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Y MEDIA GROUP WILL COVER BOXER SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA'S LIVE BOXING FOR THE CANADIAN MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP ON FEBRUARY 26TH AT THE CAA CENTRE, TICKETS AVAILABLE - VISIT TICKERMASTER.CA OR CALL AT 855-985-5000 (FROM EXTREME LEFT TO RIGHT) - BALDEV SIDHU (FATHER OF SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA), RYAN GRANT (COACH), BOXER SUKHDEEP SINGH CHAKRIA, YUDHVIR JASWAL (Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR AND CEO), TYLER BUXTON (PROMOTER-UNITED BOXING).

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN ORDERS TROOPS TO EASTERN UKRAINE AFTER RECOGNISING REBEL REGIONS

After signing a decree to recognise Ukraine's rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states, Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered more troops to perform "peacekeeping functions" in the conflict-hit eastern region, raising fears that they could soon cross the border into Kiev. Currently, Ukraine is being surrounded by more than 150,000 Russian troops on its borders. On Monday night, Putin inked the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Russia and "the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR)" and "the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)" with the heads of the two Moscow-backed separatist regions, Xinhua news agency quoted a Kremlin statement as saying.



UKRAINE- RUSSIA CRISIS DEVELOPMENTS

- ✓ Russian President Putin orders troops to eastern Ukraine after recognising rebel regions.
- ✓ Canada strongly condemned Russia's move to recognize independence of two regions within Ukraine; imposes sanctions.
- ✓ US President Biden imposes sanctions as Russia begins 'invasion of Ukraine'.
- ✓ EU agrees on Russia sanctions package, warns of further action.
- ✓ Germany suspends certification of Nord Stream 2 pipeline.
- ✓ UK PM announces sanctions against five Russian banks.

PUNJAB LOGS 72% VOTER TURNOUT FOR 117-MEMBER ASSEMBLY

The overall voter turnout in Punjab on Sunday in a single-phase, multi-cornered contest for the 117-member Assembly seats was approximately 72 per cent, election officials said. Sixty-three per cent of over 2.14 crore voters in Punjab turned out till 5 p.m. amid minor skirmishes and snags in EVMs. "The voter turnout was 72 per cent with chances of the final figures likely to increase marginally. Rural areas saw high percentage of polling compared to urban ones," an electoral officer told IANS here. The Malwa region, which has the highest number of 69 seats, saw the highest poll percentage compared to Doaba and Majha regions.

Except some incidents of minor clashes, no major poll-related violence has been reported in the state so far. Punjab is witnessing a multi-cornered contest with 1,304 candidates, including 93 women and two transgenders in the fray. The counting of votes will take place on March 10. The main contest is among the ruling Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which is contesting the polls in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party after breaking two-decade old ties with the BJP in 2020 over the farm laws.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 9

FORMER TV & RADIO HOST SUKHMINDER HANSRA PASSED AWAY AT 61

HIS FUNERAL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEB. 27 FROM 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M. AT BRAMPTON CREMATORIUM & VISITATION CENTRE. ANTIM ARDAS & BHOG TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEB. 27 AT ONTARIO KHALSA DARBAR, DIXIE GURDWARA FROM 3.30 P.M.- 5.30 P.M.



CANADA'S INFLATION RATE RISES TO 5.1%, HIGHEST SINCE 1991

In January 2022, Canadian inflation surpassed 5% for the first time since September 1991, rising 5.1% on a year-over-year basis and up from a 4.8% gain in December 2021. In comparison, the headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 1.0% on a year-over-year basis in January 2021.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 7

PAKISTAN PM ADVISER SAYS TRADE WITH INDIA IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

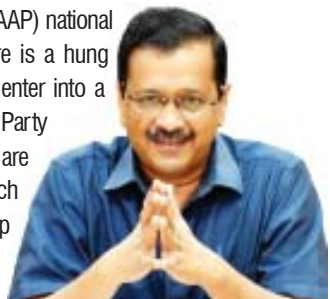
Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Investment, has said that trade with India is the need of the hour and beneficial to both countries, Dawn reported. "As far as the Ministry of Commerce is concerned, its position is to do trade with India. And my stance is that we should do trade with India and it should be opened now," Dawood said in an interaction with the media on Sunday at an exhibition on engineering and healthcare organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 9

BATTLE FOR UP: AAP READY FOR POST-POLL ALLIANCE TO KEEP BJP OUT

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor, Arvind Kejriwal, has said if there is a hung Assembly in Uttar Pradesh, then AAP will enter into a post-poll alliance to keep the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) out of power in the state. "All surveys are indicating a hung Assembly in the state. In such a situation, we will form an alliance to keep the BJP out of the government, if needed."



I CONTD. ON PAGE 9

OSLER'S URGENT CARE CENTRE AT PEEL MEMORIAL IN BRAMPTON TO RE-OPEN MARCH 21

Effective March 21, 2022, William Osler Health System (Osler) will re-open the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) at Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness (Peel Memorial).

I CONTD. ON PAGE 8

SUISSE SECRETS SHOWS HOW INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ENABLES THEFT, CORRUPTION

The 'Suisse Secrets' project investigates bank account information leaked from Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second-largest lender. The leak included more than 18,000 accounts that held in excess of \$100 billion at their peaks. It is the only known leak of a major Swiss banks client data to journalists. Switzerland is a well-known destination for money from all over the world, in part because of its banking secrecy laws. There is nothing inherently wrong with having a Swiss bank account.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

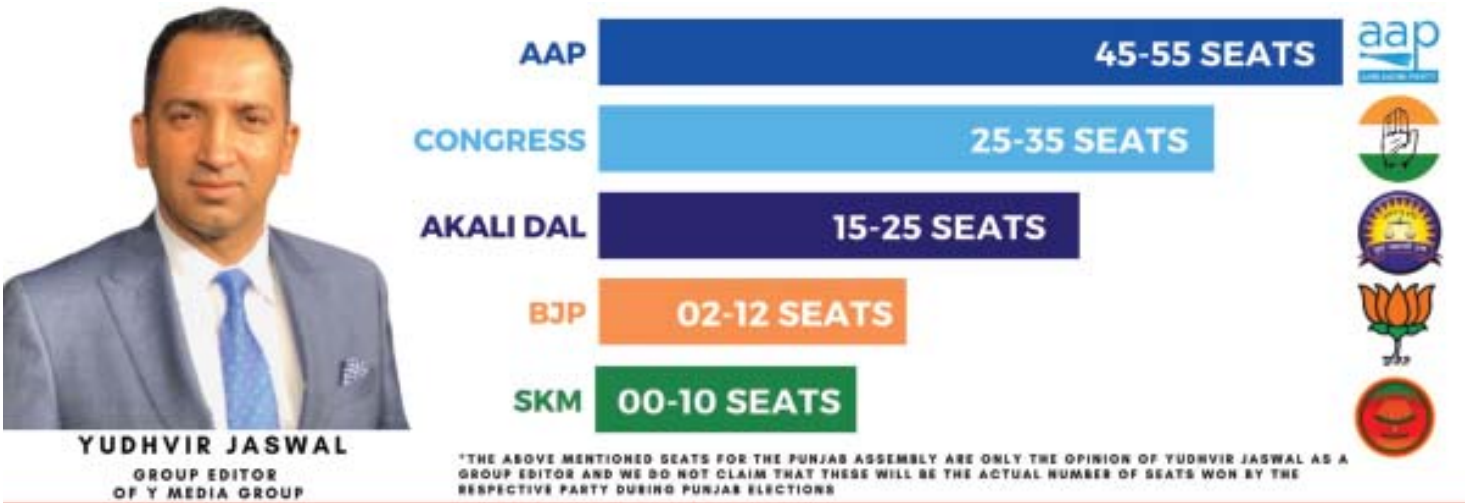
- On March 1, Ontario Set To Scrap Vaccine Certificate System As Part Of Its Reopening Plan.
- Ontario Youth 12-17 Now Eligible For A Covid-19 Booster Dose.
- As Of Feb. 28, Negative Rapid Antigen Or PCR Test Results Will Be Accepted To Meet Entry Requirements In Canada.
- Starting Feb. 28, Unvaccinated Children Under The Age Of 12 Entering Canada With Fully Vaccinated Parents Will No Longer Have To Avoid Schools, Daycare.
- Starting March 1, Israel To Welcome All Tourists Regardless Of Covid-19 Vaccination Status.

Y MEDIA EDITOR'S TAKE

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY TOTAL SEATS - 117, 59 SEATS FOR MAJORITY

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX

PUNJAB ELECTION 2022 SEAT PROJECTIONS



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GET YOUR DESIGN ON! FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH



In celebration of our **Million Steps to Mother's Day** fundraising event, we're inviting you to create and submit an original sock design in support of life-saving breast cancer research.

There will be two winning sock designs - one selected by online consumer voting; the other decided by a panel of judges. The two winners will

have their sock designs produced by our sponsor, Collins Clothiers and sold across Canada – just in time for Mother's Day gifts! Plus, they'll receive a prize pack and a \$1,500 donation made in their honour to their local cancer treatment centre.

For full contest details, please visit:
collinsclothiers.com/bcscdesign

To submit your design visit collinsclothiers.com/bcscdesign

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Design submission by March 6, 2022

Online voting March 10 - 20, 2022



BREAST CANCER SOCIETY
of Canada
LA SOCIÉTÉ DU CANCER DU SEIN
du Canada

#bcscdesign

No purchase necessary. Open to age of majority residents of Canada (excluding Quebec). Starts February 14, 2022 at 12:00:00 a.m. ET and ends March 20, 2022 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Entry period closes March 6, 2022 at 9:00:00 a.m. ET. 22 prizes available: (i) 1 consumer's choice prize and 1 judge's choice prize, each consisting of winner's sock design produced and sold in Canada, a merchandise gift bag and a \$1,500 donation to a cancer treatment centre determined at sponsor's sole discretion (total ARV \$1,675 CAD each); and (ii) 20 finalist prizes, each consisting of a \$100 CAD donation to a cancer treatment centre determined at sponsor's sole discretion. Limit 1 entry per person. Odds of being selected as a finalist depend on number and calibre of entries. Odds of winning consumer's choice prize depend on number of votes per finalist (math skill-testing question required). Odds of winning judge's choice prize depend on number and calibre of finalist entries. Full rules and entry details at collinsclothiers.com/bcscdesign



EFFECTIVE MARCH 13, ONTARIO ELIMINATING LICENCE PLATE RENEWAL FEES AND STICKERS

The Ontario government is making life more affordable and convenient for nearly eight million vehicle owners by eliminating licence plate renewal fees and the requirement to have a licence plate sticker for passenger vehicles, light-duty trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, effective March 13, 2022. "As the cost of living continues to go up, our government is cutting costs for families to make life more affordable," said Premier Doug Ford. "Eliminating the fee to renew your licence plate and refunding the cost of doing so for the past two years is a concrete way we can put and keep more money in the pockets of hard-working Ontarians."

The government is introducing red tape legislation later today that would enable the province to refund eligible individual owners of vehicles for any licence plate renewal fees paid since March 2020. Upon passage, vehicle owners will receive a cheque in the mail starting at the end of March and throughout the month of April.

"Our government is taking strong action at a time when the cost of living and doing business in Ontario is skyrocketing," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "For many families, driving is an absolute necessity. Eliminating licence plate renewal fees and stickers is part of our government's commitment to support drivers as we continue to build Ontario's transportation network, including by building the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413."

