

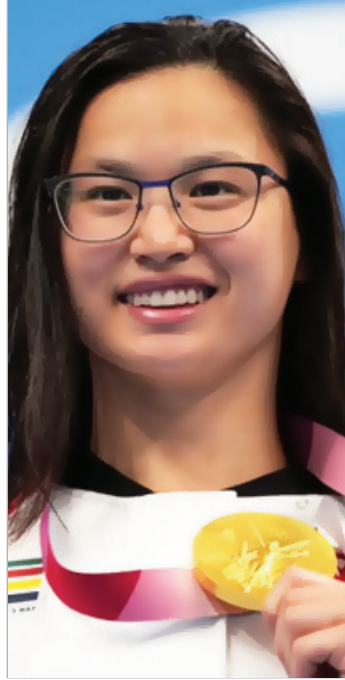
## WOMEN DOMINATING TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020



**Penny Oleksiak Becomes Canada's All-time Most Decorated Summer Olympian With Seven Medals (Team Canada/Twitter).**



**Badminton-PVSindhu Wins Bronze For India, First Indian Woman To Win 2 Olympic Medals (Team India/ Twitter).**



**Olympics -Swimming-MaggieMac Neil Wins First Gold For Canada (Team Canada/Twitter).**



**Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won India's first medal in the TokyoOlympics claiming silver in the women's 49kg weightlifting (Team India/ Twitter).**

## LIBERALS (36%) ENJOYING 7-POINT LEAD OVER CONSERVATIVES (29%) NATIONALLY AMONG DECIDED VOTERS: LEGER



## CONSULAR CAMP ON AUGUST 7, 2021 IN BRAMPTON

Consulate General of India, Toronto will be organizing Consular Camp in Brampton on Saturday, 7th August 2021 to address and resolve various consular-related queries/issues viz. Passport, Visa, OCI, Attestation, PCC, Surrender Certificate and Life Certificate etc. as per details given below:

VENUE FOR CONSULAR CAMP	DATE	TIME	CONTACT PERSON AT THE GIVEN LOCATION
Jagannath Mandir Toronto 9893 Torbram Road, Brampton, ON L6S 6J1	Saturday, 7th	10:00 AM to 01.00 PM	Ms Maninder Bhatia Phone: 416-801-7172

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 8**

## OTHER WORLDS EXIST BEYOND THE STARS...

BY- ALISHBA HAROON  
GHAZIA SHAHWAR  
ABDULLAH HAROON

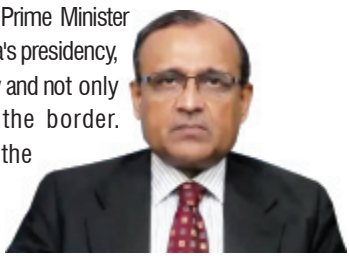
**DEDICATED TO MIRZA NASEEM BAIG (CANADA)**

"I love my friends neither with my heart nor with my mind. Just in case... Heart might stop. Mind can forget. I love them with my soul. Soul never stops or forgets." - Rumi  
Loneliness is far worse than death. A loner is prone to mental diseases and ultimately quits. Man is a social animal and for sustenance needs to form connection. Friendship, is how he connects.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 8**

## INDIA TAKES OVER UNSC PRESIDENCY WITH PLEDGE TO WORK FOR HUMANITY, FOCUS ON TERROR

**UNITED NATIONS, (IANS)** India took over the presidency of the Security Council on Sunday with a pledge to work for entire humanity while bringing a focus to the challenges of terrorism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a video message on India's presidency, said: "We must think of the entire humanity and not only of those who are on our side of the border. Humanity, as a whole, must be at the centre of our thinking and action."



**I CONTD. ON PAGE 10**

## AT A TIME OF DEMOCRATIC RECESSION, ITS VITAL THAT US, INDIA STAND TOGETHER: BLINKEN

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** "At a time of rising global threats to democracy and international freedoms — we talk about a democratic recession — it's vital that we two world-leading democracies continue to stand together in support of these ideals," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said here on Wednesday.



**I CONTD. ON PAGE 11**

## Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- **Ontario releases a back-to-school plan for full-time classroom learning in September; remote learning will remain an option.**
- **Elementary & secondary students in Ontario will attend school in person five days per week, the document reveals.**
- **Masks will be mandatory indoors for all students between grade 1 and grade 12; no requirement to wear masks outdoors.**
- **Canada's data show fully vaccinated Canadians accounted for less than 1% of new Covid-19 cases & hospitalizations since December.**

# PREMIER FORD ANNOUNCES ONTARIO PLACE REDEVELOPMENT

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government has announced details of its plan to revitalize Ontario Place into a world-class destination. Three successful participants from the 2019 Call for Development process Therme Group, Live Nation and Écorécéo Group will help deliver an exciting, inclusive and family-friendly experience that will play a key role in the province's post-pandemic recovery, both as a tourism destination and as a display of Ontario's strong cultural identity. The government also outlined the next phase of consultations with stakeholders and community members. Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford; Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; John Tory, Mayor of Toronto; Chief R. Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; Robert



Hanea, CEO of Therme Group; Wayne Zronik, President of Business Operations at Live Nation Canada; and Jean-Philippe Duchesneau, Co-Owner of Écorécéo Group. "As we mark the 50th anniversary of Ontario Place this year, there is no better time to bring this iconic destination back to life," said Premier Ford. "By taking this first step with our world-class development partners, as well as the City of

Toronto and Indigenous communities, we will deliver a renewed Ontario Place that provides year-round entertainment for all ages and interests. As we continue to engage and consult with the community, Ontario Place will realize its full potential as a long-term economic generator for the people of Ontario." The transformation of Ontario Place will include three new major attractions: Therme Group is building

Therme Canada | Ontario Place, a family-friendly, all-season destination offering something for all ages, including pools, waterslides, botanical spaces to relax, as well as sports performance and recovery services. Outside, people will enjoy more than eight acres of free, publicly accessible gathering spaces, parkland, gardens and beaches.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 8**



**TEAM PLANET FINANCIAL ORGANIZED 'APPRECIATION MEAL DAY' TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE TOWARDS THEIR CLIENTS.**



**POLITICAL SENSEX STATES ELECTIONS INDIA 2022**



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## Y Media Exclusive: Minister Monte McNaughton says ‘We’re on a mission to get more people into trade in Ontario’



The Ontario government is investing over \$3 million to create a virtual training hub that will help construction supervisors learn the skills they need to mentor and train their teams. The funding will also go toward the creation of an online job bank that will help up to 200 laid-off and unemployed workers find good jobs in construction.

In an exclusive interview with Y Media, Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, said, “we know there’s a huge shortage when it comes to skilled trades workers across the province. Today in Ontario, for example, we’re short about 14,000 workers in construction.”

“We’re on a mission-MPP, Deepak Anand, Premier Ford and our entire government- to get more people into the trade. So we announced today a \$3 million partnership with 225 construction companies across the province to provide virtual reality training and recruit about 2000 people in the better-paying jobs in construction,” said McNaughton.

“Construction workers build the houses we call home, the hospitals that care for us and the communities where we come together,” said Monte McNaughton in a press release. “There is a growing demand for these skilled workers and our government is proud to invest in helping more workers start and build their careers in this in-demand sector.” This initiative will support Merit Ontario, an organization that supports contractors who employ both unionized and non-unionized workers, in developing and running a virtual training and resource hub that helps 225 small, medium and large construction companies bring their training programs online. The hub will also offer courses and resources to train supervisors so they can provide improved skills and safety training for their workers.

Minister McNaughton tells Y Media the provincial government will

invest “over a billion dollars over the next several years, to improve apprenticeship system to recruit more people into the skilled trades.”

“One thing I’m really excited about in September, we’re going to be sending recruiters into high schools across the province to compete, head-on with university recruiters to tell young people that there are meaningful, great careers ahead of them in the skilled trades and to tell them that there are more than 140 different ones to choose from,” said he. “On behalf of the hundreds of Merit Ontario members and thousands of employees in the construction sector across Ontario, we thank the Government of Ontario and Minister McNaughton for this historic investment in training,” said Mike Gallardo, President and CEO of Merit Ontario. “This funding will ensure that underrepresented communities can fully participate in training and be part of the jobs of the future. Jobs in the construction sector are in high demand and we must do everything we can as employers and governments to ensure we can meet that demand. This funding will go a long way in meeting that goal.” In addition, the project will create an online job bank where employers who are looking for new talent in the construction sector will be able to post job ads. The job bank will also help job seekers assess their skills and recommend additional training where needed.

Deepak Anand, MPP for Mississauga Malton, tells Y Media, “more people working means more financial stability, and the more they can contribute to the society.”

This funding is part of the government’s \$115-million Skills Development Fund to address challenges to hiring, training and retraining workers because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## ‘CANADA’S REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) CONTRACTED 0.3% IN MAY, FOLLOWING A 0.5% DECLINE IN APRIL’: STATISTICS CANADA

Real gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 0.3% in May, following a 0.5% decline in April, and total economic activity was approximately 2% below February 2020’s pre-pandemic level. Overall, 12 of 20 industrial sectors were down as both services-producing (-0.2%) and goods-producing industries (-0.4%) contracted. Preliminary information indicates an approximate 0.7% increase in real GDP for June. Growth in retail trade and accommodation and food services were influenced by the easing of public health measures in many provinces in June. There were also gains in manufacturing and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, while construction and wholesale trade contracted. This advance estimate points to an approximate 0.6% increase in real GDP in the second quarter of 2021. Because of their preliminary nature, these estimates will be revised on August 31, with the release of the official GDP data for the June reference month and the second quarter of 2021.

**CONSTRUCTION IS DOWN**

Construction decreased 2.3% in May, after increasing in the previous five months. Residential building construction contracted 4.2% in May, down for the first time since November 2020. Declines in single-family homes construction, and in alterations and improvements, more than offset increases in multi-unit dwellings construction.

Repair construction decreased 3.7%, while engineering and other construction activities was up 0.1% in May. Non-residential building construction edged up 0.1%, as growths in commercial and institutional building construction were offset by lower industrial building and structure construction.

**REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING EASES**

The real estate and rental and leasing sector contracted 0.4% in May, following a 0.8% decline in April. This is the first back-to-back decline in the sector since March-April 2020. The output of offices of real estate agents and brokers fell 7.2% in May, following a 10.7% drop in April, returning to output levels similar to July 2020. Home resale activity slowed in almost all Canadian urban centres.

**RETAIL TRADE CONTINUES TO DECLINE**

Retail trade declined 2.7%, following a 5.7% drop in April, as 9 of 12 subsectors contracted in May. Store closures, in-store capacity reduction, limited hours of operation and other public measures put in place to combat the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in many parts of the country, continued to contribute towards lower retail activity.

Building material and garden equipment and supplies (-9.5%), motor vehicle and parts dealers (-3.5%), clothing and clothing accessories (-7.6%) and other traditional brick-and-mortar stores that rely more on in-store traffic, contributed the most to the declines.

Upticks at electronics and appliance stores (+1.3%) and food and beverage stores (+0.1%) mitigated some of the declines.

