

Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PIERRE POILIEVRE, LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION OF CANADA



Y MEDIA EXCLUSIVE

PIERRE POILIEVRE CALLS FOR DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND PUNJAB CITIES.

I WILL ADVOCATE FOR STRONG RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

I AM DISAPPOINTED IN JUSTIN TRUDEAU FOR EXCLUDING PUNJABI CITIES.

ANOTHER SUCKER PUNCH FROM JUSTIN TRUDEAU: POILIEVRE ON INTEREST RATE HIKE.

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PIERRE POILIEVRE
LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION OF CANADA

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'HURRICANE HAZEL' MCCALLION DIES AT 101

Hazel McCallion, the longest serving mayor in the city of Mississauga's history passed away peacefully shortly after 6:30 a.m. on January 29, 2023 at home with her family by her side. Hazel McCallion was 101 years old. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement that he remembered the "unstoppable" McCallion.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said, "Hazel was the true definition of a public servant. She dedicated her long life to her community, including 36 years as mayor of Mississauga - the longest serving mayor in the city's history. She led the transformation of Mississauga into one of Canada's largest cities. Hazel's mark on her community can be found in the many places and organizations that bear her name, including the Hazel McCallion Line". Remembering her, Mayor Bonnie Crombie said, "Hazel was not only my mentor and political role model but the reason why so many Canadian women were inspired to enter politics.

Hazel McCallion served the City of Mississauga as mayor for 36 years from November 1978 to November 2014. Since leaving the Mayor's office, she has taken on roles with University of Toronto Mississauga, Sheridan College, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Ontario Women's Hockey Association, the Ontario Government, and Revera Incorporated, among others.

BACKGROUND

Hazel McCallion was born on February 14, 1921 in Port Daniel, Quebec, a small fishing community on the Gaspé Peninsula. She played professional hockey until moving to Toronto to work with Canadian Kellogg for 19 years.

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PAKISTAN MOSQUE SUICIDE BOMBING: MORE THAN 100 DEAD, JIT CONSTITUTED FOR INVESTIGATION

The death toll in the suicide bombing in a mosque in Pakistan's Peshawar province crossed 100 on Tuesday after more bodies were recovered from the attack site. The explosion occurred in the central hall of the mosque leading to roof of the place of worship crashing down when devotees were offering prayers on Monday, Dawn News quoted police as saying.

More than 90 per cent of the victims were policemen, between 300 and 400 of whom had gathered in the compound's mosque for prayers, as per Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ijaz Khan.

The suicide bomber who blew himself up was present in the first row, police said. A joint investigation team, comprising intelligence, police and security officials, has been formed to probe the incident, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mauzzam Jah Ansari told mediapersons. After the TTP denied their involvement in the attack, police suspect that Jamaat-ul-Ahrar may be involved in the incident, he said.

BRAMPTON GETS FIRST SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

BRAMPTON: The City of Brampton, Government of Ontario, and Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) announced the City's Bramalea Civic Centre will be home to the new Toronto Metropolitan University School of Medicine at 150 Central Park Drive in Brampton.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

BANK OF CANADA RAISES 0.25% INTEREST RATE TO 4.5%

The Bank of Canada today increased its target for the overnight rate to 4½%, with the Bank Rate at 4¾% and the deposit rate at 4½%. The Bank is also continuing its policy of quantitative tightening. Global inflation remains high and broad-based. Inflation is coming down in many countries, largely reflecting lower energy prices as well as improvements in global supply chains.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

'REMAIN VIGILANT': ONTARIO'S TOP DOCTOR WARNS AMID SURGE IN 'KRAKEN' CASES

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following statement providing an update on the province's progress responding to this year's respiratory illness season:

"Thanks to the ongoing resilience and commitment of Ontarians, we are seeing a decline in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu and COVID activity throughout the province.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

PUNJAB AAP MLA KUNWAR VIJAY PRATAP SINGH RESIGNS AS CHAIR OF SACRILEGE PROBE PANEL

Fissures appear in less than a year-old AAP government in Punjab with its legislator Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh on Wednesday resigning from the post of chairman of the committee on government assurances of the Legislative Assembly over government's "inaction" in the 2015 sacrilege cases. His resignation is yet to be accepted by Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan, officials said.

NO BACK-CHANNEL DIPLOMACY WITH INDIA: HINA RABBANI KHAR

The Pakistan Senate was informed in categorical terms on Thursday that no back-channel diplomacy was presently taking place between Pakistan and India, the media reported. Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar told the House during the question hour that hostility coming from the neighbouring country was of unique nature, Express Tribune reported.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

WINNIPEG JETS UNVEIL SPECIAL LOGO FOR SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE NIGHT PRESENTED BY CANADA LIFE

The Winnipeg Jets will celebrate their first South Asian Heritage Night presented by Canada Life on Saturday, Feb. 11 vs. the Chicago Blackhawks at 9 p.m. South Asian Heritage Night is highlighted by the creation of a South Asian Jets logo. The Winnipeg Jets Creative Services team is proud to have collaborated with local Winnipeg graphic designer Charni Sheth, who contributed her cultural and design expertise to the logo and textile designs, along with guidance from Waseem Shaikh, creative director at Ethnicity Matters, an agency specializing in leading engagement with cultural communities in meaningful, impactful ways.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

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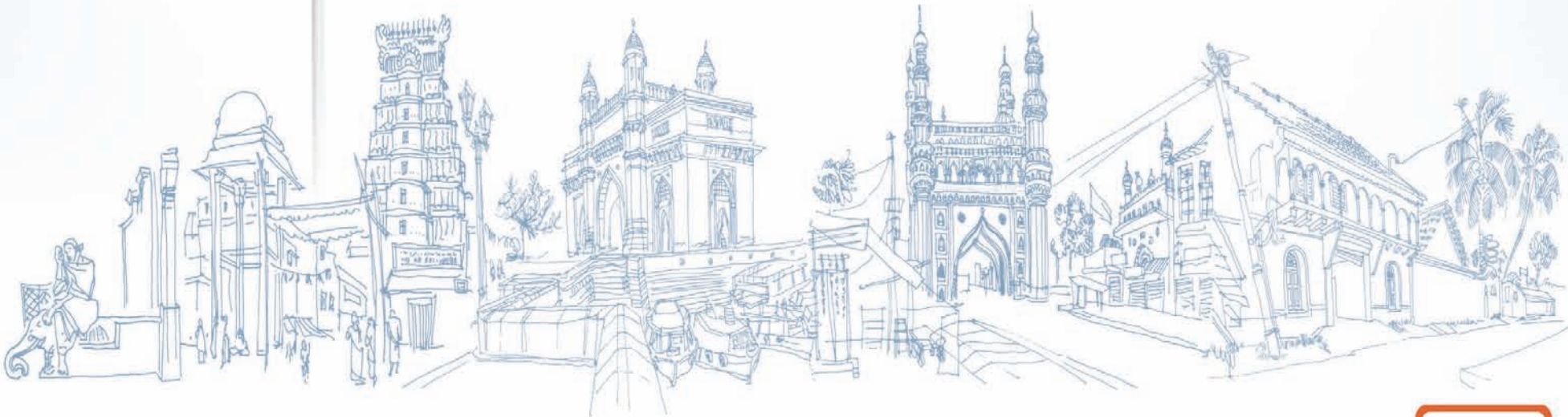


WISHING INDIA A HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

Celebrating the world’s largest and most diverse democracy, and wishing all citizens of India peace and progress in the years to come.

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Y MEDIA GROUP AT REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION AT CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, TORONTO



Y MEDIA GROUP COVERS THE HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR BRAMPTON



Y MEDIA TEAM AT THE REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION BY PANORAMA INDIA



Y MEDIA TEAM COVERS MISSISSAUGA'S FIRST EVENT OF THE 2023 SEASON, WINTER MAGIC: ICESCAPES



Y MEDIA AT THE MISSISSAUGA STEELHEADS GAME





BANK OF CANADA RAISES 0.25% INTEREST RATE TO 4.5%

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In the United States and Europe, economies are slowing but proving more resilient than was expected at the time of the Bank's October Monetary Policy Report (MPR). China's abrupt lifting of COVID-19 restrictions has prompted an upward revision to the growth forecast for China and poses an upside risk to commodity prices. Russia's war on Ukraine remains a significant source of uncertainty. Financial conditions remain restrictive but have eased since October, and the Canadian dollar has been relatively stable against the US dollar.

The Bank estimates the global economy grew by about 3½% in 2022, and will slow to about 2% in 2023 and 2½% in 2024. This projection is slightly higher than October's.

In Canada, recent economic growth has been stronger than expected and the economy remains in excess demand. Labour markets are still tight: the unemployment rate is near historic lows and businesses are reporting ongoing difficulty finding workers. However, there is growing evidence that restrictive monetary policy is slowing activity, especially household spending. Consumption growth has moderated from the first half of 2022 and housing market activity has declined substantially. As the effects of interest rate increases continue to work through the economy, spending on consumer services and business investment are expected to slow. Meanwhile, weaker foreign demand will likely weigh on exports. This overall slowdown in activity will allow supply to catch up with demand. The Bank estimates Canada's economy grew by 3.6% in 2022, slightly stronger than was projected in October. Growth is expected to stall through

'REMAIN VIGILANT': ONTARIO'S TOP DOCTOR WARNS AMID SURGE IN 'KRAKEN' CASES

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RSV trends are beginning to stabilize and decline, and after the annual 12-week flu season, the number of cases of flu peaked at the end of November, case rates continue to decline, and the impact on our communities, hospitals and intensive care units is improving.

On the COVID front, key indicators are showing signs of improvement after a rise over the holiday period due to the BQ.1 variant and its sub-lineages.

I want to thank Ontarians for following public health advice regarding the layers of protection throughout the holiday period and beyond, which has helped to manage the spread of these respiratory viruses. We must remain vigilant as many jurisdictions across the province continue to see a rise in the number of cases of the more transmissible XBB.1.5 variant of COVID-19.

XBB.1.5 has not been associated with a change in severity of illness, but due to its increased transmissibility, more individuals may get infected as it becomes the main variant in Ontario.

I continue to strongly recommend that everyone stays up to date with their vaccinations as it remains our best defence against COVID-19 and its variants, especially for those at increased risk of severe infection and for anyone who has not received a booster or been infected in the past six months.

UN: TALIBAN BAN ON WOMEN AID WORKERS IS POTENTIAL DEATH BLOW

The UN humanitarian chief warned Monday that the Taliban's ban on women aid workers in Afghanistan is "a potential death blow" to many important humanitarian programmes. If the Taliban don't make exceptions to their edict "this would be catastrophic," Martin Griffiths said at a news conference.

He said a delegation including international aid groups made the case that Afghan women are critical to humanitarian operations during meetings last week with nine Taliban officials, including Afghanistan's foreign affairs and economy ministers.

"We were asked to be patient," Griffiths said. "We were told that guidelines are being developed by the Taliban authorities which would provide, allegedly, the functioning of women in humanitarian operations." He said the Taliban's consistent message "that there will be a place for women working" was "a slightly patronizing message, but it's an important one." Griffiths noted that after the Dec. 24 edict by the Taliban barring aid groups from employing Afghan women, the health minister granted an exception for women in the health field and the education minister granted an exception for those involved in primary education.

He said the humanitarian delegation told the Taliban that if they weren't going to rescind the edict "then we must expand these exceptions to cover all the aspects of humanitarian action." Griffiths, who is the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, wouldn't speculate on what will happen.

"Let's see if these guidelines do come through. Let's see if they are beneficial. Let's see what space there is for the essential and central role of women in our humanitarian operations," he said. Despite initial promises, the Taliban have imposed increasing restrictions on girls and women since they took power in August 2021 during the final weeks of the U.S. and NATO forces' pullout after 20 years. Their takeover drove millions into poverty and hunger after foreign aid stopped almost overnight. Omar Abdi, deputy executive director for programming for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF who was part of the delegation, said 6 million Afghans face emergency levels of food insecurity and are one step away from famine. He said 875,000 children are expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition this year, which is why "it's critical to continue these operations."

Abdi cited some positive signs. He said that despite the Taliban

the middle of 2023, picking up later in the year. The Bank expects GDP growth of about 1% in 2023 and about 2% in 2024, little changed from the October outlook.

Inflation has declined from 8.1% in June to 6.3% in December, reflecting lower gasoline prices and, more recently, moderating prices for durable goods. Despite this progress, Canadians are still feeling the hardship of high inflation in their essential household expenses, with persistent price increases for food and shelter. Short-term inflation expectations remain elevated. Year-over-year measures of core inflation are still around 5%, but 3-month measures of core inflation have come down, suggesting that core inflation has peaked.

Inflation is projected to come down significantly this year. Lower energy prices, improvements in global supply conditions, and the effects of higher interest rates on demand are expected to bring CPI inflation down to around 3% in the middle of this year and back to the 2% target in 2024. With persistent excess demand putting continued upward pressure on many prices, Governing Council decided to increase the policy interest rate by a further 25 basis points. The Bank's ongoing program of quantitative tightening is complementing the restrictive stance of the policy rate. If economic developments evolve broadly in line with the MPR outlook, Governing Council expects to hold the policy rate at its current level while it assesses the impact of the cumulative interest rate increases. Governing Council is prepared to increase the policy rate further if needed to return inflation to the 2% target, and remains resolute in its commitment to restoring price stability for Canadians.

Paxlovid is an outpatient oral anti-viral treatment used to reduce severe outcomes from COVID-19 and is now easier to access for more people across Ontario. Prescriptions are available for free to eligible individuals through pharmacies across the province, any physician or nurse practitioner in Ontario, as well as clinical assessment centres. Additionally, the province's guidance on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing has been updated to align with the current recommendations for who should receive Paxlovid, which further improves access to this effective treatment option. I encourage Ontarians with a positive test and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to speak to their health care provider to determine if this treatment is appropriate for them.

