



PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU ALONG WITH MINISTER ANITA ANAND AND MAJ.-GEN. DANY FORTIN ANNOUNCED THAT CANADA IS GETTING PFIZER AND MODERNA VACCINES IN DECEMBER 2020.

# VACCINE ROLLS OUT IN CANADA AND USA SMOOTHLY

**Up to 168,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine will arrive in a series of shipments**

The Government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to ensure that Canadians have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, as soon as possible.

Today, the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced that following successful negotiations and contingent on Health Canada authorization of the vaccine, Canada will be able to access 168,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020.

These are part of the guaranteed 40 million doses, and up to a total of 56 million doses, that Canada has secured through its existing agreement with Moderna. As with all COVID-19 vaccine candidates, the Moderna vaccine must be authorized by Health Canada before being administered to Canadians.

The 168,000 doses, which could arrive in December 2020, will support the first delivery of vaccines to Canada's north. The logistical planning for the delivery of Moderna doses is complete, and shipments to Canada could begin within 48 hours of regulatory approval. The Moderna vaccine would be the first delivered through the end-to-end COVID-19 logistics services contract awarded to FedEx Express Canada and Innomar Strategies Inc.

The Government of Canada will continue to conduct dry-run exercises to confirm ordering and shipping processes for additional vaccines as they become available. These dry-run exercises are important to ensure that the Provinces and Territories have the necessary infra-

structure and equipment in place and are able to plan to effectively and efficiently administer COVID-19 vaccines as they roll-out.

Moderna submitted an application for regulatory review of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate under Health Canada's interim order on October 12, 2020. Results of this review are expected soon. Health Canada will only authorize a vaccine once it has been shown to be safe, effective and of good quality.

Canada will receive up to 249,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in December 2020. These doses are part of the up to 76 million doses Canada has secured through its existing agreement with Pfizer. As with all COVID-19 vaccine candidates, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must be authorized by Health Canada before being administered to Canadians.

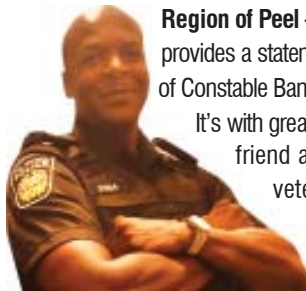
Pfizer, the Public Health Agency of Canada with the Canadian Armed Forces, and the Provinces and Territories are working together to finalize preparations

**QUOTES**

"The Government of Canada continues to do everything possible to protect Canadians from COVID-19. This includes securing the world's most extensive portfolio of vaccines and taking all necessary measures to ready the country to receive doses once they are authorized for use."

The Honourable Anita Anand  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement

## PEEL POLICE OFFICER AND COMMUNITY ICON PASSES AWAY SUDDENLY



**Region of Peel** – Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraipapp provides a statement in response to the tragic and sudden death of Constable Bancroft Wright on Friday, December 11, 2020:

It's with great sadness that we share the news that our friend and colleague, Bancroft Wright, an 18 year veteran of Peel Regional Police, passed away suddenly in his home as a result of a medical episode.

**| CONTD. ON PAGE 5**

## MPP SANDHU AND MINISTER SARKARIA ANNOUNCE MORE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR BRAMPTON

**BRAMPTON:** Amarjot Sandhu, MPP for Brampton West, and Prabmeet Sarkaria, MPP for Brampton South, announced that Brampton will receive an additional \$27,489,000.00 in Safe Restart Agreement funding. The discretionary funding will be used to offset operating costs for critical services and help ensure that Brampton does not carry an operating deficit into 2021.



**| CONTD. ON PAGE 6**

## INDIA HOCKEY CAPTAIN MANPREET SINGH MARRIES MALAYSIAN GIRL OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN NAJWA SADDIQUE



## BRAMPTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2021 BUDGET WITH THIRD CONSECUTIVE TAX FREEZE AND RECORD CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES

**BRAMPTON:** Brampton City Council unanimously approved the City of Brampton's 2021 Budget at a Special Council Meeting today. This is the third consecutive year that this Term of Council will deliver a 0% property tax increase to fund the City's Budget, while making a record contribution of \$114M to reserves. Alongside the third consecutive tax freeze, the City continues to invest in infrastructure and transit through dedicated levies and a record contribution to reserves in this budget, ensuring sustainability in its asset base and meeting growing demands for transit. The contribution to reserves also includes the stormwater charge revenue, resulting in a \$114M investment in capital works through the 2021 budget.



**| CONTD. ON PAGE 6**

## GOVT. OFFERS AMENDMENTS, FARMERS WANT ALL 3 FARM LAWS REPEALED



**| DETAILS ON PAGE 9**

## PSB SENIORS CLUB CANADA ORGANIZED VIRTUALLY "FESTIVAL CELEBRATION"



PSB Seniors Club Canada organized virtually 'Festival Celebration' on November 29, 2020 Sunday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM through the ZOOM. More than 60 members participated. The main purpose of the event was to keep the seniors busy during the lock down period of Covid-19

Mr. Gurcharan Singh Khakh President of the Club greeted the members very warmly. Mr. Khakh described the history of the Club, the first being held on April 21, 2017 the today was the 13th events of the Club. He also introduced the Executive members of the club Mr. Gian Singh Vice President, Mr. Manjit Singh Treasurer, Mr. Harcharan Singh Secretary. Mr. Ram Singh, Mr S S Bedi, Mr., Surya G Vyas, Mr Raghbir Singh Makkar, Mr Kushpaul Khurana and Mr. Mukhtiar Singh.

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THE SC SAID IT INTENDS TO SET UP A COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMERS UNIONS, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO RESOLVE THE DEADLOCK.

## WHY IS BRAMPTON GETTING MORE SEATS AT PEEL REGIONAL COUNCIL?

- Brampton's population growth has outpaced that of Mississauga and Caledon
- Brampton is 2nd fastest growing city in Canada with a population on the way to reach 900,000 by 2041
- Brampton has 29% share of voice at Region. With two more seats, we get 38%.
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## MIKE PENCE, JOE BIDEN TO GET VACCINE TO BUILD PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN SHOT

Vice President Mike Pence will publicly receive the coronavirus vaccine on Friday, and President-elect Joe Biden is expected get vaccinated as soon as next week, amid concern that many Americans may refuse the injection. Pence will get the shot during a White House event to "build confidence among the American people," his office said in a statement. Second lady Karen Pence and Surgeon General Jerome Adams are expected to receive the vaccine along with the vice president. Biden's plan, which was confirmed by a transition official, comes after he pledged to get the vaccine in public to allay any fears about the shots. "I want to make sure that we demonstrate to the American people that it's safe to take," Biden told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware. "When I do it, I'll do it publicly." Pence and Biden stand in contrast to President Donald Trump, who has wavered about whether and when he will receive the vaccine. Many public-health experts, including the head of Trump's own vaccine initiative, said the president should be among the dignitaries who get the shots to inspire confidence in them. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said this week that Trump would encourage Americans to take the coronavirus vaccine but would not say if he would get it while he is still in office. The president was hospitalized in early October after contracting the virus. "He will receive the vaccine as soon as the medical team determines it's



best," she told reporters. Pence's and Biden's plans to quickly receive the shots were announced days after a Covid-19 vaccine created by Pfizer Inc. And BioNTech SE received authorization for emergency use, a pivotal moment in the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed more than 300,000 lives in the US. Yet government officials and public health have said they are worried many Americans might not take it for political reasons or skepticism about vaccines in general.

## Turkey inciting Iranian Azeri separatists to take control of Iran's territory

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan set off a diplomatic row between Iran and Turkey during his visit (December 10) to Baku to attend a military parade of Azerbaijani forces after reclaiming some areas of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh in November. He recited a controversial poem referring to the Aras River. The poem said "They separated the Aras River and filled it with rocks and rods. I will not be separated from you. They have separated us forcibly." The river is said to be a symbol of what some Iranian Azeri separatists call the separation of Iranian Azerbaijan from The Republic of Azerbaijan. Erdogan's intent behind the move is clearly to incite the Iranian Azeri separatists causing much of worries for Iranian leaderships. Already having brutally trodden the sovereignty of Nagorno-Karabakh, Turkey is now hawking for other possible prey in the region to exploit Erdogan's expansionism. Iran is a suitable case for Turkey's devilish plans given its oil and gas riches and a considerable population of Azeri people in the country provides an opportunity for Turkey to execute its diplomacy there. Though the ethnic Azeri populace is in minority in Iran, many of them are in key positions. The Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is himself an ethnic Azeri. Thus, successfully inciting the Azeri people towards separatism would be devastating for Iran. Aras River starts in Turkey and then flows along the borders between Turkey and Armenia (including Nagorno-Karabakh), between Turkey and the Nakhchivan area of Azerbaijan, between Iran and both Azerbaijan and Armenia, and finally through Azerbaijan to the Kura River. The Aras gained significance as a geographic political Boundary after World War-I. It serves as the border between Russia and Iran, the continental demarcation between Europe and Asia as well as separates the Republic of Azerbaijan from the two ethnic-Azeri Turk majority of Iranian provinces of Ardabil and East Azerbaijan. Erdogan's move may be seen as a soft tactic towards his expansionistic approach. While reciting the poem Erdogan had said that Aras will sing stronger, those singing the Karabakh, Shikeste will breathe stronger, in reference to a traditional Azeri song. Through reciting the controversial poem Erdogan endorsed the idea of forcible separation of areas north of Aras from Iranian motherland and thus undermining the sovereignty of Iran.



