



INDIA PUSHES RENEWED TRADE TALKS WITH CANADA (PM TRUDEAU & PM MODI AT G7 SUMMIT).

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INDIA PUSHES RENEWED TRADE TALKS WITH CANADA

The relationship between Canada and India is improving. They are all set to reboot their formal free trade talks as the Liberals seek economic choices for China. The Canadian Press recently reported trade negotiators from both countries had have held four "consultative meetings" in the last year via video. The most recent one saw the two sides trade preliminary proposals in October, said Anshuman Gaur, India's deputy high commissioner to Canada. Canada is seeking to lessen its economic dependence on China and diversify into new Asian markets. In an exclusive interview with Y Media Group Editor and CEO, Yudhvir Jaswal, PM Trudeau highlighted the importance of the India- Canada relationship and said Canada is ready to boost trade relationships with India. The Liberal government's Nov. 23 throne speech acknowledged that priority when it said: "A changing world requires adapting and expanding diplomatic engagement. Canada will continue working with key allies and partners while making deliberate efforts to deepen partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and across the Arctic."

"The Canadian government has invested a lot in sectors like artificial intelligence and machine learning. And now is the time to reap the benefits by scaling up, partnering with Indian IT companies," said Anshuman Gaur. Last week, 40 Indian information technology companies toured Canada, making stops in the Maritimes, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Waterloo, Ont.

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PARLIAMENT PASSES FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL SANS DEBATE

NEW DELHI, (IANS) A year and two months after the President gave assent to the three contentious farm laws, the Parliament on Monday passed a Bill to repeal them, a demand kept alive by the farmers and opposition parties alike for the past year. First the Lok Sabha and then the Rajya Sabha passed The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 by voice vote sans a debate amid heavy sloganeering by the opposition that wanted a discussion on the issue. In both the houses, the Bill was passed within minutes of introduction by the government. The three Bills that stand repealed now are: Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and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. Farmers across the country under the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) banner had been agitating since last one year demanding repeal of the three farm laws and legalizing minimum support price (MSP) among other issues. In the Lok Sabha, soon after it assembled at 12 noon, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar presented the Bill when opposition members started raising slogans, some left their seats and walked down towards the well, and all demanded a discussion on the Bill. Speaker Om Birla said the discussion will happen if only the members behaved and stopped sloganeering and sat in their respective seats. The opposition members did not relent. The Speaker put the Bill for a voice vote and it was cleared within seconds even as the opposition continued sloganeering protesting that there was no discussion. In the Rajya Sabha, when the House assembled at 2 p.m., the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar introduced the Bill.

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WHO CLASSIFIES OMICRON AS 'VARIANT OF CONCERN', ASKS PEOPLE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE

Researchers are racing to track the rise of the new variant of the SARS-CoV-2, which is found to harbour a large number of the mutations found in other variants, including Delta. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the new Covid variant detected in southern Africa this week as the 'Variant of Concern' following the Technical Advisory Group meeting on Friday.

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CANADA'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT EXPANDED BY 1.3% FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER; TOTAL VALUE OF ALL GOODS AND SERVICES WAS \$2.093 TRILLION: STATISTICS CANADA

Real gross domestic product (GDP) rose 1.3% in the third quarter, driven by household spending and exports. As pandemic restrictions were phased out, households and businesses, in Canada and elsewhere resumed normal operations. This raised household spending and created a greater demand for exports.

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PARAG AGARWAL BECOMES TWITTER CEO AFTER JACK DORSEY QUILTS



NEW YORK, (IANS) Jack Dorsey, the maverick behind making Twitter the world's go-to social platform to rant, laud, troll or play simple catch up, is moving on. Confirming long-standing speculation that he would, @Jack, Dorsey's handle for 18 years, enigmatically said: "not sure anyone has heard but," and attached a one-page version of why and who.

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PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB POLICE INVESTIGATING BLOGGER'S 'BAREHEADED' PHOTOSHOOT AT KARTARPUR, SIKH COMMUNITY ANNOYED

NEW DELHI, (IANS) A clothing brand recently came under fire after an alleged photo shoot at the Kartarpur Gurdwara in Pakistan. In the shoot, a Lahore-based model can be seen bareheaded, posing for the camera, compromising the sanctity of the place, Express Tribune reported. Pakistan Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry and members of the Sikh community expressed annoyance over the fashion photoshoot at the Kartarpur shrine, Pakistan Observer reported.

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RANVEER BRINGS INDIA'S GREATEST CRICKET STORY ALIVE IN '83' TRAILER

MUMBAI, (IANS) The trailer for Ranveer Singh-starrer '83' is finally unveiled bringing alive one of the most unforgettable moments of Indian cricket. Ranveer stars as former star cricketer Kapil Dev in the film, which tells the story of how the Indian cricket team, "a team that no one believed in", brought the World Cup home in 1983 after beating the champions, West Indies in a match.

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Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- *Canada Confirms Omicron Cases In Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, And Quebec.*
- *Federal Government Imposing Testing Requirement For All Air Travellers Entering Canada From Everywhere But The U.S.*
- *Canada Issues Travel Restrictions On Flights Till Jan. 31 From 10 Southern African Countries.*
- *Unvaccinated Canadians Aged 12+ Won't Be Able To Board Plane Or Train From Now.*
- *Canada Now Allows Entry Of Travellers Fully Vaccinated With Sinopharm, Sinovac, Covaxin.*



THE NEW ERA: Y MEDIA GROUP WILL COVER BOXER SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA'S LIVE BOXING EVENT ON DECEMBER 4 AT THE CAA CENTRE, TICKETS AVAILABLE- VISIT TICKERMASTER.CA OR CALL AT 855-985-5000""{FROM EXTREME LEFT TO RIGHT- BALDEV SIDHU (FATHER OF SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA),BOXER SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA, YUDHVIR JASWAL (Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR AND CEO), RYAN GRANT (COACH), TYLER BUXTON (PROMOTER-UNITED BOXING).

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PAKISTAN’S PUNJAB POLICE INVESTIGATING BLOGGER’S ‘BAREHEADED’ PHOTOSHOOT AT KARTARPUR, SIKH COMMUNITY ANNOYED

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Chaudhry slammed the designer and the model for the photoshoot. “The Designer and the model must apologise to Sikh Community #KartarPurSahib is a religious symbol and not a Film set,” he wrote on Twitter. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the President of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management committee, also condemned the act, calling it “desecration”. “Pakistan court issued arrest warrant of star who did dance video at Mosque; same must be done against this woman from Lahore as an example of treating all religion at par.” “Otherwise, any talk of respect for Sikhism is hollow,” he said. In another tweet, Sirsa commented: “Such behaviour and act at the pious place of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is totally unacceptable! Can she dare to do the same at her religious place in Pakistan? Imran Khan and the government of Pakistan should take immediate action to stop this trend of treating Sri Kartarpur Sahib as a picnic spot by Pakistani people.”



Meanwhile, the clothing brand, Mannat, has issued a clarification on the matter. The Instagram page has since removed the controversial posts and released a statement, the report said. “The pictures posted on our accounts are NOT part of any shoot done by Mannat Clothing. These pictures were provided to us by a third-party (blogger) in which they were wearing our dress. Please note that Mannat has absolutely NO role in deciding how and where the pictures were taken,” the statement read. “However, we accept our mistake that we should not have posted this content and we apologise to every single person who was offended by this. All the holy places are very sacred to us.” “The pictures and posts have been removed from all our media channels. Again, we apologise wholeheartedly for hurting the public sentiment. Believe us when we say we had no such intention.”

On the other hand, Pakistan Punjab Police in a statement said that they are investigating all aspects related to this incident and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible. “Management of the concerned brand & model are being investigated. Worship places of all religions are equally respectable,” reads the statement, as per the report.

CAPTAIN AMARINDER MEETS HARAYANA CM KHATTAR, TERMS IT COURTESY CALL



CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress rebel Amarinder Singh on Monday called on Haryana Chief Minister and BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar here. The duo described the surprise meeting as a ‘courtesy call’. After the meeting, Amarinder Singh told the media that his party will form the next government in Punjab along with the BJP and a breakaway Akali faction. “There was no political interaction. It was a courtesy meeting. I had a nice cup of coffee with the Chief Minister,” Amarinder Singh said. On his former party colleagues joining his Punjab Lok Congress ahead of next year’s Assembly elections in Punjab, Amarinder Singh said, “Wait for the time. Everything is going fine. People are very upbeat and our mem-

bership drive is going string. “With our seat adjustment with the BJP and with (Sukhdev Singh) Dhindsa party, we will form the government.” Amarinder Singh had earlier said that any seat arrangement he made with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would be subject to a resolution of the farmers’ issues in their interest. On November 2, Amarinder Singh had resigned from Congress and sent a seven-page letter to interim party President Sonia Gandhi. He named his party Punjab Lok Congress. Amarinder Singh had quit as the Chief Minister in September after a power tussle with state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

British Columbia extends state of emergency, fuel order until Dec. 14

With coastal and southwestern B.C. facing heavy rainfall while recovering from severe flooding, the Province is extending the temporary measure to prioritize fuel for essential vehicles and the provincial state of emergency. The Province is extending a temporary measure to limit non-essential vehicles to 30 litres of fuel (gas and diesel) per trip to a gas station until Dec. 14, 2021. Given the continued threats of flooding and the continued need of public safety measures under the Emergency Program Act, the provincial state of emergency is being extended until the end of the day on Dec. 14, 2021. “People in our province have been affected by the devastating floods and while we’re making major progress in our recovery, we’re still in a volatile situation,” said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. “I want to thank British Columbians for doing their part so that essential vehicles can continue to operate. The fuel conservation measures are working but with another storm on its way, we are extending the order to ensure that we prioritize emergency services for another two weeks.” Since the initial atmospheric river from Nov. 14-16, a series of storms has worsened existing flooding and created new flooding and landslides in southwestern B.C. There are currently 3,606 properties on evacuation orders and 7,402 properties on evacuation alert. The fuel order applies to all fuel suppliers in the Lower Mainland-to-Hope region, the Sea-to-Sky region, Sunshine Coast, the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. Essential vehicles will continue to have unrestricted access to fuel as required, using predominately commercial trucking gas stations (cardlock gas stations). “I want to thank the fuel suppliers, retailers and gas station attendants who have worked hard over the past few weeks to ensure the fuel supply in the Lower Mainland, the Sunshine Coast and on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands has remained steady and secure,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. “We are confident that by extending the order, we can maintain a secure supply of fuel over the next few days while infrastructure repairs continue on the Trans Mountain Pipeline.” All current orders related to non-essential travel on highways 3, 7 and 99 remain in place until highways start to reopen. This includes: Highway 3: from the junction of Highway 5 and Highway 3 in Hope to the west entrance to Princeton from Highway 3; from the junction of Highway 7 and Highway 9 in Agassiz to the junction of Highway 7 and Highway 1 in Hope; and from the junction of Highway 99 and Lillooet River Rd to the BC Hydro Seton Lake campsite access in Lillooet (vehicle weight must be no more than 14,500 kilograms). “Extending the provincial declaration and fuel limitations will help us with the challenges ahead as we continue repairs to our heavily damaged highways and get our rail and roadways back up and in operation,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. “Having goods move along B.C.’s corridors is vital to moving goods and services to people in need.” The Province has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross to provide \$2,000 to people whose primary residences have been placed on evacuation orders due to flooding, to help meet the immediate needs associated with being evacuated due to flooding. Disaster Financial Assistance is also available for people in areas affected by flooding and landslides from Nov. 14-16, 2021. This assistance is open to homeowners, residential tenants, businesses, charitable organizations, local governments, Indigenous communities, and farmers. The state of emergency gives agencies, such as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Emergency Management BC, the RCMP, and others the ability to use extraordinary measures to protect people and communities.



