



Y MEDIA PUNJAB POLITICAL SENSEX- WHO WILL WIN: CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH OR NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU? | DETAILS ON PAGE 5

What are India's stakes in Israel-Gaza conflict?

A web of high stakes in its ties with both Israel and the Arab world, especially the oil rich Gulf countries, is pushing India to join the global effort for an early ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza. India's ties with Israel are deep, multi-layered and strategic. New Delhi relies on Israel not only for critical military hardware, but also for high quality intelligence. The two share common concerns about international terrorism, which were reinforced during the Mumbai 26/11 terror strikes. The duo also has an excellent people-to-people relationship, evident from the arrival in droves of Israeli backpackers, especially those who want to chill-out in a safe haven, following their arduous compulsory military service back home. Because of these multiple factors which have spawned an exceptional relationship, India cannot afford to antagonise Israel in the international fora on the Israel-Palestine issue. Yet, India has a historic relationship with the Arabs as well. India has traditionally supported the Palestinian cause - a position that has echoed warmly in the Arab street and generated enormous goodwill for the Indian people, and industry, in the region. But real, pragmatic reasons have also emerged in recent years which have reinforced India's bonds with the Arabs. More specifically, India has to be careful to respect the sensitivities of its friends in the Gulf countries. India depends critically on the Gulf countries for its energy security. Second, the Gulf monarchies employ millions of Indian guest workers, who remit billions of dollars to India's coffers. The people-to-people warmth between the two could not be better, after the Gulf nations became formidable providers of liquid medical oxygen when Indians needed it most during the Covid-19 second wave. India, therefore cannot go overboard in its support of Israel during a conflict, in deference to the mainstream sentiment in the Gulf street. Finally, India is mindful that its position towards the Arab world in the past, has echoed domestically, including in Kashmir, which it cannot afford to ignore. Unsurprisingly, India's May 16 statement on the current conflict at the UN Security Council was exceptionally nuanced and well-crafted to evade all the diplomatic minefields that can come in the way of its dual engagement of Israel and the Arabs. In its



statement, India rejected Hamas rocket firings into Israel, which has killed an Indian caregiver, Soumya Santhosh. It described the use of formidable force by Israel as "retaliatory strikes" to the Hamas' "indiscriminatory" rocket attacks, pushing the Israeli action into the grey-zone of self-defence. India's position is in tune with its rejection of cross-border rocket attacks, in view of Pakistan's bid to push terrorists across of the Line of Control (LoC). But simultaneously, India has stuck to the standard UN-backed "two-state" formulation, as the basis for ending the Israel-Palestine conflict. "Immediate de-escalation is the need of the hour, so as to arrest any further slide towards the brink. We urge both sides to show extreme restraint, desist from actions that exacerbate tensions, and refrain from attempts to unilaterally change the existing status quo, including in East Jerusalem and its neighbourhood," the Indian statement said. Given the tug-of-war on its position on the conflict, it is in India's interest that the warring between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza ends quickly. In seeking peace, India would be inevitably joined by its partners in the Gulf countries, who would sincerely want the violence to end, to preserve their recent position of recognising the state of Israel.



PEEL LAUNCHED VACCINE CLINIC, DOSES AFTER DARK, TO ADMINISTER VACCINES FOR 32-HOURS STRAIGHT, DAY & NIGHT, BETWEEN MAY 15 & 16; ADMINISTERED APPROX 5000 VACCINE DOSES.



RESIDENTS 18+ RECEIVED COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT AT GURSIKH SABHA CANADA POP-UP CLINIC IN SCARBOROUGH; MANJIT PARMAR SAYS 'MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SHOULD GET VACCINATED'.

NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON PART OF PM TRUDEAU IN WE CHARITY DECISIONS, COMMISSIONER DION FINDS

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mario Dion today released the Trudeau III Report, which examined allegations of conflict of interest by the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada when he participated in the decisions on whether to award funding for the WE organization's Social Entrepreneurship program and select WE as the administrator of the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) in the spring of 2020. Mr Trudeau, his spouse, his mother and his brother have been involved in WE's activities for several years.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

ONTARIANS 18+ CAN BOOK COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT STARTING TODAY

TORONTO: As the pace of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues to accelerate with 2.2 million doses scheduled to arrive this week, the government is extending booking eligibility at mass immunization clinics to individuals aged 18 and over. This high number of doses is due to early delivery of the week of May 24 shipment, to accommodate the long weekend, and is an opportunity for the province to offer an appointment to receive the vaccine to more Ontarians ahead of schedule.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 4

NOTICE TO PUNJAB GOVT IN 'METOO' ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Trouble seems to brew for Punjab Technical Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who has been facing charges of sending "indecent" messages to an IAS officer on her mobile phone more than two years ago, with the state women panel issuing notice to the government on the issue.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 5

RARE BUT DEADLY 'BLACK FUNGUS' WORSENS INDIA'S COVID-19 STRUGGLE

Mucormycosis, also known as black fungus, can turn dangerous if left untreated, doctors said on Friday amid reports of re-emergence of the rare deadly fungal infection among Covid-19 patients across hospitals in Delhi, Pune and Ahmedabad. The fungal infection is caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live throughout the environment. Mucormycosis mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 3

'NATIONAL HOME SALES DECLINED BY 12.5% ON A MONTH-OVER-MONTH BASIS IN APRIL.' CREA

Statistics released today by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) show national home sales were down from March to April 2021.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- Ontario extends stay-at-home order till June 2.
- As of today, Ontarians who are 17 years old and are turning 18 in 2021 are eligible to book COVID-19 vaccination appointment for Pfizer vaccine at select clinics.
- Starting May 31, children aged 12-17 can book appointment to receive Pfizer vaccine in Ontario.
- US will share 80 million vaccine doses with world in coming six weeks: President Biden.
- 4.5 million combined doses of Pfizer & Moderna to arrive in Canada.
- Starting today, All individuals 16 years or older who live, work, or attend school in Peel can book Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine appointment at select clinics.
- Torontonians 12-17 living in M9R, M9W, or M9V postal codes to receive Pfizer vaccine from today.

16-YEAR-OLD MALE CHARGED AFTER SINGLE-VEHICLE COLLISION IN VAUGHAN; BOY (4) & GIRL (10) SUCCUMBED TO INJURIES

Investigators with the York Regional Police Major Collision Investigation Unit will be upgrading the charges laid against the driver after three people, including two children, were struck by a vehicle outside a home in the City of Vaughan. Sadly, both children have passed away in hospital.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6



India needs our help.

Trillium Health Partners (THP) is Ontario's largest community hospital and has played a leadership role in Mississauga and west Toronto, treating some of the highest numbers of COVID-19 patients. While we aren't out of the woods, our community in Peel Region has been deeply moved by the health crisis in India, and has asked us to help.

We are now working with the community to raise funds to support the urgent needs of hospitals in India with items such as ventilators, oxygen generators, oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, and medications. These desperately needed items will be directed to support smaller and medium hospitals with the least resources, some in remote areas, to help with their COVID-19 response.

With a long history of supporting THP and deep roots in India, the Kothari family has stepped up and generously agreed to match all community gifts up to \$250,000.

THP is proud to care for the region's highly diverse community, including friends and neighbours of Indo-Canadian heritage, and the Foundation is honoured to respond to the community's request to help.

Help us raise \$500,000 by May 31st to support the critical medical needs in India. There is no time to wait.

Visit trilliumgiving.ca/india and give today.





ISRAEL, HAMAS TRADE FIRE IN GAZA; PALESTINIANS GO ON STRIKE

Stemming from the clashes at the most sensitive place in Jerusalem - the respected site of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the iconic golden Dome of the Rock, the Middle-East witnessed the most tragic event ever happened in history last week. The violence erupted on May 10 when Hamas fired long-range rockets towards Jerusalem in retaliation to Israel's shelling of Muslims' worshippers in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint site sacred to Jews and Muslims. Israel's threats to evict dozens of Palestinian families in east Jerusalem. The violence escalated with the conflict between Israel and Hamas, leaving hundreds of dead in Palestinian Gaza, including children and women. The airstrikes in Israel have tossed several high-rise buildings in central Gaza City, killing a string of senior Hamas military figures. Hundreds of rockets were fired upon Israel from Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip throughout Tuesday. Israel pummelled the tiny coastal territory with airstrikes and the death toll mounted on both sides. The cross-border violence, which erupted on Monday following weeks of rising tensions in the contested city of Jerusalem, is the worst the region has experienced in years. More than two dozen Palestinians have been killed on the last day, including several children. Three Israelis died from the Gaza rocket fire on Tuesday, DPA news agency reported. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attacks on Gaza, which have targeted some 500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad positions since Monday, would intensify. "This operation will take time, but we will bring security back to the citizens of Israel," he said late Tuesday. Hamas, which rules the coastal strip, would "receive blows it did not



