

SOUTH ASIAN

MidWeek

NEWS WEEKLY



Y MEDIA'S CHANNEL Y TEAM WITH PIERRE POILIEVRE - LEADER CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA. WATCH FULL DETAILED REPORT ON CHANNEL Y (ROGERS 857,BELL FIBE 828 AND TELUS 2418).

NDP LEADER JAGMEET SINGH CALLS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED ELECTION INTERFERENCE BY CHINA

OTTAWA - Jagmeet Singh, leader of Canada's NDP, is calling for a public inquiry into alleged Chinese interference in Canada's federal election, and the Canadian government's response to it. "We accept the outcome of the election, but the serious allegations that individual candidates may have been impacted by foreign interference deserve a thorough, transparent and independent investigation."



I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

AJAY BANGA'S NOMINATION TO LEAD WORLD BANK - PROUD CHAPTER IN INDIAN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden has named Ajay Banga, the former Indian American head of Mastercard, to head the World Bank, the white House said announced on Thursday. If confirmed by the World Bank Board, Banga will be the first person of Indian descent to head the World Bank. He will succeed David Malpas, who was appointed to head the bank by then President Donald Trump. Banga will be the second American of Asian-American descent in that position; the first was Dr. Jim Yong Kim.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

UK MULLS IMMIGRATION CURBS ON FOREIGN STUDENT FAMILIES

LONDON: International students are likely to be restricted from bringing their spouses and children to the UK unless they study "high-value" degrees under government plans. According to The Times, foreign students granted visas to study science, mathematics, and engineering can relocate to the UK with dependants. A near-eightfold rise in the number of family members joining foreign students has left Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Home Secretary Suella Braverman worried.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 4

RAM MANDIR CONDUCTED 'WASH AWAY THE HATERED' EVENT TO PROMOTE COMMUNAL HARMONY

The Shri Ram Mandir of Mississauga hosted a two-hour-long event 'Wash Away the Hatered' to spread communal harmony. The Hindu temple was desecrated on February 14 with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti spray-painted on its rear walls. In a message posted on social media on Monday, the temple's president Roop Nauth Sharma said they were "inviting everyone regardless of religion, color or creed to join us". Sharma said he felt "personally hurt" by the vandalism as did devotees visiting the temple.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 7

CIF CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INDIA

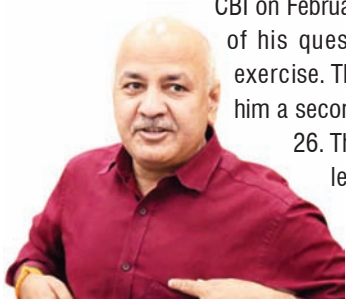


TORONTO: The Canada India Foundation delegation that recently attended the latest installment of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are back in Canada with renewed enthusiasm to devote their energies to taking the Canada India bilateral relationship to even newer heights. The delegation consisted of prominent Indo Canadians as well as Ontario's Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Hon. Michael Tibollo. Tibollo joined the CIF Mission to India with a keen focus to learn more on the alternatives therapies and medicines available in India's ancient health systems like Ayurveda and Yoga.

I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

DELHI DEPUTY CM MANISH SISODIA ARRESTED BY CBI IN EXCISE POLICY SCAM

NEW DELHI: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was on Sunday arrested by the CBI in the excise policy scam after a day of political drama. Sisodia, who reached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) headquarters at Lodhi Road in south Delhi at around 11.10 a.m. after visiting the Rajghat for prayers, was questioned for over eight hours before being arrested. A CBI source said the agency will present Sisodia at the Rouse Avenue Courts on Monday and seek two weeks' custodial remand as it needs to confront him with the co-accused, as well as documentary and digital evidence. Sources claimed that Sisodia was questioned about the documentary, electronic and digital evidence which the CBI have gathered during the probe in the scam. "He has been accused of destroying evidence and being the mastermind of the excise policy scam," a source said. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed his deputy's arrest "dirty politics". "Manish is innocent. His arrest is dirty politics. There is a lot of anger among the people due to the arrest of Manish. Everyone is watching," he said in a tweet. In the same tweet, he said that people understand everything. "People will respond to this. This will boost our spirits further. Our struggle will get stronger," Kejriwal said. Sisodia was earlier asked to appear before the CBI on February 19, but he had sought deferment of his questioning, citing the ongoing Budget exercise. The CBI accepted his request and issued him a second notice to join the probe on February 26. The arrest of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, who has alleged that the BJP wants to get him arrested to stop the development of Delhi, came after a day of political drama.



EXIT POLLS: BJP TO RETAIN TRIPURA, MEGHALAYA SEES FOUR-CORNERED CONTEST

NEW DELHI, (IANS) With voting for the assembly polls in Meghalaya and Nagaland ending on Monday amid tight security, all eyes are now on the results. In Meghalaya, polling was held at 3,419 polling stations across 59 Assembly constituencies, while in Nagaland voting was held in 59 out of 60 Assembly constituencies. The Matriz exit poll for Meghalaya predicted 21-26 seats for the NPP, 6-11 seats to the BJP, 8-13 to the TMC, 3-6 for the Congress and 10-19 for others. In Meghalaya, it continued to be a four-cornered contest. In the last Assembly polls, although the Congress had emerged as the single largest party winning 21 seats, the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party, which had won 20 seats, had managed to form the government following an alliance with the BJP. However, this time, with no pre-poll alliance in place, the Congress, BJP, NPP and TMC are looking to win a majority on their own. In Nagaland, in 2018 the NDPP-BJP alliance had formed the government. The Naga People's Front (NPF), which had emerged as the single largest party in the last Assembly polls, faces a tough time as many of its leaders have since quit to join the NDPP.



MISSING PERSON

PARAS JOSHI

LAST SEEN AT
BRAMPTON (MAIN ST. & WILLIAMS PKW.) ON
FEBRUARY 23

DESCRIPTION-

HEIGHT- 5'9"
WEIGHT- 143 LB
BODY TYPE-SLIM
ETHNICITY- INDIAN (PUNJABI)-BROWN

LAST SEEN IN-
OLIVE GREEN JACKET
BLACK TURTLE NECK
(SWEATER)
DARK BLUE JEANS
HIGH ANKLE BLACK SHOES

Please contact Rajat Joshi
for information at
(437) 228 8990
(437) 577 0111



PREMIER DOUG FORD JOINED BY PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU, SYLVIA JONES, DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF HEALTH, AND VIC FEDELI, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASTRAZENECA'S NEW RESEARCH FACILITY IN MISSISSAUGA.

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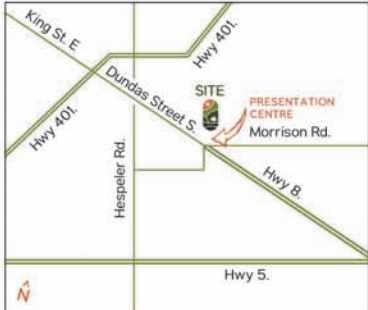
Hazel Glenn

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STRONG RETURN FOR THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL AUTOSHOW

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CIF CONCLUDES
SUCCESSFUL FACT-FINDING
MISSION TO INDIA

05



SIX IN 10 CANADIANS ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR
FINANCIAL FUTURE AND WORRY
ABOUT INVESTING: TD SURVEY

05

FREE FAMILY BOWLING
EVENT HOSTED BY MPP
SHEREF SABAWY



VERMA FAMILY (POONAM VERMA,
SANJAY VERMA & SHRI PASHMA KATNA)
AT IKEA ETOBICOKE WITH Y MEDIA
CEO YUDHVIR JASWAL



A DIVERSE AND INTERESTING LINEUP OF NEW CARS, TRUCKS AND SUVs, INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS, EXCITING SPECIAL FEATURES AND NEW INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS RESULTED IN A STRONG AUDIENCE FOR THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTOSHOW. WITH MORE THAN 350,000 PEOPLE VISITING OVER THE COURSE OF THE EVENT, IT WAS THE THIRD-HIGHEST ATTENDANCE IN THE 50 YEARS OF THE AUTOSHOW.

STRONG RETURN FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTOSHOW

TORONTO: People missed the Canadian International AutoShow. Returning after two pandemic-forced cancellations in 2021 and 2022, the 50th anniversary AutoShow set four daily attendance records, including the record for the largest single-day audience in the history of the Show — and finished as the third-highest attended AutoShow in the half-century of the event. By the end of the 10-day Show, which also endured a snow and ice storm midweek, 350,214 people attended the Metro Toronto Convention Centre between Media Day and the special VIP Gala on February 16th and the public days of the Show between February 16th and 26th.

With the movement in the automotive sector towards electrification, the debut of the AutoShow's indoor EV Test Track was immensely popular. More than 6,000 drivers, and more than 15,000 show attendees, took an EV for a two-lap spin around the half-kilometer track, with 83 per cent of them driving an EV for the first time.

"We met and overcame some significant challenges to put together the 2023 AutoShow, and we are more than pleased with the results," says Jason Campbell, General Manager of the AutoShow. "Our manufacturer partners responded with a great selection of cars, including several seen in Canada, North America and even the world for the first time. Many of the vehicles they showcased at the AutoShow are difficult to find in showrooms today which explains why we had such enthusiasm from our consumers to see the latest and greatest the industry has to offer.

"We said it last fall when we announced the AutoShow was returning, and it holds even more true today: We're back!"