OSLER FOUNDATION’S AWESOME AUCTION HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

It’s time for the bidding to begin! William Osler Health System Foundation (Osler Foundation) is excited to announce Osler Foundation’s Awesome Auction, is live! The online auction has fabulous items up for grabs so you can treat yourself or someone on your holiday shopping list—all while supporting health care close to home. The online auction—the first of its kind for Osler Foundation—starts November 24 with bids closing December 3. Funds raised will benefit the Build Back, Together campaign, which aims to raise \$10 million to help Osler hospitals, and the entire community, build back from the COVID-19 pandemic—better, stronger, and together. All equipment in a hospital must be funded by the community. Funds raised through the auction will purchase essential items such as surgical tables, anesthesia gas machines and other surgical equipment such as laparoscopes and camera heads, and AV surgical integration systems to help meet increased demand and replace aging equipment. “Osler Foundation’s Awesome Auction makes excellent use of those online shopping skills we all perfected during the pandemic—but it’s much more meaningful,” said Ken Mayhew, President & CEO, William Osler Health System Foundation. “The communities Osler hospitals serve were hit hard by COVID19, and building back will take all of us working together. This is a wonderful way to show your support, whether you’re bidding to win, or you make a donation to the campaign.” Donations in support of Osler hospitals’ pandemic recovery can also be made at oslerauction.ca, with all gifts being matched, dollar for dollar, by Bramalea Lions Club (up to \$1.5 million). Osler Foundation’s Awesome Auction is made possible with generous support from Presenting Sponsor LIUNA! Local 183, Gold Sponsors Armour Insurance Brokers Ltd.; Borden, Ladner, Gervais; Sodexo Canada and S. Robinson and Associates of RBC Dominion Securities. To register for the auction so you can browse, bid and donate, visit www.oslerauction.ca, or call Osler Foundation at (905) 863-2579. ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM and FOUNDATION: William Osler Health System is a hospital system, which includes Brampton Civic Hospital, Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness and Etobicoke General Hospital, and serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke and surrounding communities within the Central West region. Osler’s emergency departments are among the busiest in Canada and its Mental Health and Addictions program is one of the largest in Ontario. William Osler Health System Foundation seeks to create a healthier community through giving by inspiring its communities to invest in exceptional health care close to home.

CONGRESS STILL CONFRONTED BY A DIVIDED HOUSE IN PUNJAB



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Punjab problem of the Congress is far from over as state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu is against his own government on various issues and now the party is concerned about non-Sikh votes in the state. With former Punjab President Sunil Jakhar being upset about being denied the Chief Minister’s post, now the party is reaching out to these leaders. Rana KP, speaker of the Punjab Assembly, recently met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. Party in-charge of the state Harish Chaudhary has reached out to Jakhar but sources say he was unable to pacify him and it is likely that Sonia Gandhi may have to intervene in the state’s issues. Sources close to Sunil Jakhar confirmed the meeting on Tuesday evening. However, the sources said he did not have any issue with the Punjab in-charge Harish Chaudhary. If there is any issue, it must be between Sidhu and Channi about who will be the CM after the state elections. Jakhar was once considered the top choice for Chief Minister but lost the race in the last lap when the issue of a Sikh as Chief Minister was raked up by senior leader Ambika Soni.

PAKISTAN GIVES IN TO IMF PRESSURE WITH AUDIT OF COVID EXPENSES SHOWING HUGE IRREGULARITIES



NEW DELHI, (IANS) After holding on for nearly six months, Pakistan gave in to the International Monetary Fund’s pressure by releasing the audit report of expenditures incurred on Covid-19, disclosing over Rs 40 billion irregularities in operations, Express Tribune reported. The findings of the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) - the constitutional body - showed misprocurement, payments to ineligible beneficiaries, cash withdrawal through fake biometrics and procurements of substandard goods by Utility Stores Corporation (USC) for consumption. The release of the report by the Ministry of Finance is one of the five prior actions that the IMF has asked Pakistan to implement if it wants to get the \$1 billion loan tranche by January next year, the report said. The auditors attempted to scrutinise Rs 354.3 billion expenses but did not get all the records, the report showed. From the record of expenses and procurements available, the auditors have unearthed Rs 40 billion irregularities. The auditors also caught serious issues like payment to ineligible beneficiaries like government servants, pensioners and their spouses, taxpayers and to those having poverty scores above the cut off scores approved by the federal cabinet, Express Tribune reported.

IS GOVT ON CONFRONTATION MODE IN PARLIAMENT WITH OPPOSITION?



NEW DELHI, (IANS) After repealing the farm laws, the government moved a motion to suspend 12 Rajya Sabha MPs of the opposition for the whole winter session which commenced on Monday. The move has opened a new front for confrontation between the government and the opposition and the apprehensions are the session could be washed away. Fourteen parties under the signature of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge issued a statement saying, “The leaders of the opposition parties condemn the unwarranted and undemocratic suspension of 12 members in violation of rules of procedure of Rajya Sabha.” “The motion moved by the government for suspending the members with regard to the unfortunate incident that occurred in the previous session is unprecedented and violates the rules of procedure,” it added. The floor leaders of opposition will be meeting on Tuesday to devise joint strategy and the government’s move has given fodder to the opposition. One of the suspended MP Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena said, she was not even heard which is the course of natural justice. “If speaking for farmers, against privatisation that goes against people, sells family silver for sarkari PR calls for suspension, then I ask: how weak are you to not be able to answer on basis of parliamentary democracy? Will continue to speak for people inside & outside the parliament,” she wrote on Twitter. The Rajya Sabha on Monday suspended 12 MPs for the entire winter session of parliament for creating ruckus in the house during monsoon session of the parliament on August 11. The suspended MPs are from Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI, CPI-M and Shiv Sena. The members are — Syed Naseer Hussain, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Phulo Devi Netam, Chhaya Verma, Ripun Bora and Rajmani Patel of the Congress; Priyanka Chaturvedi, Anil Desai of the Shiv Sena; Elamaram Kareem of the CPI-M, Binoy Viswam of the CPI, Dola Sen and Shanta Chhetri of the Trinamool.



CANADA EXPANDS TRAVEL BAN, SEEKS BOOSTER GUIDANCE AMID OMICRON VARIANT

Based on data from ongoing surveillance efforts and the latest public health advice, the Government of Canada is expanding the list of countries with entry prohibitions originally announced on November 26, 2021, to include Egypt, Nigeria and Malawi. Effective tomorrow, foreign nationals who have been in any of these countries within the previous 14 days will not be permitted entry into Canada:

- * Botswana
- * Egypt;
- * Eswatini;
- * Lesotho;
- * Malawi;
- * Mozambique;
- * Namibia;
- * Nigeria;
- * South Africa; and
- * Zimbabwe.

Canadian citizens, permanent residents and people with status under the Indian Act, regardless of their vaccination status or having had a previous history of testing positive for COVID-19, who have been in any of these 10 countries in the previous 14 days, will be subject to enhanced pre-entry and arrival testing, screening, and quarantine measures.

Moving forward, border testing surveillance will be adjusted based on the latest available evidence to further reduce the risk of importation of this variant. In the coming days, all fully vaccinated travellers arriving by air from departure points other than the United States will be subject to arrival testing. Fully vaccinated travellers will be required to quarantine while they await the results of their arrival test.

Unvaccinated travellers, with right of entry to Canada, will continue to be tested on arrival and day 8 and quarantine for 14 days. However, those

arriving by air will now be required to stay in a designated quarantine facility or other suitable location while they await the result of their on arrival test.

Quick facts

- * Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and people with status under the Indian Act who have been in these countries-Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe-in the 14 days before travel to Canada will be required to:
- * Obtain, within 72 hours of departure, a valid negative COVID-19 molecular test in a third country before continuing their journey to Canada,
- * Complete testing upon arrival to Canada, regardless of their vaccination status or having had a previous history of testing positive for COVID-19,
- * Required to complete a test on Day 8 after arrival and quarantine for 14 days.
- * Those arriving by air will be required to stay in a designated quarantine facility while they await their arrival test result. They will be permitted onward travel once they have received a negative arrival test result.
- * Those arriving by land may be allowed to proceed directly to their suitable quarantine location. If they do not have a suitable and robust quarantine plan-where they will not have contact with anyone with whom they haven't travelled with-or do not have private transportation to their place of quarantine, they will be directed to stay at a designated quarantine facility.
- * There will be increased scrutiny of quarantine plans for travellers from these countries and rigorous monitoring to ensure travellers are complying with quarantine measures. Further, PHAC is contacting travellers, regardless of their vaccination status or having had a previous history of testing positive for COVID-19, who have entered Canada from these countries in the past 14 days to direct them to be tested and to quarantine while they wait for the results of those tests.

UNVACCINATED CASES ACCOUNTED FOR 91.7% OF ONTARIO'S COVID-19 CASES REPORTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 14, 2020, & NOVEMBER 14, 2021: REPORT

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario: December 14, 2020 to November 14, 2021, according to Public Health Ontario Report.