expect," Netanyahu had said hours earlier in remarks after a meeting with military officials. An Israeli military spokesperson said that at least 20 members from the two groups had been killed so far in Gaza, including senior officials. Some 150 missile launchers had been destroyed. Many of the targets were located in places where civilians reside, spokesperson Jonathan Conricus said, so civilian casualties could not be ruled out. However, the army was trying hard to avoid them. Rocket warning sirens were a persistent sound across Israeli communities. The greater Tel Aviv area was in the cross-hairs of Palestinian militants, who sent a barrage of rockets towards the coastal metropolis, marking the heaviest attack the city has faced so far. The rocket fire prompted flights to be halted at Israel's main international airport outside of the city. The Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv was closed to landings and departures due to the attacks; flights were diverted to Cyprus. One person was killed on the outskirts of Tel Aviv in a rocket attack. According to media reports, a woman was killed in Rishon Lezion when she was hit directly. The Zaka aid organization also confirmed her death. The rockets were fired toward Tel Aviv after the Israeli army destroyed a building containing offices of the Hamas political bureau members in the Gaza Strip. Residents of the building were warned by Israeli forces before the attack and told to leave, witnesses said. A Hamas spokesman had earlier threatened a "harsh" rocket attack on Tel Aviv if the Hanadi Tower building was destroyed. In the southern city of Ashkelon, two women were killed when their homes were struck, according to the Zaka aid organization. Impacts were also reported on residential buildings in Ashkelon and a school where no lessons were being conducted. In total, Gaza militants aimed around 480 rockets towards Israel over 24 hours. Of these, some 200 were intercepted, and 150 failed to launch correctly, the Israeli military said Tuesday evening. The Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the attacks. It said they were in retaliation for a deadly Israeli strike on a high-rise residential building in the western part of the Gaza Strip. The apartment belonged to a member of Islamic Jihad, according to witnesses. In total, the Gaza Health Ministry put the death toll in the latest round of violence at 28, including ten children. More than 100 people were injured, it said. According to local media and witness reports, three children were killed by Israeli airstrikes and others by misdirected rockets fired by extremists. Israel said it was targeting rocket production, storage and training facilities as well as military posts. The airstrikes and rocket attacks followed violent clashes in recent days at Jerusalem's holy site known as the Temple Mount to Jews and the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims. Demonstrations continued on the ground in Israel on Tuesday between police and Israeli Arabs in numerous cities throughout Israel. Stones were thrown at police officers, and several cars were set on fire. In the city of Lod, a 25-year-old Arab man was shot and killed during the riots. Media reported that a 34-year-old arrested after the event was a Jewish resident of the city. The Islamist Hamas movement had issued a Monday night ultima-



tum telling Israel to withdraw settlers and police from the Jerusalem holy site, parts of which had been cordoned off, and from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood. Shortly after the deadline expired, mass rocket attacks began, with sirens wailing in Jerusalem. Netanyahu said the militants crossed a "red line" by directing missiles towards Jerusalem. Israel, in turn, shelled targets in Gaza. Leaders around the world expressed concern about the escalating violence, calling on both sides to show restraint. "This spiralling escalation must cease immediately," a spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has urged all sides to de-escalate in Israeli-Palestinian clashes while recognizing Israel's right to self-defence in the face of rocket attacks. "We're very focused on the situation in Israel, West Bank, Gaza, very deeply concerned about the rocket attacks... that need to stop and need to stop immediately," Blinken said on Monday before he meets with visiting Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Xinhua news agency reported. He also expressed concerns about "the violence and provocative actions in and around the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount." Blinken welcomed Israel's decision to reroute an annual nationalist flag parade and postpone a decision on the eviction of Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem. "All sides must take steps to de-escalate and calm the situation," he stressed. The top US diplomat also voiced deep concerns about rocket attacks against Israel, saying Israel has a right to defend its people and its territory from these attacks. Safadi, in his remarks, highlighted that Jerusalem is a "red line," and maintaining peace and stability in Jerusalem is the key. "Our focus right now is ensuring that the escalation stops... we do believe that all immediate provocative measures against either the peoples of Sheikh Jarrah or in terms of violations into al-Haram must stop, status quo needs to be preserved, and the rights of the Palestinians need to be respected," he added.

RARE BUT DEADLY ‘BLACK FUNGUS’ WORSENS INDIA’S COVID-19 STRUGGLE

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The common symptoms associated with the disease include headache, facial pain, nasal congestion, loss of vision or pain in eyes, swelling in cheeks and eyes and black crusts in the nose. The US Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention estimates Mucormycosis with an overall all-cause mortality rate of 54 per cent. "Mucormycosis can be very dangerous if left untreated can cause mutilating damage to face, nose, eyes with disfigurement and loss of vision and also cause invasive brain infection," Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Consultant -Internal Medicine, Narayana Health City, Bengaluru, told IANS. While "Aspergillus and Candida are more common fungal infections, but this infection is dangerous because it involves the sinus and brain and happens to those who are in an immunocompromised state and/or to patients on steroids," added Dr Vikas Maurya, Director and HOD, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh. According to health experts, Mucormycosis (previously called zygomycosis) has been a cause of disease and death in transplants, ICU and immunodeficient individuals since long. However, it is the rapid increase in numbers seen in unsuspected Covid patients which is a matter of grave concern. Patients who recover from the Covid infection are increasingly being pushed back into the ICUs. Last year, Mucormycosis had caused high mortality with many patients suffering from loss of eyesight, removal of nose and jawbone. "Mucormycosis is affecting Covid patients more due to prolonged administration of steroids and subsequent immunocompromised state," Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, Senior Consultant, Department of Internal Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo hospital, New Delhi, told IANS. "In Covid, patients get steroids and immunity goes down and they may get this infection," Maurya said. People with diabetes, those on steroids and humidified oxygen for a long time, and Covid patients with pre-existing comorbidities are the most at risk. Others include patients like those post chemothera-



pies, those on long-term immunosuppressive drugs. The Drug Controller General of India, in March this year, gave approval to Mumbai-based bio-pharmaceutical firm Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited to use anti-fungal medication -- Liposomal Amphotericin B or LAmB -- as a medical intervention in patients of Mucormycosis. The risk of this fungus can be avoided by avoiding prolonged use of steroids. The treatment also involves anti-fungal and surgery (if required) to remove the affected area, Chatterjee said. Judicious use of steroids and immunosuppressive drugs especially in elderly, immunocompromised, cancer and diabetic patients with Covid, are needed during the course of treatment, Kumar advised.

COVID & VACCINE REPORT

Ontarians 18+ can book Covid-19 vaccine appointment starting today

Starting May 18, individuals aged 18+ will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccination

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY 16	17	18 Ages 18+	19	20	21	22

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

As of 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, individuals aged 18 and over in 2021 across Ontario will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the provincial booking system and call centre, or directly through public health units that use their own booking system. On May 3, 2021, the government expanded booking eligibility to those 18 and over in 2021 and who live in one of the 114 hot spot communities. Individuals who are 17 years old and are turning 18 in 2021 will also be eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment only for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been authorized by Health Canada for use in youth aged 12 and over. The provincial booking system will note which clinics are not offering vaccines for those who are 17 years old. Ontario is experiencing very positive trends in vaccine demand. The province and public health units will continue to make appointments available as vaccine supply is confirmed. In addition, the province continues to work with public health units, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and boards of education to ensure youth in Ontario between 12 and 17 years of age will be eligible to book

an appointment through the provincial booking system beginning the week of May 31, 2021, to receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. We are also working to encourage eligible family members who have not received a vaccine to attend these clinics to get youth and their families vaccinated as quickly as possible. As of Tuesday, May 18, 2021, public health units may choose to provide vaccines to those aged 12 and over in pop-up and mobile clinics, as well as for walk-in appointments where the Pfizer vaccine is offered. This will include First Nations, Inuit and Métis clinics that offer the Pfizer vaccine. There will also be dedicated clinic times for youth during the weeks of June 14 and 21, 2021. The province achieved a significant milestone on May 12, 2021, having administered the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to over half of all Ontarians aged 18 and over, and is on track to reach 65 per cent of adults by the end of the month. As of May 15, 2021, over seven million doses have been administered province-wide. Across the province, the government is continuing to expand access to the vaccine through a variety of channels. On May 14, 2021, over 500 additional pharmacies in all 13 hot spot public health regions began administering the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

TRILLIUM HEALTH PARTNERS FOUNDATION RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HOSPITALS IN INDIA DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

MISSISSAUGA: Trillium Health Partners Foundation (THPF) is collecting funds to support the urgent needs of hospitals in India hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis. The initiative is in response to requests from community members to help hospitals in India, which are currently experiencing one of the worst health crises in the world. Funds raised through this campaign will be generously matched by the Kothari family to provide essential medical equipment and supplies urgently needed to provide care to patients in India. Trillium Health Partners' has one of the largest Indo-Canadian populations living within its catchment area and donors are keen to see the hospital help support those in crisis. Over the last year, Trillium Health Partners (THP) has played a key role in the response to COVID-19 in Peel and remains on the frontline in the fight against the pandemic. As challenging as the situation remains in Peel, the community has been deeply moved by the unfolding situation in India. "Partnership, community and caring for those in need are at the core of everything we do here at THP. We have been working tirelessly against COVID-19 to ensure that the community we serve has access to the care they need. During some of the most challenging times, we have benefited from the partnerships we have with other hospitals and health care providers across the province. In that same spirit of community and partnership, we feel a responsibility to support India in their time of need," said Michelle DiEmanuele, President and CEO of THP. "The last year has been a challenge for all Canadians, but what is happening in India right now is a humanitarian crisis. The need is so vast and so acute that we responded to our community's call to support India's



most urgent and practical needs. A special thanks to our long-time friend Norton Kothari for his leadership on this effort," said Caroline Riseboro, president and CEO of THP Foundation. The Kothari family, who have a long history of supporting THP, responded quickly to this initiative and have generously agreed to match all community gifts up to \$250,000. "I have deep roots in India and many current ties, and to see the scale of the suffering in my homeland right now is hard to bear. My family wanted to quickly provide equipment and supplies to those midsized and smaller hospitals to ensure help reaches rural hospitals as well," remarked Norton Kothari, chairman of the Kothari Group. While the focus at THPF is to raise critical funds for THP, THPF and the community agree on the urgent need to help India under these extraordinary circumstances. THPF is working with the community to raise funds to send vital equipment and supplies to India as soon as possible, such as ventilators, oxygen generators, oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, select medications and other high priority needs. While many organizations are raising funds for larger hospitals, donations to THPF will be working specifically with partners to direct support to smaller and medium hospitals, some in remote areas, to help with their COVID-19 response. THP is proud to care for the region's highly diverse community, including friends and neighbours of Indo-Canadian heritage, and THPF is pleased to respond to the community's request to help. With donor support, the goal is to raise \$500,000 by May 31st to support the critical medical needs in India. Donations may be made online at trilliumgiving.ca/india