**MANUFACTURING DECLINES**

The manufacturing sector contracted for the third time in four months, down

0.8% in May, as both durable and non-durable manufacturing declined. Non-durable manufacturing was down 0.9% as declines concentrated in food (-2.5%), chemical (-3.2%) and petroleum and coal product (-2.0%) manufacturing more than offset increases in the remaining six subsectors. Durable manufacturing decreased 0.8% in May, following a 1.9% decline in April, as six of ten subsectors were down. Contributing the most to the decline were fabricated metal product (-3.4%) and machinery (-2.6%) manufacturing; the latter subsector continued to be affected by a global microchip shortage. Non-metallic mineral product (-2.2%) and furniture and related product (-2.6%) manufacturing were also down, while transportation equipment (+1.0%), wood product (+1.2%), miscellaneous (+1.5%) and primary metal (+0.8%) manufacturing offset some of the declines.

**MINING, QUARRYING AND OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION GROWS**

Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction grew for the third time in four months, up 2.0% in May, as all three subsectors increased.

The oil and gas subsector increased for the third consecutive month, rising 2.6% in May, as all forms of activity were up in the month. Oil sands extraction rose 3.2% in May, as a number of facilities and sites ramped up production after some worksites in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in Alberta experienced COVID-19 outbreaks and lowered or suspended production in April. Oil and gas extraction (except oil sands) grew 1.8%, as both crude petroleum extraction and natural gas extraction were up.

Support activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction grew 3.2% in May, as all types of services were up.

Mining and quarrying (except oil and gas) rose 0.3% in May, growing for the sixth time in the last seven months. Metal ore mineral mining grew 0.9% as gold and silver mining increased and uranium mining activities restarted following pandemic-related closures at a number of sites. Coal mining increased 0.4% in May, while non-metallic mineral mining decreased 1.1%, primarily as a result of a decline in potash mining.

**THE PUBLIC SECTOR INCREASES**

The public sector (educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration) advanced 0.7% in May, more than offsetting a 0.5% contraction in April.

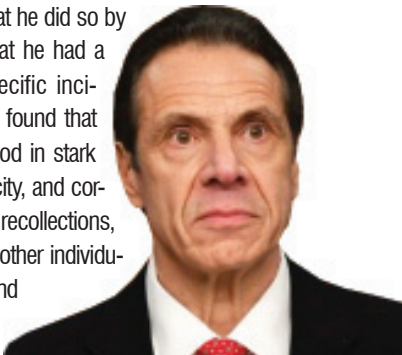
Educational services were up 2.0% in May. Elementary and secondary schools led the growth (+3.8%) as activity returned to normal levels following the Government of Ontario’s decision to move the annual spring break from mid-March to mid-April. Health care and social assistance rose 0.6%, as most industries advanced. Public administration was essentially unchanged (0.0%) as decreases in municipal, provincial and territorial, and aboriginal public administration, were offset by a 0.8% increase in federal government public administration, as 2021 Census of Population and 2021 Census of Agriculture activities were underway.

## NEW YORK GOVERNOR CUOMO SEXUALLY HARASSED MULTIPLE WOMEN, FINDS INVESTIGATION

The independent investigators appointed by New York Attorney General Letitia James — led by Joon H. Kim and Anne L. Clark — today released their report into the multiple allegations of sexual harassment by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. After nearly five months, the investigators concluded that Governor Cuomo did sexually harass multiple women — including former and current state employees — by engaging in unwanted groping, kissing, and hugging, and making inappropriate comments. Further, the governor and his senior staff took actions to retaliate against at least one former employee for coming forward with her story. Finally, the Executive Chamber fostered a “toxic” workplace that enabled “harassment to occur and created a hostile work environment.” The investigators find that Governor Cuomo’s actions and those of the Executive Chamber violated multiple state and federal laws, as well as the Executive Chamber’s own written policies. The investigation was conducted after, on March 1, 2021, the Executive Chamber made a referral, pursuant to New York Executive Law Section 63(8), for Attorney General James to select independent lawyers to investigate “allegations of and circumstances surrounding sexual harassment claims made against the governor.” Kim and Clark were chosen to lead the investigation on March 8, 2021.

“This is a sad day for New York because independent investigators have concluded that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women and, in doing so, broke the law,” said Attorney General James. “I am grateful to all the women who came forward to tell their stories in painstaking detail, enabling investigators to get to the truth. No man — no matter how powerful — can be allowed to harass women or violate our human rights laws, period.”

Starting in December 2020, multiple women came forward with allegations that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed them. Over the course of the investigation, the investigators interviewed 179 individuals. Those interviewed included complainants, current and former members of the Executive Chamber, State Troopers, additional state employees, and others who interacted regularly with the governor. More than 74,000 documents, emails, texts, and pictures were also reviewed as evidence during the investigation. Backed up by corroborating evidence and credible witnesses, the investigators detail multiple current or former New York state employees or women outside state service who were the targets of harassing conduct on the part of the governor. As part of the investigation, Governor Cuomo also sat with the interviewers and answered questions under oath. While the governor denied the most serious allegations, the investigators found that he did so by offering “blanket denials” or that he had a “lack of recollection as to specific incidents.” The investigators also found that the governor’s recollection “stood in stark contrast to the strength, specificity, and corroboration of the complainants’ recollections, as well as the reports of many other individuals who offered observations and experiences of the governor’s conduct.”



## US SENATE VOTES TO ADVANCE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** The US Senate has voted to proceed with a bipartisan infrastructure deal, clearing the first hurdle towards adopting a long-awaited and hotly debated spending package. In a key procedural vote on Wednesday night, senators voted 67-32 to push the bill forward, meeting the 60-vote threshold, reports Xinhua news agency.

All 50 Democrats and 17 Republicans voted in favour.

The vote starts the process to debate and amend the proposal, and the final version still needs approval from both chambers. The vote came just a few hours after Senator Rob Portman from Ohio, the top Republican negotiator, told reporters that a bipartisan group of senators had reached an agreement on the major issues of the infrastructure plan.

The agreement was reached after months of strenuous negotiations between Senate Democrats and Republicans.

Last month, President Joe Biden had announced that he reached a deal with a bipartisan group of senators on a roughly \$1.2 trillion infrastructure plan.

Over the past few weeks, senators have been trying to nail down details of the infrastructure package.

## BIDEN NOMINATES INDIAN-AMERICAN, RASHAD HUSSAIN, TO BE FIRST MUSLIM ENVOY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**NEW YORK, (IANS)** President Joe Biden has nominated an Indian-American, Rashad Hussain, as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and if approved by the Senate he will be the first Muslim to head US diplomacy for advancing religious liberties.

Making the announcement on Friday, the White House said that Biden is appointing a Pakistani American Khizr Khan to be a member of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USICRF), along with two others.

The USICRF publishes the annual report of religious freedom around the world as it advocates for religious freedom around the world and designates violators of religious liberties.

Hussain is the Director for Partnerships and Global Engagement at the National Security Council has worked as a Senior Counsel in the Justice Department’s National Security Division. Like many Biden appointees, Hussain is an alumnus of President Barack Obama’s administration in which he served as the US special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the US special envoy for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications. “Rashad also spearheaded efforts on countering antisemitism and protecting religious minorities in Muslim-majority countries,” the White House said. Hussain, who has a law degree from Yale University and a master’s in Arabic and Islamic Studies from Harvard University, has also worked with the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.







## BJP WILL RETURN TO POWER IN UP WITH MASSIVE MAJORITY: SHAH

**LUCKNOW, (IANS)** Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the BJP would return to power with a massive majority in the next assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and asked the opposition leaders to prepare for their defeat.

Speaking at the 'bhumipujan' ceremony of the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS) that is coming up in Sarojini Nagar locality in Lucknow, Shah said that under the leadership of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, the state has emerged as a leader. "Yogi Adityanath has turned Uttar Pradesh into a number one state in implementation of 44 welfare schemes. He has improved the law-and-order situation that is now inviting investments and has also checked corruption. During the Covid pandemic, Yogi ji and his team did excellent work. Opposition leaders will now come out because elections are approaching but people must not be misled by them. Where were they when there was the land mafia, riots were taking place, crime against women was at a high and families did not have toilets?" he asked.

The union minister said that the BJP does not work for any particular caste or family but works for the poorest of the poor.

Talking about the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Amit Shah said that this would be affiliated to the forensic institute in Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

"This institute will not only enable youth to get a new career for themselves but will help in improving law and order. The institute will have a DNA centre for which Rs 15 crore has been earmarked. The conviction rate of criminals will also go up as investigations become more professional and scientific and the crime rate will automatically go down," he said. Shah said that policing had changed over the years with the advent of problems related to fake currency, cybercrime, narco terrorism etc. The police force needs to be better trained and we need a special manpower for investigations, he said. Amit Shah further pointed out that police is blamed for either inaction or extreme action. "The police need to focus on just action," he added. Spread over 50 acres in Piparsand locality of Sarojini Nagar, the institute will offer studies in the field of police administration and forensic science. A Centre of Excellence is being set up by NFSU to provide modern infrastructure and technology in scientific crime investigation, which will be a separate unit on 5-acre land on the campus.

## Indian Army, Chinese PLA set up hotline to enhance mutual trust

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) have established a hotline in the North Sikkim region on Sunday to avoid any kind of skirmishes along the Line of Actual Control. The Indian Army in a statement said that a hotline was established between Indian Army in Kongra La, North Sikkim and PLA at Khamba Dzong in Tibetan Autonomous Region to further the spirit of trust and cordial relations along the borders.

"The event coincided with the PLA Day on August 1, 2021," the Indian Army stated.

The force stated that the Armed forces of the two countries have well established mechanisms for communication at ground commanders level. These hotlines in various sectors go a long way in enhancing the same and maintaining peace and tranquillity at the borders. The inauguration was attended by ground commanders of the respective armies and a message of friendship and harmony was exchanged through the Hotline. Earlier this year on January 20, Indian and Chinese troops physically clashed in the high-altitude area of Naku La in north Sikkim with several soldiers being injured on both sides after Indian troops repelled an attempt by the Chinese troops to enter Indian territory. The PLA has been showing assertiveness all along the Line of Actual

Control even as Indian Army remains in a state of high alertness to respond to aggressive actions. The minor face-off was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols.

Last year on May 9, both the countries troops had also clashed at Naku La, which had left several soldiers on both sides injured.

It happened just after the violent clashes on the north bank of in eastern Ladakh on May 5-6 when PLA was making multiple attempt of incursions into the Indian territory.

Later, a deadly physical clash at Galwan on June 15, 2020 night claimed 20 Indian lives and four Chinese soldiers.

For India, the Sikkim border, including the tri-junction, is extremely critical and sensitive. It is because if a Chinese breakthrough happens here, they can reach, and block, the Siliguri corridor -- a narrow, 27-km wide strip of Indian territory that connects India's entire northeastern region with the rest of the country.

The Chinese control over the Siliguri corridor could cut off the entire northeast. To prevent this, India guards Sikkim heavily with two mountain divisions.