## MODI TO BE FIRST PM TO ATTEND AN ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY EVENT SINCE 1964



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest at the centenary celebration of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on December 22 via video link, Omar Saleem Peerzada, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of AMU, said on Wednesday. PM Modi will be accompanied by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. This is the first time PM Modi will participate in a programme of the Aligarh Muslim University. The event will be held online due to the coronavirus restrictions in place. Moreover, the last time a sitting prime minister visited the varsity to attend an event was in 1964, when the then PM Lal Bahadur Shastri delivered the convocation address there. "The vice-chancellor is very grateful to the Prime Minister and education minister for taking out time from their busy schedules to attend the celebration. This is an important day for the university," Peerzada added. Times of India quoted a senior AMU official saying the PM Modi's presence would "send a strong message to BJP functionaries who keep attacking the institution." Last year, protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act led to a backlash against the government and the varsity's scholars have been vocal against cases of violence against women in UP and in favour of the ongoing farmers' protest in Delhi.

## PM MODI, BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA TO DISCUSS CONNECTIVITY, TRADE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina will hold a virtual bilateral summit on Thursday and hold discussions to improve trade and connectivity between both nations. Modi and Hasina will jointly inaugurate the Haldibari-Chilahati rail link which is aimed at fostering people-to-people connectivity on both sides. The rail link is also expected to enhance connectivity and trade between Assam, West Bengal and Bangladesh. "During the summit, the two leaders will hold comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship, including further strengthening cooperation in the post COVID era," the Ministry of External Affairs was quoted as saying by news agency PTI. India and Bangladesh have both been very keen to restart the six pre-1965 rail links between both countries. There are five links that are currently operational between both nations - Petrapole (India) - Benapole (Bangladesh), Gede (India) - Darshana (Bangladesh), Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh) and Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh). The rail link between Akhaura and Agartala is also being quickly developed to further increase trade in that region. Both the leaders will also launch a stamp to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh to its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Pakistan lost the war to the Indian Army and Bangladesh's Muktibahini on December 16. India celebrates December 16 as Vijay Diwas to commemorate the victory.

## SIKH RELIGIOUS LEADER DIES BY SUICIDE AT SINGHU BORDER

Baba Ram Singh, the priest of a gurdwara in Haryana, died after shooting himself on Wednesday afternoon at the Delhi-Haryana border in Singhu, where he reached last evening and joined farmers from Punjab and Haryana protesting against three farm laws passed in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. He was 65. In a suicide note, Singh, a resident of Singhra village in Haryana's Karnal district, said he wanted to expose the "cruelty of the government". In a handwritten note in Punjabi, he said: "Farmers are in pain, they are protesting on the roads for their rights. The government is not giving them justice, which is cruel. It is a sin to endure persecution and also a sin to oppress. Some have stood for the farmer rights and against the cruelty. People have returned their awards to show protest. I am sacrificing myself." Sonepat's superintendent of police Jashandeep Randhawa confirmed that the police had received information that a man shot himself dead at Kundli-Singhu, where the farmers are protesting. Ravi Kumar, station house officer of the Kundli police station, said the suicide note had been recovered and that its authenticity was being ascertained.



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# Ontario Delivers First COVID-19 Vaccine in the Country



Premier Doug Ford issued the following statement on the first COVID-19 vaccinations being administered to frontline health care workers in Ontario and in the country:

"Today is a historic day for Ontario and for Canada as the first Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccines have started to be given to our frontline health care heroes. I would especially like to recognize Anita Quidangen, the first person in Ontario and Canada to receive the shot. Anita is a personal support worker (PSW) from the Reka Centre at Sherbourne Place, a long-term care home in Toronto. She has worked tirelessly to care for some of our most vulnerable, both throughout this pandemic and since her first days as a PSW in 1988. Anita has spent years rolling up her sleeves to protect our province, and today, she didn't hesitate to find a new way to do so. She represents the best of the Ontario Spirit. Today's milestone officially launches the first phase of our three-phase vaccine implementation plan to keep Ontarians safe and marks the beginning of the long journey to return life back to normal. Over 2,500 health care workers in our hospitals and long-term care homes

will be vaccinated over the coming days and weeks, with more people to follow as additional shipments arrive.

I encourage everyone to be patient. This is the biggest immunization program in a century, and our vaccine supply will arrive in stages. General Hillier and the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force are working with Health Canada and other provincial and territorial partners to ensure the vaccines are distributed quickly, so people can get immunized as soon as possible.

This is a watershed moment - the beginning of the end of this terrible pandemic. The light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter every day, but we must remain on our guard.

As we continue to rollout these vaccines, I'm asking all Ontarians to please continue following the public health measures to keep everyone safe and healthy, especially during the holiday season. Avoid social gatherings, wear a mask when required, practise physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, and download the COVID Alert app. As we await the arrival of more vaccines, this is our best and only defence against this deadly virus."

## CITY OF BRAMPTON TO RING IN 2021 VIRTUALLY WITH HAVIAH MIGHTY AND TOKYO POLICE CLUB!

**BRAMPTON**— The City of Brampton is excited to announce live virtual performances by Brampton's own Haviah Mighty, and Tokyo Police Club for its online New Year's Eve celebration on Thursday, December 31.

Brampton's New Year's Eve 2021 celebration will look different due to COVID-19. To protect the health and safety of the community, all events will take place online.

Let's stay connected this year - be sure to share your at-home Brampton New Year's Eve 2021 celebrations with us on social media by tagging @CityBrampton and using #BramptonNewYearsEve and #BramptonTogether.

For more information on all of the virtual activities and events taking place, visit [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve).

### Live from The Rose

This year's virtual show will begin at 8 pm at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve) with messages from Mayor Patrick Brown and Members of Council, and a pre-recorded performance by cover band Soular. Brampton hip hop artist Haviah Mighty and JUNO-nominated Canadian indie rock band Tokyo Police Club will perform live from The Rose Brampton mainstage. Both performances will be livestreamed at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve). There will be no in-person performances this year.

Live from The Rose is The Rose's virtual performance series, featuring shows broadcast live from the mainstage to audiences at home. Learn more at [www.therosebrampton.ca](https://therosebrampton.ca).

### About Tokyo Police Club

Tokyo Police Club is an indie rock band from Newmarket, Ontario, featuring vocalist and bassist David Monks, keyboardist Graham Wright, guitarist Josh Hook, and drummer Greg Alsop. The band has been nominated for multiple JUNO awards, most recently in 2019 for Alternative Album of the Year.

### About Haviah Mighty

Raised in a musical household in Brampton, Haviah Mighty started singing at the age of 4, rapping at 11, and producing at 15. Haviah has been releasing music independently since 2009, but it was her project, Flower City (2017), that propelled her career into further success. Mighty recently released Polaris Prize-winning album, 13th Floor, her most successful project to date, making history as the first hip hop artist and first Black woman to ever receive the award.

### Fireworks online

The fun continues with an exciting online fireworks experience in augmented reality! The digital fireworks display offers residents a

unique and safe alternative to traditional New Year's Eve fireworks displays. Residents can enjoy the virtual show starting at 9 pm at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve), brought to you by Snapd Community Hub. There will be no in-person fireworks this year.

### Family-friendly activities online

In classic Brampton New Year's Eve fashion, take part in a range of fun family-friendly activities starting at noon on December 31. This year, enjoy our programming from the comfort of your own home, as all activities will be online only at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve). There will be no in-person events this year. Online activities will include craft shows, a kids' dance party, kids' entertainment shows, printable DIY activities, and more!

### Enjoy takeout from local restaurants

Order in this New Year's Eve! This year, a list of local restaurants open for pick-up or delivery New Year's Eve will be made available online at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve). Try something new or enjoy your favourite local meal.

### Quotes

"[Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve) is the place to be this New Year's Eve! While we cannot gather to celebrate in person, I encourage everyone to enjoy Brampton's virtual festivities from the comfort of their own homes on December 31, 2020. On a night that is typically very busy outdoors, I know that this year, Bramptonians will do the right thing and stay home, healthy and safe on New Year's Eve."

Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton

"We are so excited to announce this year's New Year's Eve virtual performances by Haviah Mighty and Tokyo Police Club! A range of performances, family-friendly activities, and a local restaurant listing will be available online. Stay home, stay online with us, have fun with your family, and share your experience with the community by tagging @CityBrampton and using #BramptonNewYearsEve and #BramptonTogether."

Paul Vicente, Vice-Chair, Economic Development and Culture; Regional Councillor, Wards 1 & 5, City of Brampton

"City staff are dedicated to creating a memorable online New Year's Eve experience for everyone in Brampton – and those outside of our city who might usually visit to celebrate. We are pleased to announce virtual performances, and ask everyone to stay home this year to enjoy the performances and activities available online at [Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve](https://Brampton.ca/NewYearsEve)."

David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Brampton

## MORTGAGE DEFERRAL PROGRAM WIND-DOWN HAS MUCH LESS IMPACT THAN ANTICIPATED, HOME OWNERSHIP ASPIRATIONS CONTINUE TO RISE THROUGH COVID-19: MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS CANADA REPORT

**Toronto**— Mortgage Professionals Canada (MPC) released its fourth in a series of housing market reports how COVID-19 is affecting consumer sentiments towards housing and mortgages. The data suggests that consumers' attitudes on homeownership during the pandemic have changed very little since MPC first polled Canadians early in the summer.

