regardless of vaccination status. For the study, the CDC analysed data on more than 6,00,000 Covid-19 cases, hospitalisations and deaths among people 18 and older by vaccination status, reported from April 4 to July 17 in 13 states and cities. Vaccine effectiveness against the infection dropped from 90 per cent, when delta had not yet gained significant traction, to less than 80 per cent from mid-June to mid-July, when delta began out-competing all other variants of the virus. Effectiveness against hospitalisation and death showed barely any decline during the entire period, the Washington Post reported.

WHY THE US' FDA IS TAKING TIME TO APPROVE COVID SHOTS FOR KIDS?



WASHINGTON, (IANS) While parents are eagerly waiting to inoculate their kids with Covid-19 vaccines to protect them from infections, the US Food and Drug Administration has warned against using the currently available shots for children under 12. In a recent statement, the regulatory body said it is working round the clock to support the process for making Covid-19 vaccines available for children. It said that it "cannot offer a specific date or timeline" for the vaccine but assured that they "hope to have paediatric Covid-19 vaccines available in the coming months". "Parents may be wondering if they can ask their health care providers to go ahead and vaccinate their kids using one of the currently available vaccines outside of the FDA-authorised or approved uses," said Janet Woodcock, MD, Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs - FDA, and Peter Marks, Director - Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in the statement. "Parents need to remember that the vaccine doses that are currently being studied in younger children are not necessarily the same vaccine doses that were authorised for individuals 12 years and older or approved for individuals 16 years of age and older - there are different dosing regimens being investigated. The FDA said that they are awaiting completion of clinical trials and results before considering vaccinating young kids. It wants to ensure that the vaccines are able to prevent Covid-19 in young children and don't cause unexpected safety issues separate from those that have already been observed in adolescents and adults.

ONTARIO RELEASES GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT PROOF OF VACCINATION POLICY EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22

As the province continues to respond to the fourth wave of the pandemic driven by the highly transmissible Delta variant, the government is further protecting Ontarians through continued actions that encourage every eligible person to get vaccinated and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Today the government released the regulations and guidance for businesses and organizations to support them in implementing proof of vaccination requirements, which take effect on September 22, 2021. Requiring a proof of vaccination will help increase vaccination rates, protect individuals in higher-risk indoor settings, and keep businesses open.

“High rates of vaccination against COVID-19 are critical to helping protect our communities and hospital capacity while keeping Ontario schools and businesses safely open,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “As we continue our last mile push to increase vaccination rates, requiring proof of immunization in select settings will encourage even more Ontarians to receive the vaccine and stop the spread of COVID-19. If you haven’t received your first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, please sign up today.”

In advance of September 22, all Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt from the provincial booking portal. The Ministry is working on additional supports and services to assist Ontario residents who need help obtaining proof of vaccination, including requesting a copy be sent by mail. Those who need support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt including those who do not have access to a computer or printer can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

Effective September 22, 2021, patrons seeking access to the following areas of the premises of the following businesses or organizations must show proof of identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they can enter the area, with limited exceptions:

Businesses or Organizations	Additional Information
Indoor areas of meeting and event spaces	Includes banquet halls, conference and convention centres (with limited exceptions)
Indoor and outdoor areas of food or drink establishments with dance facilities, including nightclubs and restoclubs and other similar establishments	Excludes delivery and takeout
Indoor areas of restaurants, bars, and other food and drink establishments without dance facilities	Excludes outdoor areas (i.e., outdoor patios), delivery and takeout
Indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities, including waterparks, and personal fitness training	Includes gyms, fitness/sporting/ recreational facilities, pools, leagues, sporting events, waterparks, and indoor areas of facilities where spectators watch events. Limited exceptions apply
Indoor areas of casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments	
Indoor areas of concert venues, theatres, and cinemas	
Indoor areas of bathhouses, sex clubs and strip clubs	
Indoor areas of horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues	Includes indoor only for horse racing and car racing and other similar venues
Indoor areas where film and TV productions take place with studio audiences	Does not include cast and crew members

Ontario is developing an enhanced vaccine certificate with a unique QR code to make it safer, more secure and convenient to show that you have been vaccinated when required to do so. The enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app will be available by October 22, 2021. Ontario’s proof of vaccination guidance will be updated to reflect the new processes. “Businesses need a smart, quick and safe solution to verify vaccination,” said Kaleed Rasheed, Associate Minister of Digital Govern-

ment. “The made-in-Ontario enhanced vaccine certificate for the public and the verification app for businesses are tools to confirm that an individual has been vaccinated while protecting Ontarians’ health data.”

The proof of vaccination policy has resulted in a marked increase in vaccination rates. Between September 1 and September 8, 2021, the seven-day average for first doses administered increased by more than 29 per cent, from over 11,400 doses to over 14,700 doses. During that time, more than 90,000 first doses and 102,000-second doses were administered in Ontario to individuals aged 18 to 59. To further increase vaccine uptake, the province is continuing its last-mile strategy to reach eligible individuals who have yet to receive a first or second dose. This includes: The provincial call centre booking or rebooking more than 135,000 appointments; The GO-VAXX bus administering more than 3,700 doses with 50 per cent being first doses, since launching on August 7, 2021; Setting up a Provincial Vaccine Confidence Line that individuals can call to speak with an experienced agent or health specialist about COVID-19 vaccine questions; and Supporting more than 550 vaccination clinics in or nearby elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools that are currently operational or planned for the near future.

“As we continue to see cases of COVID-19 in our communities, we must keep up the fight against the transmission of this virus and its variants to create a safer environment for ourselves, our families and our communities,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “The best defence against COVID-19 is getting a vaccine and encouraging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated too. Wearing a mask and practising physical distancing where possible are public health measures we all must continue to follow.”

To further protect those who face the highest risk from COVID-19 and the Delta variant, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health is following the evidence and recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional groups, such as individuals with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency, individuals receiving active treatment for significantly immunosuppressive conditions and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Locations and timing for third doses will vary by public health unit and high-risk population based on local planning and considerations. “Getting fully vaccinated is the most important step you can take to protect yourself and others,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “To provide the best protection to some of our more vulnerable populations, we are offering a third dose to additional groups of immunocompromised people who are more likely to have had a less than adequate immune response to the initial two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. I continue to strongly encourage anyone eligible who hasn’t already come forward to get their COVID-19 shot, to do so today to do their part to help keep themselves, their loved ones and our communities safe.”

Pakistan opposition supports journalists against new media body

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Political parties, student unions, and members of civil society in Pakistan continued to express solidarity with protesting journalists outside Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday, joining them in raising their voice against the proposed Pakistan Media Development Authority (PMDA) bill.

Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PML-N Information Sec-retary Marriyum Aurangzeb, and MNA Mohsin Dawar, among others, visited the site on Sunday night to express solidarity with the journalists, Dawn reported.

Several politicians, including Senator Sherry Rehman and Raza Rabbani of the PPP, visited the protest camp on Monday and addressed the protesters. PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari addressed the protest, saying that journalists in the country had bravely fought against and defeated former President Pervez Musharraf in the past, and they would also put up a fight against the incumbent government and its decisions challenging media freedom, the report said.

“I believe as far as the legitimacy of the government and media freedom are concerned, all (of us) are on the same page,” he added.

The PPP chairperson said that he saw the PMDA as a continuity of measures taken in the past to place curbs on the media.

“Some people don’t want journalists to think freely and struggle for media freedom. We should not yield to them, and nobody will be able to infringe upon our rights,” he said.

He further stated that in present times, countries had been using the media as a tool to attack their rivals and to tackle the issue in Pakistan, media here needed to be empowered, the report said.

PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif too railed against the bill, terming it a



“black law” and expressing solidarity with journalists. “The government doesn’t have the guts to pass it and we won’t allow it,” he thundered. Sharif warned the government against passing the “black law” otherwise it would have to bear the consequences. He said the media had a fought a war for its freedom and no one could snatch it . The PML-N President added that he would protest the issue with other opposition leaders in the National Assembly and try to achieve consensus with PPP and other political parties. Journalist Hamid Mir plans to host a talk show at the site of the sit-in. The protest call was given by various journalist bodies, headed by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists.

NEW GOVT TO UPHOLD ISLAMIC RULES AND SHARIA LAW: TALIBAN’S RELIGIOUS LEADER

NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Taliban’s religious leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, hours after the announcement of the new Afghanistan cabinet, issued a statement saying the new cabinet will start its work immediately.

“As a caretaker and committed cabinet has been announced by the authorities of the Islamic Emirate to control and run the affairs of the country which will start functioning at the earliest, I assure all the countrymen that the figures will work hard towards upholding Islamic rules and Sharia law in the country, protecting the country’s highest interests, securing Afghanistan’s borders, and to ensuring lasting peace, prosperity and development,” Akhundzada said.

The statement also said the new government remains committed to protecting human rights.

“The Islamic Emirate will take serious and effective steps towards protecting human rights, the rights of minorities as well as the rights of the underprivileged groups within the framework of the demands of the sacred religion of Islam,” reads the statement.

TWO-THIRDS SAY 9/11 ATTACKS CHANGED THE WAY AMERICA LIVES: SURVEY

NEW DELHI, (IANS) A Fox News Poll conducted before the recent events in Afghanistan found that two-thirds (64 per cent) of the registered voters in the US think that the 9/11 terror attacks 20 years back permanently changed the way of life in the US.

A quarter of the respondents said the attacks caused temporary changes (24 per cent), while only 9 per cent felt that life didn’t change at all. The poll was conducted from August 7-10, days before the US troops pullout from Afghanistan became front-page news.

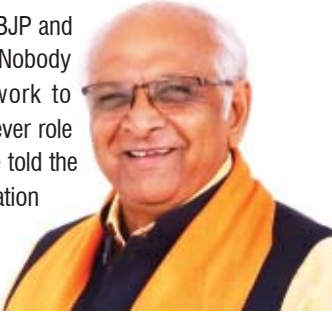
As per the poll, the voters saw the 9/11 attacks as more consequential than the Coronavirus pandemic, with half (50 per cent) saying in an earlier poll that the pandemic has made permanent changes to life in the US.

A majority (65 per cent) believed that the policies implemented in the aftermath of the attacks made America ‘safer’ (65 per cent), 17 per cent felt that they made the US ‘less safe’, while 13 per cent thought the policies didn’t make any difference.

Nearly twice as many, though still a minority, said that the interrogation techniques like waterboarding (38 per cent) and the military action against Iraq (31 per cent) were an overreaction. In early August, one-quarter (25 per cent) said the US taking military action against Afghanistan after 9/11 was an overreaction, while half (49 per cent) thought it was ‘about right’, down from 56 per cent in 2011 at the 10-year mark of the deadly attacks. When the voters were asked about their level of concern on several issues, attacks from Islamic terrorists came in last -- albeit this was before the events in Afghanistan, Fox News said. As per the poll, 58 per cent were ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ concerned about the attacks, while issues such as inflation (86 per cent), political divisions (83 per cent), violent crime (81 per cent), healthcare (78 per cent), China’s growing power (73 per cent), unemployment (71 per cent), the federal deficit (70 per cent), Coronavirus (69 per cent), opioid addiction (69 per cent), illegal immigration (66 per cent), and racism (66 per cent) were cited as greater concerns. Climate change was at about the same level of concern (60 per cent).

BHUPENDRA PATEL IS NEW GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER

GANDHINAGAR, (IANS) Senior BJP leader Bhupendra Patel was on Sunday elected the new Gujarat Chief Minister, replacing Vijay Rupani, who abruptly resigned on Saturday. The MLA from Ahmedabad’s Ghatlodia, Patel was earlier Chairman of the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority. Rupani, who on Saturday tendered his resignation, sought to dispel speculations about the reasons. “I am a loyal soldier of the BJP and have resigned of my own accord. Nobody has asked me to do so. I will work to strengthen the organisation or whatever role the party leadership assigns me,” he told the reporters after tendering the resignation to Governor Acharya Devvrat. Assembly elections in the state are due by late 2022.



POLL STRATEGIST PRASHANT KISHOR MEETING CONGRESS LEADERS EVEN AS INDUCTION UNDECIDED

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor has been meeting the Congress leaders informally in poll bound states as his induction in the party is still under consideration by Sonia Gandhi.

Sources have confirmed that he has met a couple of leaders in poll bound states and he has given his personal state specific inputs to them. Gujarat Congress leader and a former union minister Bharat Singh Solanki, who met Kishor on a couple of occasions, said, “he has a good plan to re-energize the Congress in the state.” Gujarat is going to polls next year and Solanki is a strong contender for the state president’s post as Congress is going to rejig the state unit soon.

Another leader whom Kishor has met is Veerappa Moily, who is also in support of Kishor joining the party. Several Congress leaders are however divided over Kishor’s role in ticket distribution, but none is averse of him joining the party. They think he should be made in-charge of election management department without the candidate selection power. Congress leaders do approve that his inputs should be considered in the party but suggested that state leaders and former & sitting chief ministers should have a say in the ticket distribution process. The Congress party has been consulting the Congress Working Committee (CWC) members to revamp the party structure after losing two consecutive general elections.