To receive a refund cheque, vehicle owners who have moved recently will need to confirm that their address information on their vehicle permit or driver's licence is up-to-date at [Ontario.ca/AddressChange](https://ontario.ca/AddressChange) by March 7, 2022, and pay any outstanding fees, fines or tolls. For more information and/or assistance with changing an address, vehicle owners can call ServiceOntario's dedicated line at 1-888-333-0049.

"Our government is putting money directly back into the pockets of Ontario families and workers to help make life more affordable," said Ross Romano, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "Eliminating

these fees and stickers is just one of the ways we are reducing the burden on Ontarians and making it easier, quicker, and simpler for Ontarians to access critical government services."

Under the proposal, renewal fees will also be eliminated for passenger, light duty commercial vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds that are owned by a company or business. However, no refunds will be given for the period of March 2020 to March 2022.

"Small businesses play a vital role in fostering Ontario's economic growth," said Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "Starting next month, eliminating renewal fees for vehicles owned by a company or business is just one of the many ways we are supporting small businesses across the province so they can continue to thrive and contribute to their communities."

Vehicle owners will still be required to renew their licence plate every one or two years at no cost to confirm their automobile insurance is valid and pay any outstanding Highway 407 tolls and other municipal fines. The government is working with partners to develop a new, more user-friendly process that will continue to validate automobile insurance requirements, support law enforcement efforts and collect municipal fines and unpaid Highway 407 tolls.

The Ontario government is also investing in Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology as part of its commitment to provide police with the tools they need to do their jobs, improve public safety and strengthen roadside law enforcement efforts across the province. An ALPR system can read thousands of licence plates per minute allowing officers to process more information on licence plates. It also has the capability of capturing vehicles of interest such as amber alerts, drivers with a suspended licence, and stolen vehicles.

Renewal fees and requirements for licence plate stickers for heavy commercial vehicles and snowmobiles remain unchanged.

WHY INDIA, AND NOT CHINA, WOULD MATTER MOST IN SPURRING RUSSIA'S GREATER EURASIAN PARTNERSHIP

In a recent interview to Izvestia, the new Ambassador designate of the Russia Federation to India Denis Alipov said that India occupies a central position in Russians foreign policy priorities and that Russia was interested in India's growing influence as an independent power centre both in the world and in particular in the "Asia Pacific Region".

While the good ambassador's words are admirable, this has become a common refrain of late - not just encouraging or wishing for India's rise as a major power, but rather acknowledging India as a power centre. On his India visit for the bilateral visit, President Vladimir Putin himself said this in Delhi: "Russia views India as a major power, whose people have been very friendly to us." And with good reason too.

A cold war era joke goes that the only truly non-aligned countries then were the USA and the USSR. In the current context India may be a truly non-aligned country. It's excellent current relations with the US notwithstanding, India is purchasing the Russian S400 Triumf missile at a time when US-Russian relations have hit a nadir. India's decision, despite the threat of US sanctions under CAATSA (though improbable) is a manifestation of its strategic autonomy, assurances of its own ability.

India's recent decision to abstain from the procedural vote ahead of the United Nations' Security Council first meeting to discuss ways of de-escalating the Ukraine crisis is yet another powerful demonstration of the same. Russia, has in fact, welcomed India's stand on the Ukraine situation at the United Nations Security Council, calling it a "balanced, principled and independent approach".

"India's interest is in finding a solution that can provide for immediate de-escalation of tensions taking into account the legitimate security interests of all countries and aimed towards securing long-term peace and stability in the region and beyond," said S Tirumurti, India's Permanent Represen-

tative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on the implementation of the 2015 Minsk agreements on Thursday. In other words, India has let know that it is not buying into the war mongering by countries with which its bilateral ties have been rapidly deepening.

On the other hand, Russia's ally China has not taken any overtly pro-Russian position vis-a-vis the situation around Ukraine. In fact, China has not recognized or acknowledged the incorporation of the Crimea into the Russian Federation. While Russia remains an important source for energy and defence technology for China, much needed Chinese investments in the cash-strapped Russian economy has slowed down. According to Russia's Central Bank, in 2020, China withdrew its investments in the Russian economy. Direct investment fell 52% in three quarters, from \$3.735 billion to \$1.83 billion. Analysts have often pointed out to the tactical nature of Russia-China alliance - countering a common enemy in the USA. This is what makes India, in comparison, a more reliable and safer for Russia in its security strategy as outlined by Putin's Greater Eurasian Partnership (GEP). The points of mistrust with China are simply missing in Russia's relations with India.

Unlike China, India has no irredentist claims either on Russia or the five former Soviet central Asian countries, where slowly but surely territory continues to be yielded to China and where cooperation is major plank of GEP. That is partly why India's cooperation in Russia's Far East is sought - an alternative to Chinese migration which has both demographic and territorial implications for Russia. Other major contenders for Eurasia remain Iran and Turkey. While India has good relations with Iran, which is currently mired in issues of the nuclear deal and a flailing economy, Turkey is a challenge for both India and Russia. Turkey has demonstrated its potential to foment trouble in South Asia. In the near future, with American and Qatari backing, Turkey is all set to play a bigger role in Afghanistan.

DYNASTS RISING IN POLITICS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL IN UP

The BJP has always been critical of dynasty politics, but in Uttar Pradesh the party has overlooked this as it has fielded many candidates in the polls whose nearest family members are MPs or MLAs or party position holders.

BJP's Saurav Singh, seeking a second term from Kheri district, is the son of Jugul Kishore, who has been a Rajya Sabha MP from the BSP and is currently a minister in the Yogi cabinet.

BJP's Mukut Bihari Verma's son Gaurav Verma is contesting in place of his father from Kaiserganj.

Similarly, Prateek Bhushan Singh, son of Kaiserganj BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh, is seeking re-election from Gonda. Prateek's rival from the Samajwadi Party is Suraj Singh, who is a nephew of Pandit Singh, a former minister in the state who passed away due to Covid.

Even as the BJP has been attacking the Congress and the Samajwadi Party for being 'dynasty' oriented, examples of relatives of its MPs and MLAs getting tickets have exposed the party.

The SP has fielded Anandsen from Rudauli, who is the son of Mitrasen Yadav, a former MP.

Yasir Shah, son of former minister Waqar Shah, is seeking a third term on a SP ticket. Yasir's wife is also contesting and his mother was a Lok Sabha MP from Bahraich.

The Congress is not far behind. P.L. Punia's son TanujPunia is fighting in Barabanki district. Salman Khurshid's wife Louis Khurshid, who was a MLA in the past, was in the fray in the third phase.

Similarly, Zeba Rizwan, daughter of former MP Rizwan Zaheer, is in the fray from Tulsipur as an Independent.

While the BJP has been maintaining that it is going by the rule of one family one ticket only and has denied a ticket to Rita Bahuguna Joshi's son, the party has given tickets to family members.

The SP has been termed 'parivarwad' by the BJP. The argument from the political parties is that they have given tickets as some of the leaders have passed away, but it's not so in all the cases. The SP is saying Mitrasen Yadav and Waqar Shah have passed away so the tickets have been given to their family members.

Though at the national level, the BJP has been hitting out at the Congress and in UP it is targeting Akhilesh Yadav, in the BJP too leaders are rising from families who are second or third generation politicians.

DERA SACHA SAUDA CHIEF GURMEET RAM RAHIM GETS Z+ SECURITY



Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been provided Z-plus security cover during his 21-day release on furlough from a Haryana jail, officials said on Tuesday.

He has been given the high security cover due to threat to his life from 'pro-Khalistan' extremists, officials added.

Rahim is on 21-day furlough from Sunaria jail and is camping in Gurugram. He will be getting 10 NSG security personnel for mobile security and eight security personnel for his residence security. The Haryana government's recommendation to grant the top layer security cover to the convicted sect leader comes following his request.

The Dera chief was released on furlough on February 7 after the Haryana government's conclusion that he does not fall in the category of hardcore prisoners. Incidentally, the 21-day furlough had come just days ahead of the Assembly polls in Punjab that was held on February 20 and he has a large number of followers, particularly in Bathinda, Sangrur, Patiala and Muktsar.

The sect chief has been currently serving life imprisonment for the murder of former journalist Ramchandra Chhatrapati and the rape of two Dera disciples. He was convicted by a special CBI court in Panchkula in 2017. Soon after his release from the Sunaria jail in Rohtak, he was brought to his ashram in Gurugram. The Haryana police has deployed a heavy security in and near his ashram.

PERCEPTIBLE DROP IN IMRAN'S POPULARITY, NAWAZ SHARIF LEADS IN PAK PROVINCES



NEW DELHI, (IANS) There is a perceptible drop in the popularity of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in an opinion survey, which also revealed that opposition PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif is leading in popularity ratings in Punjab province at 58 per cent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 46 per cent and Sindh 51 per cent, The News reported. According to the survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan, Khan ranked second in popularity in KP with 44 per cent and third with 33 per cent popularity in Sindh and Punjab.

These opinion survey conducted from December 22, 2021 to January 31, 2022 solicited views of 5,000 people from across the country about the popularity of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, Khan, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In KP, Shehbaz Sharif's popularity stood at 43 per cent, while Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari were tied at 24 per cent.

There was a significant reduction in the level of satisfaction with Khan in KP which has dropped from 67 per cent in February 2020 to 44 per cent in the current survey, while that of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari dropped from 26 per cent to 24 per cent.

However, in the case of Nawaz Sharif, his approval ratings increased from 33 per cent to 46 per cent and that of Shehbaz Sharif rose from 31 per cent to 43 per cent in KP.

In the case of Punjab, 58 per cent respondents approved Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, while 33 per cent approved Prime Minister Khan, 24 per cent Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and 21 per cent Asif Ali Zardari. According to Gallup Pakistan, this was the first time that the popularity of the former Prime Minister rose after December 2018 and Nawaz Sharif managed similar ratings as that of Shehbaz Sharif.

But the popularity of Khan that rose to 51 per cent in 2018 has now dropped to 33 per cent. While that of PPP Chairman increased to 24 per cent from 18 per cent then. About the response in Sindh, the pollster recorded 51 per cent popularity for Nawaz Sharif, 41 per cent for Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari secured 37 per cent, Khan 33 per cent, and Asif Ali Zardari managed 31 per cent. In comparison to the 2018 Gallup Survey, the popularity of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif rose from a mere 12 per cent to 51 per cent and 41 per cent, whereas that of Khan dropped from 33 per cent in 2018 to 10 per cent in February 2020, which has again risen to 33 per cent in the current survey. But in the case of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the popularity ratings dropped in the home province from 54 per cent to 39 per cent and has now further dropped to 37 per cent, the report said.

BJP'S PRESTIGIOUS AYODHYA SEAT BEING GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION

The incumbent BJP MLA from the prestigious seat of Ayodhya which goes to the polls in the fifth phase, is facing a rebellion within the party. Sources say that the BJP is working hard to fix the problem before polling. Senior leaders have taken cognisance of the matter and have despatched a team to resolve the issue.

Sources say that Mayor Rishikesh Upadhyay was seeking a ticket from the party but was denied it as BJP opted for the sitting MLA. The party is apprehensive about the supporters of the Mayor who are said to be upset. The seat has a large number of Brahmin votes, and the SP candidate TejNarain Pandey, an ex-MLA, is from the community so the BJP fears a backlash from the community. However, no BJP leader is willing to speak on record on the issue but say that ultimately the party workers will support the party as the battle is ideological.

