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INDIAN PM NARENDRA MODI MEETS US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN.

I MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 3 & 4

INDIA COUNTERS PAKISTAN, ASKS TO VACATE POK PM MODI QUESTIONS UN'S RELEVANCE IN UNGA ADDRESS, CALLS FOR REFORMS

UNITED NATIONS, (IANS) Without once naming Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday ripped his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan's harsh rhetoric targeting India by slamming "countries with regressive thinking that are using terrorism as a political tool". Modi was speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York and his address came a day after Khan's litany. During a Friday address, Khan had framed Pakistan as a victim 'wrongfully trapped between American and global double standards'. "For the current situation in Afghanistan, for some reason, Pakistan has been blamed for the turn of events by politicians in the US and some politicians in Europe," Khan said, adding: "From this platform, I want them all to know, the country that suffered the most, apart from Afghanistan, was Pakistan when we joined the US war on terror after 9/11."

Khan's toughest words were reserved for India. India, in its right of reply on Friday, hit back.

"This is the country which is an arsonist disguising itself as a firefighter," Sneha Dubey, a first secretary in India's UN Mission, said on Friday. "Pakistan nurtures terrorists in their backyard in the hope that they will only harm their neighbours. Our region, and in fact the entire world, has suffered because of their policies," she said.

Sneha Dubey First Secretary at UNGA said, "Regrettably, this is not the first time the leader of Pakistan has misused platforms provided by the UN to propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country, and seeking in vain to divert the world's attention from the sad state of his country where terrorists enjoy free pass while the lives of ordinary people, especially those belonging to the minority communities, are turned upside down."

I CONTD. ON PAGE 3 & 4

- PM Modi wraps up whirlwind US visit:20 meeting in 65 hours.
- PM Modi meets American CEOs, extends invitation for larger investment in new tech.
- PM Narendra Modi held the first faceto-face meeting with President Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris.
- PM Modi attended the maiden inperson Quad summit with the U.S.
 President, Japan PM Yoshihide Suga and Australian PM Scott Morrison.
- PM Modi addressed the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

GURYODH KHATTRA, 26, DEAD, FEMALE INJURED IN BRAMPTON SHOOTING; 3 SUSPECTS FLED AREA

Officers from the Homicide and Missing Persons Bureau are currently investigating the circumstances that led to a man being murdered. On Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 4:45 p.m., police responded to a homicide that occurred at a residence on Rushbrook Drive in Brampton. Upon arrival, police located a man suffering from apparent gunshot wounds.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 8



FORMER LIBERAL INNOVATION MINISTER NAVDEEP BAINS TO JOIN CIBC AS VICE-CHAIR, GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANKING

CIBC today announced that the Honourable Navdeep Bains will be joining the bank as Vice-Chair, Global Investment Banking, effective October 4, 2021. Mr. Bains brings proven leadership in the public and private sector, and deep expertise in shaping Canada's innovation policy to his new role.

AIR CANADA RESUMES SERVICE BETWEEN CANADA AND INDIA

Air Canada announced today the resumption of its non-stop flights to and from Delhi, India, following the lifting of the Government of Canada restrictions on non-stop flights from India. The airline's flights from Delhi to Toronto and Vancouver resume arriving today.

"People are eager to reunite with family and friends and we are very pleased to resume service immediately from India to our Toronto and Vancouver hubs following the lifting of restrictions by the Government of Canada.

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INVITED & FORGOTTEN: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN CRISIS



MISSISSAUGA- Through the Apna Health collaboration, Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) and Indus Community Services (Indus), have partnered together to release a specialized report on International Students – Invited & Forgotten: International Students in Crisis.

US SENATORS SEEK PROBE INTO PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN ASSISTING TALIBAN

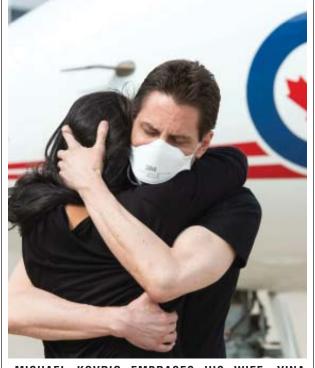
NEW DELHI, (IANS) American Senators have tabled a bill in the US Senate, demanding a deeper investigation into the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan and sanctions on the group as well as those who assisted them in driving out the Ashraf Ghani-led regime, Geo News reported. The 'Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight, and Accountability Act' seeks to establish a task force that will focus on continued evacuation of American citizens, legal permanent residents and Special Immigrant Visa holders from Afghanistan.

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT

- Ontario's Covid-19 Science Advisory Table says fourth wave has flattened.
- Loosened Capacity Limits Now In Effect At Certain Ontario Venues Where Proof Of Vaccination Is Required Including Arenas, Stadiums, concert halls, Theatres.
- Canada resumes direct passengers from India.
 Over 86% Ontarians 12+ inoculated with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, 80.5% fully vaccinated.
- Over 85% Canadians 12+ inoculated with first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, 80% fully vaccinated.



AFTER 71 DAYS AT HELM, NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU RESIGNS AS PUNJAB CONGRESS PRESIDENT. I DETAILS ON PAGE 5



MICHAEL KOVRIG EMBRACES HIS WIFE, VINA NADJIBULLA, FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN TORONTO ON A CANADIAN AIR FORCE JET AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION IN CHINA (ALEX WELLSTEAD/TWITTER)



MICHAEL SPAVOR (LEFT) & MICHAEL KOVRIG (RIGHT) RETURNS TO CANADA AFTER NEARLY 3-YEAR DETENTION IN CHINA I DETAILS ON PAGE 7





PINEPINK THIS OCTOBER.



Can your business lend a hand?

October is breast cancer awareness month and the Breast Cancer Society of Canada is asking businesses to help support life-saving breast cancer research by displaying a Pin Your Pink donation box with pink ribbons in your office or store.



Order your Pin Your Pink kit before September 10th at DressForTheCause.ca











PM MODI, PRESIDENT BIDEN LAUNCH 'NEW CHAPTER' IN INDIA-US TIES TO FACE TOUGH CHALLENGES

NEW YORK, (IANS) "We're launching a new chapter in the history of US-Indian ties and taking on some of the toughest challenges we face together," President Joe Biden said on Friday as he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi began their summit in a fast-changing world throwing up problems and new issues at dizzying speeds. After their meeting, Modi tweeted: "Had an outstanding meeting with @POTUS @JoeBiden. His leadership on critical global issues is commendable. We discussed how India and USA will further scale-up cooperation in different spheres and work together to overcome key challenges like COVID-19 and climate change."

Speaking before the formal start of their meeting, Modi told Biden: "I find that under your leadership, the seeds have been sown for the Indo-US relations to expand, and for all democratic countries in the world, this is going to be a transformative period. I can see that very clearly."

The shared democratic values of the two countries were a thread weaving them together. "Democratic values, traditions to which both countries are committed, I find that importance of these traditions will only increase further," Modi said. Biden said: "Our partnership is more than just what we do. It's about who we are. It's rooted in our shared responsibility to uphold democratic values, our joint commitment to diversity."

Both leaders spoke of the Indian diaspora, another factor that is binding the two nations together. India-US relations are "about family ties, including four million Indian-Americans who make the United States stronger every single day", Biden said. Modi said: "You mentioned, there are more than four million Indian Americans who are participating in the journey of the progress of America. When I look at the importance of this decade, and the role that is going to be played by this talent of the Indian Americans, I find that the people-to-people talent will play a greater role and Indian talent will be a full partner in

this relationship. And I see that your contribution is going to be very important in this." The two leaders mentioned Gandhi Jayanti that comes up next week. "As the world celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's birthday next week, we're all reminded that his message of nonviolence, respect, tolerance matters today maybe more than it ever has," Biden said.

"Mahatma Gandhi always used to talk about the principle of trusteeship, trusteeship of the planet," Modi said turning to the environment, a subject dear to Biden. "It means that the planet that we have, we have to bequeath it to the following generations, and this sentiment of trusteeship is going to assume more and more importance globally, but also between the relations between India and the United States, and it is these ideals that Mahatma Gandhi espoused," he said. "The responsibility of global citizens is only going to go up." Biden referred to the Quad summit where they will be joined by Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga of Japan and Scott Morrison of Australia, and said: "The Prime Minister and I are going to be talking today about what more we can do to fight Covid-19, take on the climate challenges that the world face, and ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific, including with our own Quad partners." Modi profusely thanked Biden for his efforts to continue building relations with India and recalled that their meeting in 2014 while Biden was Vice President and discussed the ties between the two countries. He said: "You had laid out a vision for the India-US relationship in great detail. And really, that was a vision that was inspirational. And today, Mr. President, as President, you are making all efforts and taking initiatives to implement that vision." "I see is that this is the third decade of the 21st century, this is the first year of the third decade. And I see that when I look at the entire decade, I find that under your leadership the seeds have been sown for the Indo-US relations to expand," Modi said.

PM Modi meets Vice President Harris ahead of first-ever in-person Quad summit

NEW YORK, (IANS) Black on white, white on black. At 3:19 p.m. Thursday, when America's first ever Indian American Vice President Kamala Harris welcomed India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave for the first time after taking power in the 2020 elections, it was a striking visual for a historic moment, blending austere monochrome with the all-white backdrop of the White House pillars.