The Indian army has safeguarded the Sikkim border, even through a major firefight in the nearby Nathu La in 1967.

## PEEL POLICE ARRESTED & CHARGED HARDEEP SINGH, 22, FROM BRAMPTON, WITH ONE COUNT OF ATTEMPT MURDER

**REGION OF PEEL** – On Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at approximately 2:00 a.m., the victim, a 20-year-old man from Mississauga, was violently assaulted by a known suspect in the area of Morningstar Drive and Goreway Drive in Mississauga.

After a long and thorough investigation, the suspect was located at a residence in the area of Dixie Road and Bovaird Drive in Brampton. Hardeep Singh, a 22-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested and charged with one count of Attempt Murder.

He was held for a bail hearing and will attend the Ontario Court of Justice on Friday, July 30, 2021, in Brampton.

Anyone with any information about this incident can contact our investigators at 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at 905-453-2121, ext. 2133. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting [peelcrimestoppers.ca](http://peelcrimestoppers.ca).

## PUNJAB TO BRING LAW TO BENEFIT 31% SC POPULATION



**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** In a move that will earmark a part of the state's annual budget for welfare of the Scheduled Castes in proportion to their population in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday gave the go-ahead for putting a new Bill for this before the Cabinet, paving the way for its enactment in the next Assembly session. The Punjab State Welfare and Development of Scheduled Castes (Planning, Earmarking and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Sub-Allocation Bill, 2021 will also enable the government to put in place an institutional mechanism to formulate and monitor the implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), and matters connected with it.

The legislation, when passed in the Assembly, will provide the state government a platform to ensure the overall development of Scheduled Castes through effective implementation of various welfare schemes under the SCSP, an official statement said.

Punjab has the highest percentage of SC population in the country, at 31.94 per cent.

Reiterating his government's firm commitment to the socio-economic and educational development of the SC population in the state, the Chief Minister said the Bill will give a big boost to his government's efforts to ensure the welfare of this segment.

An official spokesperson said the Directorate of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan would be the nodal agency to ensure formulation of the SCSP, besides monitoring its implementation.

The authority competent to approve the state's annual budget estimates would also accord approval to the SCSP simultaneously with the state budget of the relevant financial year, before submitting it to the Vidhan Sabha.

There would be a single mechanism for flow of funds under SCSP, and the Finance Department would remain the controlling authority for this purpose. The progress of the SCSP would be reviewed and monitored at state, district and block levels, as per procedure and by the committee as prescribed. Each department shall ensure transparency and accountability at all levels in the implementation of the SCSP. The efficacy of the legislation would be ensured by the systematic and exhaustive procedures on all aspects with respect to the formulation and implementation of the SCSP in the state. Moreover, the departments implementing SCSP would become liable to implement it in its true spirit for the benefit of stakeholders i.e. Scheduled Castes population in the state.

There will also be a provision of incentives for commendable performance and penalties for wilful neglect of any rule under the law by a government functionary.

## RESERVATION FOR OBC, EWS IN MEDICAL SEATS TO HELP IN UP POLLS: BJP



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** BJP leaders have claimed that the Union government's decision to provide reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in medical education seats will help the party in the Assembly polls in five states scheduled next year, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

On Thursday, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to provide 27 per cent reservation to OBCs and 10 per cent reservation to EWS in the All India Quota (AIQ) scheme for medical courses. The BJP believes the decision will further help the party consolidate its presence over the 40 per cent OBC votebank in Uttar Pradesh. The saffron camp is also focusing on non-Yadav OBCs, who form around one-third of the state's population.

A senior party leader from Uttar Pradesh said that the decision will help the party get support from both the OBC and EWS category in the poll-bound states. "OBCs have a decisive presence in Uttar Pradesh and the decision will help the party win their support along with other people-centric measures of the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath-led governments. The BJP's commitment for 'SabkaSath, Sabka Vikash' is visible in the decision," he said. He also claimed that OBCs have the largest vote share in Uttar Pradesh and they play a crucial role in deciding the electoral fortunes of any party. "Except Yadavs, who are believed to be the supporters of the Samajwadi Party, all the other OBC communities will come in support of the BJP," he claimed.

## Akali Dal-BSP alliance promises free power in Punjab



**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** Seeking to woo voters ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal on Tuesday announced providing free electricity up to 400 units per month to all households and waiting for outstanding power dues of residential bills of 'blue' cardholders. The disconnected household elections connections will be restored, he said.

Over 1.44 crore blue cardholders are getting subsidized atta-dal every month under the scheme in the state. Badal, who said his party is known for fulfilling all pre-poll promises in the past, tried to woo the farmers by announcing reducing state taxes up to Rs 10 for every litre of diesel purchased for agricultural purposes.

He also promised to provide the minimum support price for vegetables, fruits and milk. The state Assembly will pass a law to repeal the three farm laws of the Centre. To empower women, he said: "We will give 50 per cent reservation to women in government jobs. All woman heads of blue cardholder families will receive an honorary allowance of Rs 2,000 per month under Mata Khivi Ji Rasoi Seva Scheme." Announcing the SAD-BSP's vision for the development of the state for the next five years, Badal said if they voted to power, there would be a provision of health insurance of up to Rs 10 lakh for every resident.

For the students, there will be a provision of an interest-free education loan of Rs 10 lakh. This will cover educational institutions in foreign countries too. Badal said one job would be created in the government sector along with the creation of 10 lakh jobs in the private sector. He said services of all contractual employees, including the safai karamcharis, will be regularised.

Giving credit to his father, Parkash Singh Badal, who was at the helm for a record five times, a confident junior Badal said his party has made the state power surplus, supplied free electricity for tubewell connections and strengthened infrastructure, besides building five airports in the state. About the promises made by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal, the SAD President said first AAP should ensure 300 units of free power in Delhi before making such promises in Punjab.

He said this promise itself was fake as Kejriwal had clearly told in his press conference here that anyone consuming even one unit more than the promised 300 units would have to pay the entire power bill without any concession whatsoever. The SAD and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on June 12 formed an alliance to contest the early 2022 Punjab Assembly elections together. Badal has announced that the BSP would contest 20 seats – eight in the Doaba region, seven in Malwa, and five in Majha region, out of the 117 under its alliance with the SAD.





### 3rd Covid vax dose strongly boosts protection against Delta variant: Pfizer

**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** American biopharmaceutical company Pfizer has said the third dose of its Covid-19 vaccine can “strongly” boost protection against the Delta variant. Antibody levels against the Delta variant in people aged 18 to 55 who receive a third dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine are greater than five-fold than following a second dose, according to data posted at the company’s teleconference, Xinhua reported.

Among people aged 65 to 85, the Pfizer data suggest that antibody levels against the Delta variant after receiving the third dose are greater than 11-fold than following a second dose. Pfizer anticipates applying for emergency use authorization for the third dose of its vaccine as soon as next month, Mikael Dolsten, who leads worldwide research, development and medical for Pfizer, was quoted by CNN as saying at the teleconference.

### ISRAEL TO VACCINATE ELDERLY WITH 3RD PFIZER DOSE

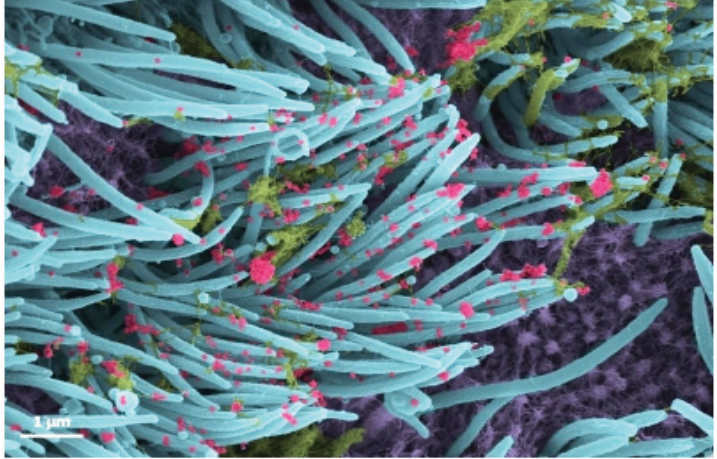
**TEL AVIV, (IANS)** Israel is expected to start vaccinating the country’s elderly citizens against Covid-19 with a third dose of the Pfizer jab, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Thursday. A vast majority of its Management Team of Epidemics recommended vaccinating the elderly, but opinions in the group were divided over the minimum age to be vaccinated, which ranges from 60 to 70, the Ministry said. The recommendation was passed to the Director-General of the Ministry, Nachman Ash, who would decide within days when the third vaccination jabs would begin and at what ages, reports Xinhua news agency. The vaccination campaign in Israel began on December 20, 2020, and was intended in the first phase for medical staff, people aged over 65, and chronic patients. Since then, the vaccine eligibility age has gradually decreased, and



currently, all people aged 12 and over are eligible to get vaccinated with the first and second doses. On July 12, Israel started offering the third dose for adults with weak immune systems.

### COVID VIRUS, VACCINES DOES NOT ENTER HUMAN DNA: STUDY

**SYDNEY, (IANS)** Covid-19 cannot enter a person's DNA, say Australian researchers refuting claims of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the infectious disease, integrating its genetic material into the human genome. The study, published in the journal Cell Reports, showed there was no evidence of Covid-19 -- or the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccines -- entering DNA. The claims have led to "scaremongering" and people should not hesitate to be vaccinated, said researchers from University of Queensland. The research confirmed there was no unusual viral activity and the Covid-19 behaviour was in line with what was expected from a coronavirus. "The evidence refutes this concept being used to fuel vaccine hesitancy," said Geoff Faulkner, Professor at the varsity's Queensland Brain Institute. "We find no evidence of SARS-CoV-2 integration suggests such events are, at most, extremely rare in vivo, and therefore are unlikely to drive oncogenesis or explain post-recovery detection of the virus. "From a public health point of view, we would say that there are no concerns that the virus or vaccines can be incorporated into human DNA," Faulkner said. In his previous research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Faulkner suggested that positive Covid-19 tests long after recovery are due to the virus being incorporated into DNA.



"We looked into their claims that the human cells and machinery turned Covid-19 RNA into DNA, causing permanent mutations. "We assessed the claims in cells grown in the laboratory, conducted DNA sequencing and found no evidence of Covid-19 in DNA," he added. In May, researchers from the Purdue University in Indiana, US, showed that although throughout human history there have been viruses capable of integrating their genetic material into human genes, the Covid virus lacks the molecular machinery to integrate its RNA into human DNA.

### Why nasal vaccines are more effective against Covid

Nasal spray vaccines are touted as the ideal vaccination strategy against Covid-19. Here's a look why:

- SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, usually enters the human body in the nasal passage. Using a spray vaccine, would attack the invader and neutralise it there.
- Intranasal vaccination is needle-free, and may help people with fear of needles to get vaccinated.
- Nasal spray elicits immunity both at the site of infection and also in the respiratory tract.
- A nasal vaccine activates the immunoglobulin A and resident memory B and T cells in the nasal passages and upper airways.
- It not only provides a barrier to infection but also reduces transmission of Covid virus.
- The nasal vaccines are also easier to store, transport, and administer.
- It is best for less-developed countries, where vaccine distribution has been daunting.
- However, the antibodies produced by intranasal vaccines may not be as strong in the lower respiratory tract as against the upper respiratory tract.
- Intranasal vaccines may also fail to provide effective and long lasting immunity to the patients against the virus.
- Because it is developed using live attenuated virus, the virus can attain back its ability to cause disease in the individual.

