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SOUTH ASIAN

MidWeek

NEWS WEEKLY



Tuesday, March 22, 2022

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 22 Issue 12, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687



(L-R) BRAMPTON MAYOR PATRICK BROWN WITH GROUP EDITOR Y MEDIA YUDHVIR JASWAL AT CHANNEL Y STUDIOS. WATCH Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH BRAMPTON MAYOR & FEDERAL CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE, PATRICK BROWN, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 26 & SUNDAY, MARCH 27 AT 7 PM ONLY ON CHANNEL Y.

EXCEPT HARBHAJAN SINGH, AAP'S NOMINATIONS FOR RAJYA SABHA POLLS BETRAYAL OF PUNJAB: NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



DETAILS ON PAGE 9

PEEL POLICE CHARGE MOHAMMAD MOIZ OMAR, 24, FROM MISSISSAUGA FOR POSSIBLE HATE-MOTIVATED CRIME AT MISSISSAUGA MOSQUE

Officers from the 12 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau have laid several charges against 24-year-old Mohammad Moiz Omar for what is believed to be a hate-motivated incident that occurred at a Mississauga Mosque. On March 19, 2022, at approximately 7:00 am, police attended the Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre in the area of McAdam Road and Matheson Boulevard in Mississauga regarding an assault. It is alleged that a man walked into the Mosque and discharged bear spray towards the members of the Mosque while brandishing a hatchet. The members of the Mosque quickly subdued the man until police arrived.

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CANADA WIDE WARRANT ISSUED FOR PAWAN MALIK, 19, IN FATAL MISSISSAUGA HIT & RUN

Region of Peel – Investigators from the Major Collision Bureau have issued a Canada Wide Warrant for a Fail to Remain Collision from February 20, 2022, that occurred in the City of Mississauga and claimed the life of a Brampton woman. On Sunday, February 20, 2022, 24-year-old Kavita Chodhary was walking along Derry Road East and began to cross the road at Catrlick Street when she was struck by a dark-coloured vehicle. The vehicle and occupant fled the scene and did not stop to render any assistance to the victim.

CONTD. ON PAGE 8

ALARM BELLS FOR PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is faced with a major challenge by opposition political parties, who have not only joined together to oust his government, but also have started to get nods from ally parties and members of the ruling benches, who now seem to be sliding in support of the no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly.



CONTD. ON PAGE 10

BIHAR-BORN DR. ASHISH JHA BECOMES PRESIDENT BIDEN'S COVID-19 CO-ORDINATOR

A Bihar-born global health expert has been appointed by US President Joe Biden to the White House position of overseeing the nation's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. "I am excited to name Dr Ashish Jha as the new White House Covid-19 Response Coordinator", Biden said on Thursday announcing the appointment.



CONTD. ON PAGE 8



COCKTAIL INTERNATIONAL, CANADA'S LEADING EVENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY, ORGANIZED DESI BUSINESS GALA/ GLOBAL TRADE EXPO 2020. DETAILS ON PAGE 11

HAS UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY JUST BLINKED IN THE WAR OF NERVES WITH RUSSIA'S PUTIN?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may have just blinked in the war of nerves with Russian President Vladimir Putin, giving Moscow a decisive edge in achieving its strategic goals that were set at the onset of its war with Kiev.

Responding to Russia's demand that Ukraine should remain neutral, Zelenskyy has said he was willing to discuss security guarantees from Moscow to end the war, but after holding direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Our delegates (at the negotiations) have a clear task - to do all they can so the meeting between presidents takes place, the meeting I'm sure the people are waiting for," Zelenskyy had said on Sunday in a video address posted on the president's official Telegram channel. Russian and Ukrainian officials have been holding regular talks in Belarus.

Zelenskyy's remarks on seeking security guarantees aligned with Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov assertion last week after his meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, at Antalya in Turkey that Moscow was willing to discuss security guarantees to Ukraine, Europe and Russia itself in the negotiations that were anticipated to end the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may have just blinked in the war of nerves with Russian President Vladimir Putin, giving Moscow a decisive edge in achieving its strategic goals that were set at the onset of its war with Kiev.

CONTD. ON PAGE 10



DELIVERING FOR CANADIANS NOW: LIBERALS, NDP GOVERNANCE DEAL UNTIL 2025

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced an agreement reached by the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party in Parliament, Delivering for Canadians Now, A Supply and Confidence Agreement.

Canadians are working hard to overcome the challenges of the global pandemic and now face a world made less secure because of Russia's criminal war in Ukraine. Despite the challenges, Canadians are determined to build a better, more prosperous future. Voters have given this Parliament a clear mandate and do not want to endure needless delays in this important moment. They want to build a growing economy that supports their families with green jobs and climate action, more housing and child-care affordability, and stronger healthcare. Politics is supposed to be adversarial, but no one benefits when increasing polarization and parliamentary dysfunction stand in the way of delivering these results for Canadians.

In these highly uncertain and difficult times, Canadians expect us to come together and get to work to help make their lives better. The Liberal Party of Canada and Canada's New Democratic Party have agreed to improve the way we approach politics over the next three years for the benefit of Canadians. The parties have identified key policy areas where there is a desire for a similar medium-term outcome. We have agreed to work together during the course of this Parliament to put the needs of Canadians first. This work will be focused on growing our economy by creating green jobs that fight the climate crisis, making people's lives more affordable with housing and childcare, and expanding and protecting our healthcare. As the basis for this work, it is fundamental for the parties to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

CONTD. ON PAGE 10



HOMELIFE / MIRACLE REALTY LTD., SALES REPRESENTATIVE JAGDEEP SINGH SACHA RECEIVES 2021 AWARD



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT- Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR & CEO, YUDHVIR JASWAL; HOMELIFE / MIRACLE REALTY LTD., SALES REPRESENTATIVE: JAGDEEP SINGH SACHA & HOMELIFE / MIRACLE REALTY LTD., BROKER OF RECORD: AJAY SHAH). DETAILS ON PAGE 11

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ONTARIO PREMIER FORD MEETS WITH US OFFICIALS, BUSINESS LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Premier Doug Ford and Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, will travel to Washington, D.C. on March 21 to meet with top officials and business leaders south of the border. At a time when the government is building Ontario and attracting more skilled workers, Premier Ford will underscore the province's important trading relationship with key U.S. partners as he advocates against harmful protectionist policies. Premier Ford will also re-affirm that Ontario is a safe and reliable jurisdiction for investment and business.

"There's never been a better time for companies to invest in the future of Ontario," said Premier Ford. "As we attract more skilled workers and build the roads, highways, bridges and transit needed to move our economy forward, we're meeting face-to-face with some of our closest partners to reaffirm the unrivaled potential of Ontario's economy. That's why it's so important that we reject Buy American measures and instead keep working shoulder to shoulder to ensure that our highly integrated economies grow stronger than ever."

To fuel economic growth and make Ontario the top destination for investment, Ontario is making historic investments, including building critical infrastructure such as roads, highways and transit to connect people, economies and communities. To build a stronger economy that works for everyone, Ontario is investing in innovative programs that upskill workers and cutting red tape to make it easier for internationally-trained workers to fill critical jobs.

While in Washington, Premier Ford and Minister Fedeli will meet with key government officials, including Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States, Marisa Lago, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, and Daniel Watson, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere. Their discussions will focus on how they can work together to protect and strengthen an integrated economy that employs millions of workers on both sides of the border.

Premier Ford and Minister Fedeli will also participate in a roundtable event hosted by the Canadian American Business Council, including members of the Premier's Council on U.S. Trade and Industry Competitiveness, where they will discuss the importance of deepening Ontario's trade relationship with the U.S. and promote Ontario as a safe and reliable destination for investment and jobs. Premier Ford's opening remarks to the Canadian American Business Council will be livestreamed on his English Youtube channel. "If Ontario were its own country, it would be the United States' third-largest trading partner," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "Millions of jobs on both sides of our border depend on the unrestricted free trade between our jurisdictions and we look forward to meeting with our U.S. partners on this mission to promote a 'Buy North American' approach and strengthen our integral bilateral trading partnerships."

Newly constituted Punjab assembly different, security hiccups!



The newly constituted legislative assembly, whose three-day session began here on Thursday, was different as most of the security guards did not recognise a few new faces who arrived for the session.

The first of the session commenced with Pro-tem Speaker Inderbir Singh Nijjar administering the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as Member of the Vidhan Sabha.

Breaking the convention, all women members were administered oath after the Chief Minister.

Thereafter, all other members were sworn in by the Speaker as members of the newly constituted Assembly district-wise in an alphabetical order.

The Chief Minister announced an anti-corruption helpline.

A day after resigning from the post of Punjab Congress chief, Navjot Singh Sidhu, who faced defeat from his stronghold Amritsar (East),

supported Mann's crusade against corruption.

"The happiest man is the one from whom no one expects. Bhagwant Mann unfurls a new anti-mafia era in Punjab with a mountain of expectations, hope he rises to the occasion, brings back Punjab on the revival path with pro-people policies, best always," Sidhu said in a tweet. Rising from the ashes like the phoenix, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) last week, in a maiden emphatic win, crushed the traditional players that ruled the border state of Punjab for over seven decades with its stunning victory largely by its greenhorns on 92 of the 117 seats of the legislative assembly.

The previous ruling Congress, which won 77 seats in 2017, managed to win only 18 seats with most of its stalwarts like Chief Minister Charanjit Channi and state party chief Sidhu facing humiliating defeat from their respective strongholds.

WILL INDIA EMERGE AS KEY GLOBAL PLAYER IN WHEAT AFTER SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA?

India's role in maintaining food security on the global stage could significantly increase if it succeeds in expanding its marketshare of wheat. New Delhi is already the largest exporter of rice. With the US and European Union slapping sanctions against Russia, wheat supplies have become uncertain leading to high prices. Sources said that several countries have already approached domestic exporters in India though concrete deals are yet to be inked.

"India's wheat production is sufficient to take care of its own markets which also includes the public distribution system for the poorer section of the people. There is enough stock to take care of the domestic market and then go for exports," Anil Monga, managing director, Emmsons International that deals in trading of agro products told India Narrative. Under the National Food Security Act, more than 800 million people get subsidised foodgrains per head per month. Monga also said that surplus stocks of the previous years are also lying with the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Farmers are expected to start supplying their produce to the mandis by the end of the month. India has already exported a record 7 mt of wheat in the current financial year.

Sources indicated that the Centre's procurement of wheat is expected to be significantly less in the new financial year thereby reducing the country's food subsidy bill.

Meanwhile, this financial year (April to March) India's non basmati rice exports stand at 17 million tonnes compared to 13.06 million tonnes in the previous fiscal. "Our non basmati rice exports have jumped though the basmati rice supplies have remained subdued due to various issues including logistics problems," Vinod Kaul, senior executive director, All India Rice Exporters' Association said. India's exports of rice have increased to countries including China, Bangladesh and several in Africa. Besides, 80 per cent of Basmati rice is being shipped to West Asian countries. India has also exported 1.1 mt of rice - primarily broken variety to China. According to S&P Global, "Indian rice has come from representing less than 1 per cent of Chinese rice imports in 2020 to representing 23 per cent so far in 2021, making it the largest supplier of rice to China."



AFTER STATE CHIEFS, CONGRESS STATE IN CHARGES TO FACE AXE TOO?



After Congress chief Sonia Gandhi asked for the resignation of the party chiefs in the five states where Assembly polls were held following the party's electoral debacle, sources say that state in charges are likely to face the same fate as she is upset with their performance. The issue has also been raised by 'G-23' leaders, who have sought that those involved in the election process should be shown exit door. The in charges — Harish Chaudhary (Punjab), Dinesh Gundu Rao (Goa), Devendra Yadav (Uttarakhand), B.C. Das (Manipur) — had reportedly told the high command that the party is returning to power but could not get enough seats which could have saved party prestige. During the Punjab MPs meeting with Sonia Gandhi, she was given the feedback that the party lost due to mismanagement, particularly by in charges of the party. In Uttar Pradesh, the party did not have high expectations but was confident of a respectful performance. The G-23 leaders had also expressed surprise that no state in charges offered to quit which was a normal procedure in the party before 2014. The Congress is likely to sack these leaders and appoint new persons to reorganise and restructure the Congress in the states. Gandhi on Wednesday appointed five senior leaders to assess the post-poll situation in these states, and suggest organisational changes after interacting with MLA candidates and important leaders. Rajya Sabha MP Rajani Patil will oversee Goa, Jairam Ramesh Manipur, Ajay Maken Punjab, Jitender Singh Uttar Pradesh, and Avinash Pandey Uttarakhand. Before this decision, party state chiefs — Navjot Sidhu (Punjab), Ganesh Godiyal (Uttarakhand), Nameirakpam Loken Singh (Manipur), Ajay Kumar Lallu (UP), and Girish Chodankar (Goa) — had been asked to step down.

COVID NOT GONE, EXPECT UPTICK IN CASES DUE TO BA.2 SUBVARIANT: DR. FAUCI



The Covid-19 pandemic is not over and the US is soon likely to see an uptick in cases due to the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron, according to the country's infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci.

Fauci said that the BA.2 subvariant is estimated to account for about 25 or 30 per cent of new cases in the US, and could also become the most dominant variant in the country, CNBC reported.

While Fauci said he expects a rise in cases, it will not necessarily result in a massive surge like other variants have caused.

According to Fauci, who is also the White House chief medical advisor, BA.2 subvariant is about 50 to 60 per cent more transmissible than Omicron, yet it does not appear to be more severe.

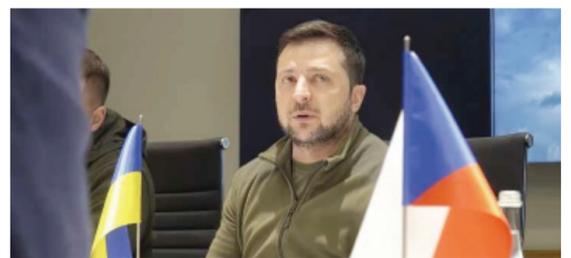
"It does have increased transmission capability," Fauci was quoted as saying on ABC News on Sunday.

"However, when you look at the cases, they do not appear to be any more severe and they do not appear to evade immune responses either from vaccines or prior infections."

