

SOUTH ASIAN

MidWeek

NEWS WEEKLY

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 21 Issue 08, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

US HAS NO CLOSER FRIEND THAN CANADA: TRUDEAU, BIDEN MEETING



1 DETAILS ON PAGE 7

PUNJAB CONGRESS LAUNCHES CAPTAIN FOR 2022, WHERE DOES SIGHU STAND?

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) President Sunil Jakhar on Monday said Chief Minister Amarinder Singh would lead the party in the 2022 Assembly polls, as the people of the state had reposed their faith in his leadership with their landslide verdict in the Congress' favour in the recent civic polls.

While participating in the event for the launch of various developmental projects worth Rs 1,087 crore by the Chief Minister, under the Smart City and AMRUT schemes, Jakhar said, "the Congress party's sweeping victory in the civic polls has not only revalidated Amarinder Singh's leadership in the state but was an endorsement of the faith of Punjabis in his future leadership also".

He said the state Congress had already launched mission "#Captainfor2022", and the next election would be fought under his leadership. Lauding the Chief Minister, Jakhar said Amarinder Singh had led the state in very difficult times and the people were well aware of his massive contribution. "Punjab is perhaps facing its worst ever crisis - Covid-19, farmers' unrest due to the 'black' farm laws, coupled with an unfriendly Union government - and only Captain Amarinder Singh has the vision and leadership qualities to steer the state out of it," he said.

Lambasting the Union government for its stepmotherly treatment to Punjab, Jakhar said the Centre had resorted to all kinds of measures, including economic blockade, to punish the state for supporting the farmers' agitation. He said the federal structure of the country was under extreme threat



under the BJP-led NDA government. He also questioned the recent decision of the Union government to refuse permission to a 'jatha' to go to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan and accused the Centre of being biased against the state. Jakhar also urged the Chief Minister to ensure that the Congress manifesto for 2022 should promise making Amritsar - the 'Guru ki Nagri' - an iconic city. "Amritsar should be made as one of the best cities in the world on the lines of the Vatican," he said.

Punjab Youth Congress President Barinder Singh Dhillon termed the inauguration of these projects as a grand start after the victory in the municipal elections.

He said the landslide victory reflects the enormous faith the people of Punjab have in the leadership of the Chief Minister.

“OPINION

REIMAGINING DIPLOMACY IN THE POST-COVID WORLD: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

S. JAISHANKAR

We enter 2021, hoping to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. While each society has dealt with it uniquely, global diplomacy will nevertheless focus on common concerns and shared lessons. Much of that revolves around the nature of globalization. Our generation has been conditioned to think of that largely in economic terms. The general sense is one of trade, finance, services, communication, technology and mobility.



1 CONTD. ON PAGE 6

JASJIT SINGH BHULLAR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ONTARIO KHALSA DARBAR, DIXIE ROAD GURDWARA SAHIB, DIES AT 67 FROM PROSTATE CANCER

POOJA LUTHRA

Jasjit Singh Bhullar, Former President of Ontario Khalsa Darbar, Dixie Road Gurdwara Sahib, dies at 67 from prostate cancer on Feb. 22, 2021. He was born on June 11, 1953. Y Media Group expresses our heartfelt and deepest condolences to his family and friends! He was widely recognized in the South-Asian community for his selfless services. He led a simple life and had an amiable personality.



1 CONTD. ON PAGE 7

CANADA PARLIAMENT PASSES CONSERVATIVE'S MOTION TO LABEL CHINA'S TREATMENT OF UYGHURS AS 'GENOCIDE'

POOJA LUTHRA

The House of Commons passed a non-binding motion that says China's treatment of Uyghurs and Turkic Muslims is 'genocide.' The motion introduced by the Conservatives gained 266 votes in favour and zeroed opposed, but two MPs refrained themselves. Conservative MPs Michael Chong and Garnett Genuis were joined by Uighur community members at a teleconference Monday in calling for the government's support, suggesting that unanimity would send a strong signal to China.



1 CONTD. ON PAGE 5

YOUTH CONGRESS LEADER, GURLAL SINGH, MURDER CONSPIRACY HATCHED IN CANADA, DELHI POLICE SAYS

NEW DELHI (ANI): During the interrogation of three persons who have been arrested in connection with the killing of the Youth Congress leader Gurlal Singh, it was revealed that the conspiracy was hatched in Canada, Delhi police said on Sunday. The arrested persons have been identified as Gurvinder Pal, Sukhwinder Singh and Saurabh Verma.



1 CONTD. ON PAGE 9

IS DELAYING FARM LAWS FOR 2 YEARS THE SOLUTION?

POOJA LUTHRA

Chief Minister of Punjab, Capt. Amarinder Singh said extending 18-month hold on farm laws to 24 may be way out. The statement said that the CM had "categorically stated in the said interview that 'from what I understand is that some of the farmers are agreeable to the laws being put on hold for 18 months but may go up to 24 months.' He was also on record as stating in the same interview that an extended period for putting the laws on hold continued to be in active discussions (between the government and Kisan Unions)." President of Punjab Kisan Union, Ruldu Singh Mansa, said in a video statement, "CM Amarinder has backstabbed the farmers' struggle by saying that pause on farm laws for 24 months can be a way out.. when we don't agree to PM's proposal, why will we agree to him?"



WHEN WILL CANADIANS GET VACCINATED? (PHAC RELEASED).



1 JARVIS

COME HOME TO HAMILTON.
Same Spirit. New Vision.

COMING SOON.
1JARVIS.COM



MISSISSAUGA'S MAYOR, BONNIE CROMBIE, SHARES FIRST LOOK OF PARAMOUNT FINE FOODS CENTRE FIELD HOUSE WHERE UP TO 600 PEOPLE AN HOUR CAN BE VACCINATED AT FULL CAPACITY (BONNIE CROMBIE/ TWITTER).

HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA FACES CHALLENGES DUE TO TERROR: JAISHANKAR AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

NEW DELHI, (IANS) India on Tuesday said that the human rights agenda faces severe challenges mostly due to Pakistan's cross-border terrorism. Speaking at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that the human rights agenda continues to face severe challenges, most of all from terrorism. "The perennial concerns remain equally strong, be it global inequities or armed conflicts. Multilateral institutions and mechanisms need to be reformed to be able to deal with these effectively," he said. Terrorism continues to be one of the gravest threats to humankind, the minister said, adding that it is a crime against humanity and violates the most fundamental human right – namely 'the Right to Life'. "As a long-standing victim, India has been in the forefront of the global action against terrorism. This is possible only when there is a clear realization, including in bodies dealing with human rights, that terrorism can never be justified, nor its perpetrators are ever equated with its victims," the minister argued. India, he pointed out, had presented at the UNSC last month an eight-point action plan to deal with the scourge of terrorism. He said India will continue to work together with the members of the UN Security Council and other states to ensure the implementation of the Indian government's action plan. The minister asserted that India has always played an active role in the global promotion and protection of human rights. "Our strong commitment to the welfare of entire humanity, inspired by our civilizational ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' or 'the World is one family' has provided the very foundation on which our constitu-

tional and legal framework of human rights has been built," he said. Jaishankar argued that India's approach is based on its own experience as an inclusive and pluralistic society and a vibrant democracy. India's constitution has enshrined basic human rights as fundamental rights, guaranteeing civil and political rights, stipulating provisions for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights. These continue to evolve through legislation by the Parliament, progressive interpretation of laws by the judiciary and active participation of civil society and citizens. He said India believes that equal emphasis should be placed on both promotion and protection of human rights. Both are best pursued through dialogue, consultation and cooperation among states as well as technical assistance and capacity building. India, he said, also believes that the achievement of sustainable development goals will contribute to the realization and enjoyment of basic human rights. As a member of the UNHRC, India remains committed to working together with fellow members of the council to achieve consensus. "India believes that violation of and gaps in the implementation of human rights should be addressed in a fair and just manner, with objectivity, non-selectivity, transparency and with due respect to the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and national sovereignty," he said. As the UN Human Rights Council completes 15 years since its establishment, it is time to assess its achievements, reflect on its failures and deliberate on the ways to strengthen and reform it so as to enable it to achieve the objectives for which it has been set up, Jaishankar said. India, as always, is ready to contribute in this endeavour, he added.

INDIA, MAURITIUS SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT

NEW DELHI, (IANS) India and Mauritius have signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) that provides an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries. India decided to change its trading relationship with Mauritius after it found that the earlier double taxation avoidance (DTA) treaty with the island nation was being misused for routing illegal money into India. In fact, the tax advantage that India gave made Mauritius the supplier of the largest foreign direct investment into the country. Even since then, various loopholes in the earlier trading system have been plugged. The new CECPA was signed by Indian Commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan and Ambassador Haymandoyal Dillum, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Government of Mauritius in Port Louis on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister of Mauritius and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. CECPA is the first trade agreement signed by India with a country in Africa. The pact is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial Services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.

20 LAWMAKERS SKIP MEETING CALLED BY IMRAN KHAN IN PESHAWAR

PESHAWAR, (IANS) 20 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including two former ministers who were recently expelled from the cabinet, missed the meeting called by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. Minister Shaukat Yousafzai played down any significance of the absentee lawmakers, saying that those lawmakers had already informed the Prime Minister as well as Chief Minister Mehmood Khan about their prior engagements, the Express Tribune reported. During a visit to the provincial capital, Imran chaired a meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet and PTI members of the provincial assembly at the Governor's House. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the PTI's loss in the recent by-polls in Nowshera. According to sources, 14 National Assembly members (MNAs) and six members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) from the province did not attend. They included two former cabinet ministers, Sultan Muhammad Khan and Liaquat Khattak.



BRAMPTON MAYOR PATRICK BROWN SHARES IMAGE OF BRAMPTON SOCCER CENTRE WHERE UP TO 500 PEOPLE AN HOUR CAN BE VACCINATED (PATRICK BROWN/ TWITTER).

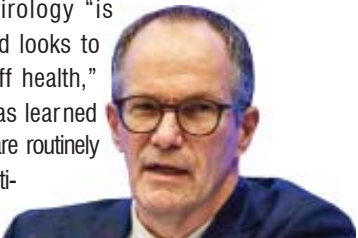
'BEING EDITOR OF TOOLKIT NO OFFENCE': COURT GRANTS DISHA BAIL

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Creation of a WhatsApp group or being editor of an "innocuous Toolkit" is not an offence, a Delhi court said on Tuesday as it granted bail to 22-year-old climate activist Disha Ravi in the 'Toolkit' conspiracy case. Ravi faces charges of conspiracy and sedition in the 'Toolkit' conspiracy case related to the farmers' agitation and was arrested from Bengaluru on February 13. The Delhi Police had contended that the Google document tweeted by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg to back the farmers' protest and then deleted, was created by Ravi and two other activists — lawyer Nikita Jacob and activist Shantanu Muluk.



