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BHUMI PEDNEKAR SAYS BADHAAI DO 'WILL BE AN EYE-OPENER FOR INDIA' | P15

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END OF AN ERA



LATA MANGESHKAR, THE AGELESS VOICE OF INDIA, PASSES AWAY AT 92.



DETAILS ON PAGE 16

CANADA'S EMPLOYMENT DIPS BY 200,000; UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 6.5% IN JANUARY

Canada's employment fell by 200,000 and the unemployment rate rose 0.5 percentage points to 6.5 per cent in January, according to Statistics Canada. With the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and stricter public health measures implemented, capacity limits or closures had been re-introduced in retail stores and high-contact settings such as restaurants, bars, concert halls and gyms, Xinhua news agency quoted Statistics Canada as saying on Friday.

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HAS SIDHU POLARISED PUNJAB ONCE AGAIN?

Ever since he visited Pakistan and hugged its army chief, "nationalist" Indians have been deeply offended and spoken out against Navjot Singh Sidhu's allegedly pro-Pakistan views. The sentiment seems to have seeped into Punjab, says a CVoter survey conducted for IANS across the state covering all social and religious groups, apart from party supporters. The dislike for Sidhu amongst non-Sikhs and even non Jat-Sikhs is palpable.



CONTD. ON PAGE 8

HOW PERCEPTIONS MAY IMPACT ASSEMBLY OPINION POLL RESULTS

There is no doubt that anti-incumbency, and often outright anger with the existing ruling party, plays a big role in voter decisions that lead to final election results. There can also be no doubt that "perceptions" about who will win the elections affects voter behaviour. This was revealed by final results of the CVoter-ABP News opinion poll released on Monday evening. A large number of voters seemed upset and angry with their existing governments in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa. But perceptions about who will win differed in many states.

CONTD. ON PAGE 3

NEHA SHARMA, 28, CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER AFTER WOMAN STABBED IN BRAMPTON

Investigators from 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have charged a 28-year-old woman with Attempted Murder in a Brampton stabbing incident. On Monday, February 7, 2022, at approximately 2:00 a.m., the victim and suspect, who are not known to each other, were present in the same store in the area of Kennedy Road South and Queen Street East in the City of Brampton. It is alleged that the suspect approached a woman in her 20's and stabbed her. First responders attended the scene and the victim was transported to a trauma centre with life-threatening injuries. Her condition has since stabilized and her injuries are now considered non-life-threatening.

CONTD. ON PAGE 7

PAKISTAN WANTS TO BRING TOGETHER US & CHINA TO PREVENT ANOTHER COLD-WAR

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his desire to act as a bridge between the US and China with an aim to ease down tensions between the two global powerhouses and pave the way towards bringing them closer.

The Pakistani premier gave this statement during an interview with CGTN, emphasizing the importance of dialogue to address all pertaining issues for regional and global stability.

"We have a good relationship with the US and also an iron-brother relationship with China. We want to play a role of the 1970s, when Pakistan was instrumental in getting the United States and China together," he said. Referring to the historic Sino-US breakthrough in 1971, in which Pakistan played a pivotal role; Khan said that the world was not ready for another cold war between two formidable powers.



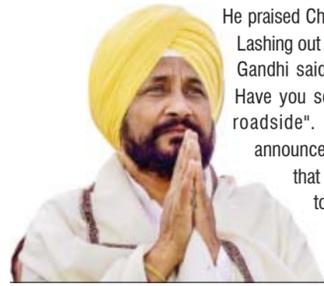
CONTD. ON PAGE 9

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- **Scientists In Philadelphia To Start Human Trials Soon On Single Dose Covid Vaccine.**
- **Ontario Will Give Out Free Covid-19 Rapid Tests At Grocery Stores And Pharmacies Across The Province.**
- **Toronto Public Health Data Show Hospitalization And Death Are Rare For Individuals With Three Doses Of Covid-19 Vaccine.**
- **92.2% Ontarians Have Received First Dose, 88.7% Have Two Doses.**

ENDING LONG SUSPENSE, CONGRESS PICKS CHANNI AS CM FACE IN PUNJAB

Just two weeks ahead of Assembly polls in the Congress-ruled Punjab, party leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday ended months of suspense by announcing incumbent Charanjit Singh Channi as the party's Chief Ministerial face for the polls. Accepting the decision, state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who was in the race, hugged Channi on the stage as Gandhi announced his name after over 45 minutes of his speech, televised across the 117 Assembly seats. Political observers believe the decision of the Congress to go to the polls in the state, which is witnessing a five-cornered contest, under the leadership of three-time legislator Channi, the state's first Dalit Chief Minister, is to woo the Dalit Sikh votes that constitutes 32 per cent Scheduled Caste population in the state, the country's largest. "The people of Punjab have said, not me, the thought is theirs, not mine, that they want a person from a poor household as the CM. We want someone who understands poverty, hunger, and fears of the poor. Punjab's CM candidate is Charanjit Singh Channi Ji," said Gandhi during his address at the 'Aawaz Punjab Di' virtual rally.



He praised Channi for his humble background. Lashing out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gandhi said "he is not the PM but a king. Have you seen him helping anyone on the roadside". Getting emotional on the announcement of his name, Channi said that he has always been honest, never took a penny from anyone, and will continue to work honestly.

CONTD. ON PAGE 8

C VOTER SURVEY: AAP LEADS IN PUNJAB, BJP IN UP, HUNG ASSEMBLY IN UTTARAKHAND, GOA & MANIPUR

Despite the hype created around the party in the 2017 Assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party had fallen way behind the Congress when results were announced. It looks all set to turn the tables in the current elections. According to a CVoter-ABP News opinion poll released on Monday evening, the AAP is set to win Punjab with a wafer-thin majority while the Congress appears to be way behind, with the Akali Dalled alliance and the BJP-led alliance in collaboration with former Congress chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh trail behind the two leading contenders.

According to the final results of the poll, the AAP is projected to win between a range of 55 to 63 seats - the upper end of the range ensuring a majority for the party for the first time.

The Congress which recently announced the state's first Dalit Chief Minister as their CM candidate seems to be too far behind a majority with a projection of between 24 to 30 seats.

The alliance with the BSP doesn't seem to have helped the Akali Dal which ruled Punjab in alliance with the BJP between 2007 and 2017.



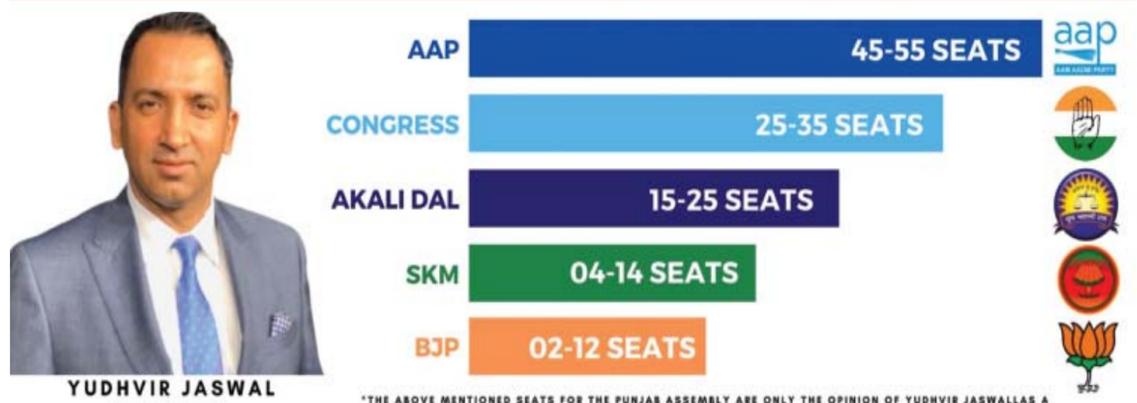
CONTD. ON PAGE 4

Y MEDIA EDITOR'S TAKE

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY TOTAL SEATS - 117, 59 SEATS FOR MAJORITY

Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX

PUNJAB ELECTIONS 2022 SEAT PROJECTIONS



YUDHVIR JASWAL
GROUP EDITOR OF Y MEDIA GROUP

*THE ABOVE MENTIONED SEATS FOR THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ARE ONLY THE OPINION OF YUDHVIR JASWALLAS A GROUP EDITOR AND WE DO NOT CLAIM THAT THESE WILL BE THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF SEATS WON BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTY DURING PUNJAB ELECTIONS

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Y MEDIA POLITICAL SENSEX, 5-STATES ELECTION, 2022



Who are the preferred leaders to become Chief Minister?

If you are a political scientist expecting any surprises or the sudden emergence of a dark horse on voters' preference for becoming chief minister of their state, they will be disappointed. This was revealed in the final results of the CVoter ABP News opinion poll released on the evening of February 7. The choices reflect what political commentators and pundits have been saying for a while.

In Punjab, it has not been very long since Bhagwant Mann was projected as the chief ministerial candidate by the Aam Aadmi Party. The Congress announced Charanjit Singh Channi as the CM face just recently.

Bhagwant Mann leads the pack with 35.7 per cent of the votes while Channi comes a distant second with 25.9 per cent of the voters. The other contenders are too far behind to be in contention.

In Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat, the former chief minister leads the race and gets 39.4 per cent of the votes as the preferred CM. Current BJP

chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama gets 35.5 per cent of the votes, a big jump from the 28.6 per cent he got in January this year.

In Goa, current BJP chief minister Pramod Sawant leads the pack with 30.4 per cent of the votes. He is far ahead of AAP CM candidate Amit Patekar who gets 19.5 per cent. Digambar Kamat of the Congress gets 7.8 per cent. The much hyped entry of TMC has made no impact with its candidate Luizinho Falerio getting 2.7 per cent of the votes.

In the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh, current BJP chief minister Yogi Adityanath is far ahead with 43.6 per cent of the votes. In contrast, his main rival for the post of CM Akhilesh Yadav gets 33.7 per cent of the votes. The others are too far behind to matter.

Interestingly, except in Uttarakhand where the fight is neck and neck, the parties whose candidates are the most preferred choice for CM are projected to win the largest number of seats in their states.

AAP TO GAIN THE MOST FROM CONGRESS INFIGHTING: C-VOTER SURVEY



Voters across social, religious and political divides seem to suggest that the Aam Aadmi Party led by Arvind Kejriwal and its Punjab Chief Ministerial candidate Bhagwant Mann are set to benefit the most from the constant infighting that seems to have engulfed the state unit of the Congress, according to a CVoter survey for IANS carried out in the state. In 2017, though the AAP was considered favourite to win the Punjab Assembly elections, it came a distant second behind the Congress led by Captain Amarinder Singh in the state. But with the Captain gone from the party and other top leaders busy fighting and criticising each other, the AAP is once again fancying its chances. A tracker poll being run by CVoter since 2021 has consistently shown that AAP will emerge as the largest party in a hung Assembly, narrowly missing the majority mark.

Respondents were asked the following question: Which party has gained the most due to the infighting within the Congress? Overall amongst all respondents, 57.5 per cent were of the opinion that AAP will benefit; 21.1 per cent said it would be the Akali Dal-led alliance, while 15.6 per cent thought the BJP-PLC (new party formed by the Captain) will benefit.

Amongst political parties, as many as 62 per cent of Congress supporters said the AAP will benefit, just 5 per cent less than AAP supporters. Even more worrisome for the Congress is 63.4 per cent Dalits saying the AAP will benefit the most.

The current Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi is the first Dalit chief minister of the state. Even among Sikhs, close to 54 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that AAP will benefit the most from the Congress infighting. It seems the party seems to be bestowed with an unexpected gift just before the elections.