Free PCR tests are offered at any provincial testing location and rapid antigen tests can continue to be picked up at no charge in over 3,000 retail locations in the province. As always, Ontarians are advised to stay home when they feel sick, wash their hands often, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and to wear a mask in crowded indoor public spaces, especially those at higher risk. We have the tools we need to reduce the spread of respiratory illness in our communities, and I am grateful to Ontarians for continuing to utilize them. These important choices help preserve our hospital capacity to ensure care is always available for those who need it.



ban on girls attending secondary school, an estimated 200,000 girls continue to receive secondary education in around 12 provinces. He added that female secondary school teachers continue to receive their salaries from the Taliban authorities. He said Taliban officials reaffirmed to the delegation "that they are not against girls learning in secondary schools, and again promised to reopen once the guidelines are approved by their leader."

"In addition, over the last year the number of community-based education classes taking place in private homes, public places has doubled, from 10,000 to 20,000 classes," he said. "These serve about 600,000 children, of whom 55% are girls." Abdi said these positive signs are the result of both the commitment from Taliban authorities and pressure from local communities to keep schools and community schools open. "Without education," he said, "certainly there is no hope for a better future for girls and women of Afghanistan." Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro, CARE International's secretary-general, said that "tying the hands of NGOs by barring women from giving life-saving support to other women will cost lives." Janti Soeripto, president of Save the Children US, said women account for 30% of the 55,000 Afghan nationals working for NGOs and many of them are the sole breadwinners for their families. Without them, she said, aid can't be delivered to millions of women and children, and "if the ban isn't reversed, the consequences for the people of Afghanistan will be dire."

BRAMPTON GETS FIRST SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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The Civic Centre is strategically located within the City's health and life sciences cluster, and was selected for its proximity to both the Brampton Civic and Peel Memorial Hospitals as well as its accessibility to municipal transportation, GO transit and highway systems. The site also meets the space requirements to build a school of medicine that will require 250,000 square feet for classrooms, offices, research facilities and an integrated health clinic. The City of Brampton will invest \$20M of funding to support building renovations required for programing and operations of the School of Medicine.

The TMU School of Medicine marks the first new medical school in the GTA in over a hundred years and will make Brampton the home of a community-centric medical school focused on inclusivity, innovation and primary care. Establishing a medical school in Brampton has been a significant part of the City's ongoing advocacy work. In 2021, Brampton City Council voted in favour of a \$1 million planning grant to help fund a future School of Medicine in the city, matching the funding invested by the Province of Ontario earlier that year. In March 2022, the Government of Ontario announced its plans for expanding medical school education to build a stronger, more resilient healthcare system, including adding 80 undergraduate seats and 95 postgraduate positions for the TMU University School of Medicine in Brampton when it opens in 2025. A shared vision for a School of Medicine in Brampton builds on existing partnerships between the University and the City of Brampton, including the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst and the Brampton Venture Zone.

To learn more about the School of Medicine, visit www.torontomu.ca/school-of-medicine/

NO BACK-CHANNEL DIPLOMACY WITH INDIA: HINA RABBANI KHAR

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She maintained that relations between the two nations were marred by a number of provocative steps by India, Express Tribune reported. She stated that despite New Delhi's negative attitude, Islamabad would continue on the path of peace, and the tension between the two on the Line of Control had decreased.

She continued that minorities in Pakistan enjoyed full religious protection but in India, they were being treated badly, Express Tribune reported. Khar described the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor as a positive precedent, stating that such processes must move forward. The minister's remarks come days after, India invited Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Atta Bandial and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to attend meetings of a key regional forum that also includes Russia and China. The meeting of chief justices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is scheduled for March while the foreign ministers will meet in May in Goa.

However, Pakistan is in no hurry to respond to the Indian invitation to attend the key regional forum's meeting in May, as officials have termed New Delhi's invite "routine practice". Official sources confirmed on Wednesday of receiving the Indian invitation but said it was too early to say anything at this stage. "It is a routine matter. India being the current President of the SCO has invited member states. including Pakistan," said an official, downplaying the significance of the invitation, Express Tribune reported.

PAKISTAN: 72 PEOPLE KILLED, 150 INJURED IN BLAST OUTSIDE PESHAWAR MOSQUE; IMRAN KHAN EXPRESSES GRIEF

At least 72 people were killed and 150 others, mostly policemen injured after a powerful suicide blast ripped through a mosque during afternoon prayers on Monday in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar. The injured were shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital of Peshawar, Geo News reported. According to media reports, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the mosque. The blast occurred near the Police Lines area around 1.40 pm when a suicide attacker blew himself up during the Zuhr (afternoon) prayers. "A portion of the building collapsed and several people were believed to be under it," official said. There were mostly policemen among the injured, said the eyewitness. Hospital sources said 13 of those injured were in critical condition. An emergency has been declared in the hospitals of Peshawar. The hospital has appealed citizens to donate blood for the victims. Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan took to Twitter to express grief over the incident. He said, "Strongly condemn the terrorist suicide attack in police lines mosque Peshawar during prayers. My prayers & condolences go to victims' families. It is imperative we improve our intelligence gathering & properly equip our police forces to combat the growing threat of terrorism." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief General Asim Munir dashed to Peshawar to review the relief and rescue operation. The premier along with the army chief also visited the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar and inquired after the health of the injured. Strongly condemning the attack, he said that the attackers behind the incident 'have nothing to do with Islam'.

WINNIPEG JETS UNVEIL SPECIAL LOGO FOR SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE NIGHT PRESENTED BY CANADA LIFE



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The South Asian Heritage Jets logo is inspired by some of the artistic traditions of South Asia. The form takes its inspiration from Rangoli, a traditional artform practiced during celebratory occasions and meant to bring happiness and good luck. Within the inside of the logo are motifs inspired by Henna patterning as well as Bandhani designs. The colourful background designs of the graphics feature patterns and motifs inspired by textiles throughout South Asia, including Phulkari, Bandhani, and Saree. These patterns and bold



PADMA AWARDS FOR 2 INDIAN MATHEMATICIANS FROM US, CANADA

Two India-born mathematicians in the US and Canada are among the 106 recipients of the prestigious Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian honours of the country, announced on the eve of Republic Day.

Indian-American S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and Indo-Canadian Sujatha Ramdorai received the Padmi Shri for their stellar contributions in the field of science and engineering.

Born in Chennai on January 2, 1940, Srinivasa Varadhan is known for his fundamental contributions to probability theory.

The Mathematics professor was awarded the 2007 Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters "for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations".

Armed with a master's degree (1960) from the University of Madras, Varadhan earned his doctorate (1963) from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. In 1963, Varadhan came from India as a postdoctoral fellow to the Courant Institute in New York and never left. He is currently Professor of Mathematics and Frank J Gould Professor of Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

He was awarded the Birkhoff Prize (1994), the Margaret and Herman Sokol Award of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University (1995), and the Leroy Steele Prize (1996).

In 2008, the Indian government awarded him the Padma Bhushan.

Associated with the University of British Columbia, Canada, Sujatha Ramdorai is an algebraic number theorist known for her work on the Iwasawa theory.

She is the first Indian to win the prestigious International Centre for Theoretical Physics Ramanujan Prize in 2006 and also a winner of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 2004.

She is also the recipient of the 2020 Krieger-Nelson Prize for her exceptional contributions to mathematics research.

Having served at the National Knowledge Commission from 2007-2009, Ramdorai is currently a Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India and a Member of the National Innovation Council.

She completed her B.Sc. in 1982 from St Joseph's College, Bengaluru, and then got her MSc from Annamalai University in 1985.

Ramdorai did her Ph.D in the area of Quadratic forms over function fields and Witt rings of varieties from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. The Padma Awards are conferred by the President of India usually around March/April every year.

This year, a total of 106 Padma awards will be conferred to personalities across varied disciplines.

The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INVITED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONOURABLE DAVID C. ONLEY

Ontarians are invited to commemorate the life of the late Honourable David C. Onley, Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor, who passed away on January 14, 2023, at the age of 72.

Mr. Onley served as the province's Lieutenant Governor from 2007 to 2014. He was the first person with a visible disability to hold the post and worked tirelessly to break down barriers for people with disabilities.

A funeral for Mr. Onley will be held at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church at 11 a.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023. Limited seating is available for the public on a first-come basis beginning at 9 a.m. For those unable to attend in person, the funeral service will be livestreamed on the Government of Ontario YouTube channel and will be available with closed captions and ASL interpretation.

Ahead of the funeral, Mr. Onley will lie in state, for public visitation, at the Ontario Legislature from January 28 to January 29.

Ontarians are also invited to share their messages of sympathy in the online book of condolences. A memorial page can be found at the funeral home's website.

Lying in State - Ontario Legislature - January 28 and January 29

Mr. Onley will be lying in state in the Ontario Legislature at Queen's Park (111 Wellesley St W, Toronto) on Saturday, January 28 from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday, January 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members of the public may enter through the accessible visitors' centre, located on the south side of the Ontario Legislature. Security screening will be in place. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be available on-site. A condolence book will also be available for signing.

The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Her Honour the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, alongside Mr. Onley's



family, will witness the arrival of the motorcade 9:55 a.m. Camera coverage will be pooled, with additional camera coverage provided via Legislative Broadcast Services.

State Funeral - Yorkminster Park Baptist Church - January 30

Those who wish to attend the state funeral on Monday, January 30 should arrive at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1585 Yonge Street, Toronto) before 10 a.m. A wheelchair accessible entrance is available off Yonge Street, and greeters will be at the entrance for assistance.

Camera coverage of the funeral will be pooled. For any additional outdoor live media coverage, cameras must be positioned across the street from the Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Members of the media are welcome inside to attend the state funeral. On the morning of the funeral, St. Clair Avenue will be closed from Avenue Road to Mount Pleasant Road between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Yonge Street will be closed from Merton Street to St. Clair Avenue between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

H-1B REGISTRATIONS FOR 2024 TO OPEN FROM MARCH 1

The initial registration period for the 2024 H-1B visas for skilled professionals will open from March 1 to March 17, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced. Prospective petitioners and representatives will be able to complete and submit their registrations using the online H-1B registration system during this period. The USCIS will assign a confirmation number to each registration submitted for the FY 2024 H-1B cap, which can be used to track registrations. The number, however, cannot be used to track one's case status in Case Status Online, the USCIS said in a release. All prospective H-1B cap-subject petitioners are required to use a myUSCIS online account to register each beneficiary electronically for the selection process. They also need to pay a \$10 fee for each registration submitted on behalf of each beneficiary. Registrants, i.e., U.S. employers and agents will use a registrant account and they will be able to create new accounts from February 21. "Representatives may add clients to their accounts at any time, but both representatives and registrants must wait until March 1 to enter beneficiary information and submit the registration with the \$10 fee," the USCIS statement read. It further said that prospective petitioners or their representatives will be able to submit registrations for multiple beneficiaries in a single online session. Through the account, they will be able to prepare, edit, and store draft registrations prior to final payment and submission of each registration. The USCIS will randomly select registrations and send selection notifications via users' myUSCIS online accounts if they receive enough registrations by March 17. In case it does not receive enough registrations, the USCIS said: "All registrations that were properly submitted in the initial registration period will be selected. We intend to notify account holders by March 31". The U.S. Department of Treasury has approved a temporary increase in the daily credit card transaction limit from \$24,999.99 to \$39,999.99 per day for the FY 2024 H-1B cap season. This temporary increase is in response to the volume of previous H-1B registrations that exceeded the daily credit card limit, the USCIS said, adding that additional information will be provided before the start of the initial H-1B registration period.

ISRAELI PM VOWS TO ACT 'DECISIVELY AND CALMLY' AFTER SHOOTING ATTACK IN E. JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to act after a shooting attack killed at least seven people and wounded three others on Friday in a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem.

Netanyahu, who arrived at the scene shortly after the attack, said the authorities "decided on a few immediate measures" and he convened a special security cabinet meeting on Saturday evening to discuss further measures.

During the attack on Friday evening, a gunman opened fire on people near a synagogue. Israeli police said that the assailant, identified as a 21-year-old resident of East Jerusalem, was shot dead by a police officer, Xinhua news agency reported.

The attack came a day after an Israeli military raid in the West Bank resulted in the killing of nine Palestinians. After the raid, Palestinian militant organisations vowed revenge.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is scheduled to visit the West Bank and Israel later this weekend, condemned the attack on his Twitter account.

According to a statement from the White House, US President Joe Biden spoke to Netanyahu after the attack. The President "offered all appropriate means of support to the government and people of Israel over the coming days," said the statement.

JOB VACANCIES DOWN 2.4% IN NOVEMBER: STATS CANADA

Job vacancies decreased in the professional, scientific and technical services (-11,500; -18.1%) and health care and social assistance (-19,300; -12.8%) sectors in November, but increased in construction (+11,200; +16.6%). Meanwhile, vacancies were little changed in accommodation and food services, retail trade and manufacturing. (Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data.)

Overall, the number of job vacancies across all sectors decreased by 20,700 (-2.4%) to 850,300 in November, down from the peak recorded in May 2022 (1,002,200) and the lowest level observed since August 2021.

The job vacancy rate-which corresponds to the number of vacant positions as a proportion of total labour demand (the sum of filled and vacant positions)-was 4.8% in November 2022, the lowest rate since June 2021.

There were 1.2 unemployed persons for every job vacancy in November 2022, virtually unchanged since August, but up slightly from the low of 1.0 in June. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment-to-job vacancy ratio hovered around 2.2 from January 2019 to February 2020.

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA NAMED ONE OF CANADA'S BEST EMPLOYERS FOR THE FOURTH TIME

The City of Mississauga was recognized by Forbes as one of Canada's Best Employers for the fourth year in a row; ranking among the top 25 per cent of all Government Services organizations in Canada and top 17 per cent of all 300 companies receiving recognition.

"This achievement is a testament to the City's outstanding leadership and the continued dedication its employees show in the work they have done and continue to do every day, especially during these challenging times," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. "I'm proud to be a Mayor of a city that fosters such a positive workplace culture and job satisfaction. The City's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, and its ability to attract and retain top talent, have helped us win this honour for four consecutive years, and are a large part of the reason why Mississauga continues to thrive and deliver the high-quality services our residents expect and deserve."

This is the fourth time the City has received this achievement, earning this designation in 2020, 2021 and 2022. According to Forbes, the annual list is developed based on independent surveys of over 12,000 employees working part-time or full-time for companies employing at least 500 people in Canada. The 2023 list features companies and corporations across Canada, including 24 Mississauga-based businesses. "Part of what makes us a leading employer is the support that we have in place for our employees," said Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. "We offer many learning and educational opportunities for professional development that give staff the opportunity to grow in their careers at the City, and we see this reflected in the long service many employees achieve. We are also focused on continuing to make the workplace a welcoming one – one that is respectful and inclusive that provides access to resources when our employees need it."

