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EXIT POLLS 2022: AAP IN PUNJAB, BJP IN UP& MANIPUR, HUNGASSEMBLY IN UTTARAKHAND, GOA

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is ahead in Punjab, the Congress is within striking distance of the majority mark in Uttarakhand, while Goa is again throwing up a hung Assembly, as per the ABP C-Voter Exit Poll. Arvind Kejriwal's AAP is way ahead of the Congress and Akali Dal in Punjab, as per the Exit Poll.

AAP is projected to get 56 seats in the 117-member Punjab assembly, within kissing distance of the majority mark. The ruling Congress is slated to get 25 seats while the Akali Dal is projected to get 23 seats. The X factor in Punjab elections is that a large number of marginal seats will be decisive.

The ruling BJP is set to retain power in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh with a tally of 236 seats, as per the ABP C-Voter Exit Poll. However, the BJP will return to power with a reduced margin in the 403-member UP Assembly, with a loss of 89 seats after winning 325 seats in 2017.

The Samajwadi Party will put up an impressive show and is likely to get 140 seats, up 92 from its previous tally of 48 seats, but far short to challenge the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is projected to win 17 seats, while six seats will go to the Congress. The BJP is holding on to its vote share at 40.5 per cent, down by a mere 0.9 per cent. The SP is gaining 10 per cent vote share at 33.6 per cent.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 3

AMID UKRAINE CRISIS, PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU MEETS UK PM BORIS JOHNSON

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, concluded a productive bilateral visit to the United Kingdom (UK). The visit reinforced the strong and longstanding relationship between our two countries and our shared commitments to holding Russia accountable for the unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, promoting international peace and security, protecting democracy, and working collectively to address global challenges including climate change.

During his visit, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Prime Minister Boris Johnson to discuss and continue to respond to the ongoing military aggression by Russia against Ukraine. Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will impose new restrictions on 10 individuals complicit in Russia's unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, including former and current senior government officials, and supporters of Russian leadership. These measures put further pressure on Russia's leadership, including President Putin's inner circle, to cease its repeated violations of human rights and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Both leaders agreed to pursue further joint support for Ukraine by providing critical humanitarian and military aid and ensuring that Russia is held accountable for its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion, including by referring the attacks to the International Criminal Court. The Prime Minister emphasized that Canada was the first country to recently revoke Russia's and Belarus's Most-Favoured-Nation status as a trading partner, resulting in a 35 per cent tariff rate on virtually all goods imported from the two countries.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

BANK OF CANADA INCREASES POLICY INTEREST RATE TO 0.5%

The Bank of Canada today increased its target for the overnight rate to ½ %, with the Bank Rate at ¾ % and the deposit rate at ½ %. The Bank is continuing its reinvestment phase, keeping its overall holdings of Government of Canada bonds on its balance sheet roughly constant until such time as it becomes appropriate to allow the size of its balance sheet to decline.

The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a major new source of uncertainty. Prices for oil and other commodities have risen sharply. This will add to inflation around the world, and negative impacts on confidence and new supply disruptions could weigh on global growth. Financial market volatility has increased. The situation remains fluid and we are following events closely.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

AVERAGE HOME PRICE REACHES 1.3 MILLION IN GTA, UP BY 27.7% LAST FEBRUARY

February home sales were down compared to the all-time record in 2021, but represented the second-best result for the month of February in history. New listings dropped, but by a marginally lesser annual rate than sales, pointing to a modest move to a slightly more balanced market. Competition between buyers, however, remained tight enough to support double-digit price growth year-over-year. Greater Toronto Area (GTA) REALTORS® reported 9,097 sales through the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's (TRREB) MLS® System in February 2022, representing a 16.8 per cent decrease in the number of sales compared to February 2021.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 8

ZELENSKY& PUTIN: CAN THE WORLD MAKE A NARROW ESCAPE?

NIRENDRA DEV

It takes two to tango. The proverb is seemingly a failed dictum today. The ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict is at best due to the whim of one. For Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has triggered a major military conflict in Europe with the potential to kick off a world war, there have been some surreal ideas that he has an appointment with history, with fate.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

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martin.medeiros@brampton.ca

3 MEN CHARGED AFTER SERIES OF BREAK-INS AT PEEL TEMPLES

Region of Peel – Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have laid a total of 78 charges against three men, after a series of breaks and enters occurred at places of worship, from multiple faiths, in Brampton and Mississauga.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 8

FOR PAKISTAN OPPOSITION, IT IS NOW OR NEVER TO TABLE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO OUST IMRAN KHAN


With the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retaining Pakistan on its terrorism financing "grey list" again, the united opposition of Pakistan has got some more ammunition against Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. The anti-Khan is now all set to bring a no-confidence motion against the beleaguered Prime Minister.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 9

INDIA: A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS

Amidst the global tumult being experienced due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in eastern Europe in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, one of the shining beacons of light is how India has been conducting a smooth and effective operation in the last few days to rescue more than 15,000 stranded Indians from the conflict zone. Codenamed "Operation Ganga", the ongoing programme is aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to Indian citizens amidst the Russian invaded war zone.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 9



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INDIA 5 STATES ELECTION EXIT POLLS 2022

STATES	TOTAL	MAJORITY	SINGLE LARGEST	SEATS
UTTAR PRADESH	403	202	BJP+	235
PUNJAB	117	59	AAP	65
GOA	40	21	BJP/CONG+	16
MANIPUR	60	31	BJP	30
UTTARAKHAND	70	36	BJP	35

| COVERAGE ON PAGE 3 & 4

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EXIT POLLS 2022: AAP IN PUNJAB, BJP IN UP & MANIPUR, HUNG ASSEMBLY IN UTTARAKHAND, GOA



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The sample size for the Exit Poll was 1.04 lakh in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, the Congress is very close to the majority mark and is projected to get 35 seats in the 70-member Assembly. The ruling BJP is projected to get 29 seats. The others category in Uttarakhand is likely to get 5 seats of which 3 is likely for BSP. The BJP is losing vote share by 5.7 per cent at 40.8 per cent, while the Congress is gaining the similar numbers at 39.3 per cent. Goa is projected for a hung Assembly with no party or block getting a majority. The ruling BJP is marginally ahead of Congress with 15 seats in the 40-member Assembly. The Congress alliance is at 14

seats. The MGP is getting 7 seats and AAP is getting 3 seats in Goa, as per the Exit Poll. BJP's vote share is at 32.7 per cent, followed by the Congress at 30.2 per cent, AAP at 14.5 per cent and MGP at 10.5 per cent. In Manipur, there is no clear verdict. The BJP is the single largest party at 25 seats in the 60-member Assembly, followed by Congress at 14 and NPP at 12. Three current survey findings and projections are based on C-Voter Exit Poll/Post Poll personal interviews conducted on polling day and after polling day among 18+ adults statewide. The sample size was 17,480 for Uttarakhand, 16,533 for Punjab, 5,502 for Goa and 5,269 for Manipur. The projection comes with 95 per cent Confidence interval.

CONGRESS SEEN TO LOSE 11% VOTE SHARE IN PUNJAB, AAP TO GAIN 15% TO FORM GOVT



The Punjab experiment of the Congress seemed to have failed, as per the ABP/C-Voter exit poll, with the last minute change in the leadership bringing its citadel down, while the AAP has gained more than 15 per cent votes over the last elections and is likely to form the government in the state.

In 2017, the Aam Aadmi Party had got around 23 per cent votes but the projections for this election is 39 per cent, while Congress seems to have lost around 11 per cent votes, against in last election's over 38 per cent now, to around 26 per cent and may see its tally come down from 77 seats to 25 seats.

But the surprising predictions are for the Shiromani Akali Dal, which fought in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party, and may see its vote percentage come down from 25 per cent to 20 per cent but seats may rise to 23 from 15 in 2017, while the BJP may also win nine seats. According to the exit poll projections, the AAP will oust another Congress government, after Delhi in 2013, winning 51-61 seats in the 117-seat Punjab Assembly.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's alliance with the newly-formed Punjab Lok Congress party of foe-turned-friend Capt Amarinder Singh might be able to secure only 10 seats in these elections.

Punjab has three regions — Doaba, Malwa, and Majha. According to the exit poll survey, of the 23 seats in the Doaba region — a tie is expected between Congress and AAP with each securing 7 while the SAD may get 5 and the BJP 3.

The SAD might outrun all its rivals by securing 8 of the 25 seats in the Majha region, while the Congress is expected to get 7 seats, the AAP 6, and the BJP 4.

The third and most important Malwa region, with 69 seats, might turn the tables in Punjab as, according to the exit poll, it might see the AAP winning 43 seats, while the Congress might get 11 and SAD 10 seats, and while BJP might have to settle with only 3.

BJP MODEL GIVES THE RULING PARTY 255 SEATS IN UP



The BJP is predicting it will win 255 seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls as per its Political Affinity Model (PAM). The Model is based on the political affinity of the castes of Uttar Pradesh towards BJP.

As per the model, Brahmin vote is moving 25 per cent away from the BJP as it got 100 per cent affinity in 2017 elections while this time it will be 75 per cent.

Kurmi caste is moving away 50 per cent away from BJP to 50 per cent in 2022 from 100 per cent in 2017. The same number prevails for the Jats in 2022, Gujar, Rajbhar, Bind and Kushwaha.

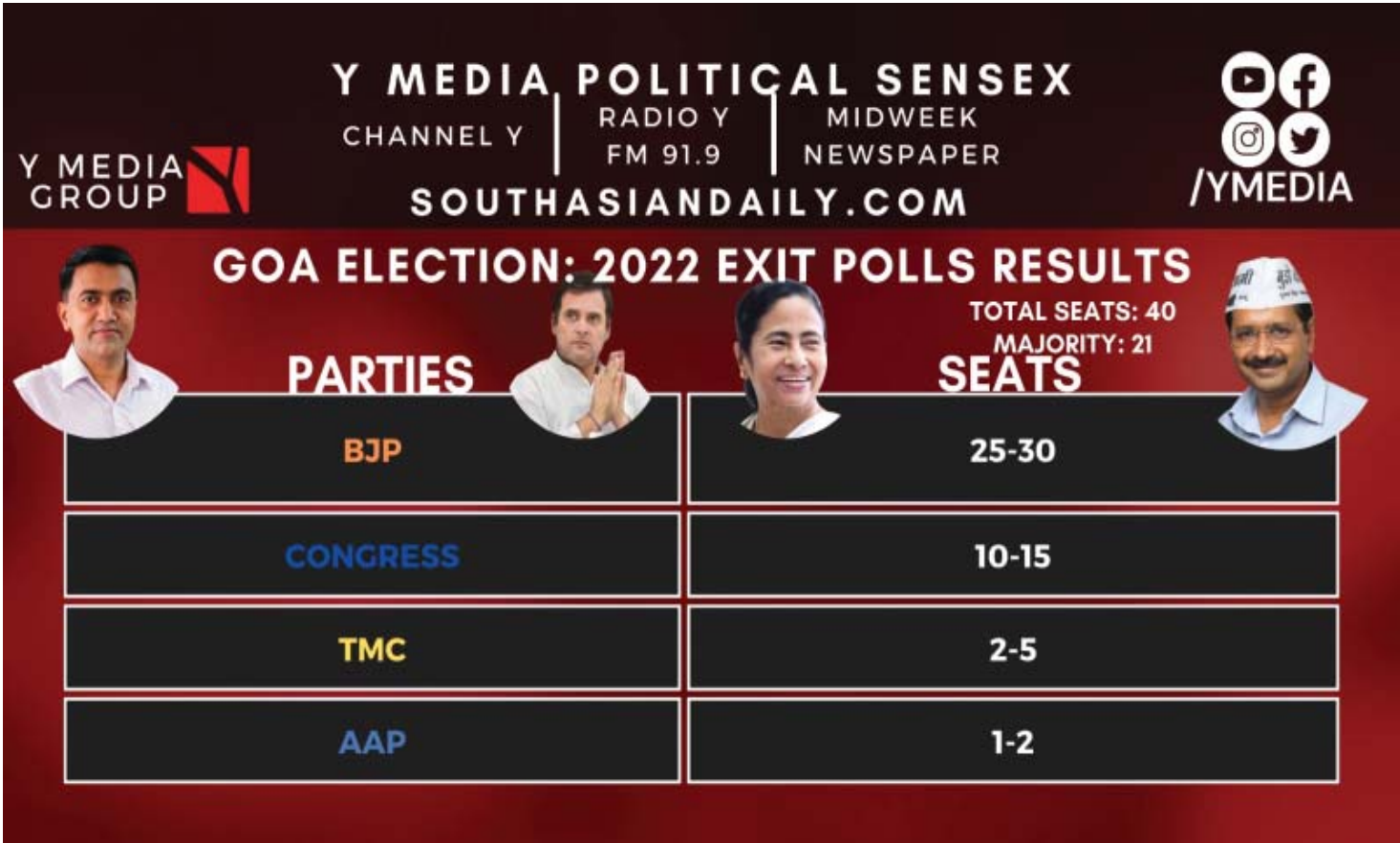
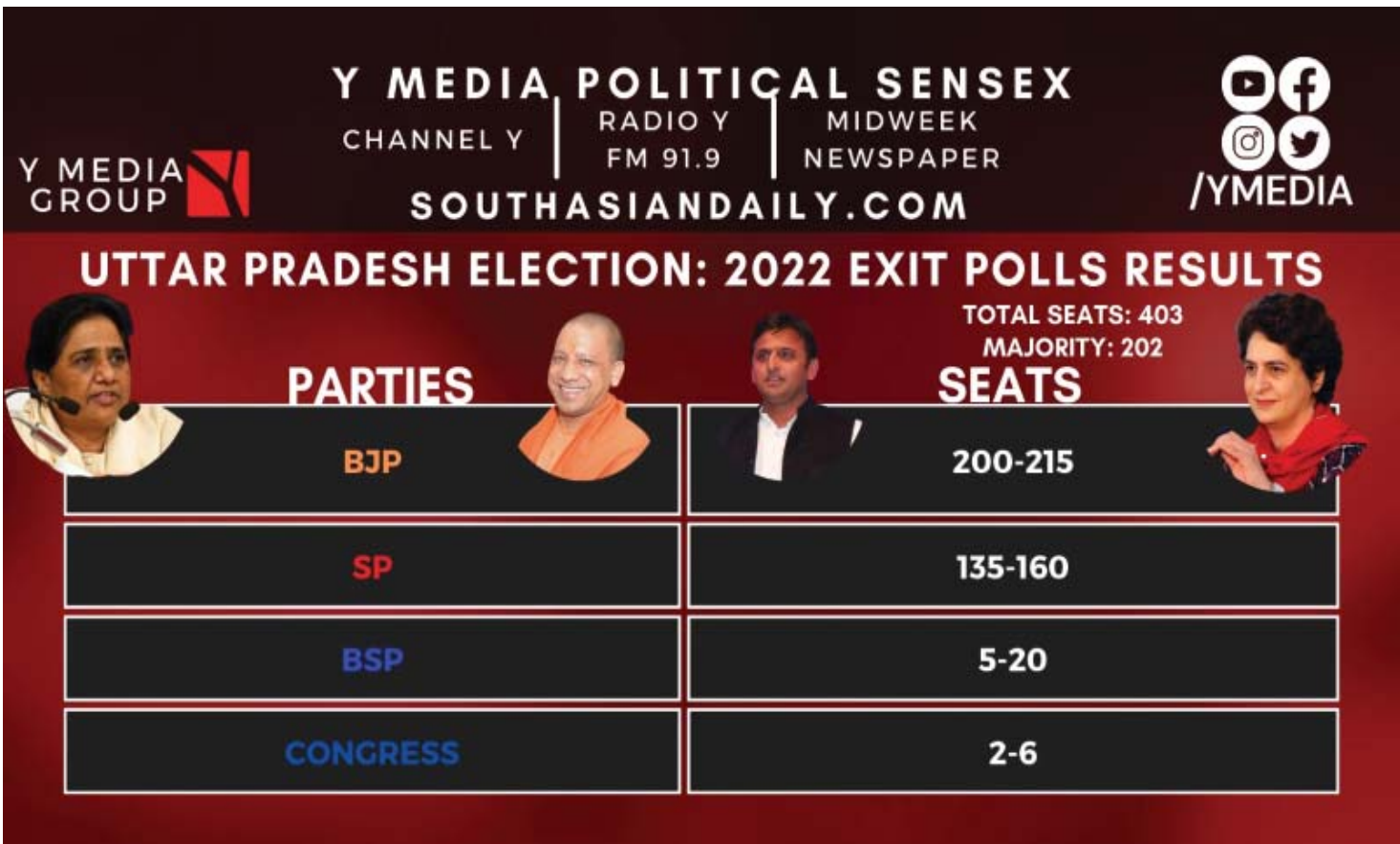
In 2017, 35-40 per cent of Jatavs moved voted for BJP but this time only 25 per cent will vote in favour of BJP with a 15 per cent shift away from BJP. For the 26 other castes, BJP is expecting a 100 per cent affinity vote. These are Thakur, Kayastha, Bania, Bhumihaar, Maurya, Lodhi, Saini, Pasi, Kori, Shakya, Tyagi, Baghel, Valmiki, Kharwar, Dhobi, Sikh, Pal, Goswami, Sahariya, Jamadar, Halwai, Lohar, Sindhi, Gond, Dom, Vanvasi, etc.

