



Y MEDIA TEAM REACHED INDIA'S TASTE, BRAMPTON WHERE PM TRUDEAU ALONG WITH DEFENCE MINISTER ANITA ANAND JOINED BRAMPTON MPS RUBY SAHOTA, MANINDER SIDHU, SONIA SIDHU, KAMAL KHERA & SHAFQAT ALI TO CELEBRATE DIWALI.

## WILL COVID-19 PILLS BE A GAME CHANGER IN FIGHT AGAINST THE VIRUS?

Merck announced its anti-viral drug has shown "compelling results" in clinical trials -- halving the risk of hospitalisation or death for patients with mild or moderate cases of Covid. Molnupiravir, co-developed with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, is administered orally and works by inhibiting the replication of the coronavirus inside the body. The companies plan to seek emergency authorisation for the drug in the US as soon as possible, the company said in a statement. An interim analysis of a Phase-3 study, based on 775 trial participants, found that 7.3 per cent of patients treated with molnupiravir were hospitalised within 29 days. Of the patients who received a placebo, 14.1 per cent were hospitalised or died by day 29. No deaths were reported in patients who were given molnupiravir within the 29-day period, while eight deaths were reported in placebo-treated patients. The drug's efficacy was not affected by timing of symptom onset or underlying risk factor. In addition, based on the participants with available viral sequencing data (approximately 40 per cent of participants), molnupiravir demonstrated consistent efficacy across viral variants Gamma, Delta, and Mu. "With these compelling results, we are optimistic that molnupiravir can become an important medicine as part of the global effort to fight the pandemic," Merck CEO and President Robert M. Davis, said in the statement. "We will continue to work with regulatory agencies on our applications and do everything we can to bring molnupiravir to patients as quickly as possible," he added. Moreover, adverse events were comparable in the molnupiravir and placebo groups, with around 10 per cent reporting adverse events. The Phase 3 trial was conducted at more than 170 sites, in countries including the US, Brazil, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Taiwan, and Guatemala. Molnupiravir has also been shown to be active in several preclinical models of SARS-CoV-2, including for prophylaxis, treatment, and prevention of transmission.

## PADMA AWARDS PRESENTED TO KANGANA, PV SINDHU, ADNAN SAMI

President Ram Nath Kovind presented four Padma Vibhushans, including to archaeologist B.B. Lal, five Padma Bhushans and 44 Padma Shri on Tuesday. The awards were presented by the President at the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the presentation of the awards are being held in two parts, the second will take place at 5 p.m. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice President N. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Apart from Lal, Padma Vibhushan awards were presented to cardiologist Belle Monappa Hegde (medicine), Narinder Singh Kapany (posthumous, for science and engineering) and sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo (arts). The second important award, the Padma Bhushan, was presented to former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan (public affairs), top bureaucrat Nripendra Mishra (civil service), and posthumously to former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi (for public affairs), Ram Vilas Paswan (public affairs) and former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel (public affairs).



SPECIAL COVERAGE ON PAGE 4 >

## HOMES SALE DOWN BY 6.9%, AVERAGE PRICE UP BY 19.3% IN GTA

Home sales in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) reached the second-highest level on record for the month of October. However, the inventory of homes for sale did not keep up with demand. The number of new listings was down by approximately one-third compared to October 2020.

CONTD. ON PAGE 5

## CANADA ADDS 31,000 JOBS IN OCTOBER, UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO 6.7%: STATSCAN

Compared with the September reference week, more proof-of-vaccination initiatives were in effect in various provinces and workplaces. In British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario, capacity limits were lifted in many sectors of activity where proof of vaccination is now mandatory.

CONTD. ON PAGE 5

## BJP TO FORM BOOTH COMMITTEES IN ALL POLLING STATIONS ACROSS INDIA

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Gearing up for the 2022 Assembly polls and next general election, the BJP has decided to complete the formation of booth committees at over 10 lakh polling stations across the country by year end. Addressing the inaugural session of BJP National Executive Committee meet here, party chief J.P. Nadda set the target to complete the process of forming the booth committees.



CONTD. ON PAGE 9

## REPORT SAYS FACEBOOK BAD FOR 360 MN USERS, META DENIES



Facebook addiction is hurting sleep, work, relationships and parenting for about 12.5 per cent of users (nearly 360 million), according to the company's internal documents seen by the media. According to a Wall Street Journal report, Facebook researchers have found that 1 in 8 of its users report are engaged in compulsive use of social media.

CONTD. ON PAGE 6

## JOBLESSNESS TOP CONCERN OF URBAN INDIANS IN OCT 2021: SURVEY



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Joblessness is the top concern of Urban Indians in October 2021 while global citizens are more worried about poverty and social inequality, Ipsos What Worries the World global monthly survey has said. According to the survey, unlike earlier, concern around Covid-19 has receded both for global citizens and Urban Indians. It sat on top as the top worry of global citizens (28 markets including India) for 18 months.

CONTD. ON PAGE 6

## Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- Canada looking 'quite carefully' at PCR testing rules as U.S. land border reopens.
- Effective November 30, International Flights Carrying Passengers Will Be Permitted To Land At 8 Additional Canadian Airports.
- Pfizer's COVID-19 pill cuts hospitalization or death by nearly 90%.
- Ontarians 70+, AstraZeneca recipients can start booking COVID-19 boosters now.
- More than 88.6% Ontarians 12+ inoculated with first dose, 85.2% fully vaccinated.
- More than 88% Canadians 12+ vaccinated with first dose, 83.5% fully vaccinated.

DETAILS ON PAGE 3



AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT ORGANIZED MUSLIMS' REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENTS IN BRAMPTON (TOP) & MISSISSAUGA (BOTTOM).

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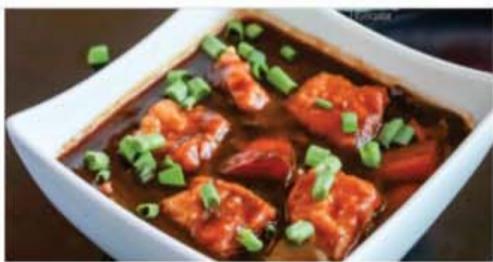
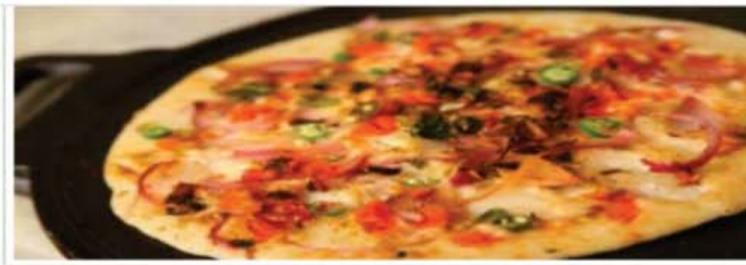
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# Y MEDIA COMMUNITY EVENTS



# PADMA AWARDS PRESENTED TO KANGANA, PV SINDHU, ADNAN SAMI



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

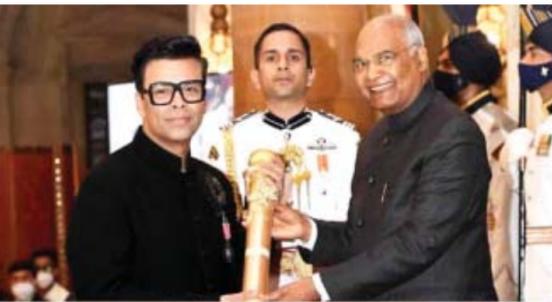
Honouring the talents across fields, the Padma Shri awards were presented to Sarod & Afghan Rabani player Ustad Gulfam Ahmed (arts), basketball player P Anitha (sports), Assam banker Laxmi Baruah (social work), Rajani Bector (trade and industry), folk artist Gopiram Bargayn Burabhakat (arts), retired principal Sujit Chatterjee a.k.a. Chattopadhyay (literature and education), Ladakh's Tsultrim Chonjor (social work), painter from Bihar Dulari Devi (arts), dancer Prof Dr Iyu Bhuyan (arts), Gujarati poet and folk singer Dadudan Gadhavi (posthumous, arts), Haryana's Professor Jai Bhagwan Goyal (literature and education), mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh, Dr Anshu Jamsenpa (sports), folk singer Purnamasi Jani (arts), author Namdev Chandrabhan Kamble (literature and education) and Dr Rajat Kumar Kar (literature and education).