TORONTO EXTENDS CANCELLATION OF IN-PERSON MAJOR PARTICIPATORY EVENTS TO SEPT. 6

To continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help provide predictability to major event organizers, the City of Toronto is extending the cancellation of in-person City-led and City-permitted outdoor events to September 6. Today's announcement includes festivals and other large, in-person gatherings, held at outdoor sites managed by the City or other public locations, such as roads, parks and civic squares. The City understands the importance of these events to Toronto's vitality, liveability and prosperity. City staff are working in close collaboration with event organizers, who in every instance possible have been consulted on this approach and given advance notice of this decision. The City is committed to working closely with event organizers to help them manage through 2021 and come back stronger in 2022. Mass participation festivals and events require long lead times for planning, rely on City sites, supports or permissions, and present higher public health risks given limits to physical distancing and exposure to attendees from outside of the area. The need to sustain essential services also limits the City's ability to support third-party event organizers. Event organizers have asked the City for as much advance notification as possible to enable them to make sound decisions in support of public health efforts and their business needs, accessing insurance, supporting impacted employees, managing sponsors and developing alternative approaches, such as virtual events. Providing this cancellation notice will allow many events to avoid incurring unnecessary costs and access insurance and other supports. This decision, made in consultation with Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, the City's Emergency Operations Centre, Toronto Police Service and mass participation event organizers, follows the previous cancellation of all such events up to July 1 and supports the directive that physical distancing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19. The following is a list of major in-person events impacted by this

decision. This list has been provided by permitting divisions and event status may be subject to change. Many of these events will be offered virtually. For the most up-to-date status of an event, please contact the event organizer directly. Taste of the Middle East Taste of Lawrence Honda Indy Toronto Outdoor Art Fair Afrofest Salsa in Toronto 49th Annual Festival of India Bloor West StreetFest Beaches Jazz Festival Oss Fest Caribbean Junior Carnival Scarborough Ribfest Caribbean Carnival, King and Queen Competition, Pan Alive and Grand Parade Taste of the Danforth Vegandale Food Drink Festival Bollywood Film Fair Waterfront Night Market Canadian National Exhibition Mabuhay Philippines Festival Toronto Chinatown Festival Labour Day Parade "The City and the vast majority of Toronto residents are doing everything we can right now to stop the spread of COVID-19 and get vaccinated. Following the public health measures and getting vaccinated as soon as you're eligible will help us bring this pandemic to an end so that we can safely gather together once again. We will continue to support the City's major events through these tough times and will do everything we can to make sure they come back stronger in 2022, said Mayor John Tory.

PRELIMINARY DATA SUGGESTS MIXING COVID-19 VACCINE INCREASES REACTOGENICITY: OXFORD



Research, from the Com-COV study comparing mixed dosing schedules of Pfizer / Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines, shows an increase in the frequency of mild-moderate symptoms in those receiving either mixed dosing schedule. Adverse reactions were short-lived, with no other safety concerns. Impact of mixed schedules on immunogenicity unknown as yet, with data to follow from this study. Researchers running the University of Oxford-led Com-COV study – launched earlier this year to investigate alternating doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine – have today reported preliminary data revealing more frequent mild to moderate reactions in mixed schedules compared to standard schedules. Writing in a peer-reviewed Research Letter published in the Lancet, they report that, when given at a four-week interval, both of the 'mixed' schedules (Pfizer-BioNTech followed by Oxford-AstraZeneca, and Oxford-AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer-BioNTech) induced more frequent reactions following the second 'boost' dose than the standard, 'non-mixed' schedules. They add that any adverse reactions were short-lived and there were no other safety concerns. Matthew Snape, Associate Professor in Paediatrics and Vaccinology at the University of Oxford, and Chief Investigator on the trial said: 'Whilst this is a secondary part of what we are trying to explore through these studies, it is important that we inform people about these data, especially as these mixed-doses schedules are being considered in several countries. The results from this study suggest that mixed dose schedules could result in an increase in work absences the day after immunization, and this is important to consider when planning immunization of health care workers. 'Importantly, there are no safety concerns or signals, and this does not tell us if the immune response will be affected. We hope to report these data in the coming months. In the meantime, we have adapted the ongoing study to assess whether early and regular use of paracetamol reduces the frequency of these reactions.' They also noted that as the study data was recorded in participants aged 50 and above, there is a possibility such reactions may be more prevalent in younger age groups.

Ontario Donating Additional 2,000 Ventilators to Support COVID-19 Response in India



"With the third wave of COVID-19 continuing to challenge countries around the world, our government is doing everything we can to support our friends and partners in India. As we closely monitor the situation in our hospitals and intensive care units, we can have more confidence in our ability to do more for our friends in India. That's why our government is donating up to an additional 2,000 e700 transport ventilators to India, manufactured by O-Two Medical Technologies in Brampton, to help meet the country's continued urgent medical needs. The ventilators will be distributed to various states across India based on the needs on the ground and in consultation with the Indian Red Cross and the Consul General of India to Toronto, Apoorna Srivastava. This support is in addition to our government's earlier donation of 3,000 ventilators, which started arriving in India this week. Our government is also helping to coordinate the transportation of other critical medical equipment, donated by the private sector and community organizations. Ontario will always stand shoulder to shoulder with our domestic and international partners, including our friends in India in their time of need, in the global fight against COVID-19."

Osler Foundation Launches Compassion Fund to Raise \$1 Million to Support Emotional and Mental Wellbeing of Frontline Workers



BRAMPTON – As COVID-19 continues to challenge Peel Region, front-line health care workers are feeling the physical and emotional toll of caring for patients through the pandemic. It's been more than a year since staff, physicians and volunteers across William Osler Health System (Osler) have been working on the front lines to provide compassionate health care for some of the hardest-hit communities in Canada. William Osler Health System Foundation (Osler Foundation) has launched a Compassion Fund with a goal of raising \$1 million to help support the most urgent wellness and respite needs of staff, physicians and volunteers across Osler's three hospital sites: Brampton Civic Hospital, Etobicoke General Hospital and Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness. "It has been and continues to be, an immensely difficult year for our physicians, staff and volunteers. In addition to managing exceptional patient volumes due to COVID-19 and treating patients who are sicker than ever before, our front line workers stepped into the role of family members to support patients— they've held the hands of people in their last moments when loved ones couldn't be there," said Ken Mayhew, President and CEO, Osler Foundation. "They are our health care heroes—without a doubt. They are physically and emotionally tired, but they are committed and resilient. They've done an amazing job over the past year and we are proud to be able to help support them in this way." Donations to the Osler Foundation Compassion Fund will help support services such as on-site counselling, 24-hour respite resources and wellness programs to keep frontline workers at Osler strong. The Compassion Fund will also support equipment needs across Osler hospitals to ensure workers have the tools they need to continue delivering quality health care throughout the pandemic and beyond. "Health care requires you to give a lot of yourself, every day, and over the past year our teams have given everything they have to continue to deliver quality, compassionate care," said Dr. Naveed Mohammad, President and CEO of William Osler Health System. "I am immensely proud of the strength and dedication.

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX- PUNJAB SPECIAL REPORT



Stop firing from colleagues' shoulders, Sidhu to Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) In a bitter war of words with Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh over the sacrilege issue, his former Cabinet colleague and legislator Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday advised him to stop firing from his "colleagues' shoulders".

A defiant Sidhu reminded Amarinder Singh, a retired Indian Army officer and war historian, that "his soul demands justice for Guru Sahib". A day earlier, four Punjab ministers had joined three of their colleagues in demanding the suspension of Sidhu from the party for indiscipline and launching verbal attacks on Amarinder Singh.

The ministers urged the party high command to take action against Sidhu for his open rebellion against the state party leadership.

Reacting to the demand of the ministers, Sidhu, without naming Amarinder Singh, tweeted: "Yesterday & Today, My soul's demand is Justice for Guru Sahib, will reiterate it tomorrow as well! Punjab's Conscience is above party lines, Stop firing from party colleagues' shoulders. You are directly Responsible & Answerable - Who will protect you in court of the Great Guru?"

As the Congress government is about to complete its five-year term in less than a year, cricketer-turned-politician Sidhu, who has been lying low since his resignation from the state Cabinet in July 2019, has launched scathing attacks against the Chief Minister over the alleged desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in 2015.

Taking a tough stance last month, Amarinder Singh has categorically said that if Sidhu "wants to contest against him, then he is free to do so but that would only lead to Sidhu meeting the fate of General J.J. Singh who had lost his security deposit".

The Chief Minister had challenged Sidhu to clearly spell out whether he is a member of the Congress party.

"If yes, then his continuing rant against his Chief Minister and the government amounts to gross indiscipline," Amarinder Singh had said, adding that the Congress dissident ought to choose the side he is on because "he is indulging in breaking the discipline of the party, and the BJP won't take him back and as far as the SAD is concerned, they are also peeved with him".

"Is sacrilege case not the top priority for the Home Minister," Sidhu had asked the Chief Minister.

"Evading of responsibility and making only the Advocate General a scapegoat means the executive authority has no supervisory control. Who controls the AG? Legal team is just a pawn in this game of shifting responsibilities," he had said.

Two persons were killed and many others were injured after the police under the previous SAD-BJP government resorted to unprovoked firing on hundreds of people protesting against the alleged desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari village in Faridkot district in 2015.

NOTICE TO PUNJAB GOVT IN 'METOO' ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The incident was in October 2018 when the #MeToo campaign came to light across the country. However, the issuance of the notice by the panel now has brought to the fore "differences" between the Chief Minister and the minister.

The woman officer, in a verbal complaint to her seniors, had alleged that the minister sent her indecent messages to which she objected but he did not stop. Then when one of the messages was sent late at night, she decided to complain.

Reacting swiftly after this development, the Punjab State Women Commission had said any sexual overtures during and after office hours would not be tolerated.

On Monday, it issued a notice to the Chief Secretary seeking a status report within a week in the allegations.

The commission issued the notice after taking cognizance of a media report. Political observers say these days Channi is not having cordial relations with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Like former minister Navjot Sidhu, Channi is demanding action against perpetrators in sacrilege and police firing cases in 2015 when the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government was at the helm.