The Brahmin leaders of the party have been asked to campaign for the seat. Ved Prakash Gupta is the BJP MLA who won in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly election defeating Tej Narayan Pandey by a margin of 50,440 votes. The party leaders say that there is no worry as Ayodhya has been the stronghold of the party in the past except on a few occasions. Party Awadh in-charge Satya Kumar said, "the seat is prestigious and the BJP will win comfortably." Political analyst Anil Singh feels that the displacement of locals due to the state government projects is a big issue which the SP wants to capitalise upon.



High profile: Political battle for Sidhu, Majithia in Amritsar (East)

AMRITSAR, (IANS) It's more than a political battle in Amritsar (East) that will witness a fierce verbal duel for survival in this Punjab Assembly election.

Accusing Congress state President Navjot Singh Sidhu of falsely implicating him in drugs related cases, his once friend and now archrival Bikram Singh Majithia, the heavyweight former cabinet minister of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), has challenged him in his bastion after leaving his home turf Majitha for his wife Ganieve Grewal.

With Punjab going to the polls on Sunday and results slated to be out on March 10, the winner will take it all with the loser standing small. After Sidhu, 58, dared Majithia, 46, to contest from Amritsar (East), SAD President Sukhbir Badal announced to field Majithia from there "to dismantle his arrogance".

Sidhu campaigned aggressively for the booking Majithia in drugs case last December. Later, the Supreme Court gave Majithia protection from arrest till February 23 while observing that criminal cases are suddenly emerging out in the run-up to the Assembly elections. Considering a Congress stronghold, Amritsar (East), the seat that came into being after 2012 delimitation, has backed Sidhu and his namesake wife since then for twice.

In 2017, the cricketer-turned-politician Sidhu not only defeated his nearest rival Rajesh Honey of the BJP with a huge margin of over 42,000 votes but also played a role of a game-changer for the party by winning 10 out of the 11 seats in Amritsar district, once the citadel of the SAD-BJP combine.

Majithia, the brother-in-law of Sukhbir Badal, has won the Majithia seat thrice — 2007, 2012 and 2017, while Sidhu is the sitting Amritsar (East) legislator.

Believing that the political life of Sidhu is coming to an end, Badal told IANS that Sidhu's arrogance will be his undoing.

"We are determined to break Sidhu's arrogance and teach him to love and respect his constituents. We believed it was our duty to engage him and give the people an option for development of their constituency. The Sidhu couple has ignored Amritsar East for the last 18 years. It is one of the most undeveloped constituencies in the state," Badal told IANS in an interview.

"Now the people have been given a chance to vote for the betterment of their constituency. You have already witnessed the love and affection Bikram Majithia is getting in the constituency. This itself is an indication which way the wind is blowing," the Ferozepur Lok Sabha member added.

Majithia has been booked by the state police under the relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for his alleged involvement in a drug racket.

While Sidhu, who is supposed to travel across the state being the

party chief but concentrating on his bastion owing to a high-profile battle, is banking on his self-evolved 'Punjab Model' to retain the seat, his bAate noire Majithia is trying to woo voters by quoting his achievements in Majitha home turf, represented by him thrice.

While listing out their development works, the Sidhu couple has been chastising Majithia for charges of drugs and backing drug cartels.

His 'Punjab Model' is based on government-controlled production and sale of liquor and mining of sand that will help fill empty coffers and generate employment.

"Sidhu is talking about his Punjab Model. You visit his constituency and then visit my Majitha segment. You will certainly feel the ground realities in both seats. These are political buzzwords of Majithia to exhort people to vote for him to win the election.

"The fight for Amritsar (East) is a fight for the honour and respect of the people of this constituency. It is also a fight for development of this constituency. Let us take this golden opportunity by rising above caste and communal lines and support the SAD to change the fortunes of this constituency," Majithia said in an appeal on Friday, the day the campaigning culminated.

Claiming Amritsar (East) is one of the most neglected and backward constituencies in the state, Majithia said all roads in the constituency would be repaired and re-laid and sidewalks would be constructed.

Caught between two heavyweights, greenhorns Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Jeevan Jyot Kaur and the BJP's Jagmohan Singh Raju, a former Tamil Nadu-cadre bureaucrat, are making their presence felt in the battlefield by saying the traditional parties have disappointed and dismayed people even after repeated opportunities.

Majithia was the eye of storm when he was summoned by Enforcement Directorate in 2014 for investigating the money laundering link in the Rs 6,000 crore international synthetic drugs racket busted by the Punjab Police in 2013.

He is also facing allegations of having links with certain NRIs who have been accused of international money laundering related to the massive drugs racket.

Majithia, who is educated at the Lawrence School in Sanawar in Himachal Pradesh, retained the Majithia seat in 2017 with a margin of 22,884 votes, lower than a margin of 47,581 he had got in 2012.

Sidhu had earlier remained MP from Amritsar when he was part of the BJP. He was elected MP in 2004, 2007 (by-election) and 2009.

He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Narendra Modi government in April 2016. He joined the Congress party just days ahead of the Assembly elections in February 2017.

In 2017 polls, the Congress had won an absolute majority by winning 77 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly and ousted the SAD-BJP government after 10 years.

Job creation should be top priority for next govt: Voters in Punjab

The voters in Punjab on Sunday said that the political party they voted for on Sunday and if it comes to power, must address the issues of education, creation of jobs for youth and drug menace so that once again Punjab becomes 'Rangla Punjab'(colourful Punjab). A 83-year-old voter Joginder Singh in the Kharar constituency under Mohali district, told IANS that raising the issue of Khalistan was a malicious attempt to defame the Sikh community. He also said that anyone who is born in the Khalsa community is always ready to sacrifice his life for the country, for society and for his religion. As far as the political parties in the fray are concerned, they always make promises and once they come to power, forget all their promises, Singh said while a school teacher Binny was clearer in her opinion and wanted change of guard in the state. Talking about the issue of unemployment, she said that this should be prioritised by the party she has voted for and they should work to create jobs for youths so that their exodus from the state stops. In other constituencies too, the voters were expecting that the political parties whom they have voted will work for creation of jobs, good education and better health infrastructure. A young voter Kevin Peterson said that the party he has voted for should endeavour to create job opportunities for youths and better education for all in Punjab. Echoing the same sentiments, the first time voters Simerjit Kaur and Roshni said that the political party who they have voted for should work sincerely for job creation and good education system in the state. Most of the voters IANS spoke to wanted creation of job opportunities as a top priority of the next government. The state of Punjab went for one day assembly polls on Sunday for 117 assembly constituencies and apart from the ruling Congress Party, the Aam Aadmi Party, Akali Dal, BJP in alliance with newly floated outfit by Congress turncoat and former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, are contesting the elections. The fate of 1,304 candidates in 117 assembly constituencies have been sealed in the EVM and the counting of votes will take place on March 10.

Battle for UP: Fourth phase crucial for BJP, Congress

The stage is now set for the fourth phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh in which 59 Assembly constituencies, spread across nine districts, will go to polls on February 23.

This phase includes 16 reserved constituencies.

Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Sitapur, Lucknow, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Fatehpur and Banda districts will go to polls in the fourth phase. A total of 624 candidates are in the fray for 59 Assembly seats. The maximum number of candidates is 15 in Sawayaajpur in Hardoi while a minimum of six candidates each, are contesting for two seats, including Palia in Lakhimpur and Sevata in Sitapur.

In the fourth phase, polling will be held in Rohilkhand, Terai region, Awadh and Bundelkhand regions.

In the elections held in 2017, the BJP had won 51 of 59 seats. One seat was won by its ally Apna Dal (S). Four were won by SP, while two seats were won by the Congress and two by the BSP. In this phase, voting is also taking place in state capital Lucknow which has nine Assembly seats. Of these, eight are with the BJP. Polling is also scheduled to be held in this phase in Lakhimpur Kheri which has become a focal point of the farmer movement, especially after the October 3 incident in which four farmers were mowed down by an SUV owned by union minister Ajay Mishra. Ashish Mishra was recently released on bail from jail last week.

The opposition has been constantly targeting the BJP on this incident and Mishra's release has further stoked the fire. This phase is crucial for the BJP which faces the challenge of retaining its 51 seats. The party is facing resistance in the Terai region where BJP MP Varun Gandhi has been speaking up on issues against his own party. Varun is MP from Pilibhit, a farmer dominated constituency.

CENTRE PROVIDES 'Y' CATEGORY SECURITY TO KUMAR VISHWAS



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Centre has provided 'Y' category VIP security to former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and poet Kumar Vishwas, government sources said here on Saturday.

After a thorough review and based on intelligence inputs, the Centre decided to provide Vishwas VIP security through the Central Reserve Police Force, sources added. The security of Vishwas was reviewed on Friday following his statement that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wanted to become the Prime Minister of "Independent Khalistan".

Reacting to the allegations levelled against him, Kejriwal on Friday said he is the "world's sweetest terrorist" who provides hospitals, schools, electricity etc. Recently, a video clip went viral which showed the former AAP leader alleging that Kejriwal wanted to become either the Punjab Chief Minister or Prime Minister of an Independent Khalistan without naming him. The AAP chief was also seen meeting separatist elements during 2017 Punjab Assembly polls, Vishwas alleged. The Election Commission banned the circulation of the video clip on Wednesday, but lifted the ban on Thursday. The AAP termed the video as "false, misleading and a handiwork of rival parties".

Reacting to the developments, Kejriwal said on Friday, "This is comedy. If their allegations are to be believed, I am a big terrorist and if that is the case, what were security agencies doing in the last 10 years? "I must thank the poet (Kumar Vishwas) for identifying me, I would be the world's sweetest terrorist, a terrorist who provides schools, hospitals, electricity, roads, water..."

OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE IN PUNJAB CONSUME ALCOHOL: PGI SURVEY

More than three million people, mainly men, in Punjab are consuming one or the other kind of drug. Alcohol is the maximally abused substance by more than two million, followed by tobacco consumed by more than 1.5 million people, a study by the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here said on Monday.

The abuse of opioids is by 1.7 lakh individuals, followed by cannabinoids as well as sedative-inhalant stimulants. The latter are largely a class of pharmacological or prescription drugs being used illicitly.

There are also a large number of injecting drug users in Punjab with high prevalence of HIV (19.5 per cent), said the recent survey.

It was published in the second edition of 'Roadmap for Prevention and Control of Substance Abuse in Punjab'.

Edited by J.S. Thakur, Professor of Community Medicine at PGIMER, it was released by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit in the presence of PGIMER Director Surjit Singh and Director Health Services G.B. Singh. The report contains information on the burden of substance abuse in the country and in Punjab, various types of substances abused by people, strategies for prevention and control and the district substance abuse prevention plan and its implementation.

AMARINDER EFFECT, INFIGHTING COULD COST CONG DEAR IN PUNJAB



NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH, (IANS) The Congress is fighting a high pitched battle in Punjab and the Aam Aadmi Party has surprised everyone with the tough challenge it has mounted against the incumbent government led by chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi. Congress leaders privately admit that former CM Amarinder Singh is harming the party and the interference from Delhi in the affairs of the state has made matters worse.

Sources in the Punjab Congress and various MPs say that the infighting has intensified since the elevation of former cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu as party state president. Amarinder floating his own political outfit has affected the party's prospects in the state, they state.

The Congress leaders who are opposed to Sidhu have also objected to the party's decision to expel many leaders including Kewal Singh Dhillon. "Shocked to read @KewalDhillonINC summarily expelled from @INCIndia without even as much as a notice. When no one was prepared to invest a penny in Punjab during days of terror he brought @PepsiCo to Punjab in 1980s. He was a Congressman when it was an invitation to assassination" Congress MP Manish Tewari said.