The variant has already caused cases to increase in China and several parts of Europe including the UK. Health officials continue to stress that coronavirus vaccines and boosters remain the best ways to prevent serious illness from the virus.

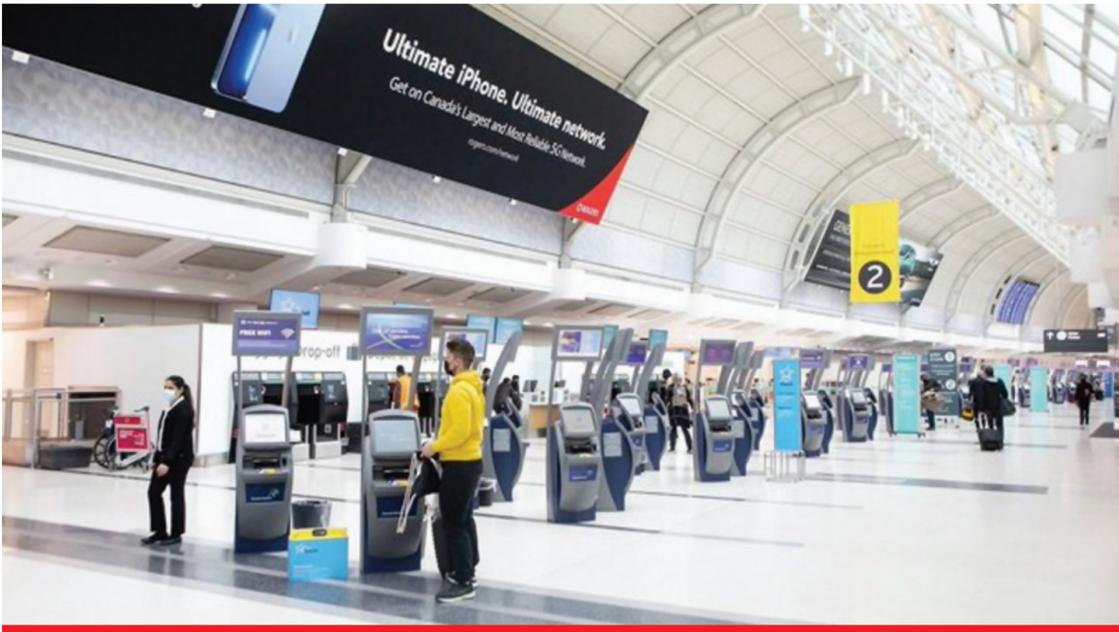
Other US health experts are also warning about the emergence of the BA.2, sub-variant of the highly contagious Omicron variant that led to a significant spike in cases in the US recently.

'SAY OPENLY THAT YOU ARE SCARED OF RUSSIA': UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT ZELENSKY'S DIG AT NATO



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has reiterated that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was 'afraid' of Russia. He said that NATO -- an intergovernmental military alliance of 30 countries including the US, should either say that 'they are accepting us' or 'not accepting us'. "NATO should either say now that they are accepting us, or openly say that they are not accepting us as they are scared of Russia, which is true," The Kyiv Independent quoted Zelensky as saying on Monday as the Kremlin's invasion of Kyiv continued on 27th day. "And then, we need to calm down and say, okay, NATO member countries can provide us security guarantees without us being in NATO. That's where the compromise exists, that's where the end of the war is," he added. Ukraine's ambition to join NATO is believed to be one of the factors that led Russian President Vladimir Putin to order a military operation in Ukraine last month to demilitarize it. Earlier, Zelensky had said that Kyiv is no longer pressing for NATO membership for Ukraine. "I have cooled down on this question (joining NATO) a long time ago after realising that it is not prepared to accept Ukraine. The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia," he had said earlier this month. Meanwhile, Russia has said that it was too early to discuss a meeting between Putin and Zelensky as there was no breakthrough yet in the peace talks over the ongoing Moscow-Kiev war. "To be able to discuss a possible meeting between the two Presidents, you must first do your homework. That is, you need to conduct and agree on the results of the negotiations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Y MEDIA COVID & VACCINE REPORT



CANADA WILL REMOVE PRE-ENTRY TEST REQUIREMENT FOR FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELLERS ON APRIL 1

The Government of Canada announced that effective April 1, 2022 at 12:01 AM EDT, fully vaccinated travellers will no longer need to provide a pre-entry COVID-19 test result to enter Canada by air, land or water. Fully vaccinated travellers seeking to arrive in Canada before April 1, 2022, must still have a valid pre-entry test.

As a reminder, travellers arriving to Canada from any country, who qualify as fully vaccinated, may need to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival if selected for mandatory random testing. Travellers selected for mandatory random testing are not required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.

For partially or unvaccinated travelers who are currently allowed to travel to Canada, pre-entry testing requirements are not changing. Unless otherwise exempt, all travellers 5 years of age or older who do not qualify as fully vaccinated must continue to provide proof of an accepted type of pre-entry COVID-19 test result:

- a valid, negative antigen test, administered or observed by an accredited lab or testing provider, taken outside of Canada no more than one day before their initially scheduled flight departure time or their arrival at the land border or marine port of entry; or
- a valid negative molecular test taken no more than 72 hours before their initially scheduled flight departure time or their arrival at the land border or marine port of entry; or
- a previous positive molecular test taken at least 10 calendar days and no more than 180 calendar days before their initially scheduled flight departure time or their arrival at the land border or marine port of entry. It is important to note that positive antigen test results will not be accepted.

All travellers continue to be required to submit their mandatory information in ArriveCAN (free mobile app or website) before their arrival in Canada. Travellers who arrive without completing their ArriveCAN submission may have to test on arrival and quarantine for 14 days, regardless of their vaccination status. Travellers taking a cruise or a plane must submit their information in ArriveCAN within 72 hours before boarding.

QUICK FACTS

Canadians can continue do their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by getting vaccinated and boosted, using masks where appropriate, self-isolating if they have symptoms and self-testing if they can. Travellers should check if they are eligible to enter Canada and meet all entry requirements before heading to the border. In addition, some provinces and territories may have their own entry restrictions in place. Check and follow both the federal and any provincial or territorial restrictions and requirements before travelling to Canada.

All travellers entering Canada, including returning residents, continue to be required to input their mandatory information in ArriveCAN within 72 hours before their arrival in Canada.

Unless otherwise exempt, all travellers eligible to enter Canada who do not qualify as fully vaccinated will continue to be tested with COVID-19 molecular tests on arrival and on Day 8, while they quarantine for 14 days.

Travellers may experience delays at ports of entry due to the public health measures. Travellers should have their ArriveCAN receipt ready to present to the border services officer. Before heading to the land border, travellers should check Canada Border Service Agency's website for estimated border wait times at select land ports of entry.

ONTARIO SCIENCE TABLE RELEASES NEW COVID-19 PROJECTIONS TODAY; EXPECTS HOSPITAL & ICU OCCUPANCY TO INCREASE



COVID-19 case numbers, hospital and ICU occupancy have stopped declining; there is considerable regional variation.

- Given the relaxation of public health measures and consequent increase in transmission, hospital and ICU occupancy will likely increase over the next few weeks, but less than in January 2022 and for a limited period of time if changes in behaviour are only moderate.

- The extent of this increase, and of a person's risk of contracting COVID-19, will depend on the number of close contacts (especially indoors without masking), vaccination status, and the spread of the more transmissible BA.2 subvariant.

- Older adults, immunocompromised, unvaccinated and marginalized individuals and groups are still susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19.

- A complete vaccine series (currently two doses in children, three doses in adults, four in long-term care residents and other eligible high-risk groups) is the best defence against getting and spreading COVID-19.

A 3rd COVID-19 vaccine dose offers better protection against Omicron infection over time than 2 doses

Lower income neighbourhoods continue to be hit hardest by the pandemic, also during the fifth wave caused by Omicron

Future scenarios in Ontario will depend on population immunity, the virulence and severity of future variants

Masks are still an effective public health measure to reduce COVID-19 transmission

- Public health measures, including increased ventilation and filtration, physical distancing and wearing a well-fitted, high-quality mask can help reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in places where people gather indoors.

- Recent studies from the United States analysed the impact of mask-wearing on SARS-CoV-2 community transmission: mandatory masking reduced the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection consistently.

- Masking protects both the person who wears the mask and others.
- Community benefits from masking are most pronounced when adopted widely.

Ontario built strong pandemic control tools, which can be used to maintain readiness

Ontarians should:

- Ensure that they have a complete vaccine series (includes three doses in adults, four in eligible, high-risk groups).
- Use high-quality masks whenever necessary to protect vulnerable people or themselves.
- Stay home when sick or symptomatic.

Ontario should:

- Continue improvement of ventilation and air filtration in public indoor spaces.
- Create rapid paths to testing and treatment (e.g., Paxlovid, antibodies) with a focus on equity.
- Be prepared to renew mass COVID-19 vaccination campaigns if needed.
- Be prepared to renew vaccine certificates requiring a recent booster dose for high-risk settings if needed.
- Be prepared to reintroduce mask mandates if needed.
- Maintain protective measures that are appropriate for the general health and wellbeing of those living and working in congregate care settings such as long-term care.

Ontario remains vulnerable as long as the global pandemic continues

- New variants are more likely to develop if a large number of people who are immune-compromised do not receive appropriate treatment and vaccination

- 2-3% of global population is immunosuppressed
- Many of the more than 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS are not appropriately treated
- Although 56% of the world population has now received two COVID-19 vaccine doses, that is still too few to build sufficient immunity globally.
- Broad-acting and intranasal vaccines now under development could play a key role in the future.
- Global surveillance and public health controls remain insufficient.
- Global wastewater surveillance and genomic sequencing will continue to be essential in the future.
- Improved ventilation, air filtration and adoption of high-quality masks will continue to be important worldwide.

THE PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON JOURNALISTS ACROSS BRICS COUNTRIES



It is almost impossible to find any industry or profession that has been immune to Covid-19. The pandemic has touched almost every sector in one way or the other, and its impact on journalism is immense. Most journalists and newsrooms across the world have suffered due to the pandemic. Whether it's burnout from working extra hours, layoffs, or fighting against the "infodemic" of fake news, this virus has taken a toll on the news industry.

The arrival of coronavirus made it difficult for publishers across the globe to find a sizable audience. With businesses paused or no longer willing to pay for advertisements, a vital part of the industry's support system cracked, The New York Times reported. However, while discussing with my 24 other fellow journalists about the impact of Covid-19 on the news sector across Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa at the BRICS Media Forum, I realised that the pandemic has not only disrupted their business models, but also their newsroom structure. While smartphones and mobile technology made news gathering, live broadcasting and content distribution easier, working from home increased communication gaps and reduced productivity for some people. Addressing the challenges faced while conducting virtual meetings, Olga Dmitrieva, from Russia's Sputnik News, said: "Being a producer you can basically work from anywhere. All you need is a good smartphone with an internet connection and international roaming. So, for me, it was easy to adjust to the 'new normal'." "However, during virtual meetings via Skype/Zoom, I always felt that you get more friendly while interviewing someone from home. So even business relations tend to become more open," she added. About how the virus upended the normal routines of life, Ilya Goncharov, from Sputnik News, said: "Before the pandemic, as a columnist, I often went to places, interviewed people, made reports, interacted with foreigners, artists, musicians, etc. But with the emergence of the novel Coronavirus, all of those things suddenly changed.

"It seemed like a joke, a bad dream, at first. However, when we came to our senses, we were able to get the job done. All the aspects of my work were then done under the prism of the epidemic. I studied how Moscow restaurants helped doctors from the Red Zone, how gyms started online training, etc. One of my most unusual experiences was at a painting exhibition by the famous Chinese artist Zhang Huang, who barely managed to send paintings to the Hermitage (a major art museum in St Petersburg) as all the museums in the country were closed. I interviewed him online and we both agreed that during these unprecedented times, what the world needs more is love."

Highlighting the problems of the pandemic-induced restrictions, Zhao Zhao, from China's Xinhua News Agency, said: "Due to the pandemic, the Chinese media industry was strongly impacted as many important events had to be cancelled, postponed or held virtually. Therefore, journalists in China missed having physical interviews or interactions with one another." On the challenges of remote news reporting, Rodrigo De Moraes Vargas Ramos from Brazil's CMA group said: "The hardest part was staying away from the newsroom, and not physically meeting other journalists daily. However, our work itself was not harmed. We pulled off the same performance as we did in the newsroom."

NATURAL COVID ANTIBODIES LAST 7 MONTHS IN CHILDREN: STUDY

Children previously infected with Covid-19 develop natural circulating antibodies that last for at least seven months, finds a new study.

The study showed that while 96 per cent of those infected with Covid-19 continued to have antibodies up to seven months later, well over half (58 per cent) of the samples were negative for infection-induced antibodies at their third and final measurement.

"These findings are important because the information we collected from children infected with Covid-19 didn't differ at all by whether a child was asymptomatic, the severity of symptoms, when they had the virus, were at a healthy weight or had obesity, or by gender. It was the same for everyone," said researcher Sarah Messiah from The University of Texas Health at Houston. For the study, published in the journal 'Pediatrics', the team examined data from 218 children across the state of Texas between the age of 5 and 19 who were enrolled in the Texas CARES survey that began in October 2020 to assess Covid-19 antibody status over time among a population of adults and children in Texas.

The volunteers who enrolled for the study provided researchers with three separate blood draws. Samples were collected before the vaccine rollout and during the Delta and Omicron variants. To date, investigators have completed three different phases of the study.

The researcher said that the results are just a step in understanding the virus' impact on children. To date, 14 million kids in the US have tested positive for the virus, she said.

CANADA'S CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER CALLS FOR GETTING COVID BOOSTER SHOT

Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, has called for more people to get the booster dose against Covid-19 as the country has started easing restrictions, such as limits on social gatherings and mask mandates. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Tam said that Covid-19 policies may soon shift from "an emphasis on requirements to recommendations" and that it's critically important that more people, especially for those 50 years of age or older, get a booster dose, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We're in a period of uncertainty where the virus is still undergoing evolution, so getting up to date with vaccines and wearing a mask is really a good idea," she said, adding that it would be difficult to expand vaccine mandates to cover a booster dose because eligibility for the third shot varies and people with a previous Omicron infection have been told to wait up to three months between a positive test result and getting inoculated. According to a statement from Tam's office on Friday, recent studies indicated that an mRNA Covid-19 vaccine booster dose could enhance the overall immune response, which can provide longer lasting protection and possibly better effectiveness against variants.