PAK FM HEADS TO NY TO ATTEND UNGA MEETING ON GAZA VIOLENCE

ISLAMABAD (IANS) Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has left for New York City to attend an emergency UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on the ongoing violence in the Gaza Strip. The Expree Tribune quoted sources as saying that Qureshi will travel to the US via Ankara and on way to New York, he will be accompanied by his counterparts from Turkey, Sudan and Palestine. He left Islamabad on Monday night.

The UNGA session will take place on Thursday.

Besides attending the session, Qureshi, will hold important meetings with various dignitaries at the UN, the sources said.

BIDEN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR CEASEFIRE IN CALL WITH ISRAELI PM

Washington, May 18 (IANS) US President Joe Biden on Monday voiced support for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in a call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The President expressed his support for a ceasefire and discussed U.S. engagement with Egypt and other partners towards that end," according to a White House readout of the phone conversation. Biden "encouraged Israel to make every effort to ensure the protection of innocent civilians," said the readout.

Meanwhile, Biden reiterated support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks. "The two leaders discussed progress in Israel's military operations against Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza," it said. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken earlier in the day held multiple phone conversations over the issue with his regional counterparts, including Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi.



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



SOUTHASIAN PULSE RADIO



www.southasiandaily.com



‘NATIONAL HOME SALES DECLINED BY 12.5% ON A MONTH-OVER-MONTH BASIS IN APRIL.’ CREA

THE HOUSING MARKET MODERATES IN APRIL COMPARED TO MARCH



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Summary:
National home sales declined by 12.5% on a month-over-month basis in April. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) activity was up 256% year-over-year. The number of newly listed properties fell back by 5.4% from March to April. The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) rose 2.4% month-over-month and was up 23.1% year-over-year.
The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average sale price posted a 41.9% year-over-year gain in April.
Home sales recorded over Canadian MLS® Systems fell by 12.5% in April 2021 compared to the highest level ever recorded in March.
Month-over-month declines in sales activity were observed in close to 85% of all local markets, including virtually all of B.C. and Ontario.
In contrast, actual (not seasonally adjusted) sales activity posted a 256% year-over-year gain in April, reflecting the chasm between the best April ever in 2021 and the worst ever last year.
“While housing markets across Canada remain very active, there is growing evidence that some of the extreme imbalances of the last year are beginning to unwind, which is what everyone wants to see happen,” stated Cliff Stevenson, Chair of CREA. “That said, the slowdown in sales activity between March and April was at a time that COVID cases, including very concerning variants, hit their highest levels ever and many jurisdictions enacted fresh lockdowns, making it harder to get a clear read on the underlying levels of demand and supply. 2021 may be another year where some of the spring markets gets pushed into the summer by COVID-19. As always, your best

bet is to consult with your local REALTOR® for the best information and guidance about buying or selling a home this year,” continued Stevenson.
“Home sales were up by more than 250% on a year-over-year basis in April and the average price of those sales was up 42% – the biggest gains ever – which of course means that they were both down, from last month anyway,” said Shaun Cathcart, CREA’s Senior Economist. “Facetiousness aside, what we’re seeing is something known as the ‘base effect,’ which is the impact on statistics that results from the nature of the point of reference. In the case of the April 2021 housing numbers, the year-over-year is a comparison to the worst numbers ever published in April of last year, while the month-over-month relationship is to the strongest numbers ever published in March 2021. The result is that a relatively more ‘reasonable’ set of numbers in April 2021 looks both ways up or way down depending on what crazy part of the last year you compare them to, but the correct interpretation of those big numbers is that the April housing numbers came in somewhere in between those extremes, which is a good thing. While we still have a ways to go, measures of market balance have finally turned a corner and monthly price growth has decelerated. I believe we’ve all wanted to see the temperature turned down on this market after the last year and it looks as though that is finally happening.” The number of newly listed homes declined by 5.4% in April compared to March. In a market with historically low inventory, where sales activity depends on a steady supply of new listings each month, the synchronous gains in new supply and sales in March followed by synchronous declines in April suggest the slowdown in sales may be partially about the availability of listings as opposed to only a demand story. New listings were down in 70% of all local markets in April. The national sales-to-new listings ratio eased back to 75.2% in April compared to a peak level of 90.6% back in January. That said, the long-term average for the national sales-to-new listings ratio is 54.5%, so it is currently still high historically. The good news is that it is moving in the right direction. Based on a comparison of sales-to-new listings ratio with long-term averages, only about a quarter of all local markets were in the balanced market territory in April, measured as being within one standard deviation of their long-term average. The other three-quarters of markets were above long-term norms, in many cases well above.
The number of months of inventory is another important measure of the balance between sales and the supply of listings. It represents how long it would take to liquidate current inventories at the current rate of sales activity. There were 2 months of inventory on a national basis at the end of April 2021, up from a record-low of 1.7 months in March but still well below the long-term average for this measure of a little more than 5 months.
The Aggregate Composite MLS® Home Price Index (MLS® HPI) climbed by 2.4% month-over-month in April 2021 – a historically strong gain but less than in February and March. Most of the recent deceleration in month-over-month price growth has come from the single-family space compared to the more affordable townhome and apartment segments. The non-seasonally adjusted Aggregate Composite MLS® HPI was up 23.1% on a year-over-year basis in April. Based on data back to 2005, this was a record year-over-year increase.
The largest year-over-year gains continue to be posted across Ontario (around 20-50%), followed by markets in B.C., Quebec and New Brunswick (around 10-30%), and lastly by gains in the Prairie provinces and Newfoundland and Labrador (around 5-15%).
The MLS® HPI provides the best way to gauge price trends because averages are strongly distorted by changes in the mix of sales activity from one month to the next. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average home price was a little under \$696,000 in April 2021, up 41.9% from the same month last year. That said, it is important to remember that the national average price dropped by 10% month-over-month last April as the higher-end of every market effectively shut down for a couple of months. That will serve to stretch these year-over-year comparisons over and above what is actually happening to prices until around June.
The national average price is also heavily influenced by sales in Greater Vancouver and the GTA, two of Canada’s most active and expensive housing markets. Excluding these two markets from calculations cuts more than \$144,000 from the national average price.

4.5
MILLION

DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE WILL ARRIVE THIS WEEK

CANADA IS ALL SET TO RECEIVE 3.4 MILLION PFIZER VACCINE DOSES THIS WEEK. 4.5 MILLION COMBINED DOSES OF PFIZER&MODERNA TO ARRIVE IN CANADA (ANITA ANAND/ TWITTER).

COCONUT THEATRE PRESENTS ‘CHAI-WAI & RANGMANCH – SEASON 3, GUJARATI TAKHTA NE SANG 2021’ FROM APRIL 12



Coconut Theatre announces “Chai-Wai & Rangmanch” Season-3 focusing Gujarati Theatre Industry from 12th April 2021. Coconut Theatre has achieved a milestone and created history with its first season of “Chai-Wai & Rangmanch – 2020” with the line-up of back to back 108 online sessions with Theatre Experts from India and various other countries and the second season was on various forms of Indian Folk Theatre with the line-up 30 back to back online sessions by Renowned Folk Theatre Artists and Scholars from various states of India. All the Guest Speakers had willingly accepted this opportunity and shared their memorable Experiences & learnings.
All the sessions of Season 1 and Season 2 are available on Coconut Theatre’s YouTube channel which can be accessed by everyone worldwide at no cost.
A few Respected names such as Shri Shatrughan Sinha, Shri Subhash Ghai, Padma Vibhushan Awardee Smt. Shabana Azmi, Smt. Supriya Pathak, Padma Shri Sangeet Natak Akademi Award Winner Smt. Rita Ganguly, Shri M.S.Sathyu, Shri Bansri Kaul, Shri Manoj Joshi, Smt. Neelam Mansingh, Shri Waman Kendre, Shri Satish Alekar, Smt. Dolly Ahluwalia, Shri Prasanna, Shri Suresh Sharma (Director – NSD), Smt. Rohini Hattangady and many more did online sessions and inspired Theatre Students, Amateur Theatre Artist[e]s, Writers, Directors, Music Composers, Choreographers, Make-up Artists, Designers, Technicians, Theatre Groups, and everyone connected with the theatre fraternity. After 2 Successful seasons of “Chai-Wai & Rangmanch”, Coconut Theatre proudly starts ‘Chai- Wai & Rangmanch – Season-3 – Gujarati Takhta ne Sang’ in association with TicketNinja.in from 12th April 2021 onwards daily at 6:00 PM. Veteran Actors, Writers and Directors such as Shri Vipul Mehta, Shri Siddharth Randeria, Shri Pratik Gandhi who became famous as Harshad Mehta after ‘Scam 1992’, Smt. Rohini Hattangady, Shri Arvind Vaidya, Shri Feroz Bhagat, Shri Mihir Bhuta, Smt. Swati Shah, Smt. Kaajal Oza Vaidya has done sessions and imparted valuable tips and experiences. Upcoming sessions are with Shri Dilip Rawal, Smt. Vandana Pathak, Shri. Tiku Talsania, Shri Darshan Jariwala, Smt. Aparna Mehta, Shri Arvind Vejaria, Shri Suresh Rajda, Shri Kapil Dev Shukla, Bhairavi Vaidya, Shri Bhautesh Vyas, Shri Pratap Sachdev, and many more will come LIVE on Coconut Theatre’s Facebook Page and will share their Memorable Experiences, Stories and Inspiring Tips to all theatre lovers.
Response and feedback from Respected Guest Speakers and Audience of Season-1 and Season-2 were very good which inspired Coconut Theatre Team to plan online sessions on the regional theatre and the team decided to start the regional sessions from Gujarati Theatre Industry. Gujarati Theatre Industry has always been very active and has been performing worldwide for Gujarati Audience. Gujarati Theatre has a huge potential and an immense scope of growth so our goal is to reach out to all the Gujarati Theatre and Art Lovers worldwide through these sessions. Other Indian Regional Theatre Groups and International Theatre Fraternity can also follow Coconut Theatre’s Facebook page and watch these sessions online and offline. Complete Archive of all the sessions will be uploaded on Coconut Theatre YouTube channel, which will be accessible to everyone from any part of the world at no cost.