Highlights

- * Since the COVID-19 vaccination program began on December 14, 2020 and up to November 14, 2021, a total of 11,154,162 individuals in Ontario are fully vaccinated. Of these individuals, 17,596 became breakthrough (i.e. fully vaccinated) cases and 40 became cases following a third dose. The number of post-vaccination cases declines dramatically as time from vaccination increases.
- * The rate of COVID-19 in unvaccinated individuals is higher compared to fully vaccinated individuals. This trend has remained consistent over time.
- * In the past 30 days, unvaccinated individuals were approximately 4.8 times more likely to become a case of COVID-19 compared to fully vaccinated individuals.
- * In the past 30 days, the rate of COVID-19 in unvaccinated individuals was higher compared to fully vaccinated individuals in every age group (Figure 5).
- * Among individuals 60 years of age or older, the rate of COVID-19-related hospitalizations was higher among unvaccinated individuals compared to fully vaccinated individuals. This trend has remained consistent over time ? In the past 30 days, unvaccinated adults 60 years of age or older were approximately 16.3 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 compared to fully vaccinated adults 60 years of age and older
- * Unvaccinated cases accounted for the majority (91.7%) of COVID-19 cases reported since December 14, 2020 and up to November 14, 2021, with breakthrough cases accounting for 3.8% of cases, and cases following a third dose accounting for <0.1% (Figure 4).
- * Similar trends are observed for hospitalizations and deaths, with unvaccinated cases accounting for 90.9% of hospitalizations and 90.2% of deaths while breakthrough cases accounted for 2.7% of hospitalizations and 3.3% of deaths. Cases following a third dose accounted for <0.1% of hospitalizations and <0.1% of deaths

Definition of Terms

The following definitions, were used to describe COVID-19 infection following vaccination.

Post-vaccination Cases

- * Case not yet protected from vaccination: Cases with a symptom onset date that was 0 to <14 days following the first dose of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine. This time period from vaccination is not sufficient to develop immunity, therefore these cases are not considered protected from vaccination.
- * Partially vaccinated case: Cases with a symptom onset date that was 14 or more days following the first dose of a 2-dose series of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine or 0 to <14 days after receiving the second dose of a 2-dose Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine series. This time period from vaccination may be sufficient to develop some degree of immunity, but these cases are not considered fully protected as they have not yet received the second dose or have only recently received the second dose.
- * Breakthrough (i.e., fully vaccinated) case: Cases with a symptom onset date that was 14 or more days following receipt of the second dose of a 2-dose series of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine, 14 or more days following the first dose of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine product with a 1-dose schedule, or 0 to <14 days after receiving the third dose of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine. These cases are considered fully protected from vaccination, however, as VE is not 100%, it is expected that a small number of cases will occur among fully vaccinated individuals.
- * Post-dose 3 case (i.e. case following a third dose): Cases with a symptom onset date that was 14 or more days following the receipt of a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, following two doses of Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine products. The third dose is recommended to complete a primary series for select immunocompromised individuals and as a booster for waning immunity in select populations, including elderly populations.

Breakthrough Covid Infections 3 Times More In Immunocompromised: Pfizer

Covid-19 infections in the 'fully' vaccinated are rare but are more common and severe in people with weaker immune systems, according to a real-world retrospective study led by the US drug maker Pfizer involving nearly 1.2 million people. The immunocompromised people include those with advanced HIV/AIDS, cancer, kidney disease, rheumatologic or other inflammatory conditions, other immune conditions, and bone marrow or organ transplant recipients. The findings, published in the Journal of Medical Economics, showed that the proportion of people with breakthrough infections was three times higher among immunocompromised individuals (0.18 per cent) than among the reference group of non-immunocompromised individuals (0.06 per cent). Among the fully vaccinated people only 0.08 per cent experienced a breakthrough infection. However, although immunocompromised individuals represented just 18 per cent of those studied, they accounted for over 38 per cent of infections; nearly 60 per cent of all hospitalisations; and 100 per cent of deaths. "The results supplement other real-world studies, and support the introduction of a third dose of a Covid-19 vaccine to increase protection among the immunocompromised individuals," said Manuela Di Fusco, lead author from the Pfizer Health Economics and Outcomes Research team. "Several countries are currently experiencing a resurgence of SARS-CoV-2 infections despite the rollout of mass vaccination programmes. While Covid-19 mRNA vaccines help protect people from getting infected and severely ill, the risk of breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people is not completely eliminated," Di Fusco added. Researchers at Pfizer analysed healthcare records of 1,277,747 people aged 16 or over who had received two doses of the BNT162b2 Covid-19 mRNA vaccine between December 10, 2020 and July 8, 2021. Of this group, 225,796 were identified as immunocompromised. The study results showed that a total of 978 breakthrough infections occurred among 1,176,907 fully vaccinated individuals who had at least two weeks of follow-up after the second dose. Of these 124 breakthrough infections required hospital treatment -- 74 were immunocompromised, and two people died (both immunocompromised). About 2 per cent of all breakthrough infections occurred in those who were immunocompromised. Several countries, including the US and the UK, Israel, France, have authorised an additional dose of an approved Covid-19 mRNA vaccine in certain immunocompromised individuals.

WHO SAYS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OMICRON MORE TRANSMISSIBLE



GENEVA, (IANS) It is not yet clear whether the Omicron Covid-19 variant is more transmissible, or causes more severe disease compared to other variants, including Delta, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said. It's not yet clear whether Omicron is more easily spread from person to person compared to other variants, even though the number of people testing positive has risen in South Africa where this variant was involved, the WHO on Sunday added.

It's also not yet clear whether Omicron causes more severe disease, but preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalisation in South Africa, which however may be due to increasing overall number of people becoming infected, Xinhua news agency reported.

WHO confirmed that there is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants, as understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take days to several weeks.

All variants of Covid-19, including the Delta variant that is currently dominant worldwide, can cause severe disease or death, in particular for the most vulnerable people, and thus prevention is always key. However, WHO said preliminary evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of reinfection with Omicron but information is limited. More information on this will become available in the coming days and weeks. It added that current PCR tests continue to detect Omicron while further studies are still going on to understand how the Omicron variant will impact on available vaccines and treatments to Covid-19.

WHO classified on Friday the latest variant B.1.1.529 of SARS-CoV-2 virus, now with the name Omicron, as a "Variant of Concern" (VOC). According to WHO's definition, a VOC, with a degree of global public health significance demonstrates one or more of mutational changes such as increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in Covid-19 epidemiology, increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation, and decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics.

VAX BEST AVAILABLE OPTION: EXPERTS ON OMICRON CONCERN



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The newly detected Covid variant from South Africa this week -- omicron -- might affect those severely who have not yet taken their Covid-19 shot, health experts said on Sunday.

According to experts, getting vaccinated looks like the best available option at present and it can be a game-changer in fighting against the new variant of Covid.

"So far, it appears that those who are not vaccinated are at very high risk of getting affected by the severe disease," Ravi Shekhar Jha, Additional Director Pulmonology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad, told IANS.

"Therefore, vaccination is the best available option at present which can be a game-changer," Jha added.

The experts said that we need to understand that the pandemic is not yet over and therefore we should not lower our guards and restart taking full precautions as before including social distancing.

"The new variant of Covid Omicron has several mutations from previous Covid-19 strains," said Animesh Arya, Senior Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, New Delhi.

"People need to understand that Covid appropriate behaviour and vaccination are the only ways to stay safe from this variant," Arya added. The new variant identified in South Africa has left the scientific community worried, as they fear that this new strain could fuel outbreaks in several countries and cripple health systems once again.

ARE CURRENT RT-PCR TESTS ENOUGH TO DETECT OMICRON VARIANT?



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Omicron, the newly-detected Covid variant which has stoked fears of vaccine resistance, is the most mutated version of the virus found so far. Health experts in India on Monday claimed that the currently available diagnostics measures may not make accurate detection of the Omicron Covid variant. In the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has mutated, resulting in genetic variation in the population of circulating viral strains. Molecular, antigen and serology tests — all get affected by viral mutations due to the inherent design differences of each test. The World Health Organization had last week classified the latest variant — B.1.1.529 of SARS-CoV-2 virus — as Omicron, a 'Variant of Concern' (VOC), which means it could be more contagious, more virulent or more skilled at evading public health measures, vaccines and therapeutics. According to the global health body, the Omicron variant falls under the S gene. The S gene encodes the spike glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, and is also targeted to specifically detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2. "Most of the current ICMR approved RT-PCR kits being used in India target the E, Rd Rp and N genes. The mutations in the latest variant have occurred in the S gene. The common RT-PCR kits being used will be able to identify positive or negative, but will not be able to identify if the positive result is due to the mutation in the S gene," Arjun Dang, CEO, Dr Dangs Lab, told IANS.



26/11 MUMBAI ATTACKS: THE TIPPING POINT IN INDO-PAK RELATIONS

November 26, 2021 marks the 13th anniversary of the worst ever terror attack in India, which changed the dynamics and relationship between India and Pakistan for an indefinite time.

Today, as India looks towards Pakistan and demands punishment to the culprits, Pakistan continues to deny all the allegations.

Mumbai on Friday remembered the bravehearts and victims felled by bullets and others who saved lives on the 13th anniversary of the dastardly terror strikes by ten Pakistani terrorists who paralysed the city on November 26-29 2008.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari led the state by solemnly laying wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial erected inside the Mumbai Police Commissionerate premises near Crawford Market in south Mumbai.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, currently convalescing, saluted those who lost their lives during the terror strikes and expressed his gratitude to those who fought the terrorists, terming the attack "a cowardly act".

In November 2008, 10 terrorists entered into India from Pakistan via the sea route and opened fire indiscriminately, targeting multiple important locations in Mumbai. The multi-targeted attacks killed at least 166 people, including at 18 security personnel besides injuring several others.

Since then, India has been claiming that the terrorists were members of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the attacks were masterminded from Karachi. India has backed up its claims by sharing dozens of dossiers with Pakistan, demanding action against the terror groups and its leaders, including Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and Zakiur Rehman Lakhwi, who they say were the masterminds behind the attacks.

Pakistan, on the other hand, has been rejecting India's claims, stating

that the members of the proscribed organisations have been probed by Pakistani courts, which have repeatedly given a clean chit to them, that too after consideration into the dossiers that India claimed had irrefutable evidence.

While Pakistan has been maintaining that the matter is being heard and investigated by the Pakistani courts, any decision on it would have to come from the courts, which it insists require evidence to back the claims of involvement of the individuals and the Pakistani military establishment.

Over a decade after the ghastly attacks, memories of the day still haunt the families of those who lost their lives.

It will not be wrong to say that 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks changed the overall approach of both countries towards each other, as India accused Pakistan, while Pakistan continued to reject all the accusations.

Both countries have now drawn a red line, demanding prior steps to see through the possibility of any opportunity for both to sit across the table and negotiate.

Pakistan keeps the Kashmir dispute on top of its agenda, while India demands punishment for the masterminds of the 26/11 terror attacks as its top priority.

Both Pakistan and India, since 26/11, have seen bloody clashes along the Line of Control (LoC) and the working boundary, while both sides have accused each other for supporting, harbouring and facilitating militant outfits to carry out terror activities in each other's countries.

With no hope of any normalcy between the two nuclear-powered neighbours, and with both sides refusing to take the first step towards confidence building, those who lost their loved ones continue to await justice.