Over 5.2 million eligible Canadians need one or more doses to complete their primary series and many others are eligible to get a booster dose, the statement said.

According to data released by the Public Health Agency of Canada, over 17.6 million third doses have been administered till date. National data has indicated that over 83 per cent of seniors aged 70 or older, 61 per cent of aged 50-59 years and 74 per cent aged 60-69 years have received an additional dose.



10 LEGISLATORS TAKE OATH, PORTFOLIOS ANNOUNCED IN PUNJAB'S FIRST AAP CABINET

On the advice and recommendation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Punjab Governor Shri Banwarilal Purohit on Monday allotted portfolios to the newly inducted Ministers. According to a spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office, the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann would hold the portfolios of Administrative Reforms, Civil Aviation, General Administration, Home Affairs & Justice, Personnel, Vigilance, Housing and Urban Development, Local Government, Industries & Commerce, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Horticulture, Conservation of Land & Water, Food Processing, Investment Promotion, Science Technology & Environment, Parliamentary Affairs, Elections, Removal of Grievances, Freedom Fighters, Technical Education & Industrial Training, Employment Generation & Training, Labour, Printing & Stationery, Defence Services Welfare, Governance Reforms, New and Renewable Energy Sources and Information & Public Relations. However, the portfolio, if any, not allotted to any of the Ministers shall vest with the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, Harpal Singh Cheema has been assigned the portfolios of Finance, Planning, Programme Implementation, Excise & Taxation and Cooperation.

Cabinet Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur has been given the portfolios of Social Justice, Empowerment & Minorities and Social Security, Women and Child Development. Harbhajan Singh has been given the charge of Public Works and Power. Dr. Vijay Singla has been assigned the portfolios of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education & Research. Lal Chand has been allotted the portfolios of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Forests and Wildlife. Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer has been allotted the departments of School Education, Sports and Youth Services and Higher Education. Kuldeep Singh Dhalival has been allotted the portfolios of Rural Development & Panchayats, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Dairy Development and NRI Affairs. Laljit Singh Bhullar has been given the charge of Transport and Hospitality. Bram Shankar has given the charge of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Water Resources and Water Supply & Sanitation. Harjot Singh Bains has been given the portfolios of Legal & Legislative Affairs, Mines & Geology, Tourism & Cultural Affairs and Jails.

BIREN SINGH TO BE MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER AGAIN

Nongthombam Biren Singh, who was elected as BJP legislature party leader on Sunday, is likely to take oath and assume office as Chief Minister for the second consecutive term within the next two to three days, party sources said. Soon after being elected as the BJP legislature party leader, Singh along with the central ministers and observers, met Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhavan here, and staked claim for forming the next government. Before Singh's meeting with the Governor, BJP's central observer and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that Biren Singh has been unanimously re-elected the BJP legislature party leader. Sitharaman, accompanied by co-observer Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Sambit Patra held an around two-hour long meeting with the BJP's newly elected MLAs in Imphal. Sitharaman, Rijju, Yadav, Patra, state BJP president Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi and other leaders congratulated Biren Singh and presented him bouquets. For 10 days after declarations of the Assembly election results, the BJP has held a series of hectic parleys in Imphal and in the national capital, before announcing Biren Singh would remain as the Chief Minister, even as minister and influential BJP leader Thongam Biswajit Singh was also a strong contender for the top post.

Biren Singh later tweeted: "Immensely grateful to PM Narendra Modi and party President JP Nadda for entrusting me to serve as the Leader of the Legislative Party. I thank each and every Karyakarta of BJP Manipur for their tireless efforts in bringing a BJP Govt today." Sitharaman later told the media that it is a good decision (selection of Biren Singh) taken unanimously, which will ensure that Manipur has a stable and responsible government. "The Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gives special attention to the northeastern states. The BJP government would work for the welfare and betterment of all people of Manipur," she said. Biren Singh, Biswajit Singh, former assembly Speaker Yumnam Khemchand Singh, the third contender for the top post, along with state BJP President, went to Delhi twice within a week and held a series of meetings there with the BJP's central leaders to discuss the name of next Manipur Chief Minister and formation of government. On Saturday night, the state leaders held a marathon meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Nadda and other central leaders in Delhi and discussed about the government formations. The BJP has secured a thin majority of 32 MLAs in the 60-member Assembly. BJP sources said that the former football player and journalist-turned-politician, Singh, 61, would take oath and assume office as the new Chief Minister within the next two to three days.

PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN WANTS TO EMULATE INDIA'S 'INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY'

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday lauded India for having an "independent foreign policy" that was favourable to its own people, Express Tribune reported. He maintained that like India -- which imported oil from Russia despite American sanctions and despite being an ally of the US -- his foreign policy would also favour the people of Pakistan, the report said. "I haven't bowed before anyone and will not let my nation bow either," Imran said. The Pakistan premier maintained that he said "absolutely not" to the European Union envoy who sought Pakistan's support against Russia in the Russia-Ukraine conflict because "they broke protocol by making the request". He added that Pakistan would have gained nothing by complying with the EU's request. "We became part of America's war against terror in Afghanistan and lost 80,000 people and \$100 billion," he said, asking Shehbaz Sharif what did Pakistan gain from the war on terror, Express Tribune reported. Khan has once again urged the dissenting lawmakers to return to the ruling PTI's fold, saying that he was ready to forgive them like a 'compassionate father' amid looming vote on no-trust motion against him, Express Tribune reported. "Return to the party's fold or face social boycott," he warned the dissenting PTI members while addressing a public gathering in Dargai -- a small town in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Malaknad district on Sunday. "People will not trust you -- youth are aware of whatever happening in the country, this is the age of social media where it is difficult to hide anything," he said. The Pakistan premier also warned the estranged lawmakers of dire consequences if they "sold their conscience" and cast vote against the party line in the National Assembly.

Did Army chief General Bajwa ask Imran Khan to step down from PM's post?

In the midst of an escalating political crisis, Pakistan is rife with speculation after an unscheduled meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and the country's Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa on Friday. An hour-long meeting between Imran Khan and General Bajwa and ISI chief Lt General Nadeem Anjum was "unexpected". Though the Pakistani army told the media that they discussed "matters of mutual national, regional, and international interest", sources say that the meeting was all about the impending no-confidence vote that Imran Khan is trying to thwart using "illegal" means. "While Khan complained to Bajwa about his 'neutrality', the army chief is reported to have advised him to follow the Constitution and act responsibly," said the source. This was the first meeting between the two after Khan had hit back at Army chief General Bajwa for claiming political neutrality and in a shocking outburst, said, "only animals remain neutral". A defiant Khan had also publicly said that Bajwa asked him not to call the opposition leader Fazlur Rahman "diesel" but Khan told his supporters that he told Bajwa, the whole country calls Rahman "diesel". There were speculative reports in Pakistani media that facing imminent defeat, Imran Khan might try to impose an emergency in the country. He might also try to replace General Bajwa. "That would be suicidal for Khan. If he loses majority support in the assembly, he would lose his power to declare an emergency. He might whine about the military establishment but if he attacks Bajwa, he will be removed instantly. For his own sake, Khan should act democratically and responsibly," says Irshad Bhatti of Daily Jang adding that Bajwa might have asked Imran Khan to step down voluntarily as his government has been reduced to a minority. But Imran Khan is adamant on sticking to power. Some of his allies and dissent members once again proposed that PM Imran Khan should step aside and let someone else step in as the prime minister to save the government. But the "minus-formula" proposal was rejected by the visibly angry Imran Khan. According to Daily Jang, Khan accused them of being bought by the opposition. "If you want to leave, go ahead but remember, I will take such steps against you that no one will dare to backstab," the Urdu daily Daily Jang quoted Khan as saying. The dissident leaders of Imran Khan's ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party have accused him of using the state police and law enforcing agencies to stop the rebels from voting. Khan has also asked the speaker of the National Assembly to disqualify the rebel members and reject their votes but according to Pakistani experts, the speaker can only act against rebels after voting, not before that.

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU RESIGNS AS PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF



Days after facing humiliating defeat in Punjab from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Wednesday resigned from the post. In a one-line resignation to party President Sonia Gandhi, Sidhu wrote, "I hereby resign as President (PPCC)." The AAP came to power by sweeping the Assembly polls with a three-fourths majority as heavyweights fall by wayside. A day earlier, Sonia Gandhi asked party chiefs Sidhu in Punjab, Ganesh Godiyal in Uttarakhand, Ajay Kumar Lallu in Uttar Pradesh, Girish Chodankar in Goa and Nameirakpam Loken Singh in Manipur to resign. Sidhu, once a Chief Minister aspirant, faced defeat from his stronghold Amritsar (East) seat. He was locked in a high-profile contest with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia but faced defeat from the hands of AAP greenhorn candidate Jeevanjyot Kaur, who defeated him by a margin of 6,750 votes. Low-profile hygiene activist Kaur, who believed in door-to-door connect with electorate, emerged as the 'giant slayer' by showing the door to two political heavyweights -- Sidhu and Majithia, who were busy in mudslinging against each other. In 2017, cricketer-turned-politician Sidhu not only defeated his BJP rival Rajesh Honey with a big margin of over 42,000 votes but also played a role of a game-changer for the party by winning 10 out of 11 seats in Amritsar district, once the citadel of the SAD-BJP combine. Sidhu is a three-time Amritsar MP from the BJP. In 2014 he "sacrificed" this seat for his 'guru' Arun Jaitley. Later he was adjusted in the Rajya Sabha by the BJP but not finding a bigger role in Punjab, he quit the party and resigned from Parliament.

MANN TOOK HISTORIC DECISIONS IN FIRST FEW DAYS, KEJRIWAL TO PUNJAB MLAS



After the Cabinet expansion of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Punjab government, party's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the party's Punjab affairs co-in-charge Raghav Chadha on Sunday held a meeting with all their party MLAs in the states. Kejriwal, attending the meeting through video conferencing, briefed the MLAs on the party's objectives and working methods. He said that after winning elections in four states, BJP's new Chief Ministers haven't taken oath, let alone do any work of the people. "Our Bhagwant Mann sahib became the Chief Minister and has also taken many historic decisions for the people. CM Mann has done tremendous work for the people of Punjab in the last three days. In his first cabinet meeting, 25,000 government jobs have been announced for the youth of Punjab, this has raised hope among the people. "I am not congratulating all my MLAs and ministers of Punjab, I am wishing them all the best, so that they can serve the public with full dedication and can live up to the expectations of the people," he said. On many senior MLAs not becoming ministers, Kejriwal said that those MLAs who are not given ministerial berths should not underestimate themselves.

MEET FIVE AAP RAJYA SABHA NOMINEES FROM PUNJAB



The Aam Aadmi Party has nominated five persons for Rajya Sabha from Punjab where it swept the assembly polls and has formed the government. The five Rajya Sabha MPs include two businessmen, one IIT professor and cricketer Harbhajan Singh. While Ashok Mittal and Sanjeev Arora are businessmen, former cricketer is Harbhajan Singh. Apart from that, Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha and IIT professor Sandeep Pathak have also been nominated for the Rajya Sabha. Ashok K. Mittal is the founder chancellor of the prestigious academic institution, Lovely Professional University (LPU). Hailing from a humble background, Mittal worked his way up to become an accomplished entrepreneur. As a way to serve the society and the state of Punjab, he founded LPU which is one of the largest universities in India today with students from over 50 countries.

LESSONS FOR INDIA FROM THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

KANWAL SIBAL

India, as well as others, should draw some hard lessons from the wide fall-out of the Ukraine crisis. One, it has proved that possession of a mighty nuclear arsenal neither earns you the desired respect nor does it guarantee security beyond a point. Russia has been humiliated over the years, its security has been threatened with the relentless expansion of NATO and dismissal of its protests. Nuclear weapons are clearly not a deterrence against economic warfare, real economic muscle is necessary for that. The lesson for India's political and entrepreneurial class is to understand better our vulnerabilities and double down on "atmanirbharta". Two, the structures of the existing "international order" are breaking down further. The UN is again demonstrating its impotency to establish peace, which is not the same as countries scoring diplomatic points against each other in the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. Three, the Europeans themselves were bemoaning the decline of multilateralism after the advent of Trump. Now the Europeans have joined the Americans to deliver a major blow to multilateralism by imposing unprecedented sanctions on Russia without declaring a war with little concern about their damaging effect on the rest of the world. The structures of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were already being undermined by the US under Trump. Now, with the US and the EU withdrawing Russia's MFN status, international trading rules are being seriously breached for purely political reasons. The idea of expelling Russia from the WTO and the IMF or, in the case of the latter, not allowing it access to SDRs- whether that is feasible or not- shows the weakness of the West's inherent commitment to multilateralism. Four, much is made of the arguments about observing the rule of law and upholding international rules. Unilateral sanctions by powerful countries without UN approval are an arbitrary exercise of power and rule-setting by the strong for other countries to adhere to under the pain of punishment. These sanctions have been applied by the US and EU to Russian members of parliament for voting legally on issues of national interest, even personally against President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov, members of Russia's National Security Council and Putin's close entourage, as well as top Russian businessmen for the sin of being close to Putin. The Russian Central Bank and major Russian banks have been sanctioned, with Russia expelled from the Swift system. Visa and Mastercard have quit Russia, as also US and UK oil majors. The US has banned the import of oil and gas from Russia. American and European airspace has been denied to Russian airlines. Boeing and Airbus will no longer service Russian owned aircraft. The property and funds held abroad by Russians have been confiscated without due process of law. The frenzy of sanctions includes the Russians, including those handicapped, from international sports. Russian music conductors have been fired from their positions from western orchestras for not condemning Putin for invading Ukraine.