16-YEAR-OLD MALE CHARGED AFTER SINGLE-VEHICLE COLLISION IN VAUGHAN; BOY (4) & GIRL (10) SUCCUMBED TO INJURIES



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, at noon, police were called to a residence on Athabasca Drive in Vaughan for reports that a vehicle had gone off the road, striking three people in a residential driveway.
A 10-year-old girl and a four-year-old boy were taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries. Both children have since succumbed to their injuries in the hospital.
An adult male was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.
The vehicle involved was a black, 2017 Mercedes C class. The driver, a 16-year-old male from Richmond Hill, was arrested at the scene and will be facing the charges below.

NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON PART OF PM TRUDEAU IN WE CHARITY DECISIONS, COMMISSIONER DION FINDS



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Having reviewed more than 40,000 pages of documents from the Honourable Bill Morneau, Mr. Trudeau, and 13 witnesses, it was made clear during the examination process that the federal public service was grappling with how to properly and rapidly align a volunteer and grant-based student program amidst the uncertainty of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. In his report Commissioner, Dion finds that there was no conflict of interest on the part of Mr. Trudeau in making the two decisions pertaining to funding and WE. In coming to this conclusion, Commissioner Dion analyzed various relevant parts of the Conflict of Interest Act (Act) as concerns about conflicts and preferential treatment were almost immediately brought to his attention by Mr. Michael Barrett, Member of Parliament for Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes and Mr. Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament for Timmins–James Bay, shortly after the program was announced. More specifically, the Members expressed concerns focused on Mr. Trudeau’s decision making involving WE, an international development charity and youth empowerment movement founded by Messrs. Marc and Craig Kielburger, to administer the CSSG instead of the public service because of the relationship between WE, Mr. Trudeau, and his relatives. The Act requires under subsection 44(1) that the Commissioner examine matters brought to his attention by parliamentarians when there are reasonable grounds to believe a possible contravention may have taken place. As such, Commissioner Dion commenced an examination on July 3, 2020, and undertook to examine possible contraventions of subsection 6(1) and sections 7 and 21 of the Act.

In the report findings, Commissioner Dion considered interactions between Mr. Trudeau and WE. He further studied circumstances requiring an individual to recuse themselves. Although the connection between Mr. Trudeau’s relatives and WE created the appearance of a conflict of interest, the appearance of conflict is insufficient to cause a contravention of the Act’s substantive rules. The duty to recuse is only required when the public office holder would be in a potential conflict of interest. “In spite of difficulties caused by the pandemic at the national and international levels, I am pleased that our Office was still able to complete this examination within a reasonable period of time. This was made possible because of the responsiveness to my requests from both the Prime Minister’s Office and government officials, and our own internal resources’ dedicated attention to this report as a key priority. Continuous efforts were made by all to ensure that this examination was completed despite the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the pandemic.” “The decision taken in the Trudeau III Report considered an appearance of conflict versus a potential or real conflict of interest, as well as the requirement of public office holders to recuse themselves from certain decisions. The appearance of a conflict of interest does not constitute a contravention of the Act; the conflict must be real. Support for this conclusion is found in several sources in the report, including the Harper Government’s position during the 2006 adoption of the Federal Accountability Act.” “During the examination, I determined there was no friendship between Mr. Trudeau and the Kielburgers, nor was Mr. Trudeau involved in any discussions with them leading to the decisions.” **ADDITIONAL FACTS** Section 4 of the Act states that a public office holder is in a conflict of interest when they exercise an official power, duty or function that provides an opportunity to further their private interests or those of their relatives or friends or to improperly further another person’s private interests. Subsection 6(1) prohibits public office holders from making any decision or participating in the making of a decision when they know or reasonably should know that such a decision would further their private interests, those of their relatives or friends, or improperly further the private interests of another person. Section 7 prohibits public office holders from giving preferential treatment to a person or organization based on the identity of a representative. Section 21 requires public office holders to recuse themselves from any discussion, decision, debate or vote on any matter in respect of which they would be in a conflict of interest. Subsection 44(1) requires the Commissioner to examine a matter brought in writing by a parliamentarian that presents reasonable grounds to believe a public office holder, or former public office holder, has contravened the Act.

GREYHOUND CANADA PERMANENTLY CLOSES ITS SERVICES IN CANADA DUE TO SUSTAINED RIDERSHIP DECLINES IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC



TORONTO— Greyhound Canada has made the difficult decision to discontinue all operations on its remaining routes in Ontario and Quebec, and will permanently close all services in Canada effective today. This announcement has no impact on Greyhound Lines’ operations within the United States. Greyhound Lines, Inc. (USA) is a separate entity from Greyhound Canada. Greyhound Lines, Inc. (USA) will continue to operate cross-border express services on the following routes when the border reopens:

- * Toronto to New York
- * Toronto to Buffalo
- * Montreal to New York
- * Montreal to Boston
- * Vancouver to Seattle

Affected Routes and Operations in Ontario and Quebec
All Ontario and Quebec routes (excluding Canada – US cross-border services) that were temporarily suspended in May 2020 will permanently end as of midnight, May 13th as follows:

- * Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal
- * Toronto-London-Windsor
- * Sudbury-Ottawa/Toronto
- * Toronto-Kitchener/Guelph/Cambridge
- * Toronto-Niagara Falls
- * Ottawa-Kingston

Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Public Transit for Residents of Brampton



BRAMPTON: The safety and well-being of Canadians are top priorities of the governments of Canada and Ontario. Investments in Ontario’s infrastructure during this unprecedented time provide an opportunity to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and make our communities more inclusive and resilient. That is why, together, these governments are taking decisive action to help families, businesses and communities as they adapt to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Safe and reliable public transit is essential in ensuring Ontarians get to work and home, to appointments, to shop for essentials, and to conduct business. Important investments in public transportation infrastructure play a key role in delivering this service. Maninder Sidhu, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and Member of Parliament for Brampton East, on behalf of The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Member of Provincial Parliament for Brampton South, on behalf of The Honourable Laurie Scott, Ontario’s Minister of Infrastructure; and His Worship Patrick Brown, Mayor of the City of Brampton, announced joint funding for the replacement of new Computer Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Location systems on buses in the Brampton Transit fleet.

ONTARIO PROVIDES ONE-TIME PAYMENTS OF \$10,000 TO \$20,000 TO SUPPORT ELIGIBLE SMALL TOURISM AND TRAVEL BUSINESSES

TORONTO – The Ontario government is providing one-time payments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to support eligible small tourism and travel businesses struggling to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through the new \$100-million Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant. The launch of the program was announced today by Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. “Prior to the pandemic, Ontario’s tourism generated more than \$36 billion in economic activity and supported more than 400,000 jobs across the province,” said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. “Our government is working with small businesses to overcome the challenges of the past year – through programs like the Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant – and help the tourism industry reclaim its place as an economic powerhouse and key job creator in our province.” This grant will support eligible small tourism and travel businesses that did not receive the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG), such as travel agents, hotels, motels, resorts, and bed and breakfasts. To qualify, businesses must have fewer than 100 employees and demonstrate they have experienced a minimum 20 per cent revenue decline between 2019 and 2020. “We know that tourism businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic, as people and employers follow the necessary public health measures to keep people safe,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. “That’s why our 2021 Budget included funding for the Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant that will provide direct one-time payments to help thousands of businesses in Ontario.” “Small businesses in Ontario’s tourism sector create jobs for families and economic growth for communities,” said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “With this grant, we’re supporting people, businesses, and communities across this province, so we can make it through these tough times together and come back stronger than ever.” As announced in the 2021 Budget, Ontario is investing more than \$400 million over the next three years in new initiatives to support tourism, hospitality, culture, sport and recreation sectors. This builds on investments of \$225 million announced earlier, bringing the total support for these sectors to more than \$625 million since the pandemic began.

Nasir Studios

Capture your Precious Memories

Bashir Nasir
Award Winning Photographer

603 - 3001 Finch Ave. E. W.
North York, ON
M9N 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®

DR. GERVAN FEARON NAMED AS GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE’S NEW PRESIDENT



Dr. Gervan Fearon has been named as the new President of George Brown College, beginning August 2021. He has served as the President of Brock University since 2017 and was formerly the President of Brandon University. An extensive recruitment and selection process that included wide consultation with internal and external stakeholders was undertaken by the George Brown College Board of Governors with support from Phelps Group Executive search. This opportunity attracted top calibre candidates from across the country.

“Dr. Fearon’s strong leadership skills, his commitment to diversity and inclusion and his outstanding reputation as a community builder made him the top choice for our new President, and we feel confident he will do an exceptional job in fulfilling the vision for the future of George Brown College,” says Kevin Costante, Chair, Board of Governors. “We are thrilled to have Dr. Fearon join us at George Brown to advance the mission and vision of our college in innovative new ways. He is a collaborative, inclusive, vision-oriented and mission-driven leader, with all the skills and experience to propel George Brown into the future.”

Dr. Fearon has a proven track record of collaboration, transformative leadership, and engaging students, faculty and staff in a shared mission. He has focused on fostering excellence in student experience and post-secondary education; promoting community development and partnerships; and supporting the skills, knowledge and talent development needed for economic competitiveness and job creation.

“I am passionate about education and the transformative opportunities it holds for individuals, communities and society,” says Dr. Fearon. “It is an honour to join George Brown, a college dedicated to student success and community development in the City of Toronto. I look forward to working with colleagues and partners to support the education and career goals of students and advance industry and community development.”

Dr. Fearon has a strong professional background in post-secondary education. Prior to being President at Brock and Brandon Universities, he held numerous progressive roles in post-secondary education, including Dean of the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University; Associate Dean at York University’s Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies; Visiting Scholar at the University of Washington, and as an Associate Professor at York University. Dr. Fearon also has a strong teaching and research record.