UTTARAKHAND: Projected Range of Seats		
Party/ Alliance	2022 Projection	
INC	30	to 36
BJP	31	to 37
AAP	2	to 4
Others	0	to 1

MANIPUR: Projected Range of Seats		
Party/ Alliance	2022 Projection	
INC	17	to 21
BJP	21	to 25
NPF	6	to 10
Others	8	to 12

PUNJAB: Projected Range of Seats		
Party/ Alliance	2022 Projection	
INC	24	to 30
SAD	20	to 26
AAP	55	to 63
BJP	3	to 11
Others	0	to 2

Source: CVoter

GOA: Projected Range of Seats		
Party/ Alliance	2022 Projection	
INC+	10	to 14
BJP	14	to 18
AAP	4	to 8
MGP+	3	to 7
Others	0	to 2

Preferred CM Candidate: Manipur		
Candidate	Feb 2022	
N. Biren Singh (BJP)	39.7	
Okram Ibobi Singh (Congress)	25.9	
Y. Joykumar Singh (NPP)	6.8	
Biswajit Singh (BJP)	6.4	
Radhyeshyam Thokchom (BJP)	2.2	
Others	19.0	

Source: CVoter

UTTAR PRADESH: Projected Range of Seats		
Party/ Alliance	2022 Projection	
BJP+	225	to 237
SP+	139	to 151
BSP	13	to 21
INC	4	to 8
Others	2	to 6

BATTLE FOR UP: YOGI-KEJRIWAL IN BITTER TWITTER WAR

The war of words between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal has intensified with the two leaders sharpening their claws on Twitter.

While Kejriwal said that his Uttar Pradesh counterpart a "harsh and cruel ruler", Yogi called the Delhi Chief Minister a "liar". The Twitter war on Monday night started after Kejriwal's rebuttal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in Parliament that Delhi and Maharashtra contributed to the spread of Covid by enabling the migrant labourers to go home after lockdown was declared in 2020. "This statement of Prime Minister is a blatant lie. The country hopes that the Prime Minister will be sensitive to those who have suffered the pain in the Corona period, those who have lost their loved ones. It does not suit the Prime Minister to do politics on the sufferings of the people," the Delhi Chief minister said in a tweet in Hindi.

His Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also tweeted to say the Prime Minister's statement was "false". Responding to the claim, Yogi said: "Today's statement of Arvind Kejriwal about respected Prime Minister is highly condemnable. Arvind Kejriwal should apologise to the entire nation."

He quoted a couplet from Goswami Tulsidas, the author of "Ram Charitmanas", to elucidate his point. "Kejriwal has a knack of telling lies. When the whole country was battling a global pandemic like Corona under the leadership of the respected Prime Minister, Kejriwal showed the migrant labourers the way out of Delhi."

He then went on to accuse the Delhi Chief Minister of "cutting electricity and water" for migrant labourers and forcing them to leave the city. "The electricity-water connection was cut and the sleeping people were picked up and sent to the UP border by buses. Announcement was made that in Anand Vihar, buses will be available for UP-Bihar. The UP government arranged buses for the migrant labourers and brought them back safely," Yogi further tweeted.

In a direct post, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said: "Listen Kejriwal, You forced the workers of UP to leave Delhi when the entire humanity was groaning due to the pain of Corona. Your government did an undemocratic and inhuman act like leaving even small children and women helpless on the UP border in the middle of the night. Call you a traitor or..."

Kejriwal reacted with: "You should not say anything. When bodies were floating in the rivers, you were spending crores on appreciating yourself through advertisements in the Time magazine. Have not seen a harsh and cruel ruler like you."

HOW PERCEPTIONS MAY IMPACT ASSEMBLY OPINION POLL RESULTS

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The Congress is in trouble in Punjab because anger against the government is reinforced by perceptions of winnability. The poll revealed that 65.4 per cent of the voters were angry and wanted the government out. At the same time, only 12.2 per cent of voters "perceived" that the Congress will win the elections. This is a clear double whammy for the party. In Goa too, a majority 50.4 per cent of voters were upset and wanted the current government out. Yet, close to 40 per cent of voters perceived the BJP will win the elections. That is giving some comfort to the BJP which seems decidedly unpopular in the state after ten years of rule. In Uttar Pradesh too, 46.8 per cent of voters, close to a majority, are upset with the BJP government and want it out.

At the same time, 48.1 per cent of the voters perceived or felt that the BJP will win the elections. Could this be a reason for the C Voter ABP News projections that the BJP will win a simple majority in Uttar Pradesh.

In Uttarakhand, 43.3 per cent of voters want to change the government while 51.8 per cent feel that the BJP will retain power. This could be an interesting area of research for social scientists.

Preferred CM Candidate: Punjab						
Candidate	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
Arvind Kejriwal (AAP)	21.6	22.2	20.8	23.7	17.1	3.6
Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD)	18.8	18.5	16.1	17.5	15.2	18.7
Capt. Amarinder Singh (PLC)	17.9	7.8	7.5	2.3	5.8	8.8
Bhagwant Mann (AAP)	16.1	14.8	13.9	12.8	23.3	35.7
Navjot Singh Sidhu (INC)	15.3	6.6	4.7	4.7	5.7	3.9
Charanjit Singh Channi (INC)	1.1	20.1	30.9	32.9	28.8	25.9
Others	9.3	10.0	6.1	6.1	4.1	3.4

Source: CVoter

BJP PROMISES 3 FREE GAS CYLINDERS IN GOA POLL MANIFESTO.

Preferred CM Candidate: Goa						
Candidate	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
Pramod Sawant (BJP)	33.2	30.9	30.4	29.3	33.5	30.4
Amit Palekar (AAP)	13.8	17.6	19.0	20.5	18.9	19.5
Vishwajit Rane (BJP)	13.6	16.8	15.3	11.8	15.5	14.5
Ramkrishna (Sudin) Dhavalikar (MGP)	8.8	7.1	6.4	5.6	5.6	6.2
Ravi Naik (BJP)	4.5	5.1	4.7	4.6	3.7	4.6
Digambar Kamat (INC)	4.5	5.7	7.2	13.5	8.6	7.8
Luizinho Faleiro (TMC)	3.7	2.8	2.6	2.1	1.1	2.7
Atanasio (Babush) Monserratte (BJP)	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.0	1.9	1.6
Others	15.2	11.3	11.7	10.6	11.1	12.7

Source: CVoter

Preferred CM Candidate: UP						
Candidate	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
Yogi Adityanath (BJP)	40.4	41.0	41.4	41.0	43.0	43.6
Akhilesh Yadav (SP)	27.5	31.4	31.7	33.5	33.9	33.7
Mayawati (BSP)	14.6	16.7	15.6	15.0	14.4	15.6
Priyanka Gandhi (INC)	3.2	4.2	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.4
Jayant Chaudhary (RLD)	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.7	1.4
Others	12.4	4.6	4.4	4.9	3.1	1.3

Source: CVoter

Malwa: Range of Seats				
Party+	2022 Projections	From	Range	To
INC	9	7	to	11
SAD+	11	9	to	13
AAP	47	45	to	49
BJP+	1	0	to	2
Others	1	0	to	2
TOTAL	69			

Source: CVoter

Manjha: Range of Seats				
Party+	2022 Projections	From	Range	To
INC	10	8	to	12
SAD+	6	4	to	8
AAP	6	4	to	8
BJP+	3	0	to	4
Others	0	0	to	0
TOTAL	25			

Source: CVoter

Doaba: Range of Seats				
Party+	2022 Projections	From	Range	To
INC	8	6	to	10
SAD+	6	4	to	8
AAP	6	4	to	8
BJP+	3	0	to	3
Others	0	0	to	0
TOTAL	23			

Source: CVoter

C VOTER SURVEY: AAP LEADS IN PUNJAB, BJP IN UP, HUNG ASSEMBLY IN UTTARAKHAND, GOA & MANIPUR

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The alliance is projected to win between 20 to 26 seats in the elections. The BJP-led alliance is nowhere in the picture, projected to win between 3 to 11 seats. If the findings of the opinion poll hold true when results are declared on March 10, analysts blame the intense infighting within the Congress that seems set to offer Punjab on a platter to AAP.

Again, if the polls turn out to be close to actual results, Arvind Kejriwal would be on his way to a role in national politics.

The final opinion poll results of the C-Voter ABP News were released in the evening on February 7, three days before the first round of polling in Uttar Pradesh on February 10.

According to the poll, the BJP led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to win a second successive term with a vastly reduced majority.

In Punjab, the AAP is now touching the majority mark according to the final results. Uttarakhand seems too close to call with the BJP and the Congress literally neck and neck in the race.

According to the final tally, the BJP led alliance in UP is projected to win a majority with the number ranging from 225 to 237. The primary challenger, the SP led alliance led by former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav is projected to win between a range of 139 to 151 seats. The BSP led by Mayawati is fading to insignificance, projected to win between 13 to 21 seats. The Congress, despite a spirited campaign led by UP in charge and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra remains a marginal player, projected to win between 4 to 8 seats.

If the projections hold true, this will be the first time since 1989 that a party has managed to successfully retain power in the politically important state of Uttar Pradesh. For more than three decades, power has changed hands between the BJP, the SP and the BSP.

The BSP had won a majority in 2007 while the SP did the same in 2012. The BJP had won a massive mandate in 2017.

The poll does indicate anti-incumbency on some major issues, but not enough to prevent the BJP from retaining power. Analysts feel this victory, if it happens on March 10, will considerably enhance the stature of Yogi Adityanath in the party. As surmised by analysts and political

commentators who follow politics in Goa, the state is once again heading for a repeat performance of 2017 with a hung assembly in the current elections. This was revealed by the final results of the C Voter ABP News opinion poll released on the evening of February 7. The poll results also show that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is on its way to becoming a serious player in Goa politics.

According to the results of the poll, the BJP is projected to win between 14 to 18 seats, well short of the majority mark of 21 seats in the Goa assembly which has 40 seats.

Far from gaining from anti incumbency after 10 years of BJP rule, the Congress is projected to win between 12 seats, 10 to 14 seats, way behind the majority mark.

The AAP had won no seats in 2017. That's set to change. It is projected to win between 4 to 8 seats. The MGP retains its identity as a regional party, projected to win between 3 to 7 seats.

If the polls turn out to be true, there will be two major implications in national politics. The AAP would have emerged as a still small but nevertheless a party with a national footprint. It is in power in Delhi, set to win Punjab and make a mark in Uttarakhand as a party that has arrived. A decent performance even in Goa would do wonders to the image and stature of party leader Arvind Kejriwal. The reverse would be true of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi if it fails to retain Punjab and fail to win Uttarakhand and Goa.

Covid-19 positive voters can cast ballot after wearing PPE gear: Goa poll guidelines. If the predictions and projections hold true, Uttarakhand promises to be literally a neck and neck fight. This was revealed when final seat projections were announced by the CVoter-ABP News opinion poll released on Monday evening. It will be an agonising wait for both the Congress and the BJP. When the BJP changed three Chief Ministers in a span of six months in 2021, it looked like a cakewalk for the Congress, with former Chief Minister Harish Rawat still being projected as the most preferred Chief Minister. Going by the poll results, it will not be that easy. The BJP is reminded of bitter memories of 2012 when its sitting government won just one seat less than the Congress and lost power.

Politicians remain foreign to problems after poll: Punjab's diaspora

Punjab's diaspora is influential back to their roots in every election. But, it seems, they believe successive federal and state governments have remained foreign to their problems.