CHINA GRANTS CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR TWO HOMEGROWN COVID-19 DRUGS

China has conducted emergency reviews and granted conditional approval for two homegrown drugs for COVID-19 treatment, the National Medical Products Administration said on Sunday. The applications for the innovative drugs XIANNUOXIN and VV116 were submitted by Simcere and a subsidiary of Shanghai Junshi Biosciences, respectively, according to a statement released on the administration's website. Both XIANNUOXIN and VV116 are oral small-molecule drugs intended to be used for the treatment of adults infected with mild to moderate COVID-19. When taking the drugs, patients should strictly follow their doctors' guidance and the instructions relating to the drugs, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting the administration.

The administration also required the holders of marketing approval for the drugs to continue relevant research, fulfill conditional requirements within the specified time, and submit follow-up research results promptly.

PAKISTAN FACES MONUMENTAL CRISIS AS ECONOMY TUMBLES

Amid a rapidly tumbling economy, the writing on the wall for Pakistan's future is clear - that the country faces another monumental crisis in its history.

Following the State Bank's removal of a cap on Pakistan's foreign currency exchange rate, the steep drop in the value of the rupee is bound to add to an already high rate of inflation. The change came shortly after the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) raised its interest rate to 17 per cent as it sought to battle inflation hovering around 30 percent, The News reported.

In a sharp departure from Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's publicly repeated claims of keeping domestic fuel prices unchanged, Pakistanis must now brace for a hike in petrol and diesel prices in the coming days, The News reported.

As petroleum products are imported in Pakistan, the rupee's devaluation must force not just a jump in domestic fuel prices, the resultant inflation is bound to hit a range of consumers from owners of private transport to public transport such as trucks and buses.

Besides, a jump in the price of diesel will inevitably add to the cost of production in agriculture and industry. Eventually, though not of direct consequence to ordinary consumers, airlines are likely to raise the cost of domestic and international rupee denominated airfares.

Meanwhile, the official rant of placing the guilt of Pakistan's present day economic troubles upon the last government is neither true nor productive. Dar came to the job in his latest tenure, promising to oversee the appreciation of rupee to a rate of 200 rupee to a US dollar. And the ultimate outcome in today's forex market is nothing but a massive departure from that ambition, The News reported.

ECONOMIC SURVEY PRESCRIBES SLEW OF FURTHER REFORMS TO ACCELERATE GROWTH

Further reforms are needed to ensure that economic growth can both accelerate and be sustained at higher levels, to deliver a better quality of life, Economic Survey 2022-23 said.

The deregulation and simplification of compliances should continue to dismantle the licensing, inspection, and compliance regime entirely, the Survey said.

State governments have to address power sector issues, and the financial viability concerns of the discoms have to be addressed.

Impetus must be given to education and skilling to match the requirements of modern industry and technologies, deal with twenty-first-century challenges such as climate change and energy transition, and make the most of India's demographic dividend, the Survey said.

Initiatives to sensitise the population towards a healthy lifestyle should be continued. Strategies to arrest and reverse the rising obesity levels should be adopted, it added.

Long-range plans need to be formulated to secure the necessary metals and minerals required for energy transition and diversification, the Survey said. Determined efforts should be taken to make the public sector asset monetisation scheme successful in realising wide-ranging efficiency gains from the programme.

If asset monetisation revenues are used to reduce public sector debt, the



sovereign credit rating will improve, leading to a lower cost of capital. That will be the biggest fiscal stimulus to the economy.

Reforms to reduce the compliance burden on MSMEs, enhance their

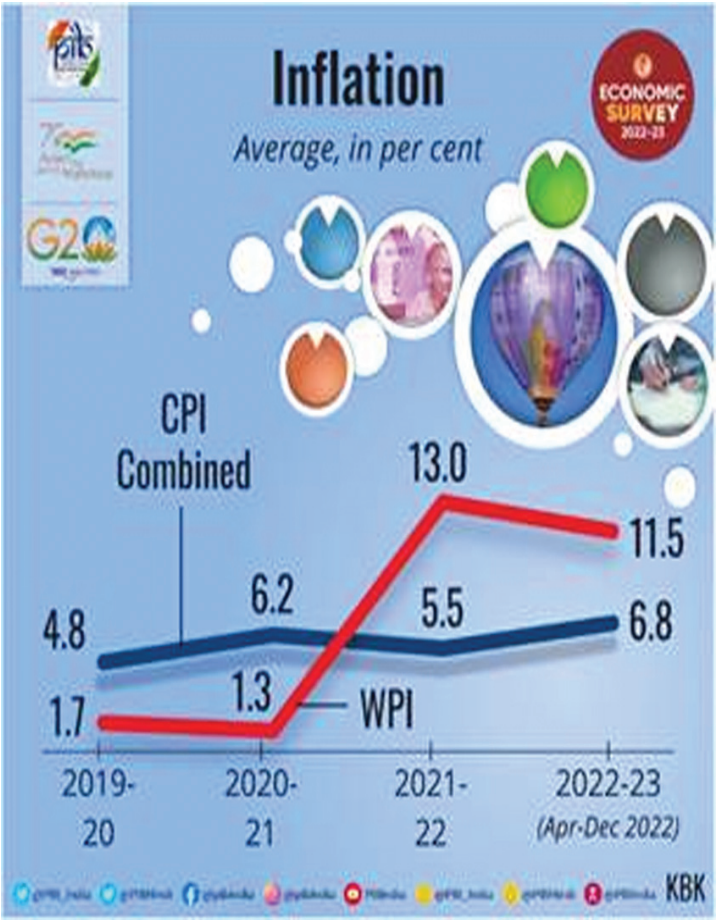
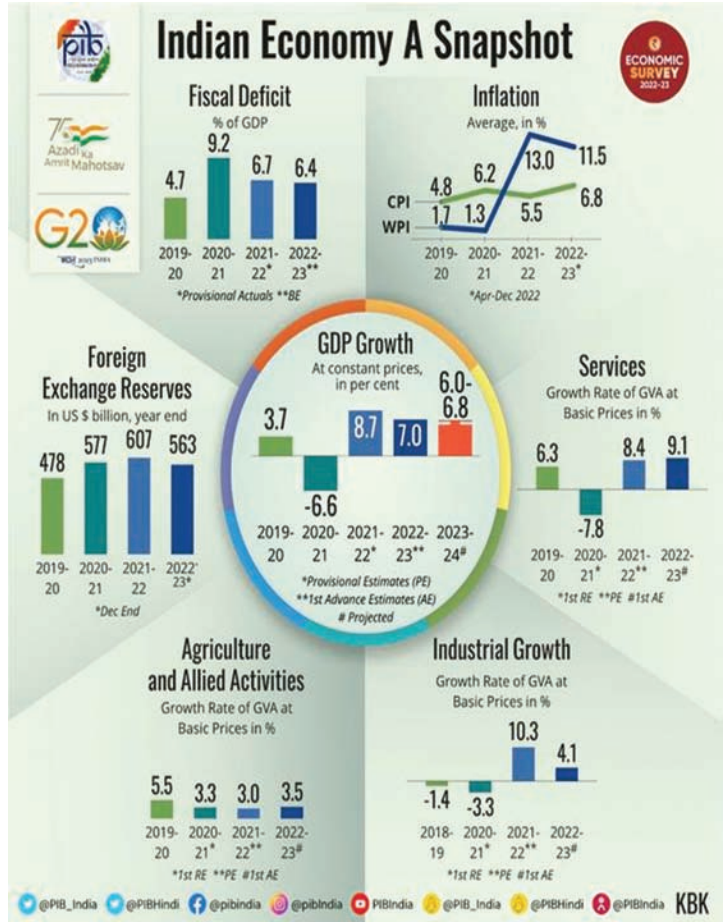
access to finance and working capital and equip them with skills, knowledge and attitude to grow their businesses responsibly must continue, the Survey said.

State governments should make conclusive progress on the various factor market reforms in different stages of completion.

While the new age reforms undertaken over the last eight years form the foundation of a resilient, partnership-based governance ecosystem and restore the ability of the economy to grow healthily, further reforms are needed, the Survey said.

The Survey noted that the Indian economy could have grown faster in the absence of the financial and corporate sector balance sheet stress. "Even as we were looking forward to the economy being able to reap the benefits of improved and healthier balance sheets in the new decade, it was buffeted by the global pandemic followed by a sharp rise in the prices of food, fuel and fertiliser."

Negative shocks will and do fade, as they did in the early years of the new millennium. Now, financial and corporate sector balance sheets are in good shape, and there is a willingness to borrow and lend. Hence, it is inevitable that the effects of these reforms will now shine through. A restored credit cycle will rejuvenate the Indian private sector capex cycle, the Survey said.



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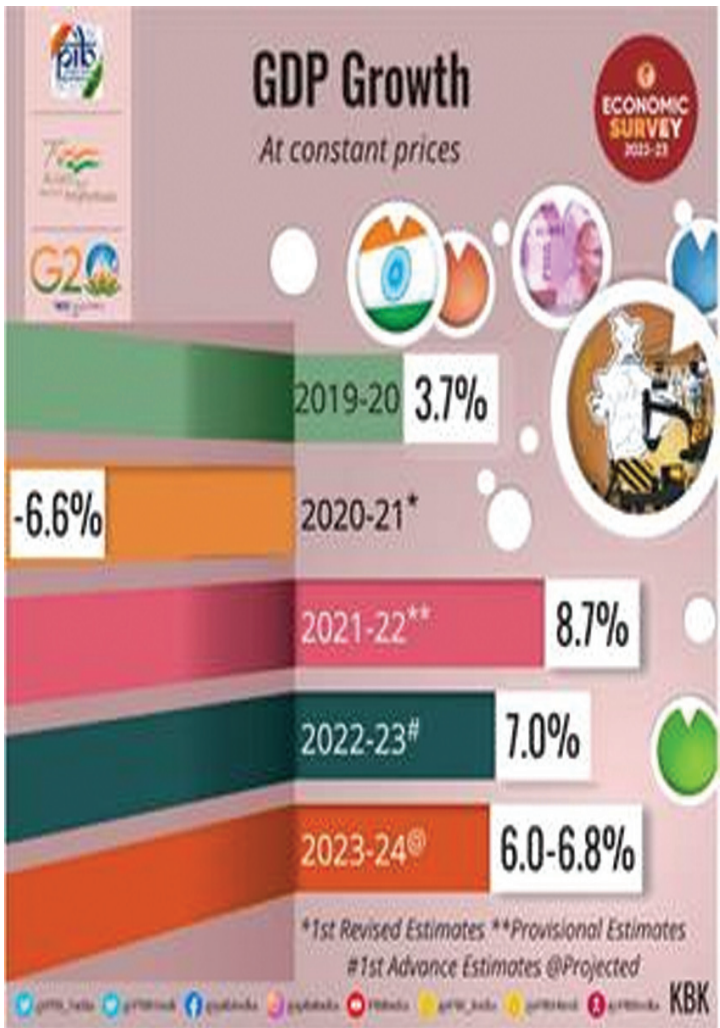
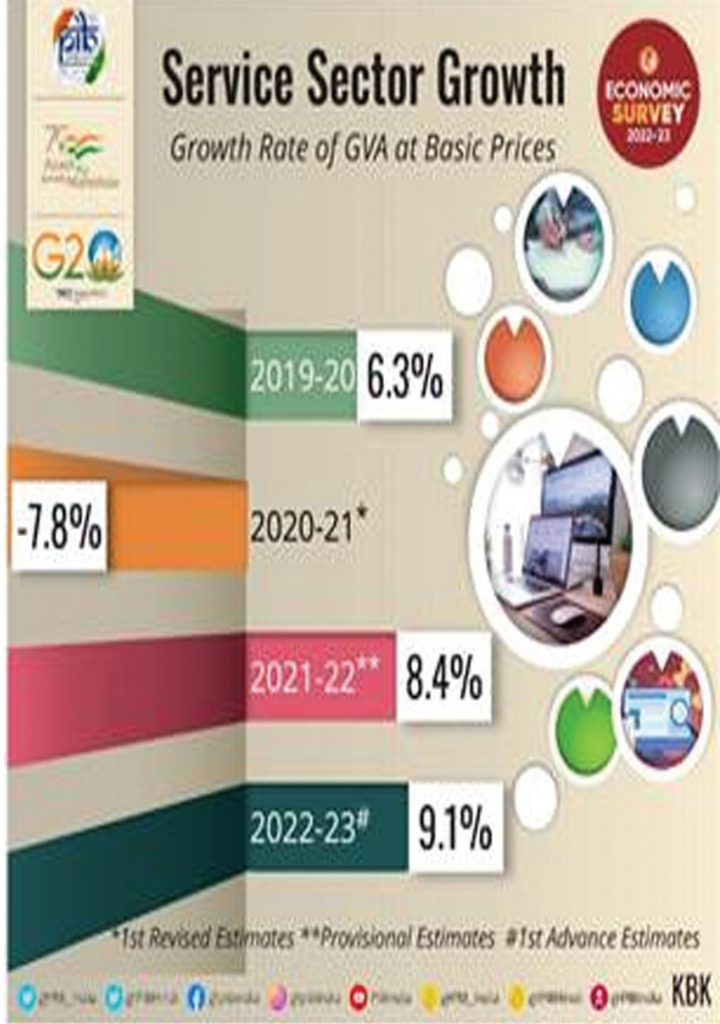
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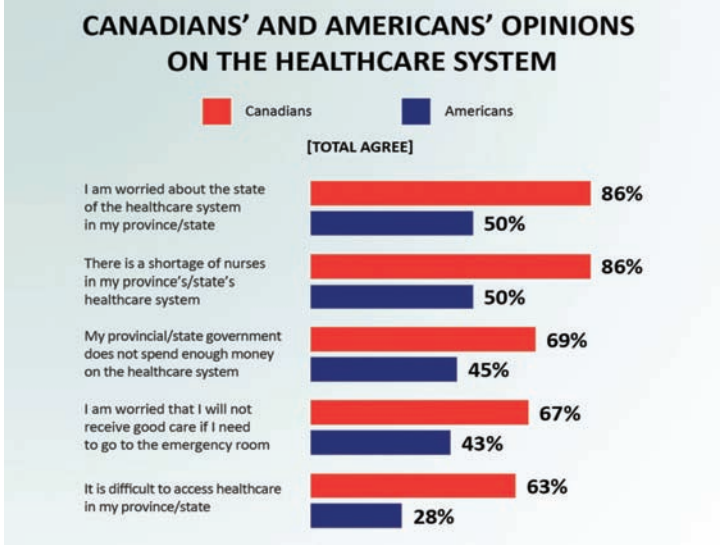
CANADIANS MORE WORRIED ABOUT HEALTH CARE THAN AMERICANS : POLL SURVEY

Our latest North American Tracker explores Canadians' and Americans' perspectives on the healthcare system in their respective countries. We asked them to rate the healthcare system in their province/state and share their opinions on nurses' working conditions, access to healthcare, government spending and more.