Dr. Fearon’s career also included working at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and at Treasury Board, Ontario Ministry of Finance, as well as serving on numerous community boards, including United Way Niagara, to champion community development initiatives.

Dr. Fearon holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Western Ontario and received his Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees from the University of Guelph. He holds a Chartered Professional Accountant designation (CPA, CGA) and Institute of Corporate Directors designation (ICD.D). He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and several other awards of recognition.

About George Brown College

Toronto’s George Brown College prepares innovative, adaptable graduates with the skills to thrive in a rapidly changing job market. With three campuses in the downtown core, the college blends theory with experiential learning, applied research, and entrepreneurship opportunities. George Brown offers 172 full-time programs and 180 continuing education certificates/designations across a wide variety of professions to more than 31,300 full-time students, including 30 percent international students, and receives more than 64,500 continuing education registrations annually. Students can earn certificates, diplomas, graduate certificates, apprenticeships, and degrees. www.georgebrown.ca

FEDERAL GOVT. INVESTS \$199.16 MILLION IN RESILIENCE BIOTECHNOLOGIES INC. TO INCREASE ITS VACCINE MANUFACTURING CAPACITY



The Government of Canada recognized early in the pandemic that increasing domestic biomanufacturing capabilities were critical. That is why it has been making major investments to rebuild Canada’s biomanufacturing capacity. These investments contribute to breakthrough technology efforts to develop made-in-Canada solutions such as vaccines and treatments for future pandemics and to commercialize made-in-Canada solutions to COVID-19.

Today, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced an investment of \$199.16 million in Resilience Biotechnologies Inc.

This investment will support a \$401.52-million project that will help develop Canada’s medical countermeasures to COVID-19 and strengthen Canada’s emergency preparedness for future pandemics. “The Government of Canada’s top priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians. Today’s contribution to Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. is another important step to support Canada’s leadership in the life sciences sector and to build its pandemic preparedness. These investments are also creating well-paying jobs and helping to grow Canada’s life sciences ecosystem as an engine for our economic recovery,” said Minister François-Philippe Champagne.

This investment will help Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. increase its manufacturing and fill-finish capacity for a number of vaccines and therapeutics, including for those that use novel technology such as mRNA and that are now being deployed to fight COVID-19. Once completed, the company’s Mississauga facility is expected to allow for the manufacturing of approximately 112 million to 640 million doses of mRNA vaccines per year.

This expansion will further expand Resilience Biotechnologies Inc.’s presence in Canada, with clinical and commercial manufacturing and aseptic fill-finish capabilities for critical vaccines and therapeutics. With this investment, Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. will create and maintain 500 full-time jobs in Canada and create 50 co-op positions. Rahul Singhvi, Chief Executive Officer, National Resilience, Inc said, “Resilience is honoured to partner with the ISED Strategic Innovation Fund to expand our infrastructure, talent and overall capacity, allowing us to improve Canada’s pandemic preparedness and further strengthen the Canadian biopharmaceutical ecosystem.” The government has prioritized the growing vibrant Canadian biomanufacturing and life sciences sector, which is why Budget 2021 proposes a total of \$2.2 billion to build on the progress already made toward this goal.

AUTO INSURANCE

Insurance Tiger makes it easy to find the best auto insurance coverage in Ontario. Our insurance brokers will do the comparison shopping for you to find the best coverage and right amount of protection.



- ❖ Winter Tire Discounts
- ❖ Multi Policy Discounts
- ❖ Uber Insurance
- ❖ Student Discounts
- ❖ Family Member Discounts
- ❖ Telematic Discounts
- ❖ Low Commute/Mileage Discounts
- ❖ New Business Discounts
- ❖ Hybrid Vehicle Discounts

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

Protect your business! Grow your business! Over the years, Insurance Tiger has grown and prospered by paying attention to our clients. We have a strong commitment to giving personal service and providing competitive Commercial and Business Insurance products.



Do you have proper coverage for your business ?

- ❖ Commercial Auto
- ❖ General Liability
- ❖ Commercial Property
- ❖ Places of Worship
- ❖ Equipment Breakdown
- ❖ Professional Liability
- ❖ Business Interruption
- ❖ Gas Stations
- ❖ Products Liability
- ❖ Retail
- ❖ Hospitality Services
- ❖ Cyber Liability
- ❖ Retail
- ❖ Hospitality Services
- ❖ Cyber Liability
- ❖ Contractor's Package
- ❖ Builder's Risk
- ❖ Hotels/Motels
- ❖ Apartment Buildings

HOME INSURANCE

A quality home insurance coverage will allow you to protect the things you value. At Insurance Tiger, we will help you find the best home insurance coverage in Ontario.



Fast turn around quotes on :

- ❖ High Value Homes
- ❖ Single Limit of Insurance Coverage
- ❖ Cash Settlement Property Policies
- ❖ Student Rental
- ❖ Multiple Rental Properties
- ❖ Multiple Family Homes

Take advantage of these discounts :

- Multi Policy Discount
- Non Smoker
- Claims Free
- Mortgage Free

LIFE/TRAVEL INSURANCE

Medical travel insurance is a must-have when travelling outside your home province. Even a weekend shopping trip across the border or travelling across the world to meet family or leisure trip could end up being a nightmare without the proper Medical Travel insurance.



Protect your family for less than \$1.00 a day

- ❖ Term Life
- ❖ Whole Life
- ❖ Disability Insurance
- ❖ Critical Illness Insurance
- ❖ Supervisa/Travel/Visitor Insurance
- ❖ Health Insurance Solutions

POLICY NOT DUE FOR RENEWAL YET?

Please email us your name, contact info and expiry date to myrenewal@insurancetiger.ca and our representatives will call you closer to your renewal date.

INSURANCE TIGER

416-224-2800 • www.insurancetiger.ca

Owned and operated by Multi Risk Insurance Brokers INC.



THE GOVERNMENT IS RENEWING ITS FOCUS ON RELIEF MEASURES AND HIGHER SPENDING TOWARD IMMEDIATE HEALTH CARE NEEDS LIKE OXYGEN PLANTS, AND TEMPORARY COVID-19 CENTRES, ONE OF THE OFFICIALS SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO PROVIDE RELIEF ON FUEL PRICES BY CUTTING SOME TAXES HAVE ALSO BEEN DEFERRED.

INDIA WILL HAVE TO INVEST HEAVILY IN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ECONOMY TO RECOVER: UN EXPERT

UNITED NATIONS, (IANS) India will have to invest heavily in infrastructure in order to recover from the economic havoc brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, even if that means going in for deficit financing, according to a UN expert.

“A crisis often presents an opportunity” and making the right investments can have a multiplier effect in steering the economies to recovery, while also making a monumental difference in people's lives,” Hamid Rashid, the head of the UN Development Research Branch, said on Wednesday in an exclusive interview to IANS TV.

“We may feel a little despondent right now in terms of what is happening in India, but there's a silver lining in our view as well,” he said, citing the possibilities for public sector investment in vital areas and the signs of progress in containing the pandemic.

Developing countries like India do not have the option of financing a stimulus programme as the US has done but they can make substantial public sector investments to stimulate the economy, he said.

The government should prioritize two sectors, digital and health, for investments, he said.

“This is also an opportunity for governments, and for the public sector, to increase investment in health infrastructure, increase investment in digital infrastructure, and that will create jobs and that will create demand for more goods and services, and that will restart the economic engine,” he said. “Right now you see the oxygen shortages as a huge constraint for India, in terms of saving lives. So, this is an opportunity for creating the right environment so the businesses can invest more in building health capacities,” he said.

There is also a need to bridge the digital divide, he said.

India and other similarly placed countries do not have the option of raising taxes to meet the investment requirements and they may have to resort to deficit financing, which he said is not a bad idea if the investments are properly made.

“Deficit financing is basically borrowing from the future,” he said.

“I believe deficit financing institution like this is not only necessary so it's a must,” he said. “You have to take the risk and when businesses can't take risks when the private sector or hospitals cannot take risks, the only entity that can take risk is the government.”

“So public sector spending is that we have seen in crisis after crisis. Public investment is what brings countries out of crises,” he said.

With deficit spending, “one has to be very careful about targeting the right sector, targeting the right investment”, he said. “Otherwise it can create a huge debt burden, going forward, public debt would balloon”.

China had used investments to stage its recovery, he said while contrasting the Western and Chinese models.

There is the Western model of fighting the crisis through “a demand-side support, giving money to the households or you can create more jobs through investment”, he said.

“China chose the path of increasing investment during the pandemic, and so it created lots of jobs, and now the demand is picking up and China's

recovery is on the way” and it would have a growth rate of 8.2 per cent this year, he said. Rashid's branch makes the economic forecasts that are the basis for policy suggestions and he is the lead author of the UN's flagship economic report, World Economic Situation and Prospects.

The mid-year report released on Tuesday, forecast that India's economy would grow by 7.5 per cent this year and rebound to 10.3 per cent next year. When the report was being prepared, Rashid said, “We were just seeing the tip of the second wave. And of course, if I do revise the numbers right now, I would probably be a little bit, even less optimistic than 7.5 per cent when there are significant downside risks.”

“But, having said that, we still believe there's huge room for a recovery in India because we are starting from a very low base,” he added.

The UN estimated that India's economy shrank last year by 6.8 per cent. “Last year, there was a significant contraction of the economy. So this is basically recovering the lost ground, so there'll be quite a bit of lost ground recovered, and that would give the growth, assuming that pandemic comes under control within a month or so,” he said.

If the Covid-19 surge “continues for several months or a full quarter, then this would be a very difficult target (and) we'll probably see a significant downgrade when we update our number for the end of the year”, he added. “But so far, we remain optimistic that 7.5 per cent growth rate is still possible for India,” he said.

While infections are coming down significantly in Delhi and Mumbai and other major cities, there's still concern about the pandemic spreading to rural areas, he said.

“We have to make sure that we are able to contain the spread of the virus and things don't get any worse than it already is. So, our best hope is that probably the worst is behind us, in terms of the spread of the pandemic in India, and there are some containment measures that are effective,” he added. Asked about the most important requirement for India's economy to recover from the havoc of the pandemic, Rashid responded, “It's vaccination, vaccination, vaccination.”