The other Padma Shri awardees included Punjab's Prakash Kaur (social work), renowned puppeteer K Kesavasamy (arts), phulkari artist Lajwanti (arts), folk singer Lakha Khan Manganiar (arts), folk singer Dulal Manki (arts), Dr Chandrakant Mehta (literature and education), Kaithapram Damodaran Namboodiri (arts), Dr Chandrakant Sambhaji Pandav

(medicine), Dr Jitendra Nath Pandey (posthumous, for medicine), Prof Sundaram Soloman Pappiah (literature and education - journalism), Jaswantiben Jamnadas Popat (trader and industry), Assam's Dr Birubala Rabha (social work), Rama Swamy Annavarapu (arts), famous Carnatic singer Bombay Jayashree Ramnath (arts) and Dr Dhananjay Diwakar Sagdeo (medicine).

Further, the Padma Shri awards were also given to Orthopedic Dr Bhupendra Kumar Singh Sanjay (medicine), Prof Chamanlal Sapru (posthumous, for literature and education), Hanjaman Ongbi Radhe (arts), Dr Arjun Singh Shekhawat (literature and education), Prof Ram Yatna Shukla (literature and education), Jitender Singh Shunty (social work), athlete Sudha Singh (sports), former governor Mrudula Sinha (literature and education), West Bengal's Guru Maa Kamali Soren (social work), P Subramaniam (posthumous, for trade and industry), Dr Thiruvengadam Veeraraghavan (posthumous, for medicine), Dr Kapil Tiwari (literature and education), differently-abled sportsperson K Y Venkatesh (sports) and Bangladesh national Lt Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir (social work).

This year, the list of Padma awards consists of seven Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushan, and 102 Padma Shri.



## COVID-RELATED PLASTIC WASTE HIGHEST FROM ASIAN COUNTRIES: STUDY

**BEIJING, (IANS)** More than eight million tonnes of pandemic-associated plastic waste have been generated globally, with more than 25,000 tonnes entering the global ocean, according to an alarming study.

Data from the start of the pandemic in 2020 through August 2021, showed that most of the global plastic waste entering the ocean is coming from Asia, with hospital waste representing the bulk of the land discharge.

The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, highlighted that most of the global plastic waste from the pandemic is entering the ocean from rivers, with Asian rivers accounting for 73 per cent of the total discharge of plastics. The top three contributors are the Indus, Shatt al-Arab, and Yangtze rivers, which discharge into the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and East China Sea, respectively. European rivers, on the other hand, account for only 11 per cent of the discharge, with minor contributions from other continents. While most of the pandemic-associated plastics are expected to settle on beaches and the seafloor, a smaller amount will likely end up circulating or settling in the Arctic Ocean, which study authors said appears to be a "dead-end" for plastic debris transported into it due to ocean circulation patterns. "When we started doing the math, we were surprised to find that the amount of medical waste was substantially larger than the amount of waste from individuals, and a lot of it was coming from Asian countries, even though that's not where most of the Covid-19 cases were," said Amina Schartup, an assistant professor at Scripps Oceanography. "The biggest sources of excess waste were hospitals in areas already struggling with waste management before the pandemic; they just weren't set up to handle a situation where you have more waste," Schartup added. To quantify the impact of the pandemic on plastic discharge from land sources, a team of researchers at Nanjing University's School of Atmospheric Sciences and University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, used a newly developed ocean plastic numerical model. The model was built based on Newton's laws of motion and the law of conservation of mass.

## GLOBAL TELECOM, PAY TV SERVICES TO REACH \$1.5TN IN 2021



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Driven by remote working, collaboration and online media consumption, worldwide spending on telecommunications and pay TV services is forecast to reach \$1.5 trillion in 2021, representing an increase of 1 per cent over 2020.

The fastest expansion is still expected in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to an IDC report, while the value of fixed voice and mobile voice services segments will be gradually declining, the value of fixed data and mobile data services portions will be slowly growing. "The major driver in the mobile segment will be a gradual recovery of roaming revenues fuelled by the recuperation of the global tourist industry. The market for traditional pay TV services will continue to decline slowly due to migration of customers to over-the-top (OTT) video services platforms," the IDC report showed on Friday.

The overall market's growth rates are expected to remain stable during the entire forecast period and even speed up slightly in 2025.

5G will constitute 38.8 per cent of total mobile connections and 41.3 per cent of total mobile spending by the end of the forecast period in 2025. "The troubles related to Covid-19 are still not in the rear-view mirror as the worsening pandemic dynamics in some low-income countries and the global supply-chain disruptions threaten to harm the fragile recovery of the market," said Kresimir Alic, research director, telecommunications at IDC.

"But because of the resiliency the industry showed during 2020, we are convinced that the market will remain in a positive mood for at least the next couple of years," Alic added.

## WHY ARE CANCER CASES RISING IN INDIA?

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Although India has, for a long time, battled the incidence of cancer, latest estimates pegs them to be rising at significantly higher rate. Once thought of as an old age disease, cancer is now a cause of concern also among the youth and children.

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed every year on November 7 in India, to increase awareness about cancer prevention and the need for its early detection.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there will be an estimated 12 per cent rise in cancer cases in India in the next five years. Longer life expectancy is a major contributor to the overall cancer incidence. As people grow old, their bodies have longer time to allow faults to build up and the body accumulates more of these faults in the genes, considerably increasing the risk of cancer. "Larger proportion of older individuals is the first cause of increased cancer numbers. The higher the proportion of older age in the population, the higher is the chance of cancer," Wesley M Jose, Clinical Associate Professor, Medical Oncology, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, told IANS. Further, males (52.4 per cent) are more prone to the risk of all cancer cases compared to females (47.4 per cent). Tobacco use is the major reason -- comprising 48.7 per cent of cancers among males and 16.5 per cent among females.

A recent report states that the number of cancers associated with tobacco use in 2025 would be 4,27,273 -- contributing to 27.2 per cent of India's total projected cancer cases. Initiation of tobacco, known to contain at least 69 cancer-causing agents, in the youth is a contributory factor to the increased burden of cancers associated with tobacco use in India. "Tobacco cessation will reduce the cancer burden by about 25 per cent. The major contributing factor being tobacco and ghutka consumption that directly accounts for 27 per cent of cancers in India," Murad E. Lala, Oncologist at P.D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim, Mumbai, told IANS.

## EVEN WITH PILLS, VAX AND BOOSTERS KEY TO FIGHT COVID: PFIZER CEO

While oral anti-viral pills against Covid can turn out as a game changer, vaccines and booster shots continue to be pivotal in the fight against the deadly infectious disease, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla has said.

The US drug maker on Friday announced that its new anti-viral pill against Covid-19 named Paxlovid can reduce the risk of hospitalisation and death by 89 per cent for adults at high risk of developing severe disease, when given within three days of symptoms appearing. It is the second anti-viral pill, after Merck's Molnupiravir which has shown to halve the risk.

"The fact that we have a treatment is not at all a reason not to take the vaccine, in fact we should take the vaccine. Some unfortunately will get the disease," Bourla was quoted as saying in an interview with CNBC's "Squawk Box".

The anti-viral pills are "for people that already they get the disease. This is for sick people, the goal here is to prevent people from getting sick", he said.

That's where Covid booster shots come in, he added. "Boosters are needed because without them we will never get rid of this vicious cycle of the disease."

Some people still experience harsh breakthrough infections and symptoms, and that's where Pfizer's new pill, if approved, would be most useful. "We need to get to herd immunity," Bourla said.

If cleared by US health regulators, both Pfizer's and Merck's anti-viral pills would likely be game changers in the ongoing global pandemic fight, the report said.

Pfizer plans to submit its data to the Food and Drug Administration "as soon as possible." Bourla told CNBC: "We plan to submit before Thanksgiving holiday."

The anti-viral pill made by Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics was approved by Britain's medicines regulator on Thursday. Its emergency authorisation is pending both with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency and is likely to be reviewed later this month.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden on Friday said that he has secured "millions of doses" of Pfizer's anti-viral pill Paxlovid to treat Covid-19, Forbes reported.

It would be "another tool in our toolbox" for the country's efforts to combat Covid-19, Biden was quoted as saying. The US has also committed to buying 1.7 million courses of Molnupiravir if it gets approved by the FDA for emergency use.