Many non-resident Indians (NRIs) lament governments investing in promises, but not strategies. Almost all prominent political parties just use them for their sake to fill campaign coffers and make their presence felt both physically and virtually, rather than considering them an integral component of the domestic policies to strengthen the bond with their motherland where they are handsomely investing for social causes.

Ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections slated on February 20, IANS talked to a host of NRIs who believe they have always been considered as moneybags and vote banks but their issues of abolishing 'tortuous' bureaucracies, red-tapism, corruption in government, poor connectivity, and the most important the dismal care for their ancestral properties largely remain unsolved for decades.

They say Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been seen as the harbingers of change by capturing the imagination of thousands of NRIs in its surprised forays in Punjab political arena in the 2014 parliamentary and 2017 state assembly polls, but couldn't build up its credibility. Unlike major involvement of NRIs in the state politics 2012 onwards by lending moral and material support, this time the pandemic restricted their physical presence.

Driven by nostalgia, UK-based Harjit Singh Gill said, "The diaspora from Punjab play an important role in all elections, from panchayat to assembly to Parliament."

He said wealthy expatriates could help a government in many ways. "Our issues for decades remain unresolved despite promises. The major one is the direct air connectivity to Chandigarh and Amritsar cities. A majority of the flights originate and land at the Delhi international airport. We can understand it is not a state-specific subject, but the successive state governments have failed to convince the federal government to develop both Chandigarh and Amritsar on the lines of Delhi," Gill, who moved to England in 1978 from his hometown Jalandhar at the age of 23

and became Gloucester's first Asian Mayor in 2007, told IANS over phone.

Echoing similar thoughts, Gulzar Singh Cheema, the first Indian-born Canadian doctor to be elected to a legislative assembly in Canada in 1988, told IANS that for the past sometime too many politicians of almost all major political parties are coming here to get the support of the Indian diaspora. "Over the years we have observed that they make a lot of noise, listened to us but when they go back they forget about their commitments. After being at the helm, they even don't take our phone calls," Cheema, who was re-elected in 1990 for the Liberal party in The Maples, said. Last year a new street in Winnipeg was named after Cheema, a Vancouver resident. It is now called Cheema Drive.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lauded the contribution of Cheema by saying that he was among few personalities who have the honor to become a member of two provincial assemblies and he was first elected MLA of the Indo-Canadian community.

According to Cheema, there is still too much red-tapism in both the federal and state governments. "They have to respect your time. There is no fast-track mechanism or courts to deal with your ancestral property issues or disputes relating to it despite the NRIs contributing a lot of it towards social causes back home."

Canada-based columnist Gurbinder Singh Dhaliwal said, "NRIs don't need special treatment in India. They expect equal treatment." "We want to evolve a parallel system of shadow cabinet that scrutinises ministers and holds the government to account for its actions, but politicians in our country of origin don't like such a mechanism. We can serve as a training ground for future ministers, but no one is interested in India to hear you," Dhaliwal, who is based in Abbotsford in British Columbia, told IANS. He said most of the NRI associations affiliated to Indian political parties are simply 'fraud'. "Those who are affiliated with NRI sabhas are just using them as a platform to hog the limelight. The politicians who are coming to Canada from India with the sponsorship of NRI sabhas expect a red carpet welcome. They don't recognise you once they go back.

DESPITE NEW CHALLENGERS, IT'S GOING TO BE BJP VS CONG ALL THE WAY IN GOA

For all the chaos caused by the new-found resurgence of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Assembly polls in Goa, as the February 14 polling day creeps closer, the two main political parties -- the ruling BJP and the Congress -- appear to have taken the centre stage in the coastal state, just like in 2017 elections. "A few months ago, the re-invigorated entry of the TMC had ended up erasing AAP's novelty as the new kid on the block in Goa's politics, before the TMC itself appeared to have run out of steam as the polling date draws closer." "While the BJP and the Congress appear to have donned the colours of the main proponents of the elections for the upcoming polls, the ground realities for both parties, however, differ from the preceding Assembly polls." "While the BJP finally formed a government after the 2017 polls following a midnight coup, the party had fared dismally, with its seat share falling from 21 to 13. This sizeable fall in seats occurred despite the presence of then Defence Minister late Manohar Parrikar, who was leading the party's charge in his parent state." "In 2022, the BJP appears to be floundering in the absence of the former Chief Minister. The party faces high profile rebellions in several constituencies, including Panaji and Mandrem, where Parrikar's son Utpal Parrikar and former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar are contesting as Independent candidates." "After 10 years in power, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant-led BJP also faces severe anti-incumbency, especially in the wake of a series of corruption allegations against his ministers and MLAs, who are linked to recruitment scams, indicted for graft by the state Lokayukta, a sex scandal, etc."

BRITISH PM UNVEILS PLAN TO END FINAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS THIS MONTH



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that he plans to remove all remaining Covid-19 restrictions in England a month earlier than planned. Current Covid-19 restrictions were set to expire on March 24 but Johnson on Wednesday suggested rules could expire later this February, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Providing the current encouraging trends in the data continue, it is my expectation that we will be able to end the last domestic restrictions, including the legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive, a full month early," the Prime Minister told MPs. During this week's installment of Prime Minister's questions in the House of Commons, the lower house of the British Parliament, Johnson said he would present the government's "Living With Covid" strategy when the Commons returns from its recess on February 21. As of the end of January, people with Covid-19 in England can end their self-isolation after five full days, as long as they test negative on day five and six.

AUS BORDERS TO OPEN TO FULLY VACCINATED TOURISTS FROM FEB 21: PM

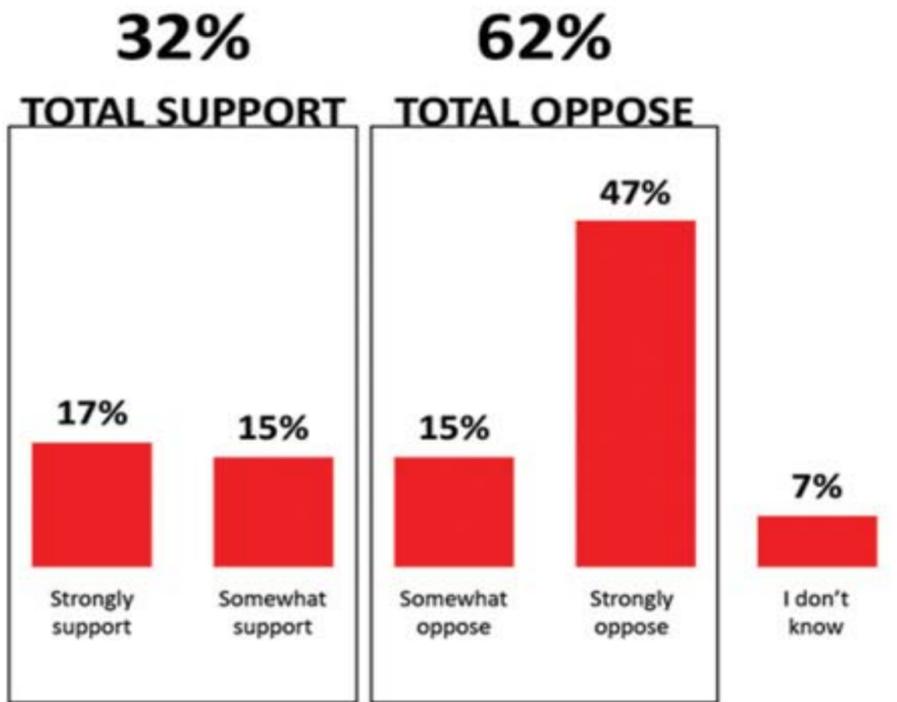
Australia's international borders will reopen to fully vaccinated tourists from February 21 after almost two years since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday. It marks one of the most significant easing of Australia's border closure since it was introduced to prevent the spread of the virus in March 2020, reports Xinhua news agency.

However, arrivals could still face a mandatory quarantine period depending on the rules in the state or territory they arrive in.

"The national cabinet has decided today Australia will reopen our borders to all remaining visa holders on February 21 of this year," Morrison told reporters in Canberra.

"The condition is you must be double vaccinated to come to Australia." Travellers who have not been vaccinated against Covid-19 will be required to apply for a travel exemption to enter Australia. Border restrictions were eased for international students and some visa holders in December last year, prompting calls from the tourism industry for travellers to be allowed in.

THE FREEDOM CONVOY IS DIVIDING CANADIANS



Overall, do you support the message the trucker convoy (also known as Freedom Convoy) protests are conveying of no vaccine mandates and less public health measures, or do you oppose the message?

SOURCE: Leger/The Canadian Press survey of 1,546 Canadians, February 4-6, 2022

Leger

32% CANADIANS SUPPORT FREEDOM CONVOY WHILE 62% OPPOSE: LEGER POLL

THE FREEDOM CONVOY

- * The Freedom Convoy is dividing Canadians (32% support, 62% oppose).
- * 65% of Canadians think the Freedom Convoy represents a small minority of selfish Canadians.
- * Canadians are divided on whether the premier and prime ministers share the blame for the protest in Ottawa (44% agree, 45% disagree).

METHODOLOGY

This web survey was conducted from February 4 to February 6, 2022, with 1,546 Canadians and 1,005 Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel. For comparison, a probability sample of 1,546 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.49\%$, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,005 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.091\%$, 19 times out of 20.

CANADA'S WONDERLAND TO OPEN APRIL 30, WITH PLANS TO HIRE APPROXIMATELY 4,000 ASSOCIATES FOR THE 2022 SEASON

Planning for the 2022 season at Canada's Wonderland is underway and the amusement park has announced it will open to the public on Saturday, April 30. In preparation for the upcoming season, the park has launched its recruitment campaign to fill thousands of positions across all departments.

"We may be in the depths of winter, but we're already looking ahead to the brighter, warmer days of spring when we can welcome guests back for the 2022 season," said Norm Pirtovshek, general manager. "Hiring has begun and there are many great jobs available. Working here is fun for obvious reasons and comes with great benefits, but we also value professional growth and leadership development which makes Canada's Wonderland the perfect place to launch a career." All available positions are posted on the Canada's Wonderland jobs site. They include:

- Food Service Associates and Line Cooks (minimum age to apply is 15 years old)
- Lifeguards (minimum age: 16)
- Ride Operators (minimum age: 18)
- Maintenance (including Landscaping and Mechanical Technicians)
- Security
- Guest Services
- Entertainment (Roaming Musicians, Character Performers and Show Hosts)

Both seasonal and full-time positions are available. Canada's Wonderland is committed to fostering a workplace culture in which diversity, equity and inclusion are embraced and promoted. Associate benefits include free and unlimited use of the park and water park during off hours, free promotional tickets for friends and family, access to exclusive employee events and activities throughout the season, discounts to partnering Ontario attractions, employee discounts on food, merchandise and more.

The park continues to work closely with provincial and regional health



officials and will provide updates to its COVID-19 safety protocols closer to opening day.

For more information, visit www.canadaswonderland.com About Canada's Wonderland

Canada's Wonderland, located in Vaughan, Ontario (just outside Toronto), is a 300-acre theme park with more than 200 attractions including 17 roller coasters, and is the home to Splash Works, a 20-acre water park. Canada's Wonderland is owned and operated by Cedar Fair Entertainment Company (NYSE: FUN), a publicly traded partnership and one of the largest regional amusement-resort operators in the world. The Company owns and operates 11 amusement parks, four outdoor water parks, an indoor water park and resort accommodations totaling more than 2,300 rooms and more than 600 luxury RV sites. For more information, see www.cedarfair.com.

PUNJAB POLLS: WHERE CHANNI'S WIFE, AMARINDER'S DAUGHTER IN BATTLEFIELD



Politics may be a distant dream for the wife and daughter of Punjab's two prominent politicians, but they have already taken the path much travelled to politics while campaigning for the February 20 elections.