An economic and societal war has been declared on Russia. President Biden claimed in his State of the Union address that Russia's foreign exchange reserves of \$630 billion had been made "worthless". It is not clear under what provisions of a rules based order or the rule of law these steps fall. The lesson here is that a whole ruling political, business and cultural class of a country can be treated as outlaws and subject to reprisals by the West if required. Five, the lesson to learn is that the West controls the global financial system to the point that the ownership of whatever assets governments, private companies or individuals from other countries hold abroad can be seized arbitrarily depending on politics. The hegemony of the US \$ has been powerfully demonstrated in Russia's case. The G-7 is once again calling the shots, with the G-20 losing its salience in stabilising the world's financial system. If China has been rightly criticised for weaponising global supply chains and critical raw materials and triggered moves to decoupling, on-shoring, resilient supply chains etc, the US and EU have gone much further in trying to comprehensively weaponise finance, trade, investment and technology. The blow to globalisation and interdependence has been deep. One can therefore expect countries to develop alternative systems of international bank transfers and payment systems as well as defences against the hegemony of the US \$ by trading more in their respective currencies. Six, the West's double standards have become even more glaring. The US and Europe react sharply when freedom of speech and expression are seen to be curbed in any country, including India, as we have seen in the case of temporary restrictions imposed on the internet and social media in J&K after the revision of Article 370 and in some other cases to curb the potential of violence. Now one sees that Russian TV and media outlets have been banned in Europe on the disputable ground that they purvey disinformation and fake news. This is a clear violation of freedom of expression and constitutes a form of censorship. Seven, the Ukraine conflict shows the West's ability to control narratives at the international level on issues in which they have stakes, and prevent any alternative narrative to develop. The West controls the flow of information internationally through its news agencies, the mainstream media, the social media and the internet. The techniques of information warfare have been developed as part

of hybrid warfare and these have been exhibited in the case of the Ukrainian crisis where only one side of the story is being heard even in India where the media is carrying reports and visuals only from western sources which are highly negatively oriented against Russia. This is at variance with the balanced position of the government on the crisis and detracts from our larger national interest. The gap is wide between the position of the government on the crisis and how it looks at ties with Russia and the manner in which the media is projecting the conflict and Russia's culpability. Eight, the role of the US controlled social media in the propaganda battle against Russia should be a cause of concern. Meta is making an exception for calls to violence against Russians for its invasion of Ukraine. This is a dangerous precedent being set up, as an exception made once can be made again. As it is, concerns about hate-speech, the use of these platforms to promote violence and even terrorism is a real one, including for countries like India. Social media cannot be allowed to establish its own rules on content outside the jurisdictions of countries in which they operate. The need to regulate the working of the social media has become pressing. Finally, we are heading toward a more divided and unstable world geo-politically and geo-economically. The existing global structures that in any case needed reform are breaking up. A new Cold War has begun. The crippling of Russian power as a result of the crisis which the West is aiming for will create a void that China will fill. Europe's ambition to develop a degree of strategic autonomy has been quashed with NATO's rejuvenation under American pressure and internal European divisions. The US is reaching out to China to persuade it not to support Russia on Ukraine and if it succeeds- for which China will extract a price- the stage would have been set for a G 2 world that China aspires for. This can impact on the Indo-Pacific concept and the Quad. India will now pursue an even more nimble-footed foreign policy to protect its interests in an increasingly challenging external environment.

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Newspaper
MIDWEEK NEWS WEEKLY
Published in English every Tuesday

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CANADA LAUNCHES NEW TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PATHWAY TO WELCOME THOSE FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The resiliency and courage of Ukrainians have inspired the world, and Canada is unwavering in its commitment to provide support to Ukraine as it fights for its sovereignty and for the democratic ideals that our countries share.

In response to Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, today announced the launch of the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET). The CUAET is a special, accelerated temporary residence pathway for Ukrainians seeking safe haven in Canada while the war in their home country continues.

With the CUAET, Ukrainians and their immediate family members of any nationality may stay in Canada as temporary residents for up to 3 years. Applicants who are overseas need to apply online for a Canadian visitor visa and provide their biometrics (fingerprints and a photo). Applicants are encouraged to apply for a 3-year open work permit at the same time as their visa application. This permit will allow them to work in Canada. Under this special program, many of the regular requirements associated with a normal visitor visa or work permit have been waived. Elementary and high school students can register for and start attending school as soon as they arrive in Canada, and anyone looking to study at the post-secondary level can apply for a study permit once on Canadian soil.

Applicants who do not have a valid passport may still apply, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will issue a single journey travel document on a case-by-case basis, where appropriate. Ukrainian workers, students and visitors and their family members who are already in Canada also benefit from these measures. They may either apply to extend their visitor status or work permit for 3 years, apply for a new work or study permit, or extend their existing permit. IRCC will waive all extension and work or study permit

application fees. To ease the burden on applicants, IRCC is waiving all application fees for these programs.

The Government of Canada is also calling on employers who wish to support Ukrainians with offers of employment to register these offers on Job Bank's Jobs for Ukraine webpage. Job Bank will then work with local organizations and employers to help connect them with Ukrainians seeking work in their communities. We are also in discussions with partners, including provinces and territories, the business community, the Ukrainian-Canadian community and settlement organizations, on how best to support those arriving from Ukraine, and more information will be available soon. IRCC will continue to monitor volumes of travellers and their needs closely and will take action as required. We are working around the clock to help Ukrainians and their families get to Canada as quickly and as safely as possible. We are already prioritizing and fast-tracking applications, and waiving application and processing fees. We have increased our operational capacity in the region, in anticipation of an increased volume of requests. This includes relocating staff and moving additional supplies and equipment, such as mobile biometric collection kits. We are also adjusting operations in offices across our global network to ensure service continuity for Ukraine.

Ukrainians and their family members are exempt from Canada's COVID-19 vaccination entry requirements. However, they must still meet all other public health requirements for travel, such as quarantine and testing. With limited exceptions, all travellers to Canada, including anyone arriving under the CUAET, must also use ArriveCAN.

The CUAET and Job Bank will be instrumental in supporting the Government of Canada's response to Vladimir Putin's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Most importantly, these measures help us do our part to welcome more Ukrainians to Canada.

DELIVERING FOR CANADIANS NOW: LIBERALS, NDP GOVERNANCE DEAL UNTIL 2025

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Both parties hope that by approaching this Parliament more collaboratively, we will be able to deliver on these shared policy objectives before the next election. Both parties believe strongly in Parliament's role to hold the government to account. Nothing in this agreement will undermine that critical function. The parties will not always agree. The government will pursue elements of its agenda that the NDP may oppose and nothing in this agreement prevents either party from doing that. Both parties will continue to seek to work with other parties in Parliament on the priorities that are the subject of this agreement and for other objectives. This agreement is not about compromising either party's core beliefs or denying their differences. It is about ensuring those differences do not stand in the way of delivering on shared goals for the benefit of each and every Canadian.

Therefore, the parties agree to Delivering for Canadians Now: A Supply and Confidence Agreement from March 22, 2022 until when Parliament rises in June of 2025, in order to achieve the following:

A Parliament that works for Canadians

The arrangement lasts until Parliament rises in June 2025, allowing four budgets to be presented by the government during this time. To ensure coordination on this arrangement, both Parties commit to a guiding principle of "no surprises".

The agreement will mean that the NDP agrees to support the government on confidence and budgetary matters – notably on budgetary policy, budget implementation bills, estimates and supply – and that the Liberal Party commits to govern for the duration of the agreement. The NDP would not move a vote of non-confidence, nor vote for a non-confidence motion during the term of the arrangement. Other votes which impede the government from functioning may be declared confidence by the government, in which case the government will commit to informing the NDP as soon as possible if a vote will be declared confidence, and the NDP will inform the government of their vote intentions before declaring publicly to permit discussions around confidence to take place.

Regarding committees, both parties agree to the importance of parliamentary scrutiny and the work done by Members of Parliament at committees. To ensure committees are able to continue their essential work, both parties agree to communicate regarding any issues which could impede the government's ability to function or cause unnecessary obstructions to legislation review, studies and work plans at committees.

Both parties agree to the minimum standing meetings:

Leaders meeting at least once per quarter

Regular House Leader meetings

Regular Whip meetings

Monthly stock-take meetings by an oversight group

The oversight group will consist of a small group of staff and politicians. This group will discuss overall progress on key commitments and upcoming issues.

In addition to briefings provided by the public service and ministers on policy matters related to the arrangement, including the budget and legislation, the government will ensure public servants remain available to brief the NDP on other matters. Briefings should be done in a timely fashion to allow for constructive feedback and discussion.

Both parties agree that parliamentary debate is essential. Both parties agree to identify priority bills to expedite through the House of Commons, including by extending sitting hours to allow for additional speakers, if needed. The NDP will support a limited number of programming motions to pass legislation that both parties agree to.

The agreement will serve to ensure Parliament continues to function in the interest of Canadians.

ONTARIO LAUNCHES RACIALIZED & INDIGENOUS SUPPORTS FOR ENTREPRENEURS (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM

The Ontario government is investing \$5 million over two years in a targeted program to help Indigenous, Black and other racialized entrepreneurs start or grow their business. The Racialized and Indigenous Supports for Entrepreneurs (RAISE) Grant Program helps to remove economic barriers by providing funding, training, and culturally-relevant services to entrepreneurs.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, but Indigenous and racialized entrepreneurs often face barriers to financing, market opportunities and networks – key things that can make or break a business," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism. "That's why our government is investing \$5 million in the RAISE Grant Program to help more Indigenous, Black and other racialized business owners succeed. We are embedding racial equity into our economic

recovery efforts and plans for long-term growth to build a stronger Ontario." The RAISE Grant will help grow local businesses across Ontario and will be delivered through Digital Main Street, the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), and the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) in collaboration with the Parkdale Centre for Innovation. Successful applicants will receive a \$10,000 grant to facilitate innovation and growth, as well as training and coaching for sustainable economic development. Online training for RAISE will include modules about business financials, cash flow management, creating a business plan, business operations, marketing and public relations strategies, and digital transformation. RAISE will also provide culturally-relevant business coaching to assist entrepreneurs in realizing their business plans and reducing barriers to information and services.

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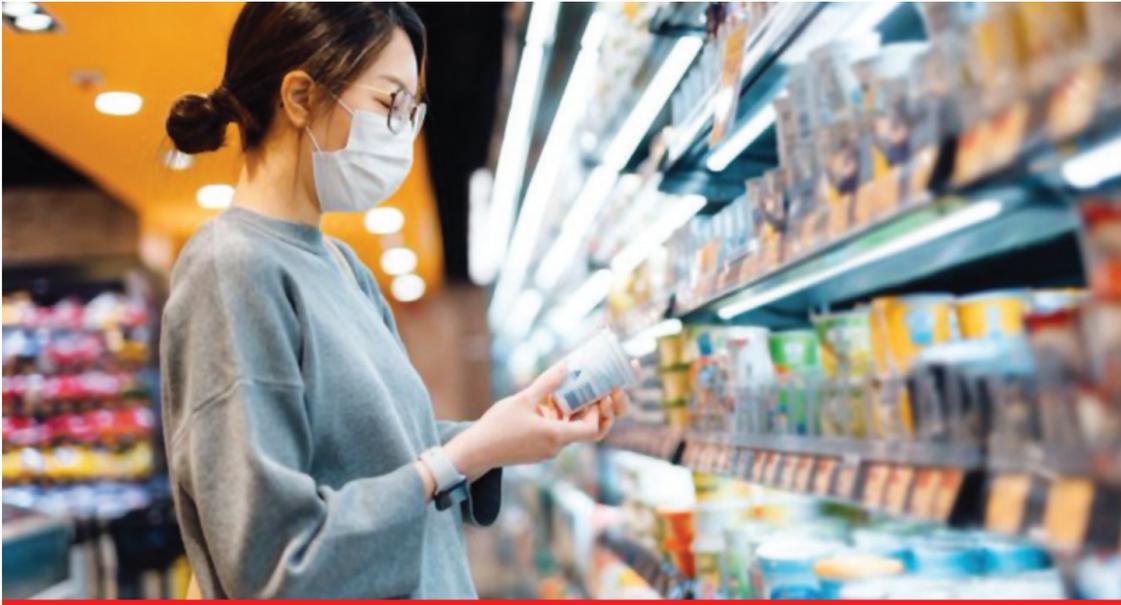
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LEGER POLL REVEALS CANADIANS CUTTING BACK SPENDING ON GROCERIES, RESTAURANTS AS INFLATION RISES

1. 81% of Canadians and 85% of Americans say that inflation is a very or somewhat serious problem for their household. The rising cost of groceries and gasoline is being felt most acutely.

2. Canadians and Americans have a pessimistic outlook for the future: the majority think inflation, interest rates and gas prices will increase six months from now.

3. The top actions Canadians and Americans have taken or plan to take due to rising inflation are Reducing food waste to make their money go further (86% of Canadians, 75% of Americans).

- Buying less expensive items at the grocery store (83% of Canadians, 72% of Americans)
- Spending less on household items (76% of Canadians, 68% of Americans).

– Eating less often at restaurants or limiting take-out (75% of Canadians, 67% of Americans), which doesn't bode well for a sector still trying to recover post-pandemic.

METHODOLOGY

This web survey was conducted from March 11 to March 13, 2022, with 1,515 Canadians and 1,002 Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey. For comparison, a probability sample of 1,515 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,014 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.096\%$, 19 times out of 20.

TRILLIUM HEALTH PARTNERS FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 1ST HAZEL MCCALLION WALK FOR HEALTH

The Hazel McCallion Walk for Health is a brand new 2 km and 5 km fundraising event hosted by Trillium Health Partners Foundation taking place on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at Port Credit Memorial Park. This will be the first time since the beginning of the pandemic Trillium Health Partners Foundation (THPF) will be hosting an in-person signature event. It will be a day filled with celebrations and fun activities. The community will have a chance to come together with THP to fundraise for the hospital and celebrate health care workers. Money raised from the walk will help build Canada's largest hospital, the future home of The Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital. The Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital will replace the existing 62-year old facility and is a critical part of THP's plan to build a new kind of health care that serves a growing and diverse community. Once complete, the new hospital will offer over 950 beds, more surgical capacity and a much larger emergency department.