'US CENTRAL COMMAND STILL ASSESSING DEADLY DRONE STRIKE IN KABUL: PENTAGON

WASHINGTON, (IANS) The US Central Command is “still assessing” the results of the deadly August 29 drone strike in Kabul which was alleged to have killed multiple Afghan civilians, the Pentagon said. “I would say that the assessment by the Central Command is ongoing, and I’m not going to get ahead of that,” Xinhua news agency reported on Tuesday citing Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby as saying to reporters here.

Kirby’s remarks were in response to a question over media investigations that suggested the US military might have mistaken an aid worker for a suicide bomber in the drone strike during its military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Kirby defended the assault, saying that it was “taken to prevent an imminent attack”.

He added that Central Command has so far had no plans to put investigators on the ground, but promised that the Pentagon will be “as transparent about the outcomes as we can”.

The US Central Command said on August 29 that it launched a drone strike on a vehicle in Kabul, which it claimed had eliminated an “imminent” threat, posed by IS-K, an Afghanistan-based offshoot of the Islamic State terror group, to the Hamad Karzai International Airport, where evacuations of US service members and personnel were underway. “We are confident we successfully hit the target,” the Central Command had said in a statement following the strike. “Significant secondary explosions from the vehicle indicated the presence of a substantial amount of explosive material.”

Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, had called it a “righteous strike” with procedures correctly followed.

But separate investigations by The New York Times and The Washington Post have identified the vehicle driver as Zemarai Ahmadi, a 43-year-old electrical engineer working for Nutrition and Education International, a US aid group based in Pasadena, California.

Their analyses have also called into question the Central Command’s allegation of “secondary explosions” from the vehicle.

An examination of the scene of the strike “found no evidence of a second, more powerful explosion”, with experts pointing to the lack of collapsed walls or destroyed vegetation, according to the Times.

TALIBAN CO-FOUNDER AND ACTING DEPUTY PM MULLAH BARADAR ISSUES AUDIO MESSAGE TO SAY HE IS ALIVE

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, confirmed in an audio message on Monday that he is alive and not injured.

The message, tweeted by Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Naeem, follows reports that Baradar was injured or killed in clashes among the Taliban, Tolo News reported.

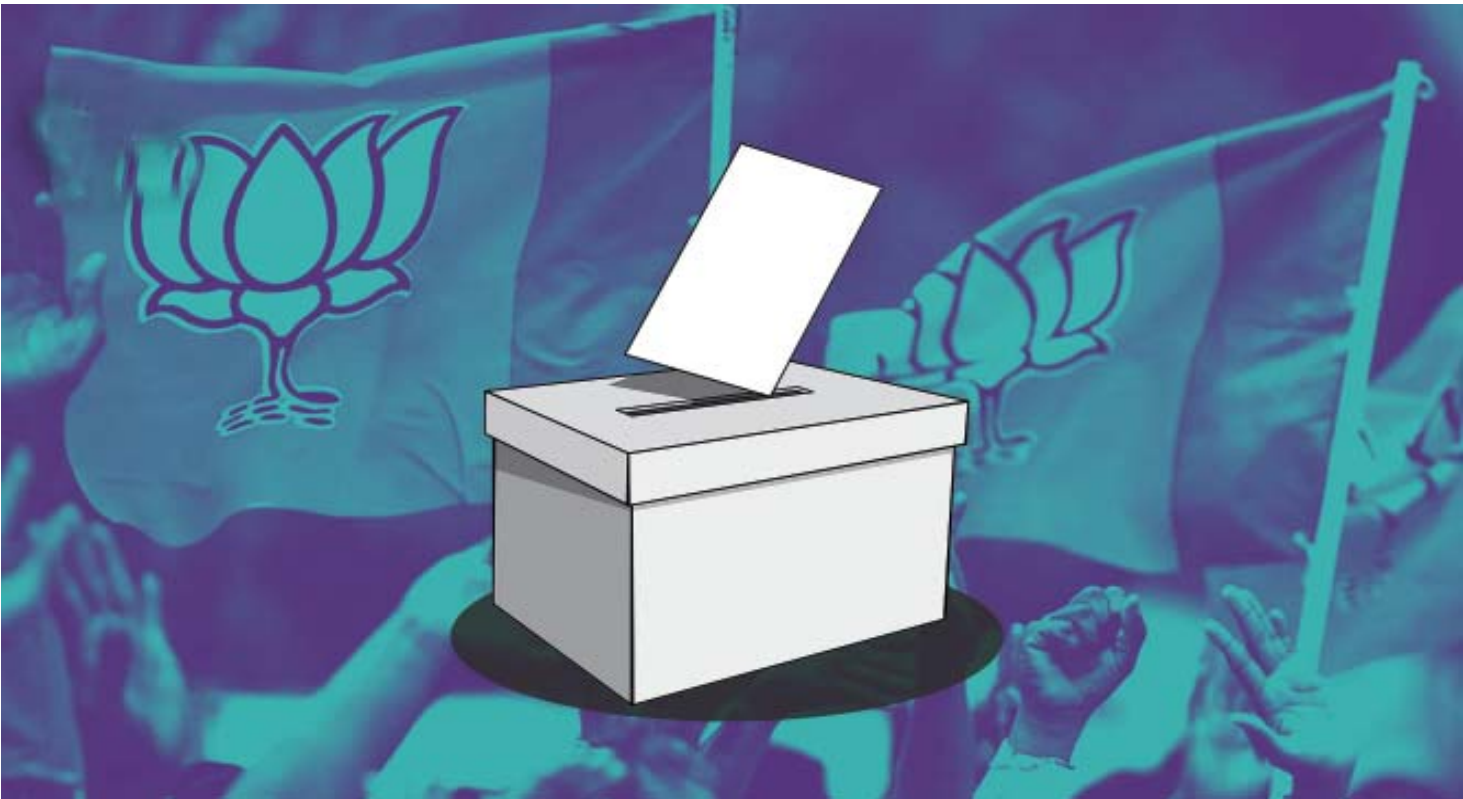
“Taliban spokesman says rumours of the killing of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban’s Deputy PM, is not true. He has been saying the same thing about Haibatullah Akhundzada for the past 2 years, but so far in the past 2 years, no one saw him or heard from him until now,” a Twitterati said.

Earlier reports said that Faiz Hameed, the head of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), had rushed to Kabul following a clash between Baradar and Haqqani-supported groups in which Baradar sustained injuries.