The castes with no political affinity are Muslim and Yadav where BJP expects zero or nil percentage of votes. As per the BJP projection, it is winning 255 seats and losing 158 seats. In the Pashchim region, out of 70 it is winning less than half or 34 seats, in the Braj region it is winning 49 out of 65, in the Awadh region 55 out of 81, 36 out of 65 in Gorakhpur and 42 out of 71 in Kashi region.

167 RALLIES & 42 ROADSHOWS, PRIYANKA EMERGES AS THE STAR CAMPAIGNER IN CONGRESS

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has emerged as a star campaigner who has been touring all the states going to the polls. She has addressed 167 rallies, held 42 road shows and also did virtual rallies. Being in-charge of the party in Uttar Pradesh, she has lots of high stakes in the state and her campaign in the 2022 Assembly elections has always been in the news. Priyanka's hard work, her energy and positivity-filled campaigns have caught the attention of the people of the state. Congress insiders say that her slogans have made a place in the hearts of the public, and her campaigns in heavy rain, meeting people, including women working in the fields in Barabanki have gone well with the public.

Priyanka also campaigned in Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur. Through 42 road shows and door-to-door campaigns, Priyanka interacted with the public during the election campaign and visited states including three to Punjab, two to Uttarakhand and Goa, and a virtual rally in Manipur. Party Leaders said during the election campaign, Priyanka was constantly seen saying in her speeches that the power in a democracy lies in the hands of the people. She called upon the people to recognise the power of their vote, and vote on the issues. When the Prime Minister said in one of his speeches on the problem of stray animals that he did not know that there was this problem in Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka took a jibe at him and said, "you have given five years to these leaders, but they say they will do it in the next five years". Talking to IANS during her campaign, she had said: "I am trying to send across the message that politics should not be based on hatred and violence and time has come for a new kind of politics which should work to address the problems of the people."



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MANIPUR ELECTION: 2022 EXIT POLLS RESULTS

**TOTAL SEATS: 60
MAJORITY: 31 SEATS**

PARTIES	SEATS
BJP	25-30
CONGRESS	10-15
NPP	4-10
NPF	1-5

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PUNJAB ELECTION: 2022 EXIT POLLS RESULTS

**TOTAL SEATS: 117
MAJORITY: 59**

	C-VOTER	ETG RESEARCH	I NEWS	AXIS MY INDIA	GROUND ZERO RESEARCH	TODAY'S CHANAKYA
AAP	51-61	70-75	39-43	76-90	27-37	100
CONGRESS	22-28	27-33	23-26	19-31	49-59	10
AKALI DAL	20-26	7-13	22-25	7-11	20-30	6
BJP+	7-13	3-7	6-8	1-4	2-6	1

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PUNJAB ELECTION: 2022 EXIT POLLS RESULTS

**TOTAL SEATS: 117
MAJORITY: 59**

YJ PREDICTION SEATS FOR THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ARE ONLY THE OPINION OF YUDHVIR JASWAL AS A GROUP EDITOR AND WE DO NOT CLAIM THAT THESE WILL BE THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF SEATS WON BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTY DURING PUNJAB ELECTIONS

	POLESTRAT	P MARO	VETO	DESIGNEDBOXED	YJ PREDICTION
AAP	56-61	62-70	70	52-61	45-55
CONGRESS	24-29	23-31	22	16-24	25-35
AKALI DAL	21-26	16-24	19	24-32	15-25
BJP	1-6	1-3	5	22-26	02-12

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INDIA 5 STATES ELECTION EXIT POLLS 2022

	BJP	CONGRESS	AAP	SAD	SP	BSP
UTTAR PRADESH	210-240	2-8			140-170	5-15
PUNJAB	1-10	25-40	55-65	15-25		
GOA	16	16	1			
MANIPUR	30	13				
UTTARAKHAND	35	32	1			

HOW MANIPUR'S POLL OUTCOME WILL IMPACT N-E ELECTORAL POLITICS

On the backdrop of the strong agitations in the Northeastern states to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) and realignment of the alliance between the political parties, the Assembly elections in Manipur were held in two phases on February 28 and March 5. Political pundits observed that the outcome of the Manipur Assembly elections would be an important ramification in Meghalaya and Nagaland, the two Northeastern states along with Tripura would go to the Assembly polls early next year. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its two estranged allies -- National People's Party (NPP) and Naga People's Front (NPF) -- fought the elections to the 60-seat Manipur Assembly separately. Over the two month-long elections campaign, the relations among the three parties worsened and each made allegations and counter allegations against one another. Headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, the NPP is the dominant party of the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government, in which with two MLAs the BJP is the partner. The NPF with 25 MLAs is a major ally of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) led India's first all party and opposition less government in Nagaland. With 21 members Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and BJP with 12 MLAs, are the two important constituents of the UDA. The NPP, a national party, NPF, NDPP led by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and many other regional and state parties are the allies of the BJP-led anti-Congress alliance of regional parties -- North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), the Northeast unit of the National Democratic Alliance at the center. Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma is the convener of the NEDA. Sushanta Talukdar, a renowned political commentator in the Northeast region and a celebrity writer, said: "With the dwindling relations between the BJP and its allies in the Northeastern states, specially the NPF and NPP, there is bound to be a serious electoral ramification in the near future especially during the Assembly elections in Meghalaya and Nagaland in early next year." "The BJP wrested power in Assam (in 2016 and 2021), Manipur (in 2017) and Tripura (in 2018) with the support of the local and regional parties. The saffron party's current relations with its several allies in the Northeastern states are very unpleasant," Talukdar, the editor of multilingual online portal 'Nezine', told IANS.

AS UP POLLS SHOW, NO PARTY IS ABOVE DYNASTIC POLITICS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been attacking rival politicians, accusing them of promoting dynastic politics and ignoring the developmental agenda. However, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has refuted the charge and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) too is mired in dynastic politics. Campaigning in Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister has been saying that the BJP government is "necessary" for the state and the earlier governments "could not see or think beyond family". His main attack has been on Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav and his ally Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal along with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi. While Akhilesh is the second generation in politics, Jayant Chaudhary is the third and Priyanka Gandhi is the fourth generation of the Nehru-Gandhi family who is leading the Congress in the state. Modi targeted the P and its allies, terming them as "ghor- parivarvadi log". But in reality the BJP is not far behind in dynastic politics. Priyanka Gandhi said: "The Prime Minister has a problem with only one family, that is the Gandhi family as he knows they will not bow down but he has no problem in admitting the dynasts of the Congress." Her indication was towards Jitin Prasada, Jyotiraditya Scindia and RPN Singh who had ditched the Congress and joined the BJP. Prasada and RPN Singh are second generation in politics while Scindia is third generation in politics. Not only former Congressmen, but the BJP has its own set of dynasts who are rising in politics. Talking of Uttar Pradesh, Noida MLA Pankaj Singh is the son of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Rajveer Singh, MP, is the son of Kalyan Singh, Ashutosh Tandon is the son of Lalji Tandon, Sidharth Nath Singh is related to Lal Bahadur Shastri. The list doesn't end with Uttar Pradesh. Vasundhara Raje, Yashodhara Raje and Dushyant Singh are from the family of Vijayaraje Scindia who was the founder of the BJP. Similarly, Union Minister Anurag Thakur is the son of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, Dharmendra Pradhan's father was also in the BJP and MoS in the Vajpayee government, Piyush Goyal's father was treasurer of the BJP for a long time. Maneka Gandhi and her son Varun Gandhi too are MPs. Pramod Mahajan's daughter is a MP in the Lok Sabha, BS Yeddyurappa's son has also taken the plunge into politics. So Congress leaders say that dynasts are rising in the BJP also but the BJP says that they are there but the party is not run by a family. The BJP says that the Congress, SP and the RLD are run by families. However, the Congress points out that the party does not have a problem with YSR Reddy's son Jagan who is the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister as he is supporting the BJP, but has a problem with Uddhav Thackeray, Hemant Soren and MK Stalin as they are opposed to the BJP. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik too has taken the baton from his father.

WILL WIN MAJORITY IN GOA, BUT TAKE NON-BJP PARTIES ALONG: CONGRESS



Even if the Congress wins a majority in Goa, it would like to bring other non-BJP parties onboard during government formation, former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat said on Monday. Addressing reporters after a meeting of the party's 37 candidates and their election agents, he also expressed confidence that the party would win a clear majority with its alliance partner, Goa Forward. "(Congress senior observer for Goa and former Union Minister P.) Chidambaram has just told us, even if the party gets a majority, the Congress would like to associate all non-BJP parties (in government formation)," Kamat said. "We feel that our party will win a clear majority and will come to power in alliance with Goa Forward," he said. Asked about the Congress' chief ministerial face, Kamat, who is one of the aspirants for the top post, said: "Why are you worrying about this? Even I am not thinking about it." The Congress, in alliance with the Goa Forward party (three seats) has contested 37 seats out of the total 40.



QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSTS PM TRUDEAU IN 1ST IN-PERSON MEETING SINCE COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS (THE ROYAL FAMILY/ TWITTER).

TORONTO POLICE ISSUES CANADA-WIDE WARRANT FOR MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED MORE THAN 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN FRAUDULENT MORTGAGES



The Toronto Police Service's Financial Crimes Unit would like to advise the public of an update in a mortgage fraud investigation which is estimated at over ten million dollars. It is alleged:

- multiple mortgage frauds occurrences have been reported to the Toronto Police Financial Crimes Unit
- police believe that a man has been working with a female mortgage broker, targeting law firms

in the Chinese community

- it is alleged that the man has pretended to be a legitimate home owner with fraudulent identification
- the man has been identified with the assistance of the media and the public

A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for Yuansen Fu, 23, of Toronto.

He is wanted for:

- Conspiracy to Commit an Indictable Offence
- Fraud Exceeding 5000
- Uttering Forged Documents

He is known to frequently visit Vancouver. He is believed to be armed and dangerous. If seen, do not approach and immediately police. Investigators are advising the public, especially those in the mortgage and legal professions, to scrutinize all identification and be vigilant in confirming the identities of individuals in real estate transactions.

Be aware of:

- Inconsistent appointments
- Online applications
- Attending meetings at different times than originally agreed upon
- Urgent matters
- Referrals from unknown mortgage brokers

Anyone with information may contact Detective Constable Sean Vande Camp at 10767@tps.ca and/or Detective Constable Jeff Dyrkawec at 8830@tps.ca, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), online at www.222tips.com, online on our Facebook Leave a Tip page, or text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637).