The party is facing an onslaught from Amarinder Singh who is contesting in alliance with the BJP. Congress leaders have been saying privately that Amarinder is damaging the party and can defeat the party candidates in two dozen seats. However the Congress has rubbished the claims, saying that Amarinder is a spent force in the state and the Congress will emerge victorious.

BATTLE FOR UP: AAP READY FOR POST-POLL ALLIANCE TO KEEP BJP OUT

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

We will fulfil promises of free 24-hour electricity, better schools and hospitals even by supporting other party against BJP in case of hung assembly," Kejriwal, who is on a two-day campaign tour in Uttar Pradesh, told reporters. Kejriwal began his two-day Uttar Pradesh tour from Monday to drum up support for party candidates in the ongoing Assembly polls.

He said that if people of UP want Delhi-like government, schools and hospitals, then they all must vote for the AAP without worrying how many seats it will win the election. The Delhi chief minister also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of calling him a "terrorist".

"Despite ruling the country for years, these parties did not have a single concrete work to talk about and that is why, they are calling me a terrorist. Tell me, if any terrorist has built schools/hospitals in the world? Does any terrorist arrange pilgrimages for elders?" he asked.



AUSTRALIA FULLY REOPENS BORDERS TO VACCINATED INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS AFTER NEARLY 2 YEARS

Australia on Monday welcomed its first international tourists in almost two years after reopening its border which was shut in early 2020 in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Australia's international border reopened to travellers who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, marking an end to restrictions that were introduced to prevent the spread of the virus in March 2020, reports Xinhua news agency. Fifty-six flights were due to land in Australia in the 24 hours after reopening. Dan Tehan, the federal minister for trade, tourism and investment, was at the Sydney international airport on Monday morning to welcome the first arrivals and said it was a milestone for Australia. "The first passengers had a huge smile on their face even though they have been on a plane for what, 20-odd hours," he told Nine Network television. "The warmth of the welcome that the Australian people give our overseas visitors hasn't gone away."

The return of double vaccinated international visitors will reinvigorate Australia's tourism sector, which supports 660,000 jobs and contributed A\$60.4 billion (\$43 billion) to the economy in 2018-19, according to Tehan. David Marshall, chair of the Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum, said it would take up to 18 months for the tourism industry to recover from the pandemic. "We're really playing catch-up," he told The Canberra Times. The country on Monday reported more than 15,000 new coronavirus infections and 17 deaths — seven in New South Wales, six in Queensland, three in Victoria and one in the Australian Capital Territory. Monday marked one year since Australia administered its first coronavirus vaccines. Health Minister Greg Hunt said that more than 53.2 million vaccines have now been administered in Australia.

COVAXIN TO BE EVALUATED AS COVID VACCINE IN US

NEW DELHI, (IANS) India's Covid-19 vaccine — Covaxin — will be evaluated as a vaccine candidate in the United States, Bharat Biotech said on Saturday. Covaxin is India's indigenous Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech, which has been developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology (NIV). "Covaxin will be evaluated as a Covid-19 vaccine candidate in the United States. US biotech company Ocugen announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has lifted its clinical hold on the company's Investigational New Drug Application (IND) to evaluate the Covid-19 vaccine candidate, BBV152, known as Covaxin outside the United States," the Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer said in a statement. Ocugen is co-developing Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine candidate for Covid-19 in the US and Canada. Covaxin is one of the two vaccines which is being administered mainly in India. Covaxin has already been granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) in 13 countries so far, according to the World Health Organization. It was given emergency use approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for the 12-18 age group on December 24, 2021.

SUISSE SECRETS SHOWS HOW INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ENABLES THEFT, CORRUPTION

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

But banks are supposed to avoid clients who earned money illegally or were involved in crimes - and reporters identified dozens of corrupt government officials, criminals, and alleged human rights abusers among Credit Suisse account holders, the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) said in a report. Despite their notoriety - which, in some cases, would have been obvious from a quick Google search - Credit Suisse maintained relationships with some of these clients for years, though it is possible that some accounts were ordered frozen by law enforcement. The Suisse Secrets project investigates these account holders, whose exploitation of Swiss banking secrecy is a prime example of how the international financial industry enables theft and corruption. The Suisse Secrets data was provided to the German newspaper Suddeutsche Zeitung by an anonymous source more than a year ago. Nothing is known about the source's identity. The source, however, did provide a statement explaining his or her motivations. It reads, in part: "I believe that Swiss banking secrecy laws are immoral. The pretext of protecting financial privacy is merely a fig leaf covering the shameful role of Swiss banks as collaborators of tax evaders. 1½ This situation enables corruption and starves developing countries of much-needed tax revenue. "I want to emphasize the fact that the responsibility for this state of affairs does not lie with Swiss banks but rather with the Swiss legal system. Banks are simply being good capitalists by maximizing profits within the legal framework they operate in. Simply put, Swiss legislators are responsible for enabling financial crimes and - by virtue of their direct democracy - the Swiss people have the power to do something about it." Those cases that merited publication involved clients known to have been high-risk: politically connected people or those accused or convicted of serious crimes. OCCRP said dozens of Credit Suisse accounts belonged to prominent figures, alongside the scandals, criminal investigations, or high-profile political events they were involved in. One example is Rodoljub Radulovic, a high-ranking member of one of Eastern Europe's largest cocaine-smuggling cartels, led by the notorious Serbian drug lord Darko Saric. Radulovic was able to open a Credit Suisse account despite a long history of involvement in financial scandals in the US. He then used it to launder over 3 million euros' worth of drug money, Serbian prosecutors say. Another is Eduard Seidel, a former top executive in Nigeria for German telecommunications giant Siemens, whose accounts contained tens of millions of Swiss francs. Two of them remained open for almost a decade after allegations of his involvement in a major bribery scandal in Nigeria first broke. Then there's Muller Conrad Rautenbach, a mining magnate who has openly boasted of his willingness to bribe his way to the top, and was sanctioned by the US and EU. He opened high-value accounts at Credit Suisse even after the UN warned he was allegedly overseeing corrupt mining deals in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The larger story that unites these cases is that of a major financial institution that allowed clients to stash away laundered or stolen assets. Nearly all of the stories rely on publicly available information, meaning that Credit Suisse's due diligence department would have had access to it as well, the OCCRP said.

THERE IS AND WILL ONLY BE ONE LEADER.

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How should India respond to the crisis in Ukraine?

KANWAL SIBAL

The developing confrontation between the West and Russia on the Ukraine issue does not serve India's interests. We have very friendly ties with the US, Europe and Russia and would prefer not take sides. This would require very deft diplomacy on our part. India is now an important global player and both sides will be watching the position India takes. The US will want some show of support for its position, while Russia will want us to take an independent position and not succumb to US pressure. For India an actual military conflict will be most undesirable because its international repercussions will be grave and cushioning against them by us will be most difficult.

The US and the EU are issuing repeated warnings at the highest level that in case Russia invades Ukraine it will face sanctions of unprecedented severity. Russia has already been subject to severe sanctions in recent years and seems to have absorbed them so far without excessive difficulty. It has warned the West that the new sanctions t being contemplated- already leaked- will lead to a breakdown of ties. This is hardly a situation that would be welcome to the majority of the international community. Western sanctions will complicate further our dealings with Russia both in the military and economic domains. And this at a time when we intend to invest more in Russia's hydrocarbon sector and in the economic development of its Far East. The CAATSA sanctions against us for the purchase the S-400 system have not yet been invoked but the pressure to do so in some measure will grow. A closer US scrutiny of additional "significant" defence purchases from Russia by us would follow. Oil prices are already shooting up also because of Ukraine related tensions, imposing costs on us. If the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is not allowed to become operational, as Biden has publicly promised with the German Chancellor by his side as if Germany had no agency in the matter, will impact global gas prices too, which too will negatively impact us. All this when our economy is emerging from the Covid crisis. In the UN Security council, we have made our position on the Ukraine situation known on two occasions in well-crafted statements. On January 31, while abstaining from a US procedural motion to discuss Ukraine, we stressed dialogue, de-escalation, balanced security and emphasised Europe's role in the implementation of the Minsk agreements. Again, on February 17, during a UNSC briefing on the implementation of the Minsk agreements, India maintained that the situation in Ukraine can only be resolved through quiet and constructive diplomacy, avoidance of any steps that increase tension and an immediate de-escalation of tensions, while taking into the account the legitimate security interests of all countries. The Russians have welcomed this position as an independent one by India.

This is not fence-sitting but a dispassionate evaluation of the complex roots of the crisis based on its own experience in the subcontinent. Just as in the case of India's own partition that has left a bitter legacy, with Pakistan, as the weaker country, seeking security in the military alliances set up by the US at that time and establishing regional economic associations to its west, with its governing class nurturing a deep hostility



A CLOSER US SCRUTINY OF ADDITIONAL "SIGNIFICANT" DEFENCE PURCHASES FROM RUSSIA BY US WOULD FOLLOW. OIL PRICES ARE ALREADY SHOOTING UP ALSO BECAUSE OF UKRAINE RELATED TENSIONS, IMPOSING COSTS ON US. IF THE NORD STREAM 2 GAS PIPELINE IS NOT ALLOWED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL, AS BIDEN HAS PUBLICLY PROMISED WITH THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR BY HIS SIDE AS IF GERMANY HAD NO AGENCY IN THE MATTER, WILL IMPACT GLOBAL GAS PRICES TOO, WHICH TOO WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT US. ALL THIS WHEN OUR ECONOMY IS EMERGING FROM THE COVID CRISIS. IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION ON THE UKRAINE SITUATION KNOWN ON TWO OCCASIONS IN WELL-CRAFTED STATEMENTS. ON JANUARY 31, WHILE ABSTAINING FROM A US PROCEDURAL MOTION TO DISCUSS UKRAINE, WE STRESSED DIALOGUE, DE-ESCALATION, BALANCED SECURITY AND EMPHASISED EUROPE'S ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINSK AGREEMENTS.

ity toward India despite a shared heritage and ill-treating its minorities, Ukraine also exhibits aspects of the same syndrome. The case may not be entirely identical, especially as the separation of Ukraine from Russia occurred peacefully, but the similarities are many. Powerful elements in Ukraine also nurture deep hostility towards Russia despite a shared heritage; and the country seeks security in the NATO alliance and prosperity in a relationship with the European Union. Its discriminatory attitude towards the Russian speaking minority is part of the current confrontation with Russia.

US diplomacy on Ukraine remains active in all forums, Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised the issue also in the Quad meeting at Melbourne. The State Department has said that he and Jaishankar had an "honest dialogue" on it. Jaishankar would have no doubt explained the rationale of our own position, and it would seem that there might be some understanding on where we stand. The US may want our statements to reflect cognisance of its position in some way but India cannot lose sight of its own national interest. An "honest dialogue" does not mean agreement; it can mean honest but friendly difference of opinion. Our UNSC statement which came after Melbourne shows that our basic position on the surging conflict has not changed.

The talk of US and the EU budging India from its position of neutrality is an effort by some lobbies to generate pressure on India to take a more pro-US position. The usual criticism of India "sitting on the fence" is being made, as if all the protagonists involved in the Ukraine issue have not sat on the fence on issues of vital Indian national interest. Our Quad partners sit on the fence on our territorial and sovereignty issues with Pakistan and China. While the Soviet Union supported India on Kashmir, Russia has moved towards a more neutral position. On diplomacy over Afghanistan and eventually handing over the country to the Taliban/Pakistan duo, both countries have not taken sufficient cognisance of India's vital security interests. Pakistan still is America's major non-NATO ally. All the Quad countries and Russia maintain expansive economic ties with China, with Russia expanding its defence ties too.

