

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S
APPROVAL RATING LOWEST
OVER HANDLING
INFLATION, COVID, GUN
VIOLENCE | P3



www.southasiandaily.com

AAP REFUSES TO TAKE
IN 4 OF PUNJAB
CONGRESS MINISTERS
OVER SAND THEFT
ALLEGATIONS | P9

'NO CIS-HET ACTRESS EVER PLAYS THE ROLE': VAANI KAPOOR | P15



SOUTH ASIAN

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Vol 21 Issue 50, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE: MISS UNIVERSE HARNAAZ KAUR SANDHU'S PARENTS SAYS, 'IT'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR GIRL COMING FROM PATRIARCHAL STATE'



HARNAAZ SANDHU ENDS INDIA'S 21-YEAR WAIT FOR MISS UNIVERSE CROWN. (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT- VINEY SHARMA (Y MEDIA), RUBY SANDHU & PRITAMPAL SINGH SANDHU (PARENTS OF HARNAAZ SANDHU)

Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE: Y MEDIA THANK YOU EVENT A GRAND SUCCESS

POOJA LUTHRA

Y Media, on Sunday, organized 'Sukhmani Sahib Path' at Ontario Khalsa Darbar, Dixie Rd Gurdwara Sahib, to thank the community for their support as the farmers' protest ended in India.

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi repealed the farm laws, and the farmers also decided to end the protest.

The program was attended by several VIP dignitaries from both the federal and municipal governments, namely Sonia Sidhu, MP for Brampton South; Shafqat Ali, MP for Brampton Centre; Deepak Anand, MPP- Mississauga Malton & Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Training, and Skills Development (MLTSD); Gurratan Singh, MPP Brampton East; Sheref Sabawy, MPP Mississauga-Erin Mills & Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; Marilyn Raphael, Brampton South Liberal MPP candidate; Jermaine Chambers, former Conservative MP Candidate from Brampton West; former MP Hon. Gurbax Singh Malhi, Mirza Naseem Baig (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community); Inderjeet Singh Bal, Sandip Sangha among many others.

Everyone present at the event bowed before the almightly for listening to everyone's prayers, especially farmers, and looked forward to the new beginnings as the year 2021 is about to end.

One of the speakers, Ramona Singh highlighted how it is necessary to discuss the functioning of the democratic process today.

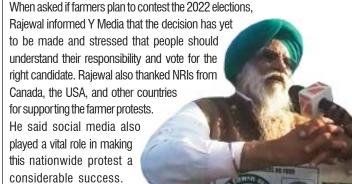
The program was concluded with a keynote speech by Y Media's Group Editor, Yudhvir Jaswal. In his remarks, he thanked the Almighty for the victory of the farmers.

CONTD. ON PAGE 13

Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE: BALBIR SINGH RAJEWAL SAYS 'TRIUMPHANT MOMENT, BUT AGITATION NOT ENDED YET'

POOJA LUTHRA

It was indeed a victorious moment for the farmers and the whole nation when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the repeal of the three controversial farm laws. They received a heroic welcome upon their return to their homes. Their constant rit and perseverance won them a 'guaranteed' MSP for all produce. In an exclusive interview with Y Media, farmer union activist and BKU Rajewal president, Balbir Singh Rajewal said they "suspended the agitation" after receiving positive assurances from the government on their demands but have not ended the protests yet. He said they would decide the course of their actions after meeting the Punjab government. The farmers' leaders would meet on January 15 to review the government's assurances progress. Rajewal tells Y Media, "this Andolan or protest has woken up the people and government of India, and the people must rule democracy."



T CONTD. ON PAGE 13 CONSIDERATE SUCCESS.

Y MEDIA TEAM ORGANIZED SUKHMANI SAHIB PATH AT ONTARIO KHALSA DARBAR, DIXIE RD GURDWARA SAHIB TO SAY THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE PEACEFUL END OF THE FARMERS' PROTEST IN INDIA & WELCOME YEAR 2022.

CANADA 'FAILED YOU, AND FOR THAT WE ARE SORRY. I AM SORRY', DEFENCE MINISTER ANITA ANAND APOLOGIZES TO VICTIMS OF MILITARY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT



Current and former members of the Defence Team and Veterans who have experienced or been affected by sexual assault, sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation received an apology from the institutions that failed to provide them with a safe and inclusive workplace.

I DETAILS ON PAGE 8

CANADA'S LIFELINE IN NEED OF SUPPORT TO SAVE LIVES DURING THE SEASON OF GIVING

ACROSS COUNTRY, OVER 18,000 BLOOD DONATION APPOINTMENTS NEED TO BE FILLED BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 4, 2022.

The festive season can be a very busy time for people, but Canada's Lifeline must be ready to support all patients at all times. Canadian Blood Services has an immediate need for blood and plasma donations, and new registrants for the Canadian Blood Services Stem Cell Registry. Across the country, over 18,000 blood donation appointments need to be filled between now and January 4, 2022.

CANADA'S FOOD PRICE REPORT PROJECTS FOOD COSTS WILL INCREASE BETWEEN 5-7% IN 2022



HALIFAX — Food prices in Canada are going up — again. Canada's Food Price Report 2022 forecasts an overall food price increase of 5% to 7% for the coming year, the highest predicted increase in food prices since the inception of the report twelve years ago. The most significant increases are predicted for dairy and restaurants at 6% to 8%, and bakery and vegetables at 5% to 7%. | DETAILS ON PAGE 7

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX: C-VOTER SURVEY

VICTORY FOR BJP IN 4 STATES; HUNG ASSEMBLY IN PUNJAB WITH AAP IN LEAD





The third ABP News-CVoter Battle for the States Tracker predicts closely-fought victories for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand, the four states which along with Punjab will go to the polls early next year. The tracker suggests that Punjab is heading towards a hung Assembly with no party being able to cross the majority mark. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remains in the leading position, followed by the incumbent Congress.

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- Anti-viral Pill 89% Effective For Highrisk Covid Patients: Pfizer:
- Two doses of Pfizer Provides 33% Protection Against Infection By Omicron Variant, 70% Protection Against Hospitalization: Study.
- Canada Officials Advise Non-essential Travel Amid Omicron Variant.
- Ontario's Science Table Head Says Province Could See 10,000 New Covid-19 Cases Daily By New Year Eve As Omicron Variant Takes Over.
- 90.1% Of Ontarians 12+ Have One Dose, 87.3% Have Two Doses, 9% Have Three Doses.

POLITICAL SENSEX
STATES ELECTIONS
INDIA 2022





MEGA COVERAGE ON ALL Y MEDIA PLATFORMS

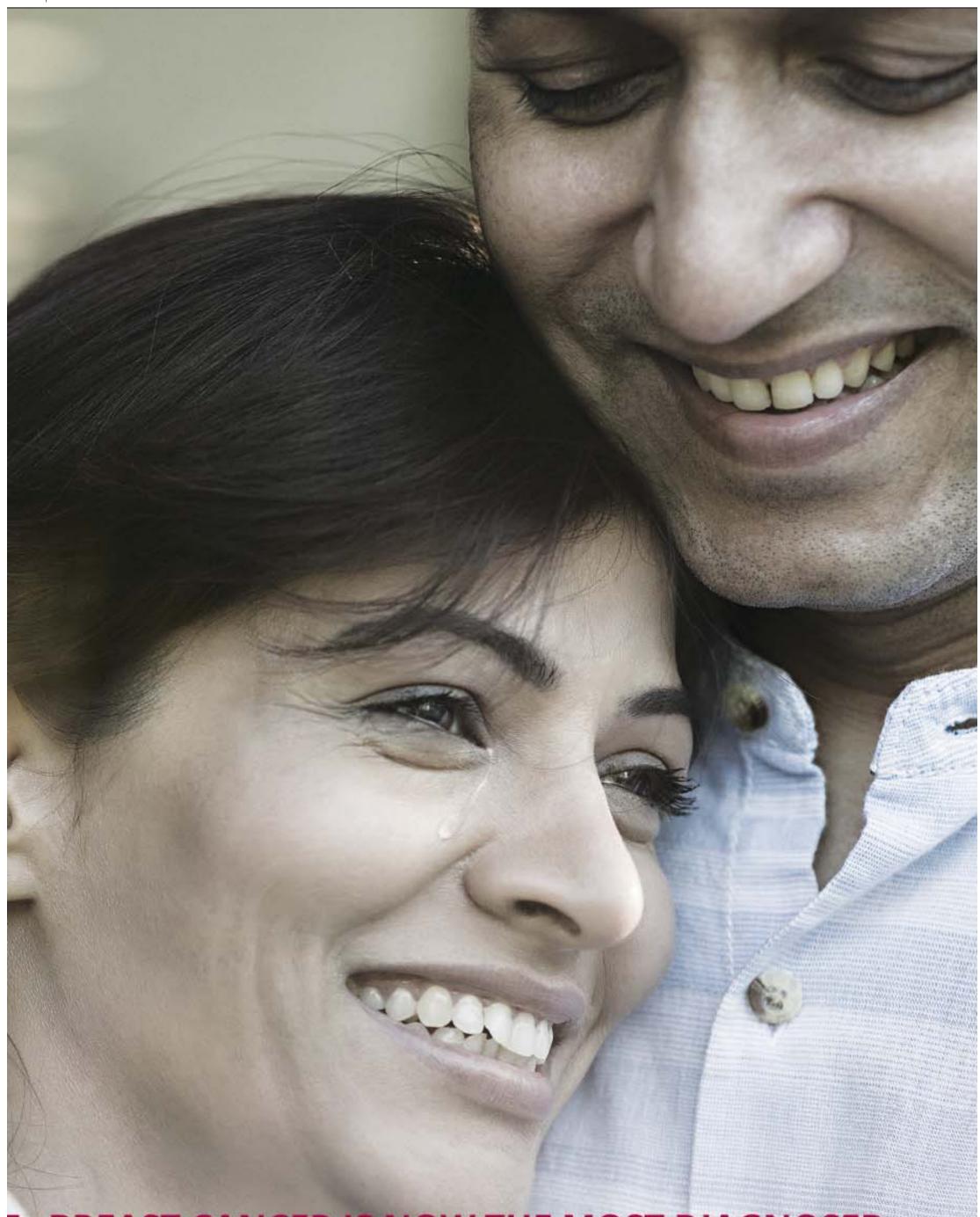
CHANNEL Y

ROGERS: 857, IGNITE TV: 70

RADIO Y MIDWEEK
FM93.9 NEWSPAPER

SOUTHASIANDAILY.com

MidWeek



BREAST CANCER IS NOW THE MOST DIAGNOSED CANCER IN THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

1 IN 8 WOMEN IS EXPECTED TO GET BREAST CANCER IN HER LIFETIME.

MORE THAN 27,000 CANADIANS WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER THIS YEAR.