WHITHER THE AURAT IN PAKISTAN?

Celebration of International Women's Day on 8th March annually is a reminder of the need for gender balance in global society today. However, Pakistan presents a stark case of a nation, whose women are still in the backwaters of civilization. According to the recently published 'Global Gender Gap Report 2021', Pakistan ranked 153rd out of 156 countries, as per gender parity index. Statistics alone do not reflect the realities of being a woman in Pakistan. The twin challenges of existing societal Islamic norms and the lack of legislation or legal rights empowering women is a reminder that Pakistan needs to change its attitude towards women if it is to modernise as a society. The most telling example of the lack of recognition of the rights of women emerged in February this year when Waseem Azeem, convicted (2019) of honour killing his sister Qandeel Baloch was acquitted! The tragedy is that while the Government of Pakistan has passed various laws to prevent violence and support those affected by it, the conviction rate for violence against women sits at only 1-2.5 per cent. The available statistics, however, do not accurately represent the full extent of the problem. Estimates indicate that one in two Pakistani women who have experienced violence never sought help or told anyone about the violence they had experienced. The silent majority is obviously out there, making the task of redressal almost impossible. According to the Census of Pakistan in 2017, women make up

48.76 per cent of the population. Most analysts agree that women in Pakistan have played an important role throughout the country's history, and empowerment has come to them slowly. For instance, Pakistani women have been allowed to vote in elections since 1956. Pertinently, the status of women in Pakistan differs considerably across classes, regions, and the rural/urban divide due to the uneven socio-economic development and the impact of tribal and feudal social formations in Pakistan. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Gender Gap Index 2021 states that only 45 per cent of women are literate, 61 per cent attend primary school, 31 per cent attend high school and only 8.3 per cent enrolled in tertiary secondary courses. Women's empowerment in Pakistan has always been contested. Notably, women are ranked lower than men on all vital human development indicators. That this is a factual reality is evidenced by the fact that Pakistan is ranked almost at the bottom of the Gender Gap Index -- 151st of 153 studied countries. The WEF report combines gender-related parameters of economic participation, opportunities, educational attainment, health, survival and political empowerment to reach a country-by-country assessment of gender gap and achievement. Women's activism in Pakistan is a difficult societal occupation. However, some stalwarts like Asma Jahangir set the ball rolling to protect the rights of women, children and ethnic minorities.

WORLD'S DEMOCRACIES STRENGTHENED THEIR RESOLVE TO COUNTER RISING AUTOCRACIES: BIDEN

NEW DELHI, (IANS) US President Joe Biden has condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine — and warned of further measures to punish Russia, CNN reported.

"Tonight, I say to the Russian oligarchs and corrupt leaders who have bilked billions of dollars off this violent regime, no more," Biden said during his State of the Union address on Tuesday as he announced a new task force under the US Justice Department to investigate Russian oligarchs.

"We are joining with our European allies to find and seize their yachts, their luxury apartments, and their private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains," he said, CNN reported.

The US is also closing its airspace to Russian aircraft, joining a number of countries that took similar measures this past week, "further isolating Russia," Biden said.

He then added, referring to Putin: "He has no idea what's coming."

"Putin has unleashed violence and chaos. But while he may make gains on the battlefield — he will pay a continuing high price over the long run," Biden said.

Biden noted that Putin's aggression had only made the world's democracies strengthen their resolve to counter rising autocracies.

"Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought to shake the foundations of the free world, thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated," Biden said.

"He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead he met a wall of strength he never imagined. He met the Ukrainian people", CNN reported.



PAKISTAN MINISTER SAYS SPORTING EVENTS BETWEEN PAKISTAN, INDIA SHOULD BE PROMOTED



NEW DELHI, (IANS) Pakistan Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday that the government should promote and restore sports between India and Pakistan, including cricket, to connect with people across the border, Express Tribune reported.

Speaking to the media, along with Sindh Governor Imran Ismail at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, the minister underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral ties between neighbouring countries through sports. Referring to the opposition's plan to stage a protest in Rawalpindi during the Australian team's tour, Fawad stated that he believed the opposition was working against the interests of the Pakistani people. He remarked that he will offer the opposition a "free box" in the stadium to "sit in, watch the match and decide their course of action".

Taking to his official Twitter handle earlier, the minister said that the first clash between Pakistan and Australia, after 24 years, will begin today and thanked the Australian team for "making this March beautiful for us". He also wished the Pakistani team success. He also extended his gratitude to the Australian High Commission for its efforts in bringing the Aussies to Pakistan.

PAKISTAN SIGNS TRADE DEAL WITH RUSSIA AMID WAR--HOW WILL THE IMF REACT?

Pakistan has become the first country to officially sign a huge trade deal with Russia at a time when Moscow has come under severe criticism for invading Ukraine. As part of the agreement, Pakistan will import two million tonnes of wheat and natural gas from Russia.

Will this impact Pakistan's assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

Not only have the US and European Union thrashed out stringent sanctions against Russia, the World Bank and the IMF, too, have issued a joint statement condemning Moscow while promising to provide assistance to Ukraine and other countries that have opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees. Notably, Pakistan is now seeking a bailout package from the IMF, which approved disbursement of \$1 billion under its \$6 billion loan programme. However, the Imran Khan government is desperately seeking a larger portion of loan from the IMF to support its sagging economy. Pakistan's dependence on IMF assistance has risen in the last few years with the growing external debt. This year, Islamabad's gross external financing requirement is estimated at around \$30 billion. In a joint statement, the IMF and World Bank called for coordinated international action to mitigate risks and navigate the treacherous period ahead as the Russia-Ukraine crisis intensified.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Russia on the eve of the Ukraine attack has already come under scrutiny. Khan met Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 24 to discuss ways to expand bilateral relations. "This visit could not possibly have created a good image of Pakistan in the international community. Pakistan is, after all, heavily dependent on the financial aid of Western countries and their monetary institutions like the IMF and the World Bank," the News International said in a report.

While Russia has 2.59 per cent of the total votes at the IMF, the US has 16.40 per cent. The UK has 4.03 per cent and Germany 5.31 per cent. China has 6.08 per cent. Notably, China, an ally of Russia has also opted to remain cautious while maintaining neutrality. Khan has justified his meeting with Putin, saying that the agreements will support import of natural gas, which is the need of the hour amid Pakistan's depleting reserves. Immediately after the Khan-Putin meeting, a \$9.69 billion fine was slapped on National Bank of Pakistan's New York branch by the US regulatory authorities for charges relating to non-compliance and anti-money laundering. "One hopes that Pakistan's people do not pay too heavy a price for the indiscretion of its leaders," the Pakistan-based news organisation said.

MICROSOFT CEO SATYA NADELLA'S SON PASSES AWAY



Tech giant Microsoft Corporation said that Zain Nadella, son of CEO Satya Nadella and his wife Anu Nadella, has died, Bloomberg reported.

The software maker told its executive staff in an email that Zain, who was 26 years old and had been born with cerebral palsy, passed away on Monday morning. The message asked executives to hold the family in their thoughts and prayers while giving them space to grieve privately, the report said. In October 2017, the CEO talked about the birth of his son in a blogpost. "One night, during the thirty-sixth week of her pregnancy, Anu noticed that the baby was not moving as much as she was accustomed to. So we went to the emergency room of a local hospital in Bellevue," Nadella had said in the post. "We thought it would be just a routine checkup, little more than new parent anxiety. In fact, I distinctly remember feeling annoyed by the wait times we experienced in the emergency room. But upon examination, the doctors were alarmed enough to order an emergency cesarean section," he added. The CEO mentioned that Zain was born at 11:29 p.m. on August 13, 1996, all of three pounds and he did not cry. "Zain was transported from the hospital in Bellevue across Lake Washington to Seattle Children's Hospital with its state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Anu began her recovery from the difficult birth. I spent the night with her in the hospital and immediately went to see Zain the next morning. Little did I know then how profoundly our lives would change," Nadella said. "Over the course of the next couple of years, we learned more about the damage caused by in utero asphyxiation, and how Zain would require a wheelchair and be reliant on us because of severe cerebral palsy. I was devastated. But mostly I was sad for how things turned out for me and Anu," he added.

Zelenskyy & Putin: Can the world make a narrow escape?

NIRENDRA DEV

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In 2022, Putin is the architect of the globe's most infamous catastrophe. He has single handedly created the worst crisis for Europe and the world in recent times.

But how does the man work ?

Some say, he set aside the everyday calculus of political risks and benefits. Others say he has always thrived with a mindset of "diminished sense of danger". This means what is "dangerous" to the common people, you and me and even other public and military leaders, may not appear dangerous to Putin, a former KGB spy.

It is also argued that Putin's authoritarian inclination actually came from his former idol and boss, Anatoly Sobchak. Once seen as a possible president of Russia, Sobchak has been a central figure in Russia's revolution of the 1990s. Sobchak and Putin worked together when both were mayor and deputy mayor of St Petersburg.

Well, the conventional wisdom suggests if one has to understand the war in Ukraine in 2022, it is pertinent for the world today to understand and analyse the man called Putin. One simple reference can be Putin's grandfather was a cook with illustrious Stalin.

Experts and scholars who have devoted time and energy into Russian affairs and working on the life and careers of Putin, Boris Yelstin and Sobchak say the incumbent President had the "diminished sense of danger" even in his childhood.

Nothing about this war was inevitable, says The Economist, adding cleverly that "it is a conflict entirely of his own making". A few can dispute this.

It's like the "making" of his career. When boys of his age wanted in the Soviet Union to be a fighter pilot or something glamorous, he wanted to be a spy.

Posted to East Germany as a KGB sleuth, he had mastered smoke and mirrors -- that is intended to make one believe that something is being done or is true, when it is not.

He grew up virtually believing that "one spy could decide the fate of thousands of people". And, thus comes the conviction he is not only a "spy"; he is Moscow -- the centrifugal point of power.

And Moscow cannot be silent.

Let's face the truth. Putin attacked Ukraine in 2022. In the past, he annexed Crimea in 2014 and Putin also had invaded Georgia in 2008. That's the man for you. The metamorphosis of the man is not sudden.

In contrast, presumably, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky represents the pulse of his country, they all want to fight the Russian aggression. Putin on the other hand wants to



“ WHEN BOYS OF HIS AGE WANTED IN THE SOVIET UNION TO BE A FIGHTER PILOT OR SOMETHING GLAMOROUS, HE WANTED TO BE A SPY. POSTED TO EAST GERMANY AS A KGB SLEUTH, HE HAD MASTERED SMOKE AND MIRRORS -- THAT IS INTENDED TO MAKE ONE BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING IS BEING DONE OR IS TRUE, WHEN IT IS NOT. HE GREW UP VIRTUALLY BELIEVING THAT "ONE SPY COULD DECIDE THE FATE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE". AND, THUS COMES THE CONVICTION HE IS NOT ONLY A "SPY"; HE IS MOSCOW -- THE CENTRIFUGAL POINT OF POWER. AND MOSCOW CANNOT BE SILENT. LET'S FACE THE TRUTH. PUTIN ATTACKED UKRAINE IN 2022. IN THE PAST, HE ANNEXED CRIMEA IN 2014 AND PUTIN ALSO HAD INVADDED GEORGIA IN 2008. THAT'S THE MAN FOR YOU. THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE MAN IS NOT SUDDEN. IN CONTRAST, PRESUMABLY, UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY REPRESENTS THE PULSE OF HIS COUNTRY, THEY ALL WANT TO FIGHT THE RUSSIAN AGGRESSION. PUTIN ON THE OTHER HAND WANTS TO REVIVE RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM. A SURVEY SAYS ABOUT 34 PER CENT OF UKRAINIANS ARE READY TO PICK UP ARMS AGAINST PUTIN'S FORCES. THERE ARE A FEW HISTORICAL TIDBITS. DURING THE SOVIET ERA, RUSSIA WAS THE MOST POWERFUL PROVINCE OF THE USSR AND UKRAINE WAS THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL. ONCE UPON A TIME. OF COURSE IT IS SAID UKRAINE WAS CONSIDERED A CHIEF COMPETITOR TO THE US AND IT WAS EVEN PERHAPS MORE POWERFUL THAN RUSSIA.

revive Russian imperialism.

A survey says about 34 per cent of Ukrainians are ready to pick up arms against Putin's forces.

There are a few historical tidbits. During the Soviet era, Russia was the most powerful province of the USSR and Ukraine was the second most powerful. Once upon a time. of course it is said Ukraine was considered a chief competitor to the US and it was even perhaps more powerful than Russia. The two men are now changing the course of history. One trying to invade, and the other resisting the same. Putin had presumed that Ukrainians and their non-text book variety President would crumble under intense pressure. The US officials have been impressed with the fighting prowess of the Ukrainians, says The New York Times.

Zelensky on the morning of February 26 posted a video of himself on Twitter as Russians had started claiming that he had fled the war-ravaged country.

But Ukraine's President emerged from his office unshaven, looked red-eyed and declared: "Good morning to all Ukrainians! There are a lot of fakes out there... (but) I am here."

One video among billions of social media postings and a mere half a sentence "...I am here" perhaps stalled the course of human history at least for the time being.

Snap elections were held not long ago in his country, and Zelensky himself characterized the contest as "maybe more important than the presidential election".

His Servant of the People party won an absolute majority, capturing 254 of 450 seats -- 26 seats, representing Crimea, a Ukrainian autonomous republic that was illegally annexed by

Russia in 2014, and the war zone in the east -- were not contested.

"The result marked the first time in Ukraine's post-Soviet history that a single party could command absolute control over the legislative agenda," says a report in www.britannica.com.

Did it mark a new beginning in the history of Europe, Russia and the world? Yes, of course, he has made life tense and competitive if not miserable for Putin.