## WHO WILL WIN UP BATTLE IN 2022 ELECTIONS?

**LUCKNOW, (IANS)** From the famous 'Bua-Babua' narrative that dominated the Uttar Pradesh politics in 2019 when the BSP and SP forged an alliance, the focus is now shifting to 'Baba-Babua' -- Baba being Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Babua remains Samajwadi chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Akhilesh Yadav had referred to Yogi Adityanath as 'Baba' at an event and the Chief Minister retaliated by taking a jibe at the SP chief and saying: "Babua, ye Twitter hi vote bhi de dega (This twitter will give you votes)." The Chief Minister was in Akhilesh Yadav's home district Etawah on Saturday to inaugurate and lay foundations for projects worth about Rs 475 crore. The projects he inaugurated included the Central jail in Etawah.

Hours before, Akhilesh Yadav, referring to Yogi Adityanath, had said: "Baba Mukhya Mantri should not contest an Assembly seat, he is already on his way out."

In retaliation, Yogi Adityanath said: "I had come here (Etawah) twice during corona. But people of other parties were in home isolation even when you were in a crisis. They should remain confined to their homes even during polls. They need to be given replies to by people in this manner only. Tell them, 'Babua, ye Twitter hi vote bhi de dega'." He asked BJP supporters to ensure the aleaders who sat at home

during Covid should be made to remain there' in the elections.

"They were busy on Twitter. So, tell them, Babua, Twitter will vote for you," the Chief Minister added. Yogi Adityanath also hit out at Akhilesh Yadav for frequently accusing the BJP and him of "re-laying foundation stones and inaugurating or re-inaugurating previous SP government projects". "It happens only in the BJP government that we lay the foundation and then inaugurate the projects. When the intent is not clean, dishonesty and corruption rule. Even if power is attained by deceit, and foundation stones are laid, the public does not leave them in a position to inaugurate the projects." The Chief Minister also mentioned Ayodhya to attack the SP without directly naming it. "The sparkle from the lamps in Ayodhya are shining across the world. This is the same Ayodhya where people used to be scared to go earlier and where Ram bhakts (devotees of Ram) were fired at (in 1990 when Akhilesh Yadav's father Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister)," he said. The war of words between BJP and SP leaders is already touching a new low with both the parties lashing out at each other, using derogatory languages. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections are due early next year along with Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur. Political parties have already started campaigning for the polls in right earnest.

## PM IMRAN KHAN GOVT REACHES SECRET AGREEMENT WITH TLP, ACCEPTS DEMANDS

**ISLAMABAD, (IANS)** The weeks-long chaos, violence, and bloody confrontational protests staged by the banned Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) has forced the Imran Khan government of Pakistan to fall down to its knees and agree to the TLP demands through yet another agreement did secretly and kept away from public glare.

The whole episode, starting from the TLP launching a protest rally marching towards federal capital Islamabad and colliding in a bloody confrontation with the security forces, which resulted in casualties of police officials and serious injuries to hundreds of others, to enforced change of stance by various sitting ministers, who were directed to change their strong tone against the TLP, has only brought what is widely being called "humiliation" to the Imran Khan government and has established the inability of the ruling political setup to maintain the writ of the state against religious hardliners.

"There was nothing surprising about the government succumbing to the lawless brigade. The writ of the state has yet again crumbled in the face of violent extremism," senior strategic analyst Zahid Hussain said. The Imran Khan-led government has apparently signed an agreement with the banned TLP, agreeing to not only release hundreds of its arrested protesters, charged with terrorism from Pakistani jails, but also its leader Saad Rizvi, who has also been in custody for heading a proscribed outfit.

Furthermore, the government has also reportedly agreed to allow the banned outfit to contest in elections (both provincial and general) as it is a registered political party. The latest fiasco of the TLP protest is part of its demand of sending back the French Ambassador in Islamabad and cutting all diplomatic ties with France over its deliberate attempt to ridicule the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and endorsing the making of caricatures by "Charlie Hebdo" magazine under the umbrella of freedom of expression. "This is the seventh time in the past five years that the TLP has brought the state to its knees. Each time it has returned with more empowerment," said Hussain. The government's secret agreement with the TLP has sparked widespread



criticism by the masses against the Imran Khan government, as they question him for allowing a banned organization to paralyze the country and decide the country's political and ideological course, despite having no representation in the parliament. Family members of police officers, who were brutally tortured and killed by the TLP protesters, have lashed out at the government's failure and have asked why their loved ones were allowed to be killed when the government had to agree to the demands in the first place. The matter has raised serious questions over the country's political and intelligence level linkages to such banned outfits, vivid details of which were shared by Justice Qazi Isa's ruling of the 2017 sit-in by the TLP. The ruling shed light on the role of political leaders and intelligence agencies in encouraging the mod in order to weaken the then federal government. With the government, like many others in the past have succumbed to the TLP demands through an agreement, many believe that "the often-repeated mantra of establishing the writ of the state has become a joke". "The deal has legitimized a banned terrorist group. The crisis is far from over. Emboldened by their latest triumph, the radical clerics will soon be back with new demands.

## PUNJAB CABINET ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF ADVOCATE GENERAL



**CHANDIGARH, (IANS)** The Punjab Cabinet on Tuesday accepted the resignation of Advocate General A.P.S. Deol -- a decision that is seen in political circles as lessening the "friction" between Chief Minister Charanjit Channi and Congress state chief Navjot Sidhu. The post will be filled by Wednesday, Channi told the media here. Sidhu has been demanding the replacement of Deol, who had represented former Director General of Police Smedh Singh Saini in cases related to the 2015 sacrilege and subsequent police firing on protesters. Channi said the Advocate General resigned a few days ago. "The Cabinet today accepted his resignation," he said, adding that it would be sent to the Governor. "Tomorrow, the new AG will be appointed," he added. Earlier, Sidhu had tweeted: "Technically, any lawyer can become AG and any IPS officer can become DG but if we talk about morals and ethics of government, as we promised to the people of Punjab that we will give justice to them in sacrilege cases."

## CONGRESS STILL NOT ABLE TO RESOLVE ISSUES BETWEEN SIDHU & CHANNI



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Congress party has still not been able to resolve issues between Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and State President Navjot Singh Sidhu as the latter has come up with another condition to resume his work as state President. Sidhu has been pushing for the appointment of a new Advocate General. Sidhu has now withdrawn his resignation after Congress high command intervened on the issue but has not resumed work. He said he would resume work in the office the day a new Advocate General is appointed and the panel on the new DGP is received. His announcement comes days after Advocate General A.P.S. Deol resigned from his position and the Punjab government has sent a list of 10 names to the Union Public Service Commission for appointment of the Director-General of Police. Sidhu said: "Posts do not matter when you are on the path of truth". Appointed the state chief on July 19, Sidhu resigned as party chief minutes after allocation of portfolios to ministers in the new government headed by Charanjit Channi who succeeded Amarinder Singh as the Chief Minister.

## COVID-19 ON DECLINE IN INDIA, NO COVID DEATHS RECENTLY REPORTED IN DELHI

India is reporting the lowest Covid-19 cases in 266 days, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Consequently, the country's recovery rate stands at 98.25 per cent, the highest since March 2020.

The active caseload stands at 1,40,638, the lowest in 263 days. Active cases presently constitute 0.41 per cent of the country's total positive cases, the lowest since March 2020. The daily positivity rate stands at 0.93 per cent, which has also remained below 2 per cent for 36 days and less than 3 per cent for 71 consecutive days now.

Delhi reported no death for the 18th day running, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Health Department. The Covid infection rate in the national capital stands at 0.06 per cent. However, active cases in the city have climbed to 349, while with 26 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries is 14,14,736 so far, the health bulletin said.

A total of 164 Covid patients are being treated in home isolation at present.

With the administration of 59,08,440 vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, the country's Covid inoculation coverage has reached 109.08 crore. This has been achieved through 1,10,77,727 sessions.

## IF YOU DON'T PAY TAXES, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO VOTE: PAKISTAN PM'S ADVISOR



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Advisor to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on finance, Shaukat Tarin, has said that income tax and GST will have to be paid by everyone, Geo News reported.

Addressing a convention in Islamabad on Monday, Tarin told businessmen and traders from all over Pakistan that everyone has to pay taxes, and if one doesn't, he has no right to vote, the report said. He said that income tax and GST have to be paid and that all other taxes will be deducted. "We will not be forced to beg [people] to pay [their] taxes," he said, the report added.

Tarin also assured to fully support agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the IT sector to take forward the country, saying that a fund will be established to provide finances to those associated with SMEs and the IT sector.

The advisor said that interest-free agriculture and business loans are being provided under another initiative of the youth programme, which has been started to uplift about four million marginalized families.

## HOMES SALE DOWN BY 6.9%, AVERAGE PRICE UP BY 19.3% IN GTA

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Market conditions tightened across all major home types compared to last year, and the annual rate of average price growth remained in the double digits, including for the resurgent condominium apartment segment.