The assumption is that if an actual military conflict erupts India will find it difficult to maintain its middle of the road position. This argument should not overlook the responsibility of all parties involved to contain the situation

and not allow it to go out of hand. The developing situation has some bizarre aspects. The Russians insist, despite massing troops close to the Ukrainian borders, that they have no intention to invade Ukraine, and that they have presented to the Americans their security demands on which they want negotiations. The Americans have rejected the core demands of Russia but are willing to discuss issues of strategic stability in Europe. They press for more diplomatic efforts even as they have supplied arms to Ukraine and positioned military trainers on the ground there and in the Baltic states and Poland as well. The Americans and the British insist that a Russian invasion is imminent, even as the Ukrainians say they do not sense that and that the hype on the issue is imposing heavy costs on the Ukrainian economy. All this has assumed aspects of political entertainment.

What remains puzzling is why the West has allowed the situation to deteriorate to this point on the issue of Ukraine's NATO membership. To say that NATO poses no threat to Russia, that Ukraine's membership is a distant prospect and not on the agenda for the moment, and that all countries have the right to choose their security alliances, defies geopolitical sense. The basis of NATO's expansion is a perceived threat from Russia, meaning that Russia is seen as a potential threat to NATO. As regards choice, is it that US and key NATO countries have no choice in the matter and are bound by Ukraine's choice? If US led NATO makes a choice to give membership now or later it means assuming serious military responsibilities vis- a- vis Russia.

The need of the hour is to implement the Minsk agreements as brokered by France and Germany. Alongside, either an agreement on Ukraine's neutrality should be negotiated, or the issue of NATO membership should be made contingent on a new European security architecture that includes Russia and an eventual decision made by consensus that would include Russia too.

Disclaimer: Kanwal Sibal is India's former foreign secretary and former ambassador to Russia. The opinions expressed within this article are the personal ideas of the author. The facts and conclusions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Y Media and Midweek Newspaper, and Y Media does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE AND ACCESS TO RADIATION TREATMENT.

The Carlo Fidani Regional Cancer Centre at Trillium Health Partners (THP) is now the first hospital in Eastern Canada to treat patients using HyperArc, an innovative cancer treatment technology that will improve health outcomes, reduce wait times and increase access to treatment. HyperArc is a hardware and software platform that delivers highly precise radio-surgical treatment to patients with multiple brain metastases, tumours that result from cancer spreading from one part of the body to the brain. Prior to the implementation of HyperArc, radiosurgery at THP required treatment of one brain metastasis at a time. With HyperArc technology, THP can treat patients with multiple brain metastases in a single treatment. As an example, for a patient with seven brain metastases, HyperArc reduced the total planning and treatment time from an estimated 31.5 hours to 9.5 hours.

"This new technology will help us deliver even better care to our patients and result in more positive experiences throughout their cancer journey, while also benefitting our growing community by increasing access to treatment," said Dr. Joan Murphy, Vice President, Patient Care Services, Oncology, Trillium Health Partners & Regional Vice President, Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario). "We are committed to continuing to find

innovative ways to improve the quality of care and quality of life of cancer patients at the Carlo Fidani Regional Cancer Centre. Our priority is to deliver high quality, accessible and sustainable care to shape a healthier tomorrow." By significantly reducing the treatment time of each patient, HyperArc technology will increase capacity on the linear accelerator (LINAC) devices used for radiosurgical treatment and reduce the impact on hospital resources. THP's radiation program operates longer and treats more patients per LINAC than any other radiation program in the province. "We are proud to be the first cancer centre in Eastern Canada to use this innovative technology, and the first in Canada to treat patients with more than five brain metastases," said Dr. Anthony Brade, Division Head – Radiation Oncology, Trillium Health Partners & Regional Radiation Oncology Lead, Regional Cancer Program. "This will not only improve our patients' experience and outcomes but it will help us ensure we have the much-needed capacity to deliver high quality, safe and efficient cancer care to our growing community." "The treatment was so quick and easy to go through. It's amazing to be able to have all those spots treated in one visit so close to home," said Terena Burton, one of the first patients at THP to receive cancer treatment using HyperArc. "I would have been facing five or six hours of treatment in three visits otherwise. I'm so impressed with the radiation team at Trillium Health Partners."

CHANGES TO BRAMPTON TRANSIT SERVICE EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 28

Effective Monday February 28, 2022, Brampton Transit will implement service changes to ensure our transit system continues to move people around the city effectively.

The following routes will be back in service, and running on modified service levels:

- * 12 Grenoble
- * 13 Avondale
- * 16 Southgate
- * 17 Howden
- * 19 Fernforest
- * 25 Edenbrook
- * 28 Wanless
- * 40 Central Industrial
- * 55 Elbern Markel
- * 81 Mayfield West

The following routes are returning to full service levels:

- * 505 Züm Bovaird
- * 511C Züm Steeles
- * 2 Main
- * 3 McLaughlin
- * 4 Chinguacousy
- * 15 Bramalea
- * 18 Dixie
- * 199 UTM Express

Note: The above changes restore service levels to the schedules that were in effect in early January, 2022

The following routes remain cancelled until further notice (including weekday and weekends):

- * 501A/ 501C Züm Queen
- * 561 Züm Queen West
- * 18B Dixie (18 Dixie is still operating)
- * 21 Heart Lake
- * 36 Gardenbrooke (school extra trips operating only)
- * 58 Financial Drive
- * 65 Seniors Shopper
- * 92 Bramalea GO
- * 104 Chinguacousy Express
- * 185 Dixie Express

For the full list of schedule changes and route information, click here. To plan your next trip, call the Brampton Transit Contact Centre at 905.874.2999

Resource availability and ridership continue to be monitored and Brampton Transit will further restore services as soon as possible. Riders are reminded to safe and help protect others at transit stops and on transit by:

- * Wearing a mask properly at all times covering your mouth, chin and nose.
- * Carrying hand sanitizer and washing your hands frequently.
- * Practising physical distancing as much as possible.

CANADA'S INFLATION RATE RISES TO 5.1%, HIGHEST SINCE 1991

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 4.3% year over year in January 2022-the fastest pace since the introduction of the index in 1999. COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges continue to weigh on supply chains, and consumer energy prices remain elevated. Taken together, Canadians continued to feel the impact of rising prices for goods and services, especially for housing, food and gasoline.

On a monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.9% in January, the largest increase since January 2017, following a 0.1% decline in December 2021.

Highlights

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 5.1% on a year-over-year basis in January 2022, up from a 4.8% gain in December 2021. Excluding gasoline, the CPI rose 4.3% year over year-the fastest pace since the introduction of the index in 1999.

On a monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.9% in January 2022, the largest increase since January 2017, following a 0.1% decline in December 2021. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI was up 0.6%. In January, prices rose in all major components on a year-over-year basis, with shelter prices (+6.2%) contributing the most to the all-items increase.

Year over year, prices for services (+3.4%) rose in January, matching the increase in December 2021. Prices for goods (+7.2%) grew at a faster pace in January 2022 than in December 2021 (+6.8%), contributing to the price growth in the CPI.

OTTAWA MAN, 50, CHARGED IN RIDEAU CENTRE MALL ROBBERY



The Ottawa Police Service Robbery Unit has charged one male in connection to a robbery investigation that occurred earlier today within the shopping corridor of the 100 block of Rideau St. Ottawa. Carlos SMYTHE, 50 years of age of Ottawa has been charged with Robbery and several firearms-related offences in relation to this incident.

On February 22nd, 2022 at approximately 12:15 pm, the Ottawa Police Service received several calls for an armed man. The suspect entered a commercial business inside the shopping mall where he committed a theft and when confronted by Loss Prevention officers, he brandished a firearm. The suspect fled on foot and was arrested a short distance away. There were no reported injuries. The Ottawa Police Service would like to reassure the public that there are no further safety concerns related to this incident. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the Robbery Unit at (613) 236-1222 extension 5116 or call Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 or at www.crimestoppers.ca.

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OSLER’S URGENT CARE CENTRE AT PEEL MEMORIAL IN BRAMPTON TO RE-OPEN MARCH 21

RE-OPENING WILL INCREASE ACCESS TO URGENT CARE FOR OSLER’S COMMUNITIES

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The re-opening of the UCC will help increase timely access to quality, urgent health care for residents with non-life-threatening conditions. With COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions declining at Osler, the UCC at Peel Memorial will resume full hours of operation on March 21, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. On January 9, 2022, Osler temporarily closed the UCC due to ongoing capacity challenges, to direct its highly-skilled staff and physicians to where demand was greatest. The communities served by Osler have been among the hardest-hit throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to significant capacity pressures across its hospital sites. The UCC at Peel Memorial is resourced with emergency-trained staff and physicians ready

to provide care to patients in need of immediate but non-life-threatening care and enables ready access to diagnostic services. Planning is underway to transition the UCC to a 24 hour/7 days a week service in 2022. For more information, including on when to visit the UCC versus the emergency department, please visit www.williamoslerhs.ca/emergency-and-urgent-care. Osler’s Virtual Urgent Care is also available to provide a convenient alternative to visiting Osler’s Emergency Departments or the UCC. Virtual Urgent Care is suitable for any condition where a patient can safely wait a few hours for an appointment. Patients can book a Virtual Urgent Care appointment and find more detail on Osler’s website at <https://www.williamoslerhs.ca/en/areas-of-care/virtual-urgent-care.aspx>.

FRESH TRACKS FOR HEALTH CARE: \$110,000 RAISED FOR BRAMPTON HOSPITALS AT OSLER FOUNDATION’S SKI DAY 2022

Avid skiers and beginners alike were all smiles on February 15, at William Osler Health System Foundation’s (Osler Foundation) Ski Day 2022, presented by DG Group. This annual day on the slopes brought out over 200 winter sports enthusiasts who raised more than \$110,000 for William Osler Health System’s (Osler) Brampton Civic Hospital and Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness. “During this cold Ontario winter, nothing could warm my heart more than to see so many of our community members coming out to Ski Day in support of Osler hospitals,” said Ken Mayhew, President & CEO, William Osler Health System Foundation. “From the skiers, boarders and fundraisers, to our sponsors and volunteers, you are the ones who always make our annual day on the mountain a success. Thank you for continuing to show up for our friends and neighbours by helping to provide state-of-the-art health care, close to home.” The 13th annual Ski Day, hosted at Caledon Ski Club, brought together skiers and snowboarders of all ages and abilities, who shared in the joy of winter sports, all while supporting the Osler Foundation. Throughout the day, participants had a chance to safely gather and warm up by fire pits and heaters, as well as enjoy unique food and drink stations to fuel up for their mountain runs. Funds raised will help purchase critical hospital equipment such as surgical tables, anesthesia gas machines, laparoscopes and camera heads. The year’s top pledge earner, Alistair Shields from KLM Planning Partners Inc. was awarded the Jim Kennedy Top Fundraiser award commemorating the late Jim Kennedy, a passionate skier and fundraiser, dedicated volunteer and co-chair of Ski Day for many years. Ski Day 2022 was made possible thanks to Osler Foundation’s corporate and community sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor, DG Group and Gold Sponsors, AFTP Limited (Argo Land Development, TACC Developments, Fieldgate Developments, Paradise Developments) and KLM Planning Partners Inc. “DG Group cares very deeply about our local communities—and that means we care about our community hospitals, too,” said Darren



Steedman, Vice President of presenting sponsor, DG Group. “We also believe in having fun for a great cause, and that is what keeps us coming back, year after year, to hit the slopes in support of Osler Foundation.” Ski Day is made possible thanks to the hard-working organizing committee: Co-Chairs Mark Yarranton and Steven Wimmer, Councillor Jeff Bowman, Councillor Doug Whillans, Trevor Hall, Jennifer Vivian and Mike Harris. To support Osler Foundation, click here. To learn more about Osler hospitals, visit www.williamoslerhs.ca. ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM and FOUNDATION: William Osler Health System is a hospital system, which includes Brampton Civic Hospital, Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness and Etobicoke General Hospital, and serves 1.3 million residents of Brampton, Etobicoke and surrounding communities within the Central West region. Osler’s emergency departments are among the busiest in Canada and its Mental Health Program is one of the largest in the province. William Osler Health System Foundation seeks to create a healthier community through giving by inspiring its communities to invest in exceptional health care close to home.