Canada's Gross Domestic Product Expanded By 1.3% From July To September; Total Value Of All Goods And Services Was \$2.093 Trillion: Statistics Canada

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These increases were softened by a substantial decline in housing investments and increased withdrawals of inventories in the quarter.

Driven by higher income and greater demand, household spending on semi-durable goods (+14.0%) and services (+6.3%) sharply increased. As restrictions eased, increased spending on semi-durable goods and services reflected the increase in activities outside the home. Expenditures on clothing (+26.8%) and footwear (+30.3%) surpassed pre-pandemic spending. Outlays for services rose sharply. Transport services (+40.3%), recreation and culture services (+26.1%), food, beverages and accommodation services (+29.0%), and personal grooming services (+35.8%) all showed significant increases.

Real expenditures on durable goods (-1.4%) fell in the quarter. Higher prices, resulting partly from supply chain disruptions, constrained demand and spending.

Exports rebound

After declining in the second quarter, exports (+1.9%) increased in the third quarter, led by crude oil exports. Imports decreased, with lower imports of pharmaceutical products and toys, games and small appliances leading the decline. The terms of trade fell, as higher growth in import prices outpaced export prices, reversing the marked increases in the previous four quarters.

Housing investment declines

After four consecutive quarters of strong growth, new construction and renovations fell in the third quarter. The 5.2% drop in new construction was the largest drop since the second quarter of 2009. The decrease in investments for the new construction of detached and multiple-unit dwellings was substantial, especially in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. Nationally, there were \$96.3 billion additions to the stock of dwellings in the third quarter.

Ownership transfer costs (-10.0%) fell for the second consecutive quarter, as activity in the resale market slowed. The decrease was widespread, and only Newfoundland and Labrador and Yukon posted increased ownership transfer costs.



Remarkable accumulation of residential mortgage liabilities in the previous quarter continued, with households adding \$38 billion in the third quarter, more than double that of two years earlier.

Compensation of employees rose 2.9%, the largest increase since the second quarter of 2000, excluding the large rebound recorded in the third quarter of 2020. Growth in professional and personal services accounted for almost half the overall increase in wages and was driven by accommodation and food services. Other major contributors to the increase were trade, health and education. The estimates of compensation of employees also reflect wages associated with the federal election and the census, and the implementation of various collective bargaining agreements.

Wage growth was highest in British Columbia (+3.8%), followed by Alberta (+3.2%), Ontario (+3.1%) and Quebec (+2.2%).

Double-digit household savings rate continues

Growth in household spending (+5.4% in nominal terms) exceeded growth in household disposable income (+1.7%). Consequently, the household saving rate fell from 14.0% in the second quarter to 11.0% in the third quarter. Although spending surpassed income this quarter, this was the sixth consecutive quarter with a double-digit savings rate. The rate also remained higher than in the pre-pandemic period. The household savings rate is aggregated across all income brackets. In general, savings rates are greater in higher income brackets.

MSP PANEL: GOVT SEEKS FIVE NAMES FROM FARMERS, SKM SEEKS MORE CLARITY



A day after the three contentious farm laws were repealed by the Parliament, the government on Tuesday reached out to the agitating farmers, asking them to suggest five names to be included in a committee to be formed to discuss farm related issues, including MSP.

NEW DELHI: After making the announcement on November 19 that his government had decided to repeal the three farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also said a committee comprising representatives of the Centre, state governments, farmers, agriculture scientists and agriculture economists would be formed to discuss how Minimum Support Price (MSP) can be made more effective, how zero budget farming can be promoted, and how crop patterns can be changed in a scientific manner.

There was no official announcement from the government, however, late in the evening, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), the consortium of farmers' organisations that spearheaded the agitation to demand repeal of the three farm laws for over a year, confirmed that there was a phone call from the government to a Punjab farmer union leader, wherein it wanted five names to be suggested from the SKM's side for the committee. "However, we have received no written communication and no details are available so far about what this Committee is about, its mandate or Terms of Reference. In the absence of such details, it would be premature to comment on this issue," a statement from the SKM said.

Till early evening, the farmers' group seemed divided over the issue as sources from the Singhu border camp site on Delhi outskirts - the headquarters of the SKM - sent out conflicting signals. One of the SKM leaders, Darshan Pal had then confirmed that there was a communication that sought five names for SKM to be included in the committee for MSP. But a number of other farmers' leaders had said there was no official word from any government or political functionary. The SKM had declared that day that they would wait for the laws to be formally repealed and the government gave a legal standing to MSP. The farmers had also announced to continue their agitation till all their demands - apart from the main demand of repeal of the three laws - are met. Those demands included withdrawal of cases against all the farmers lodged during the time of the one year plus agitation. Meanwhile, the SKM has clarified that all its constituent organisations will take stock of the situation and take decisions about the next steps in the farmers' struggle on December 4, as announced earlier. "The date of this SKM meeting remains unchanged. This meeting will take place at the Singhu Border. In this meeting, there will be discussion on the various points raised in the letter to the Prime Minister and future decisions will be taken," a statement from the SKM said. It maintained that vague statements here and there as a response to the pending demands of protesting farmers are not an acceptable response or assurance from BJP governments, and that it sought solid assurances on, and concrete solutions to their pending demands.

UNDER FIRE, PAKISTAN PRESIDENT SAYS ALLOWING USE OF GUV'S HOUSE FOR SON'S VENTURE 'POOR JUDGEMENT'

(IANS): Pakistan President Arif Alvi said on Tuesday that the choice of venue for the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Alvi Dental and an American company was a "poor judgement", the Dawn reported. Taking to Twitter, the Pakistan President -- who is a dentist by profession -- said that hosting an event for the signing of an agreement between his son Awab Alvi and Bringing Smiles USA at the Sindh Governor's house "was a matter of poor judgement". The statement came after several citizens and politicians questioned whether there was a conflict of interest in the President attending a private event that was hosted at the Governor's house, the report said. During the event, which was held on Monday, an agreement was inked to provide affordable dental care to the citizens of the country. The MoU was signed by Awab Alvi of Alvi Dental Hospital and Anas Athar of Bringing Smiles USA, which was witnessed by President Alvi and First Lady Samina Arif Alvi. Initially, the President had congratulated his son on the venture. "Wish you success in this collaboration with your friends, who are also bringing in foreign investment," he said on Twitter in response to his son's tweet. A picture of the ceremony shared by Awab also showed the President standing in the background, the report said. Social media in Pakistan is abuzz after the image of the MoU signing showed the President in attendance. Questions are being raised about the Pakistan President using his official position to benefit his family business, while others argued that this was merely a familial obligation, Geo News reported.

OMICRON COVID-19 VARIANT POSES DOWNSIDE RISKS TO US ECONOMY: FED CHIEF

The recent rise in Coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and the emergence of the Omicron variant pose downside risks to US employment and economic activity and increased uncertainty for inflation, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said in a written testimony.

"Greater concerns about the virus could reduce people's willingness to work in person, which would slow progress in the labor market and intensify supply-chain disruptions," Powell on Monday afternoon added in the testimony prepared for a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee scheduled on Tuesday morning.

Powell noted that pandemic-related supply and demand imbalances have contributed to notable price increases in some areas, with the price index for personal consumption expenditures up 5 per cent over the 12 months ending in October, Xinhua news agency reported.

"It is difficult to predict the persistence and effects of supply constraints, but it now appears that factors pushing inflation upward will linger well into next year. In addition, with the rapid improvement in the labor market, slack is diminishing, and wages are rising at a brisk pace," he said. Powell also added that the central bank understands that high inflation imposes significant burdens, especially on those less able to meet the higher costs of essentials like food, housing, and transportation. "We are committed to our price-stability goal. We will use our tools both to support the economy and a strong labor market and to prevent higher inflation from becoming entrenched," he said.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2,000 OF TORONTO'S YOUNGEST COMMUNITY HEALTH SUPERHEROES WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RECEIVE THEIR COVID-19 VACCINE AT SCOTIABANK ARENA AS PART OF TORONTO KIDS VACCINE DAY.

India's rise on the world horizon

BY D.C. PATHAK

In the narrow narrative of domestic politics - marked by minority versus majority controversy whipped up in the name of 'secularism', a distorted projection of the strong governance of Prime Minister Modi as a symbol of 'authoritarianism' and a deliberate attempt to misinterpret nationalism as the promotion of 'Hindutva', what stands out in bold relief is the rapid advance India has made internationally to get an unprecedented recognition from the world community as a major power influencing the issues of war and peace. This is a major development.

One can recall the regime -- preceding the arrival of Modi on the national scene -- when corruption was at its peak, policy making was at its weakest and development was subordinated to communal politics. In the area of foreign policy there was no independent evaluation of threat to India's security from hostile neighbours and a kind of towing of the American line of that time was in evidence. A telling illustration of this was the Indian response to 26/11 when the government of the day meekly accepted the US stand that the horrendous attack on Mumbai was the doing of 'non state actors' in Pakistan and that the Pak army could not be blamed for it -- this all was meant to ensure continuance of the Indo-Pak dialogue in which the US was interested for its own strategic reasons. Prime Minister Modi's quick rise as a popular leader was attributable to his personal integrity, firm control on the administrative machinery and political will to take bold decisions. Indians were looking for such a head of the national government. People of India have always favoured strong policies to safeguard national security and while looking for economic development, not hesitated to sacrifice personal comfort for the cause of the nation -- it is relevant to recall how they positively responded to Prime Minister Shastri's call for skipping one meal in a week, in the difficult environ created by the 1965 Indo-Pak war. Ever since Union Home Minister Amit Shah has taken charge of internal security, externally instigated terrorist violence has been contained, communal conflicts have been controlled and political voices against symbols of nationalism seem to have subsided. He has sent down a message to the states to take firm action against political violence in keeping with their prime responsibility for maintenance of law and order. The threat to India's security today is not so much from an external attack as from the 'new proxy war' in which hostile lobbies at home and abroad instigated by the adversary took to subverting the belief of the citizens in one nation, undivided people and strong national security. These covert attempts should be countered with the help of public education on the role of the citizen in safeguarding a democratic state and by invoking action against any serious breach of the country's laws relating to maintenance of internal security.

Prime Minister Modi embarked on a number of people-related projects as a part of his 'development for all' mission and launched a massive infrastructure development programme -- some of it catering to the dual civil-military use -- but his image soared when he invoked India's sovereign right to deal a blow to the external adversaries, suspended talks with

Pakistan on the grounds of cross border terrorism and sent a clear message to the US that the American policy of hyphenating India and Pakistan and making a distinction between 'good terrorists' and 'bad terrorists' would not do. He has stuck to the line 'terror and talks do not go together' amidst pressure at home and abroad built by vested interests, mobilised world opinion against the threat from terrorists harboured by Pakistan and what is remarkable, built a strong relationship with the US under President Donald Trump and later in the Biden Presidency on the plank of mutuality of interests in the spheres of economy and security. The presence of an extremely competent National Security Advisor by his side has greatly contributed to the success of Prime Minister Modi's policies. Current developments in the Pak-Afghan belt revolving round the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan -- the battleground of the longest 'war on terror' launched by the US in the wake of 9/11 -- following negotiations with the Taliban and return of the Kabul Emirate with the total support of Pakistan, have created a major security threat for India.