Congress turncoat and two-time Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's daughter Jai Inder Kaur and first-timer Congress Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's wife Kamaljit Kaur are campaigning aggressively on their behalf. The two are the star campaigners for their respective parties.

Commoner Channi took oath just three months ahead of the poll announcement, becoming the first Scheduled Caste Chief Minister of the state, after the unceremonious exit of Capt Amarinder Singh, who was at the helm for four-and-a-half years.

The latter's fledgling Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) is contesting the polls in alliance with the BJP and SAD (Sanyukt), an Akali Dal rebel.

Eyeing to woo 32 per cent Dalit population, country's highest, the Congress picked Channi to lead the party and fielded him from two seats -- his bastion Chamkaur Sahib that he won three times and his new battlefield Bhadaur, while his archrival Capt Amarinder Singh, is contesting from his stronghold Patiala (Urban), the seat that he has won for four consecutive terms since 2002 when he first contested.

Three-time MP from Patiala and a former Union minister Preet Kaur, who on previous occasions was the campaign in-charge of Capt Amarinder Singh, is missing this time as she is still a Congress MP from Patiala and can't campaign for her husband's party. She has deputed her daughter Jai Inder Kaur to look after the seat in the absence of her father.

ONTARIO BECOMES FIRST CANADIAN JURISDICTION TO DISCLOSE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ON PUBLIC REGISTERS

To further protect students and children, Ontario is becoming the first Canadian jurisdiction to publicly disclose and make parents and guardians aware of educators that have been involved in sexual abuse and other serious criminal proceedings. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, joined by Jane McKenna, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues, announced this change to ensure that parents are aware of information related to the safety and security of their children and to deliver greater transparency for families. The Government also announced that all certified educators must now complete a comprehensive mandatory sexual abuse prevention program - the only province in Canada to do so.

While these actions build upon other measures the government has taken to combat professional misconduct in schools and child care settings, it is clear that more must be done to inform parents of criminal proceedings before a verdict is imposed.

Minister Lecce has already announced a series of actions to strengthen safety, including:

- * Lifetime bans on any educator who has engaged in physical sexual relations with a student or is involved in any way with child pornography.
- * The lifetime ban imposed on educators for engaging in physical sexual abuse of students and children also applies retroactively for previous similar acts by teachers and early childhood educators whose memberships were reinstated or were not revoked in the first place.
- * A requirement that both the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) and the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) provide funding for therapy and counselling to students and children who are victims of sexual abuse, a prohibited act involving pornography or prescribed sexual acts prohibited under the Criminal Code (Canada).
- * A requirement to make publicly available information about disciplinary decisions made by the Colleges' Discipline Committees, including for less serious acts leading to reprimands and admonishments, on the OCT and CECE registers and websites on a permanent basis.

The Government of Ontario is taking further action now by giving clear authority to the OCT and CECE to make information public about criminal proceedings involving their members on the public registers. In the interest of transparency, parents are able to know which educators have been involved in criminal proceedings that are relevant to their practice, when such information is known to the Colleges.

FABISPRAY: GLENMARK LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST NASAL SPRAY FOR COVID PATIENTS



Mumbai based pharma company Glenmark has launched the Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray under the brand name FabiSpray for the treatment of adult patients with Covid-19 infection. The nasal spray has been launched in partnership with Canadian pharmaceutical company SaNOtize.

The Mumbai-based drug firm had earlier received manufacturing and marketing approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for the Nitric Oxide nasal spray (NONS) as part of the accelerated approval process. The nasal spray has been designed to kill the coronavirus in the upper airways.

"FabiSpray, Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray, is designed to kill the COVID-19 virus in the upper airways. It has proven anti-microbial properties with a direct virucidal effect on SARS-CoV-2. NONS when sprayed over nasal mucosa, acts as a physical and chemical barrier against the virus, preventing it from incubating and spreading to the lungs", said the drug manufacturer in a statement. "A Phase 3 clinical trial was conducted in adult COVID-19 patients across 20 clinical sites in India. The double blind, parallel arm, multicenter study, conducted in 306 patients evaluated the efficacy and safety of Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray versus normal saline nasal spray in non-hospitalized adult patients. All patients received standard supportive care in the study", the statement reads further. Dr Srikanth Krishnamurthy one of the Principal Investigators of the study said that Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray lowers the viral load and hastens RT-PCR negativity when used early in COVID 19 infection leading to recovery.

PANDEMIC WIDENS SCREENING GAP AMONG CANCER PATIENTS

The ongoing Covid pandemic has disrupted healthcare systems globally leading to widening the gap between treatment and patient care of non-Covid disease including cancer. Cancer is a major contributor to the disease burden worldwide. Several studies have projected that the global cancer burden will continue to grow for at least next two decades. The Covid pandemic has undoubtedly delayed the cancer screenings, diagnosis, and treatment around the world. The cancer cases in India increased at an average annual rate of 1.1-2 per cent from 2010-2019, and deaths in the country also went up at an average rate of 0.1-1 per cent in the same period, according to the analysis by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington School of Medicine. The new cancer patients registration, follow up for old patients and surgery had recorded considerable decline in India between March and May 2020, compared to the same period in 2019 as per a Lancet study of May 2021. The ambidirectional cohort study was conducted at 41 cancer centres across India that were members of the National Cancer Grid of India to compare provision of oncology services between March 1 and May 31, 2020, with the same time period in 2019. A total of 54 per cent reduction was recorded in the new patients registration between this period. The number of new patients registered decreased from 1,12,270 to 51,760 between March 1 and May 31, 2020, as per the study. On the same line, a total of 46 per cent reduction, from 6,34,745 to 3,40,984 patients, was registered in the number of patients who had follow-up visits to the hospital. Dr Anshuman Kumar, Delhi based cancer specialist, told IANS that in the absence of decentralised cancer care centres in India, the patients have largely been ignored in the first and second Covid wave. "Patients coming from rural areas of different states were stopped to visit for follow-up and even for first time treatment as all transport communication channels was closed. All of sudden, premier health institutions like AIIMS and others started refusing patient admissions other than Covid which impacted the cancer care in India adversely. Highlighting the Lancet study, he said that 54 per cent reduction in the new patients registration among 41 cancer care centers nationwide was due to the illogical decision of shutting doors of premier health institution for non Covid patients. According to a study from AIIMS Oncology department, total 51 per cent reduction was recorded in new case registration in OPD and around one third reduction was noticed in the cancer surgeries. The Lancet study points out that the hospital admissions decreased from 88,801 to 56,885 (36 per cent reduction) and outpatient chemotherapy decreased from 1,73,634 to 1,09,107 (37 per cent reduction) in 41 cancer centres. These reductions were even more marked between April and May, 2020. Cancer screening was stopped completely or was functioning at less than 25 per cent of usual capacity at more than 70 per cent of centres during these months, the study said. The ongoing Covid pandemic has also impacted adversely the research and development in the cancer. "The COVID pandemic has impeded the R&D of cancer treatment in 3 ways. Firstly, patient enrolment in oncology clinical trials of chemotherapeutic drugs has gone down.

Pakistan's diplomatic debacle in China

ASAD MIRZA

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was on a four-day visit to China last week. Apparently the visit was billed as to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. But Khan was accompanied with a huge delegation including Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Planning Minister, Information Minister, National Security Advisor, Commerce Advisor and Special Assistant on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

China's undiplomatic move

However, the Pakistan Prime Minister and his team were left red-faced when they were informed that one of the key meeting would be held in virtual mode, though the Pakistani delegation was present in Beijing. The meeting with He Lifeng, chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held virtually. This indeed was a completely undiplomatic step by China and was perhaps taken by it to show Pakistan and its leadership its place. Khan's China visit comes at a time when Pakistan finds itself in a quagmire of issues. On one hand, Pakistan's economy is turning from bad to worse, and on the other the security scenario within the country particularly in the restive Balochistan region and Afghan border has added to Khan's troubles.

Pakistan's economic woes

Pakistan is currently facing severe economic difficulties due to high inflation and no foreign aid. To ease the pain, Khan has requested for a \$5 billion loan from China and pushed for increased trade and cooperation along the CPEC. The Corridor, an infrastructure project initiated in 2015, to promote trade and development, has so far performed below expectations. It also suffered a jolt when China stopped the work on the Dasu Hydropower Project after 9 Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Launched in 2015, the CPEC is the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It was expected to bring in massive investment from China, creating thousands of job opportunities for the people of Pakistan. However, Khan's regime has witnessed the stalling of the CPEC projects owing to the dire economic situation and non-cooperation of the bureaucracy due to the prevailing fear of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Other reports state that Pakistan plans to seek \$5 billion from China and \$1 billion each from Russia and Kazakhstan. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan has also been striving to get the suspended loan programme worth \$6 billion revived from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, these loans are unlikely to help, as they will only add to Pakistan's growing debt obligations. Beyond loans, China will likely promote its own agenda. Also it may do little to solve Pakistan's long-term economic problems. Instead, it may burden it with public discontent and protests, as the government and the CPEC has so far been unable to deliver the promised benefits, particularly to the local populace in provinces where CPEC footprint is stronger.



THE CORRIDOR, AN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT INITIATED IN 2015, TO PROMOTE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, HAS SO FAR PERFORMED BELOW EXPECTATIONS. IT ALSO SUFFERED A JOLT WHEN CHINA STOPPED THE WORK ON THE DASU HYDROPOWER PROJECT AFTER 9 CHINESE NATIONALS WERE KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION IN THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE. LAUNCHED IN 2015, THE CPEC IS THE FLAGSHIP PROJECT OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI). IT WAS EXPECTED TO BRING IN MASSIVE INVESTMENT FROM CHINA, CREATING THOUSANDS OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, KHAN'S REGIME HAS WITNESSED THE STALLING OF THE CPEC PROJECTS OWING TO THE DIRE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND NON-COOPERATION OF THE BUREAUCRACY DUE TO THE PREVAILING FEAR OF THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU (NAB).

Prior to his China visit Imran Khan had done his homework and tried to address the Chinese criticism of delays in CPEC projects. Khan had ordered the removal of 37 regulations hindering the pace of the CPEC projects, and reaffirmed his commitment to the timely completion of different projects.

CPEC

The ambitious CPEC connects China's northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region and the Gwadar port in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan, covering a distance of 3,000 kilometres and a range of new infrastructure projects. India has repeatedly protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Last year, a report by US-based international development research lab AidData had reported that a substantial chunk of Chinese development financing under the CPEC comprised loans which have been given at current commercial market interest rates as opposed to grants, which is a norm for bilateral infrastructural projects.

The Pakistani daily Dawn had earlier printed excerpts of the report, according to which Pakistan received about half of all Chinese development finance in the form of 'export buyer's credit' and was to be used by Pakistan to pay Chinese implementation partners and purchase of equipment by them.

In its editorial in September last year Dawn had commented that the nature of Chinese financing for infrastructural schemes merits greater transparency for the projects executed in Pakistan since 2015. It further said that after coming to power Imran Khan's government has also kept the matters under wraps, just as his predecessors had done.

In his meetings with the Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, Khan also briefed them on his geo-economics vision and the government's policies for sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernisation and regional connectivity.

Indo-Pak

During his meetings, Khan also highlighted that Indian atrocities in Indian Kashmir and said the persecution of minorities in India were a threat to regional peace and stability. He said that rapid militarisation of India was undermining regional stability; he also cited India's aggressive behaviour and the prevailing Hindutva ideology as a threat to regional peace and a

cause of lingering instability of the region.