"The only sustainable way to address housing affordability in the GTA is to deal with the persistent mismatch between demand and supply. Demand isn't going away. And that's why all three levels of government need to focus on supply. The federal government has stated that collaboration with provinces

and municipalities is required. This collaboration could be spearheaded, at least in part, with housing-related incentives tied to federal infrastructure investment," said TRREB President Kevin Crigger.

## CANADA ADDS 31,000 JOBS IN OCTOBER, UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO 6.7%: STATSCAN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

### Highlights

Employment holds steady in October

After returning to its pre-pandemic level in September, employment held steady in October.

Employment increases in a number of industries, including retail trade (+72,000), were offset by declines elsewhere, including in accommodation and food services (-27,000).

Employment rose in Ontario and New Brunswick, while it fell in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Gains among private-sector employees (+70,000) were partially offset by declines in self-employment (-38,000).

GTA REALTORS® reported 9,783 sales through TRREB's MLS® System in October 2021 – down by 6.9 per cent compared to the October 2020 record of 10,503. A strong double-digit increase in condominium apartment sales mitigated annual declines in low-rise home sales. The number of new listings entered into the system was down by almost a third over the same period, with consistent declines across all major home types.

The MLS® Home Price Index Composite Benchmark was up by 24.2 per cent year-over-year. The average selling price for all homes combined rose by 19.3 per cent year-over-year to \$1,155,345. The low-rise market continued to drive price growth in October, but the annual price growth for condominium apartments was in the double digits as well.

Total hours worked were up 1.0% in October, and were 0.6% below their pre-pandemic level.

The number of employed people working less than half their usual hours fell 9.7% (-100,000) in October but remained 14.5% higher than in February 2020.

Among people of core working age (25 to 54 years), employment rose by 53,000 (+0.4%), all in full-time work.

Full-time employment among core-aged men returned to its pre-pandemic level, while full-time work for core-aged women was 98,000 (+1.0%) higher than in February 2020.

After increasing from June to September, employment was virtually unchanged in the services-producing sector in October.

# Diwali resolution we need in Covid times for a breathable future

BY DR RAJAT ARORA

The much-awaited festival of lights stands at our threshold -- the harbinger of peace and prosperity. With the economy coming back on track after the jolt suffered on account of the lockdown during the pandemic, spirits are rising, as they should.

Over the years, not only has the popularity of Diwali increased but so has its mode of celebration which has witnessed a drastic change. The bursting of firecrackers which was once a rare spectacle has now turned into a common event. Up until the 19th century, firecrackers being expensive, would be commissioned by rulers for the entertainment of their citizens.

Generating awe and wonder, aatishbaazi shows were organised on special occasions such as royal marriage ceremonies as an exhibition of the kingdom's grandeur and prosperity.

It was only after independence that restrictions were placed on imported crackers which led to the emergence of the first firecracker industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu.

Thereafter, as crackers became cheaper and people became more prosperous, the bursting of firecrackers commenced on Diwali.

However, in recent years, the combustion of metals, smoke and dust in the air has become a matter of grave concern despite comprising of a mere 5 per cent of the aggregate air pollution. With pollution levels already too high on account of vehicular emissions, industrial activities and construction, there is no room for bursting of crackers. These toxic products contain harmful substances which on combustion produce 2.5 PM; while the smoke evaporates in a matter of hours, the pollutants from the crackers remain suspended for days, making the air more unbreathable and carcinogenic.

The ominous, heavy air during this time of the year further deteriorates the air quality as does stubble burning. The weather, cracker pollution and agricultural residue burning combine to diminish the air quality to severe and dangerous levels, choking the air by converting it into gas chambers.

Yet, in spite of the blanket bans imposed on the burning of these pyrotechnics by the Supreme Court, the AQI (Air Quality Index) is far from normal. The reason being stubble burning which continues to remain a bone of contention between a number of state governments, all of which persistently engage in futile arguments with no definitive corrective action whatsoever.

With poor policies and non-existent incentives, crop burning continues unabated. Imposing fines on the food producers and putting them behind bars will serve no good; giving them the promised subsidies upon not engaging in stubble burning will. With our granaries overflowing with wheat and paddy, the cropping patterns need to be



reconfigured. Happy Seeder, a harvesting-cum-sowing tractor remains out of hands for most of the farmers owing to its exorbitant cost and suitability in primarily, larger farms. Then again, the process of converting the stubble into manure is a lengthy one; it takes approximately 15-20 days before the field is ready for the next crop and farmers do not possess the luxury to devote these many days. Beijing's poor experience with smog towers clearly indicates that installing the same at different places will amount to nothing more than sheer wastage of the taxpayer's money. Likewise, imposing odd-even rules serves nothing more than a populist gimmick in the long run. Our lungs, already weak having inhaled the toxic air for the past many years, suffered another major setback only last year with the onset of the highly contagious Covid-19 pandemic.

Many are still battling with post-covid complications while those with asthma, bronchitis, COPD and other respiratory conditions are gasping for every minuscule amount of cleaner air like never before.

With the horrifying nightmares of oxygen shortage witnessed all over the country during the second wave still afresh, the indispensability of breathable air cannot be overemphasised.

Recent statistics reveal that 11 of the 20 most polluted cities globally

are in India; no wonder the number of air pollution induced-deaths amount to 2 million in this part of the world.

Gasping for breath in this encircling toxic haze, we desperately need an air pollution control policy overhaul.

Meanwhile, as I see markets busting with festivity mania, maskless faces make me apprehensive.

Worldwide, deaths on account of the coronavirus are breaking records in Russia; in the UK, the Delta-Plus variant of Covid-19 is wreaking havoc. Is this a sign of the impending third wave? Only time will tell. A woman rebuking a stranger for not wearing his mask properly brings a tiny sliver of hope on my otherwise anxious vestige. Hopefully, the next Diwali will be different.

Disclaimer: Dr Rajat Arora is an Interventional Cardiologist and Group Director at Yashoda Group of Hospitals, Delhi-NCR and Seeds of Innocence and Genestrings Diagnostic Centres, Delhi-NCR. 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.

## REPORT SAYS FACEBOOK BAD FOR 360 MN USERS, META DENIES

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Facebook calls this the "problematic use of its platform". "They were perceived by users to be worse on Facebook than any other major social-media platform, which all seek to keep users coming back, the documents show," the report said late on Friday. Meta, the parent company of Facebook, denied the report, saying the WSJ "has once again chosen to selectively pick and choose from internal company documents to present a narrative that is simply wrong about how we use research to address an important issue -- this time about problematic use". "Problematic use does not equal addiction. Problematic use has been used to describe people's relationship with lots of technologies, like TVs and smartphones," said PratitiRaychoudhury, Vice President, Head of Research at Meta. "Since 2018, we have introduced nearly 10 products to better support people's well-being, including problematic use of our apps, and that work continues today," Raychoudhury said in a blog post. The report cited an internal study to find out about how many people on Facebook experience problematic use. "The app hurts sleep, work, relationships or parenting for about 12.5 per cent of users, who reported they felt Facebook was more of a problem than other social media," the report claimed, citing the internal documents. "That's irresponsible because, as is noted in the study itself, the research was designed to be as expansive as possible to help us better understand the challenge," Meta replied.

## JOBLESSNESS TOP CONCERN OF URBAN INDIANS IN OCT 2021: SURVEY

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Among the Indians, the urban citizens are more concerned about unemployment (42 per cent), coronavirus (35), financial & political corruption (30 per cent), poverty and social inequality (26 per cent), crime and violence (24 per cent), education (20 per cent), among others.

For global citizens, the top concerns included, poverty and social inequality (33 per cent), unemployment (30 per cent), coronavirus (29 per cent), financial and political corruption (29 per cent), crime and violence (27 per cent), etc.

"Our biggest issue is of joblessness and it remains a major area of concern for most Urban Indians. Job creation and job openings need to keep pace with expectations. Right now, there is a disconnect. But there is this happy tiding in the form of worry around the coronavirus receding which could lead to more return to normalcy and for the job market to look up. Graft and social inequality are other concerns for citizens," said Amit Adarkar, CEO, Ipsos India. The survey shows that the majority of Urban Indians (68 per cent) believe India is moving in the right direction. India is second in pecking order in optimism, Saudi Arabia remains most optimistic (83 per cent). Global citizens stay circumspect with 64 per cent believing their country is on the wrong track. And the markets most downbeat were Colombia (90 per cent), Peru (83 per cent) and Argentina (82%). "The biggest upside of Urban Indians is their never say die attitude. Despite the worries and hardships, they always believe the tide will turn, and it does. They do not give up mid way," added Adarkar.