IS COVID SURGING HEART PROBLEMS?

While heart disease has been one of the major health concerns in India, Covid-19 has exacerbated the condition significantly, said experts on Monday. According to the Global Burden of Disease, nearly a quarter (24.8 per cent) of all deaths in India is due to cardiovascular diseases (CVD). “Heart disease and Covid are intricately linked. If you remove the ‘O’ and ‘I’, Covid becomes CVD. Covid-19 is like a stress test for the heart,” Dr Ramakanta Panda, cardiac surgeon and head of Asian Heart Institute, Mumbai, told IANS. “Covid affects the heart in 20 per cent of the cases,” added Dr Bipin Kumar Dubey, Head of Department and Consultant, Cardiology, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, New Delhi. The cardiologists explained that Covid affects the heart in two ways: first it blocks the coronary artery, second it results in the weakening of the heart muscles. For people who already have a blockage, Covid can cause a full blockage. In those that do not have a blockage, sudden clots can form, leading to a heart attack. In the case of weak heart muscles, these cannot pump blood, patients become breathless, and the risk of an attack increases. Typically, Covid causes heart conditions in those above 60, and with some form of blockage in their body, or co-morbidities like hypertension, obesity, diabetes, or are smokers. However, Dubey noted: “In the last few days, I have seen asymptomatic patients come in, and complain of pain and then suffer from a heart attack. “It is not dependent on how severe Covid is. Even asymptomatic patients can suffer from heart attacks and heart related issues.” Even a mild case of Covid-19 can increase a person’s risk of cardiovascular problems for at least a year after diagnosis, according to a recent study published in the journal Nature Medicine.

INDIA’S CORBEVAX COVID VACCINE RECEIVES EUA APPROVAL FOR 12-18 AGE GROUP

Vaccine manufacturer Biological E. Ltd on Monday announced that its Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax has received emergency use authorisation (EUA) from India’s drug regulator for the 12 to 18-year age group. According to the Hyderabad-based firm, Corbevax is India’s first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) protein sub-unit vaccine against Covid-19. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had already approved Corbevax for restricted use in emergency situation among adults on December 28, 2019. BE received the approval for restricted use in an emergency situation in adolescents aged 12 to less than 18 years based on interim results (of the ongoing phase 2/3 clinical study). Biological E. Managing Director Mahima Datla said that the development would help extend the reach of the vaccine to the age group of 12 to 18 years. “We truly believe that with this approval, we are even more closer to finishing our global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Once fully vaccinated, children can resume their activities and educational pursuits in schools and colleges without any apprehension,” she said. She thanked all the participants in the clinical trials, the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Centre’s Department of Biotechnology, the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (TSTHI), and the principal investigators and clinical site staff who have extended their support during the last several months. Last September, BE received approval to conduct a Phase 2/3 clinical trial on Corbevax in children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years. Based on the no-objection certificate, BE initiated the clinical study in October 2021 and evaluated the available safety and immunogenicity results of the ongoing phase 2/3 study, which indicated that the vaccine is safe and immunogenic. The Corbevax vaccine is administered through intramuscular route with two doses, scheduled 28 days apart, and is stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius temperature and presented as 0.5 ml (single dose) and 5 ml (10 doses) vial and 10 mL (20 doses) vial pack.

DISRUPTING THE DISRUPTORS: LOCAL DRIVER CO-OP OFFERS BUSINESSES AND DRIVERS BETTER OPPORTUNITIES



Canadian technology platform co-operatives, Direct Global/Direct Co-ops and Local Driver Co-op, are giving drivers and businesses a chance to take advantage of a Co-op model that sees drivers keep 90% of revenue/ride fees from every trip and costs businesses using them only 5%, through their Direct Local Eats food delivery app. This is a major departure from existing big private sector players that charge businesses up to 35% in fees and leave drivers with less than 60% of revenue from each trip. It’s all possible because of a unique Co-op structure that lets participants share ownership in a Local Driver Co-op, a driver-owned co-operative formed in each city. “This is the future and the only way to make the so-called gig economy fair for all participating in it,” says Ahmed Attia, President CEO of Direct Global and Co-founder of Local Driver Co-op. “Not only are the fees and pay for the drivers and businesses that are members very appealing, but those who are the heart and soul of the company have a chance to be part of the growth, decision-making and ownership of it as well.” Direct Local Eats is currently running successfully in parts of Ontario, Canada and also around the world. A very successful pilot project in Guelph, Ontario saw almost 100 drivers servicing more than 75 local businesses, mainly in the restaurant and grocery sectors. “I really enjoy how Direct Local Eats has a lower commission fee compared to their competitors. They keep more money in the pockets of the driver, the customer and the restaurants, all the while offering great customer service”, said Alex Tami, Owner, Sugo on Surrey restaurant. Plans to significantly expand across Ontario are underway with the company recently signing an agreement with A & W Canada to be a delivery partner for over 1000 stores across Canada. “Direct Local Eats is one of the best new solutions for online delivery. We at A & W have seen our bottom line go up with the fees being as low as 5%. It is also great for the drivers, who get to own their platform and keep the majority of the delivery fee. We have heard a lot of good reviews from the drivers and are happy to be partnered with Direct Local Eats.” said Rajat Kalra, an A & W franchisee in Toronto. Direct Local Eats is currently launching in the GTA , actively recruiting member businesses and drivers to support its rapid growth. Sign up is easy and fast at www.localdriver.coop (for drivers) or www.directlocaleats.com for businesses. You may also call: Rick Singh 647-505-2100 for more information. Membership is free for businesses and will remain free for the first 1000 drivers in each major city.

TORONTO MAYOR TORY LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES DURING THEIR PANDEMIC RECOVERY



At Trinity Common, Mayor John Tory announced a new business supports campaign to help make small business owners and operators more aware of grants, incentives, training and other available resources as they recover from the pandemic. Small businesses, including restaurants, are encouraged to take advantage of these resources, which include access to one-on-one virtual assistance, COVID-19 guidelines, and links to other financial resources and relief measures. At the announcement, the Mayor was joined by Minister Lisa MacLeod, Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; Arif Virani, Member of Parliament, Parkdale-High Park and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development; and Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson (Scarborough Centre). Small businesses are a vital part of what makes Toronto a great place to live, work, invest in and visit. Small businesses (fewer than 100 employees) make up close to 98 per cent of all businesses in the city and employ approximately 60 per cent of Toronto’s workforce. Together, COVID-19-related restrictions and closures, along with changes in consumer demand, technology and labour supply, have made it challenging for certain small businesses to operate profitably, let alone plan or invest for future growth with confidence. The City is committed to having local businesses thrive once more and is working closely with many partners, including other orders of government and business associations, to provide training, grants, incentives, advisory services, enhanced access to space (through programs like CaféTO), a new small business property tax sub-class and other supports. “Small businesses across our city have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to provide them as much support as possible we are launching a campaign that will connect them to the resources that are available to them. Toronto’s small businesses and restaurants are vital to our city’s success and we know it will take a lot of work from everyone to ensure that they can continue thriving. I want to thank the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, for providing much-needed support and funding to help small businesses and restaurants recover from the impacts of the pandemic. I encourage small business owners and operators to learn more about these programs and take advantage of them so that we can move forward together and come back stronger than ever,” Mayor John Tory said.



Punjab logs 72% voter turnout for 117-member Assembly

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The BJP-Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) alliance is also in the fray, besides the Sanyukt Samaj Morcha, comprising Punjab farmer bodies that had taken part in the agitation against the Centre's now repealed agricultural laws. Congress leader Sunil Jakhar, who was among the early voters, cast his vote in Panjkosi village in Abohar constituency, while greenhorn Congress candidate MalvikaSood, who is the sister of actor SonuSood, cast her vote in Moga, while Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) CM candidate Bhagwant Mann exercised his franchise in Mohali. Mann is contesting from the Dhuri Assembly seat. Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal asked voters to choose carefully. Ahead of casting his vote, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi offered prayers to Lord Shiva at a temple in Kharar town. He said the people of Punjab have decided to bring the Congress back to power with a huge majority. Talking to media before going to the polling booth to cast his vote in Kharar town, he said, "The position is clear,

people want Congress back, and we are heading for a two-third majority." He alleged that the Dera Sacha Sauda in connivance with the BJP has supported the Akali Dal in this Assembly polls. "Dera was responsible for the incidents of sacrilege in Punjab and they are getting their support now in the polling," Channi said. Meanwhile, Bollywood actor SonuSood accused other party candidates of trying to buy votes. However, the Election Commission restrained him from visiting polling stations in Moga over complaints that he was influencing voters. His vehicle was impounded and he was instructed to stay inside his house. In the 2017 Assembly elections, the Congress had won an absolute majority by winning 77 seats in the 117-member Assembly, ousting the SAD-BJP government after 10 years. The AAP had emerged as the second-largest party, winning 20 seats. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) won 15 seats, while the BJP, which had a coalition government with the Akali Dal in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, secured three seats.

Lalu Prasad Yadav gets five-year jail term in fifth fodder scam case



A CBI court in Ranchi on Monday sentenced RJD chief Lalu Prasad to five years in prison in a fodder scam case pertaining to illegal withdrawal of Rs 139.35 crore from Doranda treasury in 1995-1996. A fine of Rs 60 lakh

was also slapped on him. On February 15, Special Judge S K Sashi convicted 75 accused, including Lalu, while acquitting 24 others. The court awarded up to three years jail to 34 convicts and fined them between Rs 20,000 and Rs 2 lakh. On Monday, the remaining 41 convicts were sentenced to three to five years rigorous imprisonment and fined a total of Rs 11.93 crore. Lalu has already undergone judicial custody of three years and nineteen days, said Anant Kumar Vij, a defence lawyer. "The judge pronounced five-year jail term, of which he has already undergone more than three years in custody. Since he has already undergone half of the jail term, we will file a petition in High Court to grant him bail," he said. After his conviction in the Doranda treasury case – the fifth one related to the fodder scam – the 73-year-old leader was lodged in Birsa Munda Central Jail and then moved to the state-run Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi on health grounds.