Source: University of Alabama, media reports

WALK-IN VACCINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 12 TO 7 P.M. FOR ANYONE 12+ AT ALL NINE TORONTO CLINICS. HEALTHCARD NOT NEEDED FOR WALK-IN VACCINATIONS, INDIVIDUALS MUST BRING SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION (CITY OF TORONTO/ TWITTER).

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✓ 12+

All residents ages 12 & older are currently eligible to get their vaccine

✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> dose:

✓ 2

Anyone who received a 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Pfizer or Moderna 28 days ago, or AstraZeneca 8 weeks ago

✓ Vaccines can be mixed & are safe:

✓ You can mix Pfizer & Moderna & get either for your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose if your 1<sup>st</sup> dose was AstraZeneca

✓ Book at city clinics:

Residents can visit [toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19) or call 1-833-943-3900

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### CANADA FACES START OF DELTA-DRIVEN 4TH WAVE OF COVID-19: DR. TAM



**OTTAWA, (IANS)** Canada is at the start of the Delta-driven fourth wave of Covid-19, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam said on Friday. "The updated longer-range forecast shows how the epidemic trajectory may evolve through early September. It suggests that we are at the start of the Delta-driven fourth wave, but that the trajectory will depend on ongoing increases in fully vaccinated coverage, and the timing, pace and extent of reopening," Tam said at a press conference in Ottawa. "I think we are in a slightly precarious period at the moment, in between these people trying to get the vaccines in and reopening," she said. "As soon as that balance is tipped, and it wouldn't take very much with a highly transmissible virus, you're going to see an uptick in cases." After weeks of sustained decline in new cases of Covid-19, Canada is seeing an increase in new Covid-19 cases, and thousands more infections are predicted if contacts aren't contained, according to national modelling released by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on Friday, the Xinhua news agency reported. The seven-day moving average of 594 new cases reported daily (July 22-28) showed an increase of 39 per cent over the previous week, said the PHAC on Thursday. The national modelling released by the PHAC on Friday showed the serious threat the highly contagious Delta variant is posing, and the risk that the unvaccinated may be to the country being thrust into the fourth wave. As of Friday, 80.5 per cent of those eligible have received the first dose in Canada, while 65.8 per cent are now fully vaccinated. The PHAC warned that if community-wide contact rates increase too quickly with ongoing reopening efforts, the long-term forecast indicates Canada could experience a "stronger resurgence" of the virus. The Delta variant "underscores the need for high vaccination coverage and continued caution as restrictions are eased," according to the modelling. The modelling predicts that in the short term, the case count will continue to increase, meaning the country could see between 2,700 and 11,800 new cases over the next week or so.

### COVID-19 IN US GOING TO GET WORSE: DR. FAUCI



**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** As the more contagious Delta variant of the novel coronavirus is spreading across the US, Anthony Fauci, White House chief medical advisor, has warned that "things are going to get worse." "We are looking, not I believe, to lockdown but we are looking to some pain and suffering in the future because we are seeing the cases go up," Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Sunday, according to a report from the Wall Street Journal, the Xinhua news agency reported. "The solution to this is, get vaccinated," he said. The latest data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed a 64.1 per cent increase in Covid-19 cases in the country over the week ended July 30 compared with the previous week, or an average of 66,606 cases a day.

### INDIGO TO LAUNCH PILOT FOR 'IATA TRAVEL PASS'



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** In its effort to chart recovery for international travel, IndiGo will become the first airline in India to launch a pilot for 'IATA Travel Pass'. The 'IATA Travel Pass' is a mobile app that helps travellers to store and manage their verified certifications for Covid-19 tests or vaccines. Accordingly, the initiative is expected to help passengers 'easily and securely' manage their travel in line with any government requirements for Covid-19 testing or vaccine information. Besides, the pass will enable IndiGo passengers to create a 'digital passport' to verify their pre-travel test or vaccination status to meet the SOPs of the destination. Furthermore, the passengers will be able to share the test and vaccination certificates with the authorities as well as the airlines to facilitate travel. The app will also enable passengers to manage and save all their travel documentation digitally and seamlessly throughout the travel experience.



# EFFECTIVE POLICING IS THE FOUNDATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY

BY D.C. PATHAK

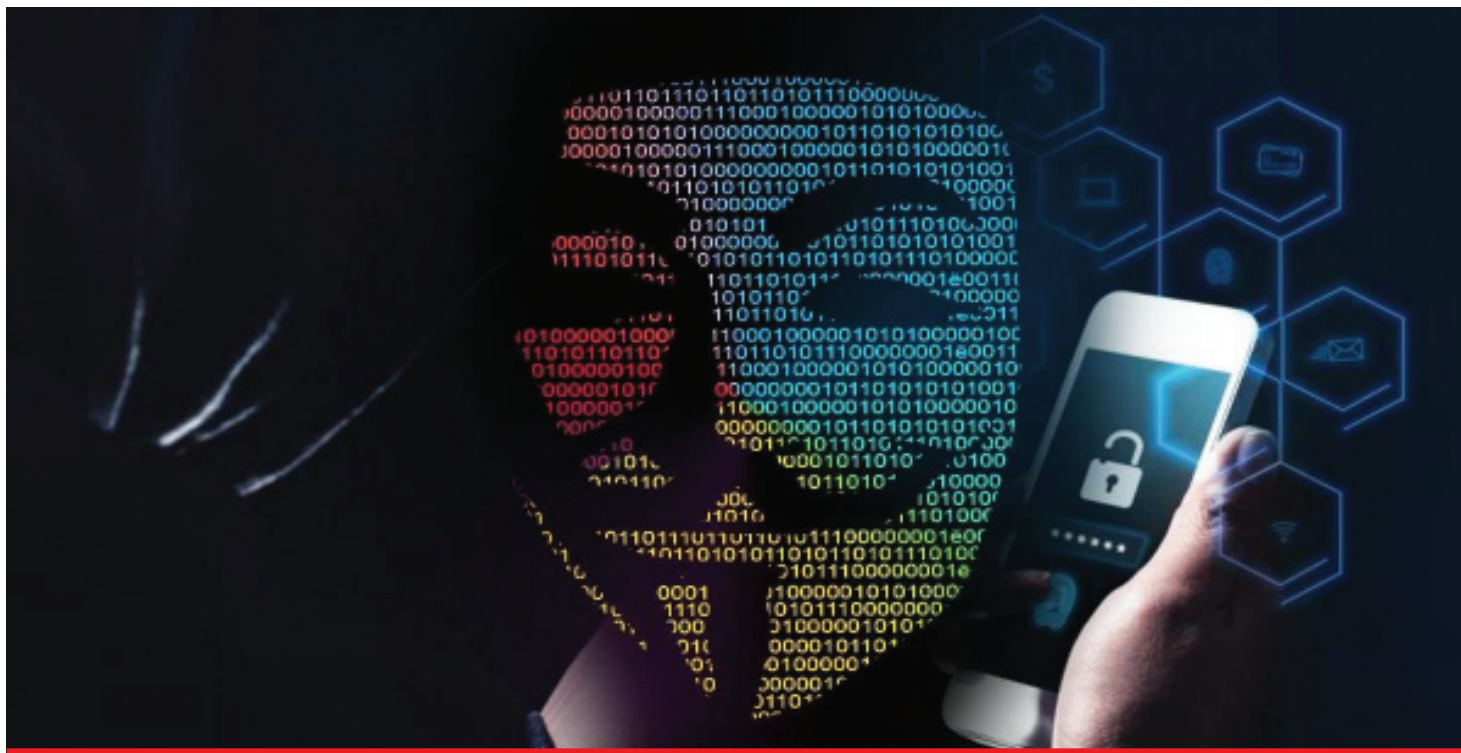
An important lesson drawn by India from the ongoing pandemic is that strict crime control and maintenance of law and order are needed to protect the nation from many of the newly emerging threats to internal stability and security. At least five such points of concern can be identified and they all can be said to be creating vulnerabilities that facilitated the work of enemy agents and adversarial forces.

First, digital frauds that entrapped innocent citizens and could possibly be used for the nefarious plans of the enemy in some cases, have multiplied in this period and deprived a very large number of ordinary people doing digital banking -- believing it to be safe and convenient -- of their meagre resources. Secondly, anti-social elements among the youth who have become active across the country for the twin reasons of economic downturn and a reduced police presence, are providing fodder to the agencies of our adversaries for 'talent spotting' and diversion towards anti-national pursuits. This is a matter of particular concern in the area of internal security.

Third, foreign based lobbies have tried to merge into the opposition voices on such current issues as breakdown of medical care system, shortages of vaccines and other medical supplies as also the alleged neglect of the poor during the pandemic, to build a narrative against the government of the day. This has since developed into a political war 'by proxy'. Further, a distinct trend is the rise of agitational politics that aimed at projecting the Modi government as a violator of freedom to protest and human rights and as an 'intolerant' regime that could not bear with criticism -- it did not matter to the critics that this charge was not well-founded and that the narrative went beyond the normal political critique to create an environ of instability about the country's governance itself.

And finally, a highly uneven situation of law and order prevailed in the country primarily because of the subservience of the administrative machinery concerned to the political pressures of the state rulers, leading to a serious erosion of what was the sovereign duty of the police in a democratic state to serve the law abiding and deter the potential offenders. The entire gamut of these dangers needs to be examined quickly for remedial measures. The Centre has to find a way of providing a strong democratic governance to the people of this large nation within the federal structure of the country -- but without letting centrifugal tendencies come in the way.

It became clear during the Covid months that cases of hacking of phones, credit-debit cards and other vital data for committing financial frauds were booming and targeting even ordinary people with limited resources who relied on online transactions because of the pandemic restrictions. The situation calls for a national drive to identify and neutralise illicit SIM cards which are being used by criminals as weapons. The menace has become large and draws a parallel with the situation in some freedom loving developed countries where



control on sale of automatic firearms was now being actively considered.

The issue of SIM cards freely may be an indicator of socio-economic progress but in the Indian context it is greatly helping criminals and anti-national elements too -- because of which there is a spurt in digital crimes against the common man. Telecom companies would better verify the identity of the purchaser beyond Aadhaar card by recording his or her double thumb impression so that in the event of a fraudulent transaction, reported through an unknown number, the owner of that SIM can be reached by the cyber police investigating the matter.

Gangs of criminals have acquired thousands of SIM cards to operate through the length and breadth of the country. This can overwhelm our legal machinery unless a deep biometric identity of SIM customer was made mandatory. The Centre must also respond quickly to evaluate the working of cyber police stations and pool the feedback given by them to make the system more effective. These police stations must be already having seamless communication with their counterparts across the country and the legal action initiated by them to locate a suspect number should not be allowed to be hampered by the issue of state jurisdiction that restrictively defines law and order responsibility in this country.