RESEARCH SAVES LIVES. ASK ANY BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR.

These statistics are staggering but the good news is survival rates continue to improve year after year. The Breast Cancer Society of Canada is front and centre in this effort, funding Canadian research to end breast cancer in our lifetime. But to continue the good work, we need your support.



BREAST CANCER SOCIETY

of Canada

LA SOCIÉTÉ DU CANCER DU SEIN du Canada"

Please support our mission to save lives through breast cancer research.

TO DONATE OR TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT BCSC.CA OR CALL US, TOLL-FREE: 1-800-567-8767



Bank Of Canada Keeps Key Interest Rate On Hold At 0.25%

The Bank of Canada today held its target for the overnight rate at the in recent months that have brought the employment rate essentially effective lower bound of 1/4 percent, with the Bank Rate at 1/2 percent and the deposit rate at 1/4 percent. The Bank's extraordinary forward guidance on the path for the overnight rate is being maintained. The Bank is continuing its reinvestment phase, keeping its overall holdings of Government of Canada bonds roughly constant.

The global economy continues to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic growth in the United States has accelerated, led by consumption, while growth in some other regions is moderating after a strong third guarter. Inflation has increased further in many countries, reflecting strong demand for goods amid ongoing supply disruptions. The new Omicron COVID-19 variant has prompted a tightening of travel restrictions in many countries and a decline in oil prices, and has injected renewed uncertainty. Accommodative financial conditions are still supporting economic activity.

Canada's economy grew by about $5\frac{1}{2}$ percent in the third quarter, as expected. Together with a downward revision to the second quarter, this brings the level of GDP to about 1½ percent below its level in the last quarter of 2019, before the pandemic began. Third-quarter growth was led by a rebound in consumption, particularly services, as restrictions were further eased and higher vaccination rates improved confidence. Persistent supply bottlenecks continued to inhibit growth in other components of GDP, including non-commodity exports and business investment.

Recent economic indicators suggest the economy had considerable momentum into the fourth quarter. This includes broad-based job gains

back to its pre-pandemic level. Job vacancies remain elevated and wage growth has also picked up. Housing activity had been moderating but appears to be regaining strength, notably in resales. The devastating floods in British Columbia and uncertainties arising from the Omicron variant could weigh on growth by compounding supply chain disruptions and reducing demand for some services.

CPI inflation is elevated and the impact of global supply constraints is feeding through to a broader range of goods prices. The effects of these constraints on prices will likely take some time to work their way through, given existing supply backlogs. Gasoline prices, which had been a major factor pushing up CPI inflation, have recently declined. Meanwhile, core measures of inflation are little changed since September. The Bank continues to expect CPI inflation to remain elevated in the first half of 2022 and ease back towards 2 percent in the second half of the year. The Bank is closely watching inflation expectations and labour costs to ensure that the forces pushing up prices do not become embedded in ongoing inflation.

The Governing Council judges that in view of ongoing excess capacity, the economy continues to require considerable monetary policy support. We remain committed to holding the policy interest rate at the effective lower bound until economic slack is absorbed so that the 2 percent inflation target is sustainably achieved. In the Bank's October projection, this happens sometime in the middle quarters of 2022. We will provide the appropriate degree of monetary policy stimulus to support the recovery and achieve the inflation target.

Farmers' Agitation: A timeline of how things unfolded

(IANS): Almost 15 months after the farmers' agitation began against the (now scrapped) farm laws and other issues, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmer unions that led the protest, said on Thursday that it has suspended the agitation after receiving positive assurances from the government on their demands, adding that the borders of Delhi will be cleared by Saturday. The SKM also said that it would hold a review meeting on January 15.

The agitation continued even after the three farm laws — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020 — were repealed by the Parliament, as the farmers' stuck to their demands with legal backing for minimum support price (MSP) for all farmers being the prime demand.

Following is a timeline since these were introduced as Ordinances, led to the farmers' agitation till Thursday's announcement by SKM to suspend the agitation:

June 5, 2020: Centre brings in three Ordinances claiming these will bring in reforms that are long pending; farmers will be able to sell their produce

July-August, 2020: Protests erupt in parts of Puniab against the three farm Bills

September 14, 2020: Government introduces the three Bills in Lok Sabha September 17, 2020: Lok Sabha passes all three farm Bills without debate

September 20, 2020: Rajya Sabha passes the Bills by voice vote September 24, 2020: Punjab farmers declare rail-roko agitation

September 27, 2020: President gives assent to the three farm laws

November 2020: Samyukta Kisan Morcha formed as a consortium of more than two dozen farmers' organizations, mostly from Punjab, but others join in too

November 26, 2020: Farmers' march towards Delhi begins, police put hurdles in many ways, including by digging up highways and spreading

November 27, 2020: Farmers in large numbers reach Singhu border, Tikri border, Ghazipur border, bring in tractors and trolleys, set pandals, langars etc.

November 28, 2020: Government offers to talk with a condition that farmers shift to Burari; farmers demand Ram Lila Maidan as a protest venue. December 3-9, 2020: Government starts talks with farmers, farmers' leaders reject government's proposal of amendment to the three laws December 11, 2020: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) approaches Supreme Court against the three farm laws

January 7-12, 2021: Supreme Court accepts to hear the case; stays implementation of the three laws and appoints a committee to make recommendations

January 20-25, 2021: Farmers reject the government's offers to stay the farm laws for 18 months and insist on repeal

January 26, 2021: Farmers' tractor rally on Republic Day; major clash with police; a set of protesters damage Red Fort, hoist Khalsa flag along with the tricolour

January 27, 2021: A day after the Red Fort drama, Delhi Police forcibly put up barricades at all the borders where farmers' groups are protesting February 14, 2021: Bengaluru-based young activist Disha Ravi arrested for editing and spreading 'toolkit' in support of farmers' agitation

March 5, 2021: Resolution passed by Punjab Vidhan Sabha demanding withdrawal of the three laws

March 19, 2021: Supreme Court-appointed committee submits its report May 27, 2021: Farmers observe 'black day' to mark six months of agita-

June 5, 2021: 'Sampoorn Krantikari Diwas' (Total Revolution Day) by



farmers mark one year of Ordinances that paved the way for three farm

July 22, 2021: 'Kisan Sansad' starts at Jantar Mantar parallelly with the Monsoon Session of Parliament

August 7, 2021: 14 opposition parties' leaders decide to visit 'Kisan

September 5, 2021: 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' held at Muzaffarnagar; farmers declare to oust UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minis-

September 27, 2021: 'Bharat Bandh' call by farmers' consortium gets mixed response; farmers do not enter Delhi, most action in north-west Indian states

September 7, 2021: 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' held at Karnal, action shifts to Haryana

October 4, 2021: Four farmers among those killed when a car runs over protesting farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri in UP

November 17, 2021: Supreme Court appoints retired high court judge to

probe Lakhimpur Kheri case November 19, 2021: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces that

three farm laws would be repealed November 21, 2021: Samyukt Kisan Morcha writes to Prime Minister;

puts forth six demands, including legal backing for MSP

November 22, 2021: Family members of martyrs of Lakhimpur Kheri massacre felicitated by SKM at the Lucknow Kisan Mahapanchayat November 23, 2021: Anil Ghanwat, member, Supreme Court-appointed committee on farm laws, writes to the apex court to release committee's

November 24, 2021: Union Cabinet clears 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021'

November 26, 2021: Farmers' gatherings across India marks Samyukt Kisan Morcha's one year of agitation

November 28, 2021: SKM suspends planned 'Tractor March to Sansad'; thousands of farmers participate in Shetkari Kamgar Mahapanchayat in Mumbai's Azad Maidan

November 29, 2021: First the Lok Sabha, then the Rajya Sabha passed the 'Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021' by voice vote, SKM issues cautious reaction

November 29, 2021: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar hails Prime Minister, saying, "No difference between what he says and

November 30, 2021: Government seeks five names from agitating farmers for inclusion in the proposed committee on MSP

LAKHIMPUR KHERI INCIDENT WAS **WELL PLANNED: SIT**

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, has filed an application before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) to include new sections against the 13 accused to make their offence punishable under attempt to murder charges.

Vidhyaram Diwakar, the SIT investigating officer, filed the application last week in the CJM's court for adding new sections in the warrant, replacing sections 279, 338 and 304A of the IPC.

In his application, the investigating officer pointed out that the incident was wellplanned and a deliberate act, and not of negligence or callousness. The investigating officer has requested to add Sections 307 (attempt to murder), 326 (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code after replacing sections 279 (Rash driving or riding on a public way), 338 (Whoever causes grievous hurt to any person by doing any act so rashly or negligently) and 304A (Causing death by negligence) of the IPC. On October 3, eight people, including four protesting farmers, died after being mowed down by a SUV belonging to Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni's son Ashish Mishra.

A local journalist was also killed in the violence.

The SIT has so far arrested Ashish Mishra, Luvkush, Ashish Pandey, Shekhar Bharti, Ankit Das, Latif, Sishupal, Nandan Singh, Satyam Tripathi, Sumit Jaiswal, Dharmendra Banjara, Rinku Rana and Ullas Trivedi.

They are lodged in the Lakhimpur Kheri district jail.

Meanwhile, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has given two weeks' time to the state government to file a counter-affidavit on Ashish Mishra's bail application. During the hearing of the case, additional advocate general Vinod Shahi apprised the court about the ongoing investigation. Shahi said that statements of a large number of witnesses were still to be recorded.

IN ARMY FOR 43 YEARS, GEN BIPIN RAWAT WAS **WORKING TO MODERNISE INDIAN MILITARY**

After 43 years in service, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat (63) was tasked with making the Indian military modern and capable of dealing with any emerging security challenges on the Northern or Western borders. Unfortunately, his life was cut short after a tragic chopper crash on Wednesday in the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu killed Rawat, his wife and 11 others onboard the ill-fated helicopter.

General Rawat took charge as India's first Chief of Defence Staff on January 1, 2020. The position was created to integrate the three services — Army, Navy and Air Force. The CDS is mandated to facilitate integration, ensure best economical use of resources allocated to the armed forces and bring uniformity in the procurement procedure.

As CDS, General Rawat was also the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.

Later, he was also appointed as the head of the newly-created Department of Military Affairs.

On December 17, 2016, the government had appointed him as the 27th Chief of the Army Staff. He took charge on December 31, 2016, after the retirement of General Dalbir Singh Suhag. He had assured the government that the Army. Navy and Air Force will work as a team and the CDS will ensure integration among the three forces.