Our survey revealed that Canadians tend to have more negative views of the healthcare system than their American counterparts.

THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

- * 86% of Canadians and 50% of Americans are worried about the state of the healthcare system in their province/state.
- * 63% of Canadians and 28% of Americans agree it is difficult to access healthcare in their province/state.
- * 54% of Canadians and 19% of Americans say nurses' working conditions in their province/state are poor.
- * 44% of Canadians think healthcare workers should be allowed to take disruptive action to fight for better working conditions, however, the same proportion (44%) say that healthcare workers striking puts Canadians' health and well-being at risk.
- * 31% of Canadians support more privatization in their province's



healthcare system.
* 55% of Americans would like to see more publicly-funded healthcare in their state.

CELEBRATIONS OF INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY AT MILTON, ONTARIO

The 74th Republic Day of India was celebrated at the Milton Lions Club on January 28, 2023, with much gaiety. The ceremony started at 4:30 PM sharp by singing of the Canadian and Indian National Anthem. The President of the Canadian Indian Association of Halton Region, Mr. Jag Mohan Mainra addressed the event and welcomed all dignitaries and guests. More than 400 guests attended the function, which had a wait list of 100 and counting!

To mark the Republic Day, the Consulate General of India in Toronto Mrs. Apoorva Shrivastava, Mayor of Milton Mr. Gordon Krantz, Mayor of Burlington Ms. Marianne Meed Ward, Regional Councillor and Mayor of Oakville, Mr. Rob Burton has sent message. Mrs. Sameera Ali and town councillors John Challinor were also present with former Town Councillor Rick De Lorenzo at the event. Representatives of the office of MPP Mr. Parm Gill, MP Adam Van Koeverden and Mayor of Waterdown were also present. The Canadian Indian Association is a registered not-for-profit organization within Halton region to serve as a bridge between various Indian Cultural associations and groups to promote India's cultural heritage, to unite our people by developing a better understanding of India's diverse culture and to strengthen bi-lateral relations between India and Canada. The association welcomes all Indo-Canadians to join the association. More information can be found on the website, www.canadianindianassociation.com Republic Day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950. The Constitution was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950 with a democratic government system, completing the country's transition towards becoming an independent republic. 26 January was chosen as the Republic Day because it was on this day in 1930 when Declaration of Indian Independence was proclaimed by the Indian National Congress.



'HURRICANE HAZEL' MCCALLION DIES AT 101

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

In 1967 she left the corporate world to devote her career to politics. She was mayor of Streetsville from 1970-1973. In 1974, Streetsville, Port Credit and the town of Mississauga amalgamated to form the City of Mississauga. McCallion was elected as Mississauga's third mayor in 1978. In 1979, only one year as mayor, McCallion evacuated more than 230,000 city residents due to chlorine and chemicals emitted from the explosion of train cars in what became known as the "Mississauga Miracle." McCallion was successful in 12 straight municipal elections and was nicknamed "Hurricane Hazel" for her tenacity and desire to create change in her city. While in office as Mayor of Mississauga, she tripled the population, while operating the City debt free. She is the past chair, honorary chair and honorary member of many committees and associations across Canada, such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and World Conference of Mayors and Women's World Hockey Tournament. She was inducted into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2005, to the Order of Ontario in 2021, and was runner up as World Mayor in 2005. In 2014, McCallion authored her autobiography, Hurricane Hazel - A Life with Purpose. Since stepping down at the end of her term in 2014, she worked as the Chief Elder Officer of Revera Incorporated, was appointed as Special Advisor to the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), and was named the first Chancellor of Sheridan College. In 2016, February 14 was renamed Hazel McCallion Day across the province of Ontario in honour of McCallion's birthday. She made many causes her passion, but throughout her life, she always supported youth and their development, championing many causes to provide young people with opportunity.



COMMUNITY LEADER AND FORMER CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR BRAMPTON WEST, MURARILAL THAPLIYAL's FATHER, SHRI BHAGWAT PRASAD THAPLIYAL, PASSED AWAY IN INDIA. REST IN PEACE.

GAURI SHANKAR TEMPLE IN BRAMPTON VANDALISED WITH ANTI-INDIA, PRO-KHALISTAN GRAFFITI

Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya, reacting to the latest attack on a Hindu temple by vandals in Canada, on Tuesday called on the Ottawa government to take the matter 'seriously'. The Gauri Shankar Mandir was vandalised with "anti-India" graffiti in Canada's Brampton province, leaving the Indian community in a state of shock. "The attack on Gauri Shankar Mandir in Brampton is latest in attacks on Hindu temples in Canada by anti-Hindu and anti-India groups. From hatred on social media, now physical attacks on Hindu temples, what next?" Arya, MP from the ruling Liberal Party, wrote in a tweet on Tuesday. "I call on govt at levels in Canada to start taking this seriously." Arya had marked Canada's first Hindu Heritage Month in November to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by Hindus to make Canada strong and prosperous. According to him, members of the Hindu community started coming to Canada 100 years ago. Hindus rose from 1.0 per cent to 2.3 per cent -- close to 830,000 people -- of the total Canadian population from 2001 to 2021 as per a recent Statistics Canada report. Arya has been a vocal critic of hate crime incidents targeting Indians, and has strongly criticised instances of vandalism at the Hindu temples, as well as desecration of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the country.

HON. CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA APOORVA SRIVASTAVA JOINS REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE CITY OF MARKHAM



The Republic Day of India was celebrated for the 1st time at the City of Markham on Thursday January 26, 2023. The event was organized & supported by Canadian Academy of Sports, Education & Culture, Rajasthan Association of North America (Canada), Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre, Toronto Arya Samaj (TAS) Vedic Cultural Centre, and Hindu Community of Canada and Voice for Safe Schools. Honourable Consulate General of India Apoorva Srivastava attended this historic event. She unfurled the Indian National flag, releasing colourful rose petals for the first time in the City of Markham. Small handmade Canadian & Indian flags by Canadians of Indian Origin were distributed to all attendees to mark the occasion. Honourable Defence Minister Anita Anand sent her greetings for this special celebration. Specials guest Regional Councillor Joe Li on behalf of Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Regional Councillor Alan Ho, Ward 2- Ritch Lau - Markham Councillor and Ward 6- Councillor, Amanda Collucci, Superintendent Wilson #595 on behalf of Chief Macsween of the York Regional Police, Markham Fire Department team on behalf of Fire Chief Adam Grant attended this memorable event.

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PM MODI THANKS WORLD LEADERS FOR THEIR R-DAY WISHES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked world leaders for extending their greetings on India's 74th Republic Day. In response to a tweet by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Modi said: "Thank you Prime Minister @AlboMP. Greetings to you and to the friendly people of Australia on Australia Day." In response to a tweet by French President Emmanuel Macron, PM Modi said: "Grateful for your warm greetings my dear friend @EmmanuelMacron on India's Republic Day. I share your commitment to work together for success of India's G20 Presidency and 25th anniversary of India-France Strategic Partnership. India and France together are a force for global good." Modi also thanked Nepalese Prime Minister Prachanda for his wishes. "Thank You @cmprachanda ji for your warm wishes!" Modi tweeted in response to Prachanda's wishes. Responding to Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering's wishes, Modi

said: "Thank you @PMBhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering for your warm wishes! India is committed to its unique partnership with Bhutan for progress and prosperity of both our nations." In response to a tweet by President of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the Prime Minister said: "Thank you for your warm greetings, President @ibusolih. Glad to see the sustained progress achieved by India-Maldives partnership, underpinned by common democratic values." In response to a tweet by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Modi tweeted: "Thank you for your warm wishes for India's Republic Day, PM @netanyahu. Look forward to further strengthening our strategic partnership." Responding to Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth's wishes, Modi said: "Thank you, PM @KumarJugnauth. In our shared journey as modern Republics, our two countries have been partnering closely in people-centred development. Looking forward to taking our cherished partnership with Mauritius to even greater heights."

BEATING RETREAT: TUNES BASED ON CLASSICAL MUSIC HIGHLIGHT GRAND EVENT AT VIJAY CHOWK

The Beating Retreat ceremony was held on Sunday at the Vijay Chowk to mark the formal end of this year's Republic Day celebrations. The ceremony was graced by President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the historic Vijay Chowk in the national capital. Tunes based on Indian classical ragas were the main highlight of 'Beating the Retreat' celebrations this year. Patriotic tunes emanating from the bands of the three services infused enthusiasm and patriotism among the people on the occasion. A total of 29 captivating Indian tunes were played by music bands of Army, Navy, Air Force and State Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) during the Beating Retreat amid rains at Vijay Chowk. 'Agniveer' was the first of the 29 tunes during the event, that was followed by the enthralling tunes like 'Almora', 'Kedar Nath', 'Sangam Dur', 'Queen of Satpura', 'Bhagirathi', 'Konkan Sundari' by Pipes and Drums band. The Pipes and Drum band presented 'Almora' composed by N.K. Jaman Singh. The CAPF presented 'Pyari Bhumi' at the ceremony. The Indian Air Force band formed a formation representing 'Charkha' (spinning wheel) and a rendition of 'Ishwar Jan ko' followed this formation. Indian Air Force Band played to the tunes of 'Aparejeya Arjun', 'Charkha', 'Vayu Shakti', 'Swadeshi' while the Indian Navy Band played to the tunes of 'Ekla Chalo Re', 'Hum Ready Hain' and 'Jai Bharti'. The Naval band displayed a formation of 'Varunastra' and 'Charkha' while performing a wide array of tunes and included 'Ekla Chalo re'. In a first, a three-dimensional anamorphic projection during the event on the facade of North and South blocks was among the highlights. Anamorphic sensors are speciality tools that affect how



images get projected. The Chief Moderator of the ceremony was Flight Lieutenant Limapokpam Roopchandra Singh. While the Army Band was led by Subedar Major Digar Singh, the Navy and Air Force bands were led by Commander M Anthony Raj and Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar. The Defence Ministry in a statement said: "The ceremony traces its origins to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army indigenously developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands. It marks a centuries-old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat. Colours and Standards are cased and flags lowered. The ceremony creates nostalgia for the times gone by."

OPPOSITION UNITED AGAINST 'POLITICS OF HATE' OF RSS-BJP: RAHUL GANDHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that despite some differences, the opposition camp is united against the "politics of hate of the RSS and the BJP". Addressing a press conference here, he said "the Opposition is not allowed to raise the issues in Parliament and the media is not giving space to those issues". Asked about his next step, the former Congress president said: "Bharat Jodo Yatra was from south to north but it had a national effect. The Yatra has got a tremendous response and it gave an alternative vision to the BJP-RSS narrative of hate and arrogance, and it will have an impact on Indian politics. "Bharat Jodo Yatra was the most beautiful experience of my life," he added. Responding to questions on the BJP's claims that there is peace in Jammu and Kashmir, he said: "There are targeted killings in the state, bomb blasts happening, what security personnel are talking indicates that the situation is not good... if the BJP thinks so, why doesn't Amit Shah walk to Lal Chowk from Jammu." Gandhi said people are in pain in the state and the Congress is of the view that restoration of statehood and a democratic process is the first step. The Congress leader along with many fellow marchers started the Bharat Jodo Yatra on September 7 last year and hoisted the National Flag on Sunday at Lal Chowk here after completing the 3,970-km walk.

CONGRESS LAUNCHES 'HATH SE HATH JODO' CAMPAIGN

The Congress on Thursday launched nationwide 'Hath se Hath Jodo' campaign, under which it plans to reach out to people and make them aware about the "failures" of the Modi government. Taking to Twitter, the Congress posted: "As we celebrate the biggest festival of democracy today, we announce the launch of the #HaathSeHaathJodo campaign. After the immense love received for #BharatJodoYatra, we are sure that the Haath Se Haath Jodo campaign will also win everybody's hearts." The party workers will deliver a letter written by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and a "charge sheet" against the Central government to each household. During the programme which is scheduled to end on March 26, party workers will reach out to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, six lakh villages and 10 lakh booths. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had said, "This programme 'hath se hath jodo' will take forward the Congress party symbol and the political message from the Bharat Jodo Yatra." However, he said that this is a tough task as in some states the organisation is weak, but it will be accomplished.

UNGA PRESIDENT CSABA KOROSI ARRIVES IN INDIA ON THREE-DAY VISIT

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Csaba Korosi arrived in India on Sunday on a three-day visit. It is his first bilateral visit to any country since he assumed Presidency of UNGA in September 2022. During the visit, Korosi will be holding talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on key multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, a statement issued by the External Affairs Ministry said. Korosi's visit to India is being seen as an opportunity to exchange views on global challenges that the United Nations is currently seized with. It would help reinforce India's abiding commitment to multilateralism, including through its ongoing G20 presidency, and how it would address these global challenges meaningfully for a better future for the Global South, the statement said. Korosi will also interact with senior officials of NITI Aayog and India's G20 presidency team to explore the scaling up of India's best practices. On Monday, he will pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas. Later, Korosi will deliver a public address at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on his Presidency theme of "Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science in the UN". He will travel to Bengaluru on January 31, where he will interact with scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

RAHUL GANDHI MUST THANK PM FOR HOISTING TRICOLOUR AT LAL CHOWK: BJP



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi must thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it was because of him, that Gandhi could hoist Tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, BJP National Spokesperson and former Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore said. In an official video, released by the BJP, Rajyavardhan Rathore said, "Rahul Gandhi hoisted Indian Flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar proudly. Today with the efforts of PM Modi and Modi government, situations have become such that any Indian can hoist Tricolor in Kashmir proudly. Rahul Gandhi must thank PM Modi for this." Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra has entered its last lap in Kashmir and is set to culminate on Monday. Rahul Gandhi unfurled the Tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar at 12 noon to mark the end of the foot march that began on September 7. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala were also present on the occasion. However, a controversy erupted as Rahul Gandhi's own cut-out was larger and taller than the Indian flag which many felt was 'disrespectful and disgusting behaviour' by a senior leader like Rahul Gandhi. Netizens were quick to point out the seemingly 'disrespectful behaviour of Rahul Gandhi.