The 2023 AutoShow was anchored by strong displays from some of the world's leading automotive brands — including Alfa Romeo, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Genesis, GMC, Hyundai, Jeep, Kia, Lexus, Nissan, Polestar, Ram, Subaru, Tesla, Toyota, Vinfast and Wagoneer — that included one global vehicle debut, a North American debut and nine Canadian debuts along with more than 75 all-electric vehicles. Project Arrow, a concept car from a collaboration of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association and more than 50 partners, showed what the Canadian automotive sector can accomplish. The futuristic EV was loaded with technology — and the entire vehicle was conceived, designed, engineered and built in Canada entirely with Canadian parts.

There were five other concept vehicles from the manufacturers showcasing the future: Buick Wildcat, Hyundai RN22e, Hyundai N Vision 74, Nissan ARIYA Surfwagon and Nissan NISMO Off Road Frontier V8.

The 2023 AutoShow was also shown strong support from the federal and provincial governments. Several MPs and MPPs, including Premier Doug Ford and federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne, attended the event to connect with its audience of automotive enthusiasts and talk about the future

of the Canadian and Ontario auto industries on the Show's Electric City Innovation Stage, presented by the Toronto Star and EnerSavings. This special new Electric City showcase feature put a spotlight not only on EVs, but also on vehicle charging options, green electricity and electrified micro-mobility alternatives. A repayable Government of Canada investment of \$500,000 through the Tourism Relief Fund, delivered by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) to create Electric City supports the federal mandate for zero-emission vehicles in Canada.

The luxury and exotic brands at the AutoShow were anchored by major displays from Grand Touring Automobiles and Pfaff automotive showcasing Aston Martin, Bentley, Bugatti, Koenigsegg, Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce, Polestar, McLaren and Porsche with Autostrada Magazine showcasing an array of collector car specials including a Spyker, several Ferraris and an ex F1 car from Alfa Romeo. Lotus and Tesla were also showcasing their latest and greatest.

Popular toy brands Hot Wheels and LEGO helped build a family atmosphere at the AutoShow, and fan favourite features like Auto Exotica, Cobble Beach and OBLIVION continued to delight fans. Also well received by show attendees was the Accessible Mobility display with Universal Motion, showcasing how those with mobility challenges are able to regain their mobility across a range of product offerings, and the Senator APC from Mississauga-based manufacturer Roshel. The Canadian government purchased 200 of the vehicles to be sent to Ukraine as part of Canada's contribution to the international effort in aid of that country's defence.

"We had interactive exhibits that proved incredibly popular with show attendees," says Mr. Campbell. "Our special features continue to draw in fans. There clearly continues to be strong interest in the AutoShow as a consumer engagement platform and great interest in the Total Automotive Experience the Auto Show delivers better than any other." The Canadian International AutoShow will return February 16th to 25th, 2024.

For more information, please visit autoshow.ca. Stay connected with the Canadian International AutoShow on Instagram @autoshowca, Twitter @autoshowcanada and Facebook /autoshowcanada.

About the Canadian International AutoShow, presented by The Toronto Star

Celebrating its 50th year, the Canadian International AutoShow features more than 650,000 square feet of exhibits, displays and attractions spanning the North and South Buildings of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. With an annual attendance in excess of 330,000, the Canadian International AutoShow is not only the largest automotive expo in Canada, it is also the country's largest consumer show. A leader in lifestyle, technology and all things automotive, it is a showcase for the latest cars, trucks, SUVs, concept cars, exotics, classics, muscle cars, electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

‘WORLD KNOWS WHO HOLDS THE REMOTE, KHARGE ONLY NAMESAKE PRESIDENT’: PM MODI TAKES DIG AT CONGRESS

Taking a dig at the Congress and dynasty politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said that Mallikarjun Kharge was only a namesake president of the Congress as the organisation was still controlled by the Gandhis.

Describing Kharge as someone who he respected and who had served the public in every possible way, Modi said that he was disheartened to see how Kharge was "disrespected" by the "Congress leadership belonging to one family" at the party's recently-concluded 85th plenary session in Raipur.

Modi also warned the people of Karnataka to be "cautious about parties like the Congress". "Congress thinks until Modi is alive their motives won't survive and that is why they all are saying mar ja Modi, mar ja Modi... (Die Modi, die) and some are saying Modi teri kabad khudegi (Modi, your grave will be dug) but the country is saying Modi tera Kamal khilega (Modi, the lotus will bloom)," he added.

Modi is in Belagavi to lay the foundation stone and dedicate multiple development initiatives, and also to release the 13th instalment of PM-KISAN worth more than Rs 16,800 crores.



NDP LEADER JAGMEET SINGH CALLS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED ELECTION INTERFERENCE BY CHINA

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When Canadians learn about possible foreign interference through leaked documents, confidence in our democracy is put at risk," said Singh. "The way to stop alleged secret Chinese interference is to refuse to keep their secrets for them. A fully independent and non-partisan public inquiry is the way to shine a light into the shadows." The allegations, revealed largely in leaks of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) documents to media including The Globe and Mail and Global News include information that China interfered in the 2019 election in a variety of ways, including illegally funnelling large amounts of money to candidates and arranging donations from those sympathetic to their cause. According to reports, the documents further allege that campaigns may have illegally returned part of those donations - the difference between the donation and the tax credit - suggesting complicity by sitting members of parliament or the people running their campaigns. Reports have indicated that Trudeau and his senior staff have allegedly been briefed about specific interference concerns from China, even impacting members of his own caucus, and chose not to act.

UK MULLS IMMIGRATION CURBS ON FOREIGN STUDENT FAMILIES

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

According to new immigration figures, 490,763 students were given visas last year. They were accompanied by 135,788 dependants - spouses and children -- up from 16,047 in 2019.

Of these, India became the largest source of students with 161,000 students, including 33,240 dependants, coming to the UK last year. Asylum backlog hit a record high, with more than 160,000 migrants waiting for decisions on their applications, the report said.

The government is yet to make a final decision on the contentious matter. Braverman has drawn up proposals to reduce the number, which includes shortening the duration foreign students can stay in Britain post their course.

However, according to the Department of Education, the restrictions will bankrupt UK universities, which depend on foreign students for money. According to estimates, international students add 35 billion pounds a year to the economy. According to UK-based New Way Consultancy, foreign students and their dependents contributed to the UK economy not just through fees of 10,000 pounds to 26,000 pounds but also via an NHS surcharge of 400 pounds a year for the student and 600 pounds for a dependent. It warned that curbs on graduate work visas will force Indian students to shift to countries like Australia and Canada, ultimately leading to the end of the student market in the UK. More than 45,000 people crossed the Channel to the UK in small boats over the past year, according to government figures, with 90 crossing on Christmas Day alone.

AJAY BANGA'S NOMINATION TO LEAD WORLD BANK - PROUD CHAPTER IN INDIAN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

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The US has historically had a hold on the Presidency of the World Bank and the Europeans on the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Ajay is uniquely equipped to lead the World Bank at this critical moment in history. He has spent more than three decades building and managing successful, global companies that create jobs and bring investment to developing economies, and guiding organisations through periods of fundamental change," Biden said in a statement.

"He has a proven track record managing people and systems, and partnering with global leaders around the world to deliver results."

Vice President Kamala Harris, who is also Indian American, said in a separate statement: "Ajay Banga will be a transformative World Bank President as the institution works to deliver on its core development goals and address pressing global challenges, including climate change." Harris said she has worked with Banga since her election "on a new model of public-private partnership designed to address the root causes of migration in Northern Central America", which was a key responsibility Biden entrusted her with to curb the flow of migrants from the region into the US.

Banga, who was born in India and studied at Delhi's St Stephen's College, is currently serves as vice chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard. The White House said that over the course of his career, Banga has become a global leader in technology, data, financial services and innovating for inclusion.

He previously served on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods and Dow Inc. He has worked closely with Vice President Harris as the Co-Chair of the Partnership for Central America. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission, a founding trustee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a former member of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and Chairman Emeritus of the American India Foundation.

Banga was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012, the Padma Shri Award by India in 2016, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Business Council for International Understanding's Global Leadership Award in 2019, and the Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021 With US President Joe Biden nominating Ajay Banga, the former Indian American head of Mastercard, to head the World Bank, the top posts in the global financial institution will be held by Sikhs.

Before Banga, who is slated to take up job - which, by convention, been reserved for a US citizen - this May, the World Bank already as a Sikh in a top post, with Indermit Singh Gill its Chief Economist.

He is primarily known for pioneering the concept of the "middle-income trap" to describe how countries stagnate after reaching a certain level of income. Gill, an Indian citizen, studied at St Paul's School, Darjeeling and St. Stephen's College, Delhi - where he was probably just a year (or perhaps two) junior to Banga. Like Banga, Gill is also the son of a senior Indian Army officer. Before taking over Chief Economist on September 1, 2022, Gill served as the World Bank's Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, where he played a key role in shaping its response to the extraordinary series of shocks that have hit developing economies since 2020. Between 2016 and 2021, he was a professor of public policy at Duke University and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development program.

Widely regarded for his contributions to development economics, Gill spearheaded the influential 2009 World Development Report on economic geography, as per his World Bank profile. He has published extensively on key policy issues facing developing countries, among other things, sovereign debt vulnerabilities, green growth and natural-resource wealth, labour markets, and poverty and inequality.