US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S APPROVAL RATING LOWEST OVER HANDLING INFLATION, COVID, GUN VIOLENCE

US President Joe Biden's approval rating has fallen to the lowest level over his handling of the economy, Covid-19 pandemic and gun violence, according to an ABC News/lpsos poll. The survey revealed that Americans have named surging inflation as their top concern, Xinhua news agency.

According to the poll, 28 per cent of Americans approved of Biden's handling of inflation, while a majority at 69 per cent, disapproved.

The President has witnessed a drop in approval rates in his handling of the economic recovery, with 41 per cent of Americans approving his handling in December, compared to 47 per cent back in October.

Disapproval rates of Biden's handling of the economy also jumped. Fiftyseven per cent of Americans surveyed disapproved of his handling of the economy, compared to the 53 per cent in October. As the new Omicron Covid variant is spreading across the country, resulting in renewed mask mandates, travel restrictions and booster shots, the President took a significant hit in Americans' faith in his handling of the pandemic. While a majority of Americans (53 per cent) still approve of Biden's response, 45 per cent disapprove, marking a nearly 20-percentage point drop from March, when 72 per cent backed his response. His approval rating slid in his handling of gun violence and crime, as the US has experienced a surge in gun-related violence and deaths this year. Biden faced a 7-percentage point drop in his handling of both issues since October. Two-thirds of Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of gun violence, while 32 per cent approve, the ABC News/lpsos poll found.

Only 36 per cent of Americans approve of his handling of crime while 61 per cent disapprove. Both approval numbers are the lowest since Biden took office this January. The poll was conducted from December 10 to 11, among a random sample of 524 Americans, with a margin of error of 5 per cent.

INDIA WON DIRECT WAR IN 1971, IT WILL **ALSO WIN INDIRECT WAR AGAINST PAK-**INDUCED TERRORISM: RAJNATH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that India has won direct wars with Pakistan and will also win indirect one as well.

Singh was speaking after inaugurating 'Swarnim Vijay Parv' celebration

at India Gate on 50 years of India's 1971 war. Singh said, "After the defeat in 1971, Pakistan is continuously fighting a

proxy war. Pakistan wants to disrupt peace in India by promoting terrorism and other anti-India activities. The Indian forces foiled their plans in 1971 and work to eliminate terrorism from its root is underway. We have won in a direct war and the victory will be ours in an indirect war as well," he added. Talking about strong anti-India sentiment of Pakistan, Singh said, "The anti-India feeling in Pakistan can be seen from the fact that they name their missiles after invaders who attacked India - Ghori, Ghaznavi, Abdali, whereas India's missiles are named Akash, Prithvi, Agni. Now one of our missiles has also been named Sant".

Singh congratulated Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for the successful flight test of indigenously designed and developed helicopter-launcher Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile on December 11. The Defence Minister termed the 1971 war as among the most decisive after two World Wars. "This war tells us that the partition of India on the basis of religion was a historic mistake.



Eligible Ontarians can book their COVID-19 booster dose at Ontario.ca/bookvaccine



INDIVIDUALS AGED 50+ CAN NOW BOOK & RECEIVE BOOSTERDOSE ACROSS ONTARIO.

FINANCE MINISTER CHRYSTIA FREELAND DELIVERS ECONOMIC & FISCAL UPDATE; DEFICIT HIT \$144.5 BILLION

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, released the Economic and Fiscal Update 2021. The document provides Canadians with a transparent report of the nation's finances and updates Canadians on the government's plan to finish the fight against COVID-19, support Canadians and Canadian businesses, and ensure a strong recovery for everyone.

Last year, the Government of Canada put in place an economic response plan with unprecedented measures to meet the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic. The plan is working: Canada has exceeded its goal of creating a million jobs, well ahead of expectations; Canada has the second-fastest jobs recovery in the G7; and Canada has recouped 106 per cent of the jobs lost at the depths of the pandemic, compared to only 83 per cent in the United States. Canada's GDP is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels by the first quarter of 2022.

The best economic policy continues to be a strong public health policy. Canada has a world- leading vaccination campaign with 84 per cent of the eligible population (five years of age and up) having received their first dose, but the Omicron variant of concern is a reminder that work remains to end the pandemic. The Update outlines federal investments to: ensure booster shots are available, free of charge, to all eligible Canadians; procure pediatric vaccines for all eligible children; provide millions of rapid tests to provinces, territories, and Indigenous communities, for free; secure COVID-19 therapeutics; support a standard proof of vaccination credential in all provinces and territories; and more. To protect Canada's economic resilience in the face of possible resurgences of the virus, the government is moving forward on proposed measures including the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit and Local Lockdown Program, which would deliver needed support to local economies and their workers should restrictions be required. Furthermore, the government has laid out a plan to help prevent outbreaks at workplaces and schools, including improvements to indoor ventilation and air quality. It is also moving forward with 10 days of paid sick leave for workers in federally regulated workplaces.

The federal government continues to support Canadians and Canadian businesses in sectors particularly hard hit by the pandemic to foster an inclusive economic recovery. A new \$60-million fund will deliver support for workers in the live performance sector. Targeted support programs will continue to provide wage and rent subsidies to tourism and hospitality businesses, as well



as organizations that are facing deep and enduring losses. To help address labour shortages and help businesses grow, the government is taking action to reduce immigration processing backlogs.

While economic reopenings have created jobs and rejuvenated the economy, they have also brought new global challenges, including inflation. Factors like global supply chain disruptions and climate change impacts are driving up the prices of energy, groceries, and other everyday goods. Yesterday, the Government of Canada renewed the Bank of Canada's two-per-cent inflation target to help ensure that the current inflation rate does not become entrenched. The government is committed to making life more affordable for the middle class and those working hard to join it, including through significant investments in early learning and child care that will save young families thousands of dollars a year.

The government entered the COVID-19 recession with the best net debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7 and has increased Canada's relative advantage over the course of the pandemic. The government will continue to prudently manage public finances and keep the federal debt-to-GDP ratio on a downward track.

"By delivering significant fiscal policy support to the economy and avoiding the harmful austerity policies that followed 2008, our investments have supported a rapid and resilient recovery so far. In fact, we have recovered 106 per cent of the jobs lost at the peak of the pandemic. But we know there is more to do, and the future remains uncertain As Omicron has reminded us, COVID-19 threatens us still. As 2021 draws to a close, finishing the fight against COVID-19 remains our most important national project," Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance said.

ANTI-VIRAL PILL 89% EFFECTIVE FOR HIGH-RISK COVID PATIENTS: PFIZER



Pfizer on Tuesday announced that the final analysis of Paxlovid, its antiviral pill against Covid, has shown it to be 89 per cent effective in reducing hospitalisation or death in high-risk patients.

The findings confirm the interim results, announced last month, based on an analysis of 1,200 people. The final results evaluated data from 2,246 adults who were enrolled by November 4.

The US drugmaker added that its recent lab data suggests that Paxlovid retains its effectiveness against the hyper-mutated Omicron variant. In the study, each patient was randomised to receive Paxlovid or placebo orally every 12 hours for five days. None of the participants in the trial who received the Pfizer treatment died, compared with 12 deaths among placebo recipients. "This news provides further corroboration that our oral antiviral candidate, if authorised or approved, could have a meaningful impact on the lives of many, as the data further support the efficacy of Paxlovid in reducing hospitalisation and death and show a substantial decrease in viral load. This underscores the treatment candidate's potential to save the lives of patients around the world," said Albert Bourla, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer. "Emerging variants of concern, like Omicron, have exacerbated the need for accessible treatment options for those who contract the virus, and we are confident that, if authorised or

approved, this potential treatment could be a critical tool to help quell the pandemic," he added. Pfizer also released early data from a second clinical trial showing that the treatment reduced hospitalisations by around 70 per cent in around 600 standard-risk adults.

The company expects authorisation for use in high-risk individuals from the US Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies soon. A full course of Pfizer's treatment is three pills taken twice daily for five days. Two of the pills are an experimental antiviral called nirmatrelvir, the third pill is an existing HIV drug called ritonavir. Nirmatrelvir is designed to block the activity of an enzyme that the coronavirus needs to replicate. Co-administration with a low dose of ritonavir helps slow the metabolism, or breakdown, of nirmatrelvirin order for it to remain active in the body for longer periods of time at higher concentrations to help combat the virus, the company said. Nirmatrelvir has shown consistent in vitro antiviral activity against the previously identified variants of concerns (i.e., Alpha, Beta, Delta, Gamma, Lambda, and Mu). In addition, nirmatrelvir potently inhibited the enzyme associated with Omicron in an in vitro biochemical assay, the company said. "This indicates nirmatrelvir's potential to maintain robust antiviral activity against Omicron. Additional in vitro antiviral studies with this variant are underway," it added.

ONE IN EVERY 100 SENIORS IN US DIED OF COVID-19, CDC DATA SHOW



WASHINGTON: A total of 590,089 people aged 65 and older have died from Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic, out of the 54.1 million individuals in this age population, according to US Census Bureau figures. By December 8, a total of 178,912 seniors aged between 65 and 74 have died from Covid-19. The 75-84 age group saw 203,422 deaths, while the 85 years and older group saw 2,07,755 deaths, CDC data show. For people younger than 65, nearly 1 in about 1,400 Americans have died from Covid-19, The New York Times reported.

Senior American citizens had suffered more than other age groups from the pandemic. They have been known to be more vulnerable to severe cases and deaths, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US is bracing for a winter surge, driven by the Delta variant and the new Omicron strain. Covid-19 cases have increased by about 45 per cent since November. The new threats have been especially stressful for senior citizens. Omicron infection cases have been found in at least 29 US states as of Monday, CDC data show.

UK PM WARNS OF 'OMICRON TIDAL WAVE', SETS NEW BOOSTER TARGET

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned that the nation will see a 'tidal wave' of Covid's Omicron variant, even as the country's coronavirus alert level was raised to four due to the spread of the super mutant strain of the lethal virus.

Level four means a high or rising level of transmission - the last time the UK was at this level was in May.

Declaring an "Omicron emergency", Johnson also set a new booster target - the third doses will be offered to everyone over 18 in England from this week, three months after their second dose, the BBC reported.

"No one should be in any doubt, there is a tidal wave of Omicron coming," Boris Johnson said on Sunday.

People have been told to work from home from Monday "if they can", as part of the UK government's introduction of Plan B measures.

"I'm afraid we're now facing an emergency in our battle with the new variant Omicron," said Johnson.

"It is now clear that two doses of vaccine are simply not enough to give the level of protection we all need. But the good news is that our scientists are confident that with a third dose, a booster dose, we can all bring our level of protection back up." "At this point our scientists cannot say that Omicron is less severe.