8 BOOKED FOR DESECRATION OF RAMCHARITMANAS IN LUCKNOW

An FIR has been lodged against eight persons for tearing pages of Ramcharitmanas, an epic poem in Awadhi language penned by Goswami Tulsidas, and then burning it in Vrindavan Yojna area of Lucknow late on Sunday, police said. The FIR has been lodged at the PGI police station of Lucknow. Station House Officer (SHO) Rajesh Rana said that they received a complaint from a BJP member, Satnam Singh Lavi, on the basis of which the FIR was lodged. "Unsavoury comments against Ramcharitmanas and burning of its pages in public may create a rift in society and lead to communal tension. The accused spoke against the holy book on social media and thus hurt the sentiments of Hindus," he added. The SHO said that the accused named by Satnam Singh in his FIR are Yashpal Singh Lodhi, Devendra Yadav, Mahendra Pratap Yadav, Naresh Singh, SS Yadav, Sujit, Santosh Verma and Salim. They all have been booked under sections 153-A (promoting enmity), 295 A (outrage religious feelings), 505 (to incite outrage) and 298 (hurt religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code and section 66 of the IT Act. The police said that the accused named in the FIR had come out in support of Samajwadi Party MLC Swami Prasad Maurya under the banner of Akhil Bhartiya OBC Mahasabha on Sunday. Maurya had recently caused a row when he raised objections to certain verses from the book and termed them 'against women, backwards and Dalits'.

TWO SUSPECTED KHALISTANI SUPPORTERS DETAINED IN DELHI

The two alleged Khalistani supporters arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, for writing pro-Khalistani graffiti, have been working at the behest of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ). Additional Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, Pramod Kushwaha said that the arrested individuals were identified as Vikram Singh and Balram Singh. Both have been said to be working for Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. They were asked to do the task for Rs 2 lakh but later, were paid only Rs 2,000. "Multiple pro-Khalistani graffiti were found sprayed at various locations in Vikasपुरी, Janakपुरी, Paschim Vihar, Peeragarhi, Meera Bagh and adjoining parts of western Delhi. A corresponding video also appeared on the Internet, wherein Gurbatwant Singh Pannun from SFJ claimed that these graffiti was sprayed by SFJ Cadres," said the official. Pannun had claimed that the Khalistani supporters had reached the national capital and that they would target Delhi and also raise the Khalistani flag in the city on Republic Day. The graffiti at different places had mention of the following words/slogans in English and Gurmukhi: "Khalistan Zindabad", "SFJ", "1984", "Punjab Banega Khalistan", "Referendum 2020 Vote for Khalistan". Taking the matter seriously, the Special Cell lodged an FIR and formed a team to look into the matter. ACP Lalit Mohan Negi had got a tip off about the accused. The information was developed and both the accused were apprehended. "The arrested persons were asked to paint graffiti of pro-Khalistani slogans in the western part of Delhi in lieu of Rs 2 lakh. Accused persons clandestinely sprayed these Pro-Khalistani graffiti during the intervening night of January 18 and 19. "They sent videos to senior cadres of SFJ members. Pannun then broadcast it through YouTube claiming responsibility for graffiti and threatening an attack on Republic Day," the official said. The Special Cell scanned more than one thousand CCTVs to nab the accused. The police said that Vikram Singh and Balram Singh are employed as drivers in a prominent Hotel in Aerocity, Delhi. Vikram Singh was in close association with one of the senior cadres of the SFJ, based in the US, whom he knew from a previous association. That cadre of SFJ contacted Vikram and claimed himself to be a close aide of Pannun. He further asked him to spray Pro-Khalistani slogans in lieu of Rs 2 lakh. Vikram roped in Balram into the plan. Vikram bought multi-colour sprays from a shop in West Delhi. The accused persons sprayed these pro-Khalistan graffiti during the early hours and recorded videos of the same and sent them to SFJ members.



US SENDING 31 ABRAMS TANKS TO UKRAINE: JOE BIDEN

US President Joe Biden announced that Washington is sending 31 heavy M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine as part of Washington's continued support for the war-torn nation.

The US-made military vehicle is one of the most modern battle tanks in the world and requires extensive training to operate.

Addressing reporters at the White House on Wednesday, Biden said the decision to send the tanks came after his conversation earlier in the day "with our NATO Allies -- German Chancellor (Olaf) Scholz, French President (Emmanuel) Macron, UK Prime Minister (Rishi) Sunak, and the Italian Prime Minister (Giorgia) Meloni -- to continue our close coordination in our full support of Ukraine".

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin expected Europe and the US to weaken our resolve... He was wrong from the beginning and he continues to be wrong," he said.

According to the President, a Ukrainian tank battalion typically consists of 31 tanks, which is why that number has been agreed upon.

"The Abrams tanks are the most capable tanks in the world. They're also extremely complex to operate and maintain, so we're also giving Ukraine the parts and equipment necessary to effectively sustain these tanks on the battlefield," he said.

Biden's announcement came just hours after Germany said it would send 14 of its Leopard 2 tanks to the battlefield.

Berlin also cleared the way for other European countries to send German-made tanks from their own stocks.

In his address, Biden said he was grateful to Chancellor Scholz for providing German Leopard 2 tanks and will lead an effort to organise the European contribution of two tank battalions for Ukraine.

"I want to thank the Chancellor for his leadership and his steadfast

commitment to our collective efforts to support Ukraine. Germany has really stepped up, and the Chancellor has been a strong, strong voice for unity, a close friend, and for the level of effort we're going to continue."

Besides the US and Germany, the UK had recently announced that it was donating Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, while rance is contributing AMX-10s, armoured fighting vehicles.

In addition to the Leopard tanks, Germany is also sending a Patriot missile battery and the Netherlands is donating a Patriot missile and launchers. France, Canada, the UK, Slovakia and Norway have all donated critical air defence systems.

Biden also said that "Poland is sending armoured vehicles, Sweden is donating infantry fighting vehicles, Italy is giving artillery, Denmark and Estonia are sending howitzers, Latvia is providing more Stinger missiles, Lithuania is providing anti-aircraft guns, and Finland recently announced its largest package of security assistance to date".

"Together with our allies and partners, we've sent more than 3,000 armoured vehicles, more than 8,000 artillery systems, more than 2 million rounds of artillery ammunition, and more than 50 advanced multi-launch rocket systems, anti-ship and air defence systems, all to help Ukraine counter brutal aggression that is happening because of Russia," he added.

The twin announcements by the US and Germany was hailed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky who said it was a turning point that would allow its military to regain momentum and take back occupied territory almost a year after Moscow invaded. "An important step on the path to victory. Today the free world is united as never before for a common goal -- liberation of Ukraine," he said.

KHALISTANI SUPPORTERS, INDIANS CLASH IN AUSTRALIA; 2 ARRESTED

A scuffle broke out between the Indian diaspora and Khalistan supporters in Australia during a referendum called by the banned Sikhs For Justice for the creation of an independent Sikh state, local media reported. The brief fracas broke out at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday after a group of pro-India supporters waving national flags arrived at the voting site in Federation Square, Melbourne, The Age reported.

The Victoria Police, which used pepper spray to quell the protests, said two men, aged 34 and 39, were arrested and issued a penalty notice for their riotous behaviour. In several videos posted on Twitter, Khalistan supporters were seen attacking Indians with sticks in broad daylight. They were also seen snatching and damaging the Indian Tricolour. Reacting to the videos, BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa tweeted: "I strongly condemn anti India activities by pro Khalistani in Australia. Anti-social elements that are trying to disrupt the peace & harmony of the country with these activities, must be dealt with strongly and culprits must be brought to books." Two men were injured at the demonstration -- one with a head laceration and the other with a hand injury -- and police are continuing to investigate the injuries, The Age reported. The Khalistan Referendum campaign is being run across the world by pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice, calling for a new state that would take in the Punjab regions of northern India and Pakistan. The attack came despite the Indian community in Australia informing the police about the planned protest at the Federation Square in Melbourne, The Australia Today reported.

RISHI SUNAK SACKS CONSERVATIVE PARTY CHAIR NADHIM ZAHAWI

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has sacked the Conservative party chair, Nadhim Zahawi, after he was found to have breached the ministerial code by failing to declare the HMRC investigation into his tax affairs, the media reported.

An investigation by the UK Prime Minister's ethics adviser, Laurie Magnus, concluded that Zahawi had made a "serious breach" of the code by not telling officials he was under investigation by the tax body when he was appointed chancellor by former PM Boris Johnson, The Guardian reported.

He had also failed to officially declare that he paid a settlement to HMRC for tax avoidance when he was given cabinet positions by Liz Truss last September and when Sunak made him Tory chair and minister without portfolio in September, The Guardian reported.

His departure comes after a damaging few weeks for Sunak, who had pledged "integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level" of his government on entering No 10 but was facing growing calls to sack Zahawi over his tax affairs.

Sunak's judgment for re-appointing Zahawi has come under question from some Conservative MPs, while others felt that the prime minister, who acted within hours of receiving Magnus' report on Sunday morning, should have sacked him sooner, The Guardian reported. He also continues to face scrutiny over what he knew about the minister's tax affairs and when, amid suggestions he was told there could be a reputational risk to the government when he appointed him in October.

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN GRAVES IN CANADA PROOF OF 'GENOCIDE': IRAN

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has said that the recent discovery of new mass graves of "innocent" indigenous children in Canada is evidence of a "major human tragedy" that can only be described as "genocide".

Making the remark in a statement published on the Ministry's website, Kanaani on Sunday slammed the Canadian government's reluctance to provide sufficient and transparent information about the graves, saying it is indicative of the depth of the "human disaster" and reminiscent of the "crimes" committed during the "oppressive and racist" British rule in Canada.

The "horrible" crime has been committed in a country whose government has always tried to pass itself off as an advocate of human rights by putting on "deceptive and hypocritical" shows and to make meddlesome remarks about other states' developments, he added.

On Wednesday, Williams Lake First Nation announced at a press conference that an investigative team had found 66 more potential unmarked graves at a former residential school in British Columbia, Xinhua news agency reported. With the new discovery, 159 graves have so far been found at the former St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, where 93 were uncovered in May 2021.

TESLA CRASH: DHARMESH A. PATEL FORMALLY CHARGED WITH 3 COUNTS OF MURDER

An Indian-American who was accused of deliberately driving his Tesla off a California cliff with his wife and children inside on January 2, has been formally charged with three counts of murder.

Dharmesh A Patel, 41, of Pasadena, was transported to San Mateo County jail after his release last week from the hospital where he was treated for "serious lower body injuries".

A San Mateo judge on Monday reportedly granted a request to hold Patel without bail at the Maguire Correctional Facility, citing the danger he poses to his family, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The three counts of murder he has been charged with include, "attempted first-degree murder and child abuse, as well as enhancements for great bodily injury and domestic abuse," San Mateo District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a press conference on Monday.

Statement from Patel's wife as well as witness accounts from other motorists and video of the roadway gave enough evidence to frame charges against Patel, Wagstaffe said.

"We do believe the evidence establishes the necessary intent to kill," he told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wagstaffe told The Chronicle that the wife's attorney told prosecutors that she would talk to investigators only "when she was physically ready to do so". Patel's wife continues to be in the hospital, according to the report.

Patel's car was travelling south on State Route 1 when it went over the cliff at Devil's Slide, south of the Tom Lantos Tunnels, and flipped and landed on its wheels near the water's edge.

BORIS JOHNSON SAYS PUTIN 'THREATENED HIM WITH MISSILE STRIKE' BEFORE WAR

Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "threatened him with a missile strike during an extraordinary phone call" ahead of Moscow launching its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.



He made the remarks in a BBC documentary titled 'Putin Vs the West' which will be broadcast on Monday.

"He threatened me at one point, and he said, 'Boris, I don't want to hurt you but, with a missile, it would only take a minute' or something like that. "But I think from the very relaxed tone that he was taking, the sort of air of detachment that he seemed to have, he was just playing along with my attempts to get him to negotiate," Johnson was quoted as saying in the documentary.

The former Prime Minister also said that he warned Putin that invading Ukraine would lead to Western sanctions and more NATO troops on Russia's borders.

He also tried to deter Russian military action by telling Putin that Ukraine would not join Nato "for the foreseeable future", the BBC reported. Johnson further said that "Putin had been very familiar during the most extraordinary call".

The former leader's claims however, have been official verified. The BBC documentary also features Defence Secretary Ben Wallace who had flown to Moscow on February 11, 2022, to meet his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu.

The film revealed that Wallace left with assurances that Russia would not invade Ukraine, but he said both sides knew it was a lie. He described it as a "demonstration of bullying or strength, which is: I'm going to lie to you, you know I'm lying and I know you know I'm lying and I'm still going to lie to you. I think it was about saying 'I'm powerful'". Wallace went on to say that the "fairly chilling, but direct lie" had confirmed his belief that Russia would invade. As he left the meeting, he said Gen Valery Gerasimov, Russia's chief of general staff, told him "never again will we be humiliated". Less than a fortnight later, as tanks rolled over the border on February 24, 2022, Johnson received a phone call in the middle of the night from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. "Zelensky's very, very calm. But, he tells me, you know, they're attacking everywhere," the former Prime Minister said, adding that he offered to help move the President to safety. "He doesn't take me up on that offer. He heroically stayed where he was."

NO FIGHTER JETS FOR UKRAINE, SAYS GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ

Days after agreeing to send tanks to Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz ruled out sending fighter jets, media reports said on Sunday. Scholz said his focus was on the delivery of German-made Leopard 2 tanks.