Ipsos' What Worries the World survey is conducted in 28 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system.

A total of 21,516 online interviews were conducted between September 24 to October 8 among adults aged 18-74 in the US, South Africa, Turkey, Israel and Canada and age 16-74 in all other countries. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

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yudhvir@southasiandaily.com  
647-272-8182

**GURPREET SINGH LOONA**  
CONTENT EDITOR

**DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**SIA LAKHANPAL**  
**REBECCA TANDON**  
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**Starting November 6, the following groups will be eligible to book their COVID-19 booster dose appointment:**

- 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 non-Indigenous household members



ELIGIBILITY WILL EXPAND GRADUALLY BASED ON AGE AND RISK TO PROVIDE EXTRA LAYER OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE DELTA VARIANT.

## ONTARIO EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR THIRD DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO SOME SELECT GROUPS

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional groups of high-risk individuals starting November 6, 2021, providing them with an extra layer of protection against the Delta variant. Over the coming months, Ontario is also prepared to gradually roll out booster doses to all Ontarians aged 12 and over.

While the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country and continues to make steady progress in vaccinating more individuals, offering the extra layer of protection provided by a booster dose will contribute to the fight against COVID-19.

"Keeping a low rate of infection in our communities and protecting our most vulnerable is how we can keep our schools, businesses and social settings as safe as possible while avoiding further lockdowns," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "To provide every individual the best protection while learning to live with the virus for the long-term, we are prepared to expand booster eligibility to all Ontarians pending clinical recommendations, with eligibility expanding this week to individuals who face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19."

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recent recommendation, the province will begin offering booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the following vulnerable populations if

at least six months have passed since their last dose:

- \* Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier);
- \* Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including a long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- \* Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
- \* First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.

Booster doses are being offered to these groups based on evidence of gradual waning immunity six months after receiving their second dose and a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Starting on Saturday, November 6 at 8:00 a.m., eligible individuals will be able to book their booster dose appointment through the COVID-19 vaccination portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, select pharmacies, and primary care settings. Hospital-based health care workers are encouraged to reach out to their hospital employer to get vaccinated directly through their hospital's vaccination program. Locations and timing for booster doses may vary by public health unit based on local planning and considerations

## \$10MN FROM CANADA TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ADAPTATION



**GLASGOW, (IANS)** The Canadian government has announced that it will provide C\$10 million in funding for the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network to support developing countries in accelerating their efforts to build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Steven Guilbeault, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced the funding on Tuesday at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) during the COP26 Africa Adaptation Acceleration Summit. "It is about climate change as people experience it on their doorsteps, it's about how human beings can achieve a decent quality of life in the face of unprecedented climatic upheaval. We're here at COP to ensure that adaptation reaches the people who need it the most, where they need it the most," said Guilbeault in his remarks at the COP26 Africa Adaptation Acceleration Summit. This funding responds to calls from developing countries, including small island developing states and least-developed countries, for increased financial support in climate adaptation to prepare for and reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The NAP Global Network was established in 2014 to support developing countries in advancing their national adaptation planning and implementation, in turn progressing climate change adaptation efforts around the world.

## CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS' REVENUE SHARPLY DOWN IN 2020



**OTTAWA, (IANS)** The operating revenue of Canadian newspapers fell to C\$2.1 billion in 2020, down 21.9 per cent from 2018, according to official figures. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian newspaper publishers have experienced declining revenues over several years, and the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated many trends that have been transforming the industry in the country, reports Xinhua news agency. The demand for advertising, especially print advertising, fell as many businesses closed or reduced activities in the country during the pandemic. The country's newspaper industry earned C\$1.5 billion in revenue from advertising sales in 2018, this figure declined to C\$934.3 million in 2020. In 2018, advertising revenues accounted for 59.7 per cent of the industry's overall sales, but by 2020 the share of advertising sales dropped to 51.9 per cent of total sales. Prior to the pandemic, the industry had already been transitioning toward increased reliance on digital advertising and digital circulation sales. From 2016 to 2018, Canadian newspapers saw a decrease of 23.9 per cent in print advertising sales. From 2018 to 2020, the decline in print advertising was 45.2 per cent. Newspapers circulation sales also declined in 2020, but to a lesser extent than advertising sales. From 2018 to 2020, circulation sales decreased from C\$645 million to C\$596.8 million. The circulation sales for print newspapers were down 12 per cent from 2018 to 2020, but circulation sales for digital newspapers surged 43.6 per cent.

## ONTARIO FULLY FUNDING THE BRADFORD BYPASS

The Ontario government is taking another step toward relieving gridlock by advancing planning for the Bradford Bypass, a new four-lane freeway connecting Highway 400 and Highway 404 in Simcoe County and York Region. Both regions are expected to experience rapid growth over the next 10 to 20 years and investing in this new corridor is required to ease congestion on Highway 400 and existing east-west local roads. This is part of the government's plan that's building Ontario.

"With both Simcoe County and York Region expected to grow at incredible speed, building the Bradford Bypass is a no-brainer," said Premier Doug Ford. "Delivering on this and other important infrastructure projects will create good jobs, help stimulate our economy and reduce highway congestion as our government delivers on our mission of building Ontario."

The government is building Ontario by putting shovels in the ground for highways, hospitals, housing and high-speed internet in communities across the province. This is how Ontario is creating the conditions for long-term economic growth and job creation.

"Historic transportation infrastructure investments, like the Bradford Bypass, will move people faster, get goods to market quicker, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from bumper-to-bumper traffic," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "The Bradford Bypass will set up local families and businesses for success by not only easing congestion that already exists but also unlocking housing opportunities and job creation in the region, securing Ontario's growth and prosperity for generations to come."

This project will build Ontario up into the future and is expected to support more than 700 jobs per year on average during construction and generate more than \$70 million in annual real GDP. Motorists and trucks are anticipated to see more than a 60 per cent savings in travel time when using the new freeway compared to existing routes along local roads, which will save up to 35 minutes.

"Tomorrow's prosperity depends on getting shovels in the ground today, which is why our government is committed to building the Bradford Bypass and relieving gridlock so drivers spend less time trapped in bumper-to-bumper traffic and more time with friends and family," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. "We are steadfast in our commitment to a recovery fueled by economic growth, which will ensure that the people of Ontario benefit from jobs, prosperity and opportunity."

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## Covid-19 Exposure: Peel Advising Residents Who Attended Overnight Birthday Event At Chandni Convention Centre, Brampton, On October 23-24 To Seek Immediate Testing

Peel Public Health is advising anyone who attended an overnight birthday event at Chandni Convention Centre, 5 Gateway Blvd, Brampton, L6T 4X2 on October 23-24 to seek immediate testing. All guests should get tested, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and refuse testing must self-isolate for 20 days. Fully vaccinated individuals, who do not have any symptoms, do not need to isolate while waiting for their test results; however, they should continue to follow precautions such as masking, physical distancing and limiting

contacts while waiting for test results.

Everyone seeking testing because of the exposure should give testers the following outbreak number: 2253-2021-49523.

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 can result in fines under the Section 22 Class Order.

## Residents who attended a wedding event at Apollo Convention Centre in Mississauga on October 29 exposed to COVID-19

**BRAMPTON:** Peel Public Health is advising anyone who attended a wedding event at Apollo Convention Centre, 6591 Innovator Dr, Mississauga, L5T 2V8 on October 29 to seek immediate testing. All guests should get tested, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should isolate while waiting for test results; those who refuse testing must self-isolate for 20 days.

Fully vaccinated individuals, who do not have any symptoms, do not need to isolate while waiting for their test results; however,

they should continue to follow precautions such as masking, physical distancing and limiting contacts while waiting for test results.

Everyone seeking testing because of the exposure should give testers the following outbreak number: 2253-2021-49820.

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 can result in fines under the Section 22 Class Order.

## KIDS UNDER 12 ACCOUNT FOR OVER 20% OF NEW DAILY COVID CASES IN CANADA

**OTTAWA, (IANS)** Children under the age of 12 now account for over 20 per cent of Canada's daily new coronavirus cases, health authorities have confirmed.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) said Friday that Canadians under 12 represent 12 per cent of the country's population of 38 million. There are about 4.3 million children under 12 who are not vaccinated in the country, reports Xinhua news agency.

The over-representation is not unexpected, given the high level of vaccination in other age groups, the country's Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam said at a press conference here on Friday.