In an extremely fruitful initiative Ajit Doval, our NSA, hosted the Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan -- a conference of the countries in the Afghan neighbourhood at the level of National Security Advisors, at Delhi on November 10 -- to discuss the Afghan scenario in its totality. There was no question of the unrecognised Taliban government being invited to this round table. The meet effectively created a broad convergence amongst countries with security stakes in Afghanistan, on the threat of terrorism emanating from the return of Taliban Emirate at Kabul marking the spread of 'radicalisation' in the region. The conference specifically called upon the Taliban government to ensure that Afghan territory was not used for terror activity. India invited Russia which has been with the Central Asian Republics - all of whom including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan also positively responded to India's invitation. Both Pakistan and China though invited stayed away - the former questioning India's credentials for holding the meet and the latter falling in line with Pakistan in pursuance of its larger geopolitical strategy. Their absence only helped to draw the attention of the meet on the collusive role of the Sino-Pak axis in promoting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

India did well to invite Iran as well - the Shiite country might be having problems with the US and Israel but the fact that Islamic radicals harboured extreme hatred towards Shias puts Iran and India on the same side so far as the Taliban was concerned - and this is of strategic significance for India. India may not have involved the US with the regional dialogue considering the fact that the Biden Presidency was still handling the American pullout from Afghanistan carried out in an embarrassingly messy environ marked by the hostility of the Taliban - despite the Doha agreement. The US would in any case welcome India's initiatives on Afghanistan.

The Delhi meet has given a vital lead to India on Afghanistan. It is good that this regional conference was hosted by the NSA because Afghanistan under the Taliban Emirate is more of a global security problem than a diplomatic issue - the democratic world was still pondering over the question of giving recognition to this regime in the first place. It has to be noted that the NSAs of the Central Asian Republics around Afghanistan who were present in strength at the Delhi Dialogue, all represented predominantly Muslim states which favoured moderate Islam and clearly saw the risk of being overtaken by radicalisation if the Taliban were to have a free run in Afghanistan.

The conference adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' that reaffirmed the commitment of the participating countries to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including its financing, work for dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and counter 'radicalisation' to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism. It expressed 'deep concern' over the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation and underlined the need for providing urgent assistance to the troubled country. The Declaration pointed to the critical need for establishing 'an open and truly inclusive government' in Afghanistan that would have representation from all sections of the Afghan society and uphold the fundamental rights of women, children and minority communities. What is important is that the statement was as comprehensive and complete as the democratic world would have wished it to be and goes a long way in securing international disapproval of the rise of Islamic extremism and radicalism that the return of the Kabul Emirate signified.

The event has brought a great strategic gain for India in as much as it helps the two largest democracies of the world to lead the global combat



against the danger of radicalisation and the threat of a new global terror arising from it.

The Biden administration is currently focused on dealing with the Communist dictatorship of China in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere in the face of the express intent of President Xi Jinping to make his country the second superpower - in the process it seems to be overlooking the Sino-Pak strategic partnership that had become a notch deeper since the emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The US needs to have a closer look at the significance of a Communist regime and a country standing by Islamic radicals, coming on the same side politically in the emerging 'Cold War' between the US and China. The conference of the NSAs hosted by Ajit Doval has precisely drawn attention to this. Pakistan has predictably responded to India's regional initiative on Afghanistan by calling a meeting of the big three - US, Russia and China - at Islamabad close on the heels of the Delhi summit, and inviting the foreign minister of the Afghanistan Emirate to it - Pakistan is the only country that has recognised the Taliban government. Pakistan knows that because of its role in Afghanistan it is on a discount in the eyes of the countries of this region. It has however, sensed that the Biden Presidency still valued its friendship for its mediatory role in the Doha negotiations and its importance for the Saudi-led block in the Muslim world that was pro-US. Policy makers in the US however, do seem to be taking cognisance of the duplicitous play of Pakistan in the 'war on terror' and also analysing the implications of the Sino-Pak collaboration for the emerging geopolitics. India is playing its cards well in dealing with the Pak-Afghanistan belt on the one hand and countering China's aggressiveness both on the border and on the marine front, on the other.

It goes to the credit of Prime Minister Modi that he has in a short span of time elevated India to the position of a major power that had a say in global issues of economic cooperation and security. This has largely been made possible by a combination of policies that drew upon bilateral relations resting on mutual economic and security interests free of any ideological baggage of the past, assertion of India's sovereign strength in handling any adversary and demonstration of political will in taking hard decisions. This has enabled the Modi government to respond to Chinese aggressiveness on the LAC with a matching defence build up, actively associate with Quad to show its solidarity with the democratic world's geopolitical moves against a hostile Communist dictatorship and send a message to Pakistan - through the surgical strike at Balakot - that any act of mischief against India will be severely punished. Prime Minister Modi has done remarkably well in establishing India's credentials as a believer in world peace, international cooperation for economic development and human welfare, at various forums addressed by him including the UN General Assembly, G20, SCO and even Quad.

India's call for a joint fight against terrorism has been combined with the initiative on vaccination against Covid - this has already been acknowledged by the world - and cooperation in the field of technology for economic advancement. Modi's leadership has taken India's image forward internationally in spite of the disruptive politics that its opponents have taken to, at home.

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

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INDIA PUSHES RENEWED TRADE TALKS WITH CANADA

Y Media also covered the event where the Canada India Foundation (CIF) hosted the NASSCOM Delegation to Canada reception. Addressing the delegation, the Chair of CIF, Satish Thakkar, said, "Together, Canada and India can create centres of excellence here that could be a model for the world. To fully realize the growth we need, Canada will identify emerging economies like India and others to quicken the recovery. What better time for the governments on both

sides to revisit the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Canada and India. This alone has the potential to be a gamechanger, leading to significant gains for both sides in terms of economic growth." Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said bilateral trade between India and Canada currently stands at \$10 billion. There is tremendous potential to take it to much higher levels.



1.3 MN CANADIAN CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY: REPORT

OTTAWA, (IANS) More than 1.3 million Canadian children, or 17.7 per cent, live in poverty, according to an annual report issued by Campaign 2000. That is a pretty significant number of kids who are suffering from the harm and effects of missing meals, not having the right kinds of clothes and parents working really long hours. Using the latest data available from 2019, the Campaign 2000 report issued on Wednesday paints a stark picture of income, health, social inequalities and deepening levels of child and family poverty. It shows data that suggest poverty reduction has declined and in some parts of Canada, poverty has increased. In fact, children are living in deeper poverty, Xinhua news agency reported. The report finds disproportionately higher rates of child poverty among communities marginalised by systemic barriers. The highest child poverty rate in Canada is in Nunavut territory, at 34.4 per cent. Manitoba province, with a rate of 28.4 per cent, is the highest of any province. The report urges the Canadian government to take bolder and more decisive action to protect children. The report is based on the most recently available tax data, which is from 2019.

ON DECEMBER 13, FEDS WILL OFFER APOLOGY TO ALL MEMBERS OF DEFENCE TEAM WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT & MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION

The Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Anita Anand, the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre, and the Deputy Minister, Jody Thomas, issued the following statement: "There must be absolutely no place in our organization for sexual assault, sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. We know that our collective failure to build an inclusive workplace culture free from these unacceptable behaviours has hurt our people. "As part of our efforts to restore relationships with those harmed, we will offer a public apology to all current and former members of the Defence Team who have been affected by sexual assault and sexual misconduct, including harassment, and discrimination." The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defence, will offer an apology on behalf of the Government of Canada. General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff, will offer an apology on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces. Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister of National Defence, will offer an apology on behalf of the Department of National Defence. The apology will take place virtually at 1 p.m. EST on December 13 and will be livestreamed on the Canadian Armed Forces Facebook page. Viewers can watch the video stream without an account or signing in to Facebook. A link to the video will be posted shortly before the event on the CAF and DND Facebook and Twitter pages, and will also be available on the DND/CAF Sexual Misconduct Apology web page.

CANADA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO BAN CONVERSION THERAPY PRACTICES

Diversity and inclusion are among Canada's greatest strengths. Everyone should be able to live a true and authentic life, free from violence and discrimination, no matter who they are or who they love. Today, the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and the Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, introduced proposed amendments to the Criminal Code to ban so-called conversion therapy practices in Canada. This bill would make Canada's criminal laws on conversion therapy practices among the most comprehensive in the world. The legislation proposes four new Criminal Code offences that would prohibit: causing another person to undergo conversion therapy removing a minor from Canada to subject them to conversion therapy abroad profiting from providing conversion therapy advertising or promoting conversion therapy The proposed legislation would also authorize courts to order the seizure of conversion therapy advertisements or to order their removal from computer systems or the Internet. This bill expands on Bill C-6, adopted by the House of Commons in the previous Parliament. It does so by protecting all Canadians—regardless of their age—from the well-documented harms of conversion therapy practices. Conversion therapy practices aim to change an individual's sexual orientation to heterosexual, to change an individual's gender identity to cisgender, or to change their gender expression to match the sex they were assigned at birth. They harm and further stigmatize sexual and gender-diverse persons and undermine their equality and dignity. They reflect myths and stereotypes about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2) communities, particularly that their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression are wrong.

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COVID-19 EXPOSURE: PEEL ADVISING RESIDENTS WHO ATTENDED WEDDING CEREMONY AND ASSOCIATED RECEPTIONS AT NATIONAL BANQUET HALLS ON NOVEMBER 17-18 AND SRI GURU SINGH SABHA MALTON IN MISSISSAUGA ON NOVEMBER 20 TO SEEK IMMEDIATE TESTING

Individuals who attended wedding ceremony and associated receptions at National Banquet Halls and Sri Guru Singh Sabha Malton in Mississauga, exposed to COVID-19
Brampton, ON (November 25, 2021) – Peel Public Health is advising anyone who attended the wedding ceremony and receptions at the following locations in Mississauga to seek immediate testing:
· Guests attending National Banquet Halls, 7355 Torbram Road, Mississauga, November 17-18 between 6:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. should get tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. All individuals, even if fully vaccinated, must self-isolate until November 30th, even if they receive a negative test result.