Gill has also taught at Georgetown University and the University of Chicago. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago

Biden's nomination of Banga follows his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama nominating Korean-American 'Jim' Yong Kim for World Bank chief to ensure that the World Bank is headed by someone with a developing-country background

Biden was then Vice President.

If confirmed by the World Bank Board, Bang will be the first person of Indian descent to head the World Bank. He will succeed David Malpass, who was appointed to head the bank by then President Donald Trump.

CIF CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INDIA



CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Having witnessed the huge challenges by mental illness and addictions among Ontarians, Tibollo wanted to study the time proven, effective and affordable options available in India.

Speaking on the experience of the CIF team that toured the country for two weeks, **Satish Thakkar**, Chair, CIF, noted: “Every time we go back to our motherland, it provides us with newer and better experiences. After visiting several important businesses, institutions, and cultural centres, we are convinced that India is on a fast track to becoming a developed economy in the near future. This gives not just citizens of India, but the whole world a positive direction as India can contribute to the world in ways that are as yet undiscovered.”

The CIF team left for Indore, Madhya Pradesh where the 2023 PBD took place making its presence felt when the government of India bestowed the honour of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, one of the highest honours given to an overseas citizen of India, on **Dr. V.I. Lakshmanan**, a past chair and founder member of the Canada India Foundation.

Team CIF also met **Hon. S. Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister of India on the sidelines of PBD 2023 and discussed various initiatives taken for Indian diaspora. Minister also invited suggestions from the CIF team to get more engagement with the diaspora community to further strengthen India’s relations with Canada.

CIF team met with India’s Minister of Information and Broadcasting



and Youth & Sports, **Hon. Anurag Thakur** where the Minister assured the delegation full support in CIF efforts to build a stronger Canada India relationship. CIF Chair suggested to the minister the inclusion of pre departure briefing sessions for the benefit of students headed to Canada for their higher education so that they are fully aware of the challenges and opportunities that await them in Canada. Another important initiative discussed was an Online portal for aspiring students to inform them of not only the educational and regulatory environment but also on the cultural and social aspects of Canada. The CIF team was accorded warm welcomes at several venues in Uttar Pradesh (UP) where the preparations were on to welcome the world of investors at the Invest UP Summit. Chief Minister of UP **Hon. Yogi Adityanath Ji** welcomed the CIF delegation and encouraged the members to look closely at investing in his state. Speaking at a pre-summit event, Thakkar, said: “When some of us moved out of India decades ago, it was a different India. Today, we see that India is on track to becoming the third largest economy in the world. It gives us great sense of pride when we see leaders like Yogi Adityanath Ji setting ambitious goals like turning the \$250 billion UP economy into a \$1 trillion economy in five short years.”



The delegation members that met with Invest UP to discuss the opportunities included: Ritesh Malik, National Convener, CIF, Hon. Michael Tibollo, Minister of Mental health & Addictions, CIF board of Governor member Andy Jasuja, Kuldeep Sharma, and other member of the delegation Nick Ierfino.

CIF team also had fruitful discussions with India’s Minister of Ayush, **Hon. Sadanand Sonowal**, on ways forward to bring the benefits of the ancient medicine systems of India to Canada. Ontario’s Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Hon. Michael Tibollo, was a key member of the delegation, who spent hours talking to officials and practitioners to learn in-depth the latest discoveries and developments in life sciences like Ayurveda and Yoga that can be applied to improve mental health outcomes back home in Ontario. He noted: “I am here to study AYUSH and its role in managing mental health. Without mental health there is no health. Without health, there is not going to be any productivity in the economy. Current Prime Minister Modi often stresses on keeping alive the things like ancient wisdom, traditional culture, and languages. These are foundational to ensure that people have all that they need to be mentally and physically healthy. So, my purpose of being here is to bring back these concepts to Canada, to Ontario and ensure that all Ontarians, not just the Indo Canadians, benefit from these thousands of years old traditions and history of India.”

The CIF’s India itinerary included visits to various spiritual centres, like Ayodhya and Varanasi. The members also traveled to meet with Yogrishi Baba Ramdev Ji, Acharya Balkrishan Ji and Sister B K Shivani Ji to renew CIF’s strong collaboration with the Patanjali Yogpeeth and Om Shanti Retreat Center, Brahma Kumari, that is currently leading several initiatives in the traditional healthcare sphere.

The team members also were given an opportunity to assess the tourism potential of UP including spiritual tourism that forms the core strength of UP’s plans to become one of the biggest tourist destinations in the world. A number of new projects in the world class hospitality sectors are opening up for which UP is looking for investments from overseas.

The delegation concluded its visit to India at an exclusive reception hosted by Canada’s High Commissioner to India, **H.E. Cameron MacKay** in New Delhi. MacKay thanked CIF for their contributions to strengthening the Canada India ties. He told the CIF members that Canada and India share so much in common and are on target to forge even closer bonds.

Ritesh Malik, National Convener, CIF, who accompanied the team to every engagement, observed: “It is very gratifying to realize that many key figures in India are already aware of the work that Canada India Foundation has been doing for engaging both countries in 360-degree relationship. This visit has given us deeper and newer insights into a fast-developing new India. We have come away very encouraged and all that we experienced give us plenty of reason to work even harder to take our relationship forward.”

The list of important figures that the CIF delegation had the opportunity to interact with during their two week-long tour included: India’s Minister for External Affairs, Hon. S Jaishankar, Minister of Youth & Sports, I & B, Hon. Anurag Thakur, Minister of State External Affairs, Hon. Meenakshi Lekhi, India’s Minister of Ayush, Hon. Sadanand Sonowal; Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Hon. Yogi Adityanath Ji; UP’s Minister of Industries Hon. Nanda Gopal Gupta (Nandi Ji); Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Government of UP; Mukesh Meshram, Secretary, UP Ministry of Tourism; Abhishek Prakash, CEO, Invest UP; Sister B K Shivani Ji of the Brahma Kumaris Organization; Yogrishi Baba Ramdev Ji, Patanjali; Acharya Balkrishan Ji, Patanjali; H.E. Vikas Swarup, Former High Commissioner of India to Canada, Dr. Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary Ministry of AYUSH; Dr. Manoj Nesari, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Ayush; Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Director, AIIA; Dr. Kamal Gupta, Minister for Bureau of Public Enterprises, Haryana; Madan Mohan Chhabra, Chair, Kurukshetra Development Board.



SIX IN 10 CANADIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FINANCIAL FUTURE AND WORRY ABOUT INVESTING: TD SURVEY



Amidst an economic backdrop of high inflation, increased interest rates and talks of a recession, it's no wonder that Canadians are concerned about their financial future.

In fact, a recent TD survey found that nearly six in 10 (56 per cent) Canadians said they're worried about getting through the next year and haven't started thinking about their future financial security. These worries extended to their investments too:

- * 62 per cent of respondents agreed the market is too risky for them to invest in right now.
- * 59 per cent stated they didn't contribute to any investments in 2022.
- * However, the majority (56 per cent) agreed that no matter what happens with the markets, it's always important for them to contribute to their investments.

"The state of the economy has intensified Canadians' anxieties when it comes to their finances and investments," said Pat Giles, Vice President, Savings & Investing Journey at TD. "Many are struggling to balance competing spending priorities and their financial goals may have changed as a result. That's why it's more important than ever to seek trusted advice to help you navigate times of economic turbulence."

KNOWING YOUR OPTIONS

With tax season upon us and with 34 per cent of Canadians in the survey stating they're not confident in their understanding of income taxes and how their investments impact their tax returns, a TD Personal Banker can help Canadians understand the different savings vehicles available to them, such as TFSAs and RRSPs.

* RRSPs are tax-deferred investment accounts that allow investors to grow their savings for retirement. Adding funds to your RRSP before the annual contribution deadline could help reduce your taxable income, potentially resulting in savings on your tax bill or a tax refund.

* A TFSA, on the other hand, is an investment account in which any interest earned on the amount invested is not taxed and no tax is payable on any amounts withdrawn.

For both accounts, automatic contributions or pre-authorized purchase plans can be set up to alleviate the hassle that comes with manually managing an investment.

LOWERING INVESTMENT RISK DURING TIMES OF MARKET VOLATILITY

Nearly half (47 per cent) of Canadians are not confident in their understanding of mutual funds and GICs which can also be useful savings vehicles that are offered by banks and other financial institutions.

* GICs offer a guaranteed rate of return over a fixed period, meaning they could be an attractive, lower-risk option for some investors.

* A mutual fund is a type of investment vehicle that pools the money of individual investors and uses it to buy securities, such as stocks, bonds or other mutual funds. Mutual funds are professionally managed by fund managers, who allocate the fund's assets and attempt to produce returns for investors. They can be a great option to diversify your investments at an affordable cost and come with varying levels of risk, making them a flexible option for a wide range of investors.

In addition to providing advice on different savings opportunities, TD Personal Bankers can help Canadians set or review their financial goals in the face of a challenging economy. Part of that guidance could include helping customers get their financial house in order, build their savings and keep their focus on the bigger picture.

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* TD Ready Advice hub has information and articles available on a variety of financial topics and investing.

* Nearly 8,000 TD bankers are available across the country to offer personalized financial advice and help customers with their unique financial goals.?

* MoneyTalk provides a range of informative articles about investing in a volatile market, goal setting and finding the right saving vehicles for you.