"And even if that proved to be true, we already know it is so much more transmissible that a wave of Omicron through a population that was not boosted would risk a level of hospitalisation that could overwhelm our NHS and lead sadly to very many deaths."

Johnson noted that to reach the new jab target, certain other medical appointments would need to be postponed to the New Year. Some general practitioners are already allowed to postpone routine health checks to make space for vaccinations, the report said.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Sajid Javid on Monday, confirmed that 10 people in England are hospitalised with Omicron, with no deaths confirmed. However, he told BBC Breakfast that 40 per cent of all Covid cases in London were of the variant, which was spreading at a "phenomenal rate". Asked whether the new measures were excessive, Javid said it was important to act now, given the lag in hospitalisations in deaths that follow a rise in cases - even if Omicron turns out to be milder than other variants. Early data suggests that getting a third booster dose gives an individual around 70-75 per cent protection against symptomatic infection from Omicron. More than half a million booster jabs and third doses were given in the UK on Saturday. A further 1,239 new cases of Omicron were announced in the UK on Sunday, bringing the total number of UK Omicron cases to more than 3,000. The real number is estimated to be much higher, the report said.

BARRY AND HONEY SHERMAN HOMOCIDE: TORONTO INVESTIGATORS RELEASE VIDEO OF SUSPECT TO BE IDENTIFIED



On Sunday, December 15, 2017, police responded to a 9-1-1 call at 50 Old Colony Road and located the bodies of Barry and Honey Sherman. The cause of death was determined to be ligature neck compression. Homicide took carriage of the investigation. It is believed the Shermans were killed on December 13, 2017.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2021, investigators released a video of a person identified as a suspect in this case.

Since December 2017, the investigative team has taken numerous steps to identify the person on the video, including:

- requesting video analysis of law enforcement partners such as the
 Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ontario Provincial Police
 the TPS Forensic Video Analysis Unit conducting Forensic Photogram-
- metry experiments
- obtaining judicial authorization to collect data from nearby cell phone towers

- neighbourhood witness canvasses for information
These efforts have not resulted in the positive identification of the person in the video. "We have remained steadfast in our commitment to bring closure to the Sherman family, their friends, loved ones and the community," said Detective Sergeant Brandon Price, lead investigator from Homicide. "Through our investigation, we have determined that this individual's purpose in the neighbourhood is unexplained. The timing of his appearance is in line with when we believe the murders took place. Based on this evidence, we are classifying this individual as a suspect. It is our hope that someone will come forward with a name when they recognize the individual's walk, the way in which they kick up their right foot with every step, knowing that the person was or is connected to the Sherman family or the area on that day, at that time."

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX, 5 STATES ELECTIONS: C-VOTER SURVEY

Preferred CM Candidate

Candidate	December '21
Arvind Kejriwal (AAP)	23.7
Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD)	17.5
Capt. Amrinder Singh (INC)	2.3
Bhagwant Mann (AAP)	12.8
Navjot Singh Siddhu (INC)	4.7
Charanjit Channi (Congress)	32.9
Others	6.1

SAD-BSP WILL FORM NEXT GOVT IN PUNJAB: MAYAWAT

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Tuesday said that founder, late Kanshi Ram, also belonged to Punjab. the Shiromani Akali Dal-BSP alliance would form the next government in Punjab with a clear majority.

Reiterating her party's alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), she said they would soon launch the campaign for the Punjab Assem-

"When the SAD-BSP will contest the elections in Punjab, the Congress will be wiped out," she said while talking to the media on Tuesday.

Mayawati said the BSP- SAD alliance would free Punjab "of the misrule of the Congress party with victory in the 2022 Assembly election." She said that Punjab held a special place in her heart and BSP

UTTAR PRADESH		PROJECTED RANGE OF SEATS	
Alliance Seats	2017 Results	Dec '21	
		From	То
BJP+	325	212	224
SP+	48	151	163
BSP	19	12	24
INC	7	2	10
Others	4	2	6
Total	403	403	

MANIPUR		PROJECTED RA	ANGE OF SEATS
Alliance Seats	2017 Results	Dec '21	
		From	То
INC	28	23	27
BJP	21	29	33
NPF	4	2	6
Others	7	0	2
Total	60	60	

PUNJAB PROJECTED RANGE OF SE		NGE OF SEATS	
Alliance Seats		Dec '21	
		From	То
INC	77	39	45
SAD	15	17	23
AAP	20	50	56
ВЈР	3	0	3
Others	2	0	1
Total	117	117	

GC	DA	PROJECTED RA	NGE OF SEATS
Alliance Seats	2017 Results	Dec '21	
		From	То
INC+	17	4	8
ВЈР	13	17	21
AAP	0	5	9
Others	10	6	10
Total	40	40	

UTTARAKHAND		PROJECTED RANGE OF SEATS	
Alliance Seats	2017 Results	Dec '21	
		From	То
INC	11	29	35
ВЈР	57	33	39
AAP	0	1	3
Others	2	0	1
Total	70	7	0

a	Candidate	December '21
Preferred CM Candidate UTTARAKHAND	Harish Rawat (INC)	33.5
	Pushkar Singh Dhami (BJP)	26.6
	Anil Baluni (BJP)	18.0
d Cr ARA	Col. Ajay Kothiyal (AAP)	8.9
erre CTT	B. C. Khandoori (BJP)	3.5
refe	Satpal Maharaj (BJP)	1.5
4	Others	8.0

Meanwhile, BSP national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra has embarked on a three-day visit to the poll-bound Punjab.

On Tuesday, he will participate in the foundation day programme of SAD organised in Moga. Later, he will discuss the election strategy with top SAD leaders, including Prakash Singh Badal, Sukhbir Singh Badal and Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Mishra will meet BSP office-bearers and workers in Chandigarh. After that, he will attend a meeting of BSP-SAD candidates for the 2022 Assembly election and other leaders.

The BSP, sources said, had decided to field candidates on 20 Assembly seats while SAD would contest on 97 seats. IANS

VICTORY FOR BJP IN 4 STATES; HUNG ASSEMBLY IN PUNJAB WITH AAP IN LEAD

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

As per the opinion poll, in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav remain the two leading candidates for the CM's post. As per the latest figures, BJP is retaining the state with 212-224 out of 403 seats, followed by SP with 151-163 seats, with the Bahujan Samaj Party a distant third with 12-24 seats.

In terms of vote share, BJP is in pole position with 40.4 per cent votes, followed by SP at 33.6 per cent and the BSP at 13.2 per cent.

In Punjab, the repeal of farm laws and suspension of protests by the farmers promise to make an exciting finale to the elections. This month's Tracker puts AAP in the lead, maintaining its earlier position with 50-56 seats. The incumbent Congress is second with 39-45 seats, followed by SAD with 17-23 seats.

In terms of vote share, AAP is leading with 38.4 per cent votes, followed by Congress at 34.1 per cent and SAD at 20.4 per cent.

In Uttarakhand, BJP is consistently maintaining its lead position with 33-39 seats and is set to retain power in the state. The Congress is a close second with 29-35 seats, followed by AAP in a distant third with 1-3 seats. In terms of vote share, BJP is leading the way with 39.8 per cent votes, followed by Congress at 35.7 per cent, and AAP 12.6 per cent.

In Goa, BJP continues to remain the most popular party as it is winning 17-21 seats. AAP and Congress are in a tight battle for the second spot with AAP winning 5-9 seats and Congress winning 4-8 seats. Other regional parties and new entrants in Goa politics are also going to be major factors, winning 6-10 seats.

In terms of vote share, BJP is leading with 30 per cent votes, followed by others at 25.9 per cent and AAP and Congress at 24.4 per cent and 19.7 per cent, respectively. In Manipur, BJP is set to win a closely-fought contest against Congress. The saffron party is winning 29-33 seats, while Congress is winning 23-27 seats.

In terms of vote share, BJP will get 37.9 per cent votes, followed by Congress at 34.3 per cent.

The current projections are based on CVoter daily tracking poll conducted between November 13 and December 9, among 18+ adults, including likely voters.



CEO OF TESLA &SPACEX, ELONMUSK NAMED TIME'S PERSON OF **THE YEAR 2021.**

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT RELAUNCHES **IMMIGRANT INVESTOR PROGRAM WITH 100** MIGRANTS PLEDGING \$200,000 EACH



WATERLOO — Ontario is recruiting 100 international entrepreneurs to start or grow businesses in regions outside of the Greater Toronto Area that have been hit hard by pandemic job losses through the Entrepreneur Stream of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP). This initiative will create more local jobs in a variety of sectors including information technology, life sciences, and tourism while bringing new investments to cities and towns often overlooked by entrepreneurs.

Through this two-year project, international entrepreneurs will be able to purchase or start new companies, hire local workers and drive economic growth in their new communities.

"As we continue to build back better, we want people across Ontario – no matter where they live - to find rewarding, well-paying careers in their communities," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "Our government is working for workers and spreading the jobs and opportunities that entrepreneurs bring to every corner of our province, not just our big cities."

Each entrepreneur who is selected will be required to invest a minimum of \$200,000 into their business – generating at least \$20 million for Ontario's economy. The project will prioritize applications from entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their business outside of the GTA, especially in communities hit hard by job losses resulting from COVID-19. Although the Entrepreneur Stream of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program was initially established in 2015, only two nominations have been made to date. To improve this program, this project will better support entrepreneurs that apply and help connect them with business opportunities that best fit them.



Come & support your local vendors & help the community to turn the corner into economic recovery







Meet with your favourite RJs LISTEN LIVE 91.9FM











THE SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

A US sponsored two-day virtual democracy summit wrapped up last week. It was promised by President Joe Biden during his election campaign last year, as he wanted to show that the US has departed from the "America First philosophy of his predecessor Donald Trump and instead will focus on an event that was more about starting a global conversation about how best to halt backsliding than producing immediate results or expanding democracys reach.

Biden and fellow leaders announced initiatives to stem autocracies from misusing big tech to stifle dissent, enhance election integrity, bolster independent media and other modest efforts that the president said would "seed fertile ground for democracies to bloom around the world".

But he also acknowledged that he path ahead was difficult for democracies amid a rise of authoritarianism around the globe. "We know how hard the work is that's going to be ahead of us, but we also know that we are up to the challenge," he said in remarks to close the

However, Biden has been criticised over the guest list of the summit as well as that the summit was targeted at China and Russia and not other autocratic governments and it also missed out on inviting the middle-eastern leaders.

Chinese and Russian Criticism

Both China and Russia fiercely criticised the summit, with their ambassadors writing a joint essay ahead of the gathering. They wrote the Biden administration's decision to hold the summit reflected a â • ~ Cold-War mentality' that may stoke up ideological confrontation and cause rift globally.