BJP allies seek share in UP pie for 2022 polls

LUCKNOW, (IANS) More and more allies of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are demanding their proverbial pound of flesh in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The latest to join the bandwagon is the Republican Party of India (RPI). RPI national president and Union minister Ramdas Athawale has said that his party would field candidates on around 10-12 seats dominated by the Muslims, Schedule Castes and backward classes in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He said that discussions regarding seat distribution in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh are underway with BJP national president J.P. Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah. Athawale said his party will kick off the poll campaign by taking out the Bahujan Kalyan Yatra from Saharanpur on September 26, which will culminate in a rally in Lucknow on December 18, after covering several districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Janata Dal(United) has already said that though it would prefer to contest the elections in alliance with the BJP, it would still field candidates if the alliance did not materialise. Party General Secretary K.C. Tyagi has already said that while their first choice would be to be accommodated in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), it will still go ahead with its plans to contest in UP even if that does not materialise. "Our first choice will be to contest as part of the NDA, and we hope it works out. We have had an old presence in UP since the days of the erstwhile Samata Party, though we did not contest in 2017. We had MLAs in UP and we also had ministers in the government. The objective is to revive the party beyond Bihar," he said. State JD(U) president Anoop Singh Patel said, "We have asked out workers to prepare for elections on the maximum number of seats in the state." According to sources, the JD(U) wants to assert its claim over the Kurmi votes in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Till now, it is the Apna Dal -- another BJP ally -- that wields consider-



able influence over the Kurmi community which is the second largest block among OBC voters after Yadavs. On the other hand, the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), led by Mukesh Sahani, is also determined to contest the UP elections - with or without BJP. Mukesh Sahani, who happens to be a minister in the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, has said that his party will contest on 165 Assembly seats that have a sizeable Nishad population. The VIP is at loggerheads with the Nishad Party that is inching closer to the BJP. Both the parties claim to be custodians of the Nishad votes

in UP. Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad, sources said, has sought 70 seats from the BJP for the 2022 Assembly polls. A senior BJP functionary, talking on condition of anonymity, said that the demands being put forth by its allies were 'impractical' because they did not have a base in Uttar Pradesh. "The 2022 Assembly election is crucial for us and every seat matters. We cannot give away seats, knowing that they will be lost. The party leadership is closely monitoring every seat and the decision will be taken at the highest level," he said

Taliban want aid to be handed over to them for distribution in Afghanistan

KABUL (IANS) As the world organisations start pooling in with humanitarian aid to prevent the foreseen major humanitarian crisis looming over Afghanistan, the Taliban leadership has said that aid supplies landing in the country should be handed over to them as they would hold the responsibility to provide for the poor, needy and the deserving. The statement was made by the acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, Amir Muttaqi, who said that it is the responsibility of the Taliban-led government in the country to ensure provision of required relief to the deserving perons. Muttaqi's statement has left the international community in another difficult situation as the Taliban push forward global legitimacy demand and call for engaging with the Taliban leadership.

Muttaqi also lashed out at the US for not responding to the help the Taliban gave them during their withdrawal, with severing of aid and freezing of assets. "We helped the US until the evacuation of their last person. But unfortunately, the US, instead of thanking us, froze our assets," he said. "We welcome the pledge of emergency aid funding committed to Afghanistan during yesterday's meeting hosted by the UN in Geneva," Muttaqi added, urging the international community to engage with the Taliban and ensure recognition of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan. Muttaqi also highlighted that reluctance to recognise the Taliban-led administration in Kabul could further damage the already suffering Afghan economy. "We are willing to work with any country, including the US. But we will not allow anyone to dictate us," he said. The call for global engagement by the Taliban comes after UN chief Antonio Guterres hosted a donor conference of the UN and stated that provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan would be impossible without engaging with the Taliban. The UN donor conference has pledged \$1 billion in Afghanistan aid to prevent the country from collapsing due to economic and humanitarian crises. But the concerns still pertain to the formal recognition of the Taliban-led administration and formal engagement with the Taliban to ensure the aid doesn't land in wrong hands. The Taliban have demanded the international community to open formal relations with their leadership, highlighting that Afghanistan is open for foreign investments. Muttaqi also stated that the reservations of western capitals regarding respect of human rights of women and others were "unfair and unjust", adding that the interim government will respect all human



rights, including that of women. And while the Taliban thanked countries like Qatar, Pakistan and Uzbekistan for their aid supplies, they have made it clear that any aid supplies for Afghanistan would have to be distributed through the interim government, a position that the western countries and others are not ready to accept.

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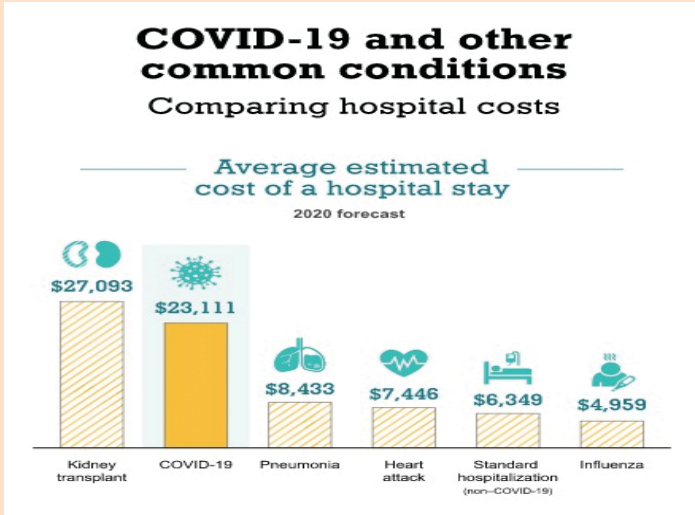


BANK OF CANADA KEEPS ITS INTEREST RATE AT 0.25%

The Bank of Canada today held its target for the overnight rate at the effective lower bound of ¼ percent, with the Bank Rate at ½ percent and the deposit rate at ¼ percent. The Bank is maintaining its extraordinary forward guidance on the path for the overnight rate. This is reinforced and supplemented by the Bank's quantitative easing (QE) program, which is being maintained at a target pace of \$2 billion per week. The global economic recovery continued through the second quarter, led by strong US growth, and had solid momentum heading into the third quarter. However, supply chain disruptions are restraining activity in some sectors and rising cases of COVID-19 in many regions pose a risk to the strength of the global recovery. Financial conditions remain highly accommodative. In Canada, GDP contracted by about 1 percent in the second quarter, weaker than anticipated in the Bank's July Monetary Policy Report (MPR). This largely reflects a contraction in exports, due in part to supply chain disruptions, especially in the auto sector. Housing market activity pulled back from recent high levels, largely as expected. Consumption, business investment and government spending all contributed positively to growth, with domestic demand growing at more than 3 percent. Employment rebounded through June and July, with hard-to-distance sectors hiring as public health restrictions eased. This is reducing unevenness in the labour market, although considerable slack remains and some groups – particularly low-wage workers – are still disproportionately affected. The Bank continues to expect the economy to strengthen in the second