Both wore masks - Modi white and Harris black. Harris dressed in a sleek black and white pantsuit, and sported her string of trusty pearls. Modi arrived in a crisp, milky white kurta ensemble with a black Nehru jacket, teamed with black shoes. Harris began about 5 minutes of remarks noting the passage of time since Modi was here last. "It is my understanding that this is your first trip outside of South Asia for at least the last 16 months," she said. Back then, Donald Trump was US president, his Twitter megaphone was a riot, Covid-19 hadn't exploded, masks weren't yet a cultural flashpoint, Modi and Trump headlined a "Howdy, Modi!" rally in Houston, drawing over 50,000 people. Trump is gone now, Biden has pulled US troops from Afghanistan, US, Britain and Australia stunned France by cutting a multibillion-dollar contract to acquire US nuclear-powered vessels. The political contrasts are sharp, Chinese aggression is rising, global contradictions are shifting, flexible multi alignments are on the ascendant. Biden's deputy Harris spoke first today, invoking



themes that will be on full display on Friday, at the first-ever leader level Quad summit. Fragility, cooperation and resilience were on the table in the context of the Indo-Pacific. "And as it relates to the Indo-Pacific, the US, like India, feels very strongly about the pride of being a member of the Indo-Pacific, but also the fragility and the importance and strength as well of those relationships, including maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific," Harris said. Harris thanked Modi for cooperation on Covid-19 vaccines.

INDIA COUNTERS PAKISTAN, ASKS TO VACATE POK

PM MODI QUESTIONS UN'S RELEVANCE IN UNGA ADDRESS, CALLS FOR REFORMS

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"Member States are aware that Pakistan has an established history and policy of harbouring, aiding and actively supporting terrorists. This is a country that has been globally recognized as one openly supporting, training, financing and arming terrorists as a matter of State policy. It holds the ignoble record of hosting the largest number of terrorists proscribed by the UN Security Council," added Dubey.

The morning after, Modi closed it out.

"These countries must understand that terrorism is an equally big threat to them. Also, it is absolutely essential to ensure that Afghanistan's territory is not used to spread terrorism or for terrorist attacks," Modi said in the tail end of his address, which kicked off the weekend programming at the UNGA.

"We also need to be alert and ensure that no country tries to take advantage of the delicate situation there, and use it as a tool for their own selfish interests. At this time, the women and children of Afghanistan, the minorities of Afghanistan, need help. And we must fulfil our duty by providing them with this help," Modi said. Earlier this week in a joint statement, Quad leaders Modi, Scott Morrison of Australia and Yoshihide Suga of Japan and US President Joe Biden slammed terrorist proxies and cross-border attacks, without naming Pakistan or China. This messaging comes soon after US withdrawal from Afghanistan and amid the deepening mistrust between the US and Pakistan, which remains important to US intelligence because of its proximity to Taliban leaders now in charge of the war-torn nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (local time) urged the United Nations to improve its effectiveness and increase its reliability in order to be relevant, thus reiterating for bringing in reforms in the United Nations, which was started in 1945, after the end of World War II. Noting that the UN must improve its effectiveness to maintain its relevance, Prime Minister at 76th UNGA said that it is important the world body is constantly strengthened for preserving "global order, global laws and global values". In his remarks, PM Modi stated that Acharya Chanakya had said centuries back if the right work is not done at right time, then the time taken destroys the success of that work. "If the UN has to keep itself relevant, then it has to improve its effectiveness, increase its reliability," he said.

During a presser after Prime Miniter's UNGA address, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Saturday stated that a permanent seat and the reform of the UN Security Council remains India's top priority.

"There is a possibility, that under the new president of UNGA, there will be a thrust to the intergovernmental process and we will move forward to the text-based negotiations." Shringla said that India's 75th anniversary coincides with 75 anniversary of the United Nations, this is the time that the UN should fulfil its responsibility. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pushing for reforms in the global body. Back in 2014, at the 69th UNGA session, Prime Minister had urged all member nations to deliver on the commitment of UN reforms. He had said institutions that reflect the compulsions of the twentieth-century risk irrelevance.

PM Modi had said, "As we see now, distance is no insulation from challenges. And, they can rise from the shadows of conflict and privations from distant lands. And, we must also reform the United Nations, including its Security Council, so that it carries greater credibility and legitimacy and will be more representative and effective in achieving our goals."

He said the seventieth year of the United Nations should be an opportunity to reflect on what all has been achieved, and to prepare a roadmap for the

Later at his 74th UNGA address in 2019, Prime Minister had advocated the motto: Collective efforts, for growth of all, with everyone's trust (sabkasath, sabkavikas, sabkavishwas). He had also talked about the need to give new discretion and approximate Multilateralism, and to the United National

direction and energy to Multilateralism, and to the United Nations. Again at the 75th UNGA session in 2020, Prime Minister pointed to the serious need for introspection for the United Nations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised key points pertaining to the body's formation and approach to conflict resolution. He also reiterated his previous stance that the UN needs a rebirth. He had said that the people of India have been waiting for a long time for the completion of the reforms of the United Nations. "Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion?" International leaders created the global organization (UN) to maintain peace and avoid the abuses of war, to develop friendly relations among nations, to help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

PRIME MINISTERS MODI, SUGA AGREE TO PROMOTE DEFENCE, SECURITY COOPERATION



NEW YORK, (IANS) Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Yoshihide Suga have agreed to promote defence and security cooperation between India and Japan when they met in Washington on the eve of the Quad Summit that brings together the four major democracies of the Indo-Pacific region. A readout of their meeting on Thursday issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs said: "They reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. They agreed to enhance bilateral security and defence cooperation, including in the area of defence equipment and technologies." A Japanese Foreign Ministry statement said that they "shared their strong opposition against economic coercion and unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China seas", according to Kyodo News Agency. Kyodo said that it was an allusion to "Beijing's assertiveness in regional waters".

During the 45-minute meeting, Suga and Modi "affirmed the importance of realising a 'free and open' Indo-Pacific and agreed to closely work bilaterally as well as with the Quad members to build a rules-based international order", Kyodo guoted the Ministry statement as saying.

Modi and Suga will participate in the summit on Friday with the other two leaders of the Quad, US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. This was Suga's first, and likely last, meeting as Prime Minister with Modi as he has announced his resignation.

'5TS' TO GUIDE INDIA-US RELATIONS



NEW YORK, (IANS) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set forth a policy of "5Ts" -- Tradition, Technology, Trade, Trusteeship, Talent -- during his meeting with US President Joe Biden for a decade of transformational partnership between New Delhi and Washington, according to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

Briefing reporters after the Modi-Biden meeting in Washington on Friday, Shringla said: "The '5Ts' in consensus summarise our relationship. In the Prime Minister's view, India and the US are natural partners and endeavours to consolidate and strengthen our partnership of trust."

Tradition stands for democratic traditions and values the two countries share, he explained.

Technology, the most important driving force in the world, has a particular role in US-India relationship. Given the strong complementarities between Indian and US markets, increasing bilateral trade was a priority. Trusteeship is the concept to deal with emerging global challenges of climate change, and as the concept is understood in India, the planet is held in trust for future generations. Talent signifies the people to people link between the "two countries, which is manifested by the contributions made by the Indian American community".

MODI AT UNGA: 10 HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA'S SOLUTIONS AT 'UNPARALLELED' SCALE



NEW YORK, (IANS) In a 22-minute address to the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi framed the idea of India's power in the context of science, technology, culture and problem-solving capability at an "unparalleled" scale.

"When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms. The science and technology based innovations taking place in India can make a big contribution to the world. The scalability of our tech solutions and their cost-effectiveness are both unparalleled," Modi said within minutes of his address.

Here are 10 highlights from Modi's speech:

Aspiration: "The strength of our democracy is demonstrated by the fact that a little boy who at one time used to help his father at his tea stall at the railway station is today addressing the United Nations General Assembly for the fourth time, as the Prime Minister of India."

Democracy: "I will soon have spent 20 years serving my countrymen as head of government. First, as the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat and then as the Prime Minister for the last seven years. And I am saying this to you from my own experience. Yes, democracy can deliver. Yes. Democracy has delivered." Banking: "During the last seven years, India has brought over 430 million people who were previously unbanked into the banking system. Today, over 360 million people, who earlier could not even imagine this was possible, have insurance coverage as security." Healthcare: "By giving over 500 million people the facility of free treatment in hospitals, India has given them access to quality health services. By building 30 million proper homes, India has made homeless families home owners." Water Supply: "In India, we are carrying out a very big campaign to ensure that piped, clean water reaches over 170 million homes." India and Indians: "Every sixth person in the world is Indian. When Indians make progress, it also gives an impetus to the development of the world. When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms."



PM MODI & AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART MORRISON DISCUSS DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP, BILATERAL TIES

NEW YORK, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian free, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region." counterpart Scott Morrison met in Washington ahead of the Quad Summit to discuss their countries' bilateral relations, especially defence partnerships given their importance as bulwarks of democracy in the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking to reporters after their meeting on Thursday, Morrison described Modi "a dear friend and great friend of Australia" and said, "We had a very good discussion about our defence partnerships. That was particularly progressed at the most recent 2+2 meeting of defence and foreign ministers."