China, irate over Taiwan's participation, produced a long white paper on the advantages of the Chinese model of democracy. It extoled that there is no fixed model of democracy; it manifests itself in many forms. But the West propagate the principles of One Person, One Vote and party competition underlying the western electoral system as the sole criterion for democracy.

The White House also faced scrutiny over nations invited to the summit. According to CIVICUS Monitor, a group that monitors civic freedoms across the globe, only 5% of the population of the 111 countries represented at the summit live in countries where the right to free speech, right to protest and other core civic rights are fully

Several countries identified due to concerns raised by civil society groups and the US State Department for their serious anti-democratic trends or human rights concerns â. "including India, Iraq, Pakistan, Poland, Ukraine and the Philippines â." were invited.

In its 2021 report on political freedoms, Freedom House lists Washington's duplicity on the issue more clearly. The report gives Hungary a score of sixty-nine, putting it in the "partially free" category. But Ukraine receives an even more insipid score of sixtyâ • "continuing its steady decline over the past several years. India's score is sixtyseven; the Philippines - fifty-six; Kosovo - fifty-four; and Pakistan, a dismal thirty-sevenâ • "barely keeping that country out of the "unfree" category. Critics say that the tactic for smaller countries with highly questionable



CHINA, IRATE OVER TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION, PRODUCED A LONG WHITE PAPER ON THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CHINESE MODEL OF DEMOCRACY. IT EXTOLED THAT THERE IS NO FIXED MODEL OF DEMOCRACY; IT MANIFESTS ITSELF IN MANY FORMS. BUT THE WEST PROPAGATE THE PRINCIPLES OF ONE PERSON, ONE **VOTE AND PARTY COMPETITION UNDERLYING THE WESTERN ELECTORAL SYSTEM AS THE SOLE CRITERION** FOR DEMOCRACY. THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO FACED SCRUTINY OVER NATIONS INVITED TO THE SUMMIT. ACCORDING TO CIVICUS MONITOR, A GROUP THAT MONITORS CIVIC FREEDOMS ACROSS THE GLOBE, ONLY 5% OF THE POPULATION OF THE 111 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE SUMMIT LIVE IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH, RIGHT TO PROTEST AND OTHER CORE CIVIC RIGHTS ARE FULLY RESPECTED. SEVERAL COUNTRIES IDENTIFIED DUE TO CONCERNS RAISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS AND THE US STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERIOUS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC TRENDS OR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS Â." INCLUDING INDIA, IRAQ, PAKISTAN, POLAND, UKRAINE AND THE PHILIPPINES •" WERE INVITED.

democratic credentials to get Washington's invite for the democracy summit was to obediently follow the US lead on important international issues.

Jen Psaki, the White House Press Secretary, described the invitations as not intended as a â. stamp of approval but the administration's desire to seek a diverse range of voices and faces and representatives at the discussion.

The US stance

As per the protagonists of The Summit for Democracy, it had a larger geopolitical ambition. It reflects a prominent view within the Biden administration that assembling a global coalition of democracies can counter China's rise and continued Russian aggression.

Biden has repeatedly made a case that the like-minded allies and US need to show the world that democracies are a far better vehicle for societies than autocracies. It is a central tenet of Biden's foreign policy outlook. But his first year in office has been a period that he says has been marked by a "backward slide" for democracy around the globe.

The initiative, also called for establishing a voluntary written code of conduct meant to guide government and tech companies on human rights criteria for export and licensing policy. Under the global charter for digital public goods, governments, civil society groups, software engineers and tech companies would declare principles for open source tech products. Biden also pledged that the US would spend up to \$424 million in the next year around the world to support independent media, anti-corruption work and more.

However, the choice of panellists to reflect US's views also courted controversy. Brad Smith, president of Microsoft, spoke on how to use â•~technology for democracy'. John Brothers, president of the billionaire investment giant T. Rowe Price, which holds a massive investment'. Kent Walker, president of Global Affairs for Google, which has publicly admitted to censoring the World Socialist Web Site, spoke of how private enterprises can aid â • "democracy.' Critics assert that the people who could be described as holding a completely contrary position on these issues were invited to speak on how to tackle them, which seems quite farcical.

Biden said it was also a moment for the United States to look inward about shoring up its own democratic institutions, he said, that the sacred right to vote, to vote freely, the right to have your vote counted is the threshold liberty for democracy. But this dos not match with what is really happening in the US, movements like Black Lives Matter raised the issue of racial and colour discrimination, on which the Summit was completely silent.

The overall conclusion seems to be that the Summit for Democracy would have been more effective had it remained focused on strengthening and defending democracy rather than highlighting contradictions between democracies and authoritarian rules.

As some critics pointed out behind the pretences of defending democracy against meddling autocrats, lies Washington's drive to maintain its global economic hegemony. The case for democracy is simple: Democracy is the only political vehicle, which could protect minority voices while also protecting the rights of journalists, citizens, and opposition leaders to criticise their government. It also underlined the continuous efforts by President Biden to leave a political legacy.

Disclaimer: Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. 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

MONTREAL - 514-819-0506

MidWeek

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL: 416-475-5000

E-MAIL: FOR ADVERTISING 'YMEDIA@SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM'

YUDHVIR JASWAL CHIEF EDITOR & CEO yudhvir@southasiandaily.com 647-272-8182

GURPREET SINGH LOONA

CONTENT EDITOR

DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SIA LAKHANPAL REBECCA TANDON POOJA LUTHRA REPORTERS

SUNIL VERMA GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

IMRAN MAHMOUD

PHOTOGRAPHERS

BASHIR NASIR **PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Newspaper

MIDWEEK NEWS WEEKLY

Published in English every Tuesday

Radio

SOUTHASIAN PULSE

Prime Time Mon to Fri - 10:00 AM to 12 Noon on 770AM Drive Time Mon to Fri - 3:00 PM to 6 PM on 91.9 FM

LISTEN TO SOUTH ASIAN PULSE RADIO ON YOUR MOBILE GTA-(647) 910 5000, US - 518-801-1313

Television

CHANNEL Y Rogers 857 Bell 828

Online

Yupp TV

WWW.SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM

ONLY News Portal for Southasian-Canadians

Cricket

CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL CRICKET (CPC)

6th Annual CPC Inter-City Cricket Cup Starting June 2013 6 Months of Non-stop cricket action

Events

Annual

Midweek Southasian Awards



19 HOURS DAILY

ww.SOUTHASIANDAILY



PM TRUDEAU FOCUSES ON PROTECTING **DEMOCRACY AT SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY**

Respecting human rights and freedoms, holding free and fair elections, and adhering to the rule of law are essential for our democracies to thrive. By protecting, promoting, and expanding our democratic values and institutions, we will create a more secure, stable, and prosperous world for future generations.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today joined leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector at the Summit for Democracy, to take collective action to strengthen and revitalize democracy, and tackle the greatest threats facing our democracies. The virtual event, hosted by the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, comes at a time when democracies around the world are facing unprecedented challenges. In Canada's national statement, Prime Minister Trudeau will emphasize that democracy is not something countries can take for granted, and that leaders need to work together to constantly renew our democracies so that they continue to deliver for people. He will also affirm that Canada remains committed to working collaboratively with governments and defenders of democracy, including journalists, civil society leaders, academics, and beyond, to promote democratic renewal at home and abroad. To advance democracy and defend against authoritarianism, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of a new Canadian centre to better support democracy and good governance around the world. Canada will also strengthen its capacity to provide fast and flexible support to fragile or emerging democracies through international assistance and diplomatic efforts. This will improve the timeliness, flexibility, and agility of responses to sudden democratic and human rights crises.

To continue to advance respect for human rights, the Prime Minister announced that Canada will provide \$5 million in additional funding to the Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2021. Canada will also increase support for the US State Department's emergency assistance and capacity building programs focused on protecting LGBTQ2 persons, religious minorities, and civil society organizations (CSO) through contributions of \$1 million each to the Global Equality Fund, the International Religious Freedom Fund, and the Lifeline Embattled CSO Fund.

The Prime Minister also highlighted Canada's strong global leadership to address arbitrary detention by establishing the Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations, which has been endorsed by more than 65 states. In 2022, Canada will continue to demonstrate leadership to advance shared democratic values and ideals as Chair of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Chair of the Freedom Online Coalition, and Co-chair of the Media Freedom

The Government of Canada recognizes that for democracy to prosper, it must be inclusive. That is why the Prime Minister announced that Canada will increase its support for women's leadership and political participation through a new contribution of \$1 million to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy with a focus on ASEAN countries.

Digital technologies possess enormous potential for public good, but we must ensure that the rights and freedoms that individuals enjoy offline are also protected online. Canada has been a champion for digital inclusion and human rights online, including the freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, as well as online privacy. The Prime Minister announced a call for proposals, with a value of \$3 million to support innovative initiatives to ensure that technology supports democracy and open societies.

CANADA'S LIFELINE IN NEED OF SUPPORT TO SAVE LIVES DURING THE SEASON OF GIVING

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

For many patients, the need for blood goes hand-in-hand with the need for other blood products such as plasma and platelets. Stem cell recipients often need additional blood products as part of their treatment to beat illnesses such as cancer. Canadian Blood Services is asking for your support to ensure patients have access to the products and treatments they need this season and going forward into the New Year. "Canadian Blood Services is calling on you, whether you've donated before or this would be your first time giving, to support Canada's Lifeline," says Dr. Graham Sher, Chief Executive Officer. "In addition to blood and plasma, there is also an immediate need for people to join the Canadian Blood Services Stem Cell Registry." Greg Duerksen of British Columbia is grateful for Canada's Lifeline, having received a stem cell transplant and platelet transfusions to treat acute myeloid leukemia. Stem cells, specifically blood stem cells, are immature cells that can develop into any cell present in the bloodstream. They can be used to treat more than 80 blood diseases and disorders. However, for stem cells to be transplanted successfully, donor and recipient must be a close genetic match. After not having a match within his family, Greg's medical team turned to the Canadian Blood Services Stem Cell Registry and thankfully they found a donor. "Throughout the pandemic we've relied on dedicated donors to help patients in any way they've been able, whether that has been through blood, plasma, platelet donations, volunteering at donor events, financial gifts or donations of stem cells and organs and tissues," says Dr. Sher. "We appreciate your commitment and I want you to know that you have helped save and improve lives with your selfless generosity. I am confident and hopeful that people across the country will respond, yet again, to our current call for donors." Supporters of Canada's Lifeline are needed year-round, but especially during holidays. Because of statutory holidays during the month of December, several collection opportunities will be lost. Select donor centres across the country will be open on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, in addition to regularly scheduled operating hours. Appointments are necessary as part of the COVID-19 protocol, and enhanced wellness measures continue to be in place in donor centres. We urge eligible individuals between the ages of 17 and 35 to join Canadian Blood Services Stem Cell Registry online.