This event is led by THP's Honorary Guardian, former long-standing Mississauga Mayor and avid walker, Hazel McCallion, with the goal of celebrating health care workers who work tirelessly to deliver exceptional care, close to home. Hazel, who recently celebrated her 101st birthday, will be in attendance, leading the way. A devoted supporter of creating a healthier community, Hazel has led many THP causes over the years and is thrilled to be walking alongside the community this summer. This event is a great way to show support for THP while getting outside with family, friends and colleagues. "Hazel McCallion has been a champion of better health in our community for decades and we are honoured to be launching this brand new event with her at the helm. Together we will celebrate health care workers with our community and THP, all in support of creating a new kind of health care for a healthier tomorrow," says Caroline Riseboro, President and CEO of the THP Foundation.



THP is the largest community-based academic hospital network in Canada, with 1.7 million patient visits per year across three main sites: Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga Hospital and Queensway Health Centre. THP cares for 2.2 million people in the West GTA, with the most inpatients and most births per year in Ontario, and some of the largest volumes for emergency care and surgery. These numbers are only expected to climb as the community rapidly grows and ages. To encourage community engagement, The Hazel McCallion Walk for Health is free to register and participants who set a fundraising goal will receive ribbons, T-shirts, swag bags, and wristband access to the family-friendly festival featuring a free BBQ lunch, live entertainment and child-friendly activities. Those interested in participating can register online at www.trilliumwalk.ca

ANNUAL ONTARIO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS REVEAL LACK OF ACTION ON CHALLENGES

Findings from People for Education's 2021-22 Annual Ontario School Survey (AOSS) show that there has been little or no respite for educators in the second year of the pandemic. The issues that students and educators were facing in 2020-21 remain relatively unchanged, and the magnitude and urgency of these issues have only grown. This year, the results of the AOSS will be released through a series of 4 thematic reports, the first one being on the impact of COVID-19 on Ontario's publicly funded schools. The findings in this report are based on responses from 965 principals across Ontario, representing 71 of the 72 publicly funded school boards in the province.

A "fail to fill" staffing situation for Ontario's publicly funded schools
In their responses, 90% of principals named staffing shortages as a top challenge. They reported issues coordinating staffing, filling absences, and they pointed to safety concerns caused by fewer staff, and that the lack of adequate staff takes a toll on the teachers who are now expected to do more in their very limited time.

The staffing crisis is the result of a compounding impact of increasing the length of the teacher education program to two years, cutting admissions to teachers' faculties by 50%, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for staff during the pandemic was initially augmented by the federal government and by increased funding from the province. That level of funding did not continue into the 2021-22 school year.

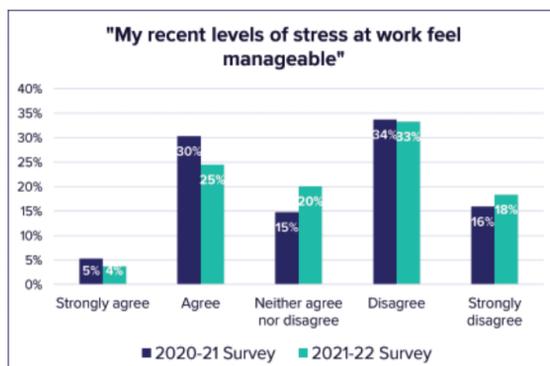
Principals have been pushed to their limits

"These past two years have by far been the most difficult—leading and managing in a pandemic. I know there are no easy answers or solutions, but administrator burnout is real and it's something that needs to be addressed."

- Elementary school principal, GTA

In this year's survey, 51% of principals reported that they disagreed or strongly disagreed that their recent levels of stress at work feel manageable. In their comments, principals pointed to the lack of supports on all fronts — administrative, funding, safety resources, communication from the government — and how this has taken a toll on their well-being and the capacity to do their jobs.

Supports missing for student and staff mental health and well-being
Only 43% of principals agreed with the statement "My school has the resources necessary to support the mental health and well-being of



its students." The response was even lower when asked the same question about support for staff mental health and well-being with only 35% of principals agreeing necessary supports were available for staff. While a high proportion of principals did report having the option to connect virtually with mental health and wellness support workers, they also highlighted drawbacks of this model. For example, one elementary principal in the GTA explained, "This type of model does NOT work for our students and families. Many families experience multiple systemic barriers (e.g., poverty, non-English speaking, health issues, lack of access to tech, etc.)."

Hybrid learning challenges

This year, 27% of elementary principals and 47% of secondary principals said they are responsible for hybrid schools. In the case of elementary schools, that is more than double the proportion last year. In these schools, teachers are simultaneously teaching students learning in-person and online. In their comments, most principals responding to the AOSS, said that the model was unworkable. One said it was "like teaching swimming and rock climbing in the same class." The hybrid model was intended to provide flexibility for families and for school boards. However, principals have called it "the most difficult task assigned to teachers to date". Some of the challenges inherent in this model included increased workloads, stress, and anxiety for educators; a decreased capacity to support students with special needs or disabilities and lower rates of student attendance, participation, and engagement.

PEEL POLICE CHARGE MOHAMMAD MOIZ OMAR, 24, FROM MISSISSAUGA FOR POSSIBLE HATE-MOTIVATED CRIME AT MISSISSAUGA MOSQUE

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The Mosque members received minor injuries as a result of the bear spray.

Mohammad Moiz Omar, a 24-year-old man from Mississauga, has been formally charged with the following offences:

Assault with a weapon

Administering Noxious Substance with intent to Endanger Life or Cause Bodily Harm

Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose

Utter Threat to Cause Death or Bodily Harm

Carrying Concealed weapon

Mischief to religious property

He was held for a bail hearing and appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton.

"Violence of any kind is unacceptable in our community and we are taking this matter extremely seriously. This is an ongoing investigation led by 12 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau and we will continue to work closely with our community partners as our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Divisional Mobilization Officers continue to engage with faith leaders and community members. We will continue to provide updates as the investigation unfolds." said Superintendent Rob Higgs, Commander of 12 Division.

To view the media scrum update provided by Superintendent Rob Higgs, please visit our YouTube channel.

Anyone with information on this investigation is asked to call investigators at 12 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 1233. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or by visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca.

CANADA WIDE WARRANT ISSUED FOR PAWAN MALIK, 19, IN FATAL MISSISSAUGA HIT & RUN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Investigators have located and seized the vehicle involved, a black 2009 Honda Accord.

The man alleged to have committed this offence has been identified as 19-year-old Pawan Malik of the City of Brampton. A warrant for his arrest has been issued for:

Failure to Stop After Accident Resulting in Death

Investigators have confirmed that Mr. Malik fled the country soon after the incident. When he is located, the Crown intends to seek his extradition so that he may be prosecuted for the alleged offences.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call investigators at the Major Collision Bureau (905) 453-2121, ext. 3710. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca.

BIHAR-BORN DR. ASHISH JHA BECOMES PRESIDENT BIDEN'S COVID-19 CO-ORDINATOR

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Jha, who is the dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, is one of the most popular experts that the media reaches out to for explaining the Covid pandemic and the efforts to control it.

"For all the progress we've made in this pandemic (and there is a lot). We still have important work to do to protect Americans' lives and well being. So when @POTUS asked me to serve, I was honoured to have the opportunity," Jha said in a tweet.

He will be joining Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, National Drug Control Policy Director Rahul Gupta, and Center for Medicare Director Meena Seshamani at the higher echelons of US health care system.

Jha succeeds Jeff Zients, who is leaving the White House after 14 months during which two variants, Delta and Omicron, fuelled a surge in Covid cases that the US struggled to contain.

Zients leaves office with 65 per cent of Americans having received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine and nearly 77 per cent have been fully vaccinated with the seven-day average of infections plummeting from 806,851 in mid-January to 30,570 in mid-March.

Jha was born in Pursaulia in Bihar in 1970 to parents who were educators. The family moved to Canada in 1979 and to the US in 1983.

He did his BA in economics at Columbia University and switching to medicine, he got his MD and master's in public health from Harvard University. He came to Brown from Harvard, where he was the director of the Harvard Global Health Institute and the dean for Global Strategy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

He had also served as the co-chair of the Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola, which examined the failure of the international community's response to the disease.

Even while he was heading the Brown University's School of Public Health, he continued to practice medicine at a hospital for ex-military members. During the Covid pandemic, he made frequent appearances on TV, wrote op-eds for leading newspapers and was often quoted by reporters.

The medical news website, STAT, called him "network TV's everyman expert on Covid" with the qualities of a "telegenic phenom" and a "great communicator". Zients was a businessman and a bureaucrat, unlike Jha who is a doctor. He is a former CEO of an investment company and a member of Facebook's board of directors. Before that, he had served as a special assistant to former President Barack Obama and as the director of the National Economic Council. The changeover to a doctor marks an inflexion point in the pandemic where the logistics of mass vaccination and testing are in place and the future task is to monitor and prepare for new variations or other developments.

RESTORATION OF VALID TOURIST VISA

The Government of India has further relaxed visa and travel restrictions to India keeping in view the improvement in the COVID situation in India-All Regular (Paper) valid Tourist visas issued before March 2020, except 10 years Tourist Visa, shall stand restored with immediate effect. Canadian nationals will be eligible for a fresh Regular Tourist Visa, except 10 years duration Tourist Visa.

Electronic Travel Authorization or e-Visa, issued to Canadian nationals before March 2020 will continue to remain under suspension. Canadian nationals are not eligible for the issuance of fresh e-Visa.

Foreign nationals on Tourist Visa would be permitted to enter India only through designated Sea Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) or Airport ICPs by flights including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or 'air bubble' scheme or by any flights as allowed by DGCA or Ministry of Civil Aviation. In no case will foreign nationals be allowed to enter through Land borders or riverine routes on Tourist Visa.



INDIA, JAPAN SHOULD KEEP TRYING TO END RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: PM KISHIDA

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida discussed the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine war, and talked about peace in the Indo-Pacific region.

Kishida in a statement said Modi discussed the situation in Ukraine. "Russia's attack on Ukraine is a serious issue which has shaken the international world order," Kishida said.

However, Modi has not made any comment over the ongoing Russia and Ukraine war which has reached 24th day.

The Japanese Prime Minister further stated that the world has been shaken today due to many disturbances, and it is very important for India and Japan to have a close partnership.

"We expressed our views, talked about the serious invasion of Russia into Ukraine. We need a peaceful solution on the basis of international law," the Japanese PM said.

He further stated that India and Japan should increase efforts for an open and free Indo-Pacific region.

"Japan, along with India, will keep trying to end the war and keep providing support to Ukraine and its neighbouring countries," he said. Kishida arrived in Delhi on a two-day visit to take part in the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit on Saturday.

A joint statement of both countries stated: "The Prime Ministers recognised that the Summit was taking place at a significant time as the two countries were celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and India was celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence. They reviewed the developments since the last Annual Summit and discussed wide ranging areas of cooperation."

Re-affirming the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan, the Prime Ministers concurred that the shared values and principles enunciated in the India-Japan Vision Statement issued in 2018 are particularly relevant in the present context, where global cooperation is required more than ever to address challenges that have become more acute.

They highlighted their commitment to working in tandem towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous world, based on a rules-based order that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, and emphasized the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change status quo. In this regard, they reaffirmed their common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, free from coercion.

They shared the view that the economies of both countries in such a world would be powered by robust bilateral investment and trade flows through diversified, resilient, transparent, open, secure and predictable global supply chains that provide for economic security and prosperity of their peoples.

Reaffirming that the two countries would continue to work together to realise these shared objectives, they resolved to further advance the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

EXCEPT HARBHAJAN SINGH, AAP'S NOMINATIONS FOR RAJYA SABHA POLLS BETRAYAL OF PUNJAB: NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday took on AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal over his party's five nominees for the Rajya Sabha polls, saying except for former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, the rest of the nominations are a "betrayal of Punjab".

The Aam Aadmi Party nominated former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, Lovely Professional University founder Ashok Mittal, AAP MLA Raghav Chadha, IIT Delhi faculty Sandeep Pathak and industrialist Sanjeev Arora for the March 31 Rajya Sabha polls. All the five nominees had filed their nomination papers at the Punjab Vidhan Sabha complex on Monday. "New batteries for the Delhi remote control, it's blinking. Harbhajan is an exception, the rests are batteries and betrayal of Punjab! @ArvindKejriwal," said Sidhu in a tweet.

The term of five Rajya Sabha members from Punjab -- Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (Shiromani Akali Dal), Partap Singh Bajwa (Congress), Shwait Malik (BJP), Naresh Gujral (SAD) and Shamsher Singh Dullu (Congress) -- will expire on April 9.

The Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal had slammed the AAP over the nominations for the Upper House on Monday.

Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira had said the five nominations announced by AAP were not only disappointing but have a clear stamp of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Khaira had said he was under the impression that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann would ensure some prominent personalities from Punjab in Rajya Sabha so that they could



effectively take up the various issues pertaining to Punjab.

However, it appeared that by nominating Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Sanjeev Arora and Harbhajan Singh, the newly elected Chief Minister of Punjab "completely surrendered" the interests of Punjab, Khaira had said.

The SAD had said the AAP had struck the first blow against Punjab and Punjabiat by nominating "rank outsiders" to the Rajya Sabha and in the process "betrayed" the people of the state who had taken them to their word of bringing in sweeping positive change and given them a massive mandate.

GOA CM-DESIGNATE PRAMOD SAWANT TO TAKE OATH ON MARCH 28, PM MODI TO ATTEND

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Goa's caretaker Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will take oath as the Chief Minister of the coastal state on March 28. Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai will administer him the oath of office and secrecy at 11 am at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium in Panaji.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the swearing-in ceremony of Sawant, who took over the reins after the demise of Manohar Parrikar in 2019. Besides PM Modi, Union Minister Amit Shah, party's national president JP Nadda and others including the CMs of BJP-ruled states are likely to attend the event.

"I have invited PM Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda," Sawant had said on Monday. Sawant, 48, was elected as the legislature party leader on Monday in the presence of the party's central observer Narendra Singh Tomar and the party's poll in charge for Goa Devendra Fadnavis in Panaji. "Vishwajit Rane proposed the name of Pramod Sawant as the Leader of the Legislative Party and everyone unanimously elected him as the Leader. He will be the Leader of the Legislative Party for the next 5 years," Tomar told reporters on Monday after the meeting.