This was the first in-person meeting of the two leaders in the postpandemic period, although they had held a virtual meeting in June. They will be meeting again on Friday with President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Yoshihide Sugo of Japan at the Quad summit.

Morrison disclosed that he had spoken to Modi the night before the announcement last week of the tripartite defence pact between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS), which will have an impact on the Indo-Pacific region.

He said that there was "keen interest" in AUKUS and the plan to deploy a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines "from our partners in India, and well-received. And looking forward to see how that continues to

The US announced last week that it was going to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

An Indian Ministry of External Affairs readout of the Washington meeting said that Modi and Morrison reviewed the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of their countries since the June encounters "and resolved to continue close cooperation for mutual well-being and towards advancing their shared objective of an open,

The readout said that they "expressed satisfaction" on the progress towards a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and noted their commitment to "achieve an early harvest announcement on an interim agreement" by the end of the year.

Morrison said that Australia's Trade and Investment Minister Dan Tehan and India's Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will be meeting in New Delhi next week and added, "Prime Minister Modi and I tasked our teams to be ambitious when they sit down next week to look at our trade opportunities, particularly in the area of digital trade arrangements."

With a view to fighting climate change, he emphasised cooperation in clean energy and low-emissions technology.

"At our meeting today we agreed to go forward with a low emissions technology partnership, a partnership that will focus on hydrogen development, ultra low-cost solar programs, to support their energy transition," he said.

"We'll work together closely with our good friends in India, to work with the comparative advantages that Australia has, particularly in the area of hydrogen, and working together with their manufacturing capabilities so they can realise that in their own country," he added. Another area they dealt with was cooperating to ensure the reliable availability of critical minerals, which are especially important for the hi-tech sectors.

Morrison said, "Prime Minister Modi and I share a passion around that project, because they are also involved in that supply chain at various different points, and it's important that we have the choice that exists in world markets around these issues. We want to play a stronger role here."

QUAD LEADERS DEMAND END TO SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM, **UNVEIL NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION**



NEW YORK, (IANS) The leaders of the Quad nations -- the US, Australia, Japan and India -- have denounced the use of terrorist proxies and demanded an end to support for terrorism, while introducing new areas of cooperation, especially in technology. A joint statement adopted by Primes Ministers Narendra Modi of India, Scott Morrison of Australia and Yoshihide Suga of Japan and US President Joe Biden after their summit on Friday, said: "We denounce the use of terrorist proxies and emphasise the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks." That segment of the statement applies to Pakistan, even though it was not named, and another, without mentioning China directed attention to its aggressive actions in the region, from the Himalayas to the Pacific Ocean. "Together, we recommit to promoting the free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law and undaunted by coercion, to bolster security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. We stand for the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity of states," the leaders said.

Their joint statement did not, however, put forward any specific joint defence

or security measures.

It instead said: "We also recognise that our shared futures will be written in the Indo-Pacific, and we will redouble our efforts to ensure that the Quad is a force for regional peace, stability, security, and prosperity." To bring a measure of permanence to what has been an informal group, the four agreed to hold annual summits and meetings of Foreign Ministers in addition to regular sessions of senior officials. The leaders said that they would coordinate diplomatic, economic, and human-rights policies towards Afghanistan and deepen counter-terrorism and humanitarian cooperation.

Most of the defined actions proposed by the Quad leaders are about cooperation and helping themselves and others in the region.

Taking on the current challenge of the pandemic foremost, the declaration said: "Our partnership on Covid-19 response and relief marks an historic new focus for the Quad."

They welcomed New Delhi's resumption of vaccine exports and the Indian company Biological E producing at least one billion safe and effective Covid jabs by the end of 2022, financed in part through Quad investments.

India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that the vaccine would be the Johnson & Johnson type, which requires only one shot. Japan will provide finance for the distribution of the vaccines and Australia will buy jabs for distribution in the Southeast Asia region and also pay for their delivery, according to the declaration.

The leaders said that they "will also strengthen our Science and Technology cooperation" in clinical trials and genomic surveillance to bring a quick end to the pandemic and also "conduct a joint pandemic-preparedness tabletop or exercise" next year. They committed themselves to fight climate change by working towards zero net emissions by 2050 and increase their commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The leaders also agreed to pursue the deployment of clean-hydrogen technology, which is one of Modi's initiatives. Several of the new initiatives are in technology, which had risks posed by China in the background. "We are mapping the supply chain of critical technologies and materials, including semiconductors, and affirm our positive commitment to resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains of critical technologies," the leader said in the joint statement. "We are monitoring trends in the critical and emerging technologies of the future, beginning with biotechnology, and identifying related opportunities for cooperation."

'SCALABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE': MODI **HEADLINES INDIA'S TECH POWER AT UNGA**



UNITED NATIONS, (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi headlined India's scalable and "cost-effective" tech solutions within minutes of beginning his address to the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday.

"When India grows, the world grows. When India reforms, the world transforms. The science and technology based innovations taking place in India can make a big contribution to the world. The scalability of our tech solutions, and their cost effectiveness are both unparalleled," Modi said.

"Over 3.5 billion transactions are taking place every month in India through the unified payment interface (UPI)," he said.

Earlier, Modi began his speech on a deeply personal note, rewinding to his roots as a "poor boy" who sold tea in a small town and rose to the country's highest political office.

"Democracy can deliver. Democracy has delivered," he said in the first of Saturday's addresses at the UNGA.

Among Modi's opening lines: "I represent a country that is proud to be known as the mother of democracy."

Modi came to New York fresh off the Quad summit on Friday when he also held a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden. The first in-person leader-level Quad meeting welcomed India's announcement to resume exports of Covid vaccines, including to COVAX, beginning October 2021. The triage between Japan, Australia and India on this effort headlines immediate deliverables while offering a lens into what the Quad seeks to stand for. In a joint statement, Quad leaders Modi, Scott Morrison of Australia and Yoshihide Suga of Japan and US President Biden slammed terrorist proxies and cross-border attacks, without naming Pakistan or China. This messaging comes soon after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and deepening mistrust between the US and Pakistan, which remains important to US intelligence because of its proximity to Taliban leaders now in charge of the war-torn nation. About 15 minutes into his UNGA address, Modi shifted his attention to ripping Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's harsh rhetoric targeting India.

IMRAN'S SPEECH AT UNGA DRAWS SEVERE CRITICISM



NEW YORK, (IANS) Pakistan Prime Minister Imran khans speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) drew the attention of a large number of Pakistanis, who feel that the UN platform should not just be used for sabre rattling with India and on security issues, but should also be used for issues critical to Pakistan, focusing on the countrys growth and progress.

Today Pakistan is in a difficult situation economically and there is growing frustration across the country on the utter lack of employment and the high levels of inflation. There are serious problems of electricity, water and gas supplies in the country and political parties have been rearing to clash with the government on these issues.

Some of the core issues on which Imran Khan could have focused are sustainable development, climate change, the impact of the Covid pandemic and how the country needs support and assistance to pull out of the present state of economic deprivation and socio-political morass, among other issues.

Instead, Imran Khan dedicated significant time towards security issues and Kashmir. On Afghanistan, his mention of how the US compelled Pakistan to tackle the Mujahideen during the Soviet invasion and then again post 9/11, drew criticism from different quarters in Pakistan. In his excitement, Imran khan mentioned that Pakistan had to work with the Mujahideen and a number of other groups, "including the Al Qaeda", thereby officially confirming Pakistani role in sustaining the Al Qaeda and other such entities. He even mentioned that the Mujahideen were invited to the White House during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan. He went onto mention that the Mujahideen were considered "heroes". He spoke at length on how poor nations suffered as the rich nations failed to bring in trillions of amount stashed in the tax havens at the cost of suffering of the poorer nations.

The long rhetoric on this issue would have certainly made the Americans smirk, as they are privy to how adept Pakistan has been in diverting huge funds that the US catered for development work and also as part of defence cooperation to Pakistan.

According to some US estimates, as much as 50 per cent of the total amount provided under different heads often went to different sources associated with Pakistan's agenda of sustaining various militant groups and terror entities. While the Americans knew of this siphoning off exercise, they realised that this was part of a give and take arrangement where the Pakistanis would prefer them to look away on their spending and instead focus on Pakistani support to their military operations in Afghanistan. Pakistan has always used the tribal belts for breeding terror groups and encouraged growth of numerous radical Islamic entities which have morphed into larger entities, at times even targeting the Pakistan Army.

NEW PUNJAB 'CAPTAIN' HAS

SIX NEW FACES IN CABINET

CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Ahead of Assembly elections slated in February-March 2022, new Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, expanded his council of ministers on Sunday with induction of 15 ministers, including six first-timers. Several ministers from the previous Amarinder Singh government were retained including both women ministers Aruna Chaudhary, who is related to Channi, and Razia Sultana, a prominent Muslim face.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to the new ministers at a simple ceremony held in the lawns of Raj Bhavan.