India for a variety of reasons is becoming overlaid by youth who did not add to 'demographic dividend' -- being neither educated nor skilled -- and who were becoming prone to 'coming on the road' specially because of the destruction of jobs that had occurred at the lower lines of the economic pyramid on account of the pandemic. This has happened across urban and rural India and accounts at least partly for the ongoing rise in local crimes like snatching, ATM robbery, sexual assaults on minors of the vicinity, thefts and public brawls. Indian law emphasised on the need for the police station to keep in touch with the 'localities' and have a fairly good idea of the 'idlers and loiterers' who inflicted themselves on public spaces at odd hours and indulged in lawlessness on the slightest pretext. In suitable cases they could be put on a bond for good behaviour.

It is not easy to exercise this type of control on the crime situation but India has to quickly move towards an effective local presence of the police and a closer monitoring of the villages and urban neighbourhoods to provide confidence and safety to the law-abiding citizens. The strategic approach to the problem of course would be to provide the youth with skill training free of cost and create avenues of employment for them for sustenance. This is a huge challenge for the Centre-state combine -- it has been made more daunting because of the pandemic. The Modi government at the Centre has adopted a perceptive policy of economic revival by giving the call -- 'vocal for local' -- that suits India's genius and helps to build the base of our economic pyramid. The return of BJP regime at the Centre with a much larger majority in 2019 and the splintering of other parties led to the trend of opposition taking to campaigning against the government outside of the Parliament and that too not on policies so much as on the persona of the Prime Minister and his allegedly 'authoritarian' style of

governance. Lobbies at home and abroad including left liberals, human rights activists and advocates of 'secularism' focusing on minority-majority divisions, have got into the domestic politics and started promoting street agitations and disruptive narratives as an expression of 'freedom'. The response of the Modi regime has to be a calibrated one -- putting the facts of policy execution before the people and not letting anybody cross the line of violation of public order, incitement to public violence and erosion of the public sentiment on national integrity.

There is little doubt that the people of India give credit to Prime Minister Modi for being upfront and bold about taking decisions to deal with the pandemic -- a disaster that had come unannounced. He was himself leading the effort to contain the breakdown of health infrastructure and organise vaccine production. It is necessary that the administration at the centre and in the states came on the same page in interpreting what was part of democratic rights and what amounted to taking to the 'politics of the street'. We are passing through times when the leadership of the civil administration and the police ought to realise the importance of their crucial apolitical role in sustaining democracy and safeguarding internal stability and security without coming in the way of the sovereign right of the elected political executive to frame policies and adopt legislative measures. Hopefully, India's judiciary can maintain the constitutional balance of power amongst the known 'pillars of democracy'.

The multiplicity of political parties, all wanting to mop up followers wherever they came from, does complicate the problem of governance but there is no getting away from the fact that states cannot be allowed to weaken the law-and-order situation in the country which can, among other things, spoil the prospects of investment and economic growth. The centre has to find within the federal system a method of monitoring the performance of the state administration and police on the maintenance of law and order -- tracking the performance of IAS and IPS officers on this front can be a good initial move. These All India Civil Services were created to take care of the law-abiding people and in particular improve the working of police stations which are the first place of call for a distressed citizen.

Modern India cannot be run with a flawed administrative and police set-up. Corruption at the lower echelons only puts ordinary citizens in difficulty about running their life peacefully. Effective governance cannot be there unless the administrative and police machinery at the local level is freed of corruption -- this unfortunately is not happening because of the lack of attention of the state governments towards the all-important issue of law and order. This is all the more a reason why the centre must acquire a firmer grip on the working of the IAS and IPS officers who are a major instrument of the nation for providing clean and firm governance in the country as a whole. Internal security is linked with that at the strategic level.

(The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau)

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

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## PM Justin Trudeau speaks with US President Joe Biden



The Prime Minister and President discussed the importance of physical and human infrastructure investments being made to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and address its disproportionate impact on women, including by prioritizing supports for child care and education. They looked forward to working closely together for the benefit of people and jobs on both sides of the border. The Prime Minister highlighted the significant alignment between labour and environmental standards in both countries and the benefits to each country of open government procurement. The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of Line 5 for Canada's energy security and reiterated Canada's support for a negotiated settlement between Enbridge and the State of Michigan. The Prime Minister and President agreed to continue to monitor developments closely. The Prime Minister and the President discussed China's arbitrary detention of Canadian citizens Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig.

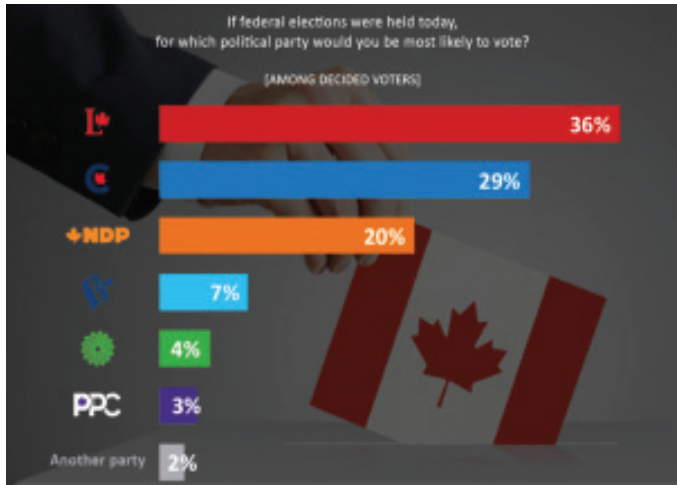
The leaders agreed on the need for their immediate release. The Prime Minister and President discussed COVID-19 and agreed to continue close collaboration in the management of the Canada-U.S. land border. Canada and the U.S. will work together to further strengthen bilateral cooperation on wildfires, including by developing proposals to increase and share firefighting resources. The two leaders also discussed the upcoming COP26 summit, and they looked forward to working closely together to strengthen bilateral trade and collaborating as friends and allies on global challenges such as fighting climate change and promoting international security. The Prime Minister and President discussed the Olympic Games, including yesterday's win by the Canadian women's soccer team. The two leaders agreed to stay in touch over the coming days and weeks.

### LIBERALS (36%) ENJOYING 7-POINT LEAD OVER CONSERVATIVES (29%) NATIONALLY AMONG DECIDED VOTERS: LEGER

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

- \* Although the Liberals are enjoying a 7-point lead over the Conservatives nationally among decided voters (36% vs. 29%), 46% of Canadians are satisfied with Trudeau's government and 49% are dissatisfied.
- \* When we asked Canadians which federal party leader would make the best prime minister of Canada...
- \* 27% said Justin Trudeau
- \* 19% said Jagmeet Singh
- \* 11% said Erin O'Toole
- \* Nearly half (48%) of Canadians think the Liberal Party of Canada will win the next federal election.

#### FEDERAL VOTING INTENTIONS



#### METHODOLOGY

This web survey was conducted from July 30, 2021, to August 1, 2021, with 2,079 Canadians and 1,001 Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel. For comparison, a probability sample of 2,079 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.15\%$ , 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,001 would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.09\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

### 'CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ROSE 3.1% ON A YEAR-OVER-YEAR BASIS IN JUNE, DOWN FROM A 3.6% GAIN IN MAY': STATISTICS CANADA

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.1% on a year-over-year basis in June, down from a 3.6% gain in May. As a result of price increases in June 2020, base-year effects had a downward impact on consumer inflation, contributing to the slowdown in June 2021. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 2.2% year over year. The monthly CPI rose 0.3% in June 2021, down from a 0.5% increase in May. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.1% in June. While shelter (+4.4%) and transportation (+5.6%) prices contributed the most to the all-items increase, prices rose at a slower pace in four of the eight major components on a year-over-year basis in June. The headline CPI grew at a slower pace compared with May due in part to a slowdown in price growth for goods. Growth slowed the most in the clothing and footwear component, mostly due to lower prices for women's clothing. **Explore the Consumer Price Index** Check out the Personal Inflation Calculator! This interactive calculator allows you to enter dollar amounts in the common expense categories to produce a personalized inflation rate, which you can compare to the official measure of inflation for the average Canadian household — the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Visit the Consumer Price Index portal to find all CPI data, publications, interactive tools, and announcements highlighting new products and upcoming changes to the CPI in one convenient location. Check out the Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool to access current and historical CPI data in a customizable visual format. **Gasoline prices increase at a slower rate** On a year-over-year basis, gasoline prices rose to a lesser extent in June (+32.0%) than in May (+43.4%) due to a base-year effect.

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

TORONTO - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible. To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace. Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home. You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money. Order your free report today. To order a FREE Special Report, visit [www.yellowhomes.ca/27tips](http://www.yellowhomes.ca/27tips) or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-855-907-2934 and enter 8023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW.

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# Premier Ford Announces Ontario Place Redevelopment

Live Nation is redeveloping the existing amphitheatre into a modern, year-round indoor-outdoor live music and performance venue that will attract world-class artists and events. Protecting the iconic amphitheatre lawns, the new venue will have an expanded capacity of 20,000 in the summer and close to 9,000 in the winter, offering a unique indoor-outdoor experience with operable exterior walls to accommodate events, rain or shine.

Écorécéo Group is building an affordable, all-season adventure park for all ages. This new, environmentally friendly attraction will include aerial obstacle courses, net-based aerial adventures, ziplines, climbing walls, escape rooms and many other activities. Écorécéo Group will also operate Segway, quad-cycle, canoe and kayak rentals at the site.

The province actively searched for the best partners from around the world to work with on the redevelopment of Ontario Place. Potential development partners on this unique opportunity were assessed against four primary areas of consideration: alignment with the government's vision of a world-class, year-round destination; concept viability; delivery certainty; and costs and benefits to the province, as well as public feedback and input provided through consultations conducted by previous governments. This fair, transparent and open process was designed and facilitated by Infrastructure Ontario and its advisors (KPMG and Colliers) to provide flexibility for interested parties to propose unique, yet financially viable and sustainable, development concepts.

"We couldn't be more excited to be growing the amphitheatre into a year-round venue that will bring even more opportunity for fans to experience world-class live music on the lakeshore. We look forward to continuing working with the Ontario government around the redevelopment of Budweiser Stage," said Riley O'Connor, Chairman, Live Nation Canada. "When Ontario Place opened in 1971 under the leadership of Premier Bill Davis, it was designed to reflect all that we, as Ontarians, embodied: our heritage, our diversity, our creativity and our future potential. Ontario Place holds a special place in our hearts and minds thanks to the countless family friendly events and activities that have been enjoyed there over the past 50 years," said Minister MacLeod. "Our government remains committed to redeveloping Ontario Place in a sustainable way – respecting our historical and natural features while at the same time showcasing Ontario as the world in one province – a true reflection of our diversity and multiculturalism, while also showing respect for the rich traditions, cultures and heritage of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples. A modern, new Ontario Place will attract local, provincial and international visitors, and create unforgettable memories for a new generation."