· Guests attending Sri Guru Singh Sabha Malton, 7280 Airport Road, Mississauga, on November 20 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. should get tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. All individuals, even if fully vaccinated, must isolate until November 30th, even if they receive a negative test result. Those seeking testing because of exposure at either location should give testers the following outbreak number: 2253-2021-51094. Testing locations can be found by Googling “COVID testing near me” with location services enabled. Information on how to self-isolate can be found at Coronavirus self-isolation page. Failure to comply with self-isolation requirement can result in fines under the Section 22 Class Order.

CANADA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT WORKERS WITH TEN DAYS OF PAID SICK LEAVE, PROTECT HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FINISH THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a number of issues facing Canadians in their workplaces. Too many Canadians have been forced to choose between staying home when they are sick or being able to afford rent and groceries. Too many health care workers, those who assist them and Canadians seeking medical care have experienced or feared intimidation while attempting to provide or access health services. Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Labour, and the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, introduced legislation that would amend the Canada Labour Code to provide ten days of paid sick leave per year to workers in the federally regulated private sector. The legislation would also amend the Criminal Code to enhance protections for health care workers and to ensure everyone has safe and unobstructed access to health services. Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Labour said, “Canadians shouldn’t have to choose between staying home when they’re sick and putting food on the table. Paid sick leave will protect workers and their families, protect their jobs, and protect their workplaces. It’s an important step in the fight against COVID-19 and a necessary addition to the social safety net that organized labour has been advocating for.” Access to paid sick leave is key to Canada’s economic recovery and to strengthening the social safety net that Canadians rely on. In 2019, the Government put in place three days of paid personal leave that federally regulated workers could use if they were sick. During the pandemic, the Government introduced the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit for workers without employer-paid sick leave. Now, moving forward with

ten days of permanent paid sick leave would protect workers’ incomes, jobs, and health as we finish the fight against COVID-19. The Government will be engaging in consultations with federally regulated employers and workers towards the implementation of this legislation. Additionally, the Government will convene provinces, territories and other interested stakeholders to develop a national action plan to legislate paid sick leave across the country, while respecting provincial-territorial jurisdiction and clearly recognizing the unique needs of small business owners. Everyone deserves to be safe when seeking or providing health services. Health care workers and those who assist them must be able to perform their duties without fear of threats or intimidation, and everyone must be able to access medical care safely. The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code also respond to longstanding concerns voiced by medical professionals, such as those who provide abortion services, about their ability to work in an environment free from violence and threats. The amendments would create a new intimidation offence to protect health care workers and persons seeking health services. This means that individuals who use fear to stop a health care worker or those who assist them from performing their duties or who prevent a person from obtaining health services could be charged with the proposed new offence and, if found guilty, be subject to a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. The amendments would also create a specific offence that would prohibit obstructing any person from accessing health facilities.



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.

OSLER FOUNDATION RAISING \$20,000 THIS GIVING TUESDAY FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY EFFORTS

This GivingTuesday, William Osler Health System Foundation (Osler Foundation) has a goal of raising \$20,000 in support of the Build Back, Together campaign, to assist with Osler’s COVID-19 pandemic recovery. GivingTuesday is a global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. Donations raised on Tuesday, November 30 will help Osler hospitals, and the entire community, build back from the pandemic—better, stronger, and together. To mobilize the community behind GivingTuesday, The Leggat Auto Group is generously matching all donations up to \$5000 on November 30. As Osler works to gradually and safely resume normal operations, support is needed to fund the replacement of essential equipment. All equipment in a hospital must be funded by the community and funds raised this GivingTuesday will purchase essential items such as surgical tables, anesthesia gas machines, laparoscopes and camera heads, and an AV surgical integration system. “The communities that Osler hospitals serve are among the hardest hit by COVID-19. GivingTuesday is an opportunity for you to directly support health care and COVID-19 recovery close to home,” says Ken Mayhew, President & CEO, William Osler Health System Foundation. “With every dollar that is donated to Osler Foundation on GivingTuesday, you’ll be giving our health care heroes the tools they need to provide exemplary health care right here in our community.” To double your gift in support of Osler’s pandemic recovery, visit oslerfoundation.org to give, or call 905.863.2440.

ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM and FOUNDATION: William Osler Health System is a hospital system, which includes Brampton Civic Hospital, Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness and Etobicoke General Hospital, and serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke and surrounding communities within the Central West region. Osler’s emergency departments are among the busiest in Canada and its Mental Health and Addictions program is one of the largest in Ontario. William Osler Health System Foundation seeks to create a healthier community through giving by inspiring its communities to invest in exceptional health care close to home.



BUILDING ONTARIO WITH INVESTMENTS IN GO TRANSIT BI-LEVEL RAIL COACHES


MADE-IN-ONTARIO RAILCARS SUPPORT MANUFACTURING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THUNDER BAY

THUNDER BAY – The Ontario government is providing \$171 million to refurbish 94 GO Transit bi-level rail coaches at the Alstom plant in Thunder Bay. This investment will support ongoing service expansion across the GO rail network, while supporting 200 manufacturing jobs and economic growth in Northwestern Ontario.

“As part of our plan to build Ontario, we have reached a deal that is good for transit and good for Thunder Bay workers,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “It simply makes sense to refurbish these made-in-Ontario railcars in the same facility that built them. This is part of our plan to advance Ontario’s transit priorities while supporting good-paying jobs in the province.” The refurbished bi-level coaches are expected to be delivered starting in 2023 and will be equipped with new seating, washroom upgrades, updated electrical outlets with USB ports and other cosmetic improvements.

By extending the life of these coaches, Metrolinx will have the rail fleet required to support GO Transit expansion, which will provide faster and more convenient service across the GO rail network. “Our government understands that we need to do everything possible to support economic development, and today’s announcement will help support that by securing high quality, good-paying jobs in the North,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. “Ontario is a world-leading manufacturing powerhouse, and targeted investments like these will continue to create the conditions for economic growth and job creation in Northern Ontario, making it the best place to work, live, and prosper.”

As part of Ontario’s commitment to support public transit and manufacturing in Northern Ontario, Metrolinx is working closely with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) on opportunities for the refurbishment of additional bi-level coaches and locomotives.



The following groups are eligible to book their COVID-19 booster dose:

- Individuals with certain health conditions
- Individuals aged 70+ (born in 1951 or earlier)
- Health care workers
- Individuals who received two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine
- First Nation, Inuit, and Métis adults and their household members

CERTAIN GROUPS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A COVID19 BOOSTER SHOT IF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEIR LAST DOSE (ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH/ TWITTER).

LIVE

VOTE AND RESULTS

Official Opposition NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's motion calling for making Peel Memorial a full hospital, and building a new third hospital for the people of Brampton.

23
YES VOTES

45
NO VOTES

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES DEFEATS ONTARIO NDP MOTION (BY VOTE OF 45 TO 23) CALLING ON FORD GOVERNMENT TO CREATE 850 HOSPITAL BEDS, A NEW EMERGENCY ROOM IN THE PEEL MEMORIAL EXPANSION AND THE THIRD HOSPITAL IN BRAMPTON.



DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER MANISH SISODIA ASKS PUNJAB GOVT FOR DETAILS OF EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday once again asked the Congress-led Punjab government for the details of the 250 government schools to compare the education models of both the states.

“Yesterday we released the list of 250 Delhi government schools and have requested the Punjab Education Minister and Chief Minister to update us on the steps taken by the Congress government in the state to improve the infrastructure of its education system,” Sisodia said during a press conference on Monday afternoon.

Sisodia, who holds the Education portfolio, on Sunday released the list of government schools that have improved in the field of education reforms, infrastructure, training, and results.

Earlier, he had also invited Punjab Education Minister Pargat Singh to visit and witness the revolution Delhi Government has brought to the field of education in the last five years.

Releasing the list of schools, the Deputy Chief Minister on Sunday

said that in the last six years, the Delhi Government has developed world-class infrastructure in government schools, provided leadership training to the heads of schools from institutions like IIMs and sent teachers abroad for training to provide quality education.

“As a result, Delhi government schools have become better than private schools. This year, the Class 12th Board result in Delhi’s government schools has been 99.96 per cent. The government schools are such that 51 students from one school are qualifying in examinations like NEET. This year around 500 children from Delhi government schools have qualified NEET, 500 children have qualified JEE Mains and 70 children have also cleared JEE Advanced,” he stated.

“I am sure that Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi will take up this challenging spot on and share the details of the work Congress government has done in the past few years,” Sisodia said, adding: “I am also sure that Channi will admit wherever Punjab’s education infrastructure is lacking and work towards improving it.”

JACK DORSEY QUILTS AS TWITTER CEO, ANNOUNCES IIT MAN PARAG AGARWAL AS SUCCESSOR

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Indian-American Parag Agarwal, Twitter @paraga, is the new CEO, with immediate effect, Dorsey announced.

Agarwal attended Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) and IIT Mumbai and followed it with a Stanford Ph.D. and ten years at Twitter.

Dorsey’s note attacked the concept of “founder-led”. The construct sets companies up for failure, he said.

Dorsey, 45, was serving as both the CEO of Twitter and Square, his digital payments company. He will remain a member of the Board until his term expires at the 2022 meeting of stockholders.

Salesforce boss Bret Taylor will become Twitter Chairman, replacing Patrick Pichette, a former Google executive, who will remain on the board as Chair of the Audit Committee.

“I’ve decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders,” Dorsey said.

“Deep gratitude for @jack and our entire team, and so much excitement for the future,” Agarwal said in a quote-tweet of Dorsey, with a short acceptance note attached, a #oneteam tag and a heart emoji in blue.

Agrawal, CTO since 2017, isn’t in for an easy time. Twitter’s stated goal of monetization for one – 315 million monetizable daily active users by the end of 2023 and doubling of annual revenue. Agrawal’s specialization has been strategy involving artificial intelligence and machine learning (read: no finance as yet).

Before studying computer science at IIT, he attended the Atomic Energy Kendriya Vidyalaya.

While studying at Stanford, Agarwal worked as a research intern for Microsoft, Yahoo!, and AT&T Labs.

After graduating from Stanford, he joined Twitter as an ads engineer. He served in that position from October 2011 to October 2017.

His early work as CTO was dedicated to increasing the relevance of tweets in Twitter timelines through the use of artificial intelligence.

Dorsey’s exit isn’t a surprise. He was under pressure from activist investor Elliott Management Corp, even over how he was spending his time. A year earlier, Dorsey had said he planned to spend up to six months of the year working in Africa to better understand the continent’s internet users, a move that was ultimately scrapped due to Covid-19.

The hedge fund reached an agreement with Twitter and private equity group Silver Lake to appoint three new Directors to Twitter’s board and create a committee to review leadership and governance. The deal came at a cost. Dorsey was expected to grow Twitter’s monetized daily users by 20 per cent or more and boost revenue growth. Agarwal’s remarkable journey starts from a Kendriya Vidyalaya under the Atomic Energy Education Society (AEES), set up for education to children of the employees of the Department of Atomic Energy and its constituent units. From one school in Anushaktinagar, Mumbai in 1969, AEES administers 30 schools and junior colleges at 16 locations all over the country.