Two-time MLAs Pargat Singh (Jalandhar Cantonment), Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, 43, (Gidderbaha) and Gurkirat Singh Kotli, 48, (Khanna), four-time MLA Kaka Randeep Singh Nabha, 54, (Amloh) and three-time MLAs Raj Kumar Verka, 58, (Amritsar-West) and Sangat Singh Gilzian, 68 (Urmar) were the new faces in the Cabinet.

Verka is a Valmiki community leader, while Gilzian represents the other backward classes. The others are Jat Sikhs.

Two-time MLA KuljitNagra (Fatehgarh Sahib) was a frontrunner for a Cabinet berth. His name was dropped at the last moment despite his proximity with Rahul Gandhi. However, Nagra and Gilzian were recently picked as Working Presidents of the state unit. Pargat Singh, an Akali Dal rebel, is the hockey Olympian-turned-bureaucrat-turned-politician. He was appointed as the state General Secretary. Kotli and Warring began their political career by working as a student union leaders. Kotli's grandfather, the late Beant Singh, was the Chief Minister from 1992 to 1995. His father Tej Parkash Singh served as the state Transport Minister. Handpicked by Rahul Gandhi, young leader Warring made his debut in the Assembly by defeating then People's Party of Punjab chief Manpreet Singh Badal, who is now in the Congress, from Gidderbaha in 2012. He was the Indian Youth Congress president in 2014.

Five ministers from the previous Amarinder Singh Cabinet were dropped. They were Balbir Sidhu, Gurpreet Kangar, Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, and Sundar Sham Arora.

However, BrahmMohindra (six-time MLA), Manpreet Badal (five-time MLA), Tript Rajinder Bajwa (four-time MLA), as well as Chaudhary, Razia Sultana, and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria (all three-time MLAs), Bharat Bhushan Ashu (two-time MLA), and Vijay Inder Singla (first time MLA) were retained.

Mohindra, Singla and Ashu, the prominent Hindu faces, are known for their proximity to Amarinder Singh. Shiromani Akali Dal rebel Badal, who was the Finance Minister in the previous Amarinder Singh government and in the previous SAD government led by Prakash Singh Badal, played a crucial role



for getting Channi at the helm owing to his proximity with Rahul Gandhi. He is likely to retain the same portfolio.

Former Irrigation Minister Rana Gurjeet Singh made a surprise comeback after four years despite objections raised by at least six legislators. He was inducted after at the expense of Nagra.

A minister in Amarinder Singh's Cabinet, he had stepped down after an alleged scam regarding allotment of sand mines.

Channi, 58, was sworn in as Chief Minister on September 20 along with his two deputies -- Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and O.P. Soni, both ministers in previous Council of Ministers.

Amarinder Singh resigned as Chief Minister on September 18 after months of political tussle with state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, saying he stepped down as he felt "humiliated".

Indicating that he is still keeping his political options open, he said he was talking to his friends before deciding on his future course of action.

UP CM YOGI ADDS 7 NEW MINISTERS INCLUDING JITINPRASADA AHEAD OF POLLS



LUCKNOW, (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday expanded his cabinet by inducting seven new ministers.

All the new ministers were administered oath of office and secrecy by Governor Anandiben Patel at a hurriedly convened ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, in the presence of the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues.

Among those who were swom in are one cabinet minister and six ministers of state. The much-awaited expansion comes barely months before the state is preparing for assembly elections in early 2022.

Through this expansion, the BJP has made it clear that it will focus on OBCs and SC/ ST categories to ensure its return to power in next year's assembly elections. While JitinPrasada, who has been sworn in as cabinet minister, is the lone Brahmin leader to get a place in Sunday's expansion, the remaining six belong to OBC (three) and Scheduled Caste (two) and Scheduled Tribe (one). The six ministers of state who were sworn in are -- Sanjeev Gond (ST-Sonbhadra), Dharamvir Prajapati (OBC-Agra), ChhatrapalGangwar (OBC-Bareilly), Sangita Balwant Bind (OBC-Ghazipur), Paltu Ram (SC-Balrampur) and Dinesh Khatik (SC-Meerut).

Apart from ensuring a caste balance, the party has also made sure to provide representation to all parts of the state.

A surprise omission in Sunday's list is the name of Arvind Kumar Sharma, a former bureaucrat in the PMO who had taken voluntary retirement in January this year to join politics. He came to Lucknow and was immediately made member of the UP legislative council. It was believed that he would soon be inducted into the ministry and given an important portfolio, however that did not happen. There are 53 ministers in the UP cabinet at present, and seven more could be inducted as per the constitutional limit. This is the third time the Yogi cabinet has been expanded since the Chief Minister was first sworn in on March 19, 2017. As many as 23 new ministers were inducted into the cabinet on August 21, 2019.

AIR CANADA RESUMES SERVICE BETWEEN CANADA AND INDIA

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We continue to be focused on the growing visiting friends and relatives market, and together with the long-standing cultural and business ties between Canada and India which are expected to grow over the coming years, Air Canada remains strongly committed to this important Asia-Pacific market," said Mark Galardo, Senior Vice President, Network Planning and Revenue Management at Air Canada. Air Canada is the leading carrier between the two countries. Since service began in 2015, Air Canada has operated flights from Toronto and Vancouver to Delhi and from Toronto to Mumbai. The airline is planning to launch new non-stop flights from Montreal to Delhi and resume service to Mumbai as market conditions allow.

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GERMANY'S CENTRE-LEFT SPD WINS POLLS: PROVISIONAL RESULTS



BERLIN, (IANS) Germany's centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) led by incumbent Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz, has won the general election with 25.7 per cent of the vote, beating the conservative union CDU/CSU and bringing an end to the Angela Merkel era, according to the provisional election results released on Monday. The SDP's share of the vote surged by 5.2 percentage points from four years ago, while its main rival the conservative union of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) suffered heavy losses, reports Xinhua news.

The provisional results showed the CDU/CSU union took only 24.1 per cent of the vote in Sunday's parliamentary election, 8.9 percentage points lower than in the last polls.

It marks the end of the dominant role of the conservatives led by Merkel for over a decade in the country's Bundestag, or the lower house of Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Green Party received 14.8 per cent of votes in the election, making it the third-largest political faction in parliament, followed by the business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the right-wing and Eurosceptic party Alternative for Germany with 11.5 per cent and 10.3 per cent respectively, according to the Federal Returning Officer. Scoring 4.9 per cent of the vote, the far-left Die Linke (Left Party) failed to pass the five percent threshold to enter Parliament. Sunday's elections were of great importance as Merkel will no longer continue in politics after almost 16 years in office. As she will retire from her political career, Germany and, to some extent, the European Union will enter a new era with unclear prospects.

WHY FARMERS' PROTEST RECEIVES **MOST RESPONSE IN NORTHWEST INDIA?**



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Amid conflicting claims about Monday's Bharat Bandh being successful or not, a question that comes up repeatedly is why is that the farmers' agitation, including the latest agitation, gets more response from northwest India compared to other parts?

Is it because the farmers in the states of Punjab, Haryana or western Uttar Pradesh are rich? Is it because they have large land holdings? Or there are more reasons than what meets the eyes? Not the landholdings but it are the procurement under Minimum Support Price (MSP) that is the driving issue of the whole agitation and because farmers from Punjab, Haryana, parts of Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh benefit more from MSP, they are the most vocal, according to experts. "Landholdings is a misleading issue, a deliberately broughtin argument of rich or poor farmers. Official data shows that less than 0.4 per cent of farmers have land which is more than 10 Ha. This means, all are small land-holding farmers. What are we fighting about?" asks Devinder Sharma, an agriculture expert. The latest dataset of National Statistical Survey (NSS) Organisation released earlier this month has shown that more than 70 per cent of the agricultural households in rural India possessed land less than or equal to 1.0 hectares (Ha) while in the case of non-agricultural households, more than 90 per cent possessed land less than or equal to 0.40 Ha.

AFTER 71 DAYS AT HELM, SIDHU RESIGNS AS PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF



CHANDIGARH, (IANS) Unhappy over the first expansion of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's Cabinet, allocation of portfolios and appointments on crucial posts, including the Advocate General, state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday resigned from his post after remaining at the helm for 71 days.

As his decision pushed the state Congress into deeper crisis, Sidhu, however, maintained that he would not be leaving the party.

He announced his resignation on his Twitter handle in less than an hour after Channi announced allocation of portfolios to his Cabinet colleagues. In a letter to party President Sonia Gandhi, Sidhu wrote: "The collapse of a man's character stems from the compromise corner, I can never compromise on Punjab's future and the agenda for the welfare of Punjab. "Therefore, I hereby resign as the President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. Will continue to serve the Congress." It is learnt that Sidhu was upset over the non-inclusion of the MLAs of his choice in the expanded Cabinet and the appointment of new Advocate General, A.P.S. Deol, who was counsel of former Director General of Police Sumedh Singh Saini, who is being investigated for his alleged role in the killing of two Sikh protesters in 2015 when the SAD-BJP combine was in power. Missing not an opportunity to take a jibe over the resignation of Sidhu, former two-time Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, without naming him, described him as an unstable man. "I told you so... he is not a stable man and not fit for the border state of Punjab," Amarinder Singh said in a tweet before heading to a two-day visit to the national capital with speculation rife that he is likely to meet the BJP's top leadership like Union Home Minister Amit Shah and President J.P. Nadda.