ABOUT THE TD SURVEY

Results are based on an Ipsos poll conducted online between December 8 to 16, 2022, on behalf of TD Canada Trust. A sample of 2,001 Canadians aged 18 and over were interviewed online for this survey.

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AS CONG SEEKS OUT ALLIES, GANDHI TRIO STILL CALLS THE SHOTS

DEEPIKA BHAN

The more things change, the more they stay the same. This well-known expression, first used by a French writer in 1949, reflects the truth about the Congress today.

The Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka trio may be vouching to bring a change in the party to get back the lost fortunes, but the steps taken stealthily ensure that everything stays the same. In the end, everything always goes according to a 'strategic' script overseen by the trio.

The 85th plenary session of the Congress is an example of this. Whether it was a decision about holding elections to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) or changing party rules or anything else, all was to ensure that everything stays the same. And, the 'same' means keeping it the family way.

Despite public posturing of the party leadership on holding elections to the CWC, no election took place. The high-powered steering committee, empowered party president Mallikarjun Kharge to nominate the new CWC members, was not attended by the Gandhi trio. The absence of the family was to create an impression that decisions are being made independently. But the very fact that the party retained the nomination culture in the CWC belied the claim. Had the elections taken place, Kharge could have joined P.V. Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri, the two non-Gandhi party presidents who conducted CWC elections in 1991 and 1997 respectively. Kharge followed the nomination culture - a system that suits the family, indicating no independent way for the party president.

Remember the relation between Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh-led UPA government (2004-2013)? The former seemed to be at loggerheads with his own government most of the time. The 'activist' was often trashing his own people, and everything was 'run' by the National Advisory Council.

This time a similar situation seems to be emerging, the only difference is that Mallikarjun Kharge is not the Prime Minister but the president of the Congress, and Rahul is on a similar divergent path.

Kharge, the octogenarian chief of the grand old party, who of late has been trying to rally the opposition for a front against the BJP, had to face discomfiting moments from none other than Rahul Gandhi.

In Parliament, Kharge has been actively pursuing like-minded parties to take on the Centre unitedly, and was able to rally 14-16 political parties consistently in the budget session. Taking this forward, he said at a public meeting in Nagaland on February 21 that his party was in talks with other opposition parties, and asserted that "an alliance led by the Congress would come to power at the Centre in 2024." A day later a bitter war of words broke out between Trinamool Congress leaders and Rahul Gandhi after the latter attacked the former.

Rahul while addressing a rally in Shillong, said: "You also know the



“IN PARLIAMENT, KHARGE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING LIKE-MINDED PARTIES TO TAKE ON THE CENTRE UNITEDLY, AND WAS ABLE TO RALLY 14-16 POLITICAL PARTIES CONSISTENTLY IN THE BUDGET SESSION. TAKING THIS FORWARD, HE SAID AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN NAGALAND ON FEBRUARY 21 THAT HIS PARTY WAS IN TALKS WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES, AND ASSERTED THAT “AN ALLIANCE LED BY THE CONGRESS WOULD COME TO POWER AT THE CENTRE IN 2024.” A DAY LATER A BITTER WAR OF WORDS BROKE OUT BETWEEN TRINAMOOL CONGRESS LEADERS AND RAHUL GANDHI AFTER THE LATTER ATTACKED THE FORMER.

history of TMC, you know the violence that takes place in Bengal. You know, the scams... the Saradha scam... that had taken place. You are aware of their tradition. They came to Goa and spent huge amounts of money. And their idea was to help the BJP. This is exactly their idea in Meghalaya. TMC's idea in Meghalaya is to ensure that BJP is strengthened and they come to power. Is Trinamool a silent partner of the BJP? ...Is it intentionally going to cheat the people of Meghalaya also?" What followed this surely must have jolted Kharge, and raised several eyebrows since there is this perceived cordial relationship that Mamata Banerjee and Sonia Gandhi share. In a direct attack, Trinamool national general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee said: "The Congress has failed to resist BJP. There irrelevance, incompetence and insecurity has put them in a state of delirium. I urge Rahul Gandhi to revisit the politics of vanity instead of attacking us. Our growth isn't driven by money, it is people's love that propels us." The Trinamool MP has pinned this tweet since then.

Rahul's attacking Trinamool in Meghalaya may have suited the party's local calculations, but on the national perspective Kharge knew that this will not help him in his endeavour of striking an opposition alliance. Even during the party's plenary session in Raipur, he expressed willingness to work with like-minded parties and forge a viable alternative with them to take on the BJP. He also spoke of the UPA-like alliance at the Centre to take on the BJP, where the Congress led the alliance. Rahul's aggressive stance on opposition parties and Kharge's friendship hand present the Congress' confusing strategy which may not go well with anyone. Even within itself it has not been able to sort out its internal differences. Leaders continue to leave the party alleging disrespect, deviation from ideology, and drawing attention to internal suffocation. A day before of the party's Raipur plenary session, C.R. Kesavan, great-grandson of India's first Governor-General, C. Rajagopalachari, resigned, saying that he has not seen any vestiges of the values that made him work for the party with dedication for

over two decades. In a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, which Kesavan shared on Twitter and said that "he can no longer concur with what the party symbolises, stands for, nor seeks to propagate." He said he was with the Congress party for the past 22 years but over a period of time, the approach of the party was neither constructive nor concrete.

Kesavan did not join Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra, and said he was appalled at Congress' questioning of surgical strike and also the reaction of seniors when President Murmu's candidature was announced. Kesavan's charges are similar to what Congress loyalist A.K. Antony's son Anil Antony had said when he resigned from the party. Reacting to Kesavan's resignation, Antony said: "This letter echoes thoughts shared by many within a party hijacked by a coterie with little understanding of public consciousness or national interest." Veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad had also referred to the coterie culture and disconnect with the grassroots and realities within the Congress before he quit the party.

Dismissing the charges of those leaving the party, the Congress said it is fighting for a bigger cause, which is to defeat the BJP. And defeating the BJP is what will get the like-minded parties together and also unify the party from within, as the party leaders say.

The Congress is banking upon the 'defeat-Modi' strategy to attract the opposition parties and also to set its own house in order. It is showcasing Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra, a success and a game changer for 2024.

The test is not far away and the results of the elections in nine states may as well change a lot ahead of the final showdown in 2024. But, till then the Congress needs to keep its people together and those walking out are distressed by the erosion of the party's original values. The hard reality for the Congress is that it has lost 40 of the last 45 state elections and in the Lok Sabha, it has 52 MPs out of 543, and its strategy has been based on 'hate-Modi' theory.

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EMBRACE EQUITY WITH THE CITY OF BRAMPTON THIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



(MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO) – After a successful pilot project, Trillium Health Partners (THP) and Voyce Canada are proud to partner on a new app-based language interpretation service that will enhance the patient experience within THP's walls and beyond.

In July 2021, THP became the very first hospital in Canada to pilot the app, which connects health care providers and patients with a medically-trained interpreter in seconds. The Voyce app provides access to more than 240 different languages and dialects, including American Sign Language (ASL) and Indigenous languages such as Cree and Ojibwe.

Mississauga is one of Canada's most diverse cities, with more than 33 percent of the population speaking a non-official language, such as English or French. "The cornerstone of quality health care is ensuring that no one gets left behind, and equitable solutions are available and accessible for all," said Shalu Bains, Trillium Health Partners' Vice President Performance and Business Intelligence. "This innovative approach not only achieves that, but

creates a more connected system in the way we deliver and receive care." With this app-driven solution, health care providers open the Voyce app on their tablet, request their preferred language of choice, and are connected with a remote, medically-trained interpreter in a matter of seconds. From there, the patient is able to speak directly with the interpreter about their symptoms, concerns, questions, and more. The app also offers the opportunity to conference in family members and caregivers.

"Voyce was inspired by volunteer work with refugees in Canada, where language barriers were prevalent, so this is really a full-circle moment to now see our vision come to life," said Andrew Royce, CEO of Voyce. "This partnership with THP, will further enable accessible healthcare to patients across Ontario."

After launching a pilot in THP's Diagnostic Imaging unit, close to 220 patients used the service in 36 different languages, including ASL. The top languages requested were Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish, Punjabi, and Cantonese. On average, it took just 32 seconds for a connection with an interpreter of a preferred language. The Voyce app is now rolling out across THP following a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process with the CAN Health Network, a federally-funded organization that works with Canadian health care providers to identify their biggest challenges and match them with Canadian-made technology solutions. As a result of the RFP, the Voyce App will now be more accessible to members within CAN Health, including provincial health authorities, public and private hospitals, and long-term care homes. "With our partners in the CAN Health Network now able to adopt Voyce Canada's technology, our hope is that other organizations across Canada will now easily be able to access and experience the same benefits," said Dr. Dante Morra, Trillium Health Partners' Chief of Staff and CAN Health Network Chair. "Promising technologies like Voyce not only improve patient care, but help to create jobs here at home."

EMBRACE EQUITY WITH THE CITY OF BRAMPTON THIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BRAMPTON: Spend International Women's Day learning about and celebrating women leaders, entrepreneurs and artists at Brampton City Hall. The City of Brampton will honour the many achievements and contributions of women and individuals who identify as women Bramptonians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Brampton the liveable, compassionate, and prosperous city that it is today. On International Women's Day, March 8, Brampton City Hall will host a series of events as the City focuses on embracing equity and working toward creating an inclusive world.