Canada has ordered 2.9 million doses of Pfizer's vaccine for children. But it is still awaiting for approval from the Health Ministry.

More than 58.9 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered across Canada since vaccination began last December, according to the latest data from PHAC.

This means over 89 per cent of the eligible population -- those 12 and older -- have received at least one shot, while more than 84 per cent of eligible Canadians are fully vaccinated.

The latest PHAC data shows 4 million people have not yet received a single dose, while 1.5 million people are only partially vaccinated.

There have been some outbreaks in schools and daycares in Canada. Tam said they have generally been small in size.

She said Covid-related deaths among young children happen rarely.

Over the past month, Tam said Canada has made good progress in slowing the growth of Covid-19 across Canada, but the rate of decline has "slowed somewhat".

Over the past week, an average of 2,230 new cases were being reported daily.

"This means we are about halfway down from the peak of the fourth wave when over 4,400 cases were being reported daily," Tam said. Tam said the country could see some "bumps" in the trajectory of the pandemic in the months ahead, and noted that severe illness trends are "still elevated".

"This virus has proven time and time again that this virus could go through evolutions," she said. "It's possible that we could get different variants -- and we have to monitor that."

Since October, vaccination efforts and public health measures have helped to bring the fourth wave of the pandemic under control along the reduced transmission trajectory previously forecast, said PHAC.

The latest PHAC modeling shows if Canada continues along the path it is on now and maintains current levels of transmission, Canadians could expect to see around 1,000 new Covid cases daily by early December. However, Tam warned that it's "still too soon to fully ease public health measures". "Now is not the time to let our guard down. We may still be in for a challenging winter and maintaining a cautious approach can help keep us safer as we move indoors for the arrival of colder weather," she added.

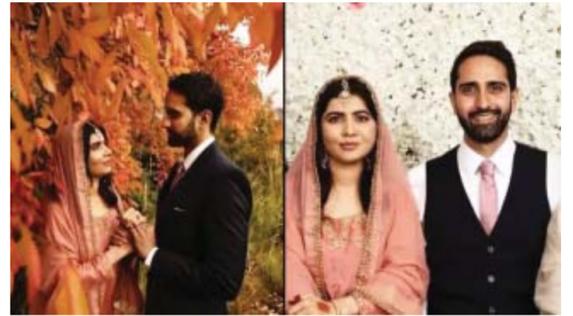
## HALF THE WORLD'S FOSSIL FUEL ASSETS WILL BE WORTHLESS BY 2036



**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** About half of the world's fossil fuel assets will be worthless by 2036 under a net-zero transition, The Guardian reported. It highlights the risk of producing far more oil and gas than required for future demand, which is estimated to leave \$11tn-\$14tn in so-called stranded assets -- infrastructure, property and investments where the value has fallen so steeply they must be written off, the report said. Countries that are slow to decarbonise will suffer but early movers will profit; the study finds that renewables and freed-up investment will more than make up for the losses to the global economy. The lead author, Jean-Francois Mercure of the University of Exeter, said the shift to clean energy would benefit the world economy overall, but it would need to be handled carefully to prevent regional pockets of misery and possible global instability, the report said.

"In a worst-case scenario, people will keep investing in fossil fuels until suddenly the demand they expected does not materialise and they realise that what they own is worthless. Then we could see a financial crisis on the scale of 2008," he said, warning oil capitals such as Houston could suffer the same fate as Detroit after the decline of the US car industry unless the transition is carefully managed. The challenge is evident at the ongoing Cop26 climate conference, where some of the nations most at risk of being left with stranded assets -- such as the oil and gas exporters Russia and Brazil -- are likely to try to slow down the transition as they have done at previous climate meetings, while those most likely to gain -- such as the fuel-importing EU -- are pushing for faster action, the report added. The new paper, published in Nature Energy, illustrates how a drop in demand for oil and gas before 2036 will reshape the geopolitical landscape. Current investment flows and government commitments to reach net zero emissions by 2050 will make renewable energy more efficient, cheaper and stable, while fossil fuels will be hit by more price volatility. Many carbon assets, such as oil or coal reserves, will be left unburned, while machinery will also be stranded and no longer produce value for its owners.

## NOBEL LAUREATE MALALA YOUSAFZAI WEDS PCB OFFICIAL



**LAHORE, (IANS)** Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for female education and also the world's youngest Nobel Prize laureate, has married Asger Malik, general manager high-performance with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in a low-key nikah ceremony in Birmingham. Malala, who at age 17 became the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, became a global celebrity when an assassination attempt was made on her in 2012 in retaliation for her activism when she was only 15. A bullet pierced her head and she was flown from Pakistan to Birmingham in a critical condition.

"Today marks a precious day in my life. Asger and I tied the knot to be partners for life. We celebrated a small nikah ceremony at home in Birmingham with our families. Please send us your prayers. We are excited to walk together for the journey ahead," Malala tweeted.

Malala's husband, Malik's LinkedIn profile says that he is an entrepreneur with a demonstrated history of working in the sports industry. "Designed player development program for Multan Sultans. Currently serving as General Manager High Performance at the Pakistan Cricket Board," says Malik's LinkedIn profile.

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toronto.ca/COVID19 Toronto Public Health

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW RECEIVED THEIR COVID19 VACCINE DOSES OUTSIDE OF ONTARIO, YOU CAN REGISTER IT IN ONLINE PORTAL (CITY OF TORONTO/ TWITTER)**

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

**TORONTO** - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

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## WORK AS BRIDGE OF FAITH FOR COMMON MAN, PM MODI TELLS PARTY WORKERS

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked BJP workers to reach out to the people and work as a "bridge of faith" for the common man.

At his address at the concluding session of day-long BJP national executive meet at NDMC Convention Centre here, he also highlighted that today the place that the BJP is at is due to the fact that it has always been connected with the common man since its starting days, and has moved ahead with hard work and dedication of workers, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav said.

"Prime Minister said that BJP workers have to become a bridge of faith for the common man. BJP is not a family-based party.

"The Prime Minister also called service to people is the highest form of worship and advised workers to be with the people and stay in touch with common man," he added.

Sources said that Modi advised BJP leaders to focus on the issues the party has raised for the people during and before and after elec-

tions and to continue doing so. "We must continue to address the issues concerning people," he said, as per the sources.

Referring to "selfless service" of BJP workers during the pandemic, Modi said that a "new culture of service has been demonstrated by the 'karyakartas' during the pandemic under party chief J.P. Nadda". Before the Prime Minister's address, state presidents of five poll-bound states presented a report about their preparedness, and the Punjab chief said that they were gearing up to contest all 117 seats. Chief Ministers of poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur also present a report card about their works.

"After hearing the reports of state Presidents and Chief Minister of poll-bound five states, the Prime Minister said that seeing the confidence, BJP will perform exceptionally well and this is beauty of service," Yadav said. He also said that the state chiefs and Chief Ministers have derived this confidence from work they have done for their states in the past five years, Yadav added.

## EXPLAINED: WHY COLD LEADS TO INCREASE IN AIR POLLUTION IN INDO-GANGETIC PLAINS?

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** With temperature dropping — and other meteorological factors such as wind speed slowing down, wind direction changing, haze setting in, pollution levels are again in the "very poor" and "hazardous" categories in most cities across the Indo-Gangetic plains. The seasonal factors of firecrackers and stubble burning have, as usual, added to the problem, as the peak of crop residue burning incidents coincided with Diwali. Scientists said that it has been clearly established that the winter season favours an increase in pollution as cold air frequently settles over northern India and gets trapped under a layer of warm air.

In this phenomenon, the haze seen in the winter months is the result of a temperature inversion mostly. Since the cold air cannot rise above the warm air, pollution builds in the cold air as long as the inversion lasts. On other occasions, the air, high in the atmosphere, is cooler than air near Earth's surface. Warmer air near the surface rises, allowing pollutants from the surface to disperse in the atmosphere. More the number of colder days in the season more would be the number of "poor" to "severe" air quality days ahead for the entire Indo-Gangetic Plains.

"With the drop in temperatures, there is potential for more stagnant conditions. However, this is assuming that winds do not change. If winds slow due to any reason and stubble or biomass burning increases during this period, the overall air quality situation may worsen in the northern Plains. In a nutshell, all else remaining constant, cooler conditions inhibit vertical mixing within the atmosphere. Therefore, possibilities are higher for poor air quality," the Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar's Assistant Professor, School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences, Dr. V. Vinoy said.

It is a vicious smog circle as consecutive days of bad air quality would persist.