'EXTREMELY UNLIKELY' COVID-19 ESCAPED FROM WUHAN LAB: WHO MISSION MEMBER

SYDNEY, (IANS) It is "extremely unlikely" that SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, escaped from a lab in the Chinese city of Wuhan, a member of a World Health Organization (WHO) expert team sent to China on a Covid-19 origin-tracing mission said. "The most politically sensitive option we looked at was the virus escaping from a laboratory," said Professor Dominic Dwyer from the University of Sydney in an article on The Conversation, a publisher of research-based news and analysis. "We concluded this was extremely unlikely", he said, Xinhua news agency reported. The Wuhan Institute of Virology "is an impressive research facility, and looks to be run well, with due regard to staff health," said Dwyer. The professor said he has learned that blood samples of the scientists are routinely taken and stored, and "no evidence of antibodies to the coronavirus was found".

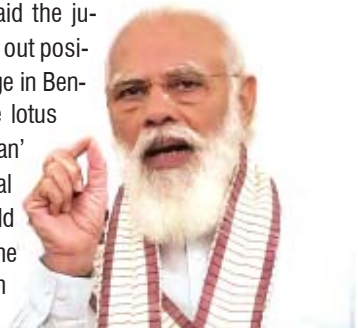


500,000 DEAD, US BEGINS BENDING ITS CORONAVIRUS CURVE

NEW YORK, (IANS) On February 22, 2021, America woke up to a terrifying statistic: More than 500,000 died from the coronavirus in the country's deadliest year. That is more Americans who died in a single year than in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War combined. The first blow came in February 2020. The virus killed a man in his 50s on February 29, in California, and the country's Covid-19 curve began its catastrophic climb. This unprecedented American tragedy followed a series of missteps by the Trump administration and state officials, combined with a testing disaster and utter misinformation from the previous White House. At its worst, during the pandemic's winter surge, more than 150 people were dying every hour, and the US recorded 4,400 deaths on a single day the week before Joe Biden was inaugurated.

BENGAL HAS MADE UP ITS MIND FOR 'PORIBORTON'(CHANGE): PM MODI

KOLKATA, (IANS) Launching a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that the people of the state have made up their mind for a real 'poriborton' (change). "Bengal has made up its mind for poriborton and the BJP will bring 'aashol poriborton' (real change) in the state," Modi told a large gathering at the Dunlop Estate Village in Kolkata's neighbouring Hooghly district. He said the jubilant response of the crowd has sent out positive signals to Delhi for a regime change in Bengal. The Prime Minister said that the lotus brigade would bring 'aashol poriborton' which the young generation of Bengal aims for. "The BJP government should be formed not just for political regime change, but for 'aashol poriborton' in the state," he said.



PM JOHNSON LAYS OUT FOUR-STEP 'UNLOCK' ROADMAP FOR ENGLAND

LONDON, (IANS) UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson Monday unveiled his four-stage roadmap that will "cautiously but irreversibly" ease restrictions in England by June end, even though he stressed that the threat of Covid-19 is still "substantial". Scotland, Wales and Northern Island will frame their own timelines. Addressing the House of Commons, Johnson said that they cannot have a "zero-Covid" world as no vaccine can ever be 100 per cent effective, the BBC reported. "We cannot escape the fact" that lifting the lockdown will result in more cases and ultimately more deaths, he warned. The PM said he hoped the lockdown will be done around June 21 but stressed the decision to lift restrictions will be "driven by data and not dates".



SC ALLOWS NEW YORK PROSECUTOR TO OBTAIN TRUMP'S TAX RECORDS

WASHINGTON, (IANS): In a major setback to former President Donald Trump, the US Supreme Court has allowed a New York prosecutor, who is investigating allegations that Trump paid two women with whom he had extra-marital affairs "hush money", to obtain his tax returns, reports said on Monday. However, Trump's financial records will be subject to court secrecy rules and cannot be made public. Trump had vigorously opposed the demand for his records issued by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance. The Supreme Court had, by a large margin last July, rejected Trump's stand of immunity from a state criminal subpoena seeking his tax returns, holding that as President he was not entitled to any kind of heightened standard unavailable to other citizens and sent back the matter to a lower court. Trump had not got any relief from a federal appeals court last October.





INDIA-AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN POST-COVID WORLD: PM MODI

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that a strong India-Australia partnership will play an important role in shaping the post-Covid world.

The statement came a day after Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison vowed to move ahead with his government's proposed laws that will ensure the US media tech giants like Facebook pay for publishing news media content. Incidentally, the Modi government is also pushing back against the misuse of the US social media platforms for mobilizing violence over domestic reforms in India. On Thursday, Modi had spoken to Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison on the phone. Both the leaders, while reiterating their commitment to consolidate their comprehensive strategic partnership, discussed regional issues of common interest. The two looked forward to working together for peace, prosperity and security in the Indo-Pacific. In a virtual address on Friday at the award ceremony of the India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon, Prime Minister Modi said that Indian and Australian youth, innovators and entrepreneurs will be at the forefront of strengthening partnership over the circular economy. In June last year, Prime Minister Modi and Morrison had discussed the

possibility of organizing a hackathon on the circular economy. Modi said he was glad the idea was realized so soon.

"As humanity faces the challenges posed by Climate Change, the theme of this Hackathon is relevant to the whole world. Consumption-oriented economic models have put a great strain on our planet.

"We must never forget that we are not the owners of all that Mother Earth has to offer, but merely its trustees for all the future generations to come. It is not enough to make our production processes more efficient and less polluting. No matter how fast or slow one drives, if the direction is wrong, then one is bound to reach the wrong destination. And so, we must set the right direction," Modi said.

Circular Economy, he said, can be a key step in solving many of the challenges. "Recycling and reusing things, eliminating waste, and improving resource efficiency must become part of our lifestyles," he stressed. The hackathon has seen innovative solutions from Indian and Australian students, startups and entrepreneurs. "I have no doubt that your innovations will inspire our two countries to take the lead in circular economy solutions. And, for that, we must now also explore ways to scale-up and incubate these ideas," he said.

Govt ready to talk with farmers on 3 laws after unions' response on its offer: Tomar

The government is ready to resume talks with protesting farmers if they respond to its offer to put the three contentious farm laws on hold for one-and-a-half year and work out the difference during that time through a joint committee, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Wednesday.

The government and unions representing farmers, who have been camping at Delhi's border for about three months in protest against the three laws that they see will end state procurement of crops at MSP, have held 11 rounds of talks, the last being on January 22. Talks broke after widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event here, Tomar said the government is committed towards the interest of farmers and agriculture, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is making efforts to double farmers' income and strengthen the Indian agriculture sector.

The minister was replying to a query on Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait threatening to march to the Parliament on 40 lakh tractors if laws are not repealed. Whether the government is making any effort to resume talks with unions, Tomar said, "Bharat sarkar kisano se puri samvedana ke saath charcha karti rahi hai. Aaj bhi jab unka koi mat aayega, toh Bharat sarkar hamesha kisano ke saath charcha karne ko taiyaar hai (The government has been holding discussions with farmers sympathetically. Even today, whenever their response comes, the government is al-

ways ready to hold talks)." Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, is protesting at Delhi borders for around three months, seeking repeal of three new laws and a legal guarantee of the MSP. In the 11th round of talks held on January 22, the government's negotiations with 41 farmer groups hit a roadblock as the unions squarely rejected the Centre's proposal to put three contentious laws on hold and form joint committee to find solutions.

During the 10th round of talks held on January 20, the Centre had offered to suspend the laws for 1-1.5 years and form a joint committee to find solutions, in return for protesting farmers going back to their respective homes from Delhi borders.

Farmer groups have alleged that these laws will end the mandi and MSP procurement systems and leave the farmers at the mercy of big corporates, even as the government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced. On January 11, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three laws till further orders and appointed a four-member panel to resolve the impasse. Bhartiya Kisan Union President Bhupinder Singh Mann had recused himself from the committee appointed by the apex court. Shetkari Sanghatana (Maharashtra) President Anil Ghanwat and agriculture economists Pramod Kumar Joshi and Ashok Gulati, the other three members on the panel, have started the consultation process with stakeholders.

DELHI VIOLENCE ACCUSED SIDHANA ADDRESSES RALLY, DARES POLICE

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Delhi violence accused and gangster-activist Lakha Sidhana on Tuesday dared police to arrest him as he addressed a public rally he called in Punjab's Bathinda as a show of strength and to express solidarity with those facing police action for supporting the cause of the protesting farmers.

However, leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha distanced themselves from the 'mahapanchayat' that saw tens of thousands of people largely comprising the youth and the women at Mehraj, the ancestral village of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Sidhana, who is carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh for providing information about him, has been booked by Delhi Police for instigating violence during the farmers' tractor rally at Red Fort on Republic Day.

"If Delhi Police come to arrest anyone in Punjab, villagers will gherao (sur-

round) them," Sidhana said at the rally, indirectly referring to his arrest. After the rally, he left the venue on a motorcycle.

The rally was called to express solidarity with Deep Sidhu, Sidhana, Nodeep Kaur and other arrested people associated with the farmer agitation and "to give a message that youth is upbeat and not defeated or disappointed".

Calling to intensify the agitation, speakers at the rally favoured that reins of the agitation should be handed over to the youth. They asked the farmer union leaders to show big heart by saying "they are with every youth of Punjab who are being prosecuted by Delhi Police".

The leaders should raise their voice for all such youth so that governments should know that we are one, the leaders advocated.

Earlier, in a video post, Sidhana had asked people to turn up in large numbers at Mehraj village to show their support for the protesting farmers.

NARENDRA MODI 'BIGGEST DANGABAAZ', WILL SEE A FATE WORSE THAN DONALD TRUMP: MAMATA AT HOOGHLY



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi the "biggest 'dangabaa' (rioter) in the country". Addressing a rally in Hooghly ahead of the Assembly polls slated to be held in April-May, the chief minister further said that a fate worse than that of former US President Donald Trump awaits Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Narendra Modi is the biggest 'dangabaa' (rioter) in the country... What has happened to Trump, he (Modi) will meet an even worse fate. Nothing can be gained from violence," she said.

Slamming the BJP for accusing the Trinamool Congress of doing extortion in the state, Mamata said, "Every time you (BJP) say that Trinamool Congress is 'Tolabaa' but I say you (BJP) are 'dangabaa' (rioter) and 'dhandabaa' (self-seeker)".

Stating that she will be the "goalkeeper" in the upcoming assembly polls, Mamata asserted that the BJP "will not be able to score a single goal". All shots will fly above the goal post, she added.