Toronto's Mayor John Tory said, "I've said publicly many times that I want to see something spectacular here at Ontario Place and I believe this ongoing process will deliver that. I welcome the fact that the proposals being unveiled today respond to many of the things City Council had asked for including that Ontario Place should be a year-round destination. The City of Toronto looks forward to continuing to work with the Province as these proposals are developed and we look forward to a genuine and thorough engagement of the people of Toronto and beyond." As the redevelopment moves forward, public input will be critical to support the planning and development of the site. Mark Saunders, Special Advisor for Ontario Place, will continue to engage with the City of Toronto, Indigenous communities, project stakeholders, businesses and community groups that have interest in the Ontario Place site to ensure all perspectives on these important proposals are recognized and considered.

Starting in August, the government will launch the next phase of engagement through Ontario.ca/OntarioPlace, providing an opportunity for all Ontarians to share how they would like to experience a redeveloped Ontario Place. Virtual public information sessions will also be held in the fall with planning and development consultations related to the site-wide environmental assessment, heritage, and site servicing to follow later in the year. The redevelopment website, Ontario.ca/OntarioPlace will be kept up to date with the latest information about planned public and stakeholder engagement.

Across the site, public spaces will be enhanced and brought up to modern standards with new parks, promenades, trails and beaches. Key heritage and recreational features of the site will be retained and integrated into the redevelopment, including the Cinesphere, the pod complex, the marina, Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail. The prov-



ince will also work with the Ontario Science Centre to explore opportunities to have science-related tourism and educational programming at the Cinesphere and pod complex.

"Working with our partners and stakeholders, we are excited to be playing a part in the future of Ontario Place, and opening up new opportunities for people to connect with the waterfront. We chose Toronto to be our launching point in North America because of the unique culture and vision of the city and Ontario Place, and we are committed to carrying on its legacy with renewed family entertainment, public parks, and well-being and cultural programming," Robert Hanea, CEO of Therme Group said.

A redeveloped Ontario Place will not include casinos or condos and the land will not be sold. Ontario Place will remain open to the public 365 days a year, with free public access and a waterfront experience that can be enjoyed by all.

"As a Canadian-based organization, our team is honoured to have been chosen to contribute to the redevelopment of one of Ontario's most iconic destinations. We are excited to bring an innovative, themed adventure park to Ontario Place – one that creates a magical atmosphere, while offering immersive, family-friendly outdoor activities for all ages," Jean-Philippe Duchesneau, Co-owner of Écorécéo Group said.

Chief R. Stacey Laforme, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation said, "The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation is pleased to be working with Ontario in the spirit of partnership to bring Ontario Place back to its rightful place as a cherished and celebrated part of our Toronto waterfront. We have been very encouraged by the willingness of both Ontario and development partners to see this project as more than just a tourist destination, but as a celebration of this place and its history and cultural significance. The Mississaugas of the Credit see the redevelopment of Ontario Place as another significant and visible opportunity to provide education and promote reconciliation. And as the Treaty First Nation, we take seriously our responsibilities to ensure that all Indigenous voices are heard, respected and reflected in what will surely become an iconic development not only for Ontario but for Canada and the world." "We are committed to working with the City of Toronto, Indigenous communities and organizations, and other key partners to make this vision a reality and to guide collaboration and future development of the Ontario Place and Exhibition Place sites," said Minister MacLeod. "Our government is committed to engaging and keeping the public and stakeholders informed. As we move forward, public input will be critical to support the planning and development of the site. More information about upcoming consultations related to redevelopment planning will be provided later this summer."



# OTHER WORLDS EXIST BEYOND THE STARS...

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Friendship is enjoyment and cure to many ailments. Friendship, has no limitations. It is a divine bond. It is there from the beginning of the world and will stay eternal. Delving into the history of our religion, we have Hazrat Abu Bakar the dearest friend of the Prophet (PBUH). Their brotherhood is revered and none has ever witnessed or heard a companionship greater than theirs.

It is said that the antidote for fifty enemies is one true friend. However, we live in a materialistic world. In the short span of my 23-year-old life which seems as forever to me, I have yet to fully grasp the true meaning of friendship. I did, however, learn the conventional concept of balance of utility. A reciprocal arrangement between two individuals who stand to gain some sort of benefit from one another. It's only logical to form relationships which would be in your own best interest. The question at hand then surfaces; where, in this world of personal benefits and gains, does true friendship exist? The give and take principle dominate all relationships of the contemporary world. In a world where relationships are formed on the basis of profit and loss, it is understandable that people invest their time only where they stand to gain a benefit. To my amazement, I often hear people discussing business relations using similar terms which had significantly distorted my initial concept of friendship and I quickly blurred the lines between creating business relations and close companionships. These two different mindsets intriguingly affect people's lives. For our experience friendship on reciprocal terms has led many through the road to success, we see them holding distinguished positions. They openly express their materialistic approach towards friendship and believe that it paved the way through the hurdles of life. To obtain what you want in life, one may use anyone and however he feel is right. On your path to success, one can even lose people but is worth the prosperity. These kind of people advocate their mindset based on their achievements, as for them the ends do justify the means. A common social strategy they hold very dear is the "no sharing" concept. Friends should never be shared but kept to your interests. They are one's assets, why should someone else benefit from them? They make certain that no other person gets direct with their friends for their own benefit and it is through their channel where they can be approached. These people in particular would never expose who they have a connection with so that these networks would work at their discretion only. This strategy manifests sheer intelligence, and on the face of it, is a prudent approach towards dependent relationships. They would produce the fish but would never teach the art of fishing because once someone knows the art of fishing they would never come to them for the fish. The other mindset of people is that they have a completely different approach

towards friends. They don't see it as a transaction but as a blessing. They feel contended in sharing their networks. They take it as moral responsibility in introducing people so that they would help and support each other at the time of need. In their advocacy, they would only reason with love. Are they able to achieve anything in life using this definition of friendship? These people believe that their way of sharing their links had never given them any loss. They do not regret sharing their friends, they do not look back at people taking advantage of their links. They have the sense of gratification that they were means to deliver to the community. They feel that the respect they gained is indispensable and is above all the material gains. Every soul has to taste death, every person has to leave behind everything then why not through your own hands give away what you hold most dear, friends. The concept of friendship in Islam is more unconventional, it's sublime in fact. Tolerance, sacrifice, and unconditional love are the pillars which lay the foundation of a true friendship as defined and exhibited by Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Islam emphasizes on forming deeper emotional connections with other individuals, as a need for a friend is beyond the material gains people endeavor for. Islam has regarded friendship in terms of "brotherhood". Friendship starts from home, between siblings. It then extends to cousins and relatives and this group of networks only expands with age. Tolerance, sacrifice, and love are how friendship is defined by Hazrat Muhammad(PBUH). Love for a friend is beyond the material gains people endeavor for. In Islam we are for the society and not for ourselves. Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) says in a narration, "The Muslims are like a single body; if his eye suffers, then his constitution will suffer; And if he has a headache, then his whole system will suffer." (Muslim). From an Islamic perspective, we must seek to extend a loving and helping hand for the Ummah as a whole rather than focusing on individualistic and self-gain. As a Hadith of our beloved Prophet (PBUH) states, "None of you will have faith till he wishes for his (Muslim) brother what he likes for himself." (Bukhari). Very often we form friendships for the sole purpose of benefitting ourselves, but Islam bounds us to act in the best interest of the community as a whole. Our religion preaches equality and equity for all therefore, you are only truly successful if you help your struggling brothers. Your success is measured by how many people you have helped rather than how much materialistic gain you have acquired in this fleeting life. Imam Ali (A.S) says it best, "The true friend is only he who regards his friend in three situations: ordeal, absence, and death." (Nahjul Balagha). It is truly astonishing how Islam earths the "I" and disseminates the "we", For I am because we are. The type of friends we choose to become, is the type of friends we should have.

## CONSULAR CAMP ON AUGUST 7, 2021 IN BRAMPTON

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2. In view of the recent lifting of lockdown in Ontario, the Consulate General of India has decided to organize Consular Camps to resolve various queries and issues for the Indian Diaspora at a more convenient location in Brampton. The Indian Diaspora is requested to take advantage of the Consular Camp to resolve their consular issues in person. Please note that the Consular Camp is meant to resolve any long-pending issues and is not repeat NOT meant to provide the consular services at the venue. However, the applications, if found in order, will be approved for submission at the BLS Centers, respectively. Applicants are requested to bring their original passport and PR Card with them for verification.
3. Given the COVID-19 situation and to contain its further spread, all applicants who will be visiting the Consular Camp at the above location are requested to follow the health norms prescribed by the Provincial Government of Ontario, including restrictions on the number of people assembling at a given time, face-mask covering in public places. Applicants are also requested to follow the directives of the Organizers at the Temple for smooth operations and movement of people. We seek your cooperation to serve you better.
4. Please do not visit the Consular Camp venue if you are suffering from COVID-19 or have symptoms like fever, cough, sneezing and running nose or if you have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.

## INDIAN ORIGIN GIRLS IN JOHNS HOPKINS' WORLD'S 'BRIGHTEST' LIST

NEW YORK, (IANS) Indian origin girls -- New Jersey-based

Natasha Peri (11) and Dubai-based Priyamvada Deshmukh (12) -- have been named in the worlds "brightest" students list based on results of above-grade-level testing of 19,000 students across 84 countries, according to Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY), a part of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

"Peri, a student at Thelma L. Sandmeier Elementary School, was honoured for exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, or similar assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search," said a statement from the CTY.

Deshmukh, a student of GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai, has been honoured for her exceptional performance on the SCAT assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search, a university statement said. She was one of nearly 19,000 students from 84 countries who joined CTY in the 2019-21 Talent Search years. CTY uses above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students from around the world and provide a clear picture of their true academic abilities.

Peri took the Johns Hopkins Talent Search test in Spring 2021, when she was in Grade 5. Her results in the verbal and quantitative sections levelled with the 90th percentile of advanced Grade 8 performance. "This motivates me to do more," she said, adding that doodling and reading J.R.R Tolkien's novels may have worked for her. Deshmukh took the Johns Hopkins Talent Search test in Spring 2020, when she was still in Grade 6. Her results in the verbal sections levelled with the advanced Grade 10 performance. She made the cut for Johns Hopkins CTY 'High Honors Awards'. Due to the Covid19 induced delay in Global logistics support, she finally received her much awaited "High Honors" pin this week, which she lovingly kept in front of her Grandparents photograph as tribute to her roots.

The delay in officially getting the certificates did not stop her from attending the summer programme at John Hopkins University's CTY in English literature where she studied the confluence of Art and Science in literary writing and completed the course scoring 'A' Grade. She followed up with top scoring the second level of Asset Talent Examination which also qualified her for summer program at NorthWestern University this year, where she is learning about world building in fiction writing this year.