The fourth installment of the Rapidly Evolving Expectations in the Housing Industry survey was written by MPC's Chief Economist Will Dunning. This report surveyed almost 1,000 Canadians, comprising a wide sample of home owners with mortgages, renters and others, including people who live with their parents. The survey occurred during November 16 to 26.

As an alternative to forecasting, these reports, Dunning explained, "are creating some new data on shifting attitudes and expectations about the housing market, to help us interpret evolving market conditions, and possibly provide clues about future changes." As Canada experiences one of its history's most tumultuous and destabilizing times, and as the unfortunate "second wave" of COVID-19 took hold through this report period, "I am most struck by the huge rise in aspirations about home ownership, although we don't know how many of these aspiring homeowners will be able to accomplish their new goals" said Dunning. Additionally, Dunning noted, "the strength of sales data so far implies that 'all of this' has caused a lot of us to give a lot of thought to how we live our lives, and in what arrangements." "As we close 2020, this fourth edition of our surveys reveals a huge increase in the desire for a place to own," said Paul Taylor, President and CEO of MPC. "We also see a subtle shift in Canadian's purchasing consideration weighting, with the focus being even less about the investment and more about a place to live and home to own. The data demonstrates and reveals healthy, and unsurprising, owner-occupier aspirations in a lockdown climate." Taylor also noted that the clear messaging from the Bank of Canada has also helped those aspirations. Governor Tiff Macklem told Canadians in August "that interest rates are very low and they're going to be there for a long time," and Taylor explained this announcement by the Bank "altered the calculations for buyers."

## Prime Minister welcomes report from Special Advisor for Canada's ongoing response to Iran's shooting-down of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752



**OTTAWA:** The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, and Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, today issued the following statement to welcome the report from the Honourable Ralph Goodale, the Special Advisor for Canada's ongoing response to the Ukraine International Airlines tragedy:

"Today, we are pleased to accept the report from Special Advisor Ralph Goodale, who is advising on the Government of Canada's ongoing response to Iran's shooting-down of Flight PS752. We thank Mr. Goodale for his dedication, heartfelt work, and thoughtful recommendations.

"When Iran shot down a Ukrainian commercial jetliner, Flight PS752, it took the lives of 176 innocent people, including 138 with ties to Canada. The report provides valuable recommendations to identify lessons learned from this air disaster as well as those of Air India Flight 182 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302. Its findings will be used to establish best practices to respond to future international air disasters. "The report also highlights the importance of paying close attention to the needs of the families of victims of air tragedies, which must be at the heart of Canada's response. Canadians must remain steadfast in our search for the transparency, accountability and justice the families need and deserve. The report contains important recommendations on ways to improve support for the families of victims of air disasters. These include robust engagement with families, and accurate, timely, and reliable information sharing with them as quickly as possible and on an ongoing basis. We must remember and honour the precious lives lost in these international air disasters.

"Relentless pursuit of the truth about what happened is absolutely vital. To that end, the Special Advisor has posed vital questions that Iran should answer comprehensively, with supporting evidence, to demonstrate the credibility of its investigations, and to convince the international civil aviation community that Iran can provide a safe airspace. The report strongly endorses Canada's "Safer Skies" initiative to help keep civilian aircraft away from dangerous conflict zones, and offers advice to improve the quality of safety investigations into air tragedies where military activity is the prime culprit. "The Government of Canada is acting quickly to address the recommendations in Special Advisor Goodale's report as we approach the first anniversary of Iran's downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752. "Canada continues to work with international partners to pursue thorough and credible investigations into Iran's shooting-down of this aircraft as we seek transparency, accountability, and justice for the victims and their families."

## Markham approves zero per cent property tax rate increase to support the community during the pandemic

**MARKHAM**— Markham Council approved the City's 2021 Budget of \$520.9M on December 9.

The zero per cent property tax rate increase will help Markham property owners to better weather these uncertain and challenging times that the community continues to deal with during COVID-19. The budget preserves, and in some cases exceeds, current service levels, and continues investments in Council-approved priorities in a responsible manner as we remain prudent with our assets while we push forward towards pandemic recovery.

Similar to what other municipalities are experiencing, the Markham economy has been negatively impacted by the effects of COVID-19. The City anticipates 2021 will be a difficult year for the community and as a result, Council knew it was important to approve a zero per cent property tax rate increase.

Council approved property tax and fee relief measures earlier this year to help residents and businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. These measures are scheduled to end on December 31, 2020.

In anticipation that COVID-19 will continue to impact many Markham property taxpayers, in 2021, Markham Council has approved a new Property Tax and Stormwater Fee Payment Deferral Program to support property owners who have been financially affected by COVID-19. This assistance is by application only and is meant to aid residential and business property owners who require payment flexibility throughout the 2021 taxation year. More information about this program and eligibility requirements can be found at [markham.ca/TaxRelief](https://markham.ca/TaxRelief).



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# MINISTER MENDICINO ANNOUNCES INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN RURAL AND NORTHERN IMMIGRATION PILOT AND WELCOMES PRACTICAL NURSES

**Ottawa:** The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship announced changes to make the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) more flexible for applicants and welcomed the first two practical nurses under the Pilot to Sault St. Marie.

The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot is a community-driven program that spreads the benefits of economic immigration to smaller communities. It helps these communities to attract the workers they need by creating a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers.

Under the changes to the program, candidates will no longer have to obtain eligible work experience over a continuous period of time. Instead, they can demonstrate that they have accumulated the required 1 year of eligible work experience (1,560 hours) in the 3 years preceding their application, even if there were breaks in their employment. The policy applies to all applications received under the Pilot, as well as all future applications going forward.

Altering this requirement ensures that candidates are not penalized for short breaks in their employment history, including temporary work interruptions or layoffs caused by the pandemic.

Individuals must still meet all other existing admissibility and program requirements, including the recommendation process in the participating RNIP community in which they wish to settle.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has also introduced a temporary measure that allows RNIP applicants who are waiting for a decision on their permanent residence application to apply for a work permit without being penalized due to processing delays caused

by the pandemic.

These measures come as IRCC announces the first permanent residents accepted under RNIP. Minister Mendicino spoke of how proud he was to welcome Alexander Nangpukin Likilasua and Brilla Mercy Kunjumon, who are working as licensed practical nurses in Sault Ste. Marie, and how grateful he is for their service and dedication to their patients during the pandemic.

**Quotes**

“Newcomers have played an outsized role in our hospitals and long-term care homes during the pandemic. They also account for roughly 1 in 4 of Canada’s licensed practical nurses—like Alexander and Brilla—and 1 in 3 of our family doctors and pharmacists. The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot and other pilots are helping to get the workers we need to places like Sault Ste. Marie, where we need them. We’re going to continue working to ensure that the benefits of immigration are felt in cities and towns across our country.”

– The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, P.C., M.P., Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

“Strong economies in rural Canada benefit all Canadians. That’s why our government has invested in universal broadband and rural infrastructure, and so strongly supported our growers and producers. Our government has heard from rural leaders across the country. We have heard the call for growing the skilled workforce in rural communities through immigration. The Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot will create jobs and increase Canada’s competitive advantage.”

– The Honourable Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P., Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development.

## PEEL POLICE OFFICER AND COMMUNITY ICON PASSES AWAY SUDDENLY

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

The passing of Constable Wright has had a profound impact on all of us at Peel Regional Police. Constable Wright was an iconic figure in the community that he faithfully served for so many years.

For the last four years, Constable Wright has been assigned to Corporate Communications as a media officer. He provided the public with countless updates, interviews, and social media posts, ensuring that our community and beyond have been well informed of crucial and timely information. Constable Wright was an active member of a number of community and professional groups, all of which he has contributed significantly to over the years.

Constable Wright will be remembered for his love of his daughters, his passion for sports, his unforgettable voice, and his laugh that filled the room.

The flags at Peel Regional Police will fly at half-mast in his memory.

## MiWay Routes Going to New Kipling Bus Terminal Starting January 4

Starting Monday, January 4, 2021, MiWay will begin offering services at the new Kipling Bus Terminal, part of the Kipling Transit Hub. The new Kipling Bus Terminal, located at Dundas Street and Subway Crescent in Toronto, connects MiWay (express and local) to the Toronto Transit Commission (subway and bus) and the Government of Ontario’s GO Transit (train and bus) under one transit hub, creating easy and convenient access for commuters. All MiWay routes that previously ended at Islington Station will end at the new Kipling Bus Terminal, which was constructed by Metrolinx. With this change, 10 MiWay routes will no longer service TTC Islington Station.

“This investment is significant and builds important connections to and from Mississauga, offering additional transit options to commuters and expanding Mississauga’s transit network,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. “This project not only responds to growing traffic congestion, it also supports the economic growth and prosperity of Mississauga and the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA). Thank you to the teams at Ontario’s Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx and the City of Mississauga for working together and seeing this project to completion. This is a big step forward in building, connecting and delivering a world-class transit system to commuters in the GTHA.”