Now the "worst fear" from the Russia-Ukraine conflict is if Putin falters and fails on ground in the face of stiff fight by Ukraine people and forces, he could actually take the road to "unrestricted war" and use of nuclear powers.

But what matters most for Zelensky is that the capital Kiev has not fallen. There is strong resistance in eastern Ukraine and the President is "happy" to play the role of a national leader.

That was not the role he had chosen, but the one that was thrust upon him. Well, he has carried it off with dignity and strength, says The Economist.

Many of Ukraine's veterans fought in battles with Russia in the recent past, so there is a subset of the population that is trained and knows how to fight Russians, notes The New York Times. Nevertheless the world has to find a way to escape the bigger conflict.

Disclaimer: Nirendra Dev is a senior journalist and author of books 'The Talking Guns: North East India' and 'Godhra - Journey of a Prime Minister'. The opinions expressed within this article are the personal ideas of the author. The facts and conclusions appearing in the article do not reflect the views of Y Media and Midweek Newspaper, and Y Media does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same.

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AMID UKRAINE CRISIS, PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU MEETS UK PM BORIS JOHNSON & NETHERLANDS PM Mark Rutte (JUSTIN TRUDEAU/ TWITTER).

AMID UKRAINE CRISIS, PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU MEETS UK PM BORIS JOHNSON

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He also highlighted that Canada stands ready to help the UK replace key supply chains disrupted by sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus. The Prime Ministers issued a joint statement to further strengthen and deepen national security collaboration in the critical areas of countering state threats, emerging technology and cyber challenges, and combating disinformation and efforts to undermine democracy. The two leaders also agreed to work together to address other key global challenges, including climate change and a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for both countries. Canada and the UK will strengthen cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovation, including fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum, bio-manufacturing, clean energy sources, telecommunications, Arctic and polar research and food production. Prime Minister Trudeau reiterated Canada's support for the UK to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and welcomed progress towards the launch of bilateral trade negotiations to continue our close economic partnership and create jobs in both countries.

ONTARIO UNVEILS MODERNIZED SCIENCE CURRICULUM, WILL BEGIN TEACHING CODING IN GRADE 1

To ensure students have critical life and job skills, the Ontario government is introducing a new science and technology curriculum and de-streaming the Grade 9 science course for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Science and Technology, 2022, and the planned changes to the new de-streamed Grade 9 science course, are part of the government's plan to align curriculum changes with the province's economic needs and place an emphasis on critical life and job skills, including the fast-growing skilled trades. Ontario's elementary science and technology curriculum was last updated in 2007 and the Grade 9 course was last updated in 2008. Since then, significant scientific and technological innovations such as the advancement of smartphones, everyday use of 3D printing and genomic vaccines have emerged, and the global economy has changed. The updated curriculum responds to these changes with the goal of positioning Ontario as a leading jurisdiction in STEM, helping to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2022, in time for the 2022-23 school year as part of the government's plan to ensure that all students have the foundational, transferable and entrepreneurial skills they need to compete in a rapidly changing world. "Ontario has transformed the curriculum to now emphasize STEM education across all grades, embedding life and job skills that will

Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Johnson also participated in a trilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, to discuss additional responses to Russia's blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter. Prime Minister Trudeau was also received in audience by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle. He thanked her personally for being a stabilizing force throughout the pandemic and congratulated Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee. The Prime Minister highlighted that Canada will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee and seven decades of Canadian achievements by hosting a range of activities throughout 2022 and support community projects and initiatives across the country. PM Trudeau says, "as Russia continues its unwarranted and unjustifiable attacks on Ukraine, Canada is standing united with our European allies in supporting Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, as well as democracy and human rights everywhere. Canada and the United Kingdom share a close and longstanding partnership and I thank Prime Minister Johnson for the productive visit. Together, we will continue to strengthen that partnership and defend our shared democratic values, while creating a cleaner and more prosperous future for all."



support the next generation of scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "From finding new cures for cancer, to space robotics that reach new planets, and the development of artificial intelligence and technologies that are changing the economy, Ontario's new science and technology curriculum is focused on giving young people the skills to think critically, dream boldly and chart new pathways forward for our economy."

BANK OF CANADA INCREASES POLICY INTEREST RATE TO 0.5%

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Global economic data has come in broadly in line with projections in the Bank's January Monetary Policy Report (MPR). Economies are emerging from the impact of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 more quickly than expected, although the virus continues to circulate and the possibility of new variants remains a concern. Demand is robust, particularly in the United States. Global supply bottlenecks remain challenging, although there are indications that some constraints have eased. Economic growth in Canada was very strong in the fourth quarter of last year at 6.7%. This is stronger than the Bank's projection and confirms its view that economic slack has been absorbed. Both exports and imports have picked up, consistent with solid global demand. In January, the recovery in Canada's labour market suffered a setback due to the Omicron variant, with temporary layoffs in service sectors and elevated employee absenteeism. However, the rebound from Omicron now appears to be well in train: household spending is proving resilient and should strengthen further with the lifting of public health restrictions. Housing market activity is more elevated, adding further pressure to house prices. Overall, first-quarter growth is now looking more solid than previously projected. CPI inflation is currently at 5.1%, as expected in January, and remains well above the Bank's target range. Price increases have become more pervasive, and measures of core inflation have all risen. Poor harvests and higher transportation costs have pushed up food prices. The invasion of Ukraine is putting further upward pressure on prices for both energy and food-related commodities. All told, inflation is now expected to be higher in the near term than projected in January. Persistently elevated inflation is increasing the risk that longer-run inflation expectations could drift upwards. The Bank will use its monetary policy tools to return inflation to the 2% target and keep inflation expectations well-anchored. The policy rate is the Bank's primary monetary policy instrument. As the economy continues to expand and inflation pressures remain elevated, the Governing Council expects interest rates will need to rise further. The Governing Council will also be considering when to end the reinvestment phase and allow its holdings of Government of Canada bonds to begin to shrink. The resulting quantitative tightening (QT) would complement increases in the policy interest rate. The timing and pace of further increases in the policy rate, and the start of QT, will be guided by the Bank's ongoing assessment of the economy and its commitment to achieving the 2% inflation target.

BRAMPTON APPOINTS 2 DEPUTY MAYORS

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A Civic Events Protocol (GOV-160) exists to set out the role of the Mayor for certain ceremonial and civic event responsibilities, and provisions for employing a Deputy or Acting Mayor when the Mayor is unavailable; The Deputy Mayor, as required, will chair meetings and assuming other ceremonial and civic event duties when the Mayor is not available, before relying on the Acting Mayor roster for such responsibilities; The Deputy Mayor position has been divided into two reflecting the East and West portions of the City. Regional Councillor Pat Fortini was appointed Deputy Mayor for the East portion and Regional Councillor Martin Medeiros for the West portion for the remainder of the current term of Council. An appropriate amendment will be made to the Procedure By-law 160-2004, including appropriate public notice, to establish the position of Deputy Mayor including an appropriate amendment to the Civic Events Protocol (GOV-160)

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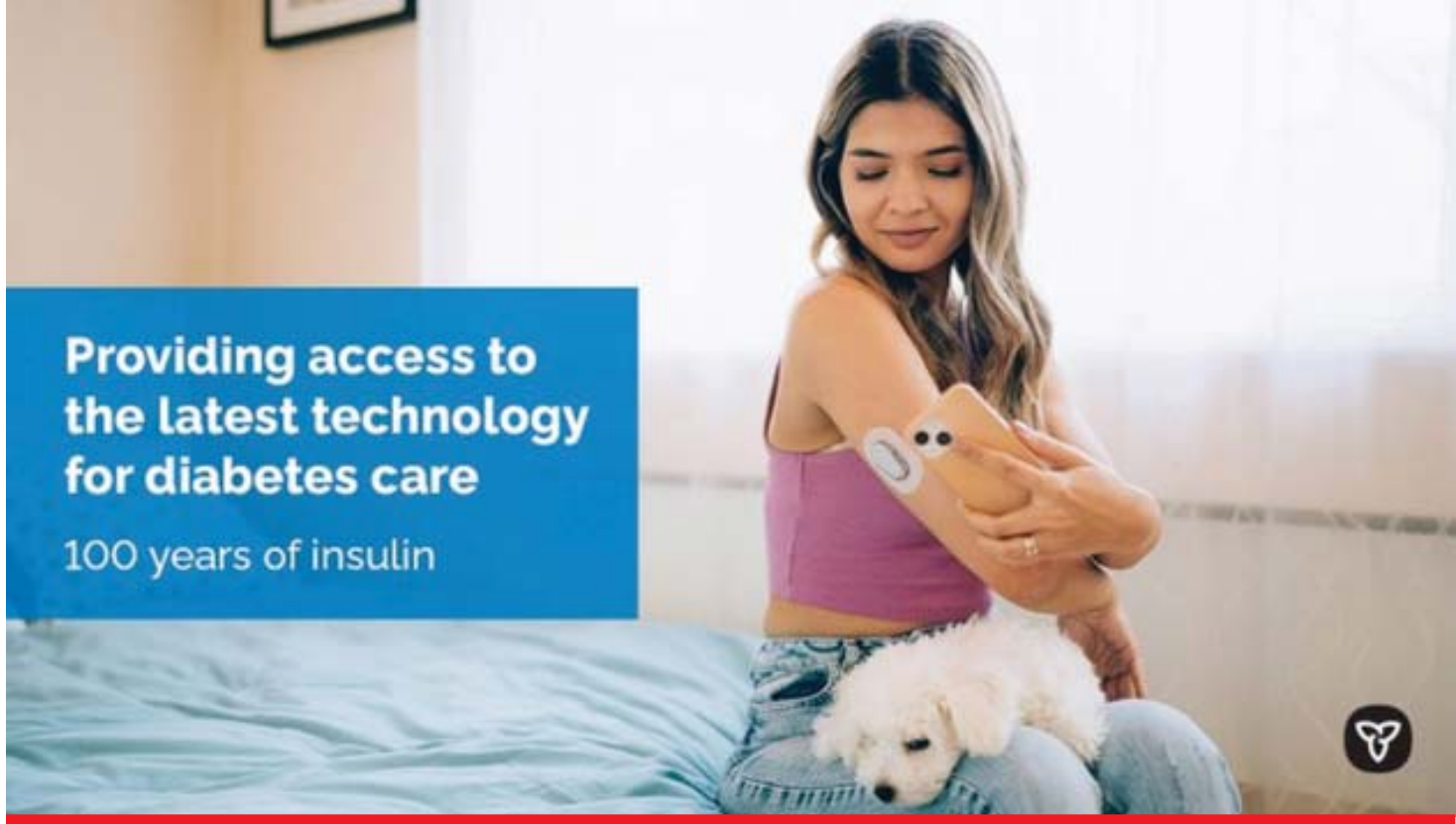
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STARTING MARCH 14, REAL-TIME CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORS TO BE FUNDED UNDER ONTARIO’S ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM

The Ontario government is making it more affordable for Ontarians living with type 1 diabetes to monitor their blood glucose levels by providing coverage for real-time continuous glucose monitors, the latest technology in diabetes care, through the province's Assistive Devices Program.

“This year marks 100 years since insulin was first successfully used to treat diabetes right here in Ontario. This lifesaving drug has helped countless people stay healthy, and today we’re helping even more people living with diabetes,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “By making the latest technology more affordable, our government is ensuring that Ontarians living with type 1 diabetes can conveniently track their glucose levels in real time, allowing them to better manage their diabetes and live healthier lives.”

Starting March 14, 2022, eligible Ontarians with type 1 diabetes can receive Assistive Devices Program funding for a continuous glucose monitor and the related supplies. Eligible individuals include those with type 1 diabetes who are at risk of severe hypoglycemia or who are unable to recognize, or communicate about, symptoms of hypoglycemia.

Traditional blood glucose meters require individuals to take blood samples using frequent finger pricks, which can be inconvenient, time consuming and difficult to use during a severe hypoglycemic event. With a real-time continuous glucose monitor, individuals use a small sensor that automatically tests sugar levels every few minutes throughout the day and night. These monitors do not require a blood sample through finger pricks, making it easier and more convenient for people to monitor their glucose levels and stay healthy. The continuous glucose monitors also include an alarm that will notify the individual, their family members or a caregiver of low glucose levels, allowing them to take immediate action that can help prevent health emergencies.

By funding the latest technology and medication in diabetes care, the

government is supporting patient-centred care and improved health outcomes for Ontarians living with diabetes.

Quick Facts

To further support Ontarians living with diabetes, the government is also providing coverage for Baqsimi, a new rescue medicine for insulin-treated diabetics experiencing a severe hypoglycemic event, under the Ontario Drug Benefit program. The new nasal spray can be administered by a caregiver in the event that the person with diabetes is unable to do so themselves.

January 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of the first successful insulin treatment, which was administered in Toronto. In the century since its breakthrough, insulin has saved and improved the lives of millions of people with diabetes in Canada and worldwide.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body either cannot produce insulin or properly use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas to regulate the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood. Nearly 1.5 million Ontarians have diabetes. Most can lead healthy lives by managing their blood glucose levels, including taking insulin if needed.

Severe hypoglycemia occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are too low and require the assistance of another person to treat. If left untreated, it can be life-threatening.

The Assistive Devices Program helps people with long-term physical disabilities pay for customized equipment and specialized supplies. This includes some devices and supplies used by Ontarians with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, such as insulin pumps, blood glucose meters, and needles and syringes for seniors.

To qualify for an ADP-funded real-time continuous glucose monitor, a patient must first be assessed by the health care team from an ADP-registered Diabetes Education Program. These specialized multi-disciplinary teams provide diabetes education, treatment, and follow-up resources to individuals with diabetes.

OVERLOOKED: CANADA'S FASTEST-EMERGING, HIGHEST-EDUCATED WORKFORCE

New study finds South Asian women twice as likely to say they are treated unfairly in the workplace, with almost 60 per cent ready quit their jobs Ahead of International Women’s Day, a newly released study is shedding light on the reasons South Asian women have the highest unemployment rate in Canada and what employers can do to unlock the potential of this growing labour force. The report, released today, reveals that more than half (57 per cent) of South Asian women are planning to leave their jobs for other opportunities. That is more than any other female group in Canada and 19 per cent more than the average of all the females surveyed.