Professor S.N. Tripathi, Head of Department, Civil Engineering at the IIT-Kanpur, said that the particulate matter (PM) changes its property after coming in contact with fog, paving way for more fog.

Tripathi, who is also a Steering Committee Member, National Clean

Air Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, said: "Definitely, intense winters would aggravate the situation. It would mean more amount of haze which would lead to increased trapping of pollutants available over the surface. This might lead to formation of smog, which would worsen the condition. All these conditions would result in a vicious smog circle, wherein we would not see clearance for days."

"Also more cold weather is associated with relatively high humidity, which increases the possibility of PM holding more water. After the fog disappears, water vapours or droplets evaporate leaving the PM behind. However, a very tiny chemistry takes place here and thus, the PM is not the same as before. It is more oxidised by that time.

"There is a strong relation between oxidised PM and fog condensation nuclei as compared to non-oxidised components. In fact, smaller droplets oxidise faster and oxidised PM are far more efficient and thus formation of fog would be much easier than the next day," he added. Scientists have further warned of extra caution this season as weather and/or meteorological factors are beyond the control of humans and thus, focus still remains on curtailing local emissions.

"Whatever extra we would see, can be compensated only if we reduce the emissions, at least at the regional levels. But if we continue with the same amount of emissions along with unfavourable meteorological conditions, there could be some substantial increase in the pollution levels in the coming season. October had been fairly well in terms of pollution on account of extended monsoon rains and reduced stubble burning. Though pollution might be less, it was still above the permissible limits," Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi's Associate Professor, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, Sagnik Dey, said. "December and January are the core winter months when there is likely no cases of stubble burning. With record low temperatures likely, there would be no other option but to reduce emissions. Otherwise all clubbed together would multiply the impact and pollution would intensify manifolds," Dey, who is also the Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Research in Climate Change and Air Pollution (CERCA), said.

## PRIMA FACIE ONE PARTICULAR ACCUSED GIVEN BENEFIT: SC PULLS UP UP GOVT ON LAKHIMPUR KHERI PROBE

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday slammed the Uttar Pradesh government stating that prima facie it appears that one accused was given benefit in the two overlapping FIRs -- one where protesting farmers were mowed down by a moving and the other of alleged lynching of the accused -- in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence incident. The top court said it appears the evidence gathered in the lynching FIR was being collected to protect a particular accused.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli shot a volley of questions at senior advocate Harish Salve, representing the Uttar Pradesh government.

Justice Hima Kohli questioned Salve as to why only Ashish Misra's phone has been seized so far and what about the phones of other accused in the matter?

The bench further queried Salve, did the other accused not use mobile phones?

Salve, citing the Uttar Pradesh government's status report, submitted that some of the accused said they don't have cell phones, but CDRs have been obtained.

Justice Kohli said, "Is it your statement that none of the other accused had cell phones on them?"

Salve said they have clinching evidence that the accused were there and eyewitnesses have given details of all of them.

At this juncture, Justice Kant said prima facie it appears that one particular accused is seeking to be given benefit by overlapping two FIRs. He added that it was being said that there are two FIRs and the evidence collected in one FIR would be used in another. He further elaborated the evidence in FIR 220, where the mob allegedly lynched the accused who were in the car, is being procured in a way to protect a particular accused. Salve submitted that there is no mix up between the two FIRs. The bench replied, "But it has to be separately investigated..." Salve submitted that it was already being done and both the FIRs were being probed. He pointed out that FIR 220 is about the public lynching, so collecting evidence is bit difficult.

Justice Kant said: "One set of murder is of the farmers, one set is of journalists, and one is of political worker...". He added that now a witness in the third set gives a favouring statement for the accused in the first case, which involves the death of farmers.

Salve replied that when witnesses come to give statements, the police have to record their statements and added that all CDRs are with the police. Justice Kant said that the court expects from the SIT that those coming to depose in the case of farmers' death will be an independent exercise and the evidence, which is being collected in the other case, cannot be used in it.

## BJP TO FORM BOOTH COMMITTEES IN ALL POLLING STATIONS ACROSS INDIA



**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that to strengthen the party at ground level chief Nadda has asked to complete the formation of the committees by December 25. "Formation of booth committees have been completed in 85 per cent of polling booths and remaining work will be completed by December 25," Pradhan said. The party has also decided to implement the successful 'page committee' concept of Gujarat across the country. "Page committee will be formed across the country and appointment of 'Panna Pramukh' will be completed by April 6, next year," Pradhan said He said that Nadda also asked for an institutionalised mechanism to listen to the Prime Minister's 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme at each polling booth. "Party chief talked about three works to strengthen the organisation at ground level as BJP has yet to reach its 'Utkarsh' (peak)," he said. Nadda also talked about election results and said that BJP's victory in Huzurabad shows its rise in Telangana.

"Nadda also said that BJP is getting strong in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to win the next elections," Pradhan said.

In his address, Nadda thanked the people of West Bengal who supported the BJP in this year's Assembly polls.

"In the 2016 Assembly polls, the BJP's vote share was negligible, now it's 38 per cent. We have got the blessings of Bengal. In political history, such rapid growth in vote share has never been registered. the BJP chief assured people of West Bengal that the party is with them," Pradhan said. Pradhan added that Nadda in his address also mentioned about the repeal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, which is now on the path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Talking about the meet, Pradhan said that it is being held in a hybrid mode. "All participants have registered digitally, including Prime Minister Modi, L.K. Advani and Murlu Manohar Joshi are also attending the meeting virtually from their homes," Pradhan said.

## 'SERIOUS ISSUE': SUPREME COURT ON 8 STATES NOT GRANTING CONSENT FOR CBI PROBE

**NEW DELHI, (IANS)** The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over state governments declining to grant consent to the CBI to conduct probe within their territory, and over 150 such requests pending with these governments.

The CBI, in an affidavit, had told the Supreme Court that eight states -- West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Mizoram -- have withdrawn the general consent previously granted to it under Section 6 of the DSPE Act. It added that over 150 requests were sent to these states during the period 2018 to June 2021 for grant of specific consent for investigation of cases in their territory. "Requests were granted in less than 18 per cent cases, which were related mainly in cases of trapping of corrupt Central public servants. Requests in approximately 78 per cent cases were pending, which mainly pertained to bank frauds of high magnitude impacting the economy of the country," it had said in the affidavit.

On Monday, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed that state governments not granting consent is a "serious issue".

It also expressed concern over pendency of the CBI's appeals in various courts - trial courts, high courts, and the Supreme Court. According to the CBI, a total of 13,291 appeals/revisions/writ petitions are pending in these courts - 327 in sessions court, 12258 in high courts, and 706 in the Supreme Court. The CBI said in several cases, during the course of trial, proceedings are held up due to stay orders granted by the appellate courts - adversely affecting the pace of the trial.

"In some cases, leave to appeal is not granted immediately and it takes a lot of time for its admission. For instance, in 2G scam cases, leave to appeal was filed by the CBI within the prescribed timeline in year 2018, but the same has not been granted till date. (This also adds on to the difficulties being faced in prosecution of such cases)," said the CBI in its affidavit. According to a counsel in the matter, the bench said the pendency of the appeals is a serious concern and it should be dealt separately. On September 3, the top court decided to examine, within the ambit of investigation and prosecution, the CBI's success rate and performance leading a case to its logical conclusion.

## SIDHU ACCUSES PUNJAB AG OF WORKING FOR POLITICAL GAINS

**NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH(IANS)** Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday accused state Advocate General A.P.S. Deol of working for political gains, a day after the latter accused him of taking political mileage. In a series of tweets, Sidhu said: "Mr AG-PUNJAB, Justice is blind but people of Punjab are not. Our Congress party came in power with a promise to give justice in Sacrilege Cases, in which you appeared before the High Court for main conspirators/accused persons and made serious allegations against our Govt.

"You (AG) appeared for the accused, now representing the State and very soon you will seek elevation as a judge so that you can decide this case. Being the highest law officer, your focus is on politics and political gains." "Are you acting at the behest of those who appointed you in this constitutional office and fulfilling their political gains? Did you advise the Government to challenge the blanket bail order procured by you or any other adverse order in Sacrilege cases in Supreme Court," Sidhu asked. Sidhu further said: "Leave the politics to the politicians and focus on your personal conscience, integrity and professional ethics, which your job requires. "Today, you are representing the same Government of same political party in power and accusing me of spreading misinformation, whereas, I am fighting for justice in Sacrilege cases and you were procuring blanket bails for the accused persons."