AUKUS VS. QUAD A REALITY CHECK

BY ASAD MIRZA

The past week saw the US's hard push to contain China in its own backyard, by the formation of a new defence agreement known as AUKUS, with no precedent in diplomatic world, as the regional might of the new alliance is already covered by an old alliance named Quad.

AUKUS-named after Australia, the UK and the US proclaims to bring hard military power to support the order built by Washington in Asia, and "sustain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region", as per a statement by the White House.

Observers are quite perplexed by this new American action, as it has no parallel in the modern day diplomatic history. Some describe it as Anglophonic camaraderie. Through AUKUS, for the first time in history the US will share its nuclear technology with any country. The new agreement will deliver 60 attack submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines to be built by the UK and technology provided by the US.

In fact, AUKUS demonstrates the seriousness with which the US views the Chinese activities in the South China Sea and adjoining islands, China has claimed most of the territories in the South China Sea, defying a 2016 decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague declaring it as without legal basis.

It has also built artificial islands in the South China Sea and constructed massive runways and shipping docks, while also reportedly installing missile systems on the Spratly Islands. It has rejected competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam in the South China Sea.

Chinese reaction

Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned against "interference from external forces" in the region, as Australia shrugged off Beijing's growing anger about AUKUS. In an address before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Xi urged heads of state to "absolutely resist external forces to interfere (in) countries in our region at any excuse, and we hold the future of our countries' development and progress firmly in our own hands".

China's state-owned publication Global Times also described Australia as "a pawn of the US" and called it "naive" for financing "America's cold war gambit". "Australia could face the most dangerous consequence of being cannon fodder in the event of a military showdown in the region."

French reaction

AUKUS has caused much consternation and anger in France because Australia terminated an earlier deal with Naval Group, a statecontrolled French company, to build a dozen diesel-powered submarines.

French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who laid out his own vision for the Indo-Pacific in a July visit to Washington, called the announcement a "stab in the back" and ordered a recall of the



SOME DESCRIBE IT AS ANGLOPHONIC CAMARADERIE. THROUGH AUKUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THE US WILL SHARE ITS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH ANY COUNTRY. THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL DELIVER 60 ATTACK SUBMARINES, INCLUDING SIX NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINES TO BE BUILT BY THE UK AND TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED BY THE US. IN FACT, AUKUS DEMONSTRATES THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE US VIEWS THE CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND ADJOINING ISLANDS, CHINA HAS CLAIMED MOST OF THE TERRITORIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, DEFYING A 2016 DECISION BY THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION AT THE HAGUE DECLARING IT AS WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS.

French Ambassadors from Washington and Canberra.

In their responses, French officials and some commentators have cast the announcement as an indication of a major strategic shift, particularly on the part of Washington. The move, they assert, represents a kind of geopolitical infidelity by the United States that demonstrates it does not take France (and by extension, they hasten to add, Europe as a whole) seriously as a partner.

The announcement has also fuelled fears that Europe is being cut out by Washington, with EU nations still smarting over the way the US handled the withdrawal from Afghanistan

The EU has complained that it was kept out of the loop on a new military partnership between the US, UK and Australia, as Brussels was planning to lay down its own strategy for the Indo-Pacific on September 17.

"We regret not having being informed, not having been part of these talks," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

The 27-nation bloc is looking to strengthen ties in the vast region where it says it is "already the top investor, the leading development cooperation partner and one of the biggest trading partners".

But Borrell insisted the strategy was "one of cooperation, not confrontation" with China.

Australian defence

In a series of media interviews, Morrison said his government was reacting to changing dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, where territory is increasingly contested and competition is rising.

Morrison said Australia is "very aware" of China's nuclear submarine capabilities and growing military investment, he told Channel Seven television. "We are interested in ensuring that international waters are always international waters and international skies are international skies, and that the rule of law applies equally in all of these places," he said.

Morrison told Australian media that the defence alliance had been "well-received" in his discussions so far with leaders in Japan, India, Singapore, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

India's predicament

For New Delhi, AUKUS isn't good news, either. The new accord raises

of the US, Australia, Japan and India. In particular, New Delhi will worry that the US is concerned only with pushing back against China, leaving its concerns about Pakistan and the western Indian Ocean unaddressed. India also felt left out of the regional political dynamics when it was not invited to join the Doha talks with Taliban alongside the US, Pakistan and Qatar.

Indian PM in the US

Meanwhile the Indian Prime Minister Modi met the US President Joe Biden and his Japanese and Australian counterparts at the White House in Washington for the first Quad summit on 23rd face to face and discussed the priority areas for Quad.

Biden said this is a grouping of "democratic partners who share a world view and have a common vision for the future" and are "coming together to take on key challenges". Evolving a common approach to emerging technologies, cyber security and addressing the challenge of climate change and space cooperation, and Covid vaccination. This means that Quad will act as a socio-economic organisation and the region's defence will be led by AUKUS, which leaves India in the cold regarding its concerns of Chinese aggression in the North China Sea and Indian Ocean.

Before the Quad meeting Biden and Modi met separately to discuss bilateral issues, the latter laid stress on issues such as trade, technology, climate challenge and Covid management.

However, Modi's bilateral meetings with the POTUS and the Vice President regarding AUKUS and Quad didn't resulted in any benefit for India. Instead he got lessons on maintaining democracy, democratic traditions and democratic institutions by both the American leaders, whatever little the US media reported revealed and that might have forced him to change his address at the UNGA on the theme of democracy in the region.

Disclaimer: Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. 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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Starting September 25, capacity limits will be increased in many of the indoor settings where proof of vaccination is required and certain outdoor settings, including:



meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/ convention centres

sporting events



concerts, theatres and cinemas



racing venues



commercial and film television productions with studio audiences



ONTARIO CAUTIOUSLY EASING CAPACITY LIMITS IN SELECT SETTINGS WHERE PROOF OF VACCINATION IS REQUIRED

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE INDICATORS ARE CURRENTLY STABLE OR IMPROVING

With public health and health care indicators stable and proof of vaccination now in effect, the government, based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is cautiously easing capacity limits for select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required. "With more and more Ontarians joining millions of others in rolling up their sleeves, our government is taking a safe and cautious approach to ease capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With the added layer of protection offered by proof of vaccination, we are ensuring our businesses can remain safe and open as we continue to reach even more Ontarians who have yet to receive a first or second dose."

Effective September 25, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits will be increased in many of the indoor settings where proof of vaccination is required. Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres; sporting events; concerts, theatres and cinemas; racing venues (e.g., horse racing); and commercial and film television productions with studio audiences will be increased to up to 50 per cent capacity or 10,000 people (whichever is less) for indoor events. For certain outdoor event venues where patrons stand, capacity limits will increase to up to 75 per cent capacity or 15,000 people (whichever is less). For certain outdoor event venues where patrons are seated, capacity limits will be increased to up to 75 per cent capacity or 30,000 people (whichever is less). This is in recognition of the fact that the risk of transmission is lower because of reduced mobility around the venue. In addition, proof of vaccination will now be required in outdoor settings where the normal maximum capacity is 20,000 people or more to help keep these venues safe for patrons.

The success of Ontario's vaccine rollout, which has resulted in one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, continues to protect Ontarians against COVID-19, including the Delta variant, which remains dominant in the province.

"Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Ontarians adhering to public health measures target specific transmission risks in the community.

and going out to get vaccinated, some of our key public health and health care indicators are currently stable," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "Work remains however, and we must all remain vigilant and continue following the measures and advice in place, and continue to work to vaccinate as many Ontarians as possible to achieve the highest immunization rates we can, and to increase our level of community immunity and protect those who cannot receive the vaccine."

* As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians are required to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) with proof of vaccination along with ID to access certain public settings and facilities.

* After having reviewed the ventilation at the venue, the government, based on the advice of with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has classified the Rogers Centre as an outdoor venue, even when the dome is closed.

* On September 14, 2021, the government released the regulations and guidance for businesses and organizations to support them in implementing proof of vaccination requirements.

* On July 16, 2021, the province moved into Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen. Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place throughout Step Three.

* Anyone with symptoms or who is a known close contact of someone with COVID-19, and other groups that meet provincial testing eligibility criteria, should make an appointment at an assessment centre, participating pharmacy or specimen collection centre. Please visit Ontario.ca/covidtest to find a testing location and for eligibility criteria to be tested.