half of 2021, although the fourth wave of COVID-19 infections and ongoing supply bottlenecks could weigh on the recovery. CPI inflation remains above 3 percent as expected, boosted by base-year effects, gasoline prices, and pandemic-related supply bottlenecks. These factors pushing up inflation are expected to be transitory, but their persistence and magnitude are uncertain and will be monitored closely. Wage increases have been moderate to date, and medium-term inflation expectations remain well-anchored. Core measures of inflation have risen but by less than the CPI. The Governing Council judges that the Canadian economy still has considerable excess capacity and that the recovery continues to require extraordinary monetary policy support. We remain committed to holding the policy interest rate at the effective lower bound until economic slack is absorbed so that the 2 percent inflation target is sustainably achieved. In the Bank's July projection, this happens in the second half of 2022. The Bank's QE program continues to reinforce this commitment and keep interest rates low across the yield curve. Decisions regarding future adjustments to the pace of net bond purchases will be guided by Governing Council's ongoing assessment of the strength and durability of the recovery. We will continue to provide the appropriate degree of monetary policy stimulus to support the recovery and achieve the inflation objective. The next scheduled date for announcing the overnight rate target is October 27, 2021.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION'S REPORT FINDS 'AVERAGE ESTIMATED COST OF A COVID-19 HOSPITAL STAY IN CANADA IS JUST OVER \$23,000'



The average estimated cost of a COVID-19 hospital stay in Canada is just over \$23,000 — about 4 times the average cost of a hospital stay for influenza, 3 times the average cost of a stay for a heart attack and almost as much as the cost of a stay for a kidney transplant. Canada's hospitals spent more than \$55 billion in 2019–2020 (excluding Quebec and Nunavut). Compensation was the largest area of hospital spending (64%), followed by supplies (11%) and sundry (6%). Canada's per capita hospital spending (\$1,785) is less than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average (\$1,932). The breakdown for Canada's per capita spending in 2019–2020 is \$1,615 for government and \$170 for household out-of-pocket.

ONTARIANS WITH SENIOR FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD TO RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT OF UP TO \$2,500



The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit will help you make your home safer and more accessible, helping you stay in your home longer. This tax credit will provide an estimated \$30 million in support to about 27,000 people, including:
* seniors who are 65 by the end of 2021
* people who live with senior relatives
You can claim the tax credit when you file your taxes for the 2021 taxation year.

Eligibility
Who is eligible
You are eligible if you are a senior or if you are someone who has senior relatives living with you.

Example 1
Olga and Olaf are a senior couple. In 2021, they complete and together pay for a \$10,000 renovation to make the ground floor of their home safer. To divide the benefit between them, Olga will claim \$7,500 on her 2021 personal income tax return and receive a Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit of \$1,875. Olaf will claim the remaining \$2,500 of the renovation cost and receive a credit of \$625.

Example 2
Hayley, in her late thirties, has asked her senior mother to move in with her. In 2021, Hayley spends \$1,000 to add accessibility features to her home. She will claim that amount on her 2021 personal income tax return and receive a Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit of \$250.

Which expenses are eligible
Expenses are eligible if they are for home renovations that improve safety and accessibility or help a senior be more functional or mobile at home, for example: grab bars and related reinforcements around the toilet, bathtub and shower wheel chair ramps
* stairlifts
* elevators
renovations to permit first-floor occupancy or a secondary suite for a senior
Expenses must be paid or payable in 2021.

What you'll get
The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit is worth 25% of up to \$10,000 in eligible expenses for a senior's principal residence in Ontario. The maximum credit is \$2,500.

How to claim it
The Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit is a refundable personal income tax credit. This means that if you're eligible, you can get a tax credit regardless of your income or whether you owe income taxes for 2021. You can claim the credit on your 2021 Income Tax and Benefit Return. To claim the tax credit, seniors or their family members should get receipts from suppliers and contractors, helping to ensure that vendors report these amounts for tax purposes.

FORMER PPC RIDING PRESIDENT, SHANE MARSHALL, 25, CHARGED FOR TRUDEAU GRAVEL-THROWING INCIDENT

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3
As a result of this investigation, Shane Marshall, 25, of St. Thomas, has been charged with one count of assault with a weapon. The accused has been arrested and appeared in London court on September 11, 2021 in relation to the charge. The accused is next scheduled to appear in London court on October 6, 2021. Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to call the London Police Service at (519) 661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Information can also be sent in online anonymously to London Elgin Middlesex Crime Stoppers.

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Peel Region launching Vax Van, a mobile COVID-19 vaccination



The Vax Van provides a convenient vaccination option for residents where they live, work and play. On Thursday, September 16th, Peel Region will officially launch the Vax Van – a mobile vaccination clinic, at Westwood Square mall, Mississauga. The Vax Van will travel throughout Peel offering residents the vaccine in their neighbourhoods. Having passed the initial milestone of fully vaccinating 75 per cent of our eligible population, we have now entered the last mile of our vaccination journey. The Vax Van is an important addition to our outreach efforts that aim to protect as many people in our community as possible through vaccination. This strategy involves using data and community insights to understand the needs of our residents who have not yet been vaccinated and providing easy, supportive access to vaccination. In addition to

the Vax Van, numerous neighbourhood clinics will run in September, October and beyond in post-secondary schools, shopping malls, places of worship, fairs, parks and more. Vaccination hubs at over 15 schools in Peel also launched this week. These clinics will be supported by strong partnerships with community organizations that have close ties to neighbourhoods and communities to build trust and remove barriers to vaccination. We have also partnered with the province to bring their GO-VAXX bus to various locations in Peel, further increasing access and convenience.?? The Vax Van will be at Westwood Square Mall September 16 from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Friday, September 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. It will continue to move throughout the community in the coming months. Click here to find a Vax Van or other pop-up clinic location near you.