Khan's remarks came in an exclusive session with the heads and representatives of leading Chinese think tanks, universities and the Pakistan Study Centre in Beijing.

Regarding Afghanistan, both leaders acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote economic development and connectivity in the region and called on the international community to promptly assist the Afghan people in averting a humanitarian catastrophe. He recalled that Pakistan in the past had played a role in building bridges and remained ready to do so again.

During the visit, Pakistan also signed a new agreement with China to start the second phase of the \$60 billion CPEC. The Prime Minister showered praise on the controversial projects under CPEC, saying it has strategic significance for both the countries and delivering tangible benefits to the people. This is in contrast to his earlier views on CPEC before coming to power criticising its secret nature and investments.

In his statements in Beijing, Khan didn't utter a word about the Uyghur Muslims of Xinjiang province of China and the atrocities committed against them by Chinese authorities. Last year, in an interview he had said that the Pakistan government understands the Chinese policy in Xinjiang very well, which is for the betterment of its people and is more concerned about the situation on its borders i.e. Kashmir.

One fails to wonder why Khan who was a critic of OPEC earlier, is now endorsing it. Perhaps he doesn't fathom that through CPEC China wants to manage a foothold in Afghanistan via Pakistan, as most of the Chinese companies, which are involved in developing CPEC are related to mining, infrastructure development, minerals and mine technology, and they might have plans on how to tap the mineral reserves of Afghanistan which is reported to be around \$1.3 trillion.

Disclaimer: Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. 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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Canada court silences protesters' horns, police seize fuel

Police in Canada's national capital said on Monday they have seized thousands of litres of fuel and removed an oil tanker as part of a crackdown to end days-long protest against the government's Covid-19 measures, while a judge granted an interim injunction against deafening honking that has irked residents.

Canada's capital Ottawa has been gridlocked by a so-called "Freedom Convoy" consisting of truckers and other motorists for 11 days now. What started as a movement opposing a Canadian vaccine mandate for cross-border drivers — a requirement mirrored by a US rule — has morphed into a rallying point against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's public health measures.

Trudeau, who appeared on Monday for the first time in nearly a week after being infected by Covid, said the protest has to stop. Responding to an emergency debate in the parliament, Trudeau denounced the tactics used by demonstrators.

"This is a story of a country that got through this pandemic by being united and a few people shouting and waving swastikas does not define who Canadians are," he said. Trudeau and his family left Ottawa to an undisclosed location as the convoy started rolling into the city due to security concerns. Canadians have largely followed

government's health measures and nearly 79% of the eligible population has taken two doses of the vaccine. But recent polls have shown frustrations against restrictions are growing.

While Ottawa awoke to its second week of what its political and policing leaders now describe as a siege, Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly said on Monday activity has decreased at the blockades. This weekend, police counted 1,000 trucks and 5,000 protesters, down from 3,000 trucks and 10,000 to 15,000 protesters last weekend, Sloly added.

"We are turning up the heat in every way we possibly can," Sloly told reporters, days after he said there may not be a "policing solution" to the occupation. "We are asking for a major push of resources to come in the next 72 hours."

The protests, which last week included some Confederate and Nazi flags, have been largely peaceful but an ear-splitting horn blaring by the protesters had become a nuisance. On Monday, a Canadian judge granted an interim injunction preventing people from sounding horns in downtown Ottawa. The 10-day injunction is part of a class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of downtown Ottawa residents, some of whom have said they feel unsafe in their own neighbourhood.

STAY HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE IF YOU HAVE:

One or more of these new or worsening symptoms: **OR** Two or more of these symptoms:

Fever over 37°C and/or chills	Cough	Difficulty breathing	Sore throat	Headache	Feeling very tired
Decrease or loss of taste/smell	Runny nose/nasal congestion	Muscle aches/joint pain	Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea		

Everyone in your household will also have to stay home and self-isolate with you.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS IF SO, PLEASE STAY HOME & SELF-ISOLATE. HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS WILL ALSO NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE WITH YOU (CITY OF TORONTO/ TWITTER).

CANADA'S EMPLOYMENT DIPS BY 200,000; UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 6.5% IN JANUARY

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Youth and core-aged women, who are more likely than other demographic groups to work in industries affected by the public health measures in place, saw the largest impacts. Youth saw declines in both part-time and full-time work. Employment fell among women in the core working ages of 25 to 54, entirely in part-time work. Statistics Canada indicated that all of the employment decline was among private sector employees. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate last month saw the first increase since April 2021. The total number of unemployed people increased by 106,000, or 8.6 per cent, to 1.34 million, said Statistics Canada. Especially, the unemployment rate for youth rose 2.5 percentage points to 13.6 per cent. Women aged 25 to 54 also saw an increase of 0.6 percentage points to their unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent.

NEHA SHARMA, 28, CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER AFTER WOMAN STABBED IN BRAMPTON

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Officers located the suspect inside the store and took her into custody. Neha Sharma a 28-year-old resident of Brampton, has been charged with Attempted Murder and was held for a bail hearing. She appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on February, 7, 2022.

Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to contact investigators at the 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at 905-453-2121, extension 2233. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca.

PEEL ANNOUNCES SEAN BAIRD AS COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES

The Region of Peel announces Sean Baird as the Commissioner of Human Services as of February 28, 2022. Sean will be taking over from Janice Sheehy, who is retiring after over three decades of public service in Ontario, including six years at the Region of Peel as Commissioner of Human Services. Sean currently serves as the Commissioner of Service Excellence and Innovation, a role he assumed in July of 2018. Sean comes to this new role with a strong background in Human Services. Before arriving at Peel Region, Sean held a number of increasingly senior positions with the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, which provides income and employment support for over 500,000 injured workers annually and insurance coverage for over 300,000 employers across Ontario. Sean's background includes a long list of educational and professional accreditations.

TEAM TORONTO LAUNCHING "VAX THE EAST" - A 10-DAY CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE COVID-19 VACCINATION RATES ACROSS TORONTO'S EAST END

Mayor Tory announced the launch of "Vax The East," Team Toronto's latest vaccination effort to bring COVID-19 vaccines to neighbourhoods with lower vaccination rates.

Vax The East will run from February 12 to 21 and bring COVID-19 vaccines close to home for residents in the east end of Toronto. The campaign's hyper-local vaccination opportunities are particularly aimed at vaccinating residents in Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park and across Scarborough. Vax The East: Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park

Kicking off this weekend, Team Toronto will hold Vax The East events at the Ontario Science Centre and the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub on Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13 from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Both clinics will offer first, second, third and kids (paediatric) COVID-19 vaccines.

Pfizer and Moderna will be available. Physicians and nurses will be available to answer vaccine-related questions. While outreach efforts will be focused on Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park communities, eligible residents across Toronto are welcome to attend both clinics.

Walk-ins will be accepted at both clinics. A health card is not required for vaccination. Appointments can also be booked now in the provincial booking system or by calling 1-833-943-3900. More information is available on the Michael Garron Hospital website. Whether its for the love of science or for the love of community, residents are encouraged to come out to "Vax The East: Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park" events this weekend to get vaccinated and protect themselves, their families and communities against COVID-19. Vax The East: Scarborough

Running from Valentine's Day to Family Day, "Vax The East: Scarborough"

will roll out mobile vaccination clinics in schools across Scarborough. The eight-day effort will see five to six local schools visited by mobile teams each day with vaccines available for eligible students, staff, parents and the wider community. More information on the clinics is available at scarbvvaccine.ca Vax The East equity and inclusion

Following in the footsteps of Team Toronto's Toronto Vaccine Day, Toronto Kids Vaccine Day and the recent success of the hyper-local Vax The Northwest event, the Vax The East team is working hard to deliver unique and fun vaccination opportunities where kids and parents feel safe and comfortable. All clinics will be fully accessible.

Through Vaccine Engagement Teams and community health partners, ambassadors will be reaching out to residents directly to help book appointments and share translated flyers with clinic and vaccine information in multiple languages including Urdu, Gujarati, Dari, Farsi, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Bengali, Slovak, Tigrinya and Amharic. The City's VaxTO program will also send broadcast voice messages to promote the clinic and provide access to vaccination information to thousands of local residents this week.

Vax The East is a collaboration between the City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health, Michael Garron Hospital, East Toronto Health Partners, Scarborough Health Network, Scarborough Ontario Health Team partners, Ontario Science Centre, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, TTC, Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) and Team Toronto partners to support communities with lower COVID-19 vaccination rates. More information about vaccination options across the city is available on the City's COVID-19: How to Get Vaccinated.

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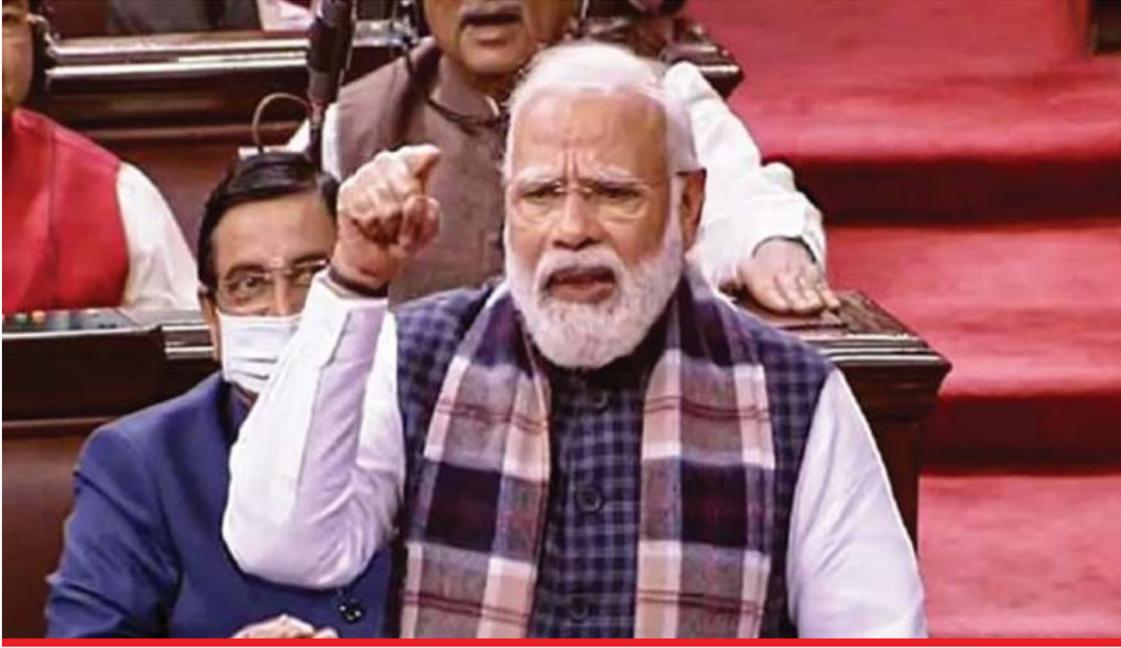
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NEHRU DID NOT SEND ARMED FORCES TO LIBERATE GOA SO TO PROTECT HIS 'PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL IMAGE': PM MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday blamed Jawaharlal Nehru for not sending armed forces to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule for 15 years only to protect his 'peace-loving global image'. A week before Goa goes to polls to elect a new assembly, Modi also used his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Rajya Sabha to attack the Congress on freedom of speech and how it had sacked Lata Mangeshkar's younger brother from All India Radio for presenting a patriotic poem of Veer Savarkar.

He also cited the example of noted lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri for jailing him for speaking against Nehru. Modi also charged Nehru with leaving the satyagrahis, fighting for Goa's freedom, in the lurch and using the independence address to attack their movement.