The study also noted that South Asian women are twice as likely to report unfair treatment in the workplace: 34 per cent compared to the 17 per cent average of all females surveyed and 20 per for all the men surveyed. The findings are significant considering that over the next five years 100 per cent of Canada’s labour force growth will be from immigration. Especially given that in 2018 newcomers from South Asia and the Philippines comprised almost 39 per cent of all newcomers in Canada (Immigration Refugees, and Citizenship Canada).

South Asian women are also the largest female immigrant labour force and the highest educated, according to the 2016 Census. The study follows a 2020 Statistics Canada report which discovered that South Asian women have almost twice the national unemployment rate (20.4 per cent compared to 11.3 per cent). They are also more likely to be both underemployed and underpaid compared to non visible minority women. Other findings include:

- * The pandemic has exacerbated challenges facing South Asian women, with 47 per cent they considering leaving the workforce altogether due to the pandemic – compared to the 25 per cent for women and 32 per cent for men in general.
- * South Asian women are most likely (64 per cent) to admit that they



have lowered their career salary expectations in the last few years, compared to the 50 percent average of all females surveyed and 45 per cent for all men surveyed.

- * 58 per cent reveal empty promises made by work managers about their career progression, compared to the 46.5 per cent of all females surveyed, and almost double when compared to non-racialized women (37 per cent). Furthermore, 65 per cent would rather leave their job than wait in vain for those empty promises to come into fruition. Nevertheless, the study also reveals the resilience of South Asian women, who remain committed to professional growth:
- * 71 per cent feel there is room for upward mobility and 66 per cent currently feel empowered in the workplace, the highest percentages of any female ethnic group and even higher than the 63 per cent average among all men surveyed.

About Pink Attitude:

Pink Attitude Evolution was founded in 2015 as the first non-profit organization of its kind in Canada where women of South-Asian origin are empowered to achieve their full potential in their chosen endeavours. We represent the superior strides that South-Asian women accomplish while uplifting others to be prominent leaders regardless of age, gender, orientation, race, religion, or abilities. We also recognize the valiant efforts of our allies as impactful supporters of women; ultimately building stronger generations together.

About CulturalIQ

CulturalIQ is a market research and strategy company committed to helping Canadian organizations and institutions embrace diversity and realize their full potential in a rapidly changing landscape. We help identify cultural nuances and untapped market opportunities. We partner with our clients to leverage actionable insights that drives strategy, optimizes marketing investments, and supports them in delivering a culturally optimized pathway to success.



AVERAGE HOME PRICE REACHES 1.3 MILLION IN GTA, UP BY 27.7% LAST FEBRUARY

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The supply of listings for low-rise home types (detached, semi-detached and townhouses) was also down year-over-year, but not by as much as sales. In the condominium apartment segment, particularly in Toronto, new listings were up in comparison to February 2021. "Demand for ownership housing remains strong throughout the GTA, and while we are marginally off the record pace seen last year, any buyer looking in this market is not likely to feel it with competition remaining the norm. Many households sped up their home purchase and entered into a transaction in 2021, which is one reason the number of sales were forecasted to be lower this year and a trending towards higher borrowing cost will have a moderating effect on home sales. Substantial immigration levels and a continued lack of supply, however, will have a countering effect to increasing mortgage costs," said TRREB President Kevin Crigger. The MLS® Home Price Index Composite Benchmark was up by 35.9 per cent year-over-year in February. The average selling price for all home types combined was up by 27.7 per cent to \$1,334,544. The pace of price growth varied by home type and region, but there was relative parity between low-rise and condominium apartment growth rates. "We have seen a slight balancing in the market so far this year, with sales dipping more than new listings. However, because inventory remains exceptionally low, it will take some time for the pace of price growth to slow. Look for a more moderate pace of price growth in the second half of 2022 as higher borrowing costs result in some households putting their home purchase on hold temporarily as they resituate themselves in the market," said TRREB Chief Market Analyst Jason Mercer. "We are close to provincial and municipal elections in Ontario. We know that housing affordability will be top of mind. Parties and individuals vying for political office must concentrate on bold and creative policies that will support increased and diverse housing supply to account for the current deficit and future population growth as immigration accelerates. History has shown that tax based policies pointed at foreign buying and speculative activity, which seem to be the political preference, have had very little impact on the market simply because this type of activity accounts for a small share of overall market activity," said TRREB CEO John DiMichele.

3 MEN CHARGED AFTER SERIES OF BREAK-INS AT PEEL TEMPLES

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Between November 2021 and March 2022, the suspects gained access to buildings, proceeded to remove cash from donation boxes inside of the premises, and subsequently fled the area. Numerous officers have been assigned to the investigation, and on March 3, 2022, the following individuals were arrested and subsequently charged: Jagdish Pandher, a 39-year-old man from Brampton, has been charged with:

- Disguise with Intent x13
- Break, Enter and Commit an Indictable Offence x13

Gursharnjeet Dhindsa, a 31-year-old man from Brampton, has been charged with:

- Disguise with Intent x13
- Break, Enter and Commit an Indictable Offence x13

Parminder Gill, a 42-year-old man from Brampton, has been charged with:

- Disguise with Intent x13
- Break, Enter and Commit an Indictable Offence x13

All three men will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on March 4, 2022, for a bail hearing.

Investigators are continuing to search for a known fourth suspect while a warrant for his arrest is being sought, and are urging him to speak with legal counsel and arrange to speak with officers.

At this time, the investigation is still ongoing and there is no indication that these crimes are hate-motivated. However, all possible motives will continue to be considered as this investigation progresses. Members from our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau and our Crime Prevention Services, have continued to provide proactive prevention support to reduce further break-ins and financial loss.

Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to contact investigators at the 21 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at 905-453-2121, extension 2133. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting [peelcrimestoppers.ca](https://www.peelcrimestoppers.ca).

For media inquiries, please contact the on-duty Public and Media Relations Officer at 905- 453-2121, extension 4027.

Subscribe to us on YouTube and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.

WHAT’S ON VIRTUALLY WITH PAMA THIS MARCH!

This March, the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) offers exciting virtual programs in celebration of International Women’s Day and March Break. Enjoy virtual March Break activities, an online exhibition with inspiring stories of women from the PAMA art collections and downloadable art activities for the family.

As we celebrate March, our staff is also working hard behind the scenes to get everything ready for the re-opening of the Art Gallery and Courthouse on April 7. PAMA will re-open with weekly hours on Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 – 5 p.m. Admission will be pay-what-you-can. The Museum and Archives will remain closed until Winter 2022.

International Women’s Day Virtual Exhibition

We have added new stories to the Inspiring Stories of Women in the PAMA Collections Virtual exhibition! Learn about artists Rita Letendre and Pegi Nicol MacLeod, Peace Advocate Julia Morton-Marr, Memorial Cross Mother Frances Roberts and more!

PAMA Kids Virtual March Break

March 14 – 18

Join us virtually as we glide into March Break. Get a sneak peak of the Power Play: Hockey in Contemporary Art exhibition and create your own art inspired by artists in the exhibition. Download the step-by-step instructions for each Family Fun Activity and create art all week long. And, join us on March 15 for a live virtual experience!

Virtual PAMA Kids March Break Event: Meet the Guest Curator!

March 15, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Discover and Create! Power Play: Hockey in Contemporary Art’s guest curator Jaclyn Meloche will offer insights on PAMA’s current exhibition and shed new light on the power of hockey and the materials that make up the game. Inspired by the art in the exhibition, you will be invited to create your own collages.

The following supplies are recommended: magazines, glue, scissors, paper and markers.

FREE, pre-registration required. Recommended for ages 8 – 12. This workshop will be hosted through Microsoft Teams. If you do not receive the link within 24-hours of registration, please contact us. [Click here to register.](#)

Downloadable Family Fun Activities

Instructions for each activity will be available on the PAMA website during March Break.



PUNJAB CM CHANNI MEETS AMIT SHAH, DISCUSSES BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed the issue of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMS). After meeting Shah at his residence, he said: "The main issue was the BBMB and officers should be deployed earlier. The Centre wants to deploy people from outside. I requested him to reconsider it.a "He assured me that he will discuss with his minister in 1-2 days and act as per Punjab's wish."

Channi also said that 997 students from the state were in Ukraine, out of whom 420 have returned, and 200 students have reached Poland and are safe but some of the people are still stuck in Ukraine.

"I made a request for them. HM assured me that they are monitoring and the students will be back," he said.

Earlier in the day, former Chief Minister and Punjab Lok Congress Chief Captain Amarinder Singh also met Amit Shah on Monday. Soon after the meeting he said that he had a general discussion with the Home Minister. "There will be a detailed discussion once the results come in. It was a general discussion on Punjab, not on elections," he said.

INDIA ENSURES WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN EVERY SPHERE, NUMBER OF WOMEN PADMA AWARDEES SHOOT UP

In the recently concluded municipal polls, the Trinamool Congress won 102 of the 108 municipalities preceded by the resounding victory in the assembly elections, proclaiming an unquestionable political supremacy in the state. However, the victory in all these elections has been marred by controversies and the ruling party has been accused of political violence. Take the example of the recently concluded municipality polls where allegations of violence by the ruling party were widespread. At least nine journalists were injured while trying to show the violence allegedly perpetrated by the ruling party. The BJP called a bandh for 12 hours protesting against the violence during the election throughout the state. Not only the municipal elections, there were allegations of widespread violence across the state after the assembly polls. There was an allegation that the Trinamool Congress after coming to power for the third time unleashed violence against supporters of the BJP. The National Human Rights Commission in its findings not only accused several Trinamool Congress leaders and cabinet ministers

for their direct involvement in the violence but mentioned that in the state of West Bengal - 'There is no rule of law rather it is the law of the rulers'. Even though the number of cognizable crimes per lakh of population in 18 Indian states is higher than that of West Bengal, the latter has acquired the dubious distinction of recording the highest number of incidents of political violence for quite some time. According to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau, the crime rate -- the number of cognizable crimes under IPC per lakh of population -- was the highest in Kerala (499.7) in 2019, followed by Haryana (386.4) and Assam (358.9): Bengal stood 19th (162.3). In terms of the number of murders per lakh of population, Jharkhand (4.3), Arunachal Pradesh (4.0) and Haryana (3.9) occupy the first three positions. Bengal (2.0) ranks 17th. In economic offences, the rank of the state is 15th. In all these headers, Bengal's crime rate is lower than the national average. As far as crimes against women per lakh of population is concerned, the first three spots have gone to Assam (177.8), Rajasthan (110.4) and Haryana (108.5) with Bengal being 8th (64.0).

INDIA ENSURES WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN EVERY SPHERE, NUMBER OF WOMEN PADMA AWARDEES SHOOT UP

Women have a new role to play in new India. The central government did not leave any stone unturned towards women empowerment and development. From initiating schemes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samridhi' to increasing the numbers of women in Padma awardees, the government have fired ON all cylinders. When respect and equal opportunities are provided to women then revolutionary changes are visible. Schemes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', ND 'Sukanya Samridhi' have revolutionized the sex ratio. For the first time, the number of females has reached 1,020 per 1,000 males. The dropout rate of girls from schools has come down because women themselves are involved in these campaigns. In order to ensure that marriage at an early age does not hinder the education and career of girls, efforts are being made to raise the age of marriage of girls to 21 years. Launching 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' seven years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: "The Prime Minister of India is begging you for the lives of daughters becoming a beggar. Consider daughters the pride of your family, the honoUr of the nation. You see, we can come out of this imbalance very fast. Both son and daughter are those wings without which there is no possibility of attaining the heights of

life." The historical change in the sex ratio (1,020 females against 1,000 males) in the survey report of National Family Health in the year of Amrit Mahotsav is living proof of the realisation of that resolve. Today in the year of Amrit Mahotsav, the country is trying to fulfil the dreams of lakhs of freedom fighters remembering the important contribution of women's power in the freedom struggle. That is why today the dream of daughters studying in Sainik Schools is being fulfilled. Women's life and career may go hand in hand, with this aim the government has allowed maximum maternal leave to them. The participation of women in the country's democracy is also increasing. More women than men voted in the 2019 elections. Women ministers are handling important assignments in the new India will be like, how powerful it will be in the future. The participation of women in the development cycle of New India is getting stronger. The country has paid special attention to this in the last seven years. The increasing participation of women in the prestigious Padma award is yet another example. From 2015 till now, 185 women have been given the Padma Award for their phenomenal work. This year also, 34 Padma Awards have been received by women working in different fields. This is a record in itself. To date, never so many women have received the Padma award.