BHive Welcomes Opportunity for University of Guelph-Humber to Relocate to Brampton

BHive, Brampton's start-up incubator is pleased to see more educational opportunities coming to the city with the potential move of the University of Guelph-Humber to downtown Brampton. "Education and innovation go hand in hand," says Vikram Kharuna, CEO Brampton BHive. We're excited to see an established and respected institution like the University of Guelph-Humber investigating the opportunity to relocate to Brampton. We look forward to the many potential opportunities for collaboration as we strive to meet the growing demand for education, skills and business training." The University of Guelph-Humber is working with the City of Brampton to investigate the opportunity to relocate its existing North Toronto campus, which would see more than 5,000 students in downtown Brampton by 2025. "Brampton is in the midst of a major transformation that is prioritizing innovation and entrepreneurship to foster jobs and technological breakthroughs. A diverse and well educated workforce is critical as we continue to position Brampton as a leader for attracting, developing and retaining new start-ups and talent," says Kharuna. "The University of Guelph Humber would make an excellent partner in the developing Innovation District and overall Brampton ecosystem." The BHive is a collaboration between the City of Brampton and the Toronto Business Development Centre. The program offers incoming foreign startups all the tools and guidance they require to establish and scale their business in Canada. BHive has strategically designed services to ensure startups have everything they need to scale and grow. An integrated approach involves thoughtfully designed programs, one-to-one mentorships, and access to an entire portfolio of support services. It also will provide co-working space, mentorship and access to funding. Learn more at: thebhive.ca Founded in 2002, the University of Guelph-Humber offers students the opportunity to achieve two credentials through four years of full-time studies, at its north Etobicoke campus. Graduates earn an honours degree from the University of Guelph and a diploma from Humber College. Through its seven undergraduate programs, the University of Guelph-Humber offers its 5,200+ full-time and part-time students a high-impact education through experiential learning within a small class environment. Learn more at: guelphhumber.ca

INDIA, US LAUNCH 'CLIMATE ACTION AND FINANCE MOBILISATION DIALOGUE'

NEW DELHI, (IANS) India and the United States on Monday launched the Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue (CAFMD) with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change, John Kerry, reiterating pledges to enhance actions to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The CAFMD is one of the two main tracks of the US-India Agenda 2030 Partnership that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden had announced at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021. The other track is the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership. "The Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue of the Agenda 2030 Partnership launched today will provide both countries an opportunity to renew collaborations on climate change while addressing the financing aspects," Yadav said while announcing the launch of the Dialogue. Yadav recalled how earlier during the launch of the India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership at the Leaders' Summit on Climate, Modi and Biden had made statements supporting the global climate action and increased cooperation between the two countries on the issue. Asserting India's commitment towards clean energy, Yadav said that after enhancing the RE (renewable energy) target to 450 GW and realising the importance of hydrogen as energy driver in future, India has launched the 'Hydrogen Mission'. "I hope this dialogue will work to mobilize and deliver climate finance primarily as grants and concessional finance, as envisaged under Paris Agreement to strengthen climate action," the minister said. "Every economic study shows that it is far less expensive to deal with climate crisis now that it will be away in a future. If India seizes the energy opportunity, it could become the world's largest market for batteries and solar panels," Kerry said even as he reminded that it is not just renewable energy, but "we need to develop, demonstrate and scale up emerging technologies that will be crucial for net zero transition". Kerry is visiting India as part of his multi-country tour in the run up to the annual climate summit less than 50 days ahead. Kerry has visited Korea, Argentina, Japan and China over the last few days to continue vital discussions on reducing emissions and raising ambition ahead of COP26, the annual climate summit that will take place in Glasgow. Earlier in the year, declaring the India-US joint statement at the launch of the 'India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership' in April, the two nations had said, "Through this collaboration, India and the United States aim to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities." On August 24, Yadav had held a telephonic conversation with Kerry to discuss the CAFMD Track and had said that these platforms provide greater opportunities for working together for climate actions, and emphasised that India stands committed to working with the US on clean energy. The annual climate summit called the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to be held in Glasgow from October 31. It is being looked at as a last ditch effort to bring around countries to enhance their emission targets to keep the global temperatures from rising to beyond 1.5-degree Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era.

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

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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 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.

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RESIDENTS WHO ATTENDED A WEDDING AT CAPITOL BANQUET CENTRE IN MISSISSAUGA ON SEPTEMBER 5 EXPOSED TO COVID-19



Peel Public Health is advising anyone who attended a wedding at Capitol Banquet Centre – 6435 Dixie Rd, Mississauga on September 5th to seek immediate testing and self-isolate while awaiting results because of a confirmed exposure to COVID-19. This applies to all guests who attended the wedding, including those who are fully vaccinated. Everyone seeking testing because of the Capitol Baquet Centre exposure should give testers the following outbreak number: 2253-2021-46565. Testing locations can be found by Googling "COVID testing near me" with location services enabled. Residents are reminded that they must self-isolate while awaiting test results. Information on how to properly self-isolate can be found on our Coronavirus self-isolation page. Failure to comply with self-isolation can result in fines under our Section 22 Class Order.

REGION OF PEEL HIGHLIGHTS ITS PRIORITIES FOR THE 2021 FEDERAL ELECTION



Leading up to the 2021 federal election, the Region of Peel has identified key priorities that require continued and additional attention from the next federal government to support the needs of Peel's 1.5 million residents and 735,600 businesses. As one of the hardest hit municipalities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region continues to seek additional supports for its COVID-19 response, such as Safe Restart funding. As attention begins to turn to recovery efforts, and with Peel's population and employment expected to grow to approximately two million residents and 970,000 jobs by 2041, the Region does not have the financial resources to maintain and build the necessary infrastructure and provide the appropriate level of services to support Peel's growth. "Our collective response to the challenges of the past year has demonstrated the importance of all levels of government working and collaborating together. With the Region increasingly doing 'more with less, we are committed to working with the next federal government to meet the needs of Peel's residents and businesses," said Nando Iannicca, Chair, Region of Peel. The Region has identified opportunities to work with the next federal government to help address challenges related to Peel's population and employment growth, including the following key priorities: Infrastructure Funding, Green Recovery, Sustainable Transportation and Vision Zero, Child Care, Affordable Housing, Long Term Care.

LIBERAL MP SONIA SIDHU CONDEMNS HATE CRIME AGAINST PRABHJOT SINGH

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Liberal incumbent MP, Sonia Sidhu, who is re-contesting from Canada's Brampton South, on Thursday condemned a hate crime against a 23-year-old Sikh man, saying they must continue their fight to eradicate it. "My heart goes out to the family and loved ones of Prabhjot Singh Katri who was killed in Truro, NS (Nova Scotia). This is an unacceptable act of hate," Sidhu said in a tweet. "Hate, online hate, violence and racism have no place in our country and we must continue our fight to eradicate it," she added. Singh, who came to Canada from Punjab in 2017 to study, was killed in the early hours of September 5 at an apartment building in Truro. Truro police chief Dave MacNeil said officers responded to 494 Robie St. around 2 a.m. that morning, where they found Singh with life-threatening injuries. He was taken to hospital in Colchester, where he later died. Singh's family and friends, many in the Indian-Canadian community, fear this was a hate crime as nothing was robbed from him. The police believed a case of homicide. The victim's cousin, Maninder Singh, said he worked two jobs to financially support his family in India. "He was so nice. We didn't imagine that this could happen," he said. After completing his studies, Singh was on a work visa and applying for permanent residency in Canada.