This would be the BJP's third consecutive government in Goa and Sawant's second term. The party had won elections in 2012 under the leadership of Manohar Parrikar. He had to resign in November 2014 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed him as the Defence Minister. He was succeeded by Laxmikant Parsekar. After 2017 polls, when the Goa Legislative Assembly was delivered with a fractured mandate, the BJP managed to form an alliance government despite emerging as the second largest party with 13 seats in the 40-member House. The BJP had then sent Parrikar back to Goa to lead the government. When Parrikar died in March 2019, the BJP leadership handpicked Sawant to sit at the helm of affairs in the state.

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV IS 'B-TEAM OF BJP', NOT BSP: MAYAWATI

Hitting back at "B-team of BJP" jibe, BSP supremo Mayawati on Tuesday alleged that rather than her party, it is Samajwadi Party patron Mulayam Singh Yadav who is open with the saffron party and also got his son blessed by it.

She also attacked Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav for changing the names of institutions named after B R Ambedkar during his tenure. "It is not the BSP, but SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav who is open with the BJP. In the last swearing-in, he had got Shri Akhilesh blessed by the BJP and has now sent a member to the BJP for his work," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi, in an apparent reference to Mulayam's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav, who recently joined the BJP.

"The Ambedkarites of UP will never forgive SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who had changed most of the names of schemes and institutions named after him (B R Ambedkar) during his (SP) government, which is disgusting and shameful," she said in another tweet.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is often called the "B-team of BJP" by its political rivals, especially after Union Home Minister Amit Shah remarked that the party has maintained its relevance.

"The BSP has maintained its relevance. I believe they will get votes. I do not know how much of it will convert into seats, but it will get votes," Shah had said during the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. Mayawati had later appreciated Shah for acknowledging that her party would get votes. The senior BJP leader's remark had also triggered speculation over the possibility of a post-election tie-up between the two parties. In 1995, 1997 and 2002, Mayawati was sworn in as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh with BJP's support.

BJP'S LIST FOR UP COUNCIL POLLS INCLUDES TURNCOATS



The BJP in Uttar Pradesh has released a list of 30 candidates for the upcoming polls to the state Legislative Council.

Names that figure in the list include those who had joined the party before the assembly elections. The party has also fielded party workers on a number of seats.

The party is expected to announce the names of remaining six candidates soon. The four former SP leaders who figured in the BJP's list of candidates for the upper house are C.P. Chand from the Gorakhpur-Maharajganj local authorities, Ravi Shankar Singh 'Pappu' from Ballia local authorities, Rama Niranjan from Jhansi-Jalaun-Lalitpur local authorities and Narendra Bhati from Bulandshahr local authorities.

Ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, several SP MLCs, including Narendra Singh Bhati, Shatrudra Prakash, Rama Niranjan, Ravi Shankar Singh Pappu, CP Chand, Ghanshyam Lodhi, Shailendra Pratap Singh and Ramesh Mishra, had joined the BJP.

The party has fielded Ram Chandra Pradhan, who switched over to the BJP from the BSP in 2013, from the Lucknow-Unnao seat. Pradhan's name had been doing the rounds for the last several elections, both for the Council and the Legislative Assembly.

Pradhan was also among the probables from Bakshi Ka Talab seat in the recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, but Yogesh Shukla was fielded from the seat. Similarly, the party has named Dinesh Pratap Singh, who had also switched loyalty from the Congress to the BJP a few years ago. He has been fielded from Rae Bareilly.

FUEL PRICES HIKE: 'THALI BAJAO,' RAHUL GANDHI'S SCATHING ATTACK ON CENTRE



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi came down heavily on the Centre over the exorbitant rise in petrol, diesel prices after almost 137 days. Petrol and diesel prices were on Tuesday hiked by 80 paise a litre each while domestic cooking gas LPG rates were increased by Rs 50 per cylinder as state oil firms ended an over four-and-half month election-related hiatus in rate revision, fanning inflation fears.

"The 'Lockdown' imposed on the prices of gas, diesel and petrol has been lifted," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Many Congress leaders also criticised Centre move. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "We said that there'll be an exorbitant rise in fuel prices post the Assembly elections, we've been proven right. Modi govt is not at all reluctant to loot the poor. We'll stand against this for common people both outside & inside the Lok Sabha." Congress leader and leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "By increasing fuel prices Modi govt is making money worth Rs.10,000 crores by plundering the poor. Many say prices are rising due to Ukraine-Russia crisis, but as per Petroleum Min, we didn't buy 1% of crude oil from Russia."

Among other Opposition leaders, Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan also flaked the Centre and said, "This is how the government does, Akhilesh Yadav has repeatedly said in his campaign that you people should be alert, the price is going to increase after the elections. Don't know who brought them (BJP) to power." Opposition parties protested in Lok Sabha on Tuesday against the increase in prices of fuel and cooking gas and staged a walkout demanding a rollback. Raising the issue after Question Hour, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the opposition parties had been claiming that the prices of diesel and petrol would increase after the election process.

UNIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL BODIES WILL RESTORE IMPORTANCE OF MAYOR IN DELHI



NEW DELHI, (IANS) The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday approved the Unification Bill, which paves the way for the merger of Delhi's three municipal corporations -- north, south and east -- into one. The Bill is likely to be tabled in the Parliament soon.

The move will once again make the office of 'Mayor' an important one, like it used to be before the trifurcation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in 2012, a profile that could be compared to that of the Chief Minister, sources said. Former Councillor Subhash Ayra, who was the leader of the house in the unified MCD from 2007-12, told IANS that the decision of trifurcating the MCD by the then Sheila Dikshit government was wrong, which was an attempt to cut the stature of the Mayor. "With the unification and the proposed 'One Mayor' for Delhi, the office will regain its lost glory and the person occupying it will once again receive the stature of 'first citizen' of the national capital. Earlier, the Mayor of Delhi used to receive foreign dignitaries at the airport as the first citizen of the city. After trifurcation, the office of Mayor lost its importance," Ayra said. Old timers said that before the trifurcation, the Mayor of Delhi was seen at par with the Chief Minister of the national capital. "When the MCD was unified, the post of Mayor was considered as a powerful one. But after the trifurcation, it lost all its gravity and significance," said a former member of the unified corporation.



HAS UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY JUST BLINKED IN THE WAR OF NERVES WITH RUSSIA'S PUTIN?

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Responding to Russia's demand that Ukraine should remain neutral, Zelenskyy has said he was willing to discuss security guarantees from Moscow to end the war, but after holding direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Our delegates (at the negotiations) have a clear task - to do all they can so the meeting between presidents takes place, the meeting I'm sure the people are waiting for," Zelenskyy had said on Sunday in a video address posted on the president's official Telegram channel. Russian and Ukrainian officials have been holding regular talks in Belarus.

Zelenskyy's remarks on seeking security guarantees aligned with Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov's assertion last week after his meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, at Antalya in Turkey that Moscow was willing to discuss security guarantees to Ukraine, Europe and Russia itself in the negotiations that were anticipated to end the war.

On Tuesday, Zelenskyy went a step closer to Moscow's demands when he ruled out Ukraine joining NATO. "It's clear that Ukraine is not a member of NATO. We understand this. We are reasonable people. For years we were told about supposedly 'open doors', but have also now heard that we cannot enter. This is the truth and this needs to be admitted," Zelenskyy said, speaking at a meeting of the leaders of the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force on Tuesday. By declaring that joining NATO was not on its radar, Zelenskyy appeared to be inching closer to meeting the second Russian condition-- of adopting a position of "neutrality" by shunning membership of any anti-Russian military alliance. Regarding the nature of security guarantees, Zelenskyy asserted that these could no longer be anchored to earlier declarations that had failed in protecting Kiev. For instance, the Ukrainian President stressed that the goal of his dialogue with his Russian counterpart was to obtain "effective" security guarantees,

"not like in Budapest or like on our skies".

Zelenskyy was referring to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances under which it agreed to give up its nuclear weapons inherited from the collapsed Soviet Union, sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state. In return it had received security guarantees. Russia, the US, and UK, were signatories of the Memorandum that had been signed with Ukraine. Zelenskyy said that guarantees should be such that Ukraine would not have any hesitation in saying, "this works, these are the guarantees." In the midst of diplomacy Russia, on its part, has stated that it wants to revisit NATO's Bucharest declaration of 2008, made at the Romanian capital, which had opened the door for Georgia and Ukraine's possible membership of the western military alliance. Russia, which has opposed NATO's eastern expansion, was already uncomfortable with the inclusion of membership of three ex-Soviet Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, located on Russia's doorstep as members of the western security alliance. For Moscow, further expansion of NATO to include Ukraine and Georgia was an unambiguous red line, violating which would involve the use of force.

"Western countries should refrain from establishing military facilities on the territory of former USSR states that are not members of the alliance, including the use of their infrastructure for conducting any military activity," Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov had told the Conference on Disarmament earlier this month. Significantly, Lavrov implied that the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which have already joined NATO after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but were part of the USSR after World War II, are not on Moscow's military radar. "NATO must follow the NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997 which froze the grouping's military capabilities, including strike [capabilities], and NATO infrastructure to that year, Lavrov had observed.

ALARM BELLS FOR PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

One of the major political parties, Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q), which is in alliance with the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has revealed that Prime Minister Imran Khan was 100 per cent in trouble because of the no-confidence motion against him. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, speaker of the Punjab provincial assembly and leader of PML-Q criticised Imran Khan for opting the revenge policy, which he said was not the way to govern a country.

"Imran Khan is 100 per cent in trouble, as his allies are on the opposition side. The government 100 per cent lacks wisdom and understanding. The prime minister has a great desire for revenge, which is evident from the fact that he puts everyone in National Accountability Bureau (NAB). There are no such ways to govern," he said.

"When Moonis Elahi (son of pervaiz elahi) delivered his speech... we started receiving threats from NAB. There are a lot of inexperienced people among the rulers. They should have learned first. If they come down, they would learn. The government is under threat from its own people," he added. Elahi said that the opposition alliance, led by Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People Party (PPP) and Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) have resisted the government orchestrated and maneuvered pressure, adding that today, the alliance is strong and lasting. "When opponents are united against one person, bitterness among them is forgotten." It is pertinent to mention here that the current ruling government of Imran Khan has been formed through many alliances with other political parties and electables, who had won their respective seats in independent capacity.

MAJORITY OF GERMANS SEE RACISM AS 'SERIOUS PROBLEM': SURVEY



BERLIN, (IANS) A majority, or 60 per cent, of the people living in Germany said that racism in the country was a "serious problem", according to a new survey published by the research institute YouGo on Monday. Almost one in two believed that too little was done to combat racism in Germany. Xinhua news agency quoted the survey as saying on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Among German citizens, only 13 per cent reported being victims of racial discrimination, according to the survey. For people without German citizenship, the number jumped to 46 per cent. "Racism does not start with violence. It happens in everyday life," said Minister of State for Migration, Refugees and Integration Reem Alabali-Radovan last week. "We must be vigilant against every form of propaganda, disinformation and conspiracy myths."



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Model: R-8168M
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White or Stainless Steel

STANDARD FEATURES

- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters
- Front steam baffle
- Maximum power with intelligent sensor
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- White, Black & Stainless Steel

STANDARD FEATURES

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- Teflon-coated non-stick fan blades
- Rear oil collectors
- Grease-free inner parts
- Patented twin oil trapping cones with filters
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Cocktail International, Canada's leading event management company, organized Desi Business Gala/ Global Trade Expo 2020



Cocktail International, a leading event management company based in Canada, in association with Dreammedia Agency, WANZ Global, and Y Media organized Desi Business Gala / Global Trade Expo 2020* at Convention Centre Courtyard by Marriott Toronto-Brampton on 20th March 2022. The event witnessed large-scale public interest, and a range of entertainment activities had been planned for families and children. These activities included a live musical performance, magic show, face painting, henna tattoos, clothes exhibit and food stalls.

Additionally, the attendees were greeted by the celebrity hosts of the Desi Vibe Radio Show which has gained a massive listenership across the GTA in the Urdu category. The attendees expressed appreciation and joy for the execution of this successful business gala by Cocktail International in collaboration with the Dream Media Agency. The Honorable Mr. Abdul Hameed Consul General of Pakistan in Toronto addressed the attendees and lauded the efforts of Cocktail International for uniting the community under one platform. He also added that events such as these are a great way to build connections and establish a strong network that could later supplement trade and commerce activities within and outside the community. Moreover, he was of the view that the Global Trade Expo 2022 is playing a fundamental role to



strengthen the Pakistan-Canada bilateral relations and opening more avenues for growth and business development. Deputy Mayor Brampton Mr. Pat Fortini, who was also in attendance, further added that Cocktail International takes its role in the event management market seriously and such endeavors could prove to be a leading light for the local community to turn the corner and step into economic recovery amidst the pandemic. Talking about the success of the event, Syed Sumair Alam, the Director at Cocktail stated, that families had a great time at the gathering and were also able to showcase their products to avail business opportunities. Syed also added that Cocktail would



continue arranging such events in the future to benefit local business owners, buyers, and the community. "It highlights our goal of helping women, men, and families to see a bright future ahead of them and reboot from the Covid-19 lockdown, even when they may be struggling or facing difficulties. We're building a community where families are strong and life is cherished, and the Global Trade Expo is one such opportunity for our supporters and partners to have fun together while helping us pursue that mission." Y Media Group Editor & Ceo, Yudhvir Jaswal, also addressed the attendees and congratulated Cocktail International for their immense success.

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MADHURI DIXIT: OTT PLATFORMS
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KATRINA KAIF-VICKY KAUSHAL, ANANYA PANDAY, ALIA BHATT MAKE STUNNING APPEARANCES AT BOLLYWOOD BASH



BOLLYWOOD ACTRESSES RAKUL PREET SINGH, TARA SUTARIA, ANANYA PANDAY AND KATRINA KAIF LEFT US IMPRESSED WITH THEIR OUTFIT CHOICES AS THEY ATTENDED THE STAR-STudded BASH HOSTED BY DHARMA PRODUCTIONS CEO APOORVA MEHTA. AT DHARMA PRODUCTIONS CEO APROOVA MEHTA'S 50TH BIRTHDAY BASH, STARS DESCENDED ON THE RED CARPET. ALIA BHATT, ANANYA PANDAY AND KATRINA KAIF LOOKED STUNNING IN BEAUTIFUL DRESSES. KATRINA KAIF LOOKED STUNNING IN A BLUE COLOURED MINI DRESS. SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HER HUSBAND VICKY KAUSHAL WHO LOOKED DAPPER IN A SUIT. ANANYA PANDAY HAD ALL THE EYES ON HER AS SHE IMPRESSED US IN A SHEER DRESS. SHE POSED GRACEFULLY FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS. ALIA BHATT LOOKED STUNNING IN A FLORAL PRINT TUBE DRESS WHICH SHE PAIRED UP WITH A BLAZER. IT WAS THE PERFECT GLAM OUTFIT FOR THE NIGHT.