Participants will have the chance to shop a retail market, featuring all local women-driven small businessowners, partake in fireside chats with local leaders and enjoy musical and dance performances with women artists and creators, while taking concrete actions to educate ourselves and others on the impact of systemic inequalities and our collective responsibility to address them.

Hosted by Brampton writer Jael Richardson, the fireside chats will feature women leading Brampton, as they share their experiences of embracing equity. Speakers include:

Rowena Santos, Regional Councillor, Wards 1 and 5
Navjit Kaur Bar, Regional Councillor, Wards 2 and 6
Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament, Brampton South
Kathy McDonald, Peel Region School Board Trustee, Wards 3 and 4
Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development

At the December 14, 2022 City Council meeting, Councillors Santos

and Brar moved a motion that was passed by Council to establish an employee resource group for empowering women in leadership, identify career developmental and mentorship opportunities available to all individuals who identify as women in the City, and provide a safe space for authentic conversations.

Since 2019, the City has a policy on Gender Identity and Expression Protocol, and is committed to go beyond commemoration of these days of significance and be intentional in its efforts to provide support and empowerment opportunities for women.

SAVE THE DATE
The Market | 2 – 9 pm
March 8, 2023
Featuring local women-owned businesses
Fireside Chat and Performances | 6 – 9 pm
March 8, 2023
Take part in the conversation with women leaders in Brampton, along with musical and dance performances by local female artists and creators

Together, people of all genders can be an ally and play an active role in supporting women, celebrating successes and breaking down barriers.

For more information, visit www.brampton.ca/IWD
This event is generously sponsored by Coke Canada Bottling and Toronto Pearson.



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FEBRUARY 23

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WEIGHT- 143 LB
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ETHNICITY- INDIAN (PUNJABI)-BROWN

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for information at
(437) 228 8990
(437) 577 0111

RAM MANDIR CONDUCTED 'WASH AWAY THE HATERED' EVENT TO PROMOTE COMMUNAL HARMONY

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The vandalism, the fourth such incident in the last eight months, has attracted condemnation from senior Canadian ministers including foreign minister Melanie Joly, defense minister Anita Anand, Minister of Seniors Kamal Khara, and Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan.

The incident is being investigated by Peel Regional Police as a hate crime. There has been no update from police about the results of their investigation. No arrests have been announced with regard to the previous three incidents. On January 30, the Gauri Shankar Mandir in Brampton was similarly desecrated. Prior to that, a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, located at the Vishnu Mandir in Richmond Hill, was defaced in July last year. In September, an episode of such vandalism occurred at the front entrance to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Toronto.

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PEEL POLICE'S QUICK RESPONSE LEADS TO ARREST IN ARMED CARJACKING

REGION OF PEEL - Peel Regional Police have charged a young person following an early morning armed carjacking in Brampton. On Friday, February 24, 2023, at approximately 8:15 a.m., the victim was operating his motor vehicle as a ride-share operator in the area of Archdekin Drive and Vodden Street East in Brampton. At this time, it is alleged that the accused and an unknown suspect entered the victim's vehicle. The victim was forcibly restrained, at which point the accused produced an imitation firearm, demanded the keys, and forced the victim out of his vehicle. The victim did not suffer any physical injuries.

Following an efficient response and coordinated effort from officers in Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations Bureau, and the Central Robbery Bureau, investigators located the vehicle in the area of Windsor Street in Toronto and, with the assistance of the Tactical Unit, effected a high-risk takedown. A replica firearm was located during the arrest.

Police have charged a 17-year-old young person with Robbery, Wearing a Disguise, Using an Imitation Firearm, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, and Failing to Comply with a Recognizance.

He was held for a bail hearing and appeared before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on February 24, 2023.

This remains an ongoing investigation, and investigators anticipate further arrests and charges.

A general provision of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (Y.C.J.A.) prohibits the release of the name of a Young Person, and, therefore, the identity of the Young Persons charged in this investigation is protected.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents can contact investigators with the Central Robbery Bureau at (905)453-2121 ext. 3410. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca. For media inquiries, please contact the on-duty Media Relations Officer at (905) 453-2121, ext. 4027.

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THOSE WHO DEMANDING GOVERNOR'S RULE ARE ANTI-PUNJAB: CM BHAGWANT MANN SLAMS BJP

Ajnala Incident: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday lambasted BJP leaders, including former CM Amarinder Singh for demanding "Governor's rule" in the state saying people know that these leaders have always been "anti-Punjab".

Trouble mounts for Mann government

The Mann-led AAP government came under attack after pro-Khalistan elements created havoc in Amritsar by attacking a police station. The Opposition has been alleging a deteriorating law-and-order situation in the state in the wake of a sudden rise in activities of pro-Khalistani organizations in Punjab.

CM vs Governor

The chief minister's also involved in a tussle with Governor Banwarilal Purohit. It worsened last week with the governor indicating that he is in no hurry to summon the Assembly's Budget session, and reminding the chief minister about his "derogatory response" to a letter from the Raj Bhavan. Purohit's letter to Mann had come two days after the Punjab Cabinet decided to call the assembly session from March 3 and requested the Governor to summon the House.

"Capt Amarinder Singh, Kewal Dhillon, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Fateh Jang Bajwa, Raj Kumar Verka, Gurpreet Kangar, Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi...all Congressmen (who are) in BJP these days can often be seen around the Governor's residence. They are speaking about Governor's rule in Punjab. People of Punjab know that they have always remained anti-Punjab," Mann in his tweet in Punjabi.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha on Sunday said the Punjab government has been forced to move the Supreme Court as the Governor was not responding to the state cabinet's decision of convening the budget session

of the assembly. Meanwhile, Punjab BJP leader Fateh Jang Bajwa demanded Governor's rule in Punjab while attacking the AAP government over various issues, including alleged deteriorating law and order in the state. "Our party, while considering the present situation, demands that Governor's rule should be imposed in Punjab," Bajwa said here on Monday and accused the AAP of not being able to run the state. He said the state government was talking about attracting investments from other states but considering the present law-and-order situation, "there is a fear that the existing industry may leave". Meanwhile, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal also attacked the AAP government over the law and order issue. In a statement, Badal said, "No one is safe in today's Punjab." "The police force has been bottled down by the AAP administration as was witnessed recently during the attack on the Ajnala police station by radicals led by Amritpal Singh. This, as well as other incidents, which have revealed the complete lack of an integrated command structure, have demoralized the state police and compounded the problem," he alleged. Punjab BJP leader Subhash Sharma slammed the AAP for holding protests over CBI arresting Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, stating the arrest was made on the basis of proof. SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia demanded that the CBI probe into the Delhi excise policy case be extended to Punjab, claiming Sisodia was also the "architect" of the Punjab excise policy which had caused "losses of hundreds of crores to the state exchequer". "The actors and directors of the Punjab excise policy are the same as in the case of Delhi. As in the case of Delhi, the CBI should probe the role of senior officers and AAP politicians who had colluded to give huge benefits to select liquor manufacturers," Majithia alleged.

'MOST CBI OFFICERS...': ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S BIG CLAIM ON MANISH SISODIA'S ARREST



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday (February 27) claimed that most CBI officers were against the arrest of deputy CM Manish Sisodia. Kejriwal, in a tweet, said that despite CBI officers unwilling to arrest Sisodia, they were under 'pressure' from 'political masters' to act. "I am told that most CBI officers were against Manish's arrest. All of them have huge respect for him and there is no evidence against him. But the political pressure to arrest him was so high that they had to obey their political masters," Kejriwal said. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) late on Sunday after hours of questioning in the now scrapped Delhi liquor (excise) policy case. Sisodia's arrest, one of the most high-profile actions against an opposition leader, comes after that of Satyendar Jain, Delhi's then health minister, in June last year. The CBI investigators were not satisfied with Sisodia's answers, an official said, adding he was not cooperating in the probe and avoided clarifications sought on crucial points. "He gave evasive replies and did not cooperate in the investigation despite being confronted with evidence to the contrary. Therefore, he has been arrested," the CBI said in a statement.

'INDIA READY TO MIDDLE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN RUSSIA, UKRAINE': PM MODI AFTER MEETING GERMANY'S SCHOLZ

India has again reiterated its readiness in mediating peace talks between Russia and Ukraine which have been involved in brutal attacks for the past year. While holding a crucial meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that India stands ready to contribute to any peace process between the two nations. In his statement at a joint media event with Modi, the German Chancellor described the Russian "aggression" against Ukraine as a "major catastrophe" that has negatively impacted the globe and said it is important for the countries to state "very clearly where we stand" on the war at the UN as international law governs international relations.

Developing country impacted

On his part, Modi said, "since the beginning of the developments in Ukraine, India has insisted on resolving this dispute through dialogue and diplomacy. India is ready to contribute to any peace process." Referring to the destruction in Ukraine including to its energy grids and infrastructures as well as the overall consequences of the Russian invasion and stressed that developing countries were being negatively impacted by energy and food shortages resulting from the war. "But above all, it is a disaster, a catastrophe because we know this war violates a fundamental principle to which we had all agreed for such a long time, and that is that you do not change borders through the use of violence," he said. "Thus, it is important that in the United Nations too, we time and again state very clearly where we stand on this subject matter," he said.