Route 26 Burnhamthorpe will service Islington Station via on-street stops (eastbound and westbound) before ending at the new Kipling Bus Terminal. “Mississauga’s transit system has been servicing Islington Station for almost 40 years. It has played an important role in connecting commuters to Mississauga and Toronto,” said Geoff Marinoff, Director, Transit. “With strategic investments being made to regional transit networks, and with provincial funding being made available to support the new Kipling Bus Terminal, commuters will more seamlessly be able to travel throughout the GTHA. This integration allows MiWay to connect commuters to multiple transit options while delivering safe, reliable and comfortable service to reach their destinations. It also improves connectivity, accessibility and other services to enhance the commuting experience and reduce wait times between transit connections.”

## ONTARIO TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE IMPAIRED DRIVING

**TORONTO** —The Ontario government is investing \$4.8 million through the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) grant program to help police services across the province keep impaired drivers off streets and highways. 171 police services will receive funding to carry out important year-round road safety initiatives such as education campaigns and roadside spot checks.

"Driving impaired, whether from drugs or alcohol is not only illegal, it can be fatal. Making alternate plans to get home safely only takes a minute, and it can save your life and the lives of others," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the holiday season upon us, education campaigns and roadside spot checks are vital tools in the police arsenal to inform people about the dangers of driving impaired and the ways to keep our roads and highways safe."

RIDE grant funding will be used to cover the overtime of sworn officers and paid duty RIDE activities over 2020-21 and 2021-22. All municipal and First Nations police services and OPP municipal contract locations are eligible for funding under the RIDE grant program.

"Ontario has among the safest roads in North America and we are committed to making them even safer," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "There is no reason anyone should be driving a vehicle after they have been drinking. There are plenty of alternative ways for people to avoid drinking and driving, including the use of our excellent public transit systems."

As Ontarians prepare to celebrate the holiday season, they are reminded to make plans to get home safely. They can arrange for a designated driver, order a taxi or rideshare, or take public transit. They should also take immediate action if they see someone who may be impaired by arranging a ride for them or even calling 911 if someone is a risk to themselves and others.

**QUICK FACTS**

According to provincial data, more than 1,700 people have died and over 25,000 people have been injured in collisions involving an impaired driver in the last decade in Ontario.

Drivers found to be driving while impaired will face penalties immediately. They will also face additional consequences if convicted in court. Impaired driving penalties can vary depending on the driver’s age, licence type, the amount of alcohol or drugs in their system, and how many times they have offended.

## FORD NEEDS TO MAKE PEEL A PRIORITY FOR VACCINE ROLLOUT

**TORONTO** - Mike Schreiner released the following statement regarding Ontario’s public health update:

“Like many Ontarians, I felt hope and relief as a long-term care worker received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine today. Ontario’s healthcare workers are the heroes of this pandemic and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

But we have a long way to go and continuing to follow public health guidelines are crucial. Ontario is not out of the woods yet - not even close. Dr. Williams’ projection that we will reach 2000 daily cases very soon is disturbing news for hot zones and communities that have been hit hard.

It’s important that Peel is prioritized in the rollout of vaccines. It’s no secret Peel’s hospitals and healthcare workers are overwhelmed. Peel region has consistently had high case counts throughout the second wave along with Toronto.

Premier Ford needs to understand how dire the situation in Peel is and make it a priority for vaccines.

But Doug Ford isn’t answering questions anymore. By cancelling his covid briefings, Ford has washed his hands of the pandemic and left Dr. Williams to fend for the government.”



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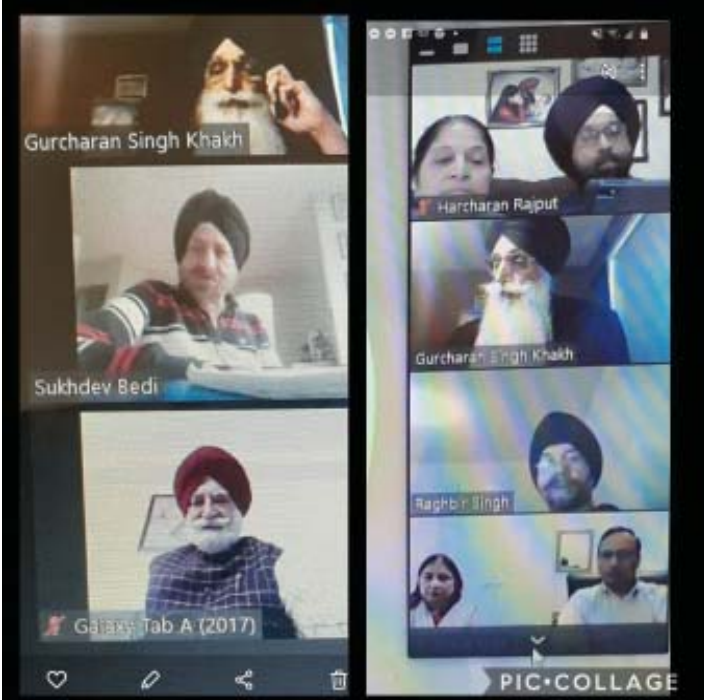
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# PSB Seniors Club Canada organized virtually "Festival Celebration"



**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**  
The program started with the Shabad Kirtan 'Mere Lal Jio tera aant na jana' performed by S.Prabhdyal Singh Khanna Smt. Meeta Khanna and their family members in connection with the 551 birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.  
Mr. Karamjot Singh Marwaha performed Vocal Qawwali. Mrs. Jayshri Vyas spoke about the importance of Diwali festival which is considered as the festival of light and cleanliness. Almost each member of the society celebrate Diwali.  
Mrs. Sukhjot Kaur recites a beautiful poem in Punjabi title 'Punjab Di Beti'. And described about the current situation of farmers in Punjab. Mrs. Malook Singh Kahlon described the rich cultural value of Mother language Punjabi and recited a Punjabi poetry. Sukhdev Singh Bedi Director of the Club described about the importance of Brain Health for the seniors. At the old age brain shrinks and memory losses which leads to Alzheimer. He described about the importance of exercise at the old age and to remain busy with some activity even if one can solve the math question of primary level. He also explained there are



some courses for the seniors at York University. One should take at least 8 hours of sleep. Lack of sleep and Corona stress affect brain. He also talked about the importance of dehydration and emphasized the need of taking 7 to 8 glass of water during the day.  
Mr. Amarjot Singh Sandhu, MPP also spoke about the active participation of PSB Seniors Club in helping and serving the community and stated the this Club is one of the best club in Brampton by keeping in touch with the seniors in this hour of pandemic. He further stated that the senior's community social grant is available. He thanked that during lock down this is one of the best efforts of the members of the Club to remain in touch and sharing such important issues relating the health of the seniors.  
Mr. Nirmal Singh Virk welcomed the management of the Club by uniting the retirees. He talked about the recent developments in the fixing of the pension of the retirees.  
Mr. Kushpaul Khurana share his poem in Punjabi about - 'What Life Is' in which he stated to be always happy and prosperous and



be thankful to Almighty God for this human life.  
Principal Raja Singh spoke about Bandi Chhode Dives which is also known as Diwali Festival and is celebrated in different countries of the world by different communities like Hindus, Sikhs, Muslim, Jain etc. He specially talked about the release of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji the 6th Sikh Guru from the imprisonment of Mughal emperor.  
Tejinder Singh recited Gurbani kirtan.  
Harcharan Singh Secretary of the Club spoke on the life of Dr Inderjit Singh Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank. Doctor sahib was born on November 11,1911 in a small village in Pakistan and obtained the degree of B.com from Hailey college of Commerce and started his carrier in Central Bank in Multan and joined the Punjab & Sind Bank in 1960 as General Manager and served as Chairman from 1969 to 1982 with 13 branches, He gave employments to more than 18000 Gursikhs. He died on 4th October 1998. In the end of the program Mr. Gurcharan Singh Khakh thanked all the members of the Club for participating and virtually enjoying the 'Festival Celebration' with the hope to meet soon for another virtual meeting.

# BRAMPTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2021 BUDGET WITH THIRD CONSECUTIVE TAX FREEZE AND RECORD CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**  
The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected residents and businesses, and the 2021 Budget aims to support and strengthen our community as a result. This Budget focuses on a lower baseline budget to maintain service levels, and timely investments to build a connected, vibrant, green,

and healthy and safe city that nurtures economic growth opportunities.  
**By the numbers**  
• The approved 2021 Budget will result in a 0% property tax freeze on the City's portion of the tax bill  
• The City's net operating expenditures are increasing by \$13.4M. This will be funded through assessment growth and a lower baseline budget.  
• The total 2021 Budget is \$1.2B, consisting of a \$767M Operating budget (Staff salaries, maintenance, utilities, reserves) and a \$476M Capital budget (Purchase, major repair and replacement of assets: roads, buildings, etc.).  
• The City's Budget includes the largest-ever annual contribution of \$114M to City reserves, strengthening financial position and preparing for future contingencies and emergencies, and supporting infrastructure and transit  
**Highlights**  
• \$26.1M over three years as part of City investment with the Riverwalk project in downtown Brampton to boost economic opportunities and mitigate flood risks  
• \$10M to support healthy community living  
• \$1.5M over three years to implement the Environmental Master Plan, to expedite the implementation of climate change, sustainability, and natural heritage priorities  
• \$250,000 to continue the Community Garden and Backyard Garden Programs, eco-friendly initiatives to help support food security  
• Eight replacement buses to maintain fleet reliability; 40 new transit shelters; \$175M towards third transit maintenance and storage facility to meet future growth  
• Strengthening the Innovation District in downtown Brampton by attracting activity through: Brampton Entrepreneur Centre, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, Ryerson Venture Zone, Research Innovation and Commercial-