VIDYA BALAN SAYS PEOPLE ARE SHAMELESS WITH THE KIND OF ROLES THEY OFFER HER: 'THEY WANT TO TAKE THEIR CHANCES'



After enthralling audiences with Sherni and Shakuntala Devi last year, Vidya Balan has now returned with Jalsa. The intriguing drama also features Shefali Shah and has been directed by Tumhari Sulu director Suresh Triveni. Even though it's 14 years since the Paa actor made her debut, she mentioned how with every film, she feels like she is delivering a baby and as the due date comes near, she wants to get done with it. "You are like ab bas hogaya (laughs). There is always excitement but you just want the film to be out soon," Vidya shared with media. The title of the film has sparked numerous debates, with people even calling it Amitabh Bachchan's 'house biopic'. Laughing at the reference, the actor wondered who they thought among her and Shefali qualified for the part. Jalsa as one would know is used as a term for a celebration or a bash. Given the film looks 'serious' we quizzed Vidya on the justification of the title.

ALIA BHATT, RANBIR KAPOOR TAKE BOAT RIDE IN VARANASI AS THEY SHOOT FOR BRAHMASTRA'S LAST SCHEDULE



Love birds Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are currently in Varanasi to complete the final schedule of their upcoming film 'Brahmastra'. Several pictures of the couple from the shooting location have surfaced online. In one of the images, Alia, Ranbir, and filmmaker Ayan Mukerji can be seen shooting at one of the ghats in Varanasi. The viral videos and images feature Alia and Ranbir sporting yellow and orange-coloured outfits respectively. They both can be seen having a boat ride. In another video being circulated on social media, Ali Bhatt can be seen wearing a long yellow maxi dress, while Ranbir can be seen sporting a red shirt. Recently, on the occasion of Alia Bhatt's birthday on March 15, her first look as Isha was unveiled. "Happy birthday to me. can't think of a better day and a better way for you'll to meet Isha.. Ayan my wonder boy. I love you. Thank you!" Alia captioned the video introducing her first look from the film. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, superhero adventure, Brahmastra, is billed as the first part in a trilogy. In the film, Ranbir Kapoor will be seen as Shiva while Alia Bhatt plays his love interest Isha who supports him in his quest for the all-powerful Brahmastra.

'AANE WALE BABY KI MUMMY' BHARTI SINGH RADIATES PREGNANCY GLOW IN GORGEOUS MATERNITY SHOOT



Mom-to-be Bharti Singh has been quite active on social media. The comedian, who is expecting her first baby with Haارش Limbachiyaa, on Saturday shared a few pictures from her stunning maternity shoot. Leaving her friends and fans in awe, she looked beautiful as she flaunted her baby bump in a mauve ruffled gown. Bharti, who was seen cradling her baby bump in the photos, wore minimal makeup and left her hair loose. Well, her pregnancy glow is adding more charm to her pictures. Dropping the pictures, Bharti Singh captioned, "Aane wale baby ki mummy (mother to the soon-to-be-born baby)." She also added the hashtags, #babycomingsoon #momtobe #love #lovelyfeeling #blessed #ganpatibappamorya #bhartisingh #haarshlimbachiyyaa." The post received much love from Bharti and Haارش's friends and family members. Ace filmmaker Karan Johar took to the comments section and wrote, "So pretty."

RASHAMI DESAI OPENS UP ON HER LATEST TRACK 'BIRAJ MEIN JHOOM'



POPULAR TELEVISION ACTRESS RASHAMI DESAI SEEMS QUITE EXCITED FOR HER LATEST HOLI SONG 'BIRAJ MEIN JHOOM'.

YAMI GAUTAM LOOKS VERY MUCH A POLICE OFFICER IN LATEST 'DASVI' POSTER



ACTRESS YAMI GAUTAM LOOKS EVERY INCH STRONG HEADED AND INTENSE IN A NEW POSTER FOR HER UPCOMING FILM.

ANUSHKA SHARMA STEPS AWAY FROM HER PRODUCTION COMPANY TO FOCUS ON ACTING



ANUSHKA SHARMA ANNOUNCED THAT SHE IS STEPPING DOWN FROM THE CLEAN SLATE FILMZ PRODUCTION HOUSE.

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CAPTAIN RISHABH PANT SHARES FIRST IMPRESSION OF NEW-LOOK DELHI CAPITALS TEAM



DELHI CAPITALS' CAPTAIN RISHABH PANT, WHO ATTENDED HIS FIRST TRAINING SESSION WITH THE SIDE IN MUMBAI, EXPRESSED THAT ALL PLAYERS ARE IN A GOOD FRAME OF MIND AHEAD OF THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE (IPL) 2022 SEASON.

PUNJAB KINGS (PBKS) SWOT: SOLID ON PAPER, BUT CAN THEY DELIVER?



MAYANK AGARWAL WILL BE THE 13TH CAPTAIN OF THE MOHALI-BASED FRANCHISE SINCE THE TOURNAMENT'S INCEPTION IN 2008. THERE WOULD BE THE TACTICALLY SHREWD ANIL KUMBLE, MENTORING THE TEAM FOR A TACTICALLY NAIVE MAYANK.

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Vidya Balan: 'Jalsa' will change the way people look at life

Actress Vidya Balan, whose film 'Jalsa' releases on OTT on Friday, revealed that the film will trigger a change of arc in the audience as well on some level. Linking it to the challenges that life throws at people, the actress said that every achievement calls for a 'jalsa' (celebration). Talking about the film, she said, "Jalsa' is a celebration and I think we keep on talking, you should celebrate every single day. At the end of the film you will realize that you have been through something and you emerge on the other side of it. It is like a celebra-

tion." Explaining further, she said, "There was a scene, where the politician's son keeps using 'JalsabapuJalsa' on all his hoardings. Every little challenge you overcome is a 'Jalsa' or rather requires a 'Jalsa'. It's a celebration of life with its ups and downs." She concluded by sharing her biggest takeaway from the project, as she said, "I think one thing all will take away is the fact that no one is infallible, we are all human and we are bound to something and that's what makes us human. It is to fall and get on your own feet that life is all about."

Madhuri Dixit: OTT platforms allow artistes to explore global stories



Actress Madhuri Dixit Nene, who recently made her OTT debut with the series, 'The Fame Game', feels that the medium of OTT makes a film artiste one with the global platform as the distribution of content on OTT is worldwide.

It allows a storyteller to put their story in front of the world and add their narrative to the global repository of content. The actress said, "I think that we are adding our own story to so many stories around the world and I think that is the way OTT works."

"In the medium of OTT you can be a first-time director but you can show a story in your own language or shoot it the way you want to. It gives you that flexibility to test and toy around with the subject of your story", she added. Madhuri's 'The Fame Game' is a suspenseful family drama, which follows the story of actress Anamika Anand (played by Madhuri), who one fine day goes missing. The investigation that follows her sudden disappearance, uncovers the messy truth behind her perfect life and family.

NUSHRRATT ON BACK-TO-BACK RELEASES: I'M WALKING ON CLOUD NINE

Actress Nushratt Bharuccha says she is on cloud nine as she has back-to-back releases. Her latest is an announcement of a film and a song release at the same time. The actress has recently made the headlines with the virality of her recent love song, featuring Sunny Kaushal alongside the announcement of her upcoming lead project, 'Selfiee', co starring Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi. Speaking about the same, the actress mentioned, "It's definitely an exciting time professionally because I am finally getting to share some of the things I have been working on, with the audience. Yesterday our song, 'Kya Yehi Pyaar Hai' released and we also announced 'Selfiee' so these 2 projects coming together, while I am shooting for other various projects, really feels like I'm walking on Cloud Nine."



YAMI GAUTAM LOOKS VERY MUCH A POLICE OFFICER IN LATEST 'DASVI' POSTER



Actress Yami Gautam looks every inch strong headed and intense in a new poster for her upcoming film 'Dasvi'.

Looking strong and sublime in her IPS officer avatar, the poster showcases Yami's fierce and fearless side. The trailer of the film is all set to be unveiled on Wednesday.

The film, which is presented by Jio Studios and Dinesh Vijan and produced by Maddock Films and Bake My Cake Films, has been directed by Tushar Jalota. In addition, it also stars Yami Gautam and Nimrat Kaur. The film will be available to stream on Jio Cinema and Netflix from April 7.

ANUSHKA SHARMA STEPS AWAY FROM HER PRODUCTION COMPANY TO FOCUS ON ACTING

Anushka Sharma has stepped away from Clean Slate Filmz (CSF), a production banner that she co-founded with her brother Karnesh Sharma in the year 2013. The actress shared the news of her departure from the production company through social media on Saturday. The actress wants to commit her time to the craft of acting and this decision allows her to dedicate her time and resources to her first love which is acting. The move makes Karnesh the sole decision maker and places him at the helm of affairs at Clean Slate Filmz.

Taking to her Instagram, Anushka shared a long note as she wrote in the caption, "Onwards and Upwards @kans26 @officialcsfilms! My best wishes are always with you!!" The actress shared in the long note, "When I started Clean Slate Filmz with my brother Karnesh Sharma, we were novices when it came to production but we had a fire in our belly and we wanted to try and set the agenda of entertainment in India through clutter-breaking content. Today, when I look back at our journey so far, I'm deeply proud of what we have created and the disruption that we have managed to achieve." Mentioning the reason behind this decision, she said, "While CSF started with my vision to change the narrative of what commercial projects should be like, I have to credit Karnesh who has excelled in shaping what CSF has become today. Being a new mother who has chosen to be an actor by profession, I have to balance my life in an entirely new fashion like never before."

BADSHAH, BHARTI SINGH WIN NICKELODEON KIDS CHOICE AWARDS 2021

Rapper Badshah and popular comedian Bharti Singh share their excitement on winning Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards 2021.

Badshah said: "Kids don't hide it when they are bored, which is why it is important to keep giving them something different. With 2021 being challenging for them, to be able to entertain and engage with such a tough audience twice is exhilarating." The rapper who had twice won the award feels lucky on being favourite and chosen again. "I feel fortunate to be chosen twice as the Favourite Rapper at the Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards 2021. I look forward to creating more songs and entertaining them throughout," he added. On the other hand, Bharti Singh has won the Best TV actor and quite elated on her win, Bharti said: "I feel fortunate for the wonderful response received by kids."

KATRINA CELEBRATES FIRST HOLI WITH KAUSHALS, SHARES WHOLESOME PICS



Actress Katrina Kaif shared the pictures from her first Holi with husband Vicky Kaushal and her in-laws recently.

Taking to her Instagram, the actress shared two pictures, where she can be seen in the company of Vicky's father and acclaimed action director Sham Kaushal, his mother Veena Kaushal, and brother Sunny. Everyone is seen smiling with gulal on their faces. In the second picture, Veena is seen touching Katrina's cheek, as they posed for the camera. This year's Holi is Vicky and Katrina's first since their wedding. In the photos, Katrina is seen posing with Vicky's parents and his brother Sunny Kaushal. Vicky and Katrina got married in December in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. The very intimate wedding ceremony was attended only by their closest friends and family members. After the ceremony, they headed to the Maldives for a honeymoon and returned to Mumbai in just a few days. The couple also rented an apartment in the Juhu area of Mumbai after their marriage in December.

KANGANA RANAUT THRILLED AS 'LOCK UPP' GETS 100 MILLION VIEWS



Bollywood actress and host Kangana Ranaut is elated with the response being received by the fearless reality show 'Lock Upp', which has got 100 million views in just 19 days.

Kangana said: "100MN views in 19 days is just incredible and I am overwhelmed with the love and affection that 'Lock Upp' is receiving from the viewers. This proves that the concept of the show is unique and highly entertaining."

"The views on the show are proof that Ekta Kapoor's vision has once again hit bullseye, and that along with the huge reach that MX Player reveals that together, they know the audience pulse better than anyone else on OTT. 'Lock Upp' is only going to get bigger and more fearless from this point on," she added.

'Lock Upp' streams on ALTBalaji and MX Player.

PRIYANKA'S CELEBRATES HOLI WITH NICK JONAS, SHARES FESTIVITY PICS



Actress Priyanka Chopra who will be next seen in the OTT thriller series 'Citadel', celebrated a colourful Holi with her husband Nick Jonas and friends and family at her home in Los Angeles in California. The actress took to her Instagram to share a series of pictures, videos and boomerangs. In the first post, she shared a video of herself and Nick where the both can be applying colours to each other and Priyanka giving a peck to Nick.

The other pictures in the series show her by the pool side, soaking in the sun with colours of Holi all over. She captioned the post, "To be able to find some joy at a time when the world feels so scary is such a blessing. Happy holi everyone. Thank you to our friends and family for playing holi like desi's do! Feeling blessed. #photodump #happyholi #goodoverevil #festivalofcolours (sic)." Her second post consists of three pictures - herself, Nick and the couple sharing a kiss. Taking a quirky route for the second post, Priyanka captioned the picture with the lyrics of her own song from the film, 'Waqt: The Race Against Time'. She wrote, "Do me a favor.. let's play holi. Sorry. Had to! #holihai (sic)."

RASHAMI DESAI OPENS UP ON HER LATEST TRACK 'BIRAJ MEIN JHOOM'



Popular television actress Rashami Desai seems quite excited for her latest Holi song 'Biraj Mein Jhoom'. She can be seen twirling in the track in a traditional attire.

The song is based on the mythological significance of the festival revolving around Lord Krishna's reunion with Radha. Rashami says: "Holi is by far the most fun-filled festival in our country. And the history backing this energetic festival is all hearts." "Rarely anyone has tapped in on the story behind Holi in Holi songs and to be part of something so spiritual and creative is a great opportunity for me. I am thrilled to be in a song so close to Lord Krishna's sojourn of love," she adds. 'Biraj Mein Jhoom' is sung by Anuradha Palakurthi Juju, music by Salim Sulaiman and BappaLehri and produced by Juju production.