Key issues discussed

Asked whether the comments by the German Chancellor were a message to India and whether there were divergent views between the two countries on the conflict, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said he only saw "understanding and appreciation" of each other's perspective on the matter. "It was the Indian Prime Minister who openly stated in Samarkand that this is not the era for war. In the discussion, I would say, I only saw understanding and appreciation of each other's perspective," the foreign secretary told reporters at a briefing. In a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Uzbek city of Samarkand in September last year, Modi said "today's era is not of war" and nudged the Russian leader to end the conflict. On Thursday, India abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that underscored the need to reach "comprehensive, just and lasting peace" in Ukraine and called for Russia to end the hostilities.

SHIV SENA ROW: UDDHAV THACKERAY CALLS ELECTION COMMISSION 'BOGUS', SAYS SHINDE FACTION 'CREEPERS, THIEVES'



Amid rift over the Election Commission's decision over Shiv Sena, (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray attacked the EC for declaring the party faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the "real" Shiv Sena and allotting it the 'bow and arrow' symbol. While addressing the gathering in Matoshree on the occasion of Marathi Day, Thackeray said he no longer had trust in the apex poll body, adding it should be called "Election Chuna Lagao Aayog". "Chuna lagana" is street lingo for defrauding somebody. "The Election Commission is bogus. It should be called the Election Chuna Lagao Aayog. We have lost trust in it," Thackeray said at a party event on the occasion of Marathi Language Day. He claimed the Election Commission should not have given its decision on the party name and symbol when hearings connected to it were underway in the Supreme Court. The former CM said the EC had given a symbol each to Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party factions headed by party founder late Ram Vilas Paswan's son Chirag and Paswan's brother Pashupati Kumar Paras in a dispute similar to the one in the Sena. However, both factions are quiet over it as they are with the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party, Thackeray alleged. He claimed parties had begun uniting against the BJP and referred to his meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his conversations with West Bengal and Bihar CMs Mamata Banerjee and Nitish Kumar, respectively.

"CENTRE MUST INTERCEDE..." SAYS AMARINDER SINGH AFTER AJNALA INCIDENT



Three days after the Ajnala incident, former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh lambasted his successor Bhagwant Mann and asserted that the Centre must intercede "if the AAP government is not able to control the law and order situation in the state".

The critical remarks from Singh came after thousands of supporters of Amritpal Singh, a Khalistan sympathizer, had on Thursday staged a massive demonstration in Amritsar to protest against the arrest of his aide Lovepreet Singh Toofan. Later, the police had to release him.

"Drones getting caught every day"

Taking a dig at the recent development, the defence veteran, while speaking to the news agency ANI, said, "The law and order is not the Centre's subject. If they (Punjab Govt) are not able to handle it then the Government of India will have to take charge. There are drones getting caught every single day, I think Centre must see it."

Singh also raised grave questions over the visit of Mann to Mumbai where he met former Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray-- just a day after the Ajnala incident happened. "CM Bhagwant Mann is not interested in what is going on in Punjab. He is afraid of taking any steps. Police officials may have got orders not to take any steps during the Ajnala incident. The law and order have deteriorated in Punjab," he noted.

'SAVARKAR'S IDEOLOGY IS TO BOW BEFORE MIGHTY': RAHUL GANDHI QUESTIONS MODI GOVT'S 'DESHBHAKTI' MODEL



Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is currently in Chhatisgarh's capital, Raipur, addressed the party delegates on the third and final day of the party's plenary session on Sunday. While addressing a gathering, Gandhi shared the memories that he cherished during the Bharat Jodo Yatra and recounted how he used to walk miles even though he was suffering from severe pain. He asserted that he had arrogance about his good health and added it was totally ruined during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' when he encountered severe leg pain. "I used to be an arrogant person, especially, when it comes to my health. However, it was totally ruined after he started Bharat Jodo Yatra. I used to receive messages from Bharat Mata and that gave me strength," he said. While addressing a cheering crowd in front of his mother, Sonia Gandhi, he also recounted how his family had a hard time when they were told to vacate their official house.



TIKTOK BAN IN US! WHITE HOUSE GIVES 30-DAY DEADLINE TO FEDERAL AGENCIES

The White House has ordered federal agencies to remove Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from all government-issued devices within the next 30 days. The Office of Management and Budget director, Shalanda Young issued a memo requesting that government agencies "remove and disallow installations" of the app on agency-owned or operated IT devices, as well as "prohibit internet traffic" from such devices to the app. The US Congress had previously ordered a ban on TikTok, and the law signed by US President Joe Biden last month prohibits the use of the app on government-issued devices, as well as in the US House of Representatives and Senate. The ban will not affect businesses in the US or the millions of private citizens who use

the app. However, a bill has been introduced in Congress that would effectively ban TikTok from the country entirely, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The ACLU opposes such a ban, arguing that it would violate Americans' constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression. Owned by Chinese tech giant ByteDance, TikTok has been the subject of political scrutiny due to concerns that it could be used for spying or propaganda by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). These fears have been amplified in recent weeks, following the shooting down of a Chinese balloon that had traversed US airspace, as well as the Canadian government's decision to ban TikTok from its phones and other devices, citing fears about Beijing's access to user data.

PAKISTAN, IN THE POCKET OF CHINA, CUT ITS AID, SAYS US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024 CANDIDATE NIKKI HALEY



Nikki Haley, former US ambassador and Republican who recently announced her bid for 2024 US Presidential Elections has pitched her voice for snapping aid to Pakistan saying its in the pocket of China. In a statement on Sunday, Nikki Haley said, "Belarus, in the pocket of Russia. Zimbabwe, in the pocket of China. Pakistan, in the pocket of China. Cut all their aid." "I will cut every cent in foreign aid for countries that hate us. A strong America doesn't pay off the bad guys. A proud America doesn't waste our people's hard-

earned money. And the only leaders who deserve our trust are those who stand up to our enemies and stand beside our friends," she wrote in an op-ed in the New York Post. "When I'm President, we will no longer give foreign aid to our enemies. We will stop that. (We) will start being smart, and will start being strong again," Haley told a US news channel. "They will be shocked to find that much of it goes to fund anti-American countries and causes. As president, I'll put a stop to this fiasco," she said. "It was a major victory for our troops, our taxpayers and our vital interests, but it didn't go nearly far enough. We've still given them way too much in other aid. As president, I will block every penny," she added. "Communist China for ridiculous environment programmes, despite the obvious threat China poses to Americans." "We give money to Belarus, which is Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's closest ally. We even give money to Communist Cuba — a country our own government has designated as a state sponsor of terrorism," she said. Nikki Haley, the 51-year-old two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations, had launched her 2024 presidential bid on February 15, 2023.

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ANOTHER BLOW TO CHINA: COVID-19 LIKELY CAME FROM LAB LEAK IN WUHAN, CLAIMS US STUDY



The virus that drove the COVID-19 pandemic, killing close to 7 million people globally, most likely emerged from a laboratory leak in China, according to a US media report, citing a classified intelligence report recently provided to the White House and key members of Congress. The Huanan market in central China's Wuhan city was the epicentre of the pandemic. From its origin there, the SARS-CoV-2 virus rapidly spread to other locations in Wuhan in late 2019 and then to the rest of the world. The pandemic's origin has been the subject of vigorous debate among academics, intelligence experts and lawmakers. The findings of the US Department of Energy — a departure from previous studies on how the virus emerged — came in an update to a document from the Office of National Intelligence director Avril Haines, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday. The new report highlights how different parts of the intelligence community have arrived at disparate judgments about the pandemic's origin. The Energy Department now joins the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in saying the virus likely spread via a mishap at a Chinese laboratory. Four other agencies, along with a national intelligence panel, still judge that it was likely the result of natural transmission, and two are undecided.

ZELENSKY FIRES UKRAINE'S COMMANDER OF JOINT FORCES WEEKS AHEAD OF HIS WORK ANNIVERSARY



In a major development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired the commander of the joint forces operation from his post on Sunday. According to a report by CNN, President Zelenskyy signed the decree for the removal of Major General Eduard Mykhailovich Moskalov but he did not mention the reason behind his concrete action. Moskalov's removal came weeks before he was about to complete his work anniversary in March. It is worth mentioning this was not the first time when Zelenskyy fired his top official. Ever since the war erupted against Russian forces, President Zelenskyy took staunch action against those involved in spying or other corruption charges. In the series of such actions, Zelenskyy had dismissed the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko. On the same day, Deputy Defence Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, local media reported, alleging his departure was linked to a scandal involving the purchase of food for the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

US PRAISES INDIA, SAYS ITS ROLE ON GLOBAL STAGE CONTINUES TO GROW



Speaking to community leaders and local ethnic Indian media reporters during a trip to Silicon Valley this week, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Nancy Izzo Jackson said India's role on the global stage continues to grow. She asserted India-US ties are one of the consequential relationships. India's presidency of the G20 will help the country intensify its growth in every sphere, Jackson said. "As we look at India's Presidency of G-20, we know that India's role on the global stage continues to grow. And so does the US-India relationship," Jackson said. The interaction was organised by Ajay Jain Bhutoria, a member of President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, wherein a visiting team of senior State Department officials met eminent Indian American community members to brief them on the status of India-US ties, the importance of the Diaspora in this and address their questions. During the interaction, Jackson highlighted the role that India is playing at the international level especially in its capacity as president of G-20 nations and the steps being taken by the State Department in reducing the visa wait time in India.