* Local medical officers of health have the ability to issue Section 22 orders under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, and municipalities may enact by-laws, to

731,900 JOB VACANCIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2021 AS 'LABOUR MARKET ADJUSTS TO CHANGES IN PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES:' STATISTICS CANADA

As the labour market adapted to challenges associated with the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in late spring and early summer, there were 731,900 job vacancies in the second quarter of 2021. Previously released data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) showed that during the quarter, employment fell in April (-207,000; -1.1%) and May (-68,000; -0.4%) as public health measures were tightened in several jurisdictions, and then rebounded in June (+231,000; +1.2%) as restrictions were eased (seasonally adjusted). There were 25.8% (+150,300) more vacancies in the second quarter of 2021 than in the same quarter two years earlier. While this increase brought the number of job vacancies to a record high in the second quarter of 2021, the two-year increase itself was similar in magnitude to that observed in the two-year period from the second quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2019 (+121,900; +26.5%). The job vacancy rate—which represents vacant positions as a proportion of all positions (vacant and occupied)—was 4.6% in the second quarter of 2021, the highest since comparable data became available in 2015. The job vacancy rate increased 1.1 percentage points from the second guarter of 2019 to the same guarter in 2021, influenced by both the rise in vacancies over the period and a decline in payroll employment, which remained below its pre-COVID level in June 2021 (seasonally adjusted). The ratio of unemployed people to job vacancies increased from 2.0 in the second quarter of 2019 to 2.2 in the second quarter of 2021. This relative stability was due to both unemployment and job vacancies increasing over the period. According to the LFS, since the end of the second quarter of 2021, employment increased by 94,000 (+0.5%) in July and 90,000 (+0.5%) in August (seasonally adjusted), indicating that the further easing of public health restrictions has resulted in changing labour market conditions. Future releases of monthly job vacancy statistics will shed light on whether this has led to changes in unmet labour demand.

PEEL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS 60 VACCINE **CLINIC DATES AT SCHOOL LOCATIONS** THROUGHOUT THE REGION



Peel Public Health is continuing to work closely with our school board partners to offer vaccine clinics at various schools throughout September and October. The school clinics are targeted for students 12 years and older and will provide a familiar and convenient location for families to go and get their first

Peel Region will to be able to offer 60 clinic dates at 18 school locations throughout the region.

Details around locations and hours are available on Peel region's webpage.

CHINA RELEASES 2 MICHAELS AFTER CANADA FREES HUAWEI EXECUTIVE POST DEAL WITH US

OTTAWA (ANI): Canadian citizens Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, were released and returned to their home soil after being arrested in China nearly three years ago. The development comes after Huawei Technologies chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, who was being held in Vancouver resolved the criminal fraud charges against her in a deal with the US Justice Department. The US had sought to extradite Meng from Canada on charges of fraud.

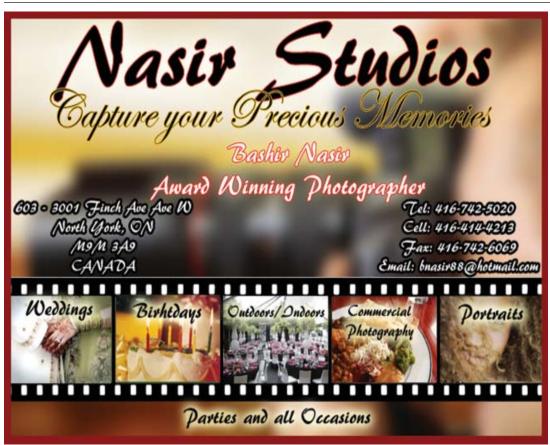
At a federal court hearing in Brooklyn, US, which was attended by Meng through video, the US Justice Department reached an agreement that cleared the way for Meng, to return to China in exchange for admitting wrongdoing in a fraud case, according to the New York Times.

A Canadian judge announced on Friday, the release of Meng who was arrested in December 2018 at the request of the US.

Meanwhile, Canadian broadcaster CBS cited Trudeau to report that Spavor and Kovrig boarded their flight about 7:30 p.m (eastern time). They are being accompanied by Dominic Barton, Canada's ambassador to China.

"These two men have gone through an unbelievably difficult ordeal," Trudeau said in Ottawa. "For the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance, resilience and grace," the Canadian PM was quoted by CBC. The US Secretary of Statement Antony Blinken in a statement welcomed the China release of Kovrig and Spavor after more than two-and-a-half years of arbitrary detention.

In a statement, Blinken said: "The US Government stands with the international community in welcoming the decision by People's Republic of China authorities to release Canadian citizens Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig after more than two-and-a-half years of arbitrary detention. We are pleased that they are returning home to Canada. Chinese state media Xinhua reported that "Through unremitting efforts of the Chinese government, Meng Wanzhou has already left Canada, on 24 September local time, on a charter flight organized by the Chinese government. She will soon return to her home country and reunite with her family." Last month, Spavor was sentenced to 11 years in prison by a Chinese court in Liaoning Province, on charges of espionage. China detained Spavor in December 2018, a few days after Huawei's Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou's arrest in Vancouver. Kovrig who was detained with Sparvor is also awaiting a verdict following his trial, which ended in March. Spavor was supposed to be deported, but it was not clear when. Earlier, the local court also announced 50,000 yuan of Spavor's personal assets will be confiscated. In August, Canadian PM Trudeau in a statement said, "China's conviction and sentencing of Michael Spavor is absolutely unacceptable and unjust. The verdict for MrSpavor comes after more than two and a half years of arbitrary detention, a lack of transparency in the legal process, and a trial that did not satisfy even the minimum standards required by international law." "For MrSpavor, as well as for Michael Kovrig who has also been arbitrarily detained, our top priority remains securing their immediate release.



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Invited & Forgotten: International Students in Crisis



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

International students in the Region of Peel encounter many challenges and this report outlines some of the major issues, such as Labour Exploitation and Financial Difficulty, Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, Lack of Housing and Supports on Campus, Drug Trafficking and Legal Issues, and Mental Health, Addiction, and Suicide. In 2018, 721,205 international students studied in Canada, comprising the largest number to date. Research conducted in 2019 shows that Ontario attracted the largest proportion of international students (43%), followed by British Columbia and Quebec (both at 19%). In 2019, India was the top source country for international students at the college level. On average, domestic students in Canada paid \$6,822 in tuition fees, while international students paid four times that amount at \$27,613 for the same duration of the study.

Since international students are legally allotted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during school semesters, many end up precariously employed to make ends meet. Debt bondage and a lack of education around consent and legal rights have led to several incidents of workplace sexual

Due to the impact of COVID-19, many international students faced numerous challenges in their ability to afford rent and food, along with increased fears of being unable to complete their program requirements. These challenges escalated due to their distance from home and the lack of a familiar support network.

"This research study points to the benefits of international students in Canada while highlighting the challenges these students face...ranging from human sex trafficking, recruiting students to be drug mules, mental health issues leading to suicides, and exploitation by unscrupulous employers and landlords. We encourage you to read the report and join our struggle to bring these issues to the attention of all levels of government and academic institutions" says Baldev Mutta, CEO, Punjabi Community Health Services. "These young people not only deserve our support and protection but also need to be recognized as the future of our communities and essential to our progress as a society. This report reveals how a poorly envisioned patchwork of policies has contributed to the enormous neglect of vulnerable young people. I sincerely hope that government policymakers at all levels acknowledge these problems and commit to removing barriers for international students while building a process that ensures their success" says Gurpreet Malhotra, CEO, Indus Community Services.

"Public post-secondary institutions are hosts to many international students in Brampton. For example, Sheridan College has 6,000+ international students and Algoma University has 400+ international students. These learners are our local residents and as a Councillor, I have received numerous concerns related to student housing, mental health issues, human trafficking, and inappropriate behaviour in local neighbourhoods. Respected community agencies like PCHS and Indus provide important support services to international students. In their delegation, these agencies flagged serious issues and shared that they feel ignored by existing postsecondary institutions in Brampton" says Brampton Councillor Rowena Santos.

The barriers faced by international students when navigating the complex reality of living and studying in our country must be recognized in order to adequately support these individuals. We are asking colleges, universities, community agencies, and the government to join the conversation and help us support the needs of our international students.

CRICKET IS COMING TO TORONTO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS



Ontario's Education Minister Stephen Lecce, joined by Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure and MPP for Etobicoke Centre, showed their strong support for introducing the sport of cricket into the secondary student physical education curriculum yesterday morning by attending a Cricket Program Launch Event at Michael Power/St. Joseph High School in Etobicoke. Present for the event as well were Councillor and Deputy Mayor Stephen Holyday, Chair of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Joseph Martino, Trustee Markus de Domenico, and TCDSB Director of Education Dr. Brendan Browne, along with a physical education class of students from the school. Cricket is launching in 50 schools in the TCDSB, supported by a \$15,000 grant provided by the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Sport Relief Fund to help procure quality cricket equipment. Virtual cricket training sessions for staff were held in the spring, with in-person launching this fall outdoors.

"We know the critical role that physical fitness and exercise play in the wellbeing of our youth," said Premier Doug Ford. "The introduction of cricket into physical education classes will allow our students to participate in a great sport that is played all around the world and will play a positive role in improving their overall health."

"Our government strongly supports student sports, which is why we are excited for the launch and introduction of cricket in 50 schools and physical education classes this fall," said Minister Lecce. "We appreciate the partnership with TCDSB and Jump Start in bringing people together and uniting young people behind the key tenets of teamwork, sportsmanship, civility, and hard work."

"Our government is committed to supporting and ensuring students have access to the extracurricular sports and activities they need to grow and support their mental health and wellbeing in a safe and respectful environment," said Kinga Surma, MPP for Etobicoke Centre. "With this generous donation, students in our community have an exciting opportunity pick up a new sport with their friends and develop life-long skills in teamwork."