"I believe that Ethics is about the way things ought to be, not about the way things are. Ethical people often do more than law requires and less than it allows. When it comes to ethics, motive is very important," he added. On Saturday, Deol had slammed Sidhu, who had demanded his (Deol's) resignation for representing two accused persons in the sacrilege and police firing case.



## US MULLS EXPANDING PRIVATE EMPLOYER VACCINE MANDATE

**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** The US government is reportedly considering whether to implement a Covid-19 vaccine mandate on employers of all sizes, after it announced such an order on November 4 for businesses with a workforce of 100 or more.

According to a summary released on Monday by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a large regulatory agency of the Department of Labour, "businesses with under 100 employees are being eyed as well", "though it is 'less confident' such a mandate will work" for small entities, Xinhua news agency reported.

"OSHA is confident that employers with 100 or more employees have the administrative capacity to implement the standard's requirements promptly, but is less confident that smaller employers can do so without undue disruption," said the summary.

"OSHA needs additional time to assess the capacity of smaller employers, and is seeking comment to help the agency make that determination." On November 6, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled to temporarily halt the mandate by President Joe Biden's administration that required employees of large companies to get vaccinated or undergo frequent testing.

The order reasoned that "there are grave statutory and constitutional issues with the Mandate" and suspended the mandate "pending further action by this court".

The mandate requires employees of companies with a workforce of 100 or more fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022.

Unvaccinated staffers must submit weekly negative Covid-19 tests to enter the workplace after the deadline, and have to wear masks indoors starting from December 5.

Roughly 84 million workers, or about two-thirds of the private-sector force, are expected to be impacted by the rule, and employers have until January 4 to implement the policy.

On Sunday, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy told ABC News that the government mandate is "appropriate and necessary", and suggested it might be widened, assuming it survives multiple court challenges. "Certainly nothing is off the table at this moment," Murthy said when asked whether it would get expanded to smaller firms.

### APEC region's economy to grow by 6% in 2021

**WELLINGTON, (IANS)** The economy of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region is expected to grow by 6 per cent in 2021 and will settle at 4.9 per cent in 2022 in anticipation of the unwinding of fiscal and monetary support measures, a new report on economic trends revealed on Tuesday. According to the latest APEC Regional Trends Analysis (ARTA), the Asia-Pacific expanded by 8 per cent during the first half of 2021, following a 3.7 per cent contraction in the first half of 2020. However, growth among member economies continues to diverge and uncertainties remain substantial, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday. Growth in the volume and value of merchandise trade accelerated by double-digits in the first half of this year thanks to the combined effect of a low comparison point following a substantial economic contraction a year ago and a rebound in economic activity. Trade in Covid-19-associated goods such as pharmaceuticals, telecommunications equipment and computers continued to be strong.

## US EMPLOYERS ADD 531,000 JOBS IN OCTOBER AS HIRING REBOUNDS



**WASHINGTON, (IANS)** US employers added 531,000 jobs in October, with the unemployment rate dropping to 4.6 per cent, indicating a hiring rebound as the Delta wave weakened, the US Labor Department has reported. The latest data followed upwardly revised job gains of 312,000 in September and upwardly revised job gains of 483,000 in August when labour market recovery slowed amid a Delta variant-fueled Covid-19 surge. In July, job gains were over 1 million. In October, job gains were significant in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, manufacturing, as well as transportation and warehousing. Employment in public education, however, declined over the month, following a drop in September, Xinhua news agency reported. The unemployment rate edged down by 0.2 percentage points to 4.6 per cent in October, after dropping by 0.4 percentage points in September. The figure was down considerably from its recent high in April 2020, yet remained well above the pre-pandemic level of 3.5 per cent.

## CLIMATE TALKS SLOW DOWN AFTER ACTION-PACKED START OF WORLD LEADERS

**GLASGOW, (IANS)** The week-long ministerial segment began on Monday at COP26 in Glasgow. The day began with a stock-taking exercise of the past week of negotiations and announcements, conducted by the COP Presidency UK and chairs of the subsidiary bodies for technical assistance and implementation.

Following an announcement-packed start to proceedings with the World Leaders Summit, progress at the negotiating table have slowed down considerably over the past week with several old and new fault lines emerging to the surface, and many unresolved issues which had been flagged in the run up to the conference have persisted.

Common timeframes for NDCs: When the Paris Agreement was born, the challenge was to bring the whole world onto a common instrument of climate action, as per each country's individual capacity. Resultant was differentiated timeframes on which action would be taken by the nations. This issue was expected to be resolved with the adoption of a common timeframe in time for the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement, originally planned for 2020. Six years after parties to the Paris Agreement first submitted their NDCs, there is still little clarity on the timelines that will be adopted for the implementation of the NDCs, their reporting and update, despite four years of deliberations on the issue.



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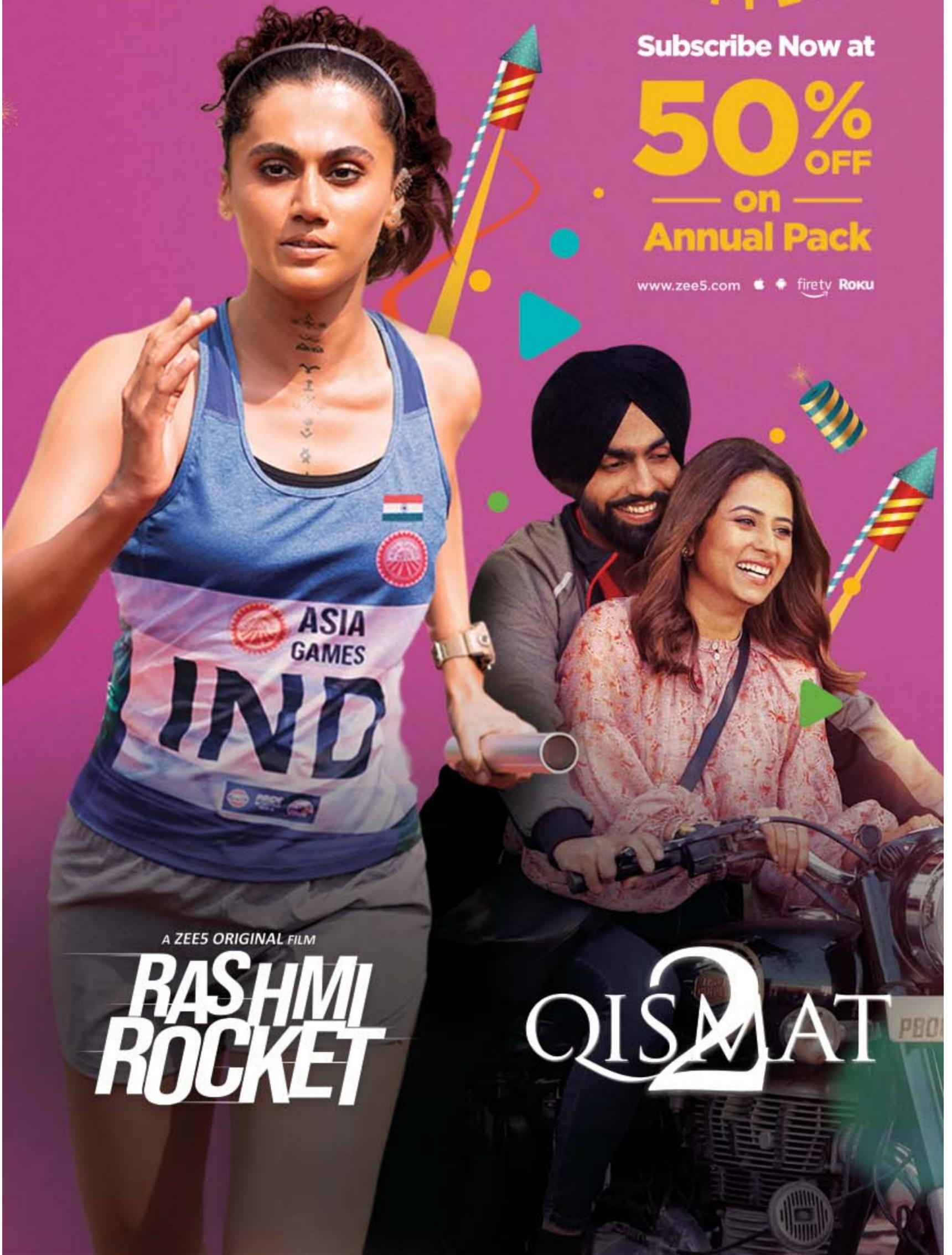
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