The chief minister also condemned the recent CBI interrogation of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's wife in connection with a coal pilferage scam, saying it was an "insult to our women".

The CBI had served a notice in the name of her nephew TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira and sister-in-law Menaka Gambhir on Sunday in a coal pilferage case. Meanwhile, cricketer Manoj Tiwary and several Bengali actors also joined the TMC at the rally in the presence of Banerjee. Addressing a public meeting at Dunlop Ground in Hooghly district on Monday, PM Modi had stepped up his attack against the Mamata Banerjee-led government and said the BJP would bring "real poribortan" (change) to the state.

JOE BIDEN NOMINATES INDIAN-AMERICAN LAWYER KIRAN AHUJA TO HEAD OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT



US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American lawyer and rights activist Kiran Ahuja to head the Office of Personnel Management, a federal agency that manages America's more than two million civil servants. If confirmed by the Senate, 49-year-old Ahuja, nominated on Tuesday, would become the first Indian-American to serve this top position in the US government. Ahuja served as the Chief of Staff to Director of the US Office of Personnel Management from 2015 to 2017. She has more than two decades of public service and nonprofit/philanthropic sector leadership experience. Ahuja currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Philanthropy Northwest, a regional network of philanthropic institutions.

She began her career as a civil rights lawyer at the US Department of Justice, litigating school desegregation cases, and filing the department's first student racial harassment case.

From 2003 to 2008, Ahuja served as the founding executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, an advocacy and membership organisation.

During the Obama-Biden administration, she spent six years as executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, leading efforts to increase access to federal services, resources and programmes for underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). Ahuja grew up in Savannah, Georgia, as a young Indian immigrant in the wake of the civil rights era, and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Spelman College and a law degree from the University of Georgia.

'125-YEAR-OLD CONGRESS DEFEATED': KEJRIWAL ON AAP'S PERFORMANCE IN GUJARAT



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said he will visit Gujarat on February 26, after his party's stunning performance in civic polls. The AAP won 27 seats in Surat in its first outing. The BJP secured 93 out of the 120 seats in Surat, while Congress and other parties did not win any seats.

"AAP has performed very well in the local body polls in Gujarat. I thank the people of Gujarat and especially of Surat. 125 years-old Congress party has been defeated and a new party - the AAP is given responsibility as the main opposition party. Our every candidate will work with honesty," the Delhi chief minister said.

"I will be visiting Surat on February 26 to thank the people for helping Aam Aadmi Party emerge as the main opposition party in Gujarat local body polls and rejecting Congress," Kejriwal added. Kejriwal said that a new type of politics has emerged from Gujarat - the politics of honesty. "It is based on work done. It is the politics of good schools, hospitals and cheap electricity. We will develop Gujarat along with developing the lives of people of the state," the AAP chief said. The Congress failed to open its account in Surat for the first time since 1995, prompting its city president Sagar Raika to quit. In the 2015 elections, the Congress won 36 seats out of a total of 116 in the SMC. The AAP, which did not win any seats in its first electoral foray in Gujarat in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, chose to fight the elections at the grassroots level this time before graduating to the 2022 state polls. Promising to be an alternative to the BJP and the Congress, the party contested without its national convener Kejriwal. But Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia conducted road shows that drew healthy crowds, especially in Surat.

RECREATION AT HOME

Free digital resources for all age groups and interests!

- Virtual Fitness
- Adventures at Home in Arts and Crafts
- The Senior's Digital Café

Learn more at Brampton.ca/recreation



BRAMPTON

YOU CAN STAY ACTIVE OR LEARN A NEW SKILL OR CRAFT FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME WITH REC AT HOME TODAY! COMPLETE A CARDIO CIRCUIT, DANCE YOUR WAY TO FITNESS, DOWNLOAD COLOURING PAGES AND MORE. BROWSE VIDEO TUTORIALS AND FUN ACTIVITIES ONLINE. TWITTER.COM/CITY OF BRAMPTON

MYANMAR STUDENTS, DOCTORS PLAN MORE PROTESTS AGAINST MILITARY RULE



THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT THREE WEEKS OF DAILY PROTESTS AND ON THURSDAY STUDENTS PLEDGED TO RALLY IN THE COMMERCIAL HUB OF YANGON, WITH DEMONSTRATORS URGED TO BRING TEXTBOOKS PROMOTING MILITARY EDUCATION SO THEY CAN DESTROY THEM AT THE PROTEST.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA BEGINS COVID-19 TESTING AT LAND BORDERS



With new COVID-19 variant detections increasing, the Government of Canada recently announced further testing and quarantine requirements for travellers at land ports of entry. It is mandatory for travellers arriving at Canada’s land ports of entry, unless exempted, to present proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours before entry into Canada or proof of a positive COVID-19 test conducted between 14 and 90 days before arrival.

As of February 22, 2021, to meet day 1 arrival requirements, travellers entering Canada at land borders, unless exempt, will be required to take a test using a self-swab kit. This test can be taken either at the traveller’s quarantine location or at a border testing site.

To help travellers meet this mandatory requirement of a COVID-19 molecular test on day 1 upon entry to Canada, self-swab kits will be handed out at all 117 land points of entry. There will be on-site testing provided at five high-volume land ports of entry as of February 22, 2021, and 11 additional ports of entry as of March 4, 2021. The kit will include instructions on how and when to collect their second required test on day 10 of their 14-day quarantine.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is leading the collection of samples from travellers at land borders in coordination with federal partners including Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Canada Border Services Agency. The testing sites are to be operated by PHAC, with COVID-19 tests being administered by PHAC officers and Canadian Red Cross personnel.

While the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is providing preliminary logistics support to PHAC in the establishment of these sites, at no time will CAF be involved in testing, quarantine or enforcement at the border. CAF’s role is only to support planning, logistics and set up of the testing sites. Once this preliminary logistics work is complete, CAF will transition out of this support role.

QUOTES

“The measures we are taking at the border will help us prevent travel-related cases of COVID-19 in our communities. These testing requirements at our land border will also help us detect and address any cases caused by variants of concern. While our government has taken strong action to respond to COVID-19, we all have a part to play in

stopping the spread. Canadians should not be travelling now.”

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health

“It is by working together, with all federal partners, orders of government and international partners that we will get through this pandemic. All Canadians have a key role to play. Respect the testing and the quarantine requirements and do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Together, we will do what it takes to protect ourselves, our families, our communities, our country.”

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

QUICK FACTS

Five high-volume ports of entry will offer on-site testing as of February 22:

St. Bernard de Lacolle (Highway 15), QC;
Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, ON;
Douglas, B.C.;
Coutts, AB; and,
St. Stephen 3rd Bridge, NB.

An additional 11 high-volume ports of entry will offer on-site testing beginning March 4, 2021:

Ambassador Bridge, ON;
Fort Erie (Peace Bridge), ON;
Windsor-Detroit Tunnel, ON;
Sarnia (Blue Water Bridge), ON;
Pacific Highway, BC;
Niagara Falls Rainbow Bridge, ON;
Lansdowne (Thousand Islands Bridge), ON;
St-Armand/Philipsburg, QC;
Huntingdon, BC;
Emerson, MB; and,
Stanstead, QC.

Failure to provide accurate information is an offence under the Quarantine Act. In addition, violating any quarantine or isolation instructions provided to travellers by a screening officer or quarantine officer when entering Canada is an offence under the Quarantine Act and could lead to serious penalties, including 6 months in prison and/or \$750,000 in fines.

COVID-19

Core Four

2m

Wash Hands

Wear Mask

Get Tested

ACTIONS TO KEEP COMMUNITY SAFE: CONTINUE TO STAY HOME, WASH HANDS, STAY APART, AND WEAR A MASK WHEN GOING OUT FOR ESSENTIALS (REGION OF PEEL/ TWITTER)

OSLER’S NEW VIRTUAL URGENT CARE SERVICE GIVES PATIENTS ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

Virtual appointments with emergency physicians can be booked seven days a week, starting February 24

BRAMPTON/ETOBICOKE- William Osler Health System (Osler) will soon launch a new Virtual Urgent Care service to provide local residents with access to care for urgent, but non-life threatening, medical issues from the comfort of their homes.

Through this service, patients can book same-day virtual appointments with an Osler emergency physician by using either a smartphone, computer or tablet. The service iV which starts on Wednesday, February 24 iV is available seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

i\$Wei}re excited to use technology in this innovative way to provide the community with a safe, convenient option for urgent health care needs that may not require an in-person assessment,i” says Kiki Ferrari, Chief Operating Officer, William Osler Health System.

i\$Over the last year, Osler has seen exponential growth in its virtual care options and this new service is a great addition to help reduce the need for some patients to come to the Emergency Department for care.”

Osleri}s Virtual Urgent Care service is intended for patients who have conditions such as minor injuries including cuts, sprains, head injuries, new abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and respiratory complaints such as cough, nasal congestion and cold symptoms.

Virtual care visits are very similar to in-person visits a patient would normally have with their health care provider. During a visit patients will have the opportunity to discuss their current health status and ask a physician questions about their care or condition. If the physician feels a patient needs a physical examination, they may then be directed to the closest hospital.

Osleri}s Emergency Departments remain open 24/7 to provide emergency care to patients and anyone who feels they are in need of immediate care should call 911 or visit their nearest Emergency Department right away.

What you need to know about Osleri}s new Virtual Urgent Care service:

- * Same day appointments will be available seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis and can be booked online at www.williamoslerhs.ca.
- * Patients will need access to a smartphone, computer, or tablet with video capabilities.
- * Patients will need to have a valid OHIP card.
- * Patients will need to live within a one-hour travel radius of an Osler hospital site so they can attend in-person for a physical examination or testing, if, during the virtual appointment, the doctor feels this is necessary.

For more information about Osleri}s Virtual Urgent Care service, please visit: www.williamoslerhs.ca

CANADA PARLIAMENT PASSES CONSERVATIVES MOTION TO LABEL CHINA’S TREATMENT OF UYGHURS AS ‘GENOCIDE’

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

However, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and almost all his cabinet colleagues were absent for the vote.

Only Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Gameau was present, and he said he abstained “on behalf of the Government of Canada.”

MPs also recommended the International Olympic Committee to move the 2022 Winter Olympics from Beijing if the treatment stays.

PM Trudeau’s Conservative opponents have been compelling him to get tougher on China. Canada arrested Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou in 2018 on a U.S. warrant. China confined two Canadians spying charges, igniting bilateral tensions that remain.

Mentioning documents, testimony, and media reports of human rights abuses against Uyghurs, Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong said, “we can no longer ignore this. We must call it for what it is - a genocide.”