"The fact we've only just made a decision (on sending tanks) and the next debate is firing up in Germany, that just seems frivolous," he said in an interview with German newspaper Tagesspiegel, the BBC reported.

In wake of pressure from other allies, Germany agreed to supply 14 tanks to Ukraine, and the US said it would provide its M1 Abrams tanks. On the other hand, Ukraine has asked NATO allied nations to create a "fighter jet coalition" to bolster their capabilities and the US said it would discuss the idea "very carefully". Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrii Melnyk, sought a "fighter jet coalition" that would provide Ukraine with US F-16s and F-35s, Eurofighters, Tornados, French Rafales and Swedish Gripen jets.

However, Scholz, in the interview, reiterated that Nato was not at war with Russia, and "we will not allow such an escalation". He also said that he was in touch with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with their last conversation having been held last month. "We need to talk to each other," he said, but added that he was firmly against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

META TO RESTORE TRUMP'S FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has announced that it will be reinstating former US President Donald Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts in the coming weeks.



The announcement was made by Meta's President of Global Affairs Meta Nick Clegg in a blog post on Wednesday.

Meta, on January 7, 2021, suspended Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts for two years following his praise for people engaged in violence at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

"The suspension was an extraordinary decision taken in extraordinary circumstances. The normal state of affairs is that the public should be able to hear from a former President of the US, and a declared candidate for that office again, on our platforms," Clegg elaborated in the blog post.

"Like any other Facebook or Instagram user, Mr Trump is subject to our Community Standards. In light of his violations, he now also faces heightened penalties for repeat offences - penalties which will apply to other public figures whose accounts are reinstated from suspensions related to civil unrest under our updated protocol," he added.

Clegg also said that Meta is reinstating Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts, however, with new guardrails in place to "deter repeat offences". "We know that any decision we make on this issue will be fiercely criticised. Reasonable people will disagree over whether it is the right decision. But a decision had to be made, so we have tried to make it as best we can in a way that is consistent with our values and the process we established...", he asserted.

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Deepika Padukone says she gains confidence from Shah Rukh Khan: 'The chemistry is still so palpable'



AS PATHAAN IS IN LINE TO BE RELEASED THIS WEEK, ACTRESS DEEPIKA PADUKONE TOLD FILMFARE DURING AN INTERVIEW ABOUT HER CHEMISTRY WITH SHAHRUKH KHAN THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BLOCKBUSTER. DEEPIKA PADUKONE AND SHAH RUKH KHAN, ARE THE FAVORITE ON-SCREEN COUPLES OUT THERE. THE DUO, WHO HAVE WORKED ON FILMS LIKE OM SHANTI OM, CHENNAI EXPRESS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, ARE YET TO SET THE SCREEN ON FIRE. AGAIN WITH PATHAAN. IN A VIDEO POSTED BY PATHAAN'S PRODUCERS, SHE SHARES: "SHAH RUKH & I'VE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO WORK ON SOME AMAZING FILMS, STARTING WITH OM SHANTI OM! I WORK WITH MY FAVORITE COLLEAGUE SHAH RUKH. WE HAVE A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP AND I THINK AUDIENCES ALWAYS SEE THAT IN THE FILMS WE MAKE.

KRITI SANON DISPLAYS TONED FIGURE IN BLUE CUTOUT DRESS DURING SHEHZADA PROMOTIONS



KRITI SANON IS BUSY PROMOTING HER NEXT UPCOMING RELEASE, SHEHZADA, STARRING ALONGSIDE KARTIK AARYAN. SHE HAS BEEN SERVING STUNNING LOOKS, FLAUNTING HER TONED FIGURE.

SANJAY DUTT AND ARSHAD WARSII REUNITE FOR AN UNTITLED PROJECT



Siddhanth Sachdev directorial will be produced by Sanjay Dutt under his home production. Most famous jodi of Munnabhai and Circuit is set to reunite but for a different project. Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi are set to reunite for another untitled project after years. While the project isn't related to the Munna Bhai series, the duo's fans are still very excited to witness them together on the big screen after years. Actor Sanjay Dutt took to Instagram to make an official announcement about the project by sharing the film's first poster. Taking to the captions, Sanjay wrote, "Our wait has been longer than yours but the wait is finally over, coming together with my brother @arshad_warsi for yet another exciting movie... Can't wait to show you, stay tuned!." The poster shows Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi locked up in a prison dressed up as prisoners. The film marks their reunion after 12 years. They were last seen together in Indra Kumar's Double Dhamaal which released in 2011. Helmed by Siddhanth Sachdev, the film will be produced by Sanjay Dutt under his home production Three Dimension Motion Pictures. Sanjay Dutt ventured into production last year with upcoming horror comedy titled The Virgin Tree which stars Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Aasif Khan and Palak Tiwari in prominent roles.

KANGANA RANAUT REACTS TO URFI JAVED TAKING A DIG AT 'COUNTRY LOVES KHANS' TWEET



KANGANA RANAUT HAS REACTED TO URFI JAVED'S TWEET AFTER SHE QUESTIONS THE QUEEN ACTRESS'S DIVISION OVER INDIA LIKING ONLY MUSLIM ACTRESSES AND BEING OBSESSED OVER KHANS.

BRITNEY SPEARS DENIES BREAKDOWN, SAYS SHE'S 'NEVER FELT BETTER'



BRITNEY SPEARS CONCERNED FANS WITH A NUMBER OF POSTS LATELY, LEADING ONE TO CALL POLICE WITH FEARS FOR THE STAR'S WELLBEING.

RAVEENA TANDON OPENS UP ON PADMA SHRI HONOUR: 'THIS ENCAPSULATED MY ENTIRE BODY OF WORK'



RAVEENA TANDON EXPRESSES HER DELIGHT AT BEING BESTOWED WITH THE PADMA SHRI HONOUR. HERE'S WHAT THE ACTRESS HAS TO SAY.

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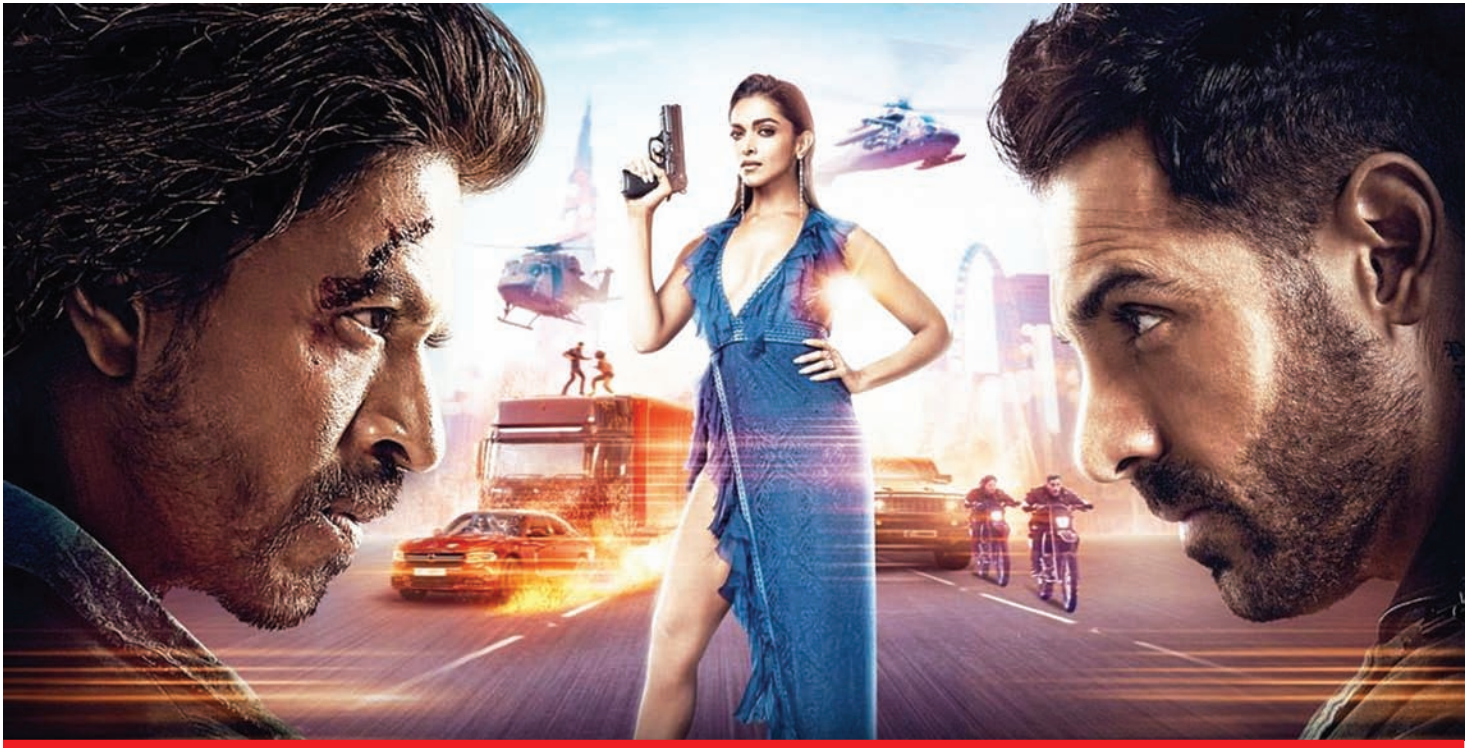
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IN JUST FIVE DAYS, 'PATHAAN' MINTS A WHOPPING RS 542 CR WORLDWIDE

MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's latest release 'Pathaan', which also stars John Abraham and Deepika Padukone, is unstoppable as it has made a whopping Rs 542 crore gross worldwide in just five days since its release on January 25. 'Pathaan' hit another Rs 100 crore plus day in its fifth day, as it registered Rs 60.75 crore nett in India (Hindi - Rs 58.50, all dubbed versions - Rs 2.25 crore), taking the India gross to 70 crore. The overseas gross on day five is at Rs 42 crore (\$5.13 million), taking the total collection on its fourth day of release to Rs. 112 crore gross. In 5 days, 'Pathaan' has recorded \$25.42 million (207.2 crore) in overseas territories alone. 'Pathaan' also crossed the Rs 250 crore

nett mark in India in just five days with Rs 280 crore nett up on the board already. It is the fastest Hindi film to enter the Rs 250 crore club in just five days. Akshaye Widhani, CEO of Yash Raj Films, said: "At YRF, we are proud that Pathaan is entertaining people across the globe, pulling people to the theatres and giving them an experience of a lifetime! The YRF Spy Universe films have also registered blockbusters every single time." "So, the stakes were high with Pathaan and we are thrilled to have delivered a film that has not only extended this feat of delivering hits but has also registered countless new records in the process. This is one for the ages for YRF and for the Indian film industry and we couldn't be more humbled."

KANGANA RANAUT REACTS TO URFI JAVED TAKING A DIG AT 'COUNTRY LOVES KHANS' TWEET

The daunting div of Bollywood, Kangana Ranaut never fails to grab eyeballs with her bold and upfront attitude. While the nation is celebrating the massive success of Shah Rukh Khan starrer Pathaan, Kangana's tweet has created a buzz already. She took a jibe at Pathaan's box office collection multiple times, Kangana stated that Bollywood is trying to spread Hindu hate. She also claimed that Muslim actors are being admired by Indians, and that's the greatness of this country. Reacting to Kangana's tweet, Urfi Javed came forward to put her opinion boldly. She tweeted, "Oh my gosh! What is this division, Muslim actors, Hindu actors? Art is not divided by religion. There are only actors". Kangana and Urfi both are known for their bold and upfront presence so how can the Dhaaka actress stay put after Urfi took a dig on her. Minutes later, Kangana reacted to Urfi's quote-tweet. She wrote, "Yes my dear Uorfi that will be an



ideal world but it's not possible unless we have The Uniform Civil Code, till the time this nation is divided in the constitution itself it will remain divide, Let's all demand Uniform Civil Code from @narendramodi ji in 2024 Manifesto. Shall we?" Last week, Kangana interacted with the media and said that film like Pathaan should work. The next day, Kangana took her

thoughts to Twitter, and wrote, "All those who are claiming Pathan is triumph of love over hate, I agree but whose love over whose hate? Let's be precise, who is buying tickets and making it a success? Yes, it is India's love and inclusiveness where eighty percent Hindus lives and yet a film called Pathan." Earlier Urfi also took a jibe at Kangana, she shared her opinions on her Instagram stories. In one

of her stories, she slammed Kangana and said, "What the (wide eyes emoji). Please don't compare yourself to SRK. At least he doesn't play the religion card." Urfi Javed is an admirer of SRK, shared a tweet of Kangana, and wrote, "Not able to like comprehend the purpose of this tweet, she is saying watch my movie, coz I am not Muslim. Wow."

SUSHMITA SEN IS BACK AS AARYA AND THIS TIME 'SHE MEANS BUSINESS'

Guess who is back for a more fierce and bold season of her superhit show? Sushmita Sen aka Aarya. And this time, she "means business." On Monday, the actress and the makers dropped the first teaser of Aarya season 3, leaving everyone super excited for the show. The video shows Sushmita Sen aka Aarya in a black full-sleeved top and big shades, smoking a cigar with full swag and a pistol in front of her. After lighting the cigar, she loads the pistol, and the text in the video reads, "Guess who's back". Sushmita Sen shared the video on Instagram with the caption, "She is back, and she means business. Hotstar Specials Aarya 3. Now shooting". Soon after the teaser was shared, Sen's daughter Renee gushed about her mother and wrote, "You are unreal". Film Director Ravi Jadhav too commented on the video and wrote, "Mind Blowing". A user wrote, "Literally can't wait", while another wrote, "Sushmita sen at her best". Another user showed excitement and commented, "Haaye! Kuch toh achha suna mene itne dino baad. (Finally heard something good after such a long time). Can't wait now!" Sushmita Sen marked her comeback on-screen with her OTT debut Aarya in June 2020. She played a powerful protagonist who goes the extra mile to protect her family from criminals. The series is based on the Spanish original 'Penozo' and tells the story of a mother named Aarya (Sushmita Sen), who takes the route of the underworld after the death of her husband to save her children and family. The previous two seasons were extremely thrilling and kept the audience on the edge. It received rave reviews from critics and viewers alike. Season 1 of Aarya even earned a nomination for Best Drama Series at the International Emmy Awards. The series is helmed by Ram Madhvani and stars Namit Das, Manish Chaudhari and Vinod Rawat among others.