This season join Canada's Lifeline and give the greatest gift of all – the gift of life.

AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA REPORT STATES PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA FALLS SHORT ON ENFORCEMENT OF BORDER CONTROL MEASURES

Today, a report from Auditor General Karen Hogan, tabled in the House of Commons, concludes that the Public Health Agency of Canada improved its verification of traveller compliance with mandatory quarantine orders, but that significant gaps remained in the Agency's administration of additional border control measures intended to limit the introduction into Canada of the COVID-19 virus and its variants. The audit found that the Agency was better able to track whether incoming travellers complied with guarantine orders compared to May and June 2020, when it did not know the status of 66% of incoming travellers. As of June 2021, the percentage of untracked incoming travellers had dropped to 37%. This improvement was tied to the move to collecting travellers' contact information electronically rather than on paper. "Though the Public Health Agency of Canada improved its results, this is not a success story", stated Ms. Hogan. "The Agency's inability to confirm whether more than a third travellers complied with quarantine orders remains a significant problem."

OVER HALF A MILLION FEWER SURGERIES HAVE BEEN PERFORMED IN CANADA SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC: CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

Canadian hospitals have performed 560,000 fewer surgeries since the start of the pandemic, compared with previous years. According to new data released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), the largest decline occurred during Wave 1 while the system was adjusting to accommodate the anticipated large volume of COVID-19 patients. On average, surgeries decreased by about 35,000 per month. The biggest decreases were seen in cataract surgeries (an average of 5,900 fewer surgeries performed per month) and hip and knee joint replacements (an average of 2,100 fewer per month). Surgeries resumed to near pre-pandemic levels during the summer and fall of 2020 but declined again in spring 2021 as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations surged, particularly in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Increasing COVID-19 infections in the community impacted emergency department visits Between March 2020 and June 2021, visits to emergency departments (EDs) were down on average by over 20% compared with before the pandemic. Decreases were seen across all levels of triage (the prioritization of patients based on the urgency of their condition). However, the biggest drop in the number of visits was for those with the least-urgent conditions. In terms of demographics, the largest decrease in ED visits (50%) occurred among children aged 0 to 4. This could be due to parents avoiding care in the ED for less urgent conditions because of potential COVID-19 exposure, as well as reduced transmission of seasonal respiratory viruses stemming from public health measures (such as school closures, masking and social distancing).

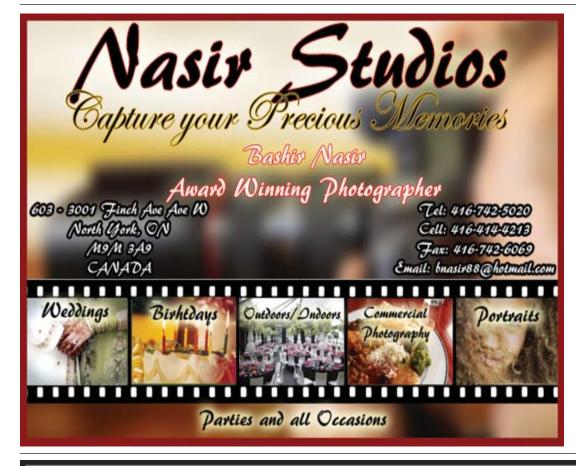
CANADA'S FOOD PRICE REPORT PROJECTS FOOD COSTS WILL INCREASE BETWEEN 5-7% IN 2022

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"It's important for consumers to understand that food prices have been going up for some time, and there's no turning back," says Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, project lead and Director of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University. "Our relationship with food is changing, and so will our food budgets. Showing up at the grocery store knowing what you should be paying will help."

This year's report predicts that a family of four, including a man (age 31-50), woman (age 31-50), boy (age 14-18), and girl (age 9-13) will pay up to \$14,767.36 for food, an increase of up to \$966.08 from the total annual cost in 2021.

Food price increases in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and Saskatchewan will likely be higher than the national average in 2022, while price increases in the remaining provinces will be lower. "Most Canadians could eat more vegetables," says Dr. Kelleen Wiseman, UBC campus lead. "The forecasted increase in this healthy food category is worrying from a public health perspective because consumers might be tempted to further reduce their consumption of fresh and mainstream vegetables. However, options are available in selecting alternative vegetables or frozen vegetables — which can provide high nutritional value at a lower price point." Canada's Food Price Report 2022 focuses on COVID-19-related disruptions to the food supply chain, climate change and adverse weather effects, labour force challenges, high inflation, and food transportation challenges.



ACCOUNTANT

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- General Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Business Plans & Cash Flow Statements
- HST, WSIB, EHT & Payroll Tax Returns
- Compilation of Financial Statements
- Business & Personal Tax Returns





www.surajgupta.ca

SURAJ GUPTA, CPA, CGA CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT 905-677-1334

2355 Derry Road East, Suite 33(2nd Floor), Mississauga, ON L5S 1V6 (Derry/Torbram) E: suraj@surajgupta.ca



Pankaj Monga, CFP, CLU, CHS

Certified Financial Planner

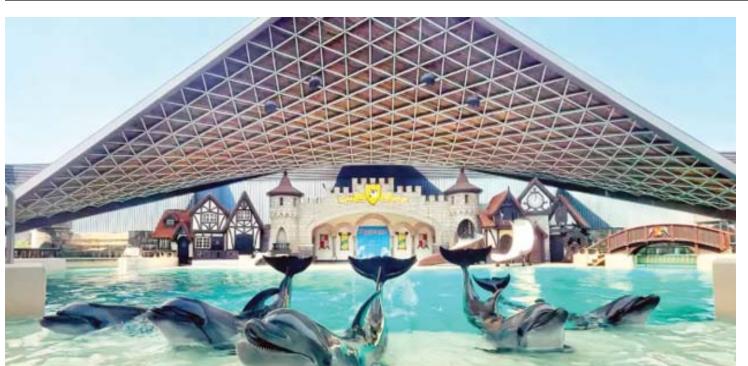
Life, Critical illness, Disability & Travel Insurance, RRSP, RESP & TFSA

416-907-4420





4255 Sherwoodtown Blvd. Suite #109 Mississauga, ON L4Z 1Y5



Marineland Of Canada Has Been Criminally Charged By Niagara Police For **Putting On Illegal Whale And Dolphin Shows For Entertainment Purposes**

In October of 2021, 2 District (Niagara Falls) detectives commenced On Monday, December 13, 2021, detectives issued the following an investigation into allegations of the use of captive cetacean at a Niagara Falls theme park (Marineland).

During the investigation, it was found that dolphins and whales were utilized for entertainment purposes during the month of August, without being authorized to do so following an amendment to the Criminal Code under Bill S-203 on June 21, 2019.

charge to the corporation of Marineland:

- Use captive cetacean for performance for entertainment purposes without authorization pursuant to a licence contrary to 445.2(4) of the Criminal Code.

Marineland will appear at the Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse on February 14, 2022, to answer the charges.

CANADA 'FAILED YOU, AND FOR THAT WE ARE SORRY. I AM SORRY', DEFENCE MINISTER ANITA ANAND APOLOGIZES TO VICTIMS OF MILITARY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence, apologized on behalf of the Government of Canada. General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff, apologized on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister of National Defence, apologized on behalf of the Department of National Defence (DND).

This apology acknowledged the suffering of members of our Defence Team and Veterans, the lived experience of those who have been impacted, and those who have come forward to share their experiences in the hopes of driving positive change. Today, the Government of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Department of National Defence acknowledged responsibility for their failure to effectively prevent sexual misconduct and discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. These institutions re-stated today their commitment to positive culture change, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and providing a safe and inclusive workplace. The Defence Team will continue to undertake critical work to restore trust and repair harm for those who have been impacted.

Everyone will process the apology in their own way and in their own time. The apology may evoke strong emotional responses either in the moment or later on. Should you or someone you know have experienced an incident of sexual misconduct, there are resources available to support current and former members of the Defence Team. The Sexual Misconduct Response Centre (SMRC) provides 24/7 confidential support by telephone at 1-844-750-1648 and by email at DND.SMRC-CIIS.MDN@forces.gc.ca. A trained counsellor will take the call, listen, discuss the kind of resources best suited to the individual's needs, and help with any next steps. The SMRC is independent of the CAF chain of command and counsellors do not have a duty to report.

Department of National Defence, we are deeply sorry for the harm that our institutions caused.

"I acknowledge that successive governments have failed to stamp out sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation in the military. To all Canadians who signed up to serve our country and answered the call of service only to find that you

were disrespected and justice eluded you: we are sorry. I am sorry," Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence, said on behalf of the Government of Canada. General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff, on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces, said "I acknowledge – we acknowledge – the pain that far too many of you have endured because of years of insufficient action by our institutional leadership and we recognize the terrible toll this has had on you, your loved ones and families. I extend my most sincere and heartfelt apologies to all members of the Defence Team, past and present, whose service to our country has subjected them to the harm of sexual misconduct or discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identify or sexual orientation. We recognize this apology will mean different things to each and every one of you. It is my most profound hope that it will come to represent an important step in our journey towards healing."

"I offer this apology with humility, with remorse for the enormity of the distress caused, and without any expectation that my words alone will be sufficient to atone for harm done. I offer it as just one action of many now underway, and soon to come, to address past and current wrongs, and to support — as much as possible — every person's path to healing," Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister of National Defence, said on behalf of the Department of National Defence.

QUICK FACTS

There were close to 19,000 claims filed in the DND/CAF Sexual Misconduct Class Action Settlement.

As part of the settlement, the Restorative Engagement program recently launched on November 15 and is currently at initial operational capability, is national in scope. The initial group of claimants contacted to participate is small to ensure that all of the necessary resources, supports, and systems are in place to proceed with contacting a larger group of class members, beginning in 2022.

A claimant may modify their claim to express interest in the Restorative On behalf of the Government of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Engagement program, provided their claim was submitted on or before November 24, 2021.

> The Independent External Comprehensive Review, led by Madame Arbour, continues. Interim recommendations were provided on October 20 and accepted by Minister Anand on November 3, and the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal and the Director of Military Prosecutions are working quickly to implement them.





COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Ontario Khalsa Darbar (Dixie Gurdwara)

First, second and third doses available for eligible individuals age 5 and over. Third doses must be 168 days after the second dose, and are available for individuals age 70+, health care workers, those with 2 doses of AstraZeneca/Janssen, and First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members. Health card recommended but not required. Please bring photo ID. Walk-in, no appointment needed.