At a press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that the motion “disregards facts and common sense” and that Beijing had “lodged stern representations” with Canada.

After the vote, Gameau issued a statement saying the federal government remains “deeply disturbed by horrific reports of human rights violations in Xinjiang, including the use of arbitrary detention, political re-education, forced labour, torture and forced sterilization.

“The government of Canada will continue to work with international partners to defend vulnerable minorities, and we once again repeat our call for transparency and a credible international investigation in response to allegations of genocide.

“This investigation must be conducted by an international and independent body so that impartial experts can observe and report on the situation first-hand.” PM Trudeau has been hesitant to use the word genocide, hinting that exploring broad consensus among Western partners on Chinese human rights issues would be the best approach.

“Moving forward multi-laterally will be the best way to demonstrate the solidarity of Western democracies ... that is extremely concerned and dismayed by reports of what’s going on in Xinjiang,” Trudeau said on Friday after speaking to fellow G7 leaders.

Y MEDIA Presents RADIO Y 24x7

To Listen Radio LIVE

GTA - (647) 910-5000

US - (518) 801-1313

FM 91.9

AM 770

Channel Y 24x7

Contact Y Media at 416-475-5000



600,000 DOSES OF #COVAX VACCINES ARRIVED IN GHANA (BORRIS JOHNSON/ TWITTER).

OVER 170,700 CANADIANS FLEW HOME FROM ABROAD IN DECEMBER: STATSCAN

Travellers to Canada from both the United States and overseas countries were down 93.0% compared with December 2019. Similarly, the number of Canadian residents returning from abroad was down 91.3% year over year.

Despite an advisory against non-essential travel outside Canada and a mandatory 14-day quarantine period for Canadians returning from abroad, over 170,700 Canadians flew home from abroad in December, up by one-third (+33.7%) from November.

The year in review

Following three consecutive years of positive growth, international travel to and from Canada declined from 96.8 million travellers in 2019 to 25.9 million in 2020.

Travellers from both the United States (-84.0% to 4.0 million) and overseas countries (-85.6% to 1.1 million) were down significantly from 2019. Similarly, the number of Canadian residents returning from abroad was down sharply (-74.0% to 14.6 million) year over year.

After the implementation of border restrictions to combat COVID-19 in March 2020, the impact on international travel was immediate, with the number of international travellers falling to a record low 614,000 in April, down 92.0% from the same month a year earlier. While travel



has edged up each month since this low, it remained far below 2019 levels. The impact of closures and restrictions was greater on some types of travel than on others. For example, non-residents and returning Canadians, who comprised just over three-quarters (76.1%) of all international arrivals to Canada in 2020, fell by 77.8% year over year to 19.7 million in 2020.

In comparison, with some travel deemed essential, the number of "other travellers," including non-resident and Canadian crews, as well as truck drivers, declined by one-quarter (-24.8%) from 2019 to 6.2 million in 2020. More information on international travel in 2020 can be found in the study "Crossing the border during the pandemic, 2020 in the review."

Travel restrictions continue

Restrictions on non-essential travel to and from Canada that initially took effect in mid-March were in place for almost 10 months in 2020. In December, restrictions on non-essential travel into Canada remained, as did the mandatory 14-day quarantine period for Canadians returning from abroad.

With the resurgence of the pandemic affecting many parts of the world, restrictions were tightened and further extended into 2021. Overseas travel to Canada remains low

The number of travellers from overseas (countries other than the United States) to Canada declined 91.8% year over year to 40,400 in December.

Travel originating from Europe (-91.5%) and Asia (-90.4%), Canada's largest markets, was down significantly compared with the same month in 2019. Travel from other major markets also remained low throughout December.

Ontario (-203,600), British Columbia (-143,000) and Quebec (-84,700) had the largest absolute year-over-year declines in the number of overseas travellers in December.

Fewer Americans crossing into Canada

In December, US residents took 113,900 trips to Canada, down 93.3% from the same month a year earlier. The number of US residents arriving by plane declined 95.0% year over year to 20,700 in December. Car arrivals dropped 92.4% year over year to 92,200 in December. Over two-thirds (63,400) of these car trips involved a same-day return, while overnight car arrivals (28,900) were down 95.0% from December 2019.

While every province reported fewer arrivals from the United States in December, Ontario (-857,600) had the largest absolute decline, followed by British Columbia (-400,900) and Quebec (-196,200).

US visits by Canadians remain low

Canadian residents made 271,100 return trips from the United States in December, down 92.0% from December 2019.

Car arrivals, which accounted for about three-quarters of these trips, fell 91.5% year over year to 207,100. Of these, 177,200 were same-day trips, down 89.8%.

Meanwhile, air arrivals were down 92.7% year over year to 62,500. Despite provincial measures in effect, including health screenings and quarantine, the number of Canadians returning from the United States by plane increased 14.7% from November to 54,500.

The monthly increase in Canadians returning from overseas

In December, 108,300 Canadian residents returned home from travel overseas, up 47.8% from November but down 89.1% from December 2019.

REIMAGINING DIPLOMACY IN THE POST-COVID WORLD: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

This expresses the interdependence and interpenetration of our era. What COVID, however, brought out was the deeper indivisibility of our existence. Real globalization is more about pandemics, climate change and terrorism. They must constitute the core of diplomatic deliberations. As we saw in 2020, overlooking such challenges comes at a huge cost.

Despite its many benefits, the world has also seen strong reactions to globalization. Much of that arises from unequal benefits, between and within societies. Regimes and dispensations that are oblivious to such happenings are therefore being challenged. We must ensure that this is not about winners and losers, but about nurturing sustainable communities everywhere.

COVID-19 has also redefined our understanding of security. Until now, nations thought largely in military, intelligence, economic, and perhaps, cultural terms. Today, they will not only assign greater weight to health security but increasingly worry about trusted and resilient supply chains. The stresses of the COVID-19 era brought out the fragility of our current situation. Additional engines of growth are needed to de-risk the global economy, as indeed is more transparency and market-viability.

Multilateral institutions have not come out well from this experience. Quite apart from controversies surrounding them, there was not even a pretense of a collective response to the most serious global crisis since 1945. This is cause for serious introspection. Reforming multilateralism is essential to creating effective solutions.

Fashioning a robust response to the COVID-19 challenge is set to dominate global diplomacy in 2021. In its own way, India has set an example. That it has done by defying prophets of doom and creating the health wherewithal to minimize its fatality rate and maximize its recovery rate. An international comparison of these numbers tells its own story. Not just that, India also stepped forward as the pharmacy of the world, supplying medicines to more than 150 countries, many as grants.

As our nation embarks on a mass vaccination effort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance that it would help make vaccines accessible and affordable to the world is already being implemented. The first consignments of Made in India vaccines have reached not only our neighbors like Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka but partners far beyond like Brazil and Morocco.

Other key global challenges today deserve similar attention. As a central participant in reaching the Paris agreement, India has stood firm with regard to combating climate change. Its renewable energy targets have multiplied, its forest cover has grown, its biodiversity has expanded and its focus on water utilization has increased. Practices honed at home are now applied to its development partnerships in Africa and elsewhere. By example and energy, Indian diplomacy is leading the way, including through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure initiatives.

The challenge of countering terrorism and radicalization is also a formidable one. As a society, long subjected to cross-border terrorist attacks, India has been active in enhancing global awareness and encouraging coordinated action. It will be a major focus in India's diplomacy as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and in forums like FATF and G20.

Among the takeaways from the COVID-19 experience has been the power of the digital domain. Whether it was contact tracing or the provision of financial and food support, India's digital focus after 2014 has yielded impressive results. The "work from anywhere" practice was as strongly enhanced by COVID-19 as the "study from home" one. All these will help expand the toolkit of India's development programs abroad and assist the recovery of many partners.

2020 also saw the largest repatriation exercise in history—the return home of more than 4 million Indians. This alone brings out the importance of mobility in contemporary times. As smart manufacturing and the knowledge economy take deeper root, the need for trusted talent will surely grow. Facilitating its movement through diplomacy is in the global interest.

A return to normalcy in 2021 will mean safer travel, better health, economic revival and digitally driven services. They will be expressed in new conversations and fresh understandings. The world after COVID-19 will be more multi-polar, pluralistic and rebalanced. And India, with its experiences, will help make a difference.

Dr. S. Jaishankar is the minister of external affairs of India and author of "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World."

The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.

MidWeek

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL : 416-475-5000

E-MAIL : FORADVERTISING
'YMEDIA@SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM'

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

GURPREET SINGH LOONA
CONTENT EDITOR

DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SIA LAKHANPAL
REBECCA TANDON
POOJA LUTHRA
REPORTERS

SUNIL VERMA
GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

IMRAN MAHMOUD
PHOTOGRAPHERS

BASHIR NASIR
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Newspaper
MIDWEEK NEWS WEEKLY
Published in English every Tuesday

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

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

Television
CHANNEL Y
Rogers 857
Bell 828
Yupp TV

Online
WWW.SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM
ONLY News Portal for Southasian-Canadians

Cricket
**CANADIAN PROFESSIONAL
CRICKET (CPC)**
6th Annual
CPC Inter-City Cricket Cup Starting June 2013
6 Months of Non-stop cricket action