Her elder brother was among the first UAE students to have cleared the Duke University TIP (Talent Identification Programme) when he was in Class 8. Her parents joke that its nothing but routine sibling rivalry that she wanted to achieve the same, just a year ahead of her brother. Even though she loves Physics and Computer Science as subjects, unlike her elder brother (who is Chancellor's Scholarship holder student of Astro Physics at University of Massachusetts), Deshmukh wants to pursue humanities and literature when she goes to college five years down the lane.

As part of Johns Hopkins policy, granular information is not broken down by age or race.

Likewise, it is left to the guardian to disclose the prodigy's name. Within the US, awardees come from all 50 US states.

"We are thrilled to celebrate these students," said Virginia Roach, CTY's executive director.

"In a year that was anything but ordinary, their love of learning shined through, and we are excited to help cultivate their growth as scholars and citizens throughout high school, college, and beyond," Roach added.

The quantitative section of the Johns Hopkins CTY test measures the ability to see relationships between quantities expressed in mathematical terms, the verbal section measures understanding of the meaning of words and the relationships between them.

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## Punjab CM asks Modi to reopen Kartarpur Corridor

**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor, in view of the improvement in the Covid-19 situation, to facilitate people's visit to the historic shrine in Pakistan. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Amarinder Singh said his government would be happy to work in conjunction with the Centre to ensure adherence to proper Covid-19 protocols, including testing and vaccination of pilgrims using the corridor. He hoped for a positive consideration by the Prime Minister in this regard. The Chief Minister pointed out that the movement of devotees to Kartarpur through the corridor was suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic outbreak.

"The Covid-19 situation in Punjab has shown signs of significant improvement in the past one month and I am happy to share that yesterday, no Covid-19 related death was reported, after almost a period of one year," he wrote. He said in the changed scenario, the people have obviously again evinced their desire to have 'darshan' at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur. The Chief Minister further said that "we have been fortunate that the Kartarpur Corridor was opened on the auspicious occasion of the 550th Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev in November 2019". It helped fulfill the long-standing demand of "khulle darshan deedar" of the historic Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur, located just across the international border in Pakistan, he added.

## CONGRESS TO SORT OUT RAJASTHAN ISSUE IN DELHI

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** After taking feedback from Rajasthan leaders and MLAs, Congress General Secretary Ajay Maken has returned to Delhi and will meet top party leaders in a few days to discuss the issue and adjustments to be made in the state unit and the government. The Congress top brass is keen to resolve the issue of Rajasthan after the changes in Punjab where Navjot Singh Sidhu has been made state chief. Congress sources say that there will be major rejig in the Ashok Gehlot government and the state organisation. Sources say that after Maken submits his report, a final call will be taken by interim party chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and the General Secretary entrusted to implement the decisions. Former Deputy Chief Minister and state chief Sachin Pilot is in New Delhi and has been meeting party leaders to push for Cabinet expansion and appointments in boards and corporation in the state to adjust his loyalists, a year after he revolted. Maken, before returning to Delhi, had one-on-one interaction with all 115 Congress MLAs, and senior party leaders. Indicating changes, he had said that some ministers have expressed their willingness to resign and work for the party. "Some people want to leave cabinet positions and work for the organisation. We are proud of such people." Asked about the possible role of Pilot, Maken had said: "Everyone trusts the high command and all have said in a united voice that they shall accept any role given by



the high command." Following Maken's meeting with the MLAs, Chhattisgarh Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, who chairs the Congress manifesto implementation committee, and MP Amar Singh were in Jaipur on Saturday to evaluate the status of promises made in the party manifesto, as per the directions given by the Congress high command. The meeting of the committee was held at the Chief Minister's residence, where Gehlot said that 64 per cent of the promises, or 321 out of 501, have been fulfilled.

## PM Modi to chair open debate on maritime security at UN Security Council

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually chair an open debate on maritime security at the United Nations Security Council on August 9, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday. It will be the first time that an Indian Prime Minister will preside over an open debate at the world body. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet, "PM @narendramodi will Chair Open Debate on 'Maintenance of international peace and security: Maritime security' in virtual mode @UN #SecurityCouncil on 9th August. This will be the 1st time an Indian Prime Minister will preside over Open Debate." On August 1, India took over the rotating presidency for the month at the 15-nation UN Security Council, and on January 1, India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. It is India's seventh term. India has planned high-level engagements with the world community on key focus issues like maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism during the month of August. India has been in the forefront in helping friendly countries in pursuit of the country's 'Act East' policy and to enhance military cooperation with the friendly countries. The Indian Navy undertakes regular deployments to friendly foreign countries and in the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions in furtherance of the Prime Minister's initiative of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR). Such engagements build 'Bridges of Friendship' and strengthen international cooperation. These maritime initiatives enhance synergy and coordination between the Indian Navy and friendly countries, based on common maritime interests and commitment towards 'Freedom of Navigation' at sea. Besides regular port calls, Indian Navy operates in conjunction with the friendly navies to build military relations and develop interoperability in the conduct of maritime operations.



## Pegasus row: Scribes say spying violated their rights, SC to hear pleas Aug 5

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Five journalists have moved the Supreme Court, contending the unauthorised use of surveillance by government agencies have violated their fundamental rights and they are directly affected by the use of Pegasus spyware. The petitioners -- Paranjot Guha Thakurta, S.N.M. Abdi, Prem Shankar Jha, Rupesh Kumar Singh, and IpsaShatakshi - urged the top court to issue directions to the Centre to produce and disclose all materials and documents, with respect to all investigation, authorisation, and orders pertaining to the use of Pegasus on them. The petitioners alleged they were subjected to deeply intrusive surveillance and hacking by government or some other third party. In July, veteran journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar had moved the top court seeking a direction for an independent probe by its sitting or retired judge into the alleged Pegasus snooping scandal. Advocate M.L. Sharma and CPI-M Rajya Sabha member John Brittas have also moved the apex court seeking probe into the spying allegations. A bench of Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and Surya Kant is scheduled to take up matters connected with Pegasus snooping on August 5. The plea filed through advocate-on-record Prateek Chadha cited the threat posed by this nature of surveillance to journalistic sources and whistle-blowers. The petitioners asked the top court to intervene to ensure free press can continue to exist, and also sought that a judicial oversight mechanism be put in place to deal with any complaints on illegal breaches of privacy and hacking. The petitioners insisted that action should be taken against all government officials responsible for such breaches. The journalists claimed the forensic examination of their mobile phones done by Amnesty International has revealed they were targeted using the Pegasus malware. "The petitioner apprehends that the Pegasus attack on him and other journalists in India will stop confidential informants and whistle-blowers from coming forward and bringing to light wrongdoing at various levels of government and as such, have a detrimental effect on transparency in governance all across India," said the plea filed by Thakurta.



## PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF SIDHU MEETS SC MLAS AGAIN, SECOND MEETING IN SEVEN DAYS



NEWLY APPOINTED Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday held a second meeting with Scheduled Caste (SC) MLAs of the party, heard them out for unfulfilled promises, and assured them that he would take up their grievances with Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. This was the second meeting of SC MLAs with Sidhu. During the meeting, several issues like a pre-poll promise of Congress that five marla plots would be given free of cost to the poor in the state, besides implementation of the 85th Amendment of Constitution of India were taken up. As many as 20 MLAs and ministers attended Tuesday's meeting, during which Sidhu is learnt to have said that he would seek an appointment with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and take up the issues with him at the earliest. The SC MLAs are also learnt to have raised the issue of expensive power, stating that people in their constituency were sick of inflated bills. They also said that though the government had raised the pension for poor and the elderly, from Rs 750 to 1500 per month, not much had been done to highlight this achievement. A statement by Sidhu later said that Tuesday's meeting went on for three hours and 20 Ministers/ MLAs spoke in detail about each and every programme and policy needed for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste community of Punjab. A detailed plan of action to take up Dalit issues for redressal by the government was formed keeping in view every demand and grievance of the community. Sidhu reiterated the party's commitment to fulfill the 18 point agenda and do even more than what has been promised for the Dalits at the earliest. Sidhu's meeting with SC MLAs on Tuesday was followed by him holding another two- hour-long meeting with Congress workers from every Block of Nawashahr district, along with working presidents, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Kuljit Singh Nagra, MLA Angad Saini, MLA Darshanlal Mangupur, and members of the local leadership.

## CANCEL OR REVISIT 'ONE-SIDED' POWER PACTS, ORDERS PUNJAB CM

**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) to cancel or revisit all the "one-sided" pacts with private companies that are not contractually obligated to supply sufficient power to meet the state's peak demand during the paddy sowing and summer season. Taking serious note of the fiasco relating to Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL) -- one of the largest private thermal plants in the state, he directed the PSPCL to revoke its power purchase agreement (PPA), "which is heavily biased in favour of the company". He asked the PSPCL to examine all the PPA signed by the previous SAD-BJP government with the various independent power producers , which were established basically to meet the power demands of the state, especially during paddy sowing and summer season, and terminate or revisit "all lopsided PPAs that are not beneficial to the state". The Chief Minister noted that PSPCL had signed 14 PPAs with thermal or hydro and 122 long-term PPAs with solar and biomass plants after 2007, to make the state power surplus with generation capacity of around 13,800 MW. However, in the current paddy season, all three units of the TSPL failed to generate power for a few days. One unit of the TSPL failed completely to operate from March and two units remained out of power generation for the last one month, he said. At present, only one unit of the TSPL is operational, he said, adding that these factors have caused a huge power shortage in the state. The PSPCL has already issued notice to the TSPL by imposing a penalty but, "as the PPAs are one-sided, the penalty imposed will be very meager in comparison to the losses caused by the failure of these thermal plants".

## BJP REACHING OUT TO PROMINENT CITIZENS IN PUNJAB WITH REQUEST TO JOIN PARTY



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The BJP which is all set contest Punjab Assembly polls on its own for the first time after its ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) walked away from the alliance, will be reaching out to leaders in the opposition camp, intellectuals, prominent personalities or influencers with a request to join the saffron camp. The BJP leadership feels that inducting people from different walks of life will help the party in next year's Assembly polls. A BJP functionary said that joining of political leaders from other parties, prominent persons and influencers will help in building favourable perception for the party. "These people will help the party in building a positive perception among the masses which will help immensely during the elections. Some intellectuals joined the BJP in June, and they will help the BJP counter the perception that people in Punjab are unhappy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP" he said. To build the perception in its favour, the BJP is looking for prominent faces, including academicians, professionals like doctors and advocates and retired bureaucrats and defence personnel. Highlighting the importance of prominent citizens, a party leader said that all of them will not ask for tickets to contest the polls but help immensely in building a favourable atmosphere in the whole electoral process. "Apart from these, the party is also in touch with the disgruntled leaders of other parties," sources said. On Monday, a former national general secretary of Akali Dal's women wing, Amanjot Kaur Ramoowalia, and SAD leaders Gurpreet Singh Shahpur, Chand Singh Chatha, Bajinder Singh Dakoha and Pritam Singh had joined the BJP. A former TV anchor, Chetan Mohan Joshi, also joined the saffron party on Monday. In June, six prominent personalities -- Harinder Singh Kahlon, Jagmohan Singh Saini, Nirmal Singh, Kuldeep Singh Kahlon, Jaswinder Singh Dhillon and Jaibans Singh -- had joined the BJP at its national headquarters in Delhi. BJP national spokesperson, R.P. Singh, said that the process of people joining the party is on and more people will join the BJP from different walks of life in future, including leaders from other parties.