It would restore consumer confidence and business confidence that is very critical to a recovery, he said.

“When you see news reports every day and they shatter our confidence, businesses will not be willing to invest if they don't see any light at the end of the tunnel and consumers will not be spending, if they feel that there are bad days ahead,” he said.

“So, this is about managing expectation and right now, the best way to manage expectations of the future of the economy is to make sure everyone gets vaccinated as quickly as possible,” he added.

While vaccinating a population of 1.4 billion would take time, he said that other steps can be intensified to control the Covid-19 outbreak as had been done last year.

“Your experience with the first wave was quite positive and quite successful. I think the combination of vaccination and social distancing and other measures would work, may not do the magic, but would still be able to contain the spread further.”

AAP announces Rs 50K for families with Covid death, other measures

NEW DELHI, (IANS) With the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic affecting scores of people in the national capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced four measures taken by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to support the Covid-hit families, including Rs 50,000 ex gratia to each family in Delhi that has lost a member to Covid-19.

“Many people have died because of Covid-19. Their families have our sympathy. While we cannot eradicate their loss, we can try and support these families in such difficult times. All those families where there have been deaths due to Covid will be given an ex gratia amount of Rs 50,000,” Kejriwal said.

In another measure, the AAP government has decided to provide Rs 2,500 per month to those families whose sole breadwinner fell prey to Covid-19. “There are many families where the main earning members have died due to Covid. Delhi government will provide Rs 2,500 per month to each such family,” Kejriwal said during a press conference on Tuesday.

“Families affected by Covid-19 are facing problems with respect to hospital admission. Treatment at government hospitals is free of cost, but that's not the case in private hospitals. People have lost their loved ones, and sometimes even the sole earning member. I know many children who have lost both their parents,” Kejriwal said.

In another decision, the AAP government has announced that the children whose parents have succumbed to the virus will be given Rs 2,500 per month, while the Delhi government will bear all expenses for their education.

The Chief Minister also said that due to the lockdown imposed to curb Covid spread in the city, many people have lost their livelihoods and are running short of food supplies.

Announcing the fourth decision, Kejriwal said that the Delhi govern-



ment will provide free ration to all the poor families which are struggling during the Covid-induced lockdown.

The Delhi government will provide a 5 kg ration every month to those who have a ration card (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice).

“This is given against a meagre sum of money. This month, it will be given for free. An additional 5 kg ration under the scheme launched by the Central Government is being provided free of cost. So every ration cardholder will get 10 kg ration free of cost for this month,” Kejriwal said. Later in an official statement issued to the press, Kejriwal said, “You must be thinking about how the Delhi government will get such a huge amount of money for fulfilling and implementing these announcements. In the past six years, in every governmental work we do, we have saved money by avoiding unnecessary expenditure. “My ministers, officials and I have come up with different ways to save and withdraw expenses, and drawn up these four crucial policies. I can understand that you are in trouble. In these difficult times, please know that I am with you. It is my duty to help you whenever you are in trouble.”

PLEA IN SC AGAINST FIRS FOR POSTERS QUESTIONING PM MODI FOR COVID VAX EXPORTS



NEW DELHI, (IANS) A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking quashing of multiple FIRs registered by Delhi Police for putting up posters criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for exporting Covid-19 vaccines. The petition, filed by advocate Pradeep Kumar Yadav, said that posters were found pasted on walls and boards with the message: “Modi ji humare bachon ka vaccine videsh kyon bhej diya?” (Why did you send our children's vaccines abroad?). Police, in all the districts where the posters were found, registered FIRs under the Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, the Delhi Disaster Management Act and the Indian Penal Code, and arrests started late on May 12 after the Special Branch informed Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava about the posters.

At least 24 people were arrested but granted bail after initial questioning as provisions invoked in the matter were bailable. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AAP members dared the police to arrest them too, as they shared the posters on their social media posts.

The plea urged the top court to issue directions to Delhi Police to refrain from registering FIRs or act against those who put up the posters across the national capital over the past few days, contending that the apex court, in a number of cases, has held that freedom of speech and expression in connection with public cause was a fundamental right of every citizen, which was guaranteed under the Constitution. The petitioner also cited the Shreya Singhal case where the top court set aside Section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, and held an information sharing on social media does not constitute any criminal offence under the IT Act. “Recently this court in the case of suo motu WP (C) 3 of 2021 titled distribution of essential supplies and services during pandemic has passed a specific direction to the respondent state authorities not to register any criminal case over the public seeking medical help in the social media. In contrary to the above decision of this court, the authorities are registering FIR against the innocent persons over their hate speech against the PM with regard to his official functions over the second wave of Covid-19 crises and Government vaccine policies,” said the plea. The plea cited that a 19-year-old school dropout, a 30-year-old e-rickshaw driver, and a 61-year-old maker of wooden frames were among the people arrested by Delhi Police, in the middle of the pandemic.

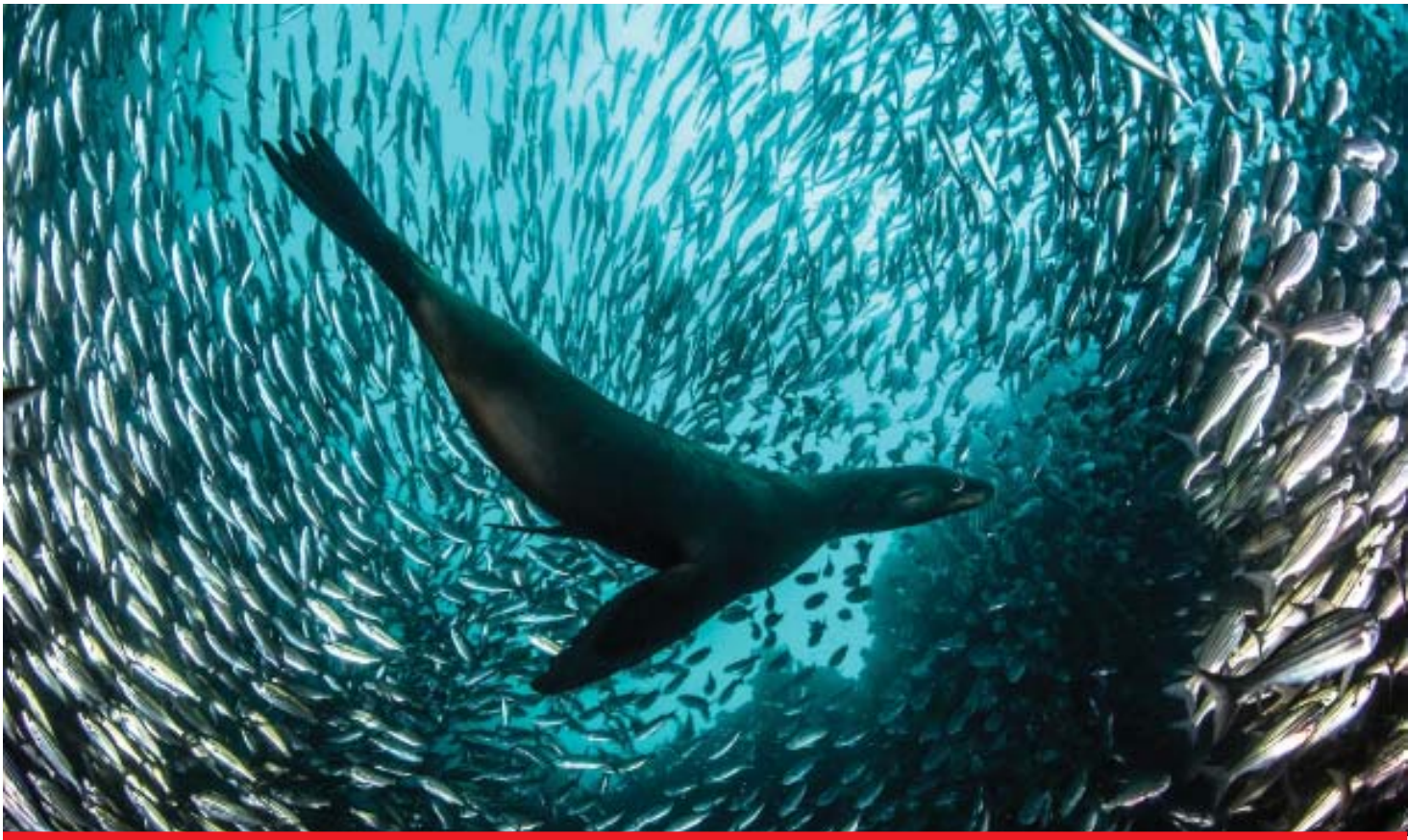
WRESTLER MURDER CASE: COURT DENIES ANTICIPATORY BAIL TO OLYMPIC MEDALLIST SUSHIL



NEW DELHI, (IANS) A Delhi court on Tuesday declined to grant anticipatory bail to Sushil Kumar, India's double Olympic medallist in wrestling, in connection with a brawl at Chhatrasal Stadium, which led to the death of a wrestler.

Additional sessions judge Jagdish Kumar declined to grant relief to Kumar who has been booked for murder, abduction and criminal conspiracy. Kumar in his plea seeking anticipatory bail filed by advocate Kumar Vaibhav has said: “unfounded, baseless, scurrilous and preposterous allegations have been made against the applicant maliciously with the only motive to humiliate and injure the reputation of the applicant.” The police said Kumar is the main accused who has played a key role in the commission of the offence.