"It has been 60 years of Goa liberation. People of Goa must be listening to me today. The way Sardar Patel made a strategy for Hyderabad and Junagadh, if the same spirit was followed for Goa as well, then it would not have stayed under foreign rule for 15 years after India got independence. The state got liberated after 15 years of the country's independence," Modi stated. Citing media reports of that period, he noted that Nehru did not take any action against the Portuguese occupation of Goa, as he thought that it would harm his international image. "This was his, Pandit Nehru's biggest fear. He thought that

invading the foreign government would lead to destruction of his peace-loving global image. Let Goa suffer but my image should not get dented, he thought," Modi stated in the Upper House.

He further said: "When satyagrahis were being fired upon by a foreign power, my Indian brothers and sisters were facing bullets, at that time our prime minister said that I will not send the Army. He declined to help the satyagrahis. This is the torture meted out to Goa's people by the Congress party. This led to 15 years more of foreign rule in Goa. Many brave souls had to lose their lives because of this."

"Modi also referred to Nehru's speech on August 15, 1955, where he said that no army help would be sent to help the protesting satyagrahis and the matter would be resolved peacefully. "People of my country were left helpless, this is what they did with Goa. The people of Goa cannot forget this attitude of the Congress party," Modi added. He also attacked Congress for meting out harsh treatment to Lata Mangeshkar's family.

"Her family belongs to Goa. Let me tell how they (Congress) treated her family, the country should know that. Lata Mangeshkar's younger brother Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar was fired from All India Radio. His fault was that he recited a patriotic poem of Veer Savarkar. He was fired from All India Radio in eight days, this is your freedom of expression," he said, attacking the Congress party.

AMARINDER SINGH-LED PLC MOCKS SIDHU AFTER CHANNI DECLARED CONGRESS CM FACE FOR PUNJAB

The Amarinder Singh-led Punjab Lok Congress has taken a jibe at Congress's state unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu after Charanjit Singh Channi was declared the chief ministerial candidate for the assembly polls. Using a hashtag '#CurtainsForSidhu' on its Twitter handle, it shared a picture in which Gandhi, Sidhu, Channi and Sunil Jakhar held each other's hands and raised them in the air. However, the face of Sidhu got covered accidentally for a few seconds because of his shawl. "A picture is worth a thousand words," said the PLC in a tweet on Sunday. Further mocking Sidhu, the PLC said, "Thoko Thoko, Ruko!! Zoor k Thoko!," a reference to Sidhu's penchant of saying "Thoko Tali". Before the announcement of the CM face, Sidhu had said in a tweet, "Nothing great was ever achieved without an act of decision....Warm welcome to our leading light Rahul Ji, who comes to give clarity to Punjab... All will abide by his decision !!!".

To this, the PLC replied, "You won't."

Singh was removed from the post of the chief minister by the Congress last September and later he floated his own party.

The PLC is fighting the February 20 Punjab assembly polls in alliance with the BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt).



ENDING LONG SUSPENSE, CONGRESS PICKS CHANNI AS CM FACE IN PUNJAB

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"This is a big battle which I can't fight alone and I don't have the money, courage to fight it," he said, adding, "The people of Punjab will fight this battle." Channi became the CM after the unceremonious exit of Amarinder Singh over allegations of being hand-in-glove with the Akalis for not fulfilling the 2017 prominent poll promises -- acting with an iron fist against the drug mafia and justice for the sacrilege of 2015 that led to protests and the deaths of two persons in the subsequent police firing. The Congress announcement of the CM's face came after the AAP declared comedian-turned-politician Bhagwant Mann as its Chief Ministerial candidate on January 18.

Before the formal announcement by Gandhi, Sidhu said, "I have accepted Rahul Gandhi's decision...If I am given decision-making power, I will finish the mafia, improve people's lives. If not given power, I will walk with a smile with whomever you make the CM."

Responding to the Congress announcement, AAP Punjab co-incharge Raghav Chadha tweeted, "It is indeed sad that out of 3 crore Punjabis, the Congress party chose a person who is accused of illegal sand mining and transfer posting scam as their CM candidate."

Political observers told IANS that it was a tough task for the party high command to choose Channi, a Dalit Sikh, over Sidhu, a Jat Sikh, in a state with a population caste mix of roughly 32 per cent Dalits, 30 per cent Jat Sikhs and 40 per cent the rest.

"Most of the cabinet ministers and top leaders stood behind Channi owing to his soft approach, easy accessibility and the most important, being the biggest Dalit face. If the high command projected Sidhu as the chief minister's face, it could upset the party's Dalit vote bank," a senior Congress leader told IANS, requesting anonymity.

"After building an image of transferring power from the elite (CaptAmarinder Singh) to the poor, the party can't ignore Channi's claim at this stage," the Congress leader added.

In a bid to woo Dalit voters, Channi last month spent a night at DeraSachkhand Ballan, a prominent Ravidassia community that has much influence in the Doaba region comprising Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr and Kapurthala districts.

In his brief helm of 111 days, Channi built an image of the common man's Chief Minister by extensively touring the state, occasionally performing 'bhanga' on the beats of a 'dhol' at public functions, favouring tea at roadside eateries while narrating couplets to the masses, besides accepting 'siropas' (religious robes) enroute by stopping his cavalcade.

The key opponents in the state -- the AAP, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) combine and the BJP in alliance with Amarinder Singh's new party Punjab Lok Congress and the Samyukt Samaj Morcha, the fledging coalition of farm unions -- are making an issue out of the Congress CM's face. Now the prominent faces for the parties are Channi (Congress), 58; Mann (AAP), 48; Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD), 59; Amarinder Singh (BJP-led alliance), 80; and Balbir Singh Rajewal (Samyukt Samaj Morcha), 78.

HAS SIDHU POLARISED PUNJAB ONCE AGAIN?

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Respondents were asked the question: Has Sidhu proven to be an asset or a liability for the Congress? As many as 54.3 per cent of Dalit Sikhs consider him a liability. That's not surprising given the barbs Sidhu has been throwing at the Dalit Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, going public suggesting that party bosses in Delhi want a weak leader and Chief Minister they can control. More than 42 per cent of Hindu voters also find him a liability, as do more than 46 per cent of BJP supporters. The funny thing is that 40.3 per cent of Congress supporters think Sidhu is a liability while 34 per cent consider him an asset. The respondents were further asked: To what extent do you blame Sidhu for the infighting in the Congress? The maximum blame came from Hindu voters amongst whom 67 per cent of the respondents either blamed Sidhu entirely or to a large extent. When asked who was a better leader between the two: Captain Amarinder Singh and Sidhu, the highest percentage among all social and religious groups, 48.5 per cent of Hindus, clearly preferred the Captain. That should worry the Congress because while AAP was already threatening to take away a chunk of Sikh votes, the newly-formed alliance between the Captain and the BJP threatens to take away a chunk of Hindu votes. Analysts feel Sidhu's words and actions have alienated the Hindu community.

MAMATA BANERJEE LIKELY TO SEVER TIES WITH PRASHANT KISHORE'S I-PAC



Recently in an interview Trinamool Congress's All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee in a way admitted that he has differences with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The admission comes just a couple of days after Trinamool Congress supremo gave a dry 'Thank You' in a reply to a request by the I-PAC chief Prashant Kishor that he doesn't want to work with Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya. The response is indicative enough after the Chief Minister's announcement in a recent meeting with the party MPs where she said that she would look after the organisation of the party herself. Sources in the party said that the Chief Minister was not very happy with the shadow of a professional group (Read I-PAC) growing larger in the party and strongly interfering in the party's organisational policies and internal decisions. The differences between the party high command and I-PAC reached a flashpoint when a list of candidates for the 108 Municipalities was uploaded on the party website without the approval of the Chief Minister. Senior party leaders like Partha Chatterjee and Subrata Bakshi had to intervene and say that the list undersigned by them is the original list.

OMICRON IS DOMINANT COVID-19 VARIANT IN COUNTRY: GOVT



Omicron variant is the dominant variant in the country presently and the current surge of COVID-19 cases in the country is showing a sustained declining trend since January 21, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. With the reporting of Omicron, a highly mutated variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus and its classification as a Variant of Concern (VoC) by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Union Ministry of Health revised its 'Guidelines for international arrivals', Mandaviya said in a written reply. "Omicron variant is the dominant variant in the country presently. The current surge of COVID-19 cases in the country is showing a sustained declining trend since January 21, 2022," he said.

Following a risk based approach, provisions for mandatory pre-departure and post arrival RT-PCR testing on day 8th of arrival and a mandatory home quarantine for 7 days have been made in the present guidelines for all international travellers to India. The Ministry of Health continues to provide technical guidance for managing various aspects of COVID-19 including containment and surveillance, testing, clinical management protocols, post-COVID sequele, etc., the minister said.

'MEDIocre APPOINTMENT': VARUN GANDHI POINTS OUT ERRORS IN JNU VC SANTISHREE PANDIT'S PRESS RELEASE



Varun Gandhi on JNU VC appointment: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Varun Gandhi on Tuesday raised question over the appointment of Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit as the new Vice Chancellor of Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Gandhi in a tweet pointed out multiple grammatical mistakes in a press statement issued by Pandit. "This press release from the new JNU VC is an exhibition of illiteracy, littered with grammatical mistakes (would strive vs will strive; students friendly vs student-friendly; excellences vs excellence). Such mediocre appointments serve to damage our human capital & our youth's future," Varun Gandhi said in the tweet. Pandit was appointed as JNU's first woman VC of JNU replacing Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, who has now been made the chairperson of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

'WHAT ABOUT THE BIG RALLIES HE DID': PRIYANKA GANDHI SLAMS PM MODI OVER COVID SPREAD ACCUSATIONS



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's accusations that Congress gave free train tickets to migrants to leave Maharashtra which lead to the spread of COVID in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and asked if PM Modi wanted the poor to be left helpless when they were returning to their homes on foot. Speaking to media persons in Panaji, Priyanka Gandhi said, "People whom he had deserted, who had no way of returning to their homes, who were coming back on foot - did he want that nobody should help them? What did Modi Ji want? What does he want?" "What about the big rallies he did?" she remarked while alleging that PM Modi conducted rallies during COVID. Earlier on Monday, while replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister had said that Congress gave free train tickets to migrant workers to leave Mumbai which lead to the spread of COVID in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.



JOE BIDEN PLEDGES END TO NORD STREAM 2 IF RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

US President Joe Biden said on Monday that the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline would be halted if Russia invades Ukraine and stressed unity with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as the West rallies to avert a war in Europe. At a White House press conference with the new German leader, Biden, a longtime opponent of the decade-old pipeline project to Germany from Russia, said Russian forces crossing into Ukraine would trigger a shutdown. "If Russia invades, that means tanks or troops crossing the ... border of Ukraine again, then there will be ... no longer a Nord Stream 2. We, we will bring an end to it," Biden said. Asked how, given the project is in German control, Biden said: "I promise you, we'll be able to do it."

Scholz said the United States and Germany had the same approach to Ukraine, to Russia and to sanctions, but did not directly confirm the Nord Stream 2 plans or mention the pipeline publicly by name over the course of his day-long visit.

Whether the United States and Germany are on the same page over the \$11 billion project has become a crucial question as the two major democracies lead NATO allies in pushback against Russian President Vladimir Putin. Russia has amassed some 100,000 troops near the Ukraine border. It denies it is planning an invasion. US officials say an attack could occur within days or weeks.