KAPIL SHARMA TO DEBUT AS SINGER WITH GURU RANDHAWA; HERE'S HOW BADSHAH & MIKA SINGH REACTED

Kapil Sharma has often shared how he wanted to be a singer. The audience has also seen his impressive singing performances at Kapil Sharma Show too. But now it's time that he makes his debut as a singer. The actor-comedian will be making his music debut with popular Punjabi singer Guru Randhawa. The two shared the news on social media with a striking poster. Sharing the poster, Guru Randhawa wrote on Instagram, "We are excited to share " ALONE " with you all. Can't wait the world to hear @kapilsharma paji debut song. Out on 9th feb. @tseries.official @directorgifty @sanjoyd @iyogitabihani #bhushankumar." In the poster, Kapil is dressed in a black T-shirt topped-up brown coat. Guru Randhawa was seen in an all-black attire. The duo's upcoming song 'Alone' will be out on February 9. As soon as the collaboration was announced, the industry friends chimed in the comment section. While rapper Badshah extended his support by dropping a heart emoji, Mika Singh wrote, "Kya baat hai the 2 rock star in one frame." Meanwhile, Kapil Sharma also looks forward to his film Zwigato. After being screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, and the International Film Festival of Kerala Nandita Das and Kapil Sharma's 'Zwigato' is all set to hit the big screen soon. The film is all set to release on March 17, 2023. The film, which is presented by Applause Entertainment, is about an ex-floor manager (Kapil) of a factory who loses his job during the pandemic. He then works as a food delivery rider, grappling with the world of ratings and incentives. To support the income, his homemaker wife begins to explore different work opportunities, with fear but also the excitement of new-found independence. The film is about the relentlessness of life, but not without their shared moments of joy. It captures the lives of invisible, 'ordinary' people.



BRITNEY SPEARS DENIES BREAKDOWN, SAYS SHE'S 'NEVER FELT BETTER'



LOS ANGELES, (IANS) Pop icon Britney Spears has made her return to Instagram just a week after removing her page and telling her fans she's "never felt better". The singer, 41, concerned fans with a number of posts lately, leading one to call police with fears for the star's wellbeing, reports Mirror.co.uk. The fan has since issued a grovelling apology after the 'Baby One More Time' singer slammed them for going "too far". Britney had changed her name on the social media platform and also shared a video showcasing her regret at getting a tattoo while in Hawaii. She had also been reminiscing about her previous relationship with Justin Timberlake despite being married to Sam Asghari. Mirror.co.uk further states that after her time away from the site, the singer is back - and told people she simply took down her page "because I can". She also fumed at people to "think again" if they think they know her story. In a lengthy post alongside an image of a pink rose, the star wrote: "Since everyone thinks they know my story. Think again. A mere side of any given Sunday doesn't show worship placing someones story out there a it's a day of WELCOMING a not a righteous reply. It is what it is a nope I'm not having a breakdown a I am who I am and moving forward in my life. I have never felt better." She went on to say she's enjoying being able to "volumise my voice in a world where I lost my rights a for 15 years." She explained that if those taking aim at her were able to walk in her shoes, they might understand how she is feeling. Britney continued: "Still learning this no rules thing a I don't think so limited a I feel younger and in awe a unfortunately I'm boring as hell and drink hot chocolate at night. I've waited nearly 15 years to drink alcohol only to realise I hate it !!! It makes me sad and I feel bloated, although food tastes better."

KAREENA'S NEW CHARACTER IS INSPIRED BY KATE WINSLET'S IN 'MARE OF EASTTOWN'



Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan is marking a new phase in her glittering career with a brace of films that she terms as "shockingly different." She shared that her character in the upcoming Hansal Mehta film was inspired in part by Hollywood star Kate Winslet's role in 'Mare of Easttown'. She has wrapped a project that was shot in the UK under the working title 'The Buckingham Murders', directed by Hansal Mehta, reports Variety. The diva essays a detective and mother who investigates a murder in a town in Buckinghamshire. "I love 'Mare of Easttown' and when Hansal came to me, I said this is something that I've really been dying to do. So we've molded a little bit on those lines, she plays a detective cop in that," she told Variety. "It's the first time that I've dabbled in that." "I speak fluently in Hindi and I think also in Hindi because that's been what I've been doing all my life," Kapoor Khan said. "When you're thinking in Hindi, but speaking in English, it was actually a difficult task to do because it was the reverse situation for the first time." The project, produced by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and Mahana Film also marks Kareena's debut as a producer.

ADITYA ROY KAPUR DID RIGOROUS HOMEWORK FOR HIS PART IN 'THE NIGHT MANAGER'

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who is gearing up for the release of his webseries 'The Night Manager', spent time with actual night managers to get a sense of their world and their profession. The actor, who plays the titular role in the series, said: "There are a few interesting and unique things one has to do for every role. I think in this case he is a night manager at a hotel so I think every time you have a profession that is very specific, one of the joys of being an actor is getting to research these different professions and try and meet people in those professions to understand what goes on in front and also behind the scenes. Part of the prep for me was meeting them." Walking down the memory lane, he further mentioned: "I actually went and met a night manager. I spent a couple of days with her, interviewed her and quizzed her about her life and the effect that the profession had on her as a person to understand what goes into the job. You know, it's a highly qualified profession." 'The Night Manager' is a Hindi-language adaptation of John le Carre's eponymous novel. Talking about what he imbibed from them, the actor said: "You have to go through years of training for it, so I was trying to understand basic dos and don'ts, body language, tonality. I think one big part of playing the night manager was getting that aspect of it right. So that kind of looked convincing on camera when I was portraying myself as a manager, which was very interesting."



PRIYANKA CHOPRA, KAJOL, ABHISHEK BACHCHAN PRAISE SANIA MIRZA AFTER FINAL GRAND SLAM

Bollywood actors Priyanka Chopra, Kajol, Abhishek Bachchan, Ritesh Deshmukh and Anil Kapoor have praised Tennis 'legend' Sania Mirza after she announced her final Grand Slam at Melbourne Park on Friday. Sania and Rohan Bopanna came second to Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos of Brazil in the Australian Open mixed doubles final. The duo was defeated 7(7)-6(2), 6-2 by Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos. Sania has won two Grand Slam tournaments at the Australian Open. The global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas took to her Instagram handle and shared a video of Sania with her son Izhaan Mirza Malik. She wrote, "Legend @mirzasaniar (folded hands, red heart, and eyes with tears emojis)." Inspired by Sania's ultimate journey, Kajol shared a video of an emotional Sania breaking down after her final Grand Slam match. She captioned the post, "You have always made India and women everywhere look up to you.. and you always will (red heart and national flag emojis) @MirzaSania." In the video, Sania said, "I am still gonna play a couple of tournaments. The journey of my professional career started in Melbourne." Following the path, Abhishek Bachchan also expressed his pride for the Sania. Junior Bachchan tweeted, "To a

glorious career, @MirzaSania! You've always made India proud & been an inspiration for many of us. Best wishes for a fun-filled & relaxing retirement. You'll be missed, but never forgotten". Veteran actor Anil Kapoor also joined hands to celebrate the glorious career span of Sania, he tweeted, "Congratulations @MirzaSania on an amazing journey that has left a mark in history and inspired millions of athletes, and thank you for always making India so proud! Wishing you good luck for your next adventure". Ritesh Deshmukh also congratulated the GOAT of India. "Many congratulations my dear friend @MirzaSania on your glorious career. you have been an inspiration to a generation- a super achiever that has made every Indian across the globe proud. I wish you only the best for your future endeavors. Much love #SaniaMirza #GOAT", he tweeted. Celebrating her retirement, Sania Mirza got emotional and expressed her happiness in the post-match interview, "It started in Melbourne in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round here as an 18-year-old. That was scary enough 18 years ago. I have had the privilege to come back here again and again and win some tournaments here and play some great finals...I couldn't think of a better arena to finish my career in a Grand Slam".

RAVEENA TANDON OPENS UP ON PADMA SHRI HONOUR: 'THIS ENCAPSULATED MY ENTIRE BODY OF WORK'



Actor Raveena Tandon says she is elated that through Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in the country, her work in both mainstream and independent cinema has been recognized. The actor, whose name was announced among the Padma awardees on the eve of the Republic Day, said 2023 has begun on a good note. "It has been a year of awards for 'KGF 2' and 'Aranyak'. But this (Padma Shri) was the best of all because this encapsulated my entire body of work. It encapsulates everything, the commercial successes, the songs that are so eternal that people remember," Raveena told PTI. The actor, who ruled the 90s cinema with hits such as "Mohra", "Dilwale" and "Dulhe Raja" while also making a mark in off-beat movies such as "Daman", "Satta" and "Shool", made her successful streaming debut with Netflix series "Aranyak" in 2021. She also played an important role in "KGF: Chapter 2". "It feels good that there are people watching and appreciating you. I

thank everyone who has been with me on this journey and supported me throughout," the actor she said. The popularity of mainstream entertainers usually dominate an actor's filmography, but Raveena feels "lucky" that her performance-oriented roles in "Satta", "Shool" and "Daman", for which she won the National award best actress, did not go unnoticed. "Huge commercial successes sometimes overshadow the body of work that you have done in realistic cinema because of the hit songs and films that people remember. I am so happy that an award like Padma Shri gives credit to the fact that I have done films like 'Satta', 'Daman', 'Matr' and 'Shool'." The actor said it was a struggle to fight stereotypes back and recalled how she had to convince Ram Gopal Varma to cast her in 1999 film "Shool". Raveena, who eventually played a Bihari housewife to Manoj Bajpayee's character in the film, recalls Varma saying, "when I close my eyes, I can see you doing 'Aankhiyon Se Goli Maare'".

SRK THANKS ALL THOSE WHO MADE SURE 'PATHAAN' COULD BE WATCHED 'WITH LOVE'



MUMBAI, (IANS) Shah Rukh Khan has thanked, without naming anyone, "all those" whom he had "made calls to", for enabling "Pathaan" "to be watched by people with love". He said this at a nationally televised interaction with the media and fans at a five-star hotel in Mumbai. Journalists were not allowed to pose questions at the event organised by Yash Raj Films on Monday. The superstar's comment brought back the recent memory of his phone call to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, urging him to ensure right-wing groups were not allowed to disrupt "Pathaan" screenings in his state. Before the call, Sarma had famously declared at a press conference: "Who is Shah Rukh Khan?" Thanking "the people" he had made calls to, SRK said: "They all took charge of the situation and people were able to see the film with love." Declaring that the film was an "experience of love", he said: "It was a fun film for fun people. And they were able to come out and watch it with love." In a message no doubt directed at the 'Boycott Bollywood' brigade, he said: "People should enjoy films with love. A film is more than an empty pack of popcorn." In a nod to the film's mega box-office success and the hordes of fans who showed up to cheer him outside his residence, Mannat, in Mumbai, SRK said: "The love for the film hasn't sunk in yet. Thank you for bringing life back to cinema." Seen with him on the stage were his co-stars, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham, and the film's director, Siddharth Anand. SRK greeted each of them with a line from a song, showing to the world that he can also croon for his supper. Deepika, who teared up on stage in the middle of the interaction, said "Pathaan" was a film "made with a lot of love and with the right intentions". She thanked SRK for enabling her big break in Bollywood by showering her with "love and grace". On the unexpected popular response to the film, she said: "It almost feels like a festival." John Abraham gave his on-screen opponent the biggest applause when he said SRK is the "No. 1 action hero in the country". He also thanked the entire crew of the film, especially the music composers Vishal-Shekhar, whom he said had created two most beautiful song sequences for the film without him, but with "the most beautiful man and the most beautiful woman". Continuing in this bromantic mode, John said: "Shah Rukh is not a star, he's an emotion. That is why I feel like kissing him after every scene." At the end, Anand said that he had been associated with making films for 20 years, but for the first time in my career, I was really nervous." He continued: "I always sleep very well before the release of a movie, but I did not sleep before this film." Anand, who normally goes to see his films at 12 noon on the first day at Gaiety in Mumbai, was in time for a 6 a.m. screening organised especially for the cast and crew. Since then, of course, it has been an unimaginable ride.

'PATHAAN' EFFECT: RELEASE OF KARTIK AARYAN'S 'SHEHZADA' PUSHED BY A WEEK



The release date of Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan's upcoming action entertainer film 'Shehzada' has been pushed by a week. The film, which also stars Kriti Sanon and Paresh Rawal was earlier supposed to release in cinemas on February 10 but now, it'll release on February 17. Senior film trade analyst Taran Adarsh notified about the new release date of the film through his Twitter. He wrote, "#BreakingNews... #Shehzada shifts to a new date... Will now arrive one week late, on 17 Feb 2023... This #KartikAaryan - #KritiSanon starrer is directed by #RohitDhawan". The reason behind the release date of the film being pushed is being seen as the earth-shattering performance of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's recent release 'Pathaan' at the box-office which while continuing its dream run at the box-office is setting up new records in film trade. The performance of 'Pathaan' is reminiscent of the Allu Arjun-starrer 'Pushpa: The Rise', which set the box-office on fire and affected the business of films that were released with it or a few weeks after it. 'Pathaan', which also stars Deepika Padukone and John Abraham, is currently playing in theatres successfully despite boycott calls by certain outfits.

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Jacqueline allowed to travel abroad amid probe in money laundering case involving conman Sukesh

The Patiala House Court on Friday (January 27) gave permission to Jacqueline Fernandez to travel to Dubai for a work trip. The actress had previously withdrawn an application court's objection but later filed another plea. The court was hearing her application seeking permission to travel abroad for a conference. A detailed order in the matter is awaited. Jacqueline on Wednesday moved an application in a Delhi Court seeking permission to travel to Dubai from January 27 to 30, to attend the PepsiCo India conference. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) sought time to file a response on the Jacqueline application. Additional Sessions Judge Shailender Malik on Wednesday granted time to ED and fixed the matter for January 27.



**RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN
NAMES STAR BATTER WHO
CAN BE NEXT BEST WHEN
VIRAT KOHLI CALLS IT DAY
|P18**



**HARDIK PANDYA SHOCKED,
DISAPPOINTED DESPITE
SERIES LEVELLING WIN
|P18**

**NOVAK DJOKOVIC BEATS TSITSIPAS IN
FINAL TO WIN 22ND GRAND SLAM
TITLE; REGAINS 1ST RANK |P18**



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WOMEN'S TRI-SERIES: INDIA THRASH WEST INDIES IN DEAD RUBBER AS HARMANPREET'S TEAM GEAR UP FOR SUMMIT CLASH

Led by some brilliant bowling display and a dominant outing with the bat, Harmanpreet Kaur's India registered a cakewalk win over West Indies in the dead rubber of the ongoing Women's T20I Tri-series. The Women in Blue bowled West Indies women out for 94 before comfortably chasing down the target with 8 wickets in hand at Buffalo Park, East London. They will face South Africa in the final of the series on February 2. If the bowlers, led by Deepti (3/11), put up a clinical show to limit the West Indies to 94 for six, Jemimah Rodrigues (42 not out) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (32 not out) produced an attacking batting display as India chased down the modest target in 13.5 overs. Chasing 95 for a win, Smriti Mandhana (5) was castled after she was late in attempting a shot but Rodrigues picked up three boundaries to take India to 36 for one in six overs. Harleen Deol, who was looking good, failed to clear the mid-off and was holed out to Shabika Gajani. Skipper Harmanpreet then joined Rodrigues and smashed four boundaries to knock off the remaining runs with immaculate ease. The duo added a match-winning unbeaten 54 runs off just 40 balls.

Earlier, India justified the decision to bowl after winning the toss as they sizzled with the ball with the spin duo of Deepti and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/9) suffocating the Windies batters. Deepti rocked the top order with back-to-back wickets, removing Rashada Williams (8) and Campbelle (0), before returning to get rid of Shabika Gajani (12), who was stunned by Yastika Bhatia. Left-arm spinner Gayakwad too stuck to a good line and length as the Windies batters couldn't free their arms. She was rewarded soon as her arm ball trapped Djenaba Joseph (3) in the ninth over. Replays later showed that she had got an inside edge. Pooja Vastrakar (2/19), who was introduced in the 10th over, snapped two wickets, including the final wicket of Alleyne in the last ball of the innings. But it was an off day for veteran pacer Shikha Pandey, who conceded 28 runs in her three overs, while Renuka Singh was wicketless for 22 in her quota for four overs. For West Indies, Hayley Matthews (34) was the only batter who put up a fight but she didn't get any support from the other end. Gajani (12) managed a double-digit figure but it was the two unexpected sixes from Zaida James (21), which took West Indies closer to the 100-run mark.

AUSSIES PREPARE MASTERPLAN FOR INDIA WITH SYDNEY'S SPECIALLY PREPARED SPINNING PITCHES

Australia are in the final stage of its preparation for the upcoming Test series against India as coach Andrew McDonald and Co gear up for the high-voltage clashes. With a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final up for grabs, both teams have come up with special plans and techniques to combat the opposition. Aussies, who sit on top of the pile in the WTC standings have taken an extra step and come up with a masterplan before they board their flight for the sub-continent.

Specialty prepared spinning tracks in Sydney

Since there will be no warm-up match for the Aussies during the India tour, plans have been put on the plate to prepare similar conditions for them to get into their gears before the start of the series. A short pre-series camp has been arranged for the Aussie players where the North Sydney Oval curator Kieran Meurant served up the type of surface the head coach McDonald was hoping for during two days of intense training for those not involved in the BBL.

Spin friendly tracks in Sydney?

One pitch on the Bon Andrews Oval, adjacent to the main North Sydney Oval, was sacrificed and scuffed up, alongside having some significant cracks, to try and replicate what is expected to be on offer in India - although nothing can be certain until each Test begins - with SG balls also being used. Pat Cummins' men will make their journey from Down Under to Bengaluru next week with the first Test set to begin in Nagpur on February 9. The team will be in the IT City hub for five days before they catch flights to the Orange City of India. According to reports, the practice pitches in Nagpur for the practice session will have similar touch as the Test pitch to help the visiting side to adapt to the conditions. However, the Aussie coach staff believe that conditions they can control at home are of as much value.



HARDIK PANDYA AND MITCHELL SANTNER JOIN RAJIV SHUKLA AND UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH.

NEW ZEALAND'S BRACEWELL REFUSES TO CRITICISE LUCKNOW PITCH AFTER LOSING T20I ON SPIN-FRIENDLY TRACK



LUCKNOW, (IANS) Teams visiting India are always vociferous in their complaints when they get to play on a spin-friendly pitch in any format of cricket in the country, trying to rip apart the pitch as unplayable, dangerous and poor for cricket. But New Zealand spinner Michael Bracewell did not make any such complaints after his team lost to India in the low-scoring second T20I of the three-match series on a spin-friendly pitch at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. New Zealand were restricted to just 99/8 in their 20 overs on a pitch on which the ball took a copious amounts of turn and was unplayable at times. In reply, India almost made a meal of the chase as New Zealand used five spinners to put pressure on them. With three runs needed off two balls, Suryakumar Yadav slapped Blair Tuckner over mid-off for four to level the three-match series 1-1. In the match, spinners from both teams got a huge turn as they bowled 30 out of 40 overs, with no six hit by batters from both teams. While former India left-handed batter Gautam Gambhir and New Zealand fast-bowling all-rounder James Neesham were critical of the nature of the Lucknow pitch, Bracewell did not gripe about the surface despite being asked leading questions on the nature of the surface.

INDIA'S HOCKEY COACH GRAHAM REID STEPS DOWN AFTER HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2023



In a major development just a day after the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup, India's chief coach Graham Reid has decided to step down. Reid, who took over as the coach in April 2019, submitted his resignation to the Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey. This comes after India's campaign at the Hockey World Cup 2023 ended in an unwanted way as India finished joint ninth. "It is now time for me to step aside and hand over the reins to the next management," Reid said, announcing his retirement. "It has been an honour and privilege to work with the team and Hockey India and I have enjoyed every moment of this epic journey. I wish the team all the very best," he added.



BATTS ATHLETIC IS PROUD TO SHARE REHEA WON GOLD MEDAL IN PROVINCIAL C TOURNAMENT IN GIRLS SINGLES AND DHRITI WON BRONZE MEDAL IN GIRLS DOUBLES UNDER 13 AGE CATEGORY CONDUCTED BY ONTARIO BADMINTON ASSOCIATION AT MARKHAM.

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GERMANY CROWNED WORLD CHAMPIONS AT THE FIH ODISHA HOCKEY MEN’S WORLD CUP 2023

The final day of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 was played in the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar as Germany were crowned the champions of the world, defeating the defending champions Belgium in a thrilling finals, where they went down by 2 goals early in the first quarter but fought their way back again and took the game into a shoot-out, where they held their nerves in the sudden deaths, winning 5-4. With the win Germany also claimed the top spot in the FIH Men’s World Outdoor Rankings. Earlier in the day Netherlands and Australia went head-to-head in the bronze medal match, where Jeremy Hayward gave them an early lead, but an incredible 3-goal burst in 8 minutes in the third quarter, with captain Thierry Brinkman scoring twice, gave Netherlands the lead that they would take to the end and win the bronze medal. With the win, followed by Belgium’s loss in the finals, Netherlands move up to the second position in the FIH Men’s World Outdoor Rankings, followed by silver medalists Belgium who are now ranked third ahead of Australia, who end the tournament ranked fourth.



ARGENTINA AND INDIA REGISTER BIG WINS TO FINISH THEIR WORLD CUP CAMPAIGNS IN THE 9TH POSITION



The final day of classification matches of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men’s World Cup 2023 were played in the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela as Argentina and India registered wins to end their campaigns in the 9th position, while Malaysia and France finished on wins as well, ending their campaigns in the 13th position. Losses for Wales and South Africa, saw them finish 11th, while Japan and Wales ended their campaigns in 15th place.

JASPRIT BUMRAH

Matches	Wickets	Average	SR
• Test- 30	128	21.99	48.97
• ODI- 72	121	24.31	31.46
• T20I- 60	70	20.23	18.33

SHAHEEN AFRIDI

Matches	Wickets	Average	SR
• Test-25	99	24.87	49.07
• ODI- 32	62	23.87	25.98
• T20I- 47	58	22.38	17.84

FORMER PAK STAR ABDUL RAZZAQ MAKES MASSIVE STATEMENT ON JASPRIT BUMRAH, SAYS HE IS NOWHERE CLOSE TO SHAHEEN

Former Pakistan cricketer Abdul Razzaq has once again given a big statement on India’s star pacer Jasprit Bumrah. Razzaq, who played for Pakistan from 1996 to 2013, has compared two giant fast bowlers of India and Pakistan. With the status that Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Afridi have achieved, experts usually talk about the impact they create in their respective teams. The 43-year-old Razzaq has stated that Shaheen Afridi is a way better bowler than Jasprit Bumrah and the Indian pacer is nowhere close to Shaheen Afridi’s level. Speaking with a local news channel, Razzaq said, "Shaheen Afridi is way better than Jasprit Bumrah. Bumrah is nowhere close to Shaheen's level." Both the pacers are currently out of action for their national teams. While Shaheen is eyeing a comeback from a knee injury, Bumrah is also completing his rehabilitation from a back injury. Afridi and Bumrah

were ruled out of the Asia Cup 2022. While the former made a comeback in the T20 World Cup, Bumrah missed the global action after India tried to rush him back. **Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Afridi's numbers** India's star pacer Bumrah has played 30 Test matches, 72 ODIs and 60 T20Is; where he has scalped 128, 121 and 70 wickets, respectively. Shaheen has featured in 25 Tests, 32 ODIs and 47 T20Is; where the Pakistan bowler scalped 99, 62 and 58 wickets, respectively. Meanwhile, this is not the first time that Razzaq has opened up on Jasprit Bumrah. In 2019, the former Pakistan batter had stated that Jasprit Bumrah is a baby bowler. "I have played against great bowlers like Glenn McGrath and Wasim Akram, so Bumrah is a baby bowler in front of me and I could have easily dominated and attacked him," Razzaq had said to Cricket Pakistan in 2019.

PM MODI, VIRAT KOHLI POUR WISHES TO INDIAN TEAM AS SHAFALI & CO. ACHIEVE HISTORIC FEAT

The U-19 team of India achieved glory in the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup as they defeated England in a one-sided affair by 7 wickets. The match was played at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom, where India outclassed England to clinch their first-ever title in Women's cricket. Following India's win, wishes have poured in from around the country and the nation's Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated the team. PM Modi wished the Indian team on social media. "Congratulations to the Indian Team for a special win at the ICC U19 T20 World Cup. They have played excellent cricket and their success will inspire several upcoming cricketers. Best wishes to the team for their future endeavours," Modi wrote on Twitter. Meanwhile, India's captain Rohit Sharma and former skipper Virat Kohli were also the ones to wish the Indian team on their grand success. "Big congratulations to the U-19 girls cricket team for winning the World Cup. Well done on making the nation proud Jai Hind. Bcci women," Sharma wrote. Meanwhile, Kohli stated, "U-19 World Cup Champions! What a special moment! Congratulations girls on your triumph."



NOVAK DJOKOVIC BEATS TSITSIPAS IN FINAL TO WIN 22ND GRAND SLAM TITLE; REGAINS 1ST RANK

Novak Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday to win the Australian Open 2023 title 6-3, 7-6, 7-6. The 35-year old carried a 28-match winning streak at Melbourne Park. Djokovic won the title for three consecutive years 2019, 2020, and 2021, but couldn't participate in the 2022 edition because he was not granted a visa for being unvaccinated for Covid-19. However, the Serbian reclaimed the Australian Open title for the 10th time and returned to No.1 rank in the ATP rankings by winning the championship. After winning the 22nd title, he equalled Rafael Nadal with 22 Grand slam titles, most in men's singles. Djokovic won his first Grand Slam title 15 years ago in the year 2008 and that too in the Australian Open. After the legendary player won the 2023 edition of Australian Open, he became emotional and couldn't control tears.

HARDIK PANDYA SHOCKED, DISAPPOINTED DESPITE SERIES LEVELLING WIN

On Sunday, the Indian team captain Hardik Pandya criticized the quality of the pitches in the current series against New Zealand, labelling the deck for the second T20I game a "shocker". The ball turned in the first T20I in Ranchi and it was no different on Sunday when New Zealand were restricted to 99 for eight. India chased down the target with only one ball to spare. "To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket. Both the games we have played on so far. I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets were not made for T20. Somewhere down the line the curators or the grounds that we are going to play in should make sure they prepare the pitches earlier. Other than that, happy. Even T20 would have been a winning total," said Hardik after the series-levelling win over New Zealand.

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN NAMES STAR BATTER WHO CAN BE NEXT BEST WHEN VIRAT KOHLI CALLS IT DAY

A team in any sport undergoes transition when one rising youngster takes over the reins from a veteran star. A rookie, who grows up seeing his/her idol in a sport, wishes to play like him/her and take forward his country. The same goes for cricket in India or any other country. From the likes of Ricky Ponting taking over the limelight from Steve Waugh; to Virat Kohli emerging as the modern-day best after Sachin Tendulkar's retirement. These stories tell that a sport keeps on getting great players. India's cricket has achieved great heights, thanks to some legendary players. The fans enjoy the innings of these players as they cheer for their teams. Meanwhile, one question which surrounds the fans when these cricketers are in the second phase of their careers is that who will play like them in the future. Meanwhile, these comparisons are not only limited to fans as experts also put their opinions on that. India's star bowler Ravichandran Ashwin has also opened up on the player who can replace Virat Kohli after the batting maestro calls it a day.



AUSTRALIA TOUR OF INDIA 2023				
M. NO	MATCH TYPE	DATE	DAY	VENUE
1	1 ST TEST	FEB 9-13	-	NAGPUR
2	2 ND TEST	FEB 17-21	-	DELHI
3	3 RD TEST	MAR 1-5	-	DHARAMSALA
4	4 TH TEST	MAR 9-13	-	AHMEDABAD
5	1 ST ODI	MAR 17	FRIDAY	MUMBAI
6	2 ND ODI	MAR 19	SUNDAY	VIZAG
7	3 RD ODI	MAR 22	WEDNESDAY	CHENNAI



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