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NHRC NOTICES TO FOUR GOVTS, POLICE CHIEFS OVER ‘ADVERSE IMPACT’ OF FARMERS’ PROTESTS

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Centre and the state governments of Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh over the “adverse impact” of the ongoing farmers’ protests on industrial units and transportation. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Director Generals of Police, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and Commissioner of Police, Delhi, “calling upon them to submit their respective Action Taken Reports”. “There are allegations of adverse impact on the industrial units, seriously effecting more than 9000 micro, medium, and large companies. Allegedly, transportation is also adversely impacted, causing the commuters, patients, physically challenged people and senior citizens to suffer due to the heavy congestion on roads. There are also reports that people have to travel long distances to reach their destinations due to the ongoing farmers’ agitation and barricades have been put on the borders. There is an allegation that there is breach of the corona protocols by the agitating farmers at the protest site. There is further allegation that the inhabitants are not being allowed to move out of their houses due to the blockade of the passage,” the statement said. Since the farmers’ agitation involves the issue of human rights where the right to agitate in a peaceful manner is also to be respected, said the Commission, it has taken some other actions too.

'Atmanirbhar India to be possible only if cities become productive': Hardeep Singh Puri

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum, Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that an 'Atmanirbhar' India will only be possible if our cities become productive. The Minister while addressing the inaugural session of 'Connect Karo 2021 - Towards Equitable, Sustainable Indian Cities' event, said that there can be no doubt that India's cities "enabled by citizen-centric infrastructure and transformational technology" will be the key to achieving the nation's development objectives. The five-day event is being organized by the World Resources Institute (WRI) through video conferencing. Puri said that by 2030, almost 70 per cent of the national GDP will come from our cities as rapid urbanisation facilitates efficiencies of agglomerations. "The best-performing cities globally contribute five times more to national GDP than comparable Indian cities. We need to generate a similar density of economic activity from our cities to answer the calls of our honourable Prime Minister in becoming a five-trillion-dollar economy," he said. He said that even as cities become the engines of our country's economy, it is equally important to address the infrastructure deficits that will arise from rapid urbanisation and complex migrant flows. "By 2030, the urban population in India will almost double to 630 million. If we are to facilitate this level of growth, we will need to upgrade our urban infrastructure considerably and the horrific impact of Covid-19 on our cities has made this even more significant," he said. The Minister pointed out that there is an eight-fold increase in the total expenditure on urban development as over the past six years (2015-2021), this figure is about Rs 11.83 lakh crore against the Rs 1.57 lakh crore from 2004 to 2014. "We have not only successfully operationalised ambitious schemes, but also mainstreamed aspects

The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) has been requested to examine the adverse impact of the farmers’ agitation on industrial and commercial activities/production and disruption of transport services on commercial and normal consumers, including inconvenience and additional expenditure, etc. and to submit a comprehensive report in the matter by October 10, the NHRC said. “The National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health, Government of India, have been asked to submit reports with respect to the adverse impact of farmers agitation on various aspects and observance of Covid protocols at the protests sites,” it further said. In the case of alleged gang rape of a human rights activist at the protest site, no report was received from the DM, Jhajjar regarding the payment of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased, the statement claimed. A fresh reminder was issued to the DM to file the report by October 10, it read. Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi has been requested to depute teams to conduct a survey and submit the report assessing the disruption of livelihood, lives of people, impact on the aged and infirm due to protracted agitation by farmers, it added. Farmers from various states have been protesting at Singhu Border and Tikri Border of Delhi-Haryana and Ghazipur border of Delhi-Uttar Pradesh, and have camped there since November 25 last year, seeking repealing of the three new agr laws.



such as climate change and heritage conservation," Puri said. On the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), the Minister said that it has seen unprecedented success as nearly 1.13 crore houses have been sanctioned and beneficiaries have already moved into more than 50 lakh housing units and we are on track to meet the target set for 2022. The Minister informed that the government will be launching the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban), with an outlay of Rs 2.8 lakh crore to ensure universal water supply in all 4,378 urban local bodies in India and enable liquid waste management in 500 cities under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. The Minister said that the Government is also launching the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, with an outlay of Rs 1.41 lakh crore to focus on sludge management, waste water treatment, source segregation of garbage, and reduction in single-use plastics and control of air pollution by waste management in construction and demolition, and bio-remediation dump sites

INDIA SETS NEW RECORD, CROSSES 75 CRORE COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES

With the administration of 67,04,768 vaccine doses on Monday, India has set a record of 75 crore vaccine doses, which is a big achievement in itself. Over 10 per cent people i.e. about 18 crore people have taken both doses, whereas more than 30% i.e. more than 56.5 crores have taken a single dose. The World Health Organisation. (WHO) has also congratulated India for this achieving this milestone. "More than 67 lakh (67,04,768) Vaccine Doses have been administered till 5:30 pm today. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late tonight. The country has also become home to more than 99% HCWs and FLWs vaccinated with one shot of COVID Vaccine," a statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare read. Over 99% healthcare workers and frontline workers have been vaccinated with one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, the statement added. According to the central government, people who have had both doses of the vaccine get 97 per cent protection from the coronavirus. The parents of children are also waiting now that if the children also get the vaccine, then the danger of coronavirus will be averted. In the case of the children's vaccine, Zydus Cadila's vaccine Zykov D has been approved in India at present. They can vaccinate children by the end of September. Bharat Biotech's Covaccine may also soon get approval for use for the age group of 12-18. Doctors also believe that first sick children should be vaccinated. The vaccine is currently being administered to children aged 12-18 years in the US, UK and Canada. India will be the fourth country to start vaccinating children.