INDIA: A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

This involves transportation and other logistic assistance from Ukraine to the neighbouring countries of Romania, Hungary, Poland, Moldova and Slovakia. Accommodation and food for the Indian citizens has been arranged by the concerned Indian embassies in close cooperation with the host countries, which have suddenly faced a large influx of refugees and are deserving accolades for their hospitality as well.Upon ensuring their safety, these Indians (most of whom are medical students) are then flown back to the national capital. In fact, the safe evacuation of Indian nationals was first discussed within few hours at the beginning of the invasion when Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought it up with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. In addition, this was also discussed during the telephonic conversation with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. In order to aid the same, four Union Ministers of Government of India -- Kiren Rijiju, Hardeep Singh Puri, Gen V.K. Singh and JyotiradityaScindia -- were sent to these countries so as to assist with coordination and facilitate a smooth rescue operation for affected people. As part of the operation, 3 Indian Air Force C-17 aircrafts apart from numerous commercial flights of Air India, Go Air, SpiceJet and Indigo have also been engaged there with concerted efforts for the mission. In toto, 7 flights from Bucharest, 5 from Budapest, 3 from Warsaw and 1 from Slovakia were scheduled by the government of India. An additional location at the Romanian border has also been identified and a couple of flights from the area would also start operating shortly. The Ministry of External Affairs has announced that an increased number of flights would thereby provide for an accelerated rescue operation bringing back almost all Indians in the next 2-3 days. In a strategic manoeuvre, the Indian government also decided to deploy Russian-origin Ilyushin-76 heavy-lift transport aircrafts to bring back stranded persons. Though the Indian government had issued advisories right before the conflict through various communication channels, it had mixed impact partly owing to the lax and casual attitude of the authorities about the possibility of an invasion. The Ministry of External Affairs set up multiple information dissemination and communication channels in the form of regular e-mail blasts, website tickers, text messages over phone numbers, round-the-clock helpline and an active Twitter handle as well. In a tragic loss to the nation, one Indian student was unfortunately caught in the crossfire despite the proactive effort of the government on the ground. However, timely announcements, advisories and prompt responses helped avoid a large number of fatalities that would have occurred otherwise. This smooth and efficient effort is no longer a surprise given that the government of India, over the past decade, has embarked on multiple similar missions to rescue and evacuate a large number of Indian citizens ongoing military conflict zones like Libya, Yemen, etc. The growing stature of India is also due to the fact that India has come to the aid of persons in need, irrespective of their nationality, race or gender. In fact, during the recent turmoil as well, India stepped up to provide humanitarian assistance and relief material at the earliest. Four tranches of humanitarian aid have already flown in to Poland and Romania for the people in need at the borders. In fact, India is also the only country to have been able to successfully negotiate a ceasefire in order to evacuate stranded people in the war zone. This was seen during the Yemen Civil War as well as the recent Ukrainian conflict and is a testament to India's growing soft power and cordial relations with different countries. Needless to say, this is part of a successful de-hyphenated foreign policy that India has embarked upon over the past few years wherein the relationships with so many countries are maintained in terms of individual interests, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding. With the Operation Ganga at full swing, it is hoped that all Indians would be able to return safely in the next few days as the Government steps up its extensive rescue efforts.

WORLD

FOR PAKISTAN OPPOSITION, IT IS NOW OR NEVER TO TABLE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO OUST IMRAN KHAN

Pakistan People's Party leader and former Prime Minister Raja Parvez Ashraf asked Imran Khan to convene the National Assembly and explain why the country has not been able to exit the "grey" list since 2018. But Imran Khan is not ready to enter the trap laid by the opposition, which is ready to submit a notice to requisition a session of the National Assembly within a couple of days to table the no confidence motion. According to Pakistani media, the notice is signed by 86 members of the assembly though it requires only 68. The opposition is determined to table motions of no-Confidence not only against Imran Khan, but against the speaker as well as the deputy speaker so that they could not play any "mischief". But the big question is, when would the opposition table the no-confidence motion which they have been discussing for the last two months? According to Pakistani sources, the main reason for the delay among others is that the opposition wanted to be sure that the Pakistani military establishment would not come to rescue its selected Prime Minister Khan. Another reason was that the leaders of the PPP were not in favour of snap polls after the exit of Imran Khan while Nawaz Sharif was keen for early elections.

"Now the deadlock is over and there is a consensus to hold immediate elections," said Maulana Fazal -ur- Rahman, head of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, a united platform of 11 anti-Imran Khan parties. The Opposition's decision to take the plunge follows weeks of hectic politicking by both opposition heavyweights and government stalwarts. They were aiming to get 20 votes of allies of the ruling party while trying to poach an equal number from the Imran Khan led government. The opposition strength stands at 163, 9 short of the magic number of 172 to oust Khan. The total number of votes of allies is 17.

"Yes we have the numbers. The no-trust motion would be like a "walk in the park" for the opposition parties now that we have the magical figure to oust the government," Rehman claimed, adding that the next week is very crucial. The opposition also hopes that "if the umpire (military establishment)" is neutral, more members of the ruling parties might break ranks when they see that the opposition has the requisite numbers without them. Imran Khan is feeling heat and has deployed all his resources of state and government to thwart the opposition, including arrests of opposition figures, political bribes to allies and harassment of independent media. Khan claims that he and the military establishment are on the same page. According to Pakistani insiders, Imran Khan is unable to "digest" that the military establishment can dump their blue-eyed boy. "Khan is unlike Sharifs or Bhuttos. He believes that with the help of 'divine' powers, he can outsmart opposition and the army. Khan has openly said that he would be dangerous for those who tried to throw him out" says one Pakistani watcher, adding that he might announce elections. Imran Khan can also ask the speaker to prorogue the session of the Assembly indefinitely using some technical reasons. After all, the next general elections are due next year.

Despite all these apprehensions, Pakistani experts believe that this is the last chance for the opposition to remove Imran Khan. The opposition has done its homework but nothing is guaranteed in Pakistan's present hybrid regime. "They have nothing to lose and everything to gain. It is now or never," writes the veteran Pakistani journalist Najam Sethi in his column in The Friday Times.

US UNEMPLOYMENT SLIGHTLY DIPS TO 3.8% IN FEBRUARY

US employers added 678,000 jobs in February as the Omicron-fuelled Covid-19 surge fades, with the unemployment rate slightly dropping to 3.8 per cent, the Labour Department reported. Job growth was widespread, led by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, health care, and construction, according to the report released on Friday by the Department's Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS). Average hourly earnings for all employees on private non-farm payrolls, at \$31.58 dollars in February, were "little changed" over the month, after large increases in recent months, the BLS report showed. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 5.1 per cent. Meanwhile, recent data from the Commerce Department showed that personal consumption expenditures (PCE), the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, rose 6.1 per cent annually in January, the fastest annual pace in four decades. Persistently high inflation and a tight job market have prompted the Federal Reserve to signal in January that it was ready to begin a series of interest rate hikes in March as it exited from the ultra-loose monetary policy enacted at the start of the pandemic. Two days prior to the release of the monthly employment report, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell already reaffirmed the central bank's plan to raise interest rates in the upcoming policy meeting, noting that he is inclined to support a 25-basis-point rate hike.

JUST 41% OF PEOPLE IN BRITAIN 'VERY WORRIED' ABOUT COVID: REPORT

Just 41 per cent of adults in Britain were 'very worried' about Covid-19 in mid-February, says a new survey. The figure was less than half the proportion that were terrified by Covid-19 at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 (86 per cent), DailyMail reported quoting a survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The report mentioned that it had been falling since January 22, when the Omicron wave started to subside. Since then, infections, hospitalisations and deaths had all been falling consistently until this week, with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson dropping all restrictions on February 24. Statisticians surveyed 3,000 people in Britain from February 16 to 27 -- with all restrictions ending on February 24. They showed the use of face coverings in shops and on public transport decreased compared to the previous week. Some 71 per cent said they always or often wore face coverings while in shops, down from 77 per cent from February 3 to 13. And 70 per cent reporting wearing a face covering throughout the journey on public transport, down from 78 per cent in the previous period. Almost one-third (32 per cent) of adults reported always or often maintaining social distancing, down from 35 per cent. This is the lowest proportion of adults reporting maintaining social distancing since data collection on this measure started in September 2020, the report said. Around four in 10 (42 per cent) adults said they had taken a rapid lateral flow test in the past seven days, decreasing from 49 per cent. The percentage of people working from home last week also continued to fall, with 15 per cent working remotely compared with 26 per cent from January 6 to 16.



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RAKUL PREET SINGH ON PLAYING
CONDOM TESTER IN CHHATRIWALI,
SAYS SHE RUNS SCRIPTS THROUGH
HER PARENTS | 15



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RANVEER SINGH, ALIA BHATT, RAKHI SAWANT WALK ITA AWARDS RED CARPET



IT WAS A HOUSE ON FIRE AS RANVEER SINGH AND RAKHI SAWANT MET ON THE RED CARPET OF THE INDIAN TELEVISION ACADEMY AWARDS (ITA) HELD IN MUMBAI ON SUNDAY. THE TWO LOOKED SUPER EXCITED ON MEETING EACH OTHER AND EVEN PERFORMED RANVEER'S TATAD TATAD HOOKSTEP FROM HIS FILM GOLIJON KI RAASLEELA RAM-LEELA. THE TWO ALSO HAD A SMALL CHAT AND POSED FOR PICTURES IN THEIR OWN STYLE. RAKHI EVEN POSED WHILE HOLDING RANVEER'S LEG IN HER ARMS AS THE PAPARAZZI CHEERED FOR THEM. RAKHI, WHO WAS IN A SHIMMERY BLACK OUTFIT PAIRED WITH A LARGE ROSE-SHAPED BONNET, GREETED RANVEER AND SAID, "AAJ MAIN PED BANI HU, FOOL LAGAYA LIA (I HAVE DRESSED UP AS A TREE TODAY, I HAVE PUT UP A FLOWER ON MY HEAD)." RAKHI ALSO DID ALLU ARJUN'S HAND GESTURE FROM HIS FILM PUSHPA AND RANVEER COPIED HER IN THE SAME STYLE. RANVEER WAS ALSO IN A BLACK AND WHITE SUIT WITH HIS HAIR TIED IN A BUN.

GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI RECEIVED 5-MINUTE STANDING OVATION AT BERLINALE, BHANSALI SAYS 'I WAS CONFIDENT'



It was a matter of pride for India when Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial Gangubai Kathiawadi was screened at the Berlin Film Festival, also called Berlinale, ahead of its global release on February 25. The movie has been doing great business at the box office in India and steadily inching towards the Rs 100 crore mark. It has been well received by the viewers and has managed to remain the first choice of moviegoers despite competition from The Batman and Jhund. In a recent interaction video, Alia and Bhansali are seen getting candid about the movie. Here, Bhansali reveals that the movie received a standing ovation of five minutes after the screening ended in Berlinale. Alia says, "I know you have been nervous about the film's release but exactly when did you breathe a sigh of relief?"

AKSHAY KUMAR CALLS KAPIL SHARMA 'BEWAFA' AMID RUMOURS OF RIFT



The Bollywood galore is abuzz with rumours of actor Akshay Kumar and comedian Kapil Sharma's ongoing rift. Putting an end to all these speculations Akshay Kumar recently shot with Kapil Sharma for his show The Kapil Sharma Show. Khiladi Kumar is on a promotion spree for his upcoming film 'Bachchan Paandey.' After a long wait, the actor finally visited the sets of the comedy chat show along with co-stars Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez and Arshad Warsi. On Wednesday (March 9), Akshay took to his Instagram handle and shared a quirky post promoting the latest released song of the film, Saare Bolo Bewafa. In the short clip shared by Akshay from the sets of the show, he can be seen calling Kapil Sharma 'Bewafa'. "Bewafa...yane dhokebaaz. Sabki life mein hota hai. Abhi meri life mein hai @kapilsharma . Aur aapki? Make a reel with #SaareBoloBewafa. Zor se bolo bewafa!!," he captioned the post.

KAJOL GIVES 'SERIOUS' REPLY TO FAN WHO ASKED WHY RANI MUKERJI ISN'T ON INSTAGRAM



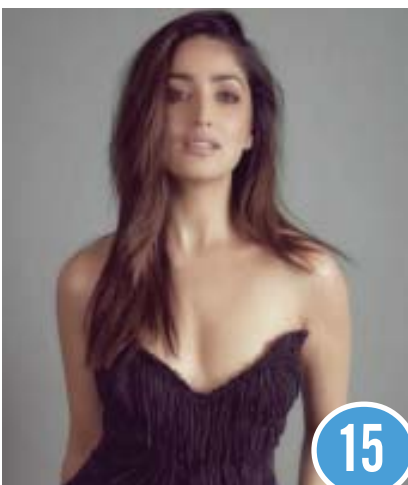
Actress Kajol, who is known for her great sense of humour, gave a witty reply to a fan on Tuesday (March 8). In an interactive session with her fans on her Instagram stories, she had asked her fans to express their pledge on Women's Day. "This Women's Day, I pledge to," the actress wrote. One fan took this opportunity to ask Kajol about her cousin and actress, Rani Mukherji. The excited fan asked her, "Plz Rani Mukherjee ke baare mai batao woh insta pe kyu nhi h and happy woman's day." Kajol gave a rib-tickling reply to the fan, which read, "Dialing Rani, this is serious!" For the unversed, Kajol and Rani have shared the screen space together in films like 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' and 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham's' among others. On the work front, Kajol was last seen in the OTT film, 'Tribhanga'. She will be next seen in the film, 'Salaam Venky' to be directed by veteran actor-filmmaker Revathy. On the occasion of Women's Day, Kajol posted a pic with her girl gang from her upcoming project with 'Revathy'. She captioned it as, "Producer, Director, Actor, Manager, Stylist, Makeup and Hair! Women's Day all day every day! #happywomensday #internationalwomensday #womanpower".

PRIYANKA CHOPRA DEDICATES WOMEN'S DAY POST TO UKRAINE CRISIS



ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, PRIYANKA CHOPRA TRIED TO GET PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE CRISIS, INCLUDING THE ONE THAT HAS UNFOLDED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR. "I WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT," SHE WROTE.

YAMI GAUTAM POSES IN BLUE AND BLACK MINI SKATER DRESS



TAKING TO HER INSTAGRAM HANDLE ON SATURDAY, YAMI GAUTAM POSTED SEVERAL PHOTOS OF HERSELF FROM A PHOTOSHOOT THAT FEATURED HER STRIKING POSES IN THE OUTFIT OF THE NIGHT.