Events
**Annual
Midweek Southasian Awards**



Y MEDIA Presents RADIO Y 24x7

To Listen Radio LIVE
GTA - (647) 910-5000
US - (518) 801-1313

FM 91.9
AM 770
Channel Y 24x7

Contact Y Media at 416-475-5000

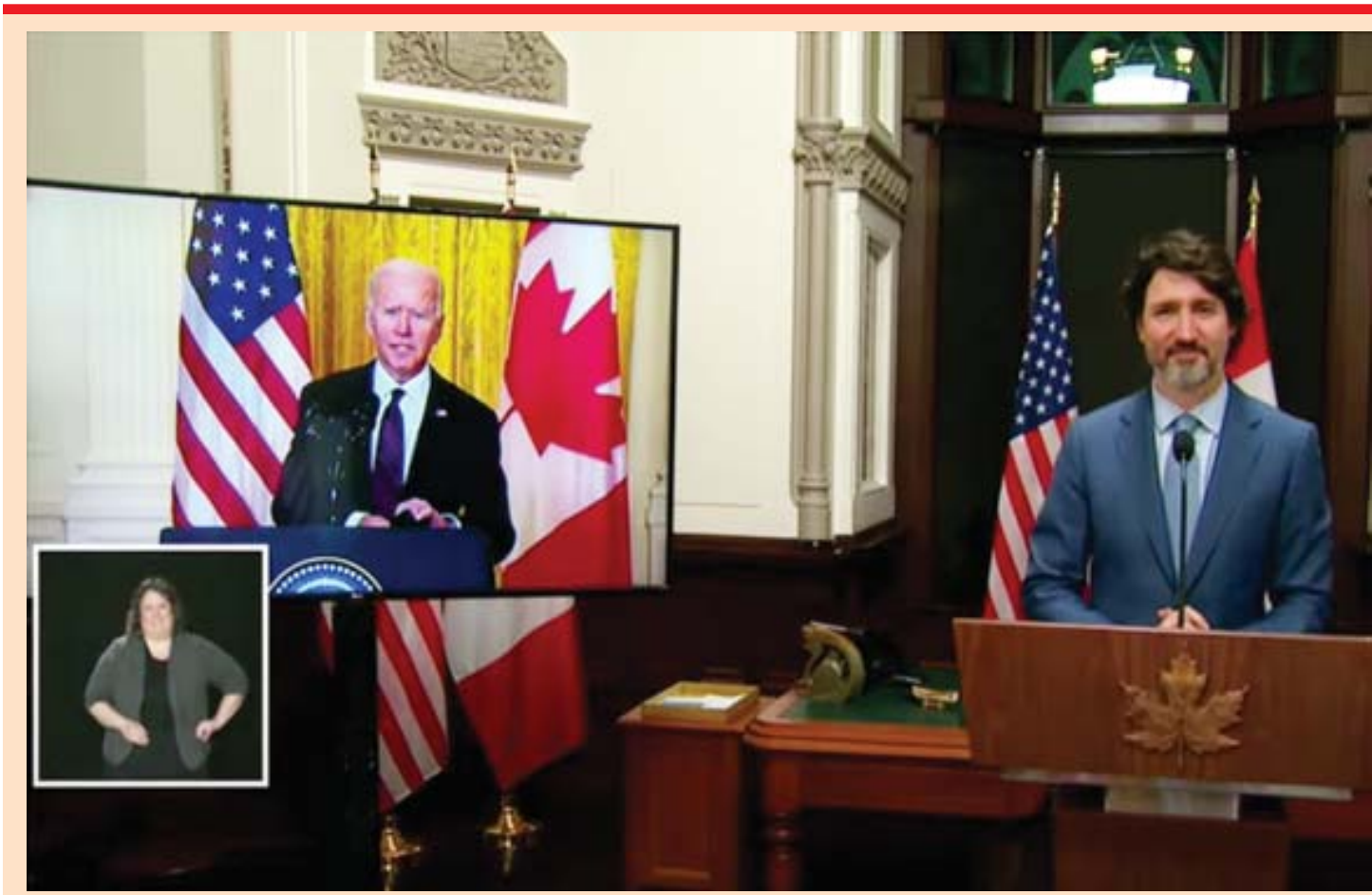
**WE ARE
HIRING**



FOR ITS EXPANSION
PLANS IS HIRING - WE NEED -

- SALES/ MARKETING PROFESSIONALS
- RADIO AND TV HOST
- CAMERA PERSONS AND VIDEO EDITORS

EMAIL YOUR RESUME AT
YMEDIA@SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM
OR CALL 416-475-5000



US HAS NO CLOSER FRIEND THAN CANADA: TRUDEAU, BIDEN MEETING

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, virtually met with the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, during a bilateral meeting. During the meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden solidified the deep and enduring friendship between Canada and the United States, by committing to an ambitious roadmap to revitalize and expand this historic relationship and realize our full potential.

The Prime Minister and the President discussed working together to end the global COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed that the pandemic will not end until everyone, everywhere has access to a vaccine. To ensure a strong economic recovery that benefits everyone, the two leaders further discussed the importance of avoiding measures that may constrain the critical trade and supply-chain security between our countries. Both leaders shared their vision for building back better by supporting hard-hit small and medium-sized businesses and creating good middle class jobs, especially for women and young people. They discussed the importance of addressing all forms of systemic racism, discrimination, and exclusion, including by implementing more effective approaches to community safety, criminal justice, and law enforcement.

Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden expressed their shared commitment to taking real action to fighting climate change while growing the economy and creating good jobs. They discussed working together to reduce pollution, protect nature and biodiversity, and collaborate on critical minerals and clean energy. Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden announced that they will launch a High Level Climate Ministerial to align our policies and our goals to increase ambition to tackle the climate crisis. The Prime Minister also highlighted that our integrated energy infrastructure, including oil and gas, would remain essential during a transition to a net-zero emissions future. In addition, the two leaders emphasized the importance of maintaining strong and secure supply chains, and spoke about the digital economy. They also discussed important defence and security issues, including modernizing NORAD, as well as NATO missions, cybersecurity threats, and firearms.

The Prime Minister and President discussed efforts to address key regional, national, and global challenges, and priorities in multilateral forums, including the G7, the G20, and the United Nations. The leaders also discussed China. President Biden reaffirmed his country's commitment to ending the arbitrary detention of two Canadian citizens, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

This productive bilateral meeting is another step to revitalize and expand

ties with our largest and closest partner, the United States. Prime Minister Trudeau will continue to work closely with President Biden to fight the pandemic and ensure a strong economic recovery to grow the middle class in both countries.

QUOTE

"Canada and the United States have an extraordinary relationship that transcends geographic borders. It is in our best interest to work together to make things better for our people and both our countries. Today's meeting with President Biden further strengthens our two countries' strong and historic ties. I look forward to continue working together to end COVID-19, and build back better to grow the middle class and create good jobs."

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

QUICK FACTS

- * In addition to today's meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden have spoken twice since the U.S. election in November 2020, on November 9, 2020 and January 22, 2021. They also both participated in the G7 videoconference on February 19, 2021. Prime Minister Trudeau also spoke to Vice President Kamala Harris on February 1, 2021.
- * The leaders were joined during their virtual bilateral meeting today by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau, as well as Vice President Harris and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.
- * Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan, Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra, and Ambassador of Canada to the United States Kirsten Hillman also joined during a virtual expanded meeting.
- * Canada and the United States share one of the largest trading relationships in the world. The two countries also share the longest and most secure border in the world, over which \$2.7 billion worth of goods and services cross daily.
- * In 2019, Canada was the top import source country for 20 U.S. states.
- * Canada is the United States' largest customer and buys more goods from the United States than China, Japan, and the United Kingdom combined. Canada is also the top trading partner for most U.S. states.
- * Canada and the United States have worked side-by-side in the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) since the pact was created in 1957.
- * Canada is the largest supplier of all forms of energy to the U.S.

JASJIT SINGH BHULLAR, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ONTARIO KHALSA DARBAR, DIXIE ROAD GURDWARA SAHIB, DIES AT 67 FROM PROSTATE CANCER

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

He had been a part of various committees and activists' groups like the Sewadar group, World Sikh Organization. He dedicated his life to the development of society. He was a firm believer and supporter of the Liberal party. He did not have direct participation but supported the party at ground level.

"I've always known that my dad had made an incredible mark on our family and in the community. But I could never have imagined the outpouring of love we've received in the last 24 hours," his daughter, Veena Bhullar, shared this message on Facebook.

COMMUNITY GRIEVES LOSS OF JASJIT SINGH BHULLAR

During the radio show on Y Media, Sandip Sangha, discussed the hard-work and dedication of Jasjit Singh and how he served in the development of the community. He said he was in distress and mourned the death of the great person.

Y Media's Group Editor and CEO, Yudhvir Jaswal, expressed his emotions during the radio show. He said, "I have met him the first time at Dixie Gurudwara Sahib and after that encountered him on quite a few occasions. He was a very humble and down-to-earth person and always served the community. It is a huge loss of humanity."

"I am saddened to hear of the passing of a long time Dixie Gurudwara sewadar Jasjit Singh Bhullar. May Waheguru bless the family and community as we mourn this great loss" - Regional Councillor in Brampton, Gurpreet Singh Dhillon.

"Uncle Ji (Jasjit Singh Bhullar) was near and dear to many, as he was a dedicated community volunteer, and his kindness and integrity made him one of a kind. My life up until now is full of memories of him, and without his constant encouragement, I might not be where I am today." - Ruby Sahota, re-elected Member of Parliament for Brampton North.

"Saddened to learn of the passing of a devout sewadar to Dixie Gurudwara, community voice, supporter and friend Jasjit Singh Bhullar. He was always of great support, help and guidance in my political career." - Former Member of the Canadian House of Commons, Ruby Dhalla.

Everyone would immensely remember Jasjit Singh Bhullar. His memorial service is on Feb. 27 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre. The funeral service will be private and limited to 10 people maximum. Those in attendance are required to wear a mask or face covering and must maintain a minimum distance of 2 meters between each other. The service will be livestreamed from the link- www.bcvclive.ca/feb28jasjitsingh

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT TIMELINE

POOJA LUTHRA

Canada has till date approved Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna vaccines. According to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita Anand, Canada will receive 6,43,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses from the two approved vaccine candidates. This would embody the largest number of deliveries in a single week. By June, Canada is set to receive 23 million doses of Pfizer and Moderna. Both the vaccine doses candidates would supply 84 million doses to the country in total. This will ensure any Canadian who wants to get vaccinated could do so by September. According to Y Media's Group Editor and CEO, Yudhvir Jaswal, Canada would inoculate its population between April-August.

CLASSIFIED

DRIVE THRU MOVERS CONTACT DRIVE THRU MOVERS FOR ALL YOUR LOCAL MOVING NEEDS. WHETHER MOVING TO A NEW TOWN OR JUST DOWN THE STREET, DRIVE THRU MOVERS MOVE YOU ON TIME WITH NO HASSLE. CONTACT AT 416-275-2704 FOR STRESS FREE MOVING

Nasir Studios

Capture your Precious Memories

Bashir Nasir
Award Winning Photographer

603 - 3001 Finch Ave. E. W.
North York, ON
M2N 3A9
CANADA

Tel: 416-742-5020
Cell: 416-414-4213
Fax: 416-742-6069
Email: bnasir88@hotmail.com

Weddings

Birthdays

Outdoors/Indoors

Commercial Photography

Portraits

Parties and all Occasions

ACCOUNTANT

SERVICES PROVIDED:

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

www.surajgupta.ca

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

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

PMGI FINANCIAL

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

Pankaj Monga, CFP, CLU, CHS

Certified Financial Planner

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

416-907-4420

Email: pankaj@pmgifinancial.com
www.pmgifinancial.com

CFP®

Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership

“It is in the shared interest of the United States and Canada to revitalize and expand our historic alliance and steadfast friendship to overcome the daunting challenges of today and realize the full potential of the relationship into the future. The Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership announced today establishes a blueprint for an ambitious and whole-of- government effort against the COVID-19 pandemic and in support of our mutual prosperity. It creates a partnership on climate change, advances global health security, bolsters cooperation on defense and security, and it reaffirms a shared commitment to diversity, equity, and justice. Bound by history and geography, the partnership between the United States and Canada endures because we invest in each other’s success.”