Cricket dates back to South East England in the mid-16th Century, while women's cricket was first played in Surrey, England in 1745. It was Canada's first national sport under Sir John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister. Cricket is played in 125 countries around the world, most notably Australia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, many Caribbean nations, and the U.K.

FORMER LIBERAL INNOVATION MINISTER NAVDEEP BAINS TO JOIN CIBC AS VICE-CHAIR, **GLOBAL INVESTMENT BANKING**

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

As part of CIBC's Capital Markets team, he will focus on developing and fostering senior level client relationships and business development globally. "Our clients in the innovation and technology sectors are seeking to expand their opportunities in a rapidly changing environment, and Navdeep's experience will enhance the perspective and advice we can offer," said Roman Dubczak, Managing Director and Head, Global Investment banking. "Together with the Honourable Lisa Raitt, our senior advisory team will offer unparalleled insights into public and industrial policy issues." Committed to supporting entrepreneurship and serving his community, Mr. Bains started his career as a Financial Analyst, transitioning to federal politics in 2004. Most recently, he served as Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and has deep expertise on a wide range of policy issues including international trade, government operations, sustainability, small business, and human rights. As a community advocate, he has held board positions with the Mississauga Food Bank and Heart and Stroke Foundation. "We're thrilled to welcome Navdeep to our team, and are committed to helping make our clients' ambitions a reality," said Mr. Dubczak. **About CIBC**

CIBC is a leading North American financial institution with 10 million personal banking, business, public sector and institutional clients. Across Personal and Business Banking, Commercial Banking and Wealth Management, and Capital Markets businesses, CIBC offers a full range of advice, solutions and services through its leading digital banking network, and locations across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world. Ongoing news releases and more information about CIBC can be found at www.cibc.com/en/about-cibc/media-centre.html.

GURYODH KHATTRA, 26, DEAD, FEMALE INJURED IN BRAMPTON SHOOTING; 3 SUSPECTS FLED AREA

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Despite life-saving efforts of emergency services, GuryodhKhattra, a 26year-old from Brampton, has died due to his injuries. It is also learned that Khattra was charged on March 21, 2018, with the first-degree murder of Paviter Singh Bassi. He was released on a bail of \$2,400,000 on the condition that he lives under house arrest at the home of his parents.

Investigators believe that a Grey Hyundai Tuscon was seen fleeing the area with three suspects. This investigation is still in its early stages. Anyone with information on this incident, surveillance footage, or dashcam that may have captured the moments leading up to, during, or after the incident is asked to contact investigators at 905-453-2121 extension 3205. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), by visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca.

NEW POTENTIAL FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO SEVERITY OF COVID IDENTIFIED



LONDON, (IANS) A team of researchers has identified a protein that may critically contribute to severe forms of Covid-19. The research, published in the journal Current Issues in Molecular Biology, found that the infection of cells with SARS-CoV-2 results in increased levels of a protein called CD47 on the cell surface.

CD47 is a so-called 'do not eat me' signal to the immune system's defences that protect cells from being destroyed. Virus-induced CD47 on the surface of infected cells is likely to protect them from immune system recognition, enabling the production of larger amounts of virus, resulting in more severe disease.

"We may have identified a major factor associated with severe Covid-19. This is a huge step in combatting the disease and we can now look forward to further progress in the design of therapeutics," said researcher Martin Michaelis from the University of Kent. Well-known risk factors for severe Covid-19 such as older age and diabetes are associated with higher CD47 levels. High CD47 levels also contribute to high blood pressure, which is a large risk factor for COVID-19 complications such as heart attack, stroke, and kidney disease.

The data suggest that age and virus-induced high CD47 levels contribute to severe Covid-19 by preventing an effective immune response and increasing disease-associated tissue and organ damage.

Since therapeutics targeting CD47 are in development, this discovery may result in improved Covid-19 therapies.

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Centre will listen to farmers: Tikait on Bharat Bandh

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait, This was the third Bharat Bandh since the three agricultural laws were who has been leading the farmers' protest on the outskirts of the national capital for the past 10 months, said that he is certain that Monday's Bharat Bandh (nationwide shutdown) will compel the Centre to listen to the voice of farmers.

Speaking with IANS, Tikait said, "We are hopeful that this time government will listen to our demands."

Denying that farmers only from western Uttar Pradesh are participating in this protest, he said, "Farmers from all over India are with us," adding that this movement is not just restricted to any one region.

Tikait further said that no matter how long we have to stretch this protest, "We will not step back."

Farmers mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been protesting at Delhi borders against the three contentious farm laws introduced by the Centre almost a year ago. The bills are as follows: Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, Farmer's (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020. Having borne the harsh cold, sultry heat, heavy rains, farmers, who have been camping outside of the Delhi-Harvana and Delhi-UP border, are ready to stay as long as it is needed. "Ruk jayenge 10 mahine aur (will stay for 10 more months)," said Tikait.

passed by Parliament. He also said that the success of Bharat Bandh depends on the media as well. "If they will cover it properly and show everything that has been happening on the ground then this Bharat Bandh will be a success, otherwise not," Tikait said. As far as government is concerned, they will say whatever suits their narrative and benefits them the most, the farmer union leader said.

He further said that he does not think that this Bharat Bandh will affect people's daily life, "People are disturbed with the rising inflation and prices of petrol and diesel. That is bothering them the most. This one-day deal is nothing in comparison to what problems masses have been facing in their daily lives."

On political parties attempting to grind their own axes in the veil of supporting farmers' cause, Rakesh said, "This is what political parties do." While addressing the farmers and media persons, the leader also took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his recent trip to the United States of America (USA) by saying, "On his US trip he met people there, here we have been asking him to meet us once for so long but he (PM) is not willing to meet us." In the afternoon, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) president Anil Chaudhary visited the protest site at the Ghazipur border to show solidarity with the farmers. He and Rakesh Tikait had a small talk over snacks.

India's wealth inequality may have grown during pandemic

MUMBAI, (IANS) A clear reflection that country's wealth is restricted to a chosen few has emerged from the the recent 'All India Debt & Investment Survey' conducted by the Government.

According to an analysis of the report done by Kotak Institutional Equities, India has a skewed wealth position and low credit penetration.

Accordingly, top 10 per cent of the population has 50 per cent of wealth, top 30 per cent have 80 per cent of wealth while the bottom 50 per cent have less than 10 per cent of the overall wealth suggesting a fairly unequal distribution of wealth.

This may not be completely true in the Covid years, the brokerage said as the government report is based on 2018 surveys.

There is a high chance that Covid has exacerbated this inequality as this report was based on 2018 survey, it said.

As per the report, Of the total households, 37 per cent are cultivators, 28 per cent in rural India but not in direct agriculture, 25 per cent in services and the balance 10 per cent in self-employed segment. Wealth held by individuals is pegged at Rs 510 trillion; 55 per cent in rural India. Liabilities held by individuals is pegged at Rs 210 trillion;

50 per cent in rural India. Total value of gold held is \$170 bn and the top 5 states have 50 per cent of this wealth.

Formal credit represents 67 per cent of rural credit, 90 per cent of urban credit and 170 per cent for India. Formal credit is dominated by banks, RRBs and co-operating banks/societies.

Professional money lenders dominate informal sources of funding in rural and urban India, 35 per cent of rural and 22 per cent of urban India have access to some form of credit.

Survey results may be arguable, but the broader message is more important. As with all surveys, the accuracy of such forecasts is always open to debate as we have top down data on a few subjects like total retail deposits, loans and even investments such as gold or others. This data may not completely be in sync with these surveys. However, this survey is quite detailed and serves as a useful tool to understand the situation in India of a much larger customer segment, Kotak said. It is quite possible that the quality of information that flows is a lot more accurate in the lower half of population as compared to the upper half. Our savings behaviour and nature of consumption of credit has a lot of scope for improvement, it added.

INDIA NEEDS 4-5 MORE SBI SIZED BANKS: FM

MUMBAI, (IANS) India needs a lot more banks and a lot more large sized ones to meet the growing needs of the country needs in the path of making a smart recovery post pandemic disruptions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday. Speaking at 74th Annual General Meeting of Indian Banks' Association at Mumbai, Sitharaman said there was an urgent need to scale up banking to meet the growing needs of the industry and also to ensure that all economic centres of the country are covered with at least one physical or digital banking presence.

"We need to scale up banking. The need is for at least four-five more SBI sized banks," she said, while reminding that the amalgamation exercise among public sector banks have helped in moving ahead with creation of large banks.

Having done two rounds of bank consolidation earlier, the Central government in 2019 decided to merge six disparate and weak PSBs into four in one stroke.

Accordingly, Punjab National Bank (PNB) took over Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India; Allahabad Bank became part of Indian Bank; Canara Bank subsumed Syndicate Bank; and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank merged with Union Bank of India. Earlier, State Bank of India (SBI) with five of its associate banks while Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank were merged with Bank of Baroda.



Sitharaman lauded the efforts of the PSBs to see through that the amalgamation of banks during the pandemic period was completed without any inconvenience to customers. She said that that in the post pandemic world, hanks would need to change their mindset and the way they conduct their businesses. Digitisation, the Finance Minister said has changed a lot of how businesses are done and banks will now need to think futuristically and keep pace with evolving technology. Sitharaman also asked the IBA to conduct a digitised mapping of each district of the country with regard to presence of bank branch operation and their location. This, she said, would help to plug areas of gaps with no banking presence effectively. "Not necessary to have physical banking presence everywhere. The country's optic fibre network has covered two-third of about 7.5 lakh panchayats.