ization Centre  
• Strengthening Enforcement resources to keeping our community safe and responsive to increased demand in service  
**Shaped by the community**  
The City invited the public to provide their input on the 2021 Budget, including by email, phone, and a telephone town hall that engaged approximately 7,850 participants. The City also heard from many residents, organizations and stakeholders that presented to the Budget Committee in November.  
**Quotes**  
"With financial responsibility top of mind, we will deliver Brampton's third consecutive tax freeze to support our community through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Budget also maintains a record contribution to reserves to keep up the investment momentum in priorities that shape our future, such as transportation, sustainability, economic growth, and healthy living."  
- Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton; Chair, Budget Committee  
"The people of Brampton made their choice clear about the importance of maintaining service levels and keeping their tax bill affordable. We engaged with more than 7,850 participants during our budget process and focused on delivering the best value for our citizens and excellence in the services we provide for our diverse, vibrant community."  
- Paul Vicente, Regional Councillor, Wards 1&5; Vice-Chair, Budget Committee  
"The City's strong financial position was a driving factor in our efforts to maximize value for taxpayers. The 2021 Budget makes robust investments for our community's wellbeing and economic prospects now and into the future. I thank staff for being agile and responsive to ensuring that the investments align with Term of Council priorities."  
- David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Brampton

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647-272-8182

**GURPREET SINGH LOONA**  
CONTENT EDITOR

**DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**SIA LAKHANPAL**  
**REBECCA TANDON**  
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# MPP SANDHU AND MINISTER SARKARIA ANNOUNCE MORE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR BRAMPTON

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**  
"This crucial funding will provide Brampton with the support it needs to continue delivering critical services that are so essential to our community," said MPP Sandhu. "Today's important announcement will assist the city in developing a 2021 budget that reflects the reality of COVID-19 and give them the reassurance they need to move forward with capital projects that will drive economic growth and prosperity."  
"This significant funding of over \$27.48 million will help Brampton recover from the impacts of COVID-19 faster, by helping them enter into 2021 without operating deficits from this year," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Small Business and MPP for Brampton South. "This is great news for our local community and will allow our city to plan ahead for the coming year with confidence."  
The Ontario government is allocating an additional \$695 million across the province to provide financial relief for municipalities and help ensure they do not carry operating deficits into 2021. This investment builds upon the first phase of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement announced this summer. Of the \$695 million announced today, \$299 million is being allocated across all 444 municipalities to help provide more financial relief, as 2021 operating budgets are finalized. An additional \$396 million is also being allocated to 48 municipalities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and who have demonstrated a need for additional assistance in covering their 2020 operating deficits.

**QUICK FACTS**  
• The federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement is a historic partnership that secured up to \$4 billion in emergency funding for Ontario's municipalities to help them on the road to a safe recovery.  
• In August, an initial investment of \$1.6 billion was provided so every Ontario municipality could address their operating pressures, support transit systems and help vulnerable people.  
• The Ontario government has provided \$510 million to municipalities and Indigenous community partners through the Social Services Relief Fund to help protect the health and safety of vulnerable people during COVID-19.  
• The province has made an additional three-year, \$45-billion commitment to help communities recover as part of Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover. This includes critical investments in health and other initiatives, to ensure Ontario is more resilient in the future.  
• Ontario is also supporting municipalities in finding budget savings and efficiencies through the Audit and Accountability Fund and Municipal Modernization Program — supporting municipalities with third-party audits and service reviews. Municipalities have already received \$215 million through these programs.





# COVID-19 LOCKDOWN: SWEET HOME MISSISSAUGA – HOW TO SAFELY ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON



Although the message from the Government of Ontario is focused on staying home to stay safe over the holidays, that certainly doesn't mean boredom needs to set in. The City of Mississauga is offering many virtual options this winter that are not only engaging and entertaining but will also get families and individuals up and moving. "We all know that the holidays are going to look very different this year and that some of our annual holiday traditions have to be adjusted," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. "But I encourage residents to make new traditions this year, perhaps by exploring a new hobby or catching up on personal interests that help keep you motivated and active. Regardless of what it is, please celebrate safely."

While Mississauga is in the Grey-Lockdown phase of the Government of Ontario's Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework, it's important to become familiar with both the activities that will keep the City in this zone and the behaviours that will help Mississauga emerge from the grey.

"The message is simple, only celebrate in-person with the people you live with and celebrate virtually with everyone else," said Mayor Crombie. "Avoid parties and large dinners with guests and think of new ways to make the holidays special while remaining safe."

### Naughty list

As part of the Lockdown measures, the following are not permitted in Peel Region, which includes Mississauga:

- Indoor social gatherings, except for a gathering of members of a single household or a gathering that includes members of a household and one other person from outside that household who lives alone.
- Outdoor gatherings are permitted with 10 people or less with physical distancing.

### Nice list

Mississauga is making it easy to keep residents on the nice list this year by offering plenty of fun activities that can be done from the comfort and safety of home sweet home.

At-home learning, entertainment and fitness options that will fit in any stocking

### Current interests and new hobbies

- The Mississauga Symphony Orchestra will be livestreaming its holiday concert on Sunday, December 20
- A virtual tour of the WAR Flowers exhibition is available. WAR Flowers is an exhibit focused on 10 flowers picked by Canadian soldier Lieutenant-Colonel George Stephen Cantlie during the First World War. The virtual tour includes Cantlie's letters, specially commissioned optical crystal sculptures and original flower-based scents, interwoven with the personal stories of 10 Canadians directly involved in the war.
- In support of the WAR Flowers exhibition, an online speaker series will also be available. participants in the series include:
  - o Viveka Melki and Alexander Reford on Creating WAR Flowers
  - o Lawrence Hill in conversation with Natasha Henry in an Online Author's Talk
  - o Darin Wybenga on the Veterans of the Mississaugas of the Credit
  - o Pardeep Singh Nagra on Brothers in Arms - The Sikhs in WWI
  - o Matthew Wilkinson on Our Boys - Mississauga Remembers the First World War

### Staying apart, together

- Starting on December 10, the Museums of Mississauga will be spreading holiday cheer virtually, with bake-along videos and

downloadable recipes of classic Christmas desserts including gingerbread and Christmas pudding.

- Story time with family has always been a favourite, safe holiday activity. To keep this warm tradition alive, starting the week of December 14, Mississauga Library will feature five live story times and will be posting short holiday-themed videos on the City's YouTube channel. The story times and videos will feature songs, stories and rhymes with broad and inclusive festive themes. The story times will be live on the Mississauga Library Facebook channel and will remain on the site for one week following the live airing.

### Entertain me

- Need music and movies to make the holiday season merrier? Mississauga Library can grant that streaming wish with Hoopla. Hoopla has all members of the family covered so no one can complain they're bored this winter. From holiday movie favourites, Christmas romance classics and kid-friendly comedies to memorable holiday tunes, classic, seasonal jazz and family celebration books, this holiday is going to be an unforgettable one.

- Mississauga Celebration Square invites residents to ring in 2021 in style at home with a special New Year's Eve playlist available December 31 on Spotify and Apple Music. The "MCS NYE Playlist" will feature this year's top tracks, including music from Mississauga artists. Listeners are encouraged to tag @mcsevents in all social posts when sharing the playlist from December 31 to January 3 for a chance to win a \$100 Tim Horton's gift card.

### Active and relaxed

- Mississauga's Recreation Division has developed their Stay Home Stay Active program designed to get every member of the family up and moving or calm and relaxed depending on your holiday state of mind. Check the site for workouts, meditation and movement, nutrition and lifestyle tips and virtual activities for older adults.
- If extra encouragement is needed, the City's recreation team offers live Virtual Fitness Classes with certified fitness instructors. Try one class or join for all the sessions, there's something for everyone ranging from beginners to advanced fitness levels.
- Don't close the Stay Home Stay Active webpage without first checking out the Family Fun Corner to see all of the creative and easy recreational activities that can be done at home.

### Worship safely

- Attend holiday services virtually or by livestream only.

### Gifts and donations

- Shop local and support small businesses. Ask about curbside pick-up, delivery, and online shopping options.
- If you're sharing gifts with people outside your home, exchange online gifts to avoid physical contact. Check #MississaugaMade for options.
- Not only is buying local great and necessary for the city's small businesses, with the help of a new contest, it's also an amazing option for the buyer. From now until December 30, shoppers who buy or order from local businesses either online or in-person can enter for a chance to win one of 20 \$100 VISA pre-paid gift cards. Shoppers enter online and indicate which local business they supported.

## Ontario Helps Protect Vulnerable People During COVID-19

**MISSISSAUGA** —Nina Tangri, MPP for Mississauga-Streetsville announced that Peel Region will receive an additional \$5,669,000 in social services relief funding. The discretionary funding can be used to improve the delivery of critical services, protect homeless shelter staff and residents, renovate and purchase shelter facilities, add to rent banks, create longer-term housing solutions and support plans to prepare for potential future outbreaks and/or emergencies. "Our government is responding to the ongoing needs of COVID-19 by providing more flexible funding to keep our vulnerable citizens safe," said MPP Tangri. "We know that COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of having a place to call home, and this additional funding will help ensure everyone can find – and keep – a safe and secure roof over their head."