ITALY: 59 MIGRANTS DIE AFTER OVERLOADED BOAT CAPSIZES IN STORMY SEA OFF ITALY'S SOUTHERN CALABRIA

Italy: At least 59 migrants, including a toddler, died after their overloaded boat sank on Sunday in the stormy seas off Italy's southern Calabria region, AFP quoted officials. Firefighters, including rescue divers, had recovered 28 bodies, including three pulled by a strong current far away from the wreckage. "It's an enormous tragedy," Crotona Mayor Vincenzo Voce told a state TV channel. "In solidarity, the city will find places in the cemetery" for the dead, Voce said. State TV quoted the local prefect's office as saying that by late morning 33 bodies had been recovered and 58 people were rescued. The Italian news agency Lapresse later quoted unidentified officials among rescue forces as saying there could have been as many as 180 people onboard.

US'S BLINKEN PRAISES INDIA'S DIRECT ENGAGEMENT IN STALLING USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN UKRAINE WAR

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday hailed India's effort in tackling the possibility of Russia using nuclear weapons in the ongoing war against its neighbouring nation. While speaking to The Atlantic, the top US official said that the Biden administration had been in direct contact with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov following President Vladimir Putin's open warning to the already war-torn nation. Besides, Blinken said that America also approached other nations such as China and India to soft-soap Russia with their diplomatic leverage and added the results were positive. "There was some concern that Putin might react even more irrationally. And there was language coming out of Moscow that suggested that he would look to the use of tactical nuclear weapons. We not only messaged him very directly but engaged my counterpart, Mr Lavrov," Blinken told The Atlantic.



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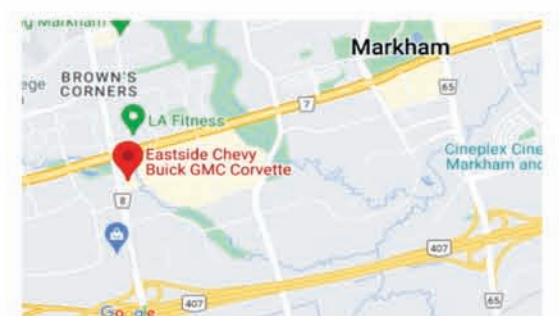
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NORA FATEHI DECLARES SHE EXPECTS MEN TO PAY THE BILL ON DATES, EVEN AS ARCHANA PURAN SINGH TELLS HER ‘WORLD HAS CHANGED’

In a recent episode of The Kapil Sharma Show, which featured Akshay Kumar along with Disha Patani, Mouni Roy, Nora Fatehi and Sonam Bajwa, a comment made by Nora about expecting men to pay on dates has caught the attention of viewers. Nora and the others were promoting their upcoming international tour ‘The Entertainers’ on Kapil’s show. When Kapil quoted Nora’s earlier statement about the matter, Archana Puran Singh interrupted him and told her, “Nora, the world has changed, now women are paying, of course,” to which Nora responded by saying, “You can pay but I am not paying...” The audience and everyone on the stage burst into laughter after hearing Nora’s cheeky response. On the same episode, Akshay joked that he is tense about going on a tour with four women, because he can’t

return in a happy mood and expect his wife Twinkle Khanna to be okay with it. “Mujhe badi tension hai, mere saath chaar heroines jaa rahi hain foreign tour pe. Mujhe apne aap ko dukhi dikhana hai ghar pe. Agar aap khush ghar laute toh beta agla show kabhi nahi hoga (I am quite tense as I am travelling with four actresses that too on a foreign tour. At home, I have to show that I am upset. If I will return happy, there will never be any other show),” he said. Nora was last seen in a special dance number Ayushmann Khurrana’s An Action Hero. Besides this, Nora also recently featured in a B Praak music video titled “Achha Sila Diya” alongside actor Rajkumar Rao. The actor will next be seen in Sajid Khan’s 100 Percent, along with John Abraham and Shehnaaz Gill.

KIARA ADVANI SAYS MARRIED LIFE IS ‘WONDERFUL’, SIDHARTH MALHOTRA CREDITS SHERSHAAH FOR GIVING HIM A WIFE: ‘REAL VIKRAM AND DIMPLE CAME TOGETHER IN PARALLEL UNIVERSE’

Actors Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani kept their relationship under wraps before tying the knot on February 7. The couple had a dreamy wedding in Jaisalmer, which was followed by a reception in Mumbai. Before seeing them tie the knot in real life, their fans got to witness their on-screen romance in the 2021 film Shershaah. Sidharth recently joked that Shershaah is a film that not only brought him the love of the audience, but also gave him a ‘wife’. Speaking at a News18 awards ceremony, Sidharth said that his wedding with Kiara was “meant to be”. He also shared that the family of Captain Vikram Batra, the Kargil War hero whose life story was dramatised in Shershaah, was quite emotional to see them tie the knot in real life. Kiara essayed the role of Captain Vikram’s fiancée Dimple Cheema in the movie. “It felt like the real Vikram and Dimple, in some parallel universe, came together. Shershaah has given me so much love and a wife too, so what else do you need from a film? I think it was meant to be. Much like us, Vishal Batra (Vikram Batra’s twin brother) was extremely emotional and happy when he came to our wedding,” Malhotra told News18.



ADITI RAO SAYS ‘HEARD A LOT’ THAT SOUTH FILMMAKERS USE HER TALENT BETTER THAN HINDI DIRECTORS; NASEERUDDIN SHAH QUIPS ‘MAY BE THEY’RE MORE INTELLIGENT’



Aditi Rao Hydari is seeking film sets where she can be like a kid in a playground. If she sniffs an opportunity to dive deep into a movie which will challenge her as an artiste, the actor is likely to

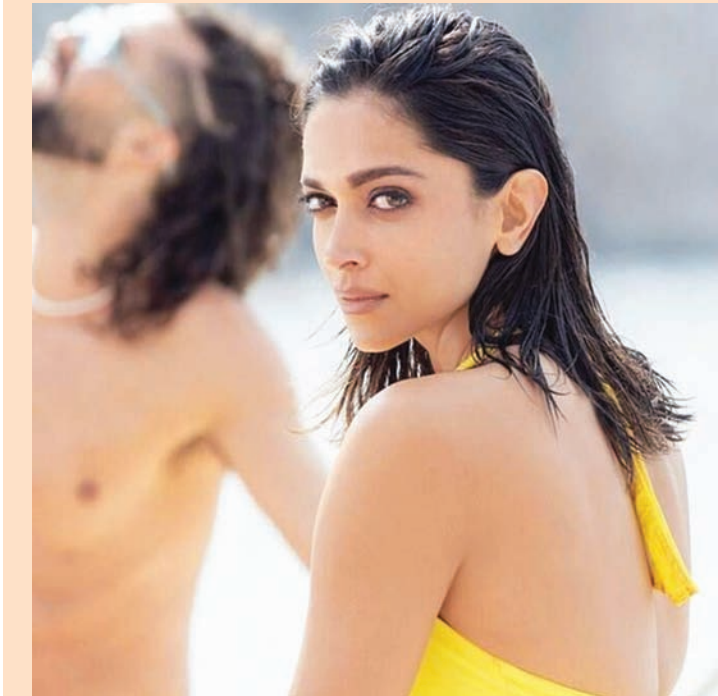
be found on that set—irrespective of the language the project is being shot in. Aditi started her career with regional films in the mid-2000s before branching out to Hindi movies like Delhi 6, Yeh



Saali Zindagi, London, Paris, New York and Padmaavat. In 2017, which was a turning point for the actor, Aditi teamed up with filmmaker Mani Ratnam for Kaatru Veliyidai and followed it up

with a second collaboration, Chekka Chivantha Vaanam. Over the years, Aditi Rao Hydari’s appearances in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films have increased while her Hindi movie outings have seen a decline. The actor is now gearing for her ZEE5 original series Taj: Divided by Blood, in which she plays Anarkali. The series also stars Naseeruddin Shah as Mughal emperor Akbar. When asked why Hindi filmmakers have not been able to tap into her potential as much as their counterparts from the South, Aditi told media, “I have heard this too much, a lot!” Naseeruddin Shah, who was also present for the interview, quipped, “May be because the Tamil and Malayalam makers are more intelligent... Someone like Aditi has no reason to worry, sooner or later they will come to their senses here.”

DEEPIKA PADUKONE CREDITS HER AND SHAH RUKH KHAN’S SPORTS BACKGROUNDS FOR HELPING THEM WEATHER PATHAAN CONTROVERSIES



Actor Deepika Padukone, who is basking in the humungous box office success of Pathaan, recently spoke about her journey in the film industry and her bond with co-star Shah Rukh Khan. Despite facing controversies and criticism before the film’s release, both actors exhibited composure and restraint in their response to the situation. When asked about this, Deepika Padukone told India Today in an interview, “I can say this for both of us that we don’t know any other way of being. I think that’s just who we are as people and the way we have been brought up by our respective families. We came here [to Mumbai] alone with just dreams and aspirations. All we know is commitment, hard work and humility, and it has gotten us where we are. Some of it (handling adversity) comes with experience and maturity. We both have been athletes. I do know that he played sport in school and college. Sport teaches you a lot about restraint.” Deepika attributed their on-screen chemistry to their off-screen relationship with each other. “Fifteen years ago, a superstar like him showed immense faith in a rank newcomer, who had no experience or lineage in the film industry, and cast me opposite him without an audition, mind you, that too in a double role. The beautiful part of our relationship is that one handhold or one hug communicates everything that we need to convey to each other,” she said.