Prashant Kishor enrolls himself as voter from Mamata's Bhabanipur constituency

KOLKATA, (IANS) In an interesting development, the poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who helped Trinamool Congress to win in the recent Assembly polls, has registered himself as a voter of the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency. The election commission website claims that Kishor has registered himself in the period between January and April fuelling the speculation that he might join the party. The inclusion of Kishor before the bye-election in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency, where Mamata Banerjee is contesting to retain her post as the chief minister of the state, triggered controversy. Taking a jibe at the ruling Trinamool Congress, the BJP on Saturday said Prashant Kishor, who was the poll adviser of the Mamata Banerjee-led party in the recent West Bengal elections, can be called a "bohiragato" being enrolled as a voter in the Bhabanipur constituency.

Claiming that PK (poll strategist Prashant Kishor) is in the list, who is the founder of I-PAC, BJP media cell in-charge Saptarshi Choudhury tweeted in Bengali, "At last Prashant Kishor becomes the voter of Bhabanipur. So, we are not sure if the daughter of Bengal is now in favour of a bahiragato (outsider) voter."

Kishore with an EPIC number of IUI0686683 has been shown as a permanent resident of Bhabanipur Assembly constituency and has the polling station at Booth No- 222 in Rani Shankari Lane under the constituency. Kishor, credited with the spectacular victory of the Trinamool Congress against a high voltage Assembly poll campaign by the BJP, had announced he will be taking a break from strategising work. He was not seen publicly in Trinamool's campaign for Bhabanipur since the announcement of poll dates, but sources said he had held meetings with party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee recently in Delhi.

'YOU SHOUT, YOU DEMAND, YOUR RIGHT', CJI BATS FOR 50% WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

MidWeek



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Chief Justice N.V. Ramana on Sunday batted for 50 per cent representation for women in the judiciary and also supported the demand for reservation for women in law colleges across the country. Addressing women advocates of the Supreme Court, who had organised a felicitation function for him and the nine newly appointed judges to the top court, the Chief Justice said: "With your anger, you shout, you demand, we need 50 per cent representation. It is not a small issue; issue of thousands of years of suppression. You are entitled, it is a matter of right. Nobody is going to give a charity". He added that it is very unfortunate that it has been realized very late. "We may realize and reach this goal in the apex court and as well as other courts. I gathered some information about the system where we are working. In the entire country, our subordinate judiciary has less than 30 per cent (women representation). In high courts women judges are 11.5 per cent, in Supreme Court only 11-12 per cent are women", he said. Justice Ramana added, out of 1.7 million advocates in the country, only 15 per cent are women and only two per cent elected representatives in state bar councils are women. He further pointed out why the Bar Council of India in national committee does not have even a single woman representative. Justice Ramana remarked, this needs urgent attention and pointed at other major issues faced by women lawyers - clients' preference for male advocates, uncomfortable environment within Courtrooms, lack of infrastructure, crowded courtrooms, lack of washrooms for women etc - adding that all these deter women from entering the profession.

"In the survey I got conducted, it turned out that out of 6,000 trial courts, nearly 22 per cent have no toilet for women, we need to create a more welcoming environment", he said.

Justice Ramana emphasized, "An important focus area is to increase gender diversity in legal education. I strongly advocate reservation of a significant percentage of seats in law schools and universities for women, as a first step". Citing Karl Marx, he said Marx in different times and in a different context said: "Workers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains". He added, "I am taking the liberty to modify it a bit to -- Women of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains". Justice Ramana's remarks were appreciated by Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who was among three women sworn-in as judges of the top court on August 31. Justice Nagarathna, who will be country's first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027, said "advancing women's participation in the judiciary, promotes gender equality in broader ways, female judicial appointments, particularly at senior levels, can shift gender stereotypes. Thereby changing attitudes and perceptions as to appropriate roles of men and women." The chief justice also expressed hope about resuming physical hearings in Supreme Court after the Dussehra vacation.

BJP TO SELL ARTICLE 370 REMOVAL, RAM MANDIR, TRIPLE TALAQ THIS MCD POLLS



NEW DELHI, (IANS) In Delhi MCD polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party will sell abrogation of Article 370, Ram Mandir and Triple Talaq law in 11,000 meetings planned to repeat its 2017 victory.

Gearing up for the next years' municipal polls in the national capital, the BJP on Saturday launched its plan of holding 11,000 meetings with 500 community leaders on board to target different sections of people across Delhi. In these meetings, decision taken by the Modi government, which were deemed to be "historic" by its followers will be the top talkingpoints. People from Purvanchal, Uttarakhand, North-east, South India and youth among them will be the main target of the party.

"Total 11,000 meetings will be held across Delhi for which 500 people from different communities in the capital have been trained by the party. We have been given a month's time to achieve this target but it could easily go beyond that," a senior BJP official told IANS.

Elections to three Municipal Corporations of Delhi (MCD), where the saffron party has not lost since 2007, will be held in April next year. Early this month, Delhi BJP general secretary Harsh Malhotra had told IANS that the meetings will be held in small groups of around 25 to 50 prominent people from these groups.

Pandemic was cited as the reason behind restricting the number of people. Preparation for the large-scale assemblies had started weeks ago with BJP forming committees in over 8,000 polling booths in the city. Of the 13,789 booths in the city, 21-member committees were set up in over 8,000 booths.

Moreover, about a fortnight ago, 14 prominent leaders of the BJP state unit, including Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta had spent a night with people in different parts of city to know about the response of the masses. "Our main agenda behind these meet ups is to inform the concerned communities about the schemes introduced by the Modi government for their benefit and the promises on which Kejriwal-led Delhi government failed to deliver," the source said.

The party has targeted communities based on their profession, region and religion for a larger impact.

"For examples, groups like traders, residents welfare associations (RWAs) will have separate meetings, where they will discuss the Modi government's schemes, launched specifically for their communities. Similarly, in a meeting of Purvanchal community, people will be told about Ram Mandir and the Purvanchal Expressway project," it added. Other than campaigning for the BJP ahead of MCD elections, we are also creating new leadership in this way. These 500 leaders have been trained for these meetings and will be kept battle ready for future also. A party-vice president's or general secretary's speech will not have the same impact as that of someone from one's own group, the official said.



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RICH NATIONS MUST DELIVER CLIMATE FINANCE BEFORE COP26: GUTERRES

NEW YORK, (IANS) Demanding much bolder climate action from G20 nations, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday said that developed countries must uphold their promise to deliver \$100 billion dollars in climate finance annually to the developing world before COP26. His remarks during the UN Security Council briefing on the 'Role of Climate Action in Maintaining International Peace and Security' came in wake of inadequate climate action by many countries, especially rich nations, ahead of the COP26, the annual climate change negotiations meet at Glasgow from October 31. "We need a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience to deal with the already dire impacts of climate disruption on the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world. It is essential that at least 50 per cent of climate finance globally is committed to building resilience and supporting adaptation. Annual adaptation costs in



developing countries are estimated at \$70 billion, and they are expected to reach up to \$300 billion a year by 2030," he said, adding": "Huge gaps remain in adaptation finance for developing countries." "We simply cannot achieve our shared climate goals — nor achieve hope for lasting peace and security — if resilience and adaptation continue to be the forgotten half of the climate equation," Guterres warned.

US SENATORS SEEK PROBE INTO PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN ASSISTING TALIBAN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Introduced by 22 American Republican Senators, the bill seeks to tackle issues related to the Afghan withdrawal, such as counterterrorism strategies and sanctioning the Taliban for alleged human rights abuses in the country. "Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defence and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on entities providing support to the Taliban," the bill read, the report said. It added that further assessment of "support by state and non-state actors, including the government of Pakistan, for the Taliban between 2001 and 2020, provision of sanctuary space, financial support, intelligence support, logistics and medical support, training, equipping, and tactical, operational, or strategic direction" should be held. The bill seeks a probe into the "support by state and non-state actors, including Pakistan, for the 2021 Taliban offensive that helped topple the Afghan government led by Ashraf Ghani, adding that the areas to be probed are provision of sanctuary of space, intelligence support, financial support, logistics, training and medical support for the group", the report said. The bill further seeks a probe into support for the Taliban, allegedly by non-state actors and the government of Pakistan, in the Panjshir Valley operation by the group and against their military offensives targeting the Afghan resistance.

PFIZER TO SOON SUB-MIT DATA ON COVID VAX FOR KIDS AGED 5-11

WASHINGTON, (IANS) Pfizer is soon expected to submit data to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding safety of its mRNA Covid vaccine for children ages 5 to 11, media reports said.

"It's a question of days, not weeks," Pfizer chief executive Albert Bourla said on ABC's "This Week."

While the FDA has the authority to approve the vaccines for children, Bourla said Pfizer will be ready to manufacture a vaccine specifically for children. "It is a different formulation," he said. "It's one-third of the dose that we are giving to the rest of the population.



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