The police have also announced a cash award of Rs.50,000 for anyone who provides information on Sushil's associate Ajay Kumar, who is co-accused in the murder of Sagar Dhankar, a former international wrestler. On May 4, two groups of wrestlers clashed at Chhatrasal Stadium, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Dhankar. Kumar, in the plea, argued that the statement of the victims has been recorded and alleged recoveries have also been made, therefore no custodial interrogation was required. Kumar also claimed that he has no connection with the alleged firing, which took place during the brawl. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing Kumar, questioned before the court the act of prosecution seizing Kumar's passport. Additional public prosecutor Atul Shrivastava replied, “We have an apprehension that he may flee from the country.” Shrivastava added that there is electronic evidence against Kumar. Police insisted on Kumar's custodial interrogation to reveal the conspiracy and also to recover the weapon of offence from him. Citing the falsity in allegations, Kumar's plea said that as per the PCR call the incident took place at around 1.19 hours on May 5, 2021 and the distance from the place of incident, Chhatrasal Stadium, and the police station PS Model Town is just one kilometre. However, the FIR has been registered after an unexplained delay of around 5-6 hours. “It further appears that that the entire delay in registration of the FIR is to falsely implicate the Applicant in the present matter”, the plea added. In the anticipatory bail plea, Kumar said: “The victims are falsely implicating the applicant because he had asked Sagar to leave his property as the same was being misused by him. It is also known to every associated with the Chhatrasal stadium that the purported victims were trying to defame and fix the Applicant for a long time and are trying to falsely implicate the applicant in the present matter.” Kumar claimed he is innocent of all wrongdoing and has been falsely implicated in the present case. The Delhi Police have filed an FIR under various sections: 302 (murder), 308 (culpable homicide), 365 (kidnapping), 325 (causing grievous hurt), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The police have also included sections 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (common intention) of IPC and various sections under the Arms Act.



OCEAN DIALOGUES 2021 TO FOCUS ON CLIMATE, FOOD, NATURE

GENEVA, (IANS) A resilient and abundant ocean is essential to tackle climate change and key to providing sustainable food and jobs that could boost recovery around the world.

Half of the world's GDP is dependent on nature, according to the World Economic Forum, and more than three billion people rely on the ocean for their livelihoods.

As countries recover from the economic and social impacts of Covid-19, the ocean can be a major part of the solution.

To fast-track, the innovations necessary for a healthy ocean, Friends of Ocean Action and the World Economic Forum are convening the second Virtual Ocean Dialogues event.

On May 25-26, government representatives, business leaders, members of civil society and scientific communities will gather at this virtual global summit to highlight how a healthy ocean is critical to the sustainable development agenda.

A healthy ocean is increasingly being seen as a solution to the many development challenges society is facing.

"It has never been more critical to fast-track solutions for a resilient and thriving ocean. A range of major global summits and forums in the coming months offer a moment to acknowledge the ocean's transformative role in tackling climate change, supporting global food systems and rebuilding the health of the natural world," said Kristian Teleki, Director of Friends of Ocean Action at the World Economic Forum.

"I invite anyone with an interest in our shared future on this blue planet to

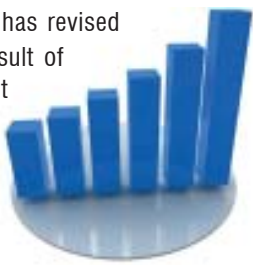
tune into the live-streamed sessions and join the conversation," Teleki added. During the event, ideas and innovations for ocean health will also be shared on UpLink, the digital platform to crowdsource innovations to accelerate delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A new UpLink Ocean Challenge will be launched to seek new ideas to boost sustainable food from aquatic sources.

"Following the outstanding success of last year's event, the virtual Ocean Dialogues have become a key waymarker in global efforts to secure the ocean's health," said Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, and Co-Chair of Friends of Ocean Action. "I am delighted to see this second iteration take to the airwaves," he added. The 2021 virtual Ocean Dialogues are part of a three-day high-level virtual forum convened by the World Economic Forum, the Mission Possible Partnership and Friends of Ocean Action, together with the United Kingdom's Presidency of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), the UN High-Level Champions for COP26 and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.

Friends of Ocean Action is a coalition of 65 ocean leaders who are fast-tracking solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the ocean. Its members come from diverse backgrounds like business, civil society, international organizations, science and technology. It is hosted by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the World Resources Institute.

UN REPORT PREDICTS STRONGER WORLD ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNITED NATIONS, (IANS) A UN report has revised up the world economic growth as a result of robust rebounds in China and the US but warned against fragilities in other economies in the context of Covid-19. In its mid-year update of its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, which was released in January 2021, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) now predicts the world economy will grow 5.4 per cent in 2021 instead of the 4.7 per cent forecast in January 2021, Xinhua reported. Following a sharp contraction of 3.6 per cent in 2020, the world economy will return to positive territory as the world's two largest economies — China and the US — will register impressive growth, according to the mid-year update, which was released on Tuesday. DESA revised its forecast for China from 7.2 per cent to 8.2 per cent; and for the US from 3.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent for 2021. While the global growth outlook has improved, surging Covid-19 infections and inadequate vaccination progress in many countries threaten a broad-based recovery of the world economy, warned the report. The pandemic is far from over for a majority of countries. Daily new infections were higher in April 2021 than the number of new infections reported daily during the peak of the pandemic in December 2020, the report noted. With the risks of a prolonged pandemic and insufficient fiscal space to stimulate demand, the world's most vulnerable countries are facing the prospect of a lost decade. The growth outlook in several countries in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, remains fragile and uncertain. For many developing countries, economic output is only projected to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 or 2023, according to the report.



WHO REMINDS SERUM INSTITUTE OF ITS COVAX COMMITMENTS AMIDST DEVASTATING COVID-19 OUTBREAK, SOARING DEMAND IN INDIA

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that once the devastating COVID-19 outbreak in India recedes, the Serum Institute of India will need to get back on track and catch up on its delivery commitments to COVAX, the global initiative to supply coronavirus vaccines to nations around the world. During a daily virtual press briefing on Monday, the World Health Organisation Director-General said that the surge in COVID-19 cases around the world has compromised the global vaccine supply and there is already a shortfall of 190 million doses to COVAX by the end of June. COVAX, the global COVID vaccine equity scheme, has so far delivered 65 million doses to 124 countries and economies but it is dependent on countries and manufacturers honouring their commitments. Once the devastating outbreak in India recedes, we also need the Serum Institute of India to get back on track and catch up on its delivery commitments to COVAX, Ghebreyesus said. The UN children's agency UNICEF said the devastating surge in coronavirus cases in India has impacted vaccine supplies to the COVAX facility. Among the global consequences of the situation in India, a global hub for vaccine production, is a severe reduction in vaccines available to COVAX.



Great for Indian Cooking! SAKURA TURBO HOOD

Kitchen Range Hood
NO MORE SMOKE, GREASE OR ODOURS

U2f, U2 M II and U2 II

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



STANDARD FEATURES

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

R8168M (Micro)



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

STANDARD FEATURES

- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- 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 baffle

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 1-800-475-5473

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



OTST is fully compliant with COVID restrictions
We are offering online classes



ONTARIO TRUCK SAFETY TRAINING

Ontario Truck and Safety Training
OTST was opened in order to educate new and existing drivers on the importance of safety when operating a commercial vehicle.
Located near Pearson Airport and close to all major highways.
We pride ourselves on delivering professional and thorough training to our students.
Safety is in our name and we live by it.



905-677-9840
www.otst.ca



ECO VALLEY
ORGANIC TEA



CUSTARD
POWDER



Baking Powder



Chutneys



WEIKFIELD
SINCE 1956



ECO VALLEY
PEICES & STEMS
MUSHROOMS



Sauces



Baking Soda



Cornflour

NOW AVAILABLE IN CANADA
FOR BUSINESS INQUIRIES CONTACT

PUNN IMPEX LTD.

PUNN IMPEX LIMITED
Toronto, On, Canada

647-667-1213
www.punnimpex.com
Punnimpex.ca@gmail.com

Making the Move from Caledon to Toronto’s New Dupont

WHY VANESSA ALMEIDA'S FAMILY BOUGHT TWO SUITES AT GALLERIA ON THE PARK



Vanessa Almeida currently lives outside of the downtown core in rural Caledon but has been expanding her real estate portfolio in Toronto, starting in Mississauga, and recently purchasing two suites at ELAD Canada’s award-winning Galleria on the Park in Toronto’s west end, at Dupont and Dufferin Street. Almeida and her husband purchased two units in the west end condo development for their now teenage sons, in anticipation of their needs as they grow. The purchase of a two-bedroom alongside a studio unit gives them flexibility in when and how they will use the space, which Almeida says they are still thinking about. The Galleria on the Park site, and the surrounding west end community, intrigued Almeida from her very first visit. She could visualize the new eight-acre park that will anchor the new development, along with the new Wallace Emerson Community Centre that will form the heart of the community.

“As soon as I saw Galleria on the Park, I knew I wanted to own a piece of that lifestyle in Toronto’s west-end,” says Almeida. “From expansive green space to a plethora of retail options within walking distance, it’s really a whole City within a community that celebrates the blending of cultures. I’m so excited knowing my sons will one day be a part of that vibrant community.” One of the first things Almeida and her family saw when they visited the sales centre, a stone’s throw from the development, was a bold mural by Toronto artist Jacquie Comrie, a kaleidoscope of colour that surrounds the sales centre, reflecting the ongoing transformation of Dupont St. into a lively community hub. “We knew that if we wanted to buy, we would have to move quickly,” she says. Inside the sales centre, Almeida and her family were presented with suite floor plans, and taken through the amenity offerings, including

the games room, co-working space, pool, fitness centre and more. “Seeing everything in front of us, from the finishes to the colour palettes we could choose from, we were really able to envision our sons living at Galleria on the Park, whether it’s looking over the city skyline from their balconies, or spending time with their friends in the amazing neighbourhood amenities like the new community centre and cafés.” Once complete, Galleria on the Park will encompass eight buildings, introducing nearly 2,900 condominium residences and 300,000 square feet of retail space to the changing West End neighbourhood. ELAD Canada has recently introduced Galleria Air, their latest collection from Galleria III. Galleria Air emphasizes two and three-bedroom suites, recognizing the needs of families like Almeida’s. To book your private appointment and visit the sales centre, visit: <https://www.galleriaonthepark.com/>





**Your turn
is coming
soon.**



Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.