Scholz, under fire at home and abroad for what has been seen as

insufficient leadership in the crisis, told reporters Russia would pay a very high price if it invaded Ukraine and said Germany and the United States had the same approach. "We will be united. We will act together. And we will take all the necessary steps," Scholz said in English. Even before the pipeline starts flowing, Germany uses Russian gas to cover half its needs. It delayed approval of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline until at least the second half of 2022, but has refused to cancel the nearly-completed project.

'Off ramp for Putin?'

Biden and Scholz emphasised that they preferred diplomacy as a solution to the Ukraine conflict. Asked if Russia still had an "off ramp" from any crisis, Biden said yes.

Scholz, whose popularity has plunged 17 percentage points in recent weeks as tensions ratcheted up with Moscow, is due to visit both Ukraine and Russia next week, after meetings this week with Biden, European Union officials and the heads of Baltic states. The Biden-Scholz relationship could be pivotal at a time when French President Emmanuel Macron has yet to declare if he will run in an election in three months, and while British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is engulfed in a domestic crisis. On Monday, Macron met with Putin and told the Russian leader he seeks to avoid war and build trust.

Boris Johnson reboots office in bid to move past 'partygate'

Boris Johnson has brought in new senior staffers as he tries to restore his flagging authority — including a communications chief who insisted the British prime minister is "not a total clown." The prime minister hired Guto Harri, an aide from his days as London mayor who has recently been critical of Johnson, to try to regain control of the government's messaging after weeks of turmoil that have led some in the ruling Conservatives to call for his removal. He also appointed a senior Cabinet minister, Steve Barclay, as his new chief of staff.

But unease about Johnson's leadership grew Monday when opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer was harassed outside Parliament by anti-lockdown protesters who accused him of protecting pedophiles when he was a prosecutor — echoing a slur made by Johnson last week. Visiting a hospital cancer center Monday outside London, Johnson said he was "focused completely" on clearing a backlog of millions of medical procedures built up during the pandemic. It's one of a pile of critical issues, including a squeeze on household finances from inflation and a looming tax hike, that are being overshadowed by scandal over lockdown-breaching government parties. "I think what people want is for the government to focus, not on stuff going on at (the government district of) Westminster, but to focus on life ... beyond Westminster, and to focus on the needs



of the country," Johnson said. "And that is what we're doing." Johnson's grip on power has been shaken by public anger over revelations that his staff held "bring your own booze" office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" in 2020 and 2021 while millions in Britain were barred from meeting with friends and family because of his government's Covid-19 restrictions. A total of 16 parties have been investigated by a senior civil servant, Sue Gray, with a dozen of them also under investigation by the Metropolitan Police.

CHINA SAYS OPPOSED TO 'UNILATERAL ACTIONS' TO RESOLVE KASHMIR ISSUE, XI & IMRAN VOW TO PROMOTE CPEC PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN

China on Sunday pledged closer cooperation with Pakistan under the USD 60 billion CPEC investment programme and called for resolving the Kashmir issue properly and peacefully while opposing any "unilateral actions" that could complicate the situation as Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with the top Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping. Khan called on President Xi on the last day of his four-day visit to China to discuss a host of issues including the slow pace of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and increasing concerns of Beijing over recurring attacks on Chinese personnel working in its various projects in Pakistan.

In his meeting with Khan, Xi said China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, dignity and fighting terrorism, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

US AIRBORNE INFANTRY TROOPS IN POLAND AMID UKRAINE TENSION

Elite US troops and equipment landed Sunday in southeastern Poland near the border with Ukraine on President Joe Biden's orders to deploy 1,700 soldiers there amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Hundreds more infantry troops of the 82nd Airborne Division are still expected to arrive at the Rzeszow-Jasionka airport. A US Army Boeing C-17 Globemaster plane brought a few dozen troops and vehicles. Their commander is Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who on Aug. 30 was the last American soldier to leave Afghanistan. "Our national contribution here in Poland shows our solidarity with all of our allies here in Europe and, obviously, during this period of uncertainty we know that we are stronger together," Donahue said at the airport. Biden ordered additional US troops deployed to Poland, Romania and Germany to demonstrate to both allies and foes America's commitment to NATO's eastern flank amid rising.

PAKISTAN WANTS TO BRING TOGETHER US & CHINA TO PREVENT ANOTHER COLD-WAR

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"The famous visit of Henry Kissinger (the then US Secretary of State) was organised by Pakistan, so we hope to play the same role," Khan said. Khan hoped that both the US and China would not escalate tensions, adding that Pakistan would not want to come to a position of having to choose sides between the two countries.

"The world should not go through the situation where it is divided into two camps and it does not benefit anyone. I hope this does not escalate into another cold war where we have to choose sides," he said.

Talking about the importance of peace and stability in the region, Khan said that conflicts take a major toll on the economy. "If you have conflicts, the first thing that gets affected is the economy and that's the last thing we want," he said.

"I will get my people out of poverty if we have economic well-being, which comes with stability and peace," Khan said while talking about his desire to uplift 220 million Pakistanis.

Talking about the situation in Afghanistan and the four-decade long Afghan conflict, Khan highlighted that Pakistan has been the worst beneficiary, as it has suffered the most, losing thousands of its soldiers and innocent locals, only because it shares the troubled border with Afghanistan. "It was for the first time that there was an opportunity of restoring peace in the war-torn country," Khan said, adding that Afghan Taliban takeover should be taken as an opportunity towards regional peace. "Pakistan, China and other European states had agreed that somehow the likes and dislikes of the Taliban government should be set aside and the only thing in minds should be the 40 million people of Afghanistan -- half of them in a very precarious position of food security," said Imran Khan.

US APPROVES \$100 MILLION SALE TO UPGRADE TAIWAN'S PATRIOT MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM



The United States has approved a possible \$100 million sale of equipment and services to Taiwan to "sustain, maintain, and improve" the Patriot missile defense system used by the self-ruled island claimed by China, the Pentagon said on Monday.

A statement from the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency said it had delivered the required certification notifying Congress following State Department approval for the sale, which was requested by Taiwan's de facto embassy in Washington. Upgrades to the Patriot Air Defense System would "help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, economic and progress in the region," the DSCA said in a statement. "This proposed sale serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernise its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," the agency said.

NEARLY 50 AHMADI GRAVES DESECRATED BY POLICE IN PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB: COMMUNITY MEMBER



Nearly 50 graves belonging to the Ahmadis have been allegedly desecrated by police and Muslim clerics for using Islamic symbols on gravestones at a cemetery in Pakistan's Punjab province, a member of an organisation representing the minority community said on Monday. Jamaat Ahmadiya Punjab spokesperson Aamir Mahmood said that a group of people in Premkot, district Hafizabad, some 110 kms from Lahore, approached the police complaining that the Islamic verses are inscribed on the tombstones of a number of graves in the Ahmadi graveyard. The group threatened that the Ahmadis cannot display Islamic verses/symbols on their homes or graves, he said. "On Sunday, police along with local clerics and lawyers reached the Ahmadi graveyard and demolished the tombstones of 45 graves inscribed with Islamic verses," Mahmood told PTI.

The enraged extremists also warned the Ahmadis living in the area to remove Islamic verses displayed on their houses otherwise they will demolish them too, he added. On the other hand, police said the tombstones from Ahmadi graves have been removed on the application of a group of lawyers and warned Ahmadis not to use the same in the future.

UK REBUKES CHINA FOR SUPPORTING ARGENTINA'S FALKLANDS CLAIM



Britain on Monday firmly rejected a statement from China that affirmed Beijing's support for Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands, as relations between London and Asia's leading power remain strained. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in a tweet that the United Kingdom "completely" rejected "any questions over sovereignty of the Falklands." "The Falklands are part of the British family and we will defend their right to self determination. China must respect the Falklands' sovereignty," she wrote. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Argentine counterpart Alberto Fernandez issued a joint statement on Sunday that said China "reaffirms its support for Argentina's demand for the full exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands," using the Argentine name for the territory.

FRANCE'S MACRON FLIES TO MOSCOW IN HIGH-RISK DIPLOMATIC MISSION



French President Emmanuel Macron flies to Moscow on Monday in a risky diplomatic move, seeking commitments from Russian President Vladimir Putin to dial down tensions with Ukraine, where Western leaders fear the Kremlin plans an invasion. Macron has made a frenetic series of phone calls with Western allies, Putin and the Ukrainian leader over the past week. He will follow up on Tuesday with a visit to Kyiv, staking a lot of political capital on a mission that could prove embarrassing if he returns empty-handed. "We're heading to Putin's lair, in many ways it's a throw of the dice," one source close to Macron told Reuters. Russia has massed some 100,000 troops near Ukraine and demanded NATO and U.S. security guarantees, including that NATO never admit Ukraine as a member.



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- Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit



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FLYER PRICES EFFECTIVE:
Feb.11 (Fri.) - Feb.17 (Thur.) 2022

PRODUCE

MEAT

SEAFOOD

KITCHEN

Fresh Flat Cabbage 新鮮高麗菜 Reg: \$1.29 77¢ lb Save: \$0.52	Fresh Cauliflower 新鮮花椰菜 Reg: \$1.59/ea 2 FOR \$1.97 Save: \$1.21	Fresh Long Bean (White) 新鮮白豆苗 Reg: \$3.99 \$2.77 lb Save: \$1.22
Fresh California Navel Oranges (L) 新鮮加州橙(大) Reg: \$1.99 \$1.37 lb Save: \$0.62	Fresh Washington Gala Apple 新鮮華盛頓加爾蘋果 Reg: \$1.99 \$1.57 lb Save: \$0.42	Fresh Cantaloupe 新鮮大甜瓜 Reg: \$4.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$2.02
Fresh Chicken Drumstick 新鮮小雞腿 Reg: \$1.60 \$1.00 lb Save: \$0.60	Fresh Beef Back Rib 新鮮牛背排 Reg: \$3.90 \$3.49 lb Save: \$0.50	Frozen Mutton Shoulder (Small Cut) 新鮮大紅肉 Reg: \$5.99 \$4.99 lb Save: \$1.00
Whole Round Sausage 整條小腸 Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 lb Fri-Sun Only	Live White Tilapia Fish 活白魚 Reg: \$4.99 \$5.77 lb Fri-Sun Only	Fresh Lane Snapper (M) 新鮮火魚 Reg: \$7.99 \$6.97 lb Fri-Sun Only
Fresh Lane Snapper (L) 新鮮火魚 Reg: \$10.99 \$7.97 lb Fri-Sun Only	Deep Fried Tilapia Fish 煎封金山魚 Reg: \$7.99 \$4.98 order Save: \$3.01	Szechuan Style Chicken 四川雞 Reg: \$10.99 \$7.98 order Save: \$3.01

SUPER DEAL

King Fish (Whole) 整條馬鮫魚 Reg: \$5.99 \$4.77 lb Save: \$1.22 Fri-Sun Only	Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream Bars Reg: \$7.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$4.02	Seven Baskets Premium Frozen Raw Vannamee Shrimp 30/40 Net 400g Reg: \$12.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$6.02	Danone Activia Yogurt Drink 8*93ml Reg: \$5.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$3.02
Gray Ridge Extra Large 18 Family Pack White Eggs Reg: \$6.99 \$4.97 ea Save: \$2.02	Armstrong Cheese Block 400g Reg: \$38.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$33.02	Krinos Cow & Goat Feta Cheese 3kg Reg: \$45.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$16.02	Dabur Real Green Mango Fruit Juice Drink 1L Reg: \$3.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$2.02
Quaker 100% Whole Grain Oats 1kg Reg: \$3.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$2.02	Tayas Damla Soft Candy With Fruit 400g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Cuetara Maria Biscuits 800g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	ESKA Water 12*500ml Reg: \$7.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$2.02
Brooke Bond Red Label Tea 900g Reg: \$11.99 \$7.97 ea Save: \$4.02	Ferrero Rocher Chocolate 24-30pcs Reg: \$13.99 \$8.97 ea Save: \$5.02	Nu Pak Long Grain Brown Rice 8kg Reg: \$15.99 \$9.97 ea Save: \$6.02	Garden Family Assorted Biscuits 340g Reg: \$10.99 \$1.67 ea Save: \$3.02
Wonder White / 100% Whole Wheat Texas Toast Bread 625g Reg: \$3.00 \$2.47 pk Save: \$0.62	Lemon Chicken 檸檬雞 Reg: \$10.99 \$7.98 order Save: \$3.01	Fresh Papaya (L) 新鮮大木瓜 Reg: \$1.99 \$1.37 lb Save: \$0.62	Fresh English Cucumber 新鮮長青瓜 Reg: \$1.59/ea 2 FOR \$1.97 Save: \$1.21