President Joe Biden

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

February 23, 2021

Combating COVID-19

The top priority of the President and the Prime Minister is to end the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed to strengthen comprehensive and cross-sectoral efforts to control the pandemic, collaborate on public health responses, and build resilience against future outbreaks.

The Prime Minister and the President committed to working closely together to defeat the virus, including by surging the health and humanitarian response to the global pandemic, responding to new variants, following expert advice, and supporting global affordable access to and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, including through the COVAX Facility.

The leaders emphasized their strong support for the multilateral institutions that are on the front lines of COVID-19 response, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN development agencies, and committed to rapidly fulfilling national pledges to COVAX.

They agreed on the importance of a transparent and independent evaluation and analysis, free from interference, of the origins of the COVID-19 outbreak, and to work together toward the development and use of swift, effective, transparent, and independent means for investigating such outbreaks in the future.

They also recognized the importance of urgent global action to advance health security, counter biological threats, and prevent the next pandemic, and agreed to leverage existing pandemic preparedness arrangements and platforms, such as the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza, the Global Health Security Agenda and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

They further agreed on the need to improve international institutions for global capacity for pandemic preparedness and response, including by working to strengthen and reform the WHO, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and exploring the establishment of a permanent facilitator for

high consequence biological threats within the office of the UN Secretary-General and a sustainable health security financing mechanism.

They discussed emerging outbreaks, including the Ebola outbreaks in West and Central Africa and agreed on the importance of a robust global response and partnership with regional organizations, such as the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to build health security capacity for the future.

They agreed on the importance of countering biological threats, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental and to advancing policies and practices domestically and through health, foreign assistance, and threat reduction programs to improve biosafety, biosecurity, and biological norms for mitigating biological risks associated with life sciences research and biotechnology advances.

The President and the Prime Minister recognize coordinated border policies remain central to controlling COVID-19 and new variants while promoting economic growth and recovery.

Both leaders agreed to take a coordinated approach based on science and public health criteria when considering measures to ease Canada-U.S. border restrictions in the future.

The two leaders agreed to strengthen the U.S.-Canada Action Plan on Opioids recognizing the rise in drug use and overdoses in both of our countries as a result of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

Building Back Better

The Prime Minister and the President share a vision for a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery that strengthens the middle class, creates more opportunities for hard working people to join it, and ensures people have good jobs and careers on both sides of the border. They also recognized the opportunity for clean growth driven by workers, communities, businesses, and innovation.

The leaders agreed on the need to build back better together in a way that addresses the disproportionate impacts on women, youth, underrepresented groups, and Indigenous peoples.

As COVID-19 has rolled back many of the hard-won gains women have achieved over past decades, the President and Prime Minister committed to implement measures to support women’s full and equal participation in the workforce, including with respect to early learning and childcare. The President and the Prime Minister also considered the impact of the pandemic on small businesses. The United States and Canada announced joint initiatives to accelerate economic recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a focus on supporting women-owned and minority/Indigenous-owned SMEs, by leveraging the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) SME chapter and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) model. The two leaders launched a strategy to strengthen Canada-U.S. sup-

ply chain security and agreed to reinforce our deeply interconnected and mutually beneficial economic relationship.

The leaders also agreed to work together to build the necessary supply chains to make Canada and the United States global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production. To that end, the leaders agreed to strengthen the Canada-U.S. Critical Minerals Action Plan to target a net-zero industrial transformation, batteries for zero-emissions vehicles, and renewable energy storage.

The leaders recognized the important economic and energy security benefits of the bilateral energy relationship and its highly integrated infrastructure. To further advance climate priorities, they agreed to renew and update the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the reliability and security of the North American energy infrastructure between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department of Natural Resources Canada to enhance cooperation on sustainable and equitable energy transitions, clean energy innovation, connectivity and low-carbon transportation.

The leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation under the Energy Resource Governance Initiative (ERGI), a multinational effort to foster international cooperation on the minerals and metals that make the energy transition possible.

The Prime Minister and the President acknowledge the impact of international regulatory cooperation on enhancing economic competitiveness and well-being while maintaining high standards of public health, safety, labor, and environmental protection.

Accelerating Climate Ambitions

The President and the Prime Minister expressed their commitment to strengthened implementation of the Paris Agreement, including by working together and with others to increase the scale and speed of action to address the climate crisis and better protect nature.

Recalling the Agreement’s call to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C., they will work in tandem, and encourage others to achieve net zero emissions no later than 2050.

The Prime Minister and the President expressed their commitment to have their two countries work together on cooperative action ahead of the US-hosted Leaders’ Climate Summit that will allow both countries to increase their climate ambition. The President, in addition to acknowledging Canada’s new strengthened national climate plan and its globally ambitious price on pollution, reiterated his aim to have ready the US nationally determined contribution (NDC) in advance of the Summit and welcomed the Prime Minister’s aim to announce the enhanced 2030 emissions target for its NDC by the Summit as well.

The President also restated his commitment to holding polluters accountable for their actions. Both the President and the Prime Minister agreed to work together to protect businesses, workers and communities in both countries from unfair trade by countries failing to take strong climate action.



Great for Indian Cooking! SAKURA TURBO HOOD

Kitchen Range Hood

NO MORE SMOKE, GREASE OR ODOURS



STANDARD FEATURES

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

U2f, U2 M II and U2 II

Dimension :29-3/4" W x 25" D x 6"/7" H
Voltage :120V 60Hz
Horizontal Ducting:3-1/8" x 10"
Vertical Ducting : 6" Diameter
Revolutions : 1700 RPM
Wind Exhaust : 520-680 CFM
White, Black & Stainless Steel

R8168M (Micro)



Model: R-8168M
DIMENSION: 29 3/4" x 21" X 6" H
Wind Exhaust: 250-680 CFM
White or Stainless Steel

STANDARD FEATURES

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

R747 II Generation



- **Dimension:**29-3/4" W x 23-1/4" D x 6-1/2" H**Voltage:**120V
- **Ducting:**3-1/8" x 10"Vertical Ducting:6"
- **DiameterRevolutions:**1700 RPM**Wind Exhaust:**520-680 CFM**Weight (lbs):** 29.70 - 31.90**Illum.:** 60W Max**Power**
- **White, Black & Stainless Steel**

STANDARD FEATURES

- Twin centrifugal turbo fans
- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- Rear oil collectors
- Grease-free inner parts
- Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters
- Smoke and grease baffler

ODOUR FREE

TWIN MOTOR, HIGH CFM

SMOKE FREE

DISSIPATE THROUGH DUCT

GREASE FREE

PATENTED FILTRATION SYSTEM

TOLL FREE: 1-800-475-5473

www.sakura-canada.com

SAKURA PRODUCTS CO.

4490 Sheppard Ave., E. Unit 2, Scarborough [416] 291-5218 TOLL-FREE 1-800-475-05473

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

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

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

MISSISSAUGA DIXIE PARK
1550 South Gateway, Unit 113, Mississauga
(905) 238-3198
South Eglinton-East Side Dixie

MODI GOVERNMENT FILLING POCKETS OF ITS FRIENDS: CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI ON RISING PETROL, DIESEL PRICES

IN A DIRECT ATTACK ON PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI-LED GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTRE, CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 22) ACCUSED THE CENTRE OF EMPTYING THE POCKETS OF THE COMMON MAN IN ORDER TO FILL THE POCKETS OF ITS FRIENDS.

In a direct attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday (February 22) accused the Centre of emptying the pockets of the common man in order to fill the pockets of its friends. Notably, the Congress has been slamming the Centre of looting people by imposing high taxes on petrol and diesel and has demanded that the government must rollback the high prices of petrol and diesel in order to provide relief to the common man. "When you see the fast moving meter while filling fuel in your car at the petrol pump, do remember that the crude oil rates have not risen but fallen. Petrol is at Rs 100 a litre. The Modi government is doing the great work of emptying your pockets and filling the pockets of its friends," the Congress leader tweeted in Hindi. It is to be noted that fuel prices have been rising for almost two weeks now, touching new highs every day. Amid the surge, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan on Sunday told the reason behind the surge in prices. "There are two main reasons behind the fuel price rise. The international market has reduced fuel production and manufacturing countries are producing less fuel to gain more profit. This is making the consumer countries suffer," Pradhan told news agency ANI during his visit to inspect the venue where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a rally in Assam's Dhemaji on Monday. He added, "We have continuously been urging the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC plus countries that it should not happen. We hope there will be a change." Pradhan also defended the Centre's decision to levy taxes on petrol and diesel, saying that the central and state governments are doing development work in wake of COVID-19 pandemic, for which they collect taxes. He added that these projects also generate employment.

'WHEN CROWDS GATHER, GOVERNMENTS GET CHANGED': BHARATIYA KISAN UNION LEADER RAKESH TIKAIT

A day after Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar made a remark that "mere gathering of a crowd does not lead to revocation of laws", Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Monday hit back saying "when crowds gather, governments get changed". Tikait also warned that the government could find it difficult to stay in power if the new agri-marketing laws are not repealed. While addressing a farmers' 'mahapanchayat' at Kharkhoda in the state's Sonapat district, the BKU leader said that the farmers' stir against the laws will continue till the time the Centre accepts their demands of repealing the legislations. Union agriculture minister Tomar in Gwalior on Sunday said the Centre was ready to talk to the protesting farmers, and that mere gathering of a crowd does not lead to revocation of legislations. Tikait, hitting back at Tomar for his remark, said, "The minister says that mere gathering of crowd does not lead to revocation of legislations. They have lost their mind. When crowds gather governments get changed". "They (the government) should know if farmers can destroy their own produce, then you are nothing before them," Tikait said. Stating that this agitation is not just of farmers, but also of the poor, daily wagers and other sections, Tikait said, "These laws will destroy the poor. This is not just one law, many more laws like these will come,". After reports of farmers destroying their standing crops following the appeal by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait started coming from several places, the organisation



has appealed to the farmers not to do so. Tikait during one of the Kisan Mahapanchayats had urged farmers to give importance to the agitation and, if need be, destroy their crops. After his appeal, four farmers have destroyed their crops. The government has held 11 rounds of negotiation with protesting unions and these have remained inconclusive. Farmers have been protesting on the different borders of the national capital since November 26 against the three newly enacted farm laws - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