WOMEN MUST BE TREATED WELL NOT ONLY ON WOMEN'S DAY: KARISHMA KOTAK



ACTRESS-MODEL, KARISHMA KOTAK HAS SHARED AN EMPOWERING MESSAGE AHEAD OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON MARCH 8.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022: GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI TO LOOOP LAPETA, FILMS CELEBRATING SPIRIT OF WOMANHOOD



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022: THE INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY HAS GIVEN MANY BRILLIANT WOMEN-CENTRIC FILMS WHICH HAVE INSPIRED THE AUDIENCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. FROM ALIA BHATT'S GANGUBAI KATHIWADI, TAAPSEE PANNU'S RASHAMI ROCKET TO JANHVI KAPOOR'S GUNJAN SAXENA, HERE'S THE LIST OF BOLLYWOOD FILMS THAT CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF WOMANHOOD. EACH YEAR, MARCH 8 MARKS THE CELEBRATION OF WOMANHOOD. THE DAY ALSO CALLS FOR GIVING RECOGNITION TO THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL FRONT. IT WON'T BE WRONG TO SAY THAT BOLLYWOOD FILMS PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN ADVOCATING BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AMONG THE MASSES. THE INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY HAS GIVEN MANY BRILLIANT WOMEN-CENTRIC FILMS WHICH HAVE INSPIRED THE AUDIENCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. THE BREAKTHROUGH STORIES, SUCCESSFUL FEMALE LEADS FROM VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE HAVE PROVED HOW WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IS IMPORTANT. HERE'S THE LIST OF BOLLYWOOD FILMS THAT CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF WOMANHOOD.

YAMI GAUTAM POSES IN BLUE AND BLACK MINI SKATER DRESS; LEAVES FANS CALLING HER 'GLAMOROUS'

Actor Yami Gautam is one such actor who looks gorgeous in every outfit. From a traditional avatar to a sensuous personality, it is always a delight to look at her in different characters. Recently, the actor has been busy garnering applause for her recently-released thriller 'A Thursday'. Last night, the star cast of the film got together to celebrate the movie's success. Yami attended the occasion in a blue and black mini-skater dress. Taking to her Instagram handle on Saturday, she posted several photos of herself from a photoshoot that featured her striking poses in the outfit of the night. She captioned, "It's time to celebrate! #ATHursdaysuccessparty." The 'Kaabil' actor sported a blue and black striped skater dress which features a strapless ensemble design and a backless detail with a V-neckline in front. There were pleated ruffles in addition to them on the skirt. She accessorized her glam look with a pair of matching black stilettos. She completed her look with smoky eye shadow, kohled eyes, dewy make-up, and blush pink lip shade to look stunning. The success party was also attended by Neha Dhupia accompanied by her husband Angad Bedi, Atul Kulkarni, and Karanvir Sharma. Meanwhile, 'A Thursday' is the story of playschool teacher Naina who takes as many as many 16 kids hostage. She intends to cause no harm, only wants her demands to be met. The movie is currently streaming on Disney+Hotstar. The film was directed by Behzad Khambata and produced under the banner RSVP Movies and Blue Monkey Films.



RAKUL PREET SINGH ON PLAYING CONDOM TESTER IN CHHATRIWALI, SAYS SHE RUNS SCRIPTS THROUGH HER PARENTS

Rakul Preet Singh says she is open to doing all sort of films – from 'seeti maar' commercial films to content driven stories – but for her, the 'green signal' from her parents is important. In an interview with Pinkvilla for their segment titled Women Up, Rakul Preet Singh said she "runs every script" by her parents. The actor is set to star in Chhatrivali in which she plays a condom tester. She also has Doctor G in her kitty. Talking about being a part of such scripts, Rakul said, "I just told my parents the one-liner and they said okay. I run every script by my parents. Not like full narration but I give them the gist. If they are okay, I am okay. My confidence stems from them. When I am confused, I give my scripts to my dad and tell him to take a read when he has time and what he thinks of it as an audience." Talking about Chhatrivali, Rakul said the film is "not preachy" but a "reality of our society." Describing the film a light-hearted tale, Rakul said it is a "story of a small town girl who ends up becoming a condom tester, quality control head just by chance because she needs money." The actor said she shot for the film, at a stretch, in November-December last year. "We are not showing anything sleazy. It is a journey of a small town girl," she affirmed. While talking about Doctor G, which stars Ayushmann Khurrana as the lead, Rakul spoke about the taboo around the gynaecology department. "Each one of us are born the way we will show in Doctor G. A gynecologist is a very important doctor, but the department is looked



down upon. Gynae ke paas jaana hai, father ke saath nahi, mother ke saath jao. Why? Why have we made it a taboo? We are not saying be shameless about it. But be aware. If you don't educate the younger generation about health and dos and don't, how can we be equal? Equality does not step in from just education. Wisdom and education are very different things," she said. Apart from Chhatrivali and Doctor G, Rakul Preet Singh has Thank God, Runway 34 and Attack to her credit. She will also be seen in Indian 2.

#BoycottKapilSharmaShow trends on Twitter: 5 times the show landed in controversy

Filmmaker Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, director of The Kashmir Files, alleged on Twitter that The Kapil Sharma Show turned down his request to feature on the show for the promotions as the movie does not "have big commercial star". Ever since Vivek's allegations, Kapil Sharma and The Kapil Sharma Show have been trending on Twitter. Netizens have been criticising the channel, the show makers and Kapil for their stance. However, this is not the first time that the hugely popular Kapil Sharma Show has made headlines for the wrong reasons. We take a look at other times it was criticised on social media.

Stereotyping women

Kapil's show and his brand of humour have been criticised for the longest time for their stereotypical jokes against women. From fat-shaming to commenting on the female cast's physical appearance, Kapil's show has invited scrutiny. However, such jokes continue to be the flavour on it.

Akshay Kumar and Kapil Sharma's tiff

Recently, reports emerged that Akshay Kumar refused to go on The Kapil Sharma Show to promote Bachchan Paandey because he was miffed with the popular comedian. Kapil had joked about Akshay's much-talked about interview with Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- without taking the PM's name -- leaving the actor tongue-tied. However, later, Kapil clarified that all is sorted between him and Akshay.

Netizens slammed Sushant Singh Rajput angle on the show

After Sushant Singh Rajput's demise, The Kapil Sharma Show actor Kiku Sharda mimicked an Indian journalist extensively covering SSR's death for a segment on the show. Krushna Abhishek and Kapil were also included in the segment. The parody of SSR's death's news coverage did not sit well with his admirers and started the hashtag 'Boycott Kapil Sharma Show' had also trended on Twitter.



MADHURI DIXIT, NEENA GUPTA ON EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR WOMEN



MUMBAI, (IANS) On the eve of International Women's Day, Bollywood actresses Neena Gupta and Madhuri Dixit shared their thoughts on the changing landscape of Indian content with regards to female artistes and how this change could bring about a more inclusive space. Commenting on the occasion, Neena Gupta opined that the evolution of entertainment space has been in perfect sync with the changing society, "The entertainment space has evolved, alongside our evolution as a society. As women become breadwinners, led businesses & teams, and became a central figure in every aspect of life, the roles that were offered to me became central to the story. In today's scripts, roles for women are not dependent on a man, rather stand on their own." Speaking on the sidelines of streaming platform Netflix's women's day programme 'Stree-ming', she further said, "I love that every day I get to see more stories that reflect the lives of incredible women - portraying all their layers, shades, and flaws. It's safe to say there's no going back. We are not just a part of the story, but we are the story." Adding onto it, she said as to how a lot of change in Indian content has come from women who hold the fort behind the camera to craft compelling narratives, "More women writers, directors, producers have also acted as a powerful driving force behind this change. Behind the screen, inclusivity is critical not only in amplifying voices that are not always heard, but also because it creates opportunities for stories that might not otherwise have been told."

SALMAN, RITEISH, VARUN CHUFFED ABOUT HOSTING IIFA 2022 IN ABU DHABI



MUMBAI, (IANS) As the 22nd edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards is set to unfold in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi on May 20-21, event hosts Salman Khan, Riteish Deshmukh, and Varun Dhawan, who will have a special performance at the event, are elated to be a part of the event. Salman is excited to be at his favourite destination - the Yas Island for the said event, as he said, "It feels great to be a part of the IIFA movement and I look forward to hosting the 22nd edition at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi - one of my personal favourites. I'm sure fans from all over the world are as excited as us and can't wait for this mega event to take place that celebrates Indian cinema globally." The event will bring the entire fraternity together after a wait of two years to celebrate excellence in Hindi cinema. Riteish, who will be co-hosting the mega-event along with Salman is looking forward to the event, "I'm super excited to be a part of the 22nd Edition of IIFA 2022. It is even more special since we are coming back after a very long wait for this mega grand celebration. I am looking forward to co-hosting with Salman Khan and having great fun!"

WOMEN MUST BE TREATED WELL NOT ONLY ON WOMEN'S DAY: KARISHMA KOTAK



MUMBAI, (IANS) As International Women's Day is set to be celebrated on March 8, actress-model Karishma Kotak has shared an empowering message. She says women should be treated kindly on a regular basis instead of just one day. Karishma said: "Women's Day should be celebrated every day and women should be treated kindly on a regular basis instead of just one day." She added: "It should be the norm to love your mother, help your wife, smile at your daughter and appreciate your sister daily." On the work front, Karishma recently hosted a Cricket league in Oman. She was also featured in a music video titled 'Ab Talak' along with Yasser Desai.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE JOINS SRK ON PATHAAN SHOOT, GIVES A GLIMPSE OF HER ‘NEW HOME’

Deepika Padukone piqued fans' interest with a photo of her 'new home'. No, the Gehraiyaan star hasn't shifted to any new abode, but from what one can understand from her Instagram stories, Deepika shared a sneak peek of the place she's going to stay while shooting for her upcoming Pathaan with Shah Rukh Khan in Spain. And it looks like it's going to be a long haul for her. Deepika, who was seen at Mumbai airport over the weekend, has joined SRK on Pathaan sets. She took to her Instagram and shared several photos and videos in her stories from Spain. From posting a click while landing in the country to her 'new home' and her 'Lazy Sunday' look, Deepika is keeping her fans upbeat about her off-camera mood. Shah Rukh Khan, who's returning to the films after Zero (2018), left for Spain on Saturday. Deepika followed suit as she was spotted at Mumbai airport. The makers had last week released a teaser video of Pathaan featuring Deepika Padukone and John Abraham. The actors will share screen space with Shah Rukh in the actioner. The video gave a glimpse of SRK too. On March 5, Shah Rukh Khan was photographed at the Mumbai airport as he left for Spain. The actor was seen hugging his driver as he arrived at the venue. He also greeted the security at the airport with folded hands. Directed by Siddharth Anand, Pathaan is touted to be an actioner. The teaser hints at Shah Rukh playing a patriot. The movie will have a Republic Day release in 2023, as a part of Yash Raj Films' 50-year celebrations.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA DEDICATES WOMEN'S DAY POST TO UKRAINE CRISIS, INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES AND HELPERS

Priyanka Chopra Jonas took to social media to mark International Women's Day with a powerful quote and dedicated it to the women who have been brave and lent support to others during the international refugee crisis. She also referred to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War in her Instagram post. The White Tiger actress captioned it, "They rose from amongst us, for the world, to serve the world. On a day meant to honour women around the world, I wanted to showcase some incredible women whose stories inspire me. These brave women are on the frontline of the refugee crisis around the world. I thank you for your tireless dedication. I wish you all a very happy #InternationalWomensDay (sic)." Her quote dedicated to Women's day read, "To the women before me that fought the fight, I thank you. To the women after me, I will continue that fight." Earlier, Priyanka had dubbed Russian military attack on Ukraine as "terrifying" and said it was difficult to understand how the situation has escalated to a "catastrophic point". The actress, who is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, took to Instagram and shared a news clipping of the Ukraine crisis. "The situation unfolding in Ukraine is terrifying. Innocent people living in fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones, while trying to navigate the uncertainty of the immediate future," she wrote. The 39-year-old actor also attached a UNICEF donation link in her bio to help the children of Ukraine. Celebrities like Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis, Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, Leonardo Di Caprio, Gigi Hadid among many others have pledged donations to Ukraine. On the work front, Priyanka will be seen in Text For You opposite Sam Heughan. She will also be featuring in mega-budget Amazon Prime series Citadel opposite Richard Madden of Eternals. She is also set to make her Bollywood comeback with Jee Le Zaraa. It co-stars Alia Bhatt and KLatrina Kaif and is directed by Farhan Akhtar.



HRITHIK ROSHAN'S RUMOURED GIRLFRIEND SABA AZAD SHOWERED WITH PRAISES FROM HIS COUSIN SISTER & NIECE

Hrithik Roshan's relationship with Saba Azad has become one of the most talked-about topics in showbiz. From their outings to social media presence, almost everything is now under surveillance. And Saba's latest post is pointing that she has been getting along well with her rumoured beau's family. The 31-year-old actor recently posted a picture on her Instagram handle which has received love from Hrithik's cousin sister Pashmina Roshan and niece Suranika Roshan. Saba dug out a picture of her character as Mrs Homi Bhabha from 'Rocket Boys', which is currently streaming on SonyLiv. The actor looked like a timeless beauty in the all smiles snap shared by her. "Ms Parwana Irani. Circa 1942," Saba captioned the picture. While Pashmina commented, "Uffffff," alongside a red heart emoticon, Suranika wrote, "stop it!!!!!" with a heart-eyes and a fire emoticon in the comments section. Earlier, Saba got treated with home-cooked food by the Roshan family. As she was feeling homesick, Hrithik's family decided to pamper Saba with some delicious pizza, cake and pasta. She had also joined Roshans for a lunch earlier. Hrithik's uncle, Rajesh Roshan, shared the family photo on Instagram that featured Saba with



family members, including Hrithik's mother Pinkie Roshan, his sons Hrehaan and Hridaan, among others. Recently, the 'War' actor himself gave a shout-out to Saba ahead of her gig in Pune. It was the first time that 'Bang Bang' actor has shared a post for Saba amid rumours of them dating. Talking about the work front, Hrithik will be next seen in 'Fighter' alongside Deepika Padukone. The movie is slated to arrive in cinemas on January 26, 2023.