GROCERY

Hunt's Pasta Sauce 650ml Reg: \$2.59 \$1.00 ea Save: \$1.59	Primo Pasta 900g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Imli Tamarind Paste 400g Reg: \$3.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$2.02	Pinar Roasted Sunflower Seeds 200g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Britannia 50-50 Sweet & Salty Crackers Family Pack 372g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.47 ea Save: \$1.52
Imam Chow Mein Noodles 340g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.57 ea Save: \$1.42	Pakola Cream Soda 1.5L Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Deep Chikki Sesame / Peanut Brittle 200g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Deep Kesar Mango Pulp 850g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Zaika Crispy Fried Onion 400g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02
Oil Se Baked Delight Milk Rusk 600g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Indomie Chicken Curry Flavor Instant Noodles 450g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Ain Instant Honeyed Ginger Drink 360g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Eagle Masoor Dal / Red Split Lentils 1.4kg Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Eagle Chana Dal / Split Desi Chickpeas 1.4kg Reg: \$6.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$1.02

FROZEN

Halal Veal With Bone Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 lb Save: \$1.02	Halal Boneless Chicken Breast Reg: \$5.99 \$4.97 lb Save: \$1.02	Halal Frozen Baby Goat Shoulder Reg: \$7.99 \$6.99 lb Save: \$1.00	Halal Frozen Baby Goat Leg Reg: \$9.99 \$8.99 lb Save: \$1.00
Breyer Family Classic Ice Cream 700g Reg: \$7.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$4.02	Golden Harvest Aloo / Dal Fry 1000g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Cowhand Assorted Fried Potatoes 8kg Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	High Line Tines & Fish 250g Reg: \$5.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$3.02
Al Soffa Chicken Burgers / Nuggets 300g Reg: \$5.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Al Soffa Halal Uncooked Chicken Burgers Reg: \$11.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$6.02	Kawan Paratha Family Pack 25pcs Reg: \$5.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Ashoka Family Pack Tandoori Naan 10pcs Reg: \$13.99 \$7.97 ea Save: \$6.02
Seven Baskets Frozen Red Shrimp 200g Reg: \$5.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$3.02	Supreme Fish Balls 500g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Seven Baskets Frozen Fish 400g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	31 Raw Packed Shrimp Net 400g Reg: \$7.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$2.02
31 Frozen White Shrimp 400g Reg: \$8.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$3.02	31 Frozen Wild Fish 400g Reg: \$10.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$9.02	31 Frozen Wild Fish 400g Reg: \$10.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$9.02	31 Frozen Wild Fish 400g Reg: \$10.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$9.02

BAKERY

Charlotte's Sea Salt & Caramel Cookie Cluster 156g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.57 pk Save: \$1.42	Peach Cheese Strudel 4pcs Reg: \$2.99 \$1.77 pk Save: \$1.22
Dominic Mini Croissant 370g Reg: \$2.99 \$2.27 pk Save: \$0.72	Favorite Day Gourmet Lemon Muffin With Raspberry Filling 450g Reg: \$2.99 \$2.47 pk Save: \$0.52
Dil Se Tea Rusk 200g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.00 ea Save: \$0.98	

DAIRY

Diamond Nectar 900ml Reg: \$1.99 \$1.47 ea Save: \$0.52	Silk Large Almond Drink 946ml Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	One World Hand Shredded Cheese 200g Reg: \$5.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$3.02	I Can't Believe It's Not Butter! 454g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Betrica Sour Cream 500ml Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02
Happy Dairy Paneer 300g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.47 ea Save: \$0.52	Harvest Crank Hand Chopped Chicken Wings 600g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Black Diamond Cheese String 800g Reg: \$2.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Lactantia Solved / Unsweetened 400g Reg: \$7.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Beyer's Moka Dahi Yogurt 1.1kg Reg: \$10.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$4.02

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Fresh Atlantic Salmon (Whole) 2.2kg Reg: \$14.99 \$3.97 lb Save: \$11.02	Fresh Frozen Head On Shrimps 400g Reg: \$7.99 \$5.77 ea Save: \$2.22	Gray Ridge Extra Large 18 Family Pack White Eggs Reg: \$6.99 \$4.77 ea Save: \$2.22	Sarson's Chick Peas 2kg Reg: \$1.99 77¢ ea Save: \$1.22	CAF Creamy Chicken 200g Reg: \$1.99 \$1.27 ea Save: \$0.72
Maggi 2-Minute Noodles 2kg Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Deep Fried Marinated Fish 4.5kg Reg: \$13.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$11.02	Grace Sweetened Condensed Milk 200g Reg: \$1.99 2 FOR \$3.00 Save: \$1.02	Cuetara Maria Cookies 800g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Desi Sui Ghee 500g Reg: \$4.99 \$4.97 ea Save: \$0.02
Ferrero Rocher 130.25g Reg: \$13.99 \$8.97 ea Save: \$5.02	Wonder White / 100% Whole Wheat Texas Toast Bread 625g Reg: \$3.00 \$2.47 ea Save: \$0.53	Wonder White / 100% Whole Wheat Texas Toast Bread 625g Reg: \$3.00 \$2.47 ea Save: \$0.53	Tanjori Chicken 400g Reg: \$11.99 \$7.99 order Save: \$4.00	Fresh Papaya (L) Reg: \$1.99 \$1.37 lb Save: \$0.62
Fresh Flat Cabbage 新鮮高麗菜 Reg: \$1.29 77¢ lb Save: \$0.52	Fresh Cauliflower 新鮮花椰菜 Reg: \$1.59/ea 2 FOR \$1.97 Save: \$1.21	Fresh Long Bean (White) 新鮮白豆苗 Reg: \$3.99 \$2.77 lb Save: \$1.22	Fresh California Navel Oranges (L) 新鮮加州橙(大) Reg: \$1.99 \$1.37 lb Save: \$0.62	Fresh Washington Gala Apple 新鮮華盛頓加爾蘋果 Reg: \$1.99 \$1.57 lb Save: \$0.42
Fresh Cantaloupe 新鮮大甜瓜 Reg: \$4.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$2.02				

FROZEN

Deer's Choice Soft Ice Cream 600g Reg: \$7.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$4.02	Harvest Crank Hand Chopped Chicken Wings 600g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Sarson's World's Best Chopped Spinach 800g Reg: \$4.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$2.02	Arpa Taste Cornmeal 2kg Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02
Tandoori Oven Potatoes 78.430g Reg: \$3.99 \$4.47 ea Save: \$0.48	Arpa Taste Aloo Taki Potato Patties 2kg Reg: \$6.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Arpa Taste Cornmeal 2kg Reg: \$4.99 \$3.47 ea Save: \$1.52	31B Battered Shrimp 200g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.77 ea Save: \$1.22
31 Frozen Tandoori Chicken 200g Reg: \$6.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Indomie Wild Caught Tuna 1kg Reg: \$11.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$5.02	Indomie Wild Caught Tuna 1kg Reg: \$11.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$5.02	Black Tie Jumbo Boneless Cash Cheese 400g Reg: \$10.99 \$2.27 ea Save: \$8.72

SEAFOOD

Pre - Frozen Tilapia Fish Reg: \$2.99 \$2.27 lb Save: \$0.72	Fresh Tilapia Fish Reg: \$1.99 \$6.97 lb Save: \$5.98	Fresh Sea Bream Reg: \$1.99 \$6.97 lb Save: \$5.98	Pre - Frozen Tilapia White Reg: \$2.99 \$6.97 lb Save: \$5.98
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MEAT

Fresh Chicken Drumstick Reg: \$1.60 \$1.00 lb Save: \$0.60	Fresh Beef Back Rib Reg: \$3.99 \$3.49 lb Save: \$0.50	Frozen Mutton Shoulder (Small Cut) Reg: \$5.99 \$4.99 lb Save: \$1.00
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GROCERY

Jamaican Pickled Plantain 300g Reg: \$1.99 \$1.00 ea Save: \$0.99	Supreme Instant Noodles 300g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Pearl Fruit Flavoured Jelly 300g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Real Fruit Drink 240ml Reg: \$2.99 3 FOR \$2.50 Save: \$0.49	Dan D Pack Quick Cooked Pasta 300g Reg: \$2.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$0.02
Grace Corn Meal 2kg Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Sera Pickled Mixed Vegetables 700g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Goya/Gujarat Snack Series 255g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Panasonic Detergent 2000g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Evian Roasted Sunflower Seeds 300g Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02
S&W Pineapple 1kg Reg: \$3.99 \$2.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Tiger Tamarind Paste 200g Reg: \$2.99 2 FOR \$3.00 Save: \$0.01	Lakeland Instant Noodles 450g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Hoddram's Barley 2kg Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Fruiti-O Mango Juice Drink 2.1L Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02
Tropicana Grapefruit Cocktail 12*300ml Reg: \$3.99 \$4.97 ea Save: \$0.98	Eagle Brand Tuna (No Salt Added) 540g Reg: \$8.99 \$5.97 ea Save: \$3.02	Danya Harvest Chia Seeds 500g Reg: \$8.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$2.02	Montego Ackee 1kg Reg: \$4.99 \$6.97 ea Save: \$1.98	Pindeho Jambon Cooked 400g Reg: \$10.99 \$8.97 ea Save: \$2.02
Pur-it Liquid Soap 500ml Reg: \$2.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$1.02	PMK Disposable Face Mask 100 Reg: \$4.99 2 FOR \$3.00 Save: \$1.99	Saranwrap Garbage Bag 40pk Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Cottonelle Toilet Paper 12*24 Reg: \$12.99 \$8.97 ea Save: \$4.02	Purex 4in1 Laundry Detergent 3L Reg: \$11.99 \$14.97 ea Save: \$2.98

DAIRY

Chef Master 40% Vegetable Butter 454g Reg: \$1.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$0.02	Harvest Crank Chicken 200g Reg: \$1.99 \$1.97 ea Save: \$0.02	PhillyCheese Cream Cheese 225g Reg: \$4.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$1.02	Royal Soft Unsweetened Butter 500g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.97 ea Save: \$0.02	The Laughing Cow Cheese 33 Portions Reg: \$10.99 \$9.97 ea Save: \$1.02
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BAKERY

Charlotte's Sea Salt & Caramel Cookie Cluster 156g Reg: \$2.99 \$1.57 pk Save: \$1.42	Peach Cheese Strudel 4pcs Reg: \$2.99 \$1.77 pk Save: \$1.22
Dominic Mini Croissant 370g Reg: \$2.99 \$2.27 pk Save: \$0.72	Favorite Day Gourmet Lemon Muffin With Raspberry Filling 450g Reg: \$2.99 \$2.47 pk Save: \$0.52
Dil Se Tea Rusk 200g Reg: \$3.99 \$3.00 ea Save: \$0.98	

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