STATE HAS MADE UP ITS MIND FOR 'PORIBORTON', SAYS PM MODI IN WEST BENGAL - KEY POINTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that poll-bound West Bengal has made up its mind for 'poriborton' (change). PM Modi stated that the formation of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in West Bengal isn't just for a change in power, but for 'Ashol Poriborton'. During his second visit to the state this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the extension of Kolkata Metro Railway from Noapara to Dakshineswar, revered for the over 160-year-old temple of Goddess Kali. He virtually flagged off the first service on this 4.1 km stretch constructed at a cost of Rs 464 crore. It will decongest road traffic and improve urban mobility. The prime minister said that the metro railway extension will ensure easier and faster connectivity between the city's Kalighat Temple and the Dakshineswar Kali Temple. Modi also dedicated to the nation the third line between Kalaikunda and Jhargram, doubling of Azimganj to Khagrachhat Road section, fourth line between Dankuni and Baruipara, and the third line between Rasulpur and Magra. He said the new lines will reduce congestion and ensure better connectivity. While addressing a public meeting in Hooghly, Prime Minister said, "Modern highways, railways, airways, infrastructure of many countries helped those nations to become modern, where it became a major cause for positive change. Our country should have done the same thing decades ago. But it did not happen," he added. Addressing the huge crowd at the meeting, PM Modi said, "This enthusiasm and energy by all of you is sending a message from



Kolkata to Delhi. Now West Bengal has made up its mind for 'poriborton' (change)." "This year 'rail and metro' connectivity is Centre's priority. Such work should have been done decades back and now, we should not delay any projects, from broadening of rail lines to electrification work, money being invested in infrastructure projects," he added. The Prime Minister also said that lakhs of needy people in West Bengal have not been able to receive free treatment worth Rs 5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat. "This is the kind of hurdle Mamata Ji's government has formed between people of Bengal and development," he said. The two newly built stations namely Baranagar and Dakshineswar have modern passenger amenities and are also aesthetically designed and decorated with murals, photographs, sculptures and idols. On February 7, he visited Haldia and dedicated to the nation the LPG import terminal built by BPCL. He also dedicated to the nation Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project.

Gujarat Municipal Election Results 2021: BJP gains lead in over 200 seats, Congress yet to reach 50



The Gujarat Civic Polls Result continues to be counted in 576 seats for the six metropolitan municipalities in Gujarat and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is leading in the trends. Votes were cast on Sunday (February 21) in the six metropolitan municipalities Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar and 48.15 percent voters exercised their franchise. The counting of votes for six municipal corporations of Gujarat started at 9 am on Tuesday and is currently underway. As per the latest trends, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ahead in over 200 seats till 12 noon while the Congress is leading on 42 seats. The BJP is leading Jamjodhpur, Thaltej, Vastrapur, Asarwa, Saijpur, Nava Vadaj and Navrangpura wards in the local body polls. On the other hand, Congress is leading in Dariapur and Chandkheda wards, while the All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) is leading in Behrampura ward. The six civic bodies - Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar - were being ruled by the BJP. Voting in the Gujarat local body polls was held on Sunday. The State Election Commission (SEC) has said an average 46.08 per cent turnout was registered during voting, which was held between 7 am and 6 pm. Ahmedabad recorded the lowest turnout of 42.51 per cent, while Jamnagar saw the highest turnout of 53.38 per cent, followed by 50.72 per cent in Rajkot, 49.46 per cent in Bhavnagar, 47.84 per cent in Vadodara and 47.14 per cent in Surat. Of the total 1.14 crore voters registered in these major cities of Gujarat, 52.83 lakh had cast their ballots, the SEC said in a release. It may be noted that tell that a total of 2,275 candidates are in the fray in the six metropolitan councils, whose fate will be decided today. Out of these, 577 are from BJP, 566 main opposition Congress, 91 Nationalist Congress Party, 470 Aam Aadmi Party, 353 from other parties and 228 are Independents. Many municipalities, zilla panchayats and taluka panchayats of the state will vote on February 28 and counting will take place on March 2.

After Pune, Maharashtra govt imposes restrictions in Nagpur, shuts down schools, colleges till March 7

As several regions in Maharashtra witness a spike in COVID-19 cases, the administration in Nagpur has taken strict measures to keep the infections in check. In wake of the new cases, Minister Nitin Raut has said that strict regulations will be implemented in Nagpur. The administration has closed all the weekly markets till March 7. Additionally, schools, colleges and coaching centres have also been ordered to be closed till March 7. Hotels have been asked to operate only till 9 pm and at 50% capacity. Coronavirus infections are on the rise again in Nagpur To prepare for the situation, Raut held a review meeting on Monday in which some major steps were decided to be taken. Notably, the number of COVID-19 patients in Nagpur has been increasing rapidly recently. In the last three days, more than 2,000 patients have been found positive. However, residents of Nagpur are still not seen following the COVID-19 guidelines. From February 25 to March 7, no religious and political events will take place. After Amravati, now these restrictions have been imposed in Nagpur As per a Zee News report, weddings will take place at home and no more than 50 people have been allowed to attend. Wedding ceremonies will not take place in the Mars offices until March 7. The administration has also decided to reopen the COVID-19 centers that were closed down earlier. The number of home visits by the health team will be increased and new hotspots and containment zones will be identified as well. This comes as the Maharashtra government on Sunday announced a one-week lockdown in the state's Amravati district from Monday, 22 February owing to the rising coronavirus cases. The lockdown will remain in place till March 1, 2021. The government said only essential services will be allowed to function during the strict seven-day lockdown.

YOUTH CONGRESS LEADER, GURLAL SINGH, MURDER CONSPIRACY HATCHED IN CANADA, DELHI POLICE SAYS

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1
They were arrested from Sarai Kale Khan area of the national capital. They all are residents of Faridkot and members of the Lawrence Vishnoi Gang, police said. Addressing a press conference here on the case of the killing of Youth Congress leader Gurlal Singh in Faridkot, Punjab, Manishi Chandra, DCP Special Cell said, "Counter Intelligence Unit of Special Cell arrested three persons from Sarai Kale Khan area." "The Youth Congress leader wrote on Facebook on February 5 that he was planning to travel to Delhi join farmers' protest against the three agricultural laws on the call of Congress party. Gurvinder Pal, accompanied by two shooters, closely followed Gurlal Singh when he was travelling to the Singhu Border on February 9," he added. However, the task could not be completed because of the size of the protesting crowd that was present, the police officer said adding that the trio left the trail since they found it difficult to dodge the security arrangements made by Delhi Police at the protest sites. "On February 18, Gurlal Singh was shot down near his residence. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died during the treatment," DCP added. Punjab police has been informed of the arrests. Further efforts are underway to trace and apprehend the remaining accused and further investigation is in progress, the Delhi Police said. (ANI)

COVID-19: Section 144 imposed in Jodhpur till THIS date



RAJASTHAN HAS TILL NOW WITNESSED 3,19,626 CORONAVIRUS CASES AND 2,785 COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS. IN THE LAST 24 HOURS, RAJASTHAN HAS RECORDED 83 NEW CASES.

After Maharashtra, now the Rajasthan government has imposed Section 144 in Jodhpur till March 21 due to a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. The government has made it mandatory to allow no more than 100 people to attend weddings and public gatherings. According to an order issued by the police, only essential services, schools and colleges have been allowed to function. Jodhpur has recorded a total of 457 cases and 9 COVID-19 related deaths till now. Rajasthan has till now witnessed 3,19,626 coronavirus cases and 2785 COVID-19 related deaths. In the last 24 hours, Rajasthan has recorded 83 new cases. Meanwhile, several states including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Punjab have reported a steep rise in the number of COVID-19 cases and have sounded a high alert across all

adjoining districts and will also conduct thermal scanning of all those travelling from the high-risk state. Maharashtra has also been witnessing an increasing number of coronavirus cases, forcing the state government to impose partial lockdown or restrictions in several districts and cities. In Maharashtra, COVID-19 curbs and restrictions have been ordered in Pune, Nagpur, Pimpri Chinchwad, Nashik, Aurangabad, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Washim, Kalyan-Dombivli and Buldhana, whereas a week-long partial lockdown has been imposed in Amravati and Akola from February 22 to March 1. Yavatmal district administration has imposed a 10-day lockdown in the region from February 18 to February 28. Maharashtra reported 6,971 new COVID-19 cases and 35 deaths in the last 24 hours.

All gatherings banned in Maharashtra from Monday: CM Thackeray amid rising COVID-19 cases

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday announced that all political, religious and social gatherings will be prohibited in the state from Monday, amid rising COVID-19 cases. In a televised address, Thackeray also said that political agitations will not be allowed for the next few days as they attract a crowd. "The pandemic is raising its head in the state, but whether it is another wave or not, it will be known in eight to fifteen days," he said. The decision comes at a time when Maharashtra is again witnessing a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases. Six districts - Ratnagiri, Beed, Sindhudurg, Raigad, Satara and Amravati - have witnessed a noticeable rise in average daily deaths. The Maharashtra Chief Minister added that the lockdown may not be the solution to COVID-19, but it is the only option to break the cycle of the virus. A week-long lockdown has already been announced in Amravati, one of the worst-affected districts in Maharashtra, which will come into force from Monday. The district administration in Pune has also shut down schools and coaching centres till February 28 in view of rising coronavirus cases. Uddhav Thackeray said that COVID-appropriate behaviour is a must and those violating the rules will be punished. According to him, a face mask is the only 'shield' in the war against the coronavirus outbreak. "Wear mask, maintain discipline and observe social distancing to avoid a lockdown," he said.

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti re-elected PDP president for 3-year term



Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday was unanimously re-elected as the president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for a three-year term. Mufti's name was proposed by senior leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura and seconded by Khurshid Alam, a party spokesperson said after the election. Senior leader Surinder Chaudhary was the returning officer for the election. After getting re-elected, she said, "PDP is born to fight for the rights of people. Let IGP Kashmir do his duty, I will do mine." Reacting to the statement of the IGP Kashmir that political activists are trying to instigate people, Mehbooba said, "I have talked for the people rights all the problems people are facing I have to talk about that and if the IGP thinks am doing against law then let him do his duty, I will do my duty." She also argued for the dialogue between India and Pakistan and said she will take forward her father late Mufti Muhammad Sayed's mission and vision. "My workers have given me this responsibility and it's a challenging time we are going through a tough time," she added.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS TO BEAR COST OF TREATMENT IF THEY DON'T GET VACCINATED NOW

The Punjab government has announced that healthcare workers in the state, who do not get vaccinated to boost their immunity against coronavirus despite being given several opportunities, will have to bear the cost of treatment if they get infected at a later stage. In a press communique, state Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said that the healthcare workers will not be allowed to avail any quarantine or isolation leave either. The minister pointed out that recently, Punjab has seen an uprising trend in the number of COVID-19 cases. He said that with 358 cases being reported on February 20, about 3,000 COVID-19 positive cases are now active in the state while there were only 2,000 active cases (33% less) three weeks back. He said that there is a dire need to get vaccinated for all healthcare workers to deal with any unprecedented situation.