Learn more at: peelregion.ca/covid19vaccine

Clinic dates

Saturday, November 27

10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30 1 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 4 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7

1 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 11 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14

1 - 7:30 p.m.

Clinic location

Ontario Khalsa Darbar 7080 Dixie Road (NW corner of Dixie Rd. & Derry Rd.) Mississauga, ON L5S 1B7

For information or assistance, contact:

Punjabi Community Health Services

416-605-6134, Monday to Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Indus Community Services

905-366-1010, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.





2 PUNJABI MEN FROM BRAMPTON CHARGED IN ATTEMPT MURDER INVESTIGATION



Region of Peel - Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau have charged two men after an attempt murder investigation in Brampton. On Friday, December 3, 2021, the two victims were driving in the area of Airport Road and Triple Crown Drive, in the City of Brampton, when a vehicle pulled up alongside them. It is alleged, that the occupants of the vehicle then fired a crossbow at the victims, with the arrow narrowly missing them and lodging itself within the vehicle. The suspects then fled the area in their vehicle.

Investigators have since identified the two males responsible, and a search warrant was conducted at their residence, where the crossbow and other evidence was located.' As a result, Sahil Gill, a 20-year-old man from Brampton, has been charged with Attempt Murder and Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle. He appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on Sunday, December 5, 2021 in answer to the charges. Devinder Gill, a 20-year-old man from Brampton, has been charged with Attempt Murder. He appeared at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on December 8, 2021 in answer to the charges.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact investigators with the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at 905-453-2121 extension 2133. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca

ONTARIO'S FIRE MARSHAL OFFERS TIPS TO **KEEP SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

TORONTO — With the holiday season and winter weather upon us, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is reminding everyone about the importance of fire safety as Ontarians get together with friends and family to celebrate. "As we look forward to the holiday season, it is important that we each take steps to ensure our homes and loved ones are safe," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "Fire safety experts remind us that

household activities can result in fires. To reduce the risks facing families and communities, I encourage everyone to make fire safety a priority during festive events in the weeks ahead."

"Cooking and smoking are leading causes of home fires in Ontario," said Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg. "Stay alert and keep your family safe this holiday season. Never leave a pot cooking on the stove unattended, always butt out cigarettes and consider using battery-operated flameless candles. If you're using candles with flames, make sure they are kept away from decorations and anything that can burn."

OFM's tips for 12 Days of Holiday Safety include:

Day 1: Water fresh-cut Christmas trees daily. Always keep the base of the trunk in water and away from heat sources such as fireplaces, heaters or candles.

Day 2: Check all lights before decorating and replace any worn or damaged cords or loose bulb connections. Follow manufacturer's instructions for indoor or outdoor use.

Day 3: Make sure there is a working smoke alarm on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.

Day 4: Only carbon monoxide alarms can alert you to the presence of this deadly gas. Install carbon monoxide alarms outside all sleeping areas. Day 5: Having a home fire escape plan is one of the best ways to ensure you and your loved ones can get out safely. Everyone in your home should know two ways out of all areas.

Day 6: Use extension cords wisely and only as a temporary connection. Never run cords under rugs which can damage the cord and cause a fire. Avoid overloading a circuit with "octopus outlets" (lots of extension cords in one electrical outlet).

Day 7: Portable space heaters and other heating sources are sometimes used to keep the chill out. Keep anything that can burn such as holiday decorations, curtains and upholstery, at least one metre away from heat sources.

Day 8: Keep open flames away from anything that may be combustible. If you can, use an enclosed candle holder or sturdy, burn-resistant container that won't tip. Day 9: Matches and lighters can be deadly in the hands of children. Keep all fire-starting materials out of the sight and reach of children.

Day 10: Never leave a stove unattended. If you need to step away for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Day 11: Encourage smokers to smoke outside and use large, deep ashtrays that cannot be knocked over easily. Always keep ashes away from anything that can burn. Empty cooled ashes into a metal container and store outside.

Day 12: While celebrating this festive time of year, be sure to keep a watchful eye on anyone cooking or smoking while under the influence.

WHERE TO GO FOR CARE AT OSLER DURING THE BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON



BRAMPTON/ETOBICOKE - With the holiday season fast approaching, William Osler Health System (Osler) is currently seeing higher volumes of patients across its hospital sites, as expected at this time of year. Similar to many other hospitals across the province, this increase in patient volumes may lead to longer wait times in our Emergency Departments (EDs). For up-to-date information on the estimated wait time to see a physician at Osler EDs, please check the wait clock on Osler's website. It is important to note that the wait clock does not predict the entire length of stay for a patient, which is affected by the care required and tests a patient may need. Osler staff and physicians are working diligently to ensure timely and compassionate quality care for all patients. We appreciate and ask for the community's patience at this time.

Osler recently re-opened the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) at its Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness. The re-opening of the UCC increases access to quality health care for residents with non-life threatening conditions over the holidays and throughout the year.







INDIA- BSP TO GO SOLO IN UP ASSEMBLY POLLS 2022

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which has been left with only four MLAs in Uttar Pradesh Assembly, has reiterated that it will go solo in the 2022 polls as it has an "alliance" with the state's population. The BSP has lost 15 of its 19 MLAs to other parties.

BSP chief Mayawati has said that like 2007, the party will come to power with complete majority as it has formed an "alliance with the people of the state".

BSP national spokesperson SudhindraBhadoria told IANS: "The party has decided to go it alone. It will not stitch alliance with any other party."

On forming an alliance with the Congress, Bhadoria said that talks were on, but whether the alliance will happen or not is yet to be seen. Though the Congress has opened its door for the BSP, the latter does not want to enter into alliance with any big party, especially the SP.

In 1996, the BSP fought the polls in alliance with the Congress. But, for the 2022 polls, the BSP seems to be reluctant in having an alliance with the Congress, thereby 'proving that the previous alliance was a failure'.

Alliance politics in the state started in 1993 when the BSP and the SP challenged the BJP. The SP-BSP combine had won 176 seats, of which the SP had won 67.

But after the 1995 Guest House scandal, the SP-BSP relationship turned sour. After that the BSP continued to take support from the BJP and Congress and tried to strengthen the party.

In 1996, the BSP fought in alliance with the Congress and the former bagged 67 seats and its vote percentage increased to 27 per cent. In 2017, it formed an alliance with the SP and the Congress, but did not get anything as the Modi wave swept the state.

FEEL SAD AND BAD ABOUT CHANNI, SAYS AMARINDER

CHANDIGARH: Former Punjab Chief Minister CaptAmarinder Singh on Monday said he felt sad and bad about Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi over the way he was being treated by the Congress party. "I feel sad for him that despite having a tremendous potential, he is being made to be subservient to the whims of the PCC President Navjot Sidhu", Singh said, while remarking, "Channi will eventually end up as a night watchman only".

Reacting to the appointment of Sidhu as the Chairman of the Congress Election Committee for Punjab, with Channi being made to work under him, Amarinder said it was unprecedented that a Chief Minister was made subservient to the PCC president.

"No self respecting leader should accept such humiliation, " the former Chief Minister remarked, while suggesting that Channi should resign than face such humiliation and insult.

He pointed out as how the Congress had claimed that it had appointed a Scheduled Caste as the Chief Minister but has now made him subservient to the PCC president. "Was he just a showpiece to get the SC



votes?" he asked. "Just because someone is behaving like a spoilt child and throwing tantrums day in and day out, you are submitting to all his blackmail and in the process insulting and humiliating your Chief Minister, who is doing a good job", he said, while remarking, "the Congress is going down the dumps".

Centennial commemoration: Akali Dal promises Rs 50K per acre crop insurance

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Tuesday gave a clarion call for the establishment of a truly federal structure in the country, with genuine

cultural, political and economic autonomy to states. It also announced to implement a Rs 50,000 per acre crop insurance scheme, besides commitment to revive the pre-2004 pension scheme for government employees.

Addressing what he called "the biggest historic gathering of Punjabis in living memory", five-time Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal said the SAD-BSP alliance is all set to repeat the performance of their only joint effort in 1996, when the alliance had swept the entire state.

As scores of people turned out to mark the centennial commemoration of SAD, the party "vowed to give to Punjabis a genuinely transparent, accountable and inclusive government".

Badal said the choice before Punjabis is "straight and simple". It's one between having a government of the Punjabis, for the Punjabis and by the Punjabis on the one hand, or having 'boastful puppets' remote controlled by outsiders. He said it is sad to see the Congress humiliating the poor and Scheduled Castes by first letting it be know that the current Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi was not their first choice.

"Now, they are humiliating him by openly refusing to endorse his performance and not naming him as its CM face." Badal said.

Earlier, they had humiliated seasoned Congress leader Sunil Jakhar's community by first publicising that he would be the next CM, but later leaking out media reports that no one from his community could be made the CM of Punjab by the Congress, he said.

"Such communal games are nothing new to the Congress, but they are both distasteful and dangerous for communal haromny," he said.

The Akali stalwart also warned the government of India against the "dangerous adventurism" of the past and said nothing should be done to disturb the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony in Punjab and outside. Addressing the congregation, SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal announced that farmers would be offered an insurance cover of Rs 50,000 per acre for crop damage. He also announced that the next SAD-BSP alliance government would revive the pre-2004 pension scheme for gov-



ernment employees. He said the next government would also end monopolies in sand and liquor business by giving a person one mining contract and liqour vend to one individual.

He also announced waiver of electricity bills of all religious places of worship. He said the SAD-BSP alliance government would not allow anyone to disturb peace and communal harmony in the state.

He also related how SAD was the first party to raise the voice of federalism. "Now all regional parties are also calling for strengthening federal rights. If federal rights of states are secure, then black laws like the three agricultural laws cannot be implemented without the approval of the states. We are committing to strengthening the federal nature of the country," he said. Senior party leader Prem Singh Chandumajra also read out a resolution in this regard, calling for formation of a 'Sanjha Morcha' to espouse the cause of federalism nationally. The Moga conference also passed a resolution condemning the Congress government's 'attempts' to register false cases against SAD-BSP alliance leaders and warned Chief Minister Channi, Home Minister Sukhjinder Randhawa and PPCC President Navjot Singh Sidhu that they would be responsible for the consequences of pursuing vendetta politics. The resolution, which was read out by Daljit Singh Cheema, also demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister and the Home Minister in the 'cash for transfer' case.

SII VACCINE FOR 3+ KIDS BY MID-2022, SAYS ADAR POONAWALLA

Covavax is currently under trial and has shown excellent results down to the age of 3 years, Poonawalla said while addressing an event at the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The Covavax is a version of the US-based Novavax's Covid vaccine and the SII CEO said there is enough data to show that the vaccines will work and protect children from the Coronavirus.

While not commenting on what would happen with the Covid-19 variant Omicron, Poonawalla said so far children have not been affected by it very badly.