'COMEDY' SAYS KEJRIWAL ON 'SEPARATIST' REMARKS



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Terming allegations levelled against him by former party leader Kumar Vishwas 'Comedy', Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday described himself as "world's sweetest terrorist who builds roads, hospitals and sends elderly people to pilgrimage. Former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas had alleged that Kejriwal had spoken about becoming PM of a separate state. In a video, Kumar is seen saying,

"One day, he (Kejriwal) told me he would either become CM (of Punjab) or first PM of an independent nation.. he wants power at any cost." They have all teamed up against me and they are calling me a terrorist. It is comedy. If that is the case, then why doesn't (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji have me arrested?" asked Kejriwal in a press conference on Friday. Addressing the press conference, Kejriwal asked what were the Centre's security agencies doing until now. "What were agencies during the Congress and BJP's tenure doing till now? Why did they not arrest me? This is such a humorous matter," he added. He said: "I must be the world's sweetest terrorist, a terrorist who provides schools, hospitals, electricity, roads, water..". He added further that 100 years back, Bhagat Singh was called a terrorist by the British and I'm his staunch follower. Today, history is repeating itself. These all corrupt people have teamed up to brand the disciple of Bhagat Singh a terrorist, but people know the truth, said the Delhi CM. PM Modi and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were among those who attacked Kejriwal over Kumar Vishwas's video wherein he accused Kejriwal of making separatist comments.

PAKISTAN PM ADVISER SAYS TRADE WITH INDIA IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"The trade with India is very beneficial to all, especially Pakistan. And I support it," he added. About the exports to Afghanistan, the adviser said his ministry had increased the number of exporting items to Afghanistan (in Pakistani rupee) to 17. "Still various businessmen are contacting me to include their articles/items in this list as they also want to export their goods to Afghanistan in Pak rupee," he claimed. Talking about the trade relations with Russia, Dawood said Pakistan's exports to Russia and the countries bordering it (central Asia) and others required immediate attention and growth. "So we need to open this trade. And that is why we are going there," he said, adding that Russia wanted to work in Pakistan in the fields of laying pipelines, constructions.

NON-BJP PARTIES FINGERS CROSSED ON PUNJAB; WONDER IF CONGRESS WALKED INTO BJP'S TRAP

NEW DELHI: The non-BJP parties at the Centre are fingers crossed on the possible effect of postponing of the election to 117-member Punjab Assembly from the earlier schedule of February 14 to February 20 on the poll outcome. Also, many in the non-BJP camp wonder if the ruling Congress goose-stepped into a trap of the BJP with regard to shelving of the election date. The delay gave crucial window to BJP and its allies, including Captain Amarinder Singh to organise themselves to pick up pieces in the backdrop of farmers' agitation. It also provided SAD the leeway to organise its campaign against Congress and AAP. The Election Commission had shelved the date following demand, including by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi in view of birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas as on February 16. In a sudden development, a bandwagon roared in the State to defer the poll date. In the related din, it was hard to put a finger as to who originated the clamour for it. The anxiety among the opponents of the BJP now stems from the extra time allowed to it to sharpen its election campaign along with its allies, including former Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. The countdown for the election result in Punjab had begun with the debate generally centred on either Congress or Aam Aadmi Party emerging as the winner.

AS BJP WOOS THEM FOR VOTES, WHERE DO MUSLIM WOMEN STAND IN UP ELECTIONS?

LUCKNOW, (IANS) In the ongoing Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is hopeful of getting votes from the Muslim community and is busy trying to woo them. After implementing the law against "Triple talaq", the Modi government is trying to send a message that it is committed to provide justice to Muslim women and is confident that the latter will vote for the BJP in the ongoing elections. However, like in the past elections, the BJP has not fielded a single Muslim candidate this time too, but its NDA ally Apna Dal has fielded one against the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Abdullah Azam Khan, the son of Mohammed Azam Khan, from the Suar Assembly constituency of Rampur district. On the other hand, opposition parties such as the SP, BSP and Congress have fielded a large number of Muslim candidates and are keen to secure the Muslim votebank. The BJP, however, feels that the various welfare schemes implemented by the governments both at the Centre and in the state will influence the Muslim voters. This is the reason that the saffron party is hopeful of getting votes from the community. Bharatiya Janata Party workers have made all-out efforts in the Assembly constituencies where the Muslim votes will likely have a huge impact on the election results. The BJP's star campaigner Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a recent election rally said Muslim women are aware of the corruption-free and clean image of his government. "My government has freed Muslim women from the archaic practice of Triple talaq and enacted a law against it to protect their fundamental rights," Modi said.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA ARE GOING THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT PHASE: JAISHANKAR



LONDON, (IANS) In a prickly interaction with a moderator, S Jaishankar, Indian External Affairs Minister, remarked in a panel discussion at the annual Munich Security Conference that ties with China are going through a very difficult phase. Answering a question on the Sino-India situation, the minister explained: "It's a problem we are having with China; and the problem is this: that for 45 years there was peace, there was stable border management, there were no military casualties from 1975. That changed because we had agreements with China not to bring military forces to the border, we call it border but it's a line of actual control, and the Chinese violated those agreements. Now the state of the border will determine the state of the relationship. That's natural. So obviously relations with China are going through a very difficult phase." Asked if the relationship with the West had improved as a result of the confrontation with China, he replied: "My relations with the West were quite decent before June 2020." The questioner pointed out: "A recent poll, I think it was published just last week, indicates that on this occasion of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations which we celebrate this year, levels of trust between ASEAN countries and India are fairly low. India ranks fifth, after Japan, the United States, the EU and China; and only 16.6 per cent of respondents in this poll have said that they have confidence in India."

FAMILY MEMBERS OF DECEASED MOVE SC AGAINST BAIL TO MISHRA IN KHERI CASE



The family members of deceased farmers, who were mowed by a car belonging to Ashish Misra in Lakhimpur Kheri, have moved the Supreme Court challenging bail granted to Misra by the Allahabad High Court. Misra is the son of Union Minister Ajay Misra Teni. The petitioners have filed the plea through advocate Prashant Bhushan. The plea contended that family members were forced to move the apex court since Uttar Pradesh has failed to file an appeal challenging bail granted to Misra. The plea argued that the high court granted bail without considering the heinous nature of the crime and also in the backdrop of overwhelming evidence against the accused in the charge sheet. The plea further argued that there is likelihood of the accused tampering with the witnesses and causing obstruction in justice. Last week, another plea filed by advocates C.S. Panda and Shiv Kumar Tripathi, was moved in the Supreme Court challenging the bail granted to Misra, in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Misra was released from jail after he was granted bail by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. His lawyers submitted two bail bonds of Rs 3 lakh each in regard to his bail orders. In November last year, the Supreme Court appointed justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, a former judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, to monitor the Lakhimpur Kheri violence probe. The top court also reconstituted the SIT investigating the incident and appointed IPS officer S.B. Shiradkar, as its head. The plea filed by advocates said: "The net effect of getting a bail to accused Ashish Misra @ Monu and non-interrogation of the Union Minister of State (Home) Ajay Misra by the retd Justice Rakesh Jaina results in greater prejudice affecting the morale of the law-abiding peaceful protesters hailing from Lakhimpur local area and other parts of UP". Misra was arrested on October 9 last year in the case.

PM MODI INAUGURATES ASIA'S BIGGEST BIO-CNG PLANT IN INDORE



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Asia's biggest Bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's Indore via video conferencing. Addressing the event, PM Modi said that the work is on to set up similar gobar dhan Bio-CNG plants in 75 big municipal bodies across the country in next two years. The campaign will help a lot in making India's cities clean, pollution free, clean energy, he added. "Whether it is the wet waste that comes out of the houses in the city, the garbage from the livestock and farms in the village, all this is gobar dhan in a way. From city's waste and livestock to gobar dhan, from gobar dhan to clean fuel and again from clean fuel to energy, the chain creates Jivan Dhan", PM Modi said. "Millions of tonnes of garbage have been engulfing thousands of acres of similar land for decades in cities across the country", he said. PM Modi added that it is also a major reason for the diseases caused by air pollution and water pollution. That's why work is being done to deal with this problem in the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission. Ethanol blending in India used to be only 1-2 per cent seven-eight years ago. Today, the percentage of ethanol blending in petrol is reaching around 8 per cent. The supply of ethanol for blending has also been greatly increased in the last seven years, he said. Talking about the stubble burning, PM Modi said that the government has taken important decisions in this budget. "We have taken an important decision related to it in this budget. It has been decided that stubble will also be used in coal-fired power plants. This will not only remove the problems of the farmer, it will also generate additional income from the agricultural waste", he said.



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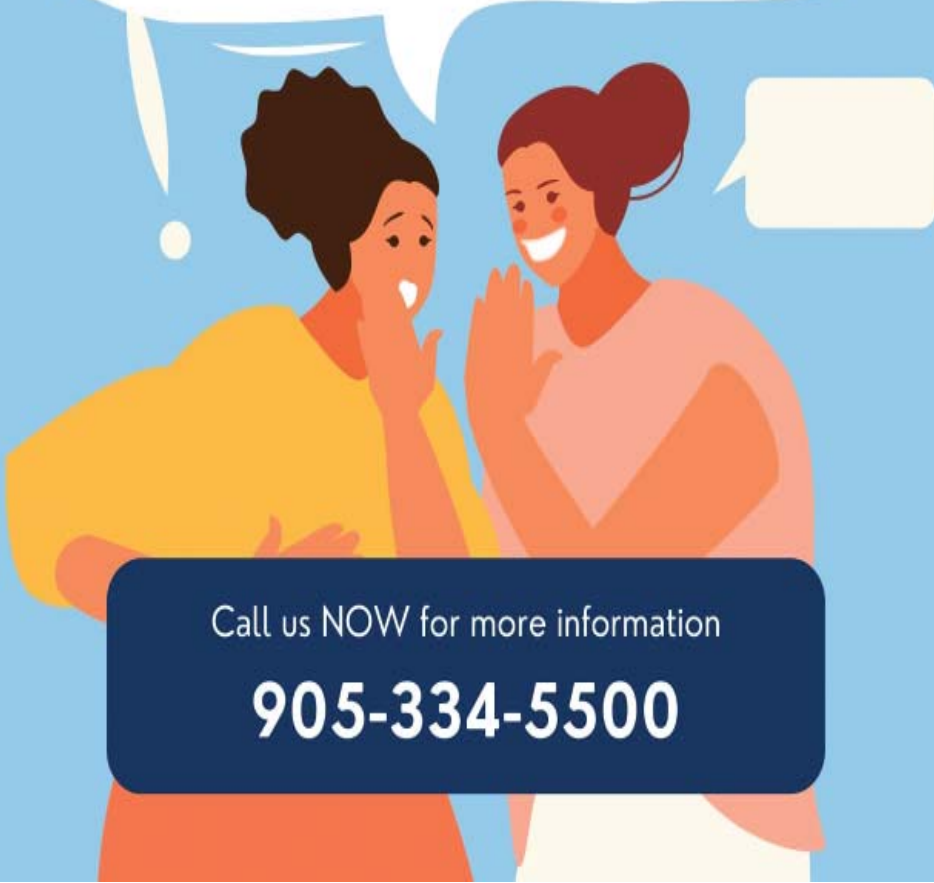


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FLYER PRICES EFFECTIVE:
Feb.25 (Fri.) - Mar.03 (Thur.) 2022

PRODUCE

Fresh Cluster Tomatoes
新鮮大龍蝦番茄
Reg: \$2.59
Save: \$0.92
\$1.67 lb

Fresh Cantaloupe
新鮮大龍蝦瓜
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$2.02
\$2.97 ea

Fresh Peanut
新鮮花生
Reg: \$2.59
Save: \$0.82
\$1.77 lb

Fresh Gold Kiwi 1lb
新鮮黃金奇異果
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$2.02
\$2.97 box