PARLIAMENT PASSES FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL SANS DEBATE



Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge said, opposition parties welcomed the Bill and stated the opposition’s view on the Repeal Bills demanding a discussion.

When he spoke for more than three minutes, Deputy Chairperson Rajya Sabha asked him to stop and allowed the Agriculture Minister to move the motion, immediately prompting the opposition benches to raise slogans.

However, saying that “there is no need for a discussion,” Tomar moved the motion to pass the Bill and it was passed by voice vote.

The government had similarly rushed through the two houses when the three original bills were passed on September 17 and September 20 last year. Opposition parties had attacked the government then and, on Monday, minced no words as the Bill to repeal those laws was bulldozed through both houses.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, “We knew that the Bills would be repealed. This is farmers’ victory. But this government is afraid of discussions. It was wrong on the part of the government to withdraw bills without a discussion.”

Soon after the Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, outside the Parliament, NCP leader Supriya Sule told media persons, “This is a black day for democracy. The government wants to do ‘Mann Ki Baat’ (own talk) but does not want to listen to the Jan Ki Baat’ (people’s talk).”

Rakesh Tikait, one of the prominent members of the farmers’ agitation told media persons, “The government wants there should be no protests but we will not leave the site before MSP is discussed among other issues.”

In counter to opposition leaders’ allegations, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said, “The Prime Minister has shown large-heartedness and agreed to repeal the three laws. The farmers’ organizations were demanding it; the opposition parties were demanding it. We agreed to their demand and brought in this Bill.”

Incidentally, former Minister and Congress leader, Jairam Ramesh had tweeted right in the morning: “Modi Sarkar wants to push through the 3 farm laws repeal Bill today in Parliament WITHOUT any debate. The passage of the laws 16 months ago was most undemocratic. The manner of repeal is even more so. The Opposition demands a discussion before repeal.”

WORLD

NEW ZEALAND MOVES TO ‘TRAFFIC LIGHT’ COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK



WELLINGTON, (IANS) New Zealand moves to “traffic light” Covid-19 Protection Framework on Friday, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday announcing the levels at which different parts of New Zealand will move forward. Northland, Auckland, Taupo and Rotorua Lakes Districts, Kawerau, Whakatane, Otago Districts, Gisborne District, Wairoa District, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Ruapehu Districts will move in at Red, with the rest of the North Island moving in at Orange, Ardern told a press conference.

The whole of the South Island will move in at Orange, she said, adding cautious approach will be taken initially as the country transitions into the new framework, Xinhua news agency reported.

“On Friday the traffic lights are turned on for all of New Zealand,” said the prime minister. She said New Zealand has the lowest case and death rates in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and among the highest rates of vaccination in the world. The certainty and stability of the traffic lights replace the sudden lockdowns and restrictions of Alert Levels, Ardern said, adding schools will stay open at every colour and businesses will have protection through ‘My Vaccine Passes’ to keep operating.

PAKISTAN NEEDS NATIONAL DATA SECURITY STRATEGY TO MEET CYBER-ATTACK CHALLENGES: PRESIDENT



Pakistani President Arif Alvi said that new cyber security challenges require a strategy to effectively counter threats and secure national data, the President House said in a statement.

Addressing the awards ceremony of the first nationwide Cyber Security Hackathon 2021, Alvi said that the risk of cyber-attacks grew with Pakistan’s advancement towards digitalization.

Citing examples of recent cyber-attacks on the system of the country’s Federal Board of Revenue and National Bank of Pakistan, the president said that the incidents drew the attention towards an effective guard to defeat the cyber threats. He added that cyber data has become the most valuable commodity worldwide and stressed that Pakistan directly needed to produce a huge number of graduates in the field of cyber security.

The IT infrastructure of Pakistan’s National Bank came under cyber-attack on Oct. 29, but the bank did not observe any data breach or financial loss, the country’s State Bank said in a statement. In a similar attack on the Federal Board of Revenue around August this year, unknown hackers succeeded in breaking hyper-V software by Microsoft, bringing down all the official websites operated by the tax machinery, local media reports said.

WHO CLASSIFIES SOUTH-AFRICAN STRAIN AS 'VARIANT OF CONCERN', ASKS PEOPLE TO REDUCE EXPOSURE

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

“Based on the evidence presented indicative of a detrimental change in Covid-19 epidemiology, the TAG-VE has advised WHO that this variant should be designated as a Variant of Concern and the WHO has designated B.1.1.529 as a VOC, named Omicron”, said the global health body in a statement.

The B.1.1.529 variant was first reported to WHO from South Africa on November 24, 2021. The epidemiological situation in South Africa has been characterized by three distinct peaks in reported cases, the latest of which was predominantly the Delta variant. The first known confirmed B.1.1.529 infection was from a specimen collected on November 9, 2021.

The WHO has asked the countries to enhance surveillance and sequencing efforts to better understand circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants and submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database. The WHO has reminded to take measures to reduce their risk of Covid-19, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, and getting vaccinated. The WHO said that this variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are of concern.

PAKISTANI PUBLIC URGED TO GET FULLY VACCINATED OVER OMICRON VARIANT



ISLAMABAD, (IANS) Asad Umar, Head of Pakistan’s National Command and Operation Center (NCO), that leads the nation’s campaign against Covid-19 on Monday urged the Pakistani people to get fully vaccinated in order to protect themselves from the new Omicron variant of Covid-19.

Speaking to media at a press conference held in Islamabad, Umar, who is also Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, said, “Previous experiences show that it can spread across the world, including Pakistan, because the world is so interconnected that it is impossible to stop any new variant from spreading.” At present, people getting fully vaccinated is a logical solution against threat of the Omicron variant, according to the Minister. The Minister announced that the Pakistani government will launch a big vaccination campaign nationwide this week, adding that the number of daily tests will also increase with more resources put in, Xinhua news agency reported.



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Community Update

William Osler Health System
Winter 2021

Message from Osler's President and CEO



As we close out a historic year, I reflect on what an exceptionally challenging and yet hopeful time it has been for all of us at Osler and in our communities. During the third wave of the pandemic, our team cared for the largest number of COVID-19 patients in the province. Together with Peel Public Health, Toronto Public Health, the City of Brampton and countless other community partners, we truly showed what it means to be #OslerStrong. Thankfully, we are now seeing a much lower number of COVID-19 patients, but we must remain vigilant.

We've also been pushing forward with other important projects and looking toward the future. We are excited to advance the transformation of Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness as we move to the next stage of building Brampton's new hospital. You can hear more about this project and other updates at our Community Telephone Town Hall on December 2. We look forward to connecting with you.

As we approach our second holiday season during the pandemic, our health care teams are here 24/7 to take care of you and your loved ones. I am thankful for our community support and am proud that we continue to work together to save lives. Please keep following safety protocols and rolling up your sleeves to get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

I wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy holiday season.

Dr. Naveed Mohammad

Osler's Telephone Town Hall

Thursday, December 2, 2021
from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join Osler's Telephone Town Hall

Osler invites you to join our next Telephone Town Hall for updates on our COVID-19 response and recovery, hospital construction projects and important holiday health care tips. Community members will have an opportunity to ask questions and engage with hospital leaders, including Dr. Naveed Mohammad, Osler's President and CEO. For more information, to pre-register and to submit your questions, go to www.williamoslerhs.ca/townhall

Calling all cardiac sonographers or CCU, Cath Lab and Cardiology RNs and RPNs!

Come join our diverse team and explore exciting roles in the cardiovascular program! You can be a part of an organization dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment, providing best-in-class care and opportunities for advancement in cardiovascular specialties.

Apply today at careeropportunities.williamoslerhs.ca

Building the New Peel Memorial

Osler continues to transform health care in Brampton. As the population of the city and surrounding region continues to grow, we need a new hospital to help meet the needs of the community today and into the future.

The new Peel Memorial Hospital will be a six- to seven-storey patient tower, with 250 inpatient beds when it opens and space to add nearly 100 more inpatient beds over time. Osler will continue to work with government partners to secure additional funding to make these beds operational as soon as possible. The new building will be connected to the existing Peel Memorial site and will offer new and enhanced outpatient services and day programs. This represents an exciting step for Osler, Brampton and the surrounding community, and is a huge boost in health services in our region.

Read more at www.williamoslerhs.ca/buildosler

Holiday Season Health Checklist

- ✓ Know your doctor's holiday hours.
- ✓ Schedule any needed medical appointments.
- ✓ Discuss your care plan with your health care team and know how to reach them.
- ✓ Get the COVID-19 vaccine and your flu shot.
Have your provincial proof of vaccine certificate ready to show when asked.
- ✓ Refill your medications and medical supplies (e.g., blood testing strips, hearing aid batteries, etc.).
- ✓ Work together to keep each other safe. Follow all Public Health guidelines (e.g. gathering limits, etc.).

Holiday Health Care Options:

- Telehealth Ontario
- Walk-In Clinics
- Family Doctor Offices
- Family Health Teams
- Urgent Care Centre
- Virtual Urgent Care

www.williamoslerhs.ca/HolidayHealthCareOptions

Planning on visiting a patient at Osler over the holidays?

All visitors and essential care partners visiting our facilities are required to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or proof of an approved medical exemption, along with photo identification. Some clinical exemptions apply.

Proof of vaccination/
exemption

+

Photo
identification

For more information on Osler's updated Visitor Policy, including Osler's Virtual Visitation Program and how to schedule an in-person visit, please visit www.williamoslerhs.ca/visiting-us

Know where to go for care at Osler

Emergency Department

Open 24 hours a day, every day

Urgent Care Centre

Re-opening December 6

Virtual Urgent Care

Available seven days a week

Go to an Emergency Department if you have a serious injury or condition such as:

- Chest pain or abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness/fainting
- Internal bleeding
- Numbness or weakness in arms or hands
- Major trauma
- Mental health issues
- Fever in infants three months old and younger
- Overdose/poisoning
- Pregnancy-related emergencies
- Seizures or stroke symptoms
- Any serious condition that you feel is getting worse

To learn more, visit: www.williamoslerhs.ca/emergency-and-urgent-care

Visit the Urgent Care Centre for non-life threatening illnesses or injuries such as:

- Sprains, strains or broken bones
- Allergic reactions or skin rashes
- Asthma attacks
- Minor burns
- Cuts that might need stitches
- Earaches or eye injuries
- Fevers (in infants older than three months), coughs and colds
- Infections or nose and throat complaints

Check website for hours of operation.
Services covered by a valid Ontario health card. No referral or appointment needed. Staffed by emergency-trained doctors and nurses. Onsite high-tech diagnostics (e.g., x-ray, CT scan and laboratory services).