He advised people to get their children vaccinated as the vaccines are safe and effective.

Presently, India has approved only one vaccine for children above 12 years, manufactured by Zydus Healthcare, for emergency use. Poonawalla said that over a billion-dollar investment went into developing and manufacturing the Covid-19 vaccine and it has given several key lessons owing to the rapidly changing situation due to the mutating virus.

Concerning the Omicron, he said that SII is working towards developing a vaccine booster shot which is more effective.

"On the back of enough data, it is safe to say that booster vaccines are a proven strategy to get antibodies up to a great extent," Poonawalla asserted.

Globally, the supply of vaccines has outmatched the demand and to keep up with the momentum, countries need to join and form some agreement in order to prepare standard rules for clinical trials and manufacturing of the vaccines.

Multilateral organisations and policy makers should be able to identify and isolate the new mutation/s of the virus and find out the

efficacy of vaccines against it in a time-bound manner, he said. Also present on the occasion were CII's India@75 Council Chairman RajanNavani and other prominent dignitaries.

KASHI VISHWANATH PROJECT IS SYMBOL OF INDIA'S SPIRITUAL SOUL: PM MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor Project was a symbol of India's spiritual soul.

Dedicating the newly constructed Kashi Vishwanath Dham project to the nation, the Prime Minister said, "Today, a new chapter is being written in the history of Kashi Vishwanath. Kashi Vishwanath Dham premises is not just a grand building but a symbol of India's culture and traditions. Kashi shows how inspirations of the ancient are giving direction to the future." The Prime Minister said that Kashi is a beautiful amalgam of antiquity and novelty that come alive together. He said that the glory of the past is coming alive again, showcasing India's antiquity, traditions, energy, and mobility. Quoting extensively from scriptures, the Prime minister also spoke in Bhojpuri and established a connection with the local people. 'Kashi and Ganga belong to all. The invaders attacked this city, tried to destroy it. The history of Aurangzeb's atrocities, his terror tried to change civilization by the sword. But the soil of this country is different from the rest of the world. If Aurangzeb comes here, Shivaji stands up. If any Salar Masood moves here, then brave warriors like King Suheldev make him realise the power of our unity," he said.

He said that when the temple was attacked, Ahilyabai Holkar helped in its reconstruction.

AAP REFUSES TO TAKE IN 4 OF PUNJAB CONGRESS MINISTERS OVER SAND THEFT ALLEGATIONS



AAP has refused to take on board four Punjab Congress ministers, who have been intending to join the party ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls, due to their alleged involvement in the illegal sand mining activities in the state. "Four senior ministers of Punjab Congress have been approaching Aam Aadmi Party for a while now, but we have refused to accept them as serious allegations of sand theft have been raised against the four-time and again," AAP MLA and party's Punjab Co-in-charge Raghav Chadha said in a virtual brief on Monday morning.

Aam Aadmi Party is an honest party and it does not need sand mafias, he added. Illegal sand mining is a major political issue in Punjab against which the Kejriwal-led party has been constantly attacking the Congress government there. In order to counter the problem of sand theft and liquor in the state, the Punjab government has introduced "Mission Clean". On December 4, Chadha posted a tweet, alleging that illegal sand mining was being carried out in Chamkaur Sahib -- Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit

Singh Channi's constituency under the former's patronage.

"Illegal sand mining in Charanjit Singh Channi's constituency has been exposed. It is the biggest expose which will shake Punjab's politics," his tweet along with a live video of sand being mined illegally read. On Friday, he also announced that the AAP will reward Rs 25,000 to the Punjab Chief Minister if he acts against every site where illegal sand mining is being done, alleging that Channi has complete information about the whereabouts of illegal mining in his state. Punjab, along with the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Goa are slated to go to the polls for 117 seats in early 2022. In the 2017 Punjab Assembly elections, Congress had bagged a clear majority by winning 77 seats, while the AAP had got 20, BJP 3, SAD 15 and Lok Insaaf party 2 seats.

WOMEN IN LAW FACE BIAS. AFFECTS NOT JUST ADVOCATES. BUT THOSE ON BENCH TOO: CJI



Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Tuesday rued the fact women in the legal profession face bias, both from their colleagues or litigants, and this affects not just advocates, but also those on the bench. "In his address at the felicitation of Supreme Court judge Justice Hima Kohli by Women in Law and Litigation (WILL), he said: "There are various barriers that women face in the legal profession that merit consideration... the continued prevalence of certain attitudes about the role of women in society. This issue is a problem a woman faces regardless of the type of employment. Another issue is the bias that women face, whether from their colleagues or litigants. This bias affects not just women advocates, but also those on the bench."""He added that this creates "a completely unwelcome atmosphere" within courtrooms for women and it is the duty of all lawyers and judges to ensure that a friendly environment is created in courtrooms. "On the aspect of women representation in the judiciary, the CJI said: "The demand for higher representation beyond 50 per cent on the Bench in view of the backlog of under representation of women is taken note of. I promise to take up your demand with my Brothers in the collegium."""He added that women constitute only around 30 per cent of the judges in the lower judiciary on average and some states have a good number of women judges, whereas in other states, the representation is abysmal.""In High Courts, the percentage of women judges is a mere 11.5 per cent. In the Supreme Court, we have four sitting women judges, out of 33 in office. The situation of women lawyers in the country is not any better. Out of 1.7 million advocates registered, only 15 per cent are women," he added."

Great for Indian Cooking! SAKURA TURBO HOOD

Kitchen Range Hood

NO MORE SMOKE, GREASE OR ODOURS

U2f, U2 M II and U2 II

Dimension :29-3/4" W x 25" D x 6"/7" H

Voltage :120V 60Hz Horizontal Ducting:3-1/8" x 10" Vertical Ducting : 6" Diameter

Revolutions : 1700 RPM Wind Exhaust: 520-680 CFM

White, Black & Stainless Steel



STANDARD FEATURES

- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- · Rear oil collectors Grease-free inner parts Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters Ultra quiet operation (58 dBA)
- Front steam baffle Each blower is controlled independently Smoke and grease baffler Six vents
- · One year labour warranty Lifetime warranty on
- · motors Availabe in:

R8168M (Micro)



Model: R-8168M

DIMENSION: 29 3/4" x 21" X 6" H Wind Exhaust: 250-680 CFM White or Stainless Steel

STANDARD FEATURES

- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- Patended twin oil trapping cones with filters
- Front steam baffle
- Maximum power with intelligent sensor
- Five year warranty on motor
- One year warranty on electronic switch
- Double bright Halogen lighting
- Two mode lighting (R8168M model only) ODOR FREE - Twin motor with high CFM

R747 II Generation



- Dimension:29-3/4" W x 23-1/4" D x 6-1/2" HVoltage:120V
- Ducting:3-1/8" x 10"Vertical Ducting:6" DiameterRevolutions:1700 RPMWind
- Exhaust:520-680 CFMWeight (lbs):
- 29.70 31.90Illum.: 60W MaxPower
- 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
- Smoke and grease baffler

ODOUR FREE

TWIN MOTOR, HIGH CFM

SMOKE FREE

DISSIPATE THROUGH DUCT

GREASE FREE

PATENTED FILTRATION SYSTEM

TOLL FREE: 1-800-475-5473

www.sakura-canada.com

SAKURA PRODUCTS CO.

4490 Sheppard Ave., E. Unit 2, Scarborouh (416) 291-5218 TOLL-FREE 1-800-47505473

SCARBOROGH

4490 Sheppard Ave., E Unit 2, Scarborough 416) 291-5218

GOLDEN

328 Hwy 7E, Unit 2B, Ricchmond Hill 905-881-3338

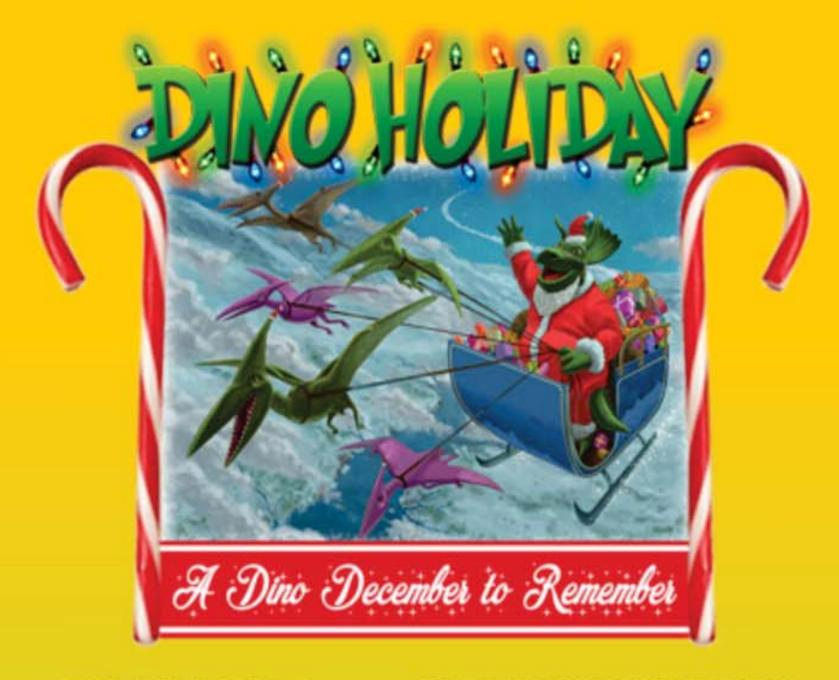
TIMES SQUARE

550 Hwy 7E, Unit 91 Richmond Hill (905) 889-3339

MISSISSAUGA DIXIE PARK

1550 South Gateway, Unit 113, Mississauga (905) 238-3198

South Eglinton-East Side Dixie



DINO HOLIDAU IS A 50,000 SQ FT INDOOR THEME PARK CONSISTING OF OVER 45 LIFE-SIZE ANIMATRONIC DINOSAURS, CARNIVAL RIDES, GAMES, HOLIDAY DECOR, FOOD AND SO MUCH MORE.





DINO HOLIDAY IS DEC 17 TO JAN 2ND





LOCATION: MARKHAM FAIRGROUNDS, 10801 MCCOWAN RD, MARKHAM

For tickets visit Dinoholiday.ca or call: 9058416484

Get 10% off by using the promo code: YMEDIA For Online ONLY at www.Dinoholiday.ca

for Seniors'

Monday to Thursday

Other Does Not Include Phone Cards And Fobasco
Valid Photo 18 Required

649

000

Sun.-Thurs: 8:00am-9:00pm

Fri.-Sat.: 8:00am-9:00pm Open 7 Days a Week. We Accept: 🚩 VISA 🤩