Fresh Blueberries (1/2lb)
新鮮藍莓 (1/2lb)
Reg: \$2.99/ea
Save: \$2.98
2 FOR \$3.00

MEAT

Fresh Veal Shoulder
新鮮牛肩肉
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$0.70
\$3.29 lb

Fresh Beef Back Rib
新鮮牛肋排
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$0.50
\$3.49 lb

Frozen Mutton Shoulder (Small Cut)
急凍羊肉肩
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$1.00
\$4.99 lb

SEAFOOD

Fresh Whiting Fish
牙帶魚
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 lb

Cutlass Fish
牙帶魚
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$3.02
\$2.97 lb

Live Barramundi Fish
游水桂魚
Reg: \$12.99
Save: \$3.02
\$9.97 lb

Indian Ocean White Pomfret
印度洋白鯧魚
Reg: \$13.99
Save: \$4.02
\$9.97 lb

KITCHEN

Deep Fried Beef Samosas
牛肉酥角
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$2.01
\$2.98 order

Stir Fried Green Beans
乾煸四季豆
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$3.01
\$6.98 order

Sweet & Sour Chicken
甜酸雞
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$3.01
\$7.98 order

Stir Fried Chicken With Black Bean Sauce
豉汁蒸雞
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$3.01
\$7.98 order

SUPER DEAL

Fresh European Sea Bass
新鮮歐洲海斑
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$1.02
\$6.97 lb

Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream
500ml
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$4.02
\$3.97 ea

Madina Family Pack Paratha
1.6kg 20pcs
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Al Safa Halal Uncooked Chicken Burgers
Reg: \$11.99
Save: \$7.02
\$4.97 ea

SH Frozen Tilapia Fillet 500g
Reg: \$8.99
Save: \$3.02
\$5.97 ea

Sunthai Seafood Easy Peel
Raw White Shrimp 26/30
Net 400g
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$3.02
\$6.97 ea

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

Surati Snacks Series 341g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$0.72
\$2.27 ea

Fruiti - O Mango Juice
2.1L
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Tim Hortons Hot Chocolate
500g
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$3.02
\$4.97 ea

Bedessee Demerara Gold
100% Natural Cane Sugar
1.36kg
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$2.02
\$5.97 ea

Chusaiqu Almond Jujuube
Snacks 300g
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$2.02
\$7.97 ea

Aurora Honey Miel 1kg
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$2.02
\$8.97 ea

Mazola Corn Oil 3.78L
Reg: \$13.99
Save: \$2.02
\$11.97 ea

Five Roses All Purpose Flour
10kg
Reg: \$13.99
Save: \$2.02
\$11.97 ea

India Crown Basmati Rice
10lb
Reg: \$13.99
Save: \$2.02
\$11.97 ea

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

Bourbon Chicken
Reg: \$15.99
Save: \$5.01
\$10.98 order

Fresh California Navel
Oranges (L)
新鮮加州橙(大)
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.62
\$1.37 lb

Fresh Okra
新鮮羊角豆
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.42
\$2.57 lb

GROCERY

Dee Thai Coconut Milk
400ml
Reg: \$1.59
Save: \$0.62
97¢ ea

Surati Bhunga Flour Rings
Series 100g
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.52
\$1.47 ea

Britannia Good Day
Cookies Series 231g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 ea

Holdiram's Indian Snacks
Murukku 200g
Reg: \$2.59
Save: \$0.62
\$1.97 ea

Handi Crispy Fried Onion
400g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Laxmi Mamma Basmati
(Puffed Rice) 400g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Laxmi Brand Thick Poha
(Parched Rice) 2lb
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Aman's Poha Makhana
100g
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Phidola BBQ Corn Nuts 1lb
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Eagle Eston Lentils (Small)
Green Lentils 1/2lb
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Eagle Yellow Split Peas 4lb
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Holdiram's Indian Sweets
Agra Taj Potha 350g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

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

Punjab King Jaggery /
Jaggery Powder 1kg
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$1.22
\$4.77 ea

Edro Desiccated Coconut
500g
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$1.02
\$5.97 ea

HALAL MEAT

Halal Veal With Bone
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 lb

Halal Boneless Chicken Breast
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$1.02
\$4.97 lb

Halal Frozen Baby
Goat Shoulder
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$1.00
\$6.99 lb

Halal Frozen Baby
Goat Leg
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$1.00
\$8.99 lb

FROZEN

Breyers Family Classic
Ice Cream 750g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$0.02
\$2.97 ea

Dee's Choice Kufi Ice
Cream & Syrup
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$2.02
\$4.97 ea

Surati Frozen Vegetables
400g
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.52
\$1.47 ea

Cavendish Potato Patties
(Hashbrown) 600g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Golden Harvest Aloo /
Dol Puri 100g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

High Liner Fries & Fish
250g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$3.02
\$2.97 ea

Seven Baskets White
Chicken Kabab 300g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$3.02
\$2.97 ea

Surati Seafood Frozen
Swimming Crab 3.5lb
Reg: \$27.99
Save: \$8.02
\$19.97 ea

Surati Seafood Frozen
Shrimp 400g
Reg: \$19.99
Save: \$5.02
\$14.97 ea

Surati Seafood Frozen
Red Fish 1lb
Reg: \$19.99
Save: \$5.02
\$14.97 ea

BAKERY

Cherry Turnovers 4pcs
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 pk

Chicken Pie 2pcs
Reg: \$2.49
Save: \$0.52
\$1.97 pk

Taza Baked Puff Pastry Series 150-225g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 pk

My Le Hoa Cupcake Series
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$0.52
\$2.47 pk

La Fourme Dorée Brioche Sliced Bread 500g
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$0.72
\$4.27 pk

DAIRY

Beatrice Sour Cream
500g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Silmi Mozzarella Cheese Ball
250g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Oasis Smoothie 1.75L
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Astro Yogurt 12x100g
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$2.02
\$2.97 ea

Black Diamond Shredded
Cheese 300g
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$1.02
\$5.97 ea

Lactantia 1% Cheddar
Milk 623.7ml
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$1.02
\$5.97 ea

Krinos Greek Feta Cheese
400g
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$3.02
\$6.97 ea

XL White Egg 30pcs
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$2.02
\$7.97 ea

Al Madhni International Halal
Cheese 24x250g
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$2.02
\$7.97 ea

Brick Dairy Pure Dill Ghee
Reg: \$35.99
Save: \$12.02
\$22.97 ea

ETOBICOKE LOCATION

*All Sale Items For Etobicoke Store Only
Sunnysupermarket.com

SUNNY FOOD MART

陽光超級市場

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Feb. 25 (Fri.) - Mar. 03 (Thur.) 2022

陽光生鮮 SUNNY GO 線上超市

動動手指 生鮮到家

免費活動 歡迎您!

動動手指 關注我們

快登陸官網採購吧: SUNNYGO.CA

Fresh Lard Chicken
2175 400g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$1.02
\$4.97 ea

Fresh Frozen White Shrimp
500g
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$2.02
\$5.97 ea

Grass Fed Large White Eggs
dozen
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Vitamix Blender
Reg: \$119.99
Save: \$1.02
\$118.97 ea

Extra Large Thousand
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Britannia Good Day
Cookies Series 231g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 ea

Handi Roast Chicken
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 ea

Lata Maas Curry Powder
3lb
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$2.02
\$8.97 ea

Dobut Mustard Oil
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$2.02
\$8.97 ea

Aman's Saffron 100g
Reg: \$10.99
Save: \$2.02
\$8.97 ea

Mr. Goodfellow's
Chocolate 300g
Reg: \$14.99
Save: \$2.02
\$12.97 ea

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

Honey Garlic Chicken
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$2.02
\$7.97 ea

Fresh Okra
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.42
\$2.57 lb

Fresh California Navel
Oranges (L)
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.62
\$1.37 lb

FROZEN

Popadum Frozen Dosa
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Surati Garlic / Tomato
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 ea

Cavendish Potato Patties
(Hashbrown) 600g
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Tandoori Chicken
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Black Tie Chicken
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

SH Frozen Banggai
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Black Tie Chicken
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Seven Baskets Premium
Raw Shrimp 400g
Reg: \$9.99
Save: \$5.02
\$4.97 ea

Surati Seafood Frozen
Red Fish 1lb
Reg: \$19.99
Save: \$5.02
\$14.97 ea

Surati Seafood Frozen
Shrimp 400g
Reg: \$19.99
Save: \$5.02
\$14.97 ea

GROCERY

Grace Peanut Punch 240ml
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.02
97¢ ea

Sobing Green Congo Pigeon
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.02
97¢ ea

Kingsford's Corn Starch 454g
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.02
97¢ ea

Nescafe 1+2 Instant Coffee
200g
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.02
97¢ ea

Camerton Evaporated Milk
340ml
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.02
97¢ ea

Surati Bhunga Flour Rings
Series 100g
Reg: \$1.99
Save: \$0.52
\$1.47 ea

Dan-D-Pak Quick / Rolled Oats
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$0.52
\$2.47 ea

Alkaramah Dahi Masoori
320g
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$1.02
\$3.97 ea

Cedar Pure White Vinegar 4L
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Matouki's West Indian Hot
Sauce / Hot Pepper Sauce
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Ghana Fresh Palmnut Cream
800g
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$2.02
\$4.97 ea

Quality Chick Peas 4lb
Reg: \$6.99
Save: \$2.02
\$4.97 ea

Tim Hortons Hot Chocolate
500g
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$3.02
\$4.97 ea

Maggi Chicken Bouillon Cubes
Reg: \$7.99
Save: \$2.02
\$5.97 ea

Maggi Coconut Milk Powder
400g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

MEAT

Fresh Veal Shoulder
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$0.70
\$3.29 lb

Fresh Beef Back Rib
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$0.50
\$3.49 lb

Frozen Mutton Shoulder (Small Cut)
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$1.00
\$4.99 lb

DAIRY

Silmi Mozzarella Cheese Ball
250g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Oasis 100% Premium Orange
Reg: \$3.99
Save: \$1.02
\$2.97 ea

Kiri All Cream Cheese 144g
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Wili 2 Gb (Cheese) 6x200ml
Reg: \$5.99
Save: \$2.02
\$3.97 ea

Imperial All Purpose Flour
10kg
Reg: \$13.99
Save: \$2.02
\$11.97 ea

BAKERY

Cherry Turnovers 4pcs
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 pk

Chicken Pie 2pcs
Reg: \$2.49
Save: \$0.52
\$1.97 pk

Taza Baked Puff Pastry Series 150-225g
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$1.02
\$1.97 pk

My Le Hoa Cupcake Series
Reg: \$2.99
Save: \$0.52
\$2.47 pk

La Fourme Dorée Brioche Sliced Bread 500g
Reg: \$4.99
Save: \$0.72
\$4.27 pk

Steeles Ave. W

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Albion Rd.

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(416) 745-2988

Business Hours:
Sun.-Thurs: 8:00am-9:00pm
Fri.-Sat.: 8:00am-9:00pm
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We Accept: VISA

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每週店內有大量特價產品出售。廣告如有錯誤與誤，以店內商品標示為準。
部分商品特價僅限三天。數量有限，售完即止。本店保留檢查數量的權利。
HUGE PRODUCT SPECIALS IN STORE EVERY WEEK.
CHECK PRICES ON DISPLAY IN STORE IN CASE OF DISCREPANCY. DUE TO PRINTING ERRORS ON THIS FLYER.
OFFER VALID WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. SUNNY FOODMART RESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.

649 000

5% Discount

5% Discount for Seniors
(Age 65+)
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Valid Photo ID Required