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MidWeek Sports



Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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Vol 22 Issue 12, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

IPL 2022 SCHEDULE

MATCH	DATE	DAY	TIME (IST)	TEAM	VENUE
1	26 MAR	SAT	7:30 PM	CHENNAI vs KOLKATA	WANKHEDE STADIUM
2	27 MAR	SUN	3:30 PM	DELHI vs MUMBAI	BRABOURNE - CCI
3	27 MAR	SUN	7:30 PM	PUNJAB vs BANGALORE	DY PATIL STADIUM
4	28 MAR	MON	7:30 PM	GUJARAT vs LUCKNOW	WANKHEDE STADIUM
5	29 MAR	TUE	7:30 PM	HYDERABAD vs RAJASTHAN	MCA STADIUM, PUNE
6	30 MAR	WED	7:30 PM	BANGALORE vs KOLKATA	DY PATIL STADIUM
7	31 MAR	THU	7:30 PM	LUCKNOW vs CHENNAI	BRABOURNE - CCI
8	1 APR	FRI	7:30 PM	KOLKATA vs PUNJAB	WANKHEDE STADIUM
9	2 APR	SAT	3:30 PM	MUMBAI vs RAJASTHAN	DY PATIL STADIUM
10	2 APR	SAT	7:30 PM	GUJARAT vs DELHI	MCA STADIUM, PUNE
11	3 APR	SUN	7:30 PM	CHENNAI vs PUNJAB	BRABOURNE - CCI
12	4 APR	MON	7:30 PM	HYDERABAD vs LUCKNOW	DY PATIL STADIUM
13	5 APR	TUE	7:30 PM	RAJASTHAN vs BANGALORE	WANKHEDE STADIUM
14	6 APR	WED	7:30 PM	KOLKATA vs MUMBAI	MCA STADIUM, PUNE
15	7 APR	THU	7:30 PM	LUCKNOW vs DELHI	DY PATIL STADIUM



INDIA WOMEN VS BANGLADESH WOMEN WORLD CUP 2022: INDIA BEAT BANGLADESH BY 110 RUNS TO STAY ALIVE



Yastika Bhatia's gritty half-century and Sneha Rana's all-round performance powered India a dominating 110-run win over Bangladesh and kept them in the hunt for a semifinal spot at the ICC Women's World Cup, here on Tuesday. Opting to bat, India recovered from a mid-inning collapse to post a modest 229 for seven, riding on a responsible 80-ball 50 by Bhatia and a late flourish from Rana (27) and Pooja Vastrakar (30). Defending the total, the spinners, led by Rana (4/30), controlled the proceedings as they struck at regular intervals. India bowled out Bangladesh for 119 in 40.3 overs to register their third win of the tournament. The big win helped India improve their Net-Run-Rate (0.768) further. The Mithali Raj-led side will take on South Africa in the final league match on Sunday. Before that match, if the second-placed Proteas beat West Indies on Thursday India's semifinal chances will get better. India's decision to bring in senior spinner Poonam Yadav (1/25) in place of pacer Meghna Singh paid dividends. With spinners operating from both the ends on a slow track, Bangladesh found the run-scoring difficult. India restricting Bangladesh to 69/5 after 25 overs. Lata Mondal (24) and Salma Khatun (32) provided some resistance with a 40-run partnership which was broken by Jhulan Goswami when she dismissed the latter, while Vastrakar accounted for the former a few overs later. The pace duo of Goswami (2/19) and Vastrakar (2/26) shared four wickets between them while the spinners accounted for the rest. Earlier, Smriti Mandhana (30) and Shafali Verma (42) shared 74 runs for the opening wicket but Ritu Moni (3/37) and Nahida Akter (2/42) shared five wickets between them to reduce India from 74 for no loss to 108 for 4 at one stage.

IPL 2022: VIRAT KOHLI BACKS NEW RCB SKIPPER FAF DU PLESSIS, SAYS FORMER CSK PLAYER 'COMMANDS RESPECT'



Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) veteran Virat Kohli says Faf du Plessis's solid leadership skills was a key reason that they planned to grab his services for the upcoming IPL edition. Kohli, who has been with Royal Challengers right from the first edition in 2008 and as full-time captain since 2013, relinquished captaincy after last year's IPL. RCB will now be led by four-time IPL winner Du Plessis, who was purchased by the franchise for Rs 7 crore in the mega auction last month. "Getting Faf at the auctions for us, the plan was very clear. We need a leader in the change room who commands a lot of respect. Commands not demands, because he has been there done that," Kohli said in video posted by RCB's twitter handle. He's a Test captain, that profile comes with a lot of accolades already and we are excited for him to lead RCB. He will do a tremendous job. "We get along really well with him, all of us myself Maxi

(Glenn Maxwell) Dinesh Karthik and I think all the guys will enjoy this tournament," he added. Kohli joined the RCB preparatory camp on Monday. The Indian batting veteran had earlier said he made the decision to quit RCB captaincy as he wanted some space to manage his workload. "It's unbelievable IPL has come this far. (I'm here with) Renewed energy because I'm off a lot of responsibilities and duties and life is in a very good place. For me, it's all about going about life with a lot of joy and happiness. My focus is so clear, it's so precise what I want to do -- have a lot of fun and enjoy myself on the field and give myself fully to this team, like I have for many years, without any load." The 15th edition of the Indian Premier League is set to begin from Saturday with defending champions Chennai Super Kings taking on Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium.

CAPTAIN RISHABH PANT SHARES FIRST IMPRESSION OF NEW-LOOK DELHI CAPITALS TEAM



Delhi Capitals' captain Rishabh Pant, who attended his first training session with the side in Mumbai, expressed that all players are in a good frame of mind ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 season. "It seems like the team has been made for the first time. I observed every player during my first practice session with the team and it looks like everybody is in a good frame of mind. Everybody is enjoying each other's company." The wicketkeeper-batter also spoke to the new players about the DC team environment. "At the moment, we are trying to understand what do the new players need during nets sessions. We are discussing the roles the players can take up during matches and the kind of team environment we would like to set up. We have spoken to the new players about the team environment we've had in the last few years."

Rafael Nadal beats Nick Kyrgios in quarterfinal at Indian Wells, goes to 19-0

Rafael Nadal defeated Nick Kyrgios 7-6 (0), 5-7, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open in a match featuring obscenities, underhand serves, a point penalty and smashed rackets. Nadal improved to 19-0 this year, the third-best start to a season since 1990. "Happy about that third set because it wasn't easy after the end of the second. It was terrible for me," he said on Thursday. "But I hold it emotionally, and mentally, I think I was ready to keep fighting." So was Kyrgios. After the post-match handshake, Kyrgios walked to his seat and smashed his racket on the court. It bounced up and away, nearly striking a ball boy standing at the back of the court. Kyrgios walked off to a mix of boos and cheers. "It landed a meter from my foot and skidded and nearly hit him," Kyrgios said. "I'm human. Things happen like that. Obviously it was a very unfortunate bounce. I think if I did that a million times over it wouldn't have gone that way." Nadal was on his side of the court and said he didn't see Kyrgios toss his racket after the match. "I think Nick had a great attitude during the whole match in terms of fighting spirit, and of course he has his personality, his character," Nadal said. "Sometimes he does things that I don't like, but I respect because of different character, different kind of points of view, and different kind of education." Trailing 0-6 in the first-set tiebreaker, Kyrgios was serving when the chair umpire assessed him a point penalty for an audible obscenity to a fan, giving Nadal the set. Kyrgios dropped the balls he was holding and calmly walked to his seat. In the sixth game of the first set, Kyrgios led 40-love when he served underhanded. Nadal stepped up and bashed a forehand winner down the line. Kyrgios responded with a 140-mph ace to go up 4-2. He also had leads of 3-1 and 5-3 in the set.

BIO-BUBBLES HAVE BROUGHT THE TEAM TOGETHER, SAYUS LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS SKIPPER KL RAHUL

Indian cricket team vice-captain KL Rahul has said that initially, he wanted to stay away from the bio-bubble, but now has become used to it. The newly-appointed captain of Lucknow Super Giants, Rahul added that the last few months have been very difficult for him in bio-bubble as it is very hard not being able to meet family and friends regularly while staying in bio bubbles. But he also sees the positive side. "I think the bubbles have brought the team together. We've gotten to know each other a lot better. We end up spending a lot of time with each other," said KL Rahul. The 29-year-old Rahul added that the life of cricketers has been very difficult since the Covid-19 pandemic began as they have to stay inside the bio-bubble.

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RAJASTHAN ROYALS HAVE FANTASTIC PACE ATTACK, SAYS FAST BOWLING COACH MALINGA

Newly-appointed fast bowling coach Lasith Malinga feels Rajasthan Royals have a fantastic pace attack with a good mix of experienced international players, genuine Indian quicks and youngsters. Malinga, who took 546 wickets in 340 international matches across three formats for Sri Lanka and also led the country to the 2014 ICC T20 World Cup triumph, has been roped in by the Royals as their new fast bowling coach ahead of IPL-15. "I think we have a fantastic pace attack. You've got experienced overseas players like Boult and Coulter-Nile, with whom I've worked before," Malinga was quoted as saying in a media release. "Then we've got genuine Indian fast bowlers in Prasidh (Krishna) and (Navdeep) Saini, who have proven themselves at the

highest level, and some new faces in Anunay Singh, Kuldeep Sen and Kuldeep Yadav. "In T20 cricket, I think little margins really matter, and I'm here to guide them to deliver their best in all situations," he added. Talking about joining the new franchise, the 38-year-old, who is also IPL's highest wicket-taker, said he's enjoying his new role. "It is certainly a new thing for me to get into coaching and pass on my experience to the younger players. I have played this role before with Mumbai, and now I'm delighted to be working with Rajasthan Royals. It is a new place for me, but I'm enjoying my role so far working with such a talented group of bowlers." Having been associated with Mumbai Indians for 13 seasons, he also recalled how the move to Royals came about.

PUNJAB KINGS (PBKS) SWOT: SOLID ON PAPER, BUT CAN THEY DELIVER?

Mayank Agarwal-led Punjab Kings (PBKS) are looking solid on the paper. The Punjab-based franchise were one of the most active teams during the IPL mega auction and they operated intelligently and have covered most bases.

Punjab Kings will start their campaign against Royal Challengers Bangalore on March 27.

The opening pair of Jonny Bairstow and Shikhar Dhawan, followed by Mayank Aggarwal and Liam Livingstone, form an enviable top-order. Add Tamil Nadu's hard-hitting batter Shikhar Khan and West Indies' all-rounder Odean Smith; Punjab Kings certainly has one of the most exciting batting line-up in the tournament. The Punjab Kings also have a stellar support staff with former India captain Anil Kumble at the helm. Jonty Rhodes is their fielding coach, while Damien Wright is the bowling coach.

The middle-order is unsettled as well as brittle. It will be interesting to see where Livingstone and Shikhar will bat. If they bat at 4 and 5, then they will lack a finisher down the order. Punjab Kings' pace attack does not look convincing. In Kagiso Rabada, they only have one genuine pace bowler. Odean Smith is nippy but can go for plenty in the death overs. The Punjab Kings will be banking on the Indian pace batteries off Arshdeep Singh, Sandeep Sharma, Ishan Porel, Raj Angad Bawa, Baltej Singh, Vaibhav Arora and Rishi Dhawan. They don't have a great back-option in the bowling department, too, and if one of their frontline bowlers suffers an injury, it will prove to be a nightmare for the team management. Big chance for the youngsters like Raj Angad Bawa, Rahul Chahar, Shikhar Khan, Arshdeep Singh, and Prabhsimran Singh to underline their credentials. A lot will depend on the spin duo of leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar how they operate in the middle over. If on song, Punjab Kings' top order can swing any matches in their favour. Liam Livingstone's experience in the Twenty20 format will help the side.



ALL-ENGLAND BADMINTON FINAL: DANE VIKTOR AXELSEN OUTPLAYS INDIAN LAKSHYA SEN



Attacking from the very first point, the world No. 1 and the reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark completely outplayed unseeded 20-year-old Lakshya Sen of India to regain the prestigious Yonex All-England Badminton crown - which he won in 2020 - in straight games 21-10, 21-15. Taller and bigger built, the 28-year-old Dane raced to a 6-0 lead in the first game, winning three of them with powerful smashes. Sen, wearing a mainly yellow tee-shirt and multi-coloured shorts, fought back with two smashes of his own, but with errors, forced and unforced, he surrendered the game quite tamely. Although No. 11 in the world and No. 1 on the 2022 Tour, Sen's net-play, which is his strength, was neutralised by Axelsen lobbing rather than taking him on in such a duel. The Indian's delicate dribbles, which inconvenienced opponents in earlier rounds, were missing. Despite serving first, in the second game, too, Sen trailed, this time 0-3, before he got on the board. But he hung in, winning an energy-sapping 70-shot rally narrow the score to 11-17.

TASKIN AHMED NOT TO REPLACE MARK WOOD IN LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS TEAM AS BCB REFUSE TO GIVE NOC

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed, who was approached by IPL side Lucknow Super Giants as a replacement for injured England quick Mark Wood, will not participate in the cash-rich league, the country's cricket board (BCB) has said. According to a report by local media, Super Giants reached out to the 26-year old pacer after Wood was ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow injury. New entrants Super Giants had paid Rs 7.5 crore for Wood at the IPL auction last month. However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has refused to give Taskin the No-Objection Certificate to take part in the IPL as it clashes with the ongoing tour of South Africa.

WRESTLER BAJRANG PUNIA, PARALYMPIAN AMIT SAROHA RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved a financial assistance of Rs 6.16 lakh for Tokyo Games bronze medallist Bajrang Punia for the 18-day special training camp he undertook in Iran. Bajrang was accompanied by his coach Sujeet Mann. He is now set to be in action in the selection trials on March 24 at the KD Jadhav Wrestling Indoor Stadium in the national capital. Bajrang, who will compete in the 65kg category, is looking to register his name for the Indian senior freestyle and greco roman style wrestling teams that will compete at the forthcoming Senior Asian Wrestling Championship in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from April 24.

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