India takes over UNSC presidency with pledge to work for humanity, focus on terror

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that, at the Council: "India will keep the international spotlight firmly focused on the task of combatting terrorism, the pandemic and climate change, which are global challenges that transcend national boundaries." India's Permanent Representative T.S. Tirumurti will preside over the Council this month in a chamber where the iconic painting of a rising Phoenix, symbolising the UN's endeavour to bring the world out of the chaos of war, looms over the horseshoe table for the 15 national representatives. India took over the presidency of the Council, which rotates alphabetically every month, from France and will hand off to Ireland next month. Tirumurti said that India will be organising three high-level signature meetings focusing on its priority areas -- maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism. Modi is expected to preside virtually over one of the high-level meetings on August 9 -- the first Indian Prime Minister to take the chair -- according to Syed Akbaruddin, a former Permanent Representative of India. The high-level meetings are organised by the country presiding over the Council each month to highlight the issues most important to it. "India will also be organising a solemn event in the memory of peacekeepers," Tirumurti said. The UN peacekeeping operations, for which India has been historically the biggest contributor, have claimed the lives of 174 Indian peacekeepers. In addition, Tirumurti said the Council's agenda will include current global hotspots Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and the Middle East and it is expected to adopt resolutions on Somalia, Mali, and the UN interim force in Lebanon. "I'm confident that India's presidency will contribute to strengthen international peace and security further," he said. The first meeting of the Council with India wielding the gavel will take place on Monday with a closed session at 11.30 a.m. New York time (9 p.m. IST) to hash out the month's agenda. It will be followed by the presentation of Secretary General Antonio Guterres's report on Sudan and South Sudan in a open meeting. Tirumurti is scheduled to hold a news conference at 12.30 p.m. local time (10 p.m. in India) on the Council's programme for the month. The news conference, like all the open meetings of the Council, will be videocast

on the internet by the UN (at media.un.org/en/webtv/). As president, India will have the tough task of dealing with the acrimonious divide between veto-wielding Russia and China on one side, and the US, along with its allies, on the other. Their intransigent postures have led to impasse on important issues like Syria, which is coming up again this month. Shashi Tharoor, a Congress Party MP and a former UN Under Secretary General, retweeted comments he had made earlier to a media outlet: "India may have certain intentions, but who knows what will happen in the world between now and at the end of the Indian presidency in August end." Other hotspots may yet emerge during India's presidency - for example, if the situations in countries like Cuba, Myanmar and Haiti turn more volatile or crises arise elsewhere. Tharoor added: "Whatever happens, we have to have diplomats who are capable, alert, and nimble enough to cope with it, to respond to it, and to give the world a certain leadership in the matter." India last presided over the Council in November 2012 when Hardeep Singh Puri, now the Minister for Petroleum, Housing and Urban Development, was India's Permanent Representative. Recalling in a tweet his tenure as president, Puri pointed to the difficulty of leading a permanent member-dominated Council: "Ten years ago this day, India had last assumed presidency of the UNSC. I was privileged to preside over the horseshoe. We specifically cautioned against 'use of force' in Libya & failure to act in Syria." On the challenges of leading a fractured Council where the five permanent members wield supreme power through their vetoes, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said: "We've always endeavoured to be a voice of reason and understanding, a voice of the underrepresented developing world, a bridge-builder for narrowing the divides and for fostering consensus." The External Affairs Ministry said in a tweet that India will be guided on the Council by "5S" principles -- 'samman (respect), samvaad (dialogue), sahyog (cooperation), shanti (peace) and samridhi (prosperity)". Introducing a note of realism in the midst of celebratory statements and social media posts, Tharoor said in one of his retweets, "Assumption of the UNSC Presidency is a routine thing; it goes in alphabetical order and this month, it's India's turn."

UP GOVT TO PROVIDE RS 2,500 PER MONTH TO CHILDREN WHO LOST PARENTS TO REASONS OTHER THAN COVID-19



The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Monday approved a proposal to provide financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per month under the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Bal Seva Yojana (general) to children below 18 years who lost their parents due to reasons other than COVID-19. The Cabinet also decided that monetary help will be provided to adults between 18 to 23 years who have lost their parents or guardians due to COVID-19 or other reasons and are pursuing education after completing Class 12. The cabinet approved the scheme under which children below the age of 18 years who have lost both their parents or either of the parents or a guardian due to reasons other than COVID-19 will be provided financial assistance, a government spokesman said.

‘RAHUL GANDHI TO VISIT MAHARASHTRA, HAS KEEN INTEREST IN SENA SUPREMO BALASAHEB THACKERAY’S WORK’



After hosting an Opposition meet to discuss the ongoing Parliament logjam on Tuesday morning, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to make his first visit to Maharashtra since the Maha Vikas Aghadi government came to power in 2019. The Congress leader has shown keen interest in the way Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray worked, and handled his party and relations. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, who met Rahul Gandhi on Monday, said, "We had a healthy exchange of ideas on various issues during our meeting. The Congress leader sounded positive and confident." Raut said Rahul sought to get an insight into the style of Sena supremo's working . "Rahul wants to know Balasaheb's nature and his style of working.



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Revolutions : 1700 RPM  
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#### STANDARD FEATURES

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- Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters
- Front steam baffle
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- Vertical Ducting:6"
- DiameterRevolutions:1700 RPM
- Wind Exhaust:520-680 CFM
- Weight (lbs): 29.70 - 31.90
- Illum.: 60W Max
- Power

White, Black & Stainless Steel

#### STANDARD FEATURES

- Twin centrifugal turbo fans
- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- Rear oil collectors
- Grease-free inner parts
- Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters
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# CHINA’S WUHAN TO TEST ALL 12 MILLION RESIDENTS AFTER DELTA VARIANT FOUND



China’s Wuhan city will test all of its 12 million residents for the coronavirus, an official said on Tuesday, after the place where the virus emerged in late 2019 confirmed its first domestic cases of the highly transmissible Delta variant. Wuhan, which gave the world its first glimpses of lockdowns and mass testing, had reported no local coronavirus cases since mid-May last year but on Monday, authorities confirmed three new cases of the Delta variant. “To ensure that everyone in the city is safe, city-wide nucleic acid testing will be quickly launched for all people to fully screen out positive results and asymptomatic infections,” Li Qiang, an official in the city, the capital of central Hubei province, told a news briefing. The new cases in Wuhan, along with infections in the nearby cities of Jingzhou and Huanggang since Saturday, were linked to cases found in Huaian city in Jiangsu province, said Li Yang, vice director of Hubei’s provincial disease control centre. The outbreak in Jiangsu is believed to have begun in the provincial capital of Nanjing, with the Delta variant mostly likely introduced on a flight from Russia, officials have said. Since then numerous cities in southern China and a few in the north including Beijing have reported infections. The tally of locally transmitted cases in China since July 20, when the first Nanjing infections were found, stood at 414 as of Monday. But it was not immediately clear if all those cases were of the Delta variant, or if they were all linked to Nanjing, as some authorities have not disclosed conclusive results of their virus-tracing efforts. The Delta variant poses new risks for the world’s second-biggest economy as it spreads from the coast to inland cities. Authorities in numerous cities have launched mass testing to identify and isolate carriers.

## AT A TIME OF DEMOCRATIC RECESSION, ITS VITAL THAT US, INDIA STAND TOGETHER: BLINKEN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

On the first day of his visit to India, Blinken while addressing civil society representatives said, “Here in India, that includes the free media, independent courts, a vibrant and free and fair electoral system — the largest expression of free political will by citizens anywhere in the world.” “We also know that successful democracies include thriving civil societies. That’s how citizens become more fully engaged in the life of their communities. It’s how we organize and provide the resources to respond to emergencies. And we’ve seen people and organizations come together throughout Covid-19 in creative and incredibly generous ways, and civil society is also where we’re able to build meaningful connections across our social, religious, and cultural differences,” Blinken said. “In short, if we want to make our democracies more open, more inclusive, more resilient, more equitable, we need a vibrant civil society,” he added. “And I’m really here to underscore the importance of the relationships between our countries, to try to deepen our ties and extend our cooperation. I think it’s hard to find countries with more — who do more together in more different areas than with the United States and India,” Blinken said. “Later today, I’ll have a chance to see Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, an old friend and colleague. We’ll talk about many of the critical issues our countries are working on together, from Covid-19 to climate change, defence, mutual security, trade and investment, education, energy, science, technology. The list goes on and on,” Blinken said. “When you put it all together, the relationship between our countries is one of the most important in the world. And I think that’s because not only is it a relationship between governments when we’re working between our governments, but critically it’s through relationships between the Indian and the American people. We’re connected in so many different ways — business ties, university ties, religious and spiritual ties, and of course, millions of family ties,” Blinken said. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken commenced his India visit with an address to civil society leaders. Attendees included religious leaders such as Geshe Dorji Damdul of New Delhi’s Tibet House, a cultural centre of the Dalai Lama.

## Unfortunate to blame Pak for Afghanistan’s situation: PM Imran

**ISLAMABAD, (IANS)** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Afghanistan’s repeated accusations against his country for being responsible for its worsening situation were unfortunate, adding that Islamabad has always desired peace and an inclusive government set up for its neighbour as it goes in favour of the two nations. Speaking to journalists and Afghans in Islamabad, Khan said Pakistan is not the spokesperson for the Taliban nor does it have anything to do with what the militant group is doing in Afghanistan. “What the Taliban are doing or not doing has nothing to do with us and we are not responsible, neither are we the spokesperson of the Taliban,” he said, adding that “Pakistan has always desired for peace in Afghanistan”. Khan said Pakistan has been and continues to be willing to go to every extent required to ensure a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. However, he ruled out the use of force against the Taliban. “We believe that Afghanistan cannot be controlled from the outside. Our policy is to have the best relationship with whoever the people of Afghanistan choose,” he said. Referring to the US’ demand of using Pakistani bases to carry out operations in Afghanistan, Khan said: “I fail to understand what can the US achieve in Afghanistan while sitting on the outside, as it badly failed while being inside Afghanistan for 20 years.” The Prime Minister regretted that his country is being blamed for promoting and spreading unrest in Afghanistan, insisting that an unsettled Kabul was not in Islamabad’s interest. “What interest would Pakistan possibly have for a civil war in Afghanistan? We would do everything short of military action against the Taliban as doing so would only drag Pakistan into a conflict. “If there is a civil war in Afghanistan, its spillover will fall into Pakistan’s tribal areas. We cannot afford to do that anymore. We have already lost over 70,000 Pakistanis when the country took part in the US-led war on terror,” he added. Khan also spoke about Pakistan’s relationship with India, stating that Islamabad will not accept any participation of New Delhi in the Afghan peace process until the latter reverse what he called “illegal decisions of August 4, 2019”.



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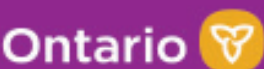
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