To learn more, visit: www.williamoslerhs.ca/emergency-and-urgent-care

See an Osler physician for urgent health care needs from the comfort of your home.

The service is intended for local residents with non-life threatening medical issues, such as:

- Minor injuries including cuts, sprains, head injuries
- New abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting
- Cough, nasal congestion, cold symptoms

Check website for hours of operation.
Patients will need to have a valid Ontario health card and must be three months old and older.

Book an appointment or learn more: www.williamoslerhs.ca/virtual-urgent-care

William Osler Health System

www.williamoslerhs.ca

Brampton Civic Hospital

2100 Bovaird Drive East
Brampton, ON L6R 3J7
(905) 494-2120

Etobicoke General Hospital

101 Humber College Boulevard
Etobicoke, ON M9V 1R8
(416) 494-2120

Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness

20 Lynch Street
Brampton, ON L6W 2Z8
(905) 494-2120

MARKHAM LOCATION

*All Sale Items For Markham Store Only
Sunnysupermarket.com

SUNNY FOOD MART

陽光超級市場

FLYER PRICES EFFECTIVE:
Dec.03 (Fri.) - Dec.09 (Thur.) 2021

MEAT

Fresh Whole Chicken (No Cut, No Clean)
新鮮雞
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.00**
\$1.99 lb

Fresh Beef Back Rib
新鮮牛肉排
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$1.50**
\$3.49 lb

Fresh Beef Outside Round
新鮮牛肉
Reg: \$6.49 **Save: \$1.00**
\$5.49 lb

SEAFOOD

Fresh Cuttlefish
新鮮魷魚
Reg: \$5.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$4.97 lb

Live Manila Clam
生蠔
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.97 lb

Fresh Sea Bass
新鮮海鮭
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$6.97 lb

Fresh Sea Bream
新鮮海魚
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$6.97 lb

Cod Fish Fillet
鱈魚
Reg: \$8.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$7.97 lb

KITCHEN

Hakka Style Fried Noodle
客家炒麵
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.98 order

Stir Fry Mixed Mushroom
炒雙菇
Reg: \$3.10 **Save: \$1.02**
\$6.98 order

Kung Pao Chicken
宮保雞
Reg: \$9.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$7.98 order

Deep Fried Squid Tentacles With Salt & Pepper
椒鹽魷魚
Reg: \$15.99 **Save: \$5.01**
\$10.98 order

Lober With Ginger & Scallion
薑蔥龍蝦
Reg: \$18.99 **Save: \$5.01**
\$13.98 order

PRODUCE

Fresh Chinese Okra
新鮮茭瓜
Reg: \$1.99 **Save: \$0.72**
\$1.27 lb

Fresh Cluster Tomatoes
新鮮有枝蕃茄
Reg: \$1.99 **Save: \$0.42**
\$1.57 lb

Fresh Organic Ginger
新鮮有機薑
Reg: \$2.59 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.57 lb

Fresh Seedless Red Grapes
新鮮無核紅提
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.97 lb

Fresh Seedless Watermelon (8-9Lb)
新鮮無核大西瓜
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$2.97 ea

Fresh Apple/Mango in Case 4kg
新鮮蘋果/芒果
Reg: \$9.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$7.97 ea

GROCERY

Maggi Magic Sarap All in One Seasoning 96g
Reg: \$1.99 **Save: \$0.99**
\$1.00 ea

Tiger Malt Non-Alcoholic Malt Beverage 341ml
Reg: \$1.29 **Save: \$0.29**
\$1.00 ea

Cedar Phoenixia Popcorn 2Lb
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.97 ea

Cedar Phoenixia Pure White Vinegar 4L
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$1.97 ea

Nescafe 1+2 Instant Coffee 10*15g
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.97 ea

Handi Kasoori Methi 100g
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.97 ea

Hunt's Pasta Sauce 680ml
Reg: \$2.59 **Save: \$0.62**
\$1.97 ea

Primo Pasta Series 900g
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$1.97 ea

Bedeessie Jamaican Pride Dried Sorrel 100g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Even Kurumies Roasted Sunflower Seeds 300g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Dil Se Mamra (Puffed Rice) 400g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Global Choice Poha Thick (Beaten Rice) 2Lb
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Ching's Secret Hakka Veg Noodles 600g
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$3.97 ea

Tunnock's Caramel Milk Chocolate Wafer Biscuit 250g
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$3.97 ea

Faojay Premium Dried Chili 454g
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$5.97 ea

BAKERY

Vidhya Tea Rusk 200g
Reg: \$1.99 **Save: \$0.99**
\$1.00 pk

Peach Cheese Strudel 4pcs
Reg: \$2.49 **Save: \$0.72**
\$1.77 pk

La Fournee Dorée Brioche Chocolate Mini Croissants 230g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.72**
\$2.27 pk

Santosh Naan Series 5pcs
Reg: \$1.99/pk **Save: \$1.71**
2 FOR \$2.27

Regal Puff Pastry Delight / Twist 230g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 pk

Two-Bite Unicorn Cupcakes 12pcs
Reg: \$2.99/pk **Save: \$2.98**
2 FOR \$3.00

SUPER DEAL

Live White Tilapia Fish
淡水白立魚
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.97 lb

Golden Harvest Aloo / Dal Puri 10pcs
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$1.97 ea

Bistro Belgique French Fries 2500g
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$3.97 ea

Seven Baskets Premium Frozen Raw/Vanilla Shrimp 20/30 Net 400g
Reg: \$14.99 **Save: \$7.02**
\$7.97 ea

Cool Ocean Impex Black Tiger Shrimp 400g
Reg: \$13.99 **Save: \$5.02**
\$8.97 ea

Madhani Dahl Yogurt 750g
Reg: \$3.59 **Save: \$1.62**
\$1.97 ea

Tropicana Orange Juice 2.63L
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$3.97 ea

Cedar Free Running Table Salt 1kg
Reg: \$1.49 **Save: \$0.49**
\$1.00 ea

Eagle Masoor Dal (Red Split Lentils) 4Lb
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$3.97 ea

Eagle Chana Dal (Split Desi Chickpeas) 4Lb
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.97 ea

Bulk Cashew Nuts
Reg: \$12.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$8.97 lb

Pillsbury Chakki Atta (100% Whole Grain Wheat Flour) 20Lb
Reg: \$14.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$11.97 ea

Tetley Orange Pekoe 300 Bags 945g
Reg: \$15.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$11.97 ea

Zafarani India's Premium Quality Aged Basmati Rice 10Lb
Reg: \$15.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$12.97 ea

Pearl Milagrosa Long Grain White 100% Jasmine Scented Rice 8kg
Reg: \$23.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$19.97 ea

Nanak Pure Desi Ghee Clarified Butter 3.5Lb
Reg: \$29.99 **Save: \$9.02**
\$20.97 ea

Country Harvest Grain Bread Series 570g
Reg: \$3.49 **Save: \$1.22**
\$2.27 pk

Taiwanese Style Fried Popcorn Chicken
台灣鹽酥雞
Reg: \$10.99 **Save: \$3.41**
\$7.58 order

Fresh You Choy
新鮮油菜
Reg: \$2.59 **Save: \$1.22**
\$1.37 lb

Fresh Spanish Pomegranate
新鮮西班牙紅石榴
Reg: \$2.99 **Save: \$1.02**
JUMBO \$1.97 ea

FROZEN

Surati Frozen Okra 340g
Reg: \$1.99 **Save: \$1.02**
97c ea

Eggo Waffles 8pcs
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Familia Mini Rolls 450g
Reg: \$5.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$2.97 ea

Madina Paratha 1.6kg 20pcs
Reg: \$10.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$6.97 ea

Frozen Durian
Reg: \$5.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$4.97 lb

Golden Harvest Parathas 30pcs
Reg: \$9.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$5.97 ea

Al Safa Chicken Burgers / Nuggets / Strips 600g
Reg: \$8.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$5.97 ea

Oneworld Halal Beef Patties 1512g 8pcs
Reg: \$12.99 **Save: \$5.02**
\$7.97 ea

Al Safa Halal Uncooked Beef Burgers 16pcs
Reg: \$12.99 **Save: \$5.02**
\$7.97 ea

Deep Tandoori Nigari 16pcs
Reg: \$14.99 **Save: \$6.02**
\$8.97 ea

Kebab Factory Halal Chicken Kebabs 18pcs
Reg: \$16.99 **Save: \$7.02**
\$9.97 ea

Riviera Meat Lasagna 8Lb
Reg: \$15.99 **Save: \$5.02**
\$9.97 ea

Al - Shammas Samsa / Spring Roll 1.2kg
Reg: \$27.99 **Save: \$10.02**
\$19.97 ea

Sunthal Seafood Frozen Wild Caught Cuttle Fish
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$3.97 lb

Sunthal Seafood Frozen Red Snapper
Reg: \$8.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$5.97 lb

SH Row Peeled Shrimp Net 400g
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$5.97 ea

SH Fresh Peeled Shrimp Net 400g
Reg: \$11.99 **Save: \$4.02**
\$7.97 ea

Sunthal Seafood Frozen King Fish Steak 5Lb
Reg: \$39.99 **Save: \$10.02**
\$29.97 box

DAIRY

Maple Leaf Natural Selections Slow Cooked Beef Shaved 150g
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$3.02**
\$1.97 ea

Silk Pure Almond Drink (Unsweetened) 946ml
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$1.97 ea

Silani Mozzarella Cheese 250g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Black Diamond Cheese 250g
Reg: \$3.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$2.97 ea

Lactantia Purifika Milk 1.5L
Reg: \$5.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$3.97 ea

P'tit Quebec 4 Fromages Cheese 320g
Reg: \$4.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$4.97 ea

Parkay Margarine 2.8L
Reg: \$9.99 **Save: \$5.02**
\$4.97 ea

Danone Activia Yogurt 12*100g
Reg: \$7.99 **Save: \$2.02**
\$5.97 ea

Bar's Dairy Malt Paneer 340g
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.97 ea

Armstrong Cheese Block 400g
Reg: \$6.99 **Save: \$1.02**
\$5.97 ea

Krinos Cow & Goat Feta Cheese 3kg
Reg: \$39.99 **Save: \$10.02**
\$29.97 ea

ETOBICOKE LOCATION

*All Sale Items For Etobicoke Store Only
Sunnysupermarket.com

SUNNY FOOD MART

陽光超級市場

陽光生鮮 SUNNY GO 線上超市

動動手指 生鮮到家
優惠活動 隨時隨地

動動手指 關注我們
快速查貨 網購便捷: SUNNYGO.CA

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