JOHN ABRAHAM GIVES CAPTAIN AMERICA VIBES AS HE BECOMES 'INDIA'S FIRST SUPER-SOLDIER'



Action entertainer 'Attack' starring John Abraham is set to release in cinemas on April 1, 2022. Co-starring Jacqueline Fernandez and Rakul Preet Singh in lead roles, the film's first part is set to pack a punch this summer! Helmed by Lakshya Raj Anand, Part 1 of 'Attack' is a big-ticket franchise based on a world where future wars will be fought on technology and artificial intelligence (AI). Sharing the trailer video on his Instagram account, the actor wrote, "NDIA'S FIRST SUPER SOLDIER is here to save the nation! Attack tells the story of a daring rescue mission led by India's first Super Soldier played by John Abraham. John's character in the film undergoes radical cybernetic modifications to enhance his biomechanisms in order to ward off terrorist threats on Indian soil. Sharing more about it John Abraham said, "Attack is a homegrown concept of JA entertainment and is the kind of storytelling we understand and curate.. the action scenes are unparalleled and compliment the story beautifully. There are so many surprises in Attack that we have protected and haven't yet revealed in the teaser & trailers since my confidence is high in what our team has achieved and what the audiences are about to witness on the big screen, I am glad we are all set to release on 1st April!" Director Lakshya Raj Anand, said, "Attack is a very special project for me as it's my ode to action films that I've enjoyed through my life and now giving those same tropes my own take makes it super special.. But above all we've made this film with a fantastic team of very passionate people who have given their blood, sweat, and tears.. so am glad the movie-going audience is back and they're going to witness our hard work and perseverance on the big screen" Producer Jayantilal Gada (Pen Studios) adds, "This one from pen studios is made with a lot of heart and is going to bring in a new way of storytelling to our industry. You see, John being a super-soldier is a very appealing idea and the concept of Attack is very entertaining and going to be a clutter breaker. We are thrilled to have the film set to release in cinemas and we hope audiences enjoy the entertainer." Spearheaded by a stellar cast of John Abraham, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh, Prakash Raj, Ratna Pathak Shah as they combine their forces to bring the audiences special adrenaline-pumping action entertainer to be watched in cinemas.

SHREYAS TALPADE TO STAR IN BIOPIC 'KAUN PRAVIN TAMBE?'



Bollywood actor Shreyas Talpade will be starring in the biopic of Indian cricketer Pravin Tambe titled 'Kaun Pravin Tambe?' and the makers unveiled the first poster for the film. On playing the Pravin Tambe, Shreyas said: "After 17 years of playing the lead in 'Iqbal', I feel very fortunate that I am portraying Pravin on screen. The role and the story provided me with a once in a lifetime opportunity and I loved and treasured every minute of filming. I am very grateful to Bootroom Sports and Fox Star Studios and our immensely talented director Jayprad who envisioned me in this role. "It's an honour to represent Pravin and I will always treasure the time spent with him in preparing for this role which required a new level of dedication and effort from all of us. I hope our audiences not only enjoy the film but are touched and inspired by it." To be released on April 1 on Disney+ Hotstar, it is directed by Jayprad Desai. Dynamic, fun, challenging and thrilling as cricket may be, the heart-warming film will give a unique insight into the life and passion of the leg spinner who started playing for Rajasthan Royals at the age of 41 with just dreams in his eyes and an untiring tenacity to prove his love for the sport. It will also feature Ashish Vidyarthi, Parambrata Chatterjee and Anjali Patil in pivotal roles.

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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Tests - wickets: 708 - Best figures - 8-71 - Runs: 3154 - Fifties - 12

ODIs - wickets: 293 - Best figures - 5-33 - Runs: 1018 - Fifties - 1

Retired from all formats in 2013

Second highest Test wicket taker of all time

Named in Australia's greatest ever ODI team

Played in IPL from 2008 to 2011 as captain and coach of Rajasthan Royals

Led Rajasthan Royals to 2008 IPL title

Inducted into Cricket Australia Hall of Fame in 2012

Inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2013



AUTOPSY REPORT CONFIRMS SHANE WARNE DIED FROM NATURAL CAUSES

LONDON, (IANS) An autopsy report on Monday confirmed that Australia's legendary cricketer Shane Warne had died from natural causes. A report in mirror.co.uk quoting Thai police said that the spinner's family "have been informed" and that they "accept the finding".

The 52-year-old cricketer had died on the island of Koh Samui in Thailand after suffering a suspected heart-attack on Friday. A Warne associate had tried to resuscitate the former cricketer for almost 20 minutes before the ambulance arrived but he was declared dead on arrival in hospital.

The ex-cricketer's body will now be handed over to the Australian consular officials for return to his country where he will be given a state funeral. "Today investigators received the autopsy result, in which the medical opinion is that the cause of death is natural," the report quoting Thai deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen's statement, said. "Investigators will summarise the autopsy result for prosecutors within the timeframe of the law." Meanwhile, Warne's family have opened up on their "never-ending nightmare" since he passed away. "To find words to adequately express our sadness is an impossible task for us and looking to a future without Shane is inconceivable, hopefully the mountain of happy memories we all have will help us cope with our ongoing grief," the statement said. Warne took 708 wickets in 145 Tests, the second-most in the longest format after Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan. He retired from international cricket in 2007 after Australia made a clean sweep of the Ashes.

WARNE'S CHILDREN RELEASE HEART-BREAKING TRIBUTES AFTER LEGENDARY LEG-SPINNER'S DEATH

MELBOURNE, (IANS) Shane Warne's children, son Jackson and daughters Brooke and Summer, on Monday released heart-breaking tributes after the legendary leg-spinner died suddenly in Thailand on Friday. This is the first time that Warne's children have spoken since the 52-year-old died in a villa at the Koh Samui Island of a suspected heart attack. Jackson, who was seen in an Australian reality show 'SAS: Who Dares Wins' last year, spoke about the bond he had with his father. "To my brother, my best friend, to my Dad, I love you so much. I don't think anything is ever going to fill the void you have left in my heart. Sitting at the poker table, walking around the golf course, watching the Saints and eating pizza is never going to be the same. But I know all you ever wanted for me is to be happy, no



matter what." Jackson further said Warne was 'the best father' one could have asked for. "You just wanted me to be happy, that's it. So that's what I'm going to do, try and be happy. I am going to miss you so much Dad and you were truly the best father and mate anyone could've asked for. I love you so much Dad, see you soon."

Warne's eldest daughter Brooke said she was yet to believe that he was no more. "Dad, this doesn't feel real and doesn't make sense that you are not here with us anymore. It doesn't feel right, you were taken away too soon and life is so cruel. I will forever cherish our final memories together laughing and joking around with each other. We were

happy." "We were so similar in so many ways and I always used to joke that I got your genes and bout how much that annoyed me! Well, now I couldn't be happier and prouder that I have your genes. I am lucky and will forever be so proud to call you my Dad forever. I love you to infinity and back and I will miss you forever."

SHANE WARNE WAS MORE THAN JUST A LEG SPINNER: GREG CHAPPELL

SYDNEY, (IANS) Former Australia cricketer Greg Chappell believes Shane Warne's identity in the cricketing world was more than just being a great leg-spinner. He added that Warne's success on the field became a catalyst for many youngsters to become leg-spinners in cricket. A shocked cricketing world has been giving rich tributes to Warne, who suddenly died on Friday at Koh Samui Island in Thailand of a suspected heart attack. "Shane was more than just a leg spinner. He was an entertainer with enormous charisma who attracted attention wherever he went. His success generated millions of viewers to the game and brought the art of leg spin to life. "It also spawned a new generation of leg spinners who tried to walk up to the crease and let it rip! What they didn't have was Shane's brute strength and native cunning, so very few have reached great heights," wrote Chappell in his column for The Sydney Morning Herald on Monday.

Chappell, whose cricketing days for Australia were over before Warne entered the scene, described how the experience of seeing the legendary leg-spinner in action was like.

"Watching Warnie bowl was like watching an enactment of the Oberammergau Passion Play. Everything was finely tuned, elaborately planned and played out to a tried and tested script. Ian Healy and the close fielders were important characters, but for Warnie, it was as much about the theatrics as it was about the art of spin bowling." Chappell then explained how the body alignment played a crucial role in making Warne the impactful leg-spinner he was. "He was a conjurer as much as a spin bowler. In his early days, he spun the ball as hard as anyone had. Those who batted against him said the ball seemed to have a life of its own as it hummed towards them, dipped and then spun crazily from the pitch. His sturdy body and big, meaty hands were another important part of what made him the bowler he was.



I HAVE BEEN IN COMPLETE SHOCK: CLARKE ON WARNE'S SUDDEN DEMISE

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke on Monday said he is still in complete shock over the demise of legendary leg-spinner and former teammate, Shane Warne. He added that he had spoken to Warne, who sounded and acted normal during Australia's T20I series against Sri Lanka. This is the first time Clarke has spoken since Warne's sudden demise in Thailand on Friday. "Extremely devastated and shocked, that's the one thing for me still this morning. I haven't said much over the weekend because I've been in complete shock. The hardest thing to comprehend is how quickly it's happened. If Warnie had liver cancer and passed from that, I think everyone would've understood, the amount of cigarettes he smoked throughout his time," Clarke said on Big Sports Breakfast show on Sky Sports Radio. Clarke then revealed his final conversation with Warne when Australia were playing T20Is against Sri Lanka in February this year. "The way he's treated his body at certain times with diet and didn't mind a drink -- he wasn't massive drinker, the drinking around Warnie was more perception versus reality. I spoke to him two days ago before he got on the plane. Spoke to him when he was here (in Sydney) for the T20s against Sri Lanka and nothing had changed. He sounded the same, acted the same." Clarke went on to say that Warne's demise will take time to sink in, just like when his close friend Phil Hughes died in November 2014. "So to all of a sudden get a phone call at 1 a.m. to find out he'd had heart attack, just in complete shock. As it did with 'Hughesy' (Phil Hughes), it takes me time to comprehend -- I'll still be sitting here now waiting for a text to see what the plan was this week, was he coming to Sydney or would I be going to Melbourne. That will take time to sink in. For me at the moment it's about trying to remember and talk about all the good things." Clarke remembers Warne as a person who lived his life on the fast lane and sleep not being his strength. "He lived his life at such a fast pace that he nearly created this invincible feeling around him. He was always on the go. You'd be 'mate, you can't do that' or 'you need to sleep' or 'how do you do that'. Everything was 24/7, like so fast -- he started the car in fifth gear.





I'm not sure I'm a fan of The Hundred, I think we've got three formats that work really well and you don't need to confuse spectators with any more.

Shane Warne, talking to BBC South Today, August 2018

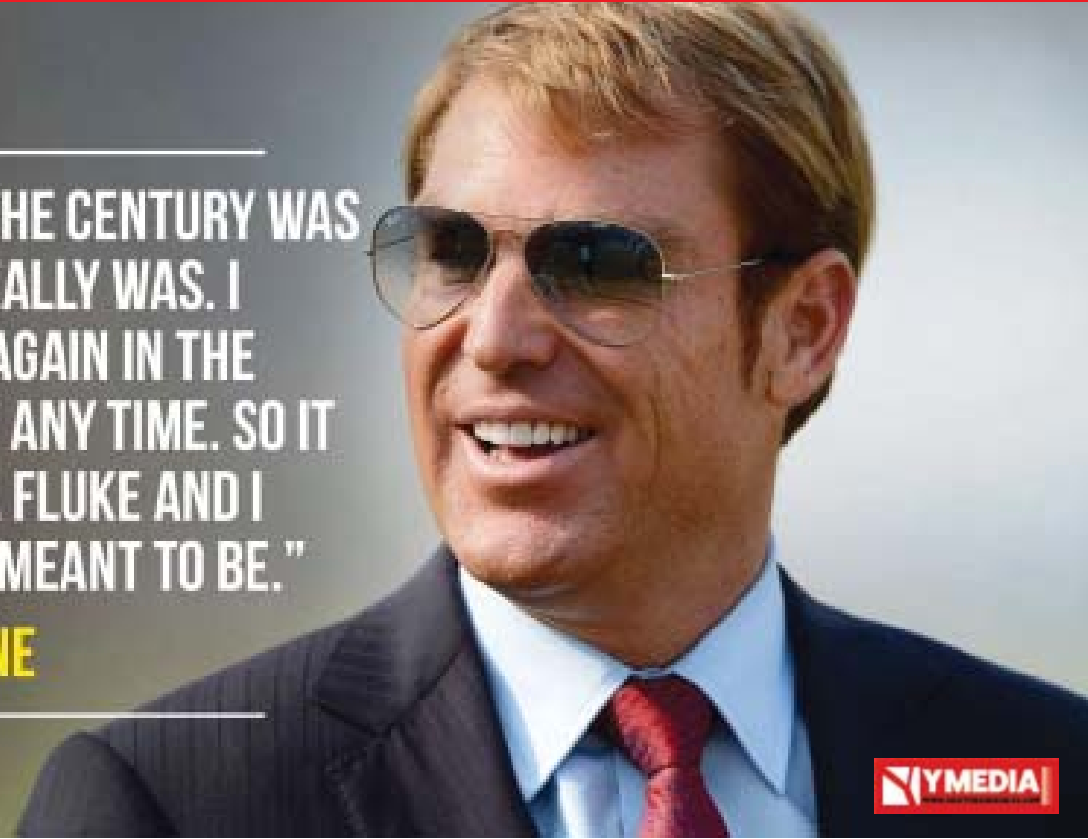


I love the concept of The Hundred and it has grabbed my attention in the same way that the IPL did.

Shane Warne after being named head coach of the Lord's Hundred team, August 2019

"THE BALL OF THE CENTURY WAS A FLUKE. IT REALLY WAS. I NEVER DID IT AGAIN IN THE FIRST BALL OF ANY TIME. SO IT REALLY WAS A FLUKE AND I THINK IT WAS MEANT TO BE."

- SHANE WARNE





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