The Ontario government is allocating an additional \$120 million across the province to help municipalities and Indigenous community partners protect vulnerable people during COVID-19. This investment builds upon the second phase of social services relief funding announced this fall. "Our government continues to respond to the pandemic with significant investments for our municipal and Indigenous partners," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "As the public health situation continues to evolve, we are providing more support, so our partners are in a better position to protect those who need it most." "Responding to COVID-19 and protecting lives requires the whole community working together, which means we need to be there for the vulnerable people who experience the health, social and economic impacts most acutely," said Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair and CEO of the Regional Municipality of Peel. "Since the pandemic began, the Province has provided timely and valuable support that has helped Peel respond to the human needs that have been exacerbated by this crisis and we look forward to continuing these partnerships through to recovery."

Today's announcement is part of the government's \$510 million investment through the Social Services Relief Fund to help protect the health and safety of vulnerable people across the province.

### QUICK FACTS

- \* In March, Ontario launched the Social Services Relief Fund with an initial allocation of \$148 million to help protect the health and safety of vulnerable people during COVID-19.
- \* In October, over \$241 million was allocated to municipalities and Indigenous community partners to help improve shelters and create opportunities for longer-term housing.

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## Ontario Unveils New Comprehensive Plan to Combat Poverty

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government released its new Poverty Reduction Strategy today which will help more people get back to work and participate in the province’s economic recovery from COVID-19. The five-year strategy outlines key initiatives that will help connect people experiencing poverty with education, skills training, health and other supports, while helping people keep more of their hard-earned money. “While COVID-19 has taken a toll on the economy, we recognize it has had a greater impact on youth, women, Black and racialized, and Indigenous workers,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. “Without coordinated action, there is a real risk many people will find it harder to escape poverty.” The new strategy Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario was developed after extensive consultation, including an online survey and engagement with Indigenous partners and municipal committees. It is focused on: Encouraging job creation and connecting people to employment - making investments in education, employment services, and training programs so people can get the skills and experience they need. Connecting people with the right supports and services - improving access to supports that address health and well-being and enabling access

to education, training, and employment, leading to increased community participation. Making life more affordable and building financial resiliency - reducing the cost of living, protecting consumers, and helping people keep more of their hard-earned money. Accelerating action and driving progress - using evidence and working across sectors to support economic recovery and developing integrated solutions that better connect the province’s health, social, and economic systems. “Though COVID-19 has presented many new social and economic challenges, our government is committed to mitigating the damage caused by the outbreak. Our new poverty reduction strategy will play a key part in Ontario’s economic recovery and long-term economic growth,” said Minister Smith. “Employment services and training programs can play a critical role in helping people lift themselves out of poverty and manage through these difficult times,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “That’s why we continue to invest in new programs and improve our existing services to help people find and keep good jobs. This is part of Ontario’s comprehensive effort to continue to protect and support workers, and to help those who have been particularly hard hit by job losses because of COVID-19.”

## Ontario Updates Testing Guidelines for Outbound International Travellers

**TORONTO** — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is updating the province’s testing guidelines for outbound international travellers. Effective December 11, 2020, individuals requesting a COVID-19 test for international travel clearance are no longer eligible for a publicly funded COVID-19 test in Ontario. This step is being taken to ensure taxpayer dollars are appropriately allocated to key priorities and to preserve capacity within the provincially funded COVID-19 testing network. The province continues to provide testing to anyone who needs a test per provincial testing guidelines at no cost. This includes people who are symptomatic, or people who have been in contact with someone who has symptoms. “As the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed, we have continued to adapt our approach to testing and the services we have made available,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “While international travellers are no longer eligible to receive a publicly funded COVID-19 test, we remain committed to ensuring that anyone who needs a test can get one quickly, at no cost.” This fall, the province updated Ontario’s testing guidelines to prioritize those who are at greatest risk of getting the virus. Anyone who falls within the current Provincial Testing Guidance should continue to seek publicly funded testing, available at participating pharmacies and assessment centres. International travellers are recommended to consult their travel carrier’s guidelines to ensure they have the most up-to-date information. They should also refer to the federal government’s travel website for up-to-date expectations and requirements related to their destination. If a COVID-19 test is required, it is important to leave ample time for testing and to receive results. COVID-19 testing services are readily available and travellers in need of a test can now find convenient local options, including private testing facilities such as a travel clinic. The best way to stop COVID-19 is to limit close contacts to the people you live with. As such, travel is not recommended, and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you are considering travel and/or overnight stays, consider whether you, someone you live with, or anyone you plan to visit with is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. As the province prepares to roll out its phased vaccination program and heads into the holiday season, the government is urging all Ontarians to continue to follow all required public health measures and public health advice.

## COVID-19 Lockdown - Weekend Enforcement Results in Dozens of Tickets for Private Gatherings

Mississauga has been in the Grey-Lockdown Level of the Government of Ontario’s Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework since Monday, November 23. Since that time, the City has issued 126 charges and 90 notices of contravention (NOCs). Specifically, this last weekend saw 37 tickets and seven NOCs. Four tickets were issued to non-essential businesses and the remaining 33 tickets were issued to individuals at private gatherings at four separate locations. “Now that we are three weeks into the lockdown, businesses and residents should be well aware of the restrictions in place to protect the health and safety of our community,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. “Our enforcement staff are working to enforce these measures, to help keep people safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. I know as the holidays approach, it is tempting to gather with family and friends, but I want to remind you that these actions will be met with a fine or even worse, the spread of COVID-19 to your family and friends.” As part of the Grey-Lockdown Level restrictions, no indoor organized events or private gatherings (except with members of the same household) may take place, indoor and outdoor restaurant service is prohibited and non-essential retail is permitted to be open for curbside pickup or delivery only. Failure to comply with these orders may result in a set fine (ticket) of \$750. If the charge is laid by issuing a summons, a failure to comply with an emergency order could result in a fine up to \$100,000 and up to one year imprisonment for an individual, \$500,000 for a director or officer of a corporation or \$10,000,000 for a corporation upon conviction. “Since moving into Lockdown Level, our Enforcement Division has seen a significant increase in both public complaints and violations. This last weekend, violations were observed in various sectors including fitness, restaurants and cafes and retail stores, but the majority of tickets issued this weekend were for private gatherings,” said Sam Rogers, Director of Enforcement. “The vast majority of businesses and residents are complying but there are no exceptions to the rules. We will continue to enforce and issue tickets to those who violate the restrictions as they put the health and safety of all residents at risk.” For information on how to protect yourself and others during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [peelregion.ca/coronavirus](https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus).



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# OVER 60,000 FARMERS PROTESTING AT DELHI BORDERS, SITUATION UNSUSTAINABLE: POLICE



Farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are protesting over the past few weeks at the borders of the national capital. The agriculture bills, which the government says would bring in reforms to Indian agriculture, have resulted in widespread protests among the farmers. The protests are intensifying with every passing day as thousands of more protesters are joining the agitation each day. The crowd at the Delhi-Haryana border has become so huge that the Haryana police has termed the situation as 'unsustainable', warning that the borders can't take more people. Over 60,000 protestors are camping at the borders, the state police have said even though farmer leaders claim the number is much higher. Other than Punjab and Haryana, the protest is seeing participation from the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country.

Check posts have been installed by the police at Punjab and Haryana borders to restrict further movement. "The idea is that people feel there is police presence at the borders to minimise movement of protesters," a Haryana police officer was quoted by The Indian Express as saying. "We have made preparations that if we need to seal the borders, we should be able to do it. As of now, borders have not been sealed to avoid inconvenience to commuters," Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava told IE. On Monday, at least 40 farmer leaders of the Sanyukt Morcha sat on a hunger strike at the Singhu Border and Singari Border of Delhi to protest against the new farm laws. Farmers were also on hunger strike at all toll plazas including Ghazipur. Apart from this, farmers protested at district headquarters across the country. Delhi govern-

ment ministers and MLAs also sat on a dharna. Meanwhile, a group of 10 farmers' unions from seven states on Monday extended their support to the Central government over its decision to undertake the necessary amendments in the three contentious farm laws. Under the banner of the All-India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC), the group of farmers belonging to states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Maharashtra, the unions were convinced that the recent farm acts are for the benefit of farmers across India and will save farmers from the clutches of middlemen who exploited them over the years. The unions expressed their support after a meeting with Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at his office.

## MORE THAN 10,000 TO JOIN MEGA AGITATION ON DELHI BORDERS

The Farmers Protest is all set to intensify around the borders of National Capital Territory of Delhi with around 10,000 more protestors set to reach the Singhu border on Monday (December 14). Indications are that these group of farmers are set to arrive from Rajasthan. With the farmers' protest entering the third week, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday (December 13) accused opposition parties of running a propaganda against the new farm laws and asserted that these legislations, 'may cause difficulty for some in the short term' but will be beneficial to farmers in the long run. Around 1.45pm on Sunday, traffic on the Delhi-Jaipur national highway stalled at Jaisingh Khara as hundreds of farmers from Rajasthan were stopped by police from going further. The Alwar administration was forced to divert the traffic through Behror-Tatarpur-Khairtal route. The resultant traffic jam stretched up to 10kms on the highway. The border was finally opened for vehicles coming from Delhi after three and a half hours, according to local officials. "We have not blocked any highway. The jam has been caused by the fact that the police have blocked us by placing barriers. We are simply trying to go to Delhi to get the government to listen to us," Amara Ram, a farmer activist from Rajasthan, was quoted as saying by press. At the Singhu border, all protestors were ready for the long haul. "We are staying here for as many months as required. If the government feels we will starve and die here, they are wrong. Each of us is a warrior and we will fight like one," Gurnam Singh, a Moga resident who has come with his entire family was quoted as saying. Around 400 policeman, including an RAF company, have been de-



ployed by Rewari police to stop more farmers from marching towards Delhi. In Punjab, farmers unions will protest on Monday (December 14) outside the offices of deputy commissioners of all districts, Reliance Group shopping malls and petrol pumps.

## Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh lashes out at Kejriwal for 'exploiting farmer stir'

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Sunday attacked his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal for "exploiting" the ongoing agitation of the farmers to "further his party's petty electoral agenda with blatant lies and brazenly false propaganda". "In sharp contrast to the Kejriwal government in Delhi, which had been thriving on corporate houses' crumbs, the Punjab government had neither signed any agreement with Adani Power nor was even aware of the private players bidding for power purchase in the state," said the Chief Minister, in a hard-hitting reaction to the latest campaign by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab. It was, in fact, the Kejriwal government that was shamelessly notifying one of the black farm laws on November 23, at a time when farmers were preparing to march to Delhi to protest these very farm laws, said Amarinder Singh. "And now they're indulging in theatrics by announcing that they'd be sitting on fast in support of the farmers' hunger strike on Monday," he added. "Do you have no shame? At a time when our farmers are braving the winter cold on the roads outside your city, and many of them are dying fighting for their rights, all you can think of is how to make the most of the opportunity to promote your political interests," he said. "Instead of doing anything constructive to help the protesting farmers, who are sitting outside his city for the past 17 days to seek justice, you and your party are busy playing politics," Amarinder Singh added. Training his gun at AAP's Bhagwant Mann "for shooting off his mouth without bothering to verify facts of the power purchase situation in Punjab", the Chief Minister said, "he was just a comedian who nobody ever took seriously". Pointing out that Punjab had been purchasing additional power to support farmers during the sowing season for years, the Chief Minister said it was obvious that Kejriwal and his party neither knew nor cared about what goes into sowing or what the needs of the farmers are. All they are concerned about is taking advantage of the plight of the farmers for their vested political interests, he added. From backstabbing the farmers by implementing one of the black farm laws to trying to dump them in a corner of Delhi, Kejriwal had proved time and again that he was no friend of the farmers, said Amarinder Singh. He warned the Delhi CM that his latest attempt to drive a wedge between the Punjab government and the farmers would not succeed. Not only has the Punjab government supported the farmers through the past three months of their agitation, it has even passed amendment Bills in the Vidhan Sabha to nullify the farm laws, he pointed out, challenging Kejriwal to cite even one example of any welfare measure taken by his government for the farmers.





## HAVE EVIDENCE TO INCRIMINATE PAKISTAN FOR SENDING TERRORISTS TO INDIA, SAYS J&K DGP



WE HAVE GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO INCRIMINATE PAKISTAN FOR NOT ONLY TRAINING PEOPLE BUT ALSO FOR SENDING TERRORIST OUTFITS TO INDIA, SAID J&K DGP.

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh on Monday stated that there is "enough evidence" to incriminate Pakistan for not only training people but also sending terrorists to India. "We have got enough evidence to incriminate Pakistan for not only training people but also for sending terrorist outfits to India to disturb the ongoing District Development Council poll process. This (Poonch) incident is also part of the same conspiracy. We will book the accused soon," DGP Singh said on yesterday's Poonch encounter. Two terrorists were gunned down and one was arrested by the security forces at Durgan Poshana in Poonch district on Sunday evening, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Army officials said on Monday. In a joint press conference of the police and the army, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Vivek Gupta told reporters that multiple operations were launched at multiple locations and subsequently the terrorists were gunned down. "When the operation was in its final stage, both the Army and Police gave the opportunity to terrorists trapped within our surrounded area to surrender. One terrorist was arrested alive while trying to escape from the area and the other two were shot dead after two- to three-hour-long operation," he said. "We are capable enough to foil such terror activities in the area," he said. Informing about the recoveries, Officiating Commanding Officer

SK Sharma said, "The police recovered two AK-47, six AK-47 magazines, 300 AK-47 ammunition, one under barrel grenade launcher (UBGL), one Satphone, 12 grenades, 300 explosives, three mobiles and Rs 26,000 from the terrorists." "We received information on December 9 that two or three terrorists were hiding in Poshana area. We launched different operations and tracked them. These terrorists were constantly trying to escape from us and reach either South Kashmir or interrupt DDC elections. But we believed that they cannot escape from us due to the heavy snowfall in the area. We blocked all roads and gave them many chances to surrender but they opened fire on us. In response to their firing the encounter took place," he added. Sharma also thanked the Jammu and Kashmir police, civil administration and residents of the area who helped them by giving information. Meanwhile, the wreath-laying ceremony of Manzoor Ahmad, the Personal Security Officer of Peoples Democratic Party leader Haji Parvaiz Ahmed, who lost his life in firing by terrorists, was held in Srinagar. The Jammu and Kashmir Police said terrorists had fired at the PSO in the Natipora area and he was immediately shifted to the hospital for treatment. The police said he succumbed to his injuries. Haji Parvez had said earlier in the day that two unknown persons entered his house. "My Personal Security Officer was injured during the fire exchange. This is the third attempt of attack on me," he had said.

## UP GEARS UP FOR COVID VACCINATION, CANCELS ALL LEAVES OF HEALTH OFFICIALS TILL JAN 31

The Uttar Pradesh government has taken a big decision in view of the COVID vaccination that is going to start this month. The government has canceled all types of leaves of all officers and employees of the Medical and Health Department with immediate effect. These include doctors, nurses, contract workers and daily wage workers. An order in this regard has been issued by the Director-General of Medical, Health and Family Welfare. According to the order, the leaves of all officers and employees of the Medical and Health Department have been canceled till January 31 next year except this month. At the same time, the officers and employees on leave have been instructed to contribute to their duty at their office from December 16. Meanwhile, around 23,000 people including frontline workers have been identified for coronavirus vaccination in the first phase in Gorakhpur, said Chief Medical Officer of Gorakhpur District Hospital Dr Shrikant Tiwari. "The government has conveyed to us that COVID-19 vaccine will be available by Jan or Feb. We have been asked to get ready. We have done three types of preparations. In the first phase, frontline workers-

doctors, paramedics, hospital staff including those from private as well will be given the vaccine. We have identified around 23,000 people for vaccination in the first phase," ANI quoted Tiwari as saying. "A room is being built for storage of the vaccine. We have already received three deep freezers. The line listing has started for those people who will administer the vaccine to people. We are ready to start the vaccination drive as soon as the government issues orders in this regard," he added. Earlier on December 11, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had claimed that while a vaccine against COVID-19 was just about a month away, the infectious virus had already been contained in the state. "We are about a month away from the COVID-19 vaccine and the state has already contained the pandemic. Developed countries like the US registered a Covid-19 death rate of about 8 percent, but Uttar Pradesh only saw 1.04 per cent of Covid-19 deaths," Adityanath had said. Pharmaceutical companies Pfizer India, Serum Institute of India (SII), and Bharat Biotech have already applied to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking emergency use authorisation of their respective COVID vaccines.

## BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT JP NADDA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, ISOLATES HIMSELF AT HOME

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Jagat Prakash Nadda tested positive for COVID-19 today, December 13. Taking to social networking site Twitter, JP Nadda, 60, said he is in home isolation and is following all COVID-19 protocols. He also appealed to people who came in contact with him in the past few days to get tested for the infection. "Observing the initial symptoms of coronavirus, I got myself tested and the report came back positive. My health is fine, I am following all the guidelines and I am in home isolation on the advice of doctors. My request is, whoever has come in contact in the last few days, please isolate yourself and get yourself tested," he tweeted. Nadda had recently visited West Bengal as part of his 120-days nationwide tour. Several politicians and ministers in the past have been affected by the COVID-19 virus. Some of the important names are Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, Transport minister Nitin Gadkari, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

## PUNJAB DIG (PRISONS) LAKHWINDER SINGH JAKHAR RESIGNS FROM POST IN SUPPORT OF FARMERS' PROTEST

Punjab's Deputy Inspector General, Jails, Lakhwinder Singh Jakhar on Sunday submitted his resignation in protest against the contentious farm laws, saying "he's a farmer first and a police officer later". Jakhar, 56, who was suspended in May for allegedly taking monthly bribe from jail officials, was reinstated two months ago. In his resignation letter, Jakhar, who also served the Indian Army, wrote: "I am a farmer first and a police officer later. Whatever position I have got today, it is because my father worked as a farmer in the fields and he made me study. Hence, I owe my everything to farming." He told the media that his mother encouraged him to resign so as to sit with farmers in Delhi. "I am likely to visit Delhi soon," he added. Meanwhile, the farmers' agitation entered its 18th day on Sunday, with farmers threatening to block the Delhi-Jaipur highway. "Thousands of farmers will begin a tractor march from Shahjahanpur in Rajasthan and block the Jaipur-Delhi main road," Sanyukta Kisan Andolan leader Kamal Preet Singh Pannu had said on Saturday. The farmer union leaders have also said they will sit on a hunger strike from 8 am to 5 pm on December 14 at Singhu border. Farmers have been protesting in and around the national capital since November 26 against the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance, and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