PRIYANKA GANDHI ON MISSION TO BOLSTER PARTY IN RAE BARELI, AMETHI

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Ahead of the crucial UP Assembly polls, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is in Rae Bareli to put the house in order in her mother and interim party chief Sonia Gandhi's Lok Sabha constituency, Rae Bareli, where after the general elections, the party faced several rebellions in the traditional Nehru-Gandhi bastion. Two Congress legislators, Aditi Singh from the Rae Bareli city and Rakesh Singh from Harchandpur, have revolted against the party, and their loyalties now lie with the BJP. The Congress had lost the home turf of Amethi to Union Minister Smriti Irani in 2019, and there is no party MLA from the twin Lok Sabha seats after Aditi Singh's revolt. To bolster the party in the key constituency, Priyanka Gandhi on Sunday met Congress office bearers and discussed poll preparations. She held meetings of the district Congress committees, block presidents, Nyaya Panchayat presidents, and city Congress on Sunday. The Congress is in search of good candidates from both Amethi and Rae Bareli to bring back the old glory of the party. It has been on decline in the area since the BJP came to power and is not able to win in the Assembly polls. A party leader requesting anonymity said: "Congress needs to win majority of the seats in Amethi, and Rae Bareli to keep the perceptions high for general elections." The Rae Bareli and Amethi constituencies were looked after by close aide K.L. Sharma and he was involved in day to day affairs. However, Rahul Gandhi sent Chandrakant to look after Amethi in the last Lok Sabha polls, but he could not manage the constituency and Rahul Gandhi lost the elections. However, Sharma was able to ensure the party won Rae Bareli.

POLITICAL TWIST TO REMARKS ON FARM AGITATION UNFORTUNATE: PUNJAB CM

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Reacting to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's criticism of the remarks he had made on Monday in this regard, he lamented that despite his government's unequivocal support to their cause, the farmers had misinterpreted his appeal and had, instead, tried to link it with the upcoming Assembly polls in the state. His government, as well as the people of Punjab, had always stood with the farmers on the issue of the farm laws, and it was sad that they were now suffering due to the continued protests of the farming community across the state, he said in a statement. The Chief Minister asserted that there was no question of trying to split the farmers of Punjab and Haryana, "all of whom were equal victims of the apathy of the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in the neighbouring state". "My government, in contrast, has not only firmly supported the farmers' fight against the farm laws but had even brought in amendment Bills in the Vidhan Sabha to mitigate their adverse impact," he pointed out, adding those Bills had, unfortunately, not been forwarded by the Governor to the President for assent. Pointing out that the farmers' fight was against the BJP, "which was solely responsible for thrusting the anti-farmer legislations on Punjab and other states", Amarinder Singh said inconveniencing the people of Punjab was not justified in the circumstances. He rejected the morcha's claims that there was no paralysis of the government in Punjab due to the farmers' protests, pointing out that it "is the people of Punjab who are suffering due to the disruption of services as a result of the protests".

Continued protests in Punjab will push industry out of the state, which would have a severe impact on the economy, which his government was "still trying to revive from the crisis into which the previous SAD-BJP government had pushed it", he said. Already, the situation was becoming serious on the grain storage and procurement front due to the agitation, with lifting of the stocks by the FCI and state agencies getting obstructed, he said. With wheat stocks having already completed four years of storage, the unused capacity was getting ruined, while also resulting in financial burden on the public exchequer due to payment of guaranteed charges to the silo owners as per agreements, said Amarinder Singh, saying the stocks lying in the FCI Adani silo at Moga alone was worth Rs 480 crore. All the movement of wheat stocks from the FCI Adani silo in Moga and the FCI silo in Kotkapura is halted due to the ongoing farmers protest, whereas 160,855 metric tonnes of wheat stocks of previous crop years stored in the Adani silo in Moga by the FCI needs to be liquidated on priority, as deterioration of these stocks may lead to losses to the public exchequer.

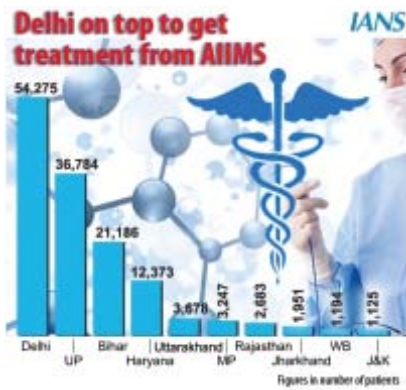
FARMERS LEADERS TELL POLITICAL PARTIES TO SUSPEND CAMPAIGNING IN PUNJAB

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Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Balbir Singh Rajewal told the media here after the day-long deliberations with the political parties, except the BJP, that they had told the political parties not to hold big rallies till elections in the state are announced. "The rallies not only divert people from the 'morcha', but also divides the people along political lines and could threaten the morcha of farmers against the three agriculture laws," he said. Rajewal said both the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) were not categorically clear about their stand on the agitation of the farmers. Earlier in the day, the farmers leaders met Congress leaders led by its state President Navjot Sidhu. They also held separate interactions with SAD and AAP leaders. The SAD had asked the farmers leaders to retain the national character of the farmer agitation by not imposing any restrictions on political activities in the state even as it offered all help to buttress the ongoing agitation on the borders of Delhi. Talking to the media after the meeting with the farmers representatives, SAD leaders Prem Singh Chandumajra and Maheshinder Singh Grewal said "a conspiracy is afoot by the Centre to restrict the kisan movement to Punjab and then suppress it by imposing President's Rule in the state". "Our fight is with the BJP at the national level. Political activity has not been restricted due to the kisan andolan in any other state in the country. Going to the people is as much your right as ours and this should not be restricted," they said. They also reiterated their unstinted support to the farmers agitation. "We understand that the kisan movement should not be affected at all. We will not hold rallies on any day on which the SKM announces a special programme. We are also ready to support the 'sangharsh' by sending our cadre to the Delhi border protest sites. The SKM is also free to set a quota for participation from every political party and we will adhere to it."

DELHI ON TOP TO GET TREATMENT FROM AIIMS: ANNUAL REPORT

NEW DELHI, (IANS) The national capital Delhi tops among the names of the states getting treatment from premier medical institution, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. In AIIMS's Annual report for 2019-20, Delhi is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the number of patients visiting for treatment in three departments - Main Hospitals, Cardiothoracic and Neurosciences Centre and Centre for Dental Education & Research of AIIMS. As per the annual report, a total of 44,14,490 outpatients got the treatment facilities during 2019-20 which also include casualty, while 2,68,144 patients got the admission here and a total of 2,01,707 patients were operated during the year at AIIMS. On the parameter of patients' average stay, the Main Hospital has an average of 9.9 days in 2019-20, while in 2018-19 it was 9.5 days. An average stay of patients at Cardiothoracic and Neurosciences Centre remained 10.5 days in 2019-20 and 10.2 days in 2018-19. At Jai Prakash Narain Apex Trauma Centre, average stay was 10 days for both years 2019-20 and 2018-19. The AIIMS' Main Hospital had 85.9 per cent of average bed occupancy rate in 2019-20 and 86.8 per cent in 2018-19, while at Cardiothoracic and Neurosciences Centre, average bed occupancy rate was 83.8 per cent in 2019-20 and 84.9 per cent in 2018-19.





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