THERE IS AND WILL ONLY BE ONE LEADER.

857

828

2418

707

YMEDIA- CHANNEL Y AVAILABLE NOW WORLDWIDE ROKU TV - AMAZON TV - AMAZON FIRE STICK - ANDROID SMART TV ENJOY

facebook.com/southasiandaily

twitter.com/@ymediagroup

instagram.com/southasiandaily

416.475.5000
ymedia@southasiandaily.com
www.southasiandaily.com

AHEAD OF QUAD MEET, PENTAGON SAYS RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA PRIORITY



INDIA IS A CRITICAL PARTNER ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER ALL THE CHALLENGES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION AND US IS PRIORITISING THIS RELATIONSHIP.

Ahead of the Quad foreign minister meeting on Thursday, the Pentagon has said ties with India a priority and critical. Calling ties with India, "a very important bilateral relationship" Pentagon Spokesman John Kirby said, "US wants to see continuing to grow and develop and to get stronger." India is a critical partner especially when you consider all the challenges in the Indo Pacific region" and US Defense secretary is "prioritizing this relationship

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Indian Defence minister Rajnath Singh spoke to each other last month with a reaffirmation on Indo-Pacific vision. When it comes to defence relationships, there has been increased engagement including the signing of operational pacts like COMCASA, LEMOA. Bilateral exercises held annually include Malabar, Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army), and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces).

The 3rd Quad foreign minister meeting takes place today at 5.30 pm IST and will see the participation of US State Secretary Blinken, Japan Foreign Minister Motegi, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

Ahead of the Quad foreign minister meeting on Thursday, the Pentagon has said ties with India a priority and critical. Calling ties with India, "a very important bilateral relationship" Pentagon Spokesman John Kirby said, "US wants to see continuing to grow and develop and to get stronger." India is a critical partner especially when you consider all the challenges in the Indo Pacific region" and US Defense secretary is "prioritizing this relationship

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Indian Defence minister Rajnath Singh spoke to each other last month with a reaffirmation on Indo-Pacific vision. When it comes to defence relationships,

there has been increased engagement including the signing of operational pacts like COMCASA, LEMOA. Bilateral exercises held annually include Malabar, Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army), and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces). The 3rd Quad foreign minister meeting takes place today at 5.30 pm IST and will see the participation of US State Secretary Blinken, Japan Foreign Minister Motegi, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

Two Chinese online video producers accused of making fun of Chinese President Xi Jinping have disappeared on the eve of Lunar New Year. Asia News reported that the head of Qiang Guo Wa Ha, one of the youtube channels known for criticising the Chinese president, reported that the two producers have been missing for more than a week. Apple Daily newspaper and Radio Free Asia stated that the chairperson and a manager of the Ru Mo Xin Lian She YouTube channel disappeared last Tuesday. It must be noted that the Chinese Communist Party has a tendency to censor or suppress information that seems to undermine the ruling government's authority. The government has also accused of making his critics disappear without a trace. In the past, he has locked up critics and also ordered people to barge into their houses. In spite of CCP's strong-arm tactics, several online channels are still criticising the Chinese government and mocking the country's president. A Mandarin term called 'Ru Bao' has been coined to describe the mocking of President Xi Jinping. Biden admin also views Quad as having essential momentum, important potential, a senior official has said. The Quad is aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, a region that witnessed increasing Chinese military assertiveness in recent years.

TWO CHINESE ONLINE PRODUCERS GO MISSING AFTER MOCKING PRESIDENT XI JINPING

Two Chinese online video producers accused of making fun of Chinese President Xi Jinping have disappeared on the eve of Lunar New Year. Asia News reported that the head of Qiang Guo Wa Ha, one of the youtube channels known for criticising the Chinese president, reported that the two producers have been missing for more than a week.

Apple Daily newspaper and Radio Free Asia stated that the chairperson and a manager of the Ru Mo Xin Lian She YouTube channel disappeared last Tuesday.

It must be noted that the Chinese Communist Party has a tendency to censor or suppress information that seems to undermine the ruling government's authority.

The government has also accused of making his critics disappear without a trace. In the past, he has locked up critics and also ordered people to barge into their houses. In spite of CCP's strong-arm tactics, several online channels are still criticising the Chinese government and mocking the country's president. A Mandarin term called 'Ru Bao' has been coined to describe the mocking of President Xi Jinping.

US SUPREME COURT PAVES WAY FOR RELEASE OF DONALD TRUMP'S TAX RETURNS

The US Supreme Court on Monday paved the way for a New York City prosecutor to obtain former President Donald Trump's tax returns and other financial records as part of a criminal investigation, a blow to his quest to conceal details of his finances. The justices without comment rebuffed Trump's request to put on hold an Oct. 7 lower court ruling directing the former Republican president's long-time accounting firm, Mazars USA, to comply with a subpoena to turn over the materials to a grand jury convened by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, a Democrat. "The work continues," Vance said in a statement issued after the court's action. Vance had previously said in a letter to Trump's lawyers that his office would be free to immediately enforce the subpoena if the justices rejected Trump's request. A lawyer for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority included three Trump appointees, had already ruled once in the dispute, last July rejecting Trump's broad argument that he was immune from criminal probes as a sitting president. Unlike all other recent U.S. presidents, Trump refused during his four years in office to make his tax returns public. The data could provide details on his wealth and the activities of his family real-estate company, the Trump Organization.



सुस्वास्थ्य आपनार साथे शुरू হয়।
अच्छे स्वास्थ्य की शुरुआत आपके साथ होती है।
நல்ல ஆரோக்கியம் உங்களிடமிருந்து தொடங்குகிறது.
اچھی صحت آپ سے شروع ہوتی ہے۔
ਚੰਗੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਤੋਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ।

good health starts with you.

know the truth! > stop the spread! > help is here!

We are here to help and can provide access to a variety of supports to the South Asian community.

Get COVID-19 help & information in your language

☎ 647-846-2233
Outside of GTA Call: 1-866-300-3454
For Support in Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali and Punjabi

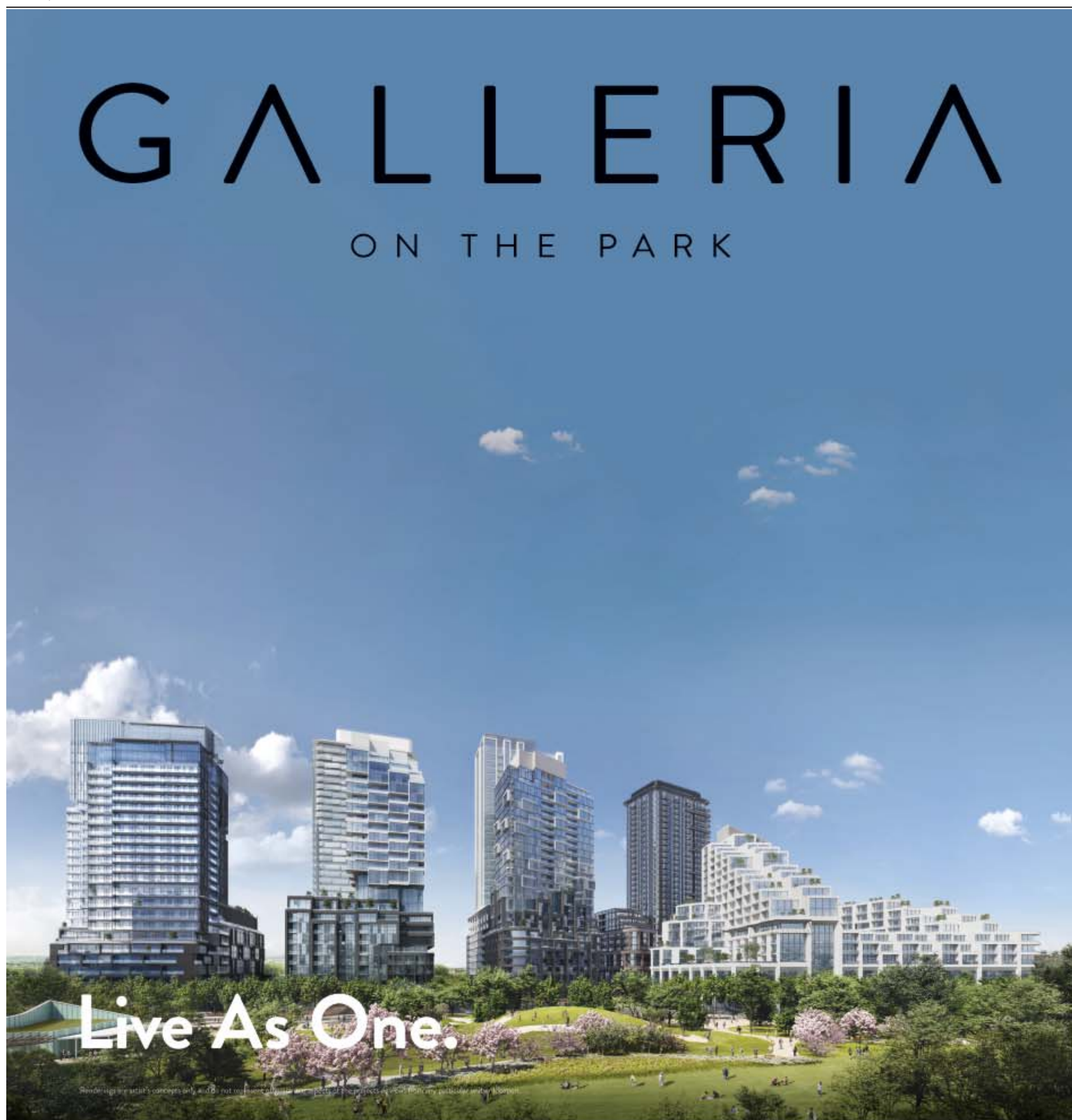
☎ 905-799-7700
Call Peel Region Helpline
For support in English (Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

To know more visit  **apnahealth.org**

apnahealth is a partnership committed to the South Asian community's health and wellness during the pandemic and beyond.

Supported by





Now open, **Galleria 01** and **Galleria 02** at **Galleria on the Park** are part of this master-planned, wellness-inspired community from **ELAD**. Galleria fosters a new state of well-being – committed to mindfulness, inclusiveness, and the connections we make as we **live, work, and grow as one.**

TO BOOK A PRIVATE APPOINTMENT, AND LEARN ABOUT OUR SPECIAL, LIMITED TIME INCENTIVES VISIT **GALLERIAONTHEPARK.COM**

ELADCANADA