## PM MODI EXPRESSES HOPE IN INDIA BECOMING SPACE ASSETS MANUFACTURING HUB



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday interacted with key industries, startups and academia from the space sector through video conferencing to encourage their participation in space activities. He also expressed hope that the country would soon become a manufacturing hub of space assets. The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister took the decision in June this year to open up the space sector and enable the participation of Indian private sector in the entire gamut of space activities. With the creation of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), the government believes the reforms will provide a level playing field for private companies and start-ups. Subsequently, several ventures have submitted proposals with IN-SPACe under the Department of Space. The proposals pertain to a vast range of activities including satellite constellation, small satellite launch vehicles, ground station, geospatial services, propulsion systems and application products. The Prime Minister said that the decision to unlock India's potential in the space sector has heralded a new age of public-private partnership in this sector. He assured the participants of complete and wholehearted support of the government in this endeavour. He noted that the professionalism and transparency in policies, as well as the decision-making process of the government, will prove beneficial for the companies joining the space sector. Taking note of the plans of companies to make rockets and satellites, Modi remarked that this marks a big change that will further strengthen India's foray into the space sector. He said that private investment in the sector will lead to the creation of hi-tech jobs, which will provide a host of opportunities to the talent pool in IITs/NITs and other technical institutions. He said that it is his firm belief that just like Indian talent has been able to attain worldwide fame in the IT sector, it will be able to do so in the space sector as well.

## Some elements are trying to mislead farmers by taking advantage of their agitation, says Nitin Gadkari



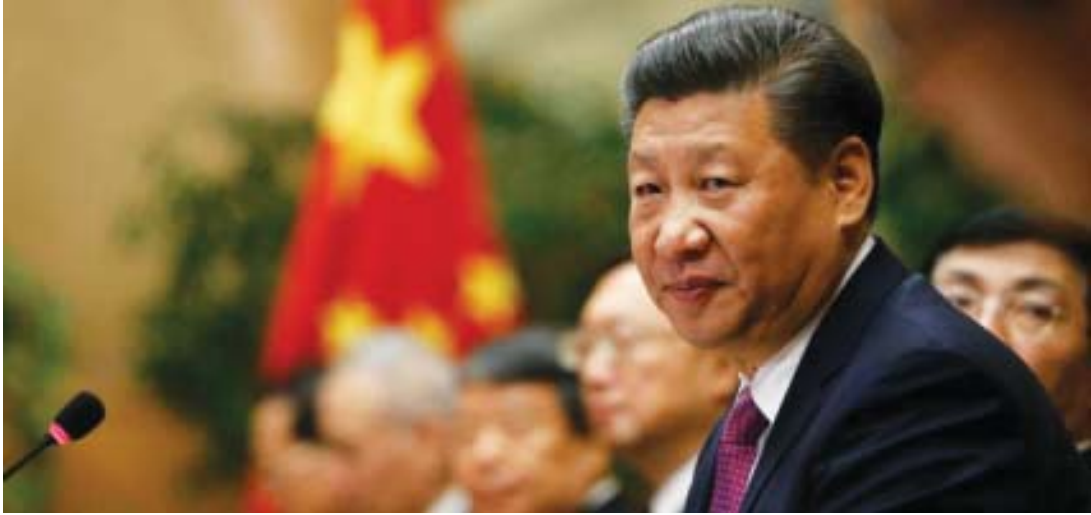
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said photographs of those "who have nothing to do directly or indirectly with demands of farmers" have been seen during the protest over three farm laws, noting that a photo of a "jailed person" from Naxal-affected Gadchiroli district was seen in the protest and also of people "who gave anti-national speeches in Delhi". Gadkari, who is Minister of Road Transport and Highways, said there are some elements who are trying to mislead the farmers by taking advantage of their agitation. "People who gave anti-national speeches in Delhi, who have no relation with the country and farmers, who have nothing to do directly or indirectly with the demands of farmers, their photos have been seen. Please tell me how did they come in this. There are some elements who are trying to mislead the farmers by taking advantage of the agitation. I feel it is wrong," Gadkari said.

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlights China's "unprovoked aggression", "build-up" in Ladakh

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday highlighted China's "unprovoked aggression" at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and the present "big build-up" even as the more than seven-month-long stalemate continues between the two countries. Speaking at an industry body FICCI event in Delhi, he said, "The unprovoked aggression on our Himalayan frontiers is a reminder of how the world is changing, how existing agreements are being challenged". He pointed out how "how power is being asserted not just in the Himalayas but across the Indo-Pacific and how uncertain the future of the region and world could be in this backdrop". The year 2020 saw Chinese forces not only indulging in aggressive and violent acts with India at the LAC but also threatening other countries like Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Canada, UK and trying to stake claims in the South China sea. With India, at the icy mountains of Himalayas, the situation remains tense even as Chinese forces continue the build-up despite multiple rounds of diplomatic and military talks. Singh lauded the strong response by the Indian forces so far while dealing with an aggressive China, especially at the Galwan valley. He said, "In these testing times our forces" have shown "exemplary courage and remarkable fortitude" and "they fought the PLA with utmost bravery and forced them to go back."



## China plans to use possible COVID-19 vaccine as political tool, China's vaccine diplomacy reveals



In the post-COVID-19 era, Chinese President Xi Jinping has recently announced that the COVID-19 vaccine being developed by China will become a 'global public good'. Chinese officials have begun to use a possible vaccine for the pandemic as a political tool and are thus promising early access to the vaccine to poor and developing countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other areas of the world. It has become abundantly clear that China's recent global health work is all an attempt by Beijing to control the narrative surrounding the origins and handling of the coronavirus. After appearing in the Chinese city of Wuhan late in December last year, the virus was dubbed as the 'China virus' by many heads of states including US President Donald Trump. China since then has received a lot of criticism from other nations for its inefficient handling of the outbreak, leading to the virus spreading to other parts of the world, as well as for withholding critical information regarding the virus from the world-leading to greater devastation. China has been accused of silencing individuals like Doctor Li Wenliang tried to warn the world of a deadly new cluster of viral infections.

## WHO Chief 'happy' to volunteer for Covid-19 vaccine on camera, hails former US presidents for same

A day after three former US Presidents volunteered to take a coronavirus vaccine on camera to help promote public confidence, the World Health Organization Chief Dr Tedros said that he too would love to do the same.

WHO director-general welcomed the news that US president-elect Joe Biden, and former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton have said they will volunteer to get an approved vaccine on camera. "It's a good idea... I think it's very good that they already have shown their commitment. They can influence," he told reporters. "They are influencers," he added. Once the US Food and Drug Administration authorizes the vaccine, all three former Presidents are willing to be vaccinated against the novel coronavirus on television. Asked if he would do the likewise, Tedros said, "I would be happy to do the same thing. I would be happy to do it." He stressed though that he would not want to jump the line and receive a jab needed by someone else, underlining the WHO's call for vaccines to be distributed equitably. "I need to make sure it's my turn. I don't want to take anybody's vaccine," WHO Chief said. These statement come at a time when Anthony Fauci, the US's top infectious disease expert has said that getting enough American citizens vaccinated is crucial for gaining herd immunity against the coronavirus. He said that at least 75 per cent of all Americans would need to get vaccinated by fall 2021 if the country wants to return to any state of normalcy.



## US: Biden introduces health crisis team; vows 100 million COVID-19 vaccinations in first 100 days

President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday laid out his plan to fight the coronavirus pandemic during his first 100 days in office, saying his administration would vaccinate 100 million Americans, push to reopen schools and strengthen mask mandates. Biden, who formally introduced his public health team on Tuesday, also announced he would nominate retired Army General Lloyd Austin as the country's first Black defense secretary.

He also picked US Representative Marcia Fudge of Ohio to lead the Housing and Urban Development Department, and Tom Vilsack, the former agriculture secretary, to fill the same role again, according to news reports on Tuesday.

At a briefing in Wilmington, Delaware, Biden said he needed Congress to fully fund delivering vac-



cines to all corners of the United States. Getting children back to school will be a national priority in the first 100 days, Biden said. "In 100 days, we can change the course of the disease and change life in America for the better," said Biden, who takes office on January 20. "Whatever your politics or

point of view, mask up for 100 days." Biden's first few months will likely be dominated by the pandemic, which is straining hospitals amid a nationwide resurgence. The coronavirus has killed more than 283,000 Americans and caused millions to lose their jobs.

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**19 HOURS DAILY**

South Asian Pulse (Sat - Sun )

Sat - 1 PM to 10 PM and 12 AM to 5 AM

Sun - 1 PM to 5 AM

LISTEN RADIO LIVE ON PHONE - GTA – 647-910-5000 &amp; USA - 518-801-1313

### TV ONLINE

Channel Y (24x7) - Rogers 857, Ignite 707, Bell Fibe 828, Telus 2418

SouthAsianDaily.com

### APP

Y Media TV App



### EVENT

Midweek SouthAsian Awards - Biggest Night of South Asian Community

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**Yudhvir Jaswal**

GROUP EDITOR &amp; CEO - Y MEDIA GROUP

647-272-8182 / 416-475-5000

Ymedia@southasiandaily.com