RANVEER SINGH HITS BACK AT HATERS IN NEW TVC: ‘SAB KI SUNNE KA, KHUD KI KARNE KA’



Actor Ranveer Singh recently appeared in a TVC for a popular soft drink brand. In it, he seemingly addressed all those who have been criticising him for his choices. Singh’s last few releases, Cirkus, Jayeshbhai Jordaar and 83, failed to attract the audience to cinema halls. The TVC begins with Singh saying, “Kuch logon ko na mujhse badi problem hai (Some people have a lot of issues with me).” Soon, a few people are seen making snarky comments about the actor as he walks through the street in his blue animal print tracksuit. A woman is heard saying, “Ye ekdum joker lagta hai (He looks like a joker).” A man adds, “Khud ke pairon pe thodi na khada hua hai (He is not a self-made man).” Another man says, “Today’s kids do things just to grab attention.”

KRITI SANON SNAPS AT REPORTER WHO ASKED HER ABOUT KARTIK AARYAN AS SHEHZADA FLOPS AT BOX OFFICE: ‘IS THIS THE PLATFORM?’



Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon have starred together in the Bollywood films Luka Chuppi (2019) and the recent Shehzada (2023). Kriti also shot a special video with Kartik when his 2022 release Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 became a blockbuster hit. But recently, she got miffed when a reporter asked her about Kartik at an award ceremony. Kriti recently attended Zee Cine Award 2023. She interacted with the media at the red carpet. As she was talking about bagging a nomination for her performance in the 2022 film Bhediya, one reporter asked her, “What do you like about Kartik the most?” A visibly miffed Kriti asked the reporter, “Is this the platform to talk about that?” The actor had earlier addressed the rumours of her dating Kartik. She told Hindustan Times, “If you ask me about these petty things, they don’t bother me at all. It just makes you feel like ‘I wish my life was as interesting as it sounded it to be.’” Not just Kartik, there were rumours about Kriti dating her Adipurush co-actor Prabhas, after Varun Dhawan made indirect comments about it. Clarifying the speculation, the actor had written on social media, “It’s neither Pyaar, nor PR. our Bhediya just went a little too wild on a reality show. And his fun banter lead to some Howl-arious rumours.

RANBIR KAPOOR ADDRESSES HIS FLOPS, BOYCOTT BOLLYWOOD CALLS: ‘I DON’T COMPREHEND THIS’



Actor Ranbir Kapoor, whose upcoming film Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is slated for release on March 8, has dismissed boycott Bollywood calls on social media as baseless. The actor, who was in the Kolkata city on Sunday to promote his latest romantic comedy, also denied reports that he was offered a biopic on cricketer Sourav Ganguly. “If you ask me about any call about ‘boycott Bollywood’, I really find that baseless. There are so many negative things coming post-pandemic. Films are made for entertainment purposes, we are not saving the world. So audiences come to theatres to forget worries. They come to watch films on big screen, to have a good time. I just don’t know (comprehend) the boycott thing,” he told reporters.

**PRIYANKA CHOPRA SHARES FIRST LOOK
OF CITADEL, ACTRESS IS ON THE KILL IN
RUSSO BROTHERS' SPY THRILLER**



KRITI SANON LOOKS CHIC IN A BLACK SHIMMERY CO-ORD SET.



While fans have been eagerly waiting for Priyanka Chopra's upcoming series *Citadel*, the actress treated her fans by sharing the first look. In the show, Priyanka will be seen playing an elite spy named Nadia Sinh. The series also stars Richard Madden, Lesley Manville and Stanley Tucci, and will premiere its first two episodes on April 28. The streaming rights have been bought by Amazon Prime Video. Taking to her Instagram Handle, Priyanka shares a series of photos and wrote, "First look at @citadelonprime via @vanityfair #CitadelOnPrime." In the photos, PeeCee can be seen in a red dress as she points a gun at someone. Later, she can be seen teaming up with Richard's character as they head out on a mission. As soon as the photos were shared, fans and celebrities started pouring their wishes and flooded comment section. Actor Rajkumar Rao, who co-starred with her in *The White Tiger*, dropped red heart emojis and shared, "Awesomeweeeee." Samantha Ruth Prabhu who has been signed alongside Varun Dhawan for the Indian version of *Citadel* also expressed her joy, she wrote "Yasss with lots of fire emojis". Fans added that they were 'so excited' for the upcoming series. One fan commented, "Priyanka is about to play as always." Another person said. "Excuse me? WHAT!!!! It's so good."

**MRUNAL THAKUR GETS CUTEST
MARRIAGE PROPOSAL FROM A FAN, HER
REPLY WILL LEAVE YOU ROFLING**

Mrunal Thakur is one of the most prominent actresses in the country. She made her Bollywood debut in 2019's *Super 30*. Over the years, the actress has proven her mettle with her performances in various films. She has a remarkable fan following on social media, with around 8 million followers. Recently, the Sita Ramam actress shared an adorable video in slow motion on her Instagram handle. She captioned it, "Felt cute might delete later." After she shared the video, fans and celebrities flocked to the comment section to react to it. A fan even proposed marriage to Mrunal Thakur and to everyone's surprise, Mrunal even reacted to it. However, the actress's response made everyone laugh. Fan wrote, "Meri taraf se rishta pakka (This relationship for a wedding is confirmed from my side)." The actress replied, "Meri taraf se na hain."

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RANI MUKERJI COMPARES 'MRS CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY' TRAILER WITH 'BLACK'

Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji, who is receiving a lot of appreciation for the trailer of her upcoming film 'Mrs. Chatterjee VS Norway' is chuffed with the response and has compared it to the appreciation that she received 18 years ago for her film 'Black'. The trailer of 'Mrs. Chatterjee VS Norway' shows the struggle of a mother against an organised racket in Norway which takes children away from their biological parents and hands them over to foster parents for money. Overwhelmed by the reactions, Rani said: "The reactions to the trailer have been too special and overwhelming, to say the least... I'm very humbled seeing the love pouring in from the world over, from my fans, people who have watched the trailer on social media, my own industry colleagues, friends, and family."

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FIFA AWARDS: MESSI WINS BEST MEN'S PLAYER AWARD AFTER WORLD CUP HEROICS; SCALONI NAMED BEST MEN'S COACH

Lionel Messi added yet another piece of silverware to his impressive trophy cabinet as he landed the FIFA Best Men's Player of the Year award for 2022. The Argentine skipper inspired his homeland to their first FIFA World Cup title in 36 years in December 2022 which saw him score seven goals. Messi compatriot and coach Lionel Scaloni was named the Best Men's Coach for guiding the South American nation to World Cup glory.

Another feather in Cap

The 35-year-old beat French forwards Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema to the prize. Messi captained Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar, and scored 27 goals in 49 games for club and country in 2021-22. Messi, who won the award for a second time, said: "It's amazing. It's been a tremendous year and it's an honour for me to be here and win this award. Without my team-mates I wouldn't be here. "I achieved the dream I had been hoping for for so long. Very few people can achieve that and I have been lucky to do so." At the ceremony in Paris, Lionel Scaloni, who led Argentina to their third World Cup title, was named men's coach of the year. Scaloni beat Pep Guardiola - who guided Manchester City to a sixth Premier League title - and Real Madrid's Champions League-winning boss Carlo Ancelotti to the honour. England manager Sarina Wiegman was named women's coach of the year after leading the Lionesses to European Championship glory on home soil last year, the team's first major trophy. Aston Villa and Argentina's Emiliano Martinez was recognised as the best men's goalkeeper, while England's Mary Earps won the women's award. Martinez, 30, helped his country win the World Cup, saving four penalties along the way including in the shootout victory against France in the final.



AUSTRALIA SET FOR MITCHELL STARC BOOST IN THIRD TEST MATCH AGAINST INDIA

Having lost the series with just two matches in, Australia would want to bring their A-game in the last two Tests in Indore and Ahmedabad. The team, however, is set to get a major boost in terms of Mitchell Starc, who feels that he is pretty much at full tilt. "It's good enough. There's going to be a level of discomfort. I don't think it is going to be 100% for a little while, but the ball is coming out quite nicely and I feel like I'm pretty much at full tilt." Starc further said that the only issue while bowling would be to deal with the discomfort or lack of sufficient mobility in the knee joint. "It's more the discomfort of the joint being restricted having been in a splint for six weeks and still having to be in a splint for another couple of weeks yet. That's probably the only part - dealing with the discomfort of it, getting the mobility back into it. That'll come over the next couple of weeks and it's progressed again, it's a progression each day I bowl. It's not a concern for me, the comfort levels - it's doing what I need it to do to be available to play." "It wouldn't be the first Test match I've played in some sort of discomfort. If I only played when I was at 100%, I would have only played five or ten Tests.



VIRAT DOESN'T GIVE REST TO FAST BOWLERS, SAYS MOHD SIRAJ

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Fast bowler Mohammad Siraj revealed his struggle to bowl talismanic batter Virat Kohli in the nets and said the former Indian skipper doesn't give rest to seamers to settle after delivering a bowl. "Pujji Bhai (Cheteshwar Pujara), he plays with a deep focus in Test cricket... Virat bhai does not give rest to the fast bowler. He gets ready immediately after hitting the shot, I don't even get time to settle," Siraj said on SG Cricket YouTube channel when asked which batsman he enjoys bowling in the nets. "After hitting the shot, the batsman looks here and there, but Virat Bhai... he gets ready immediately. He has this passion... his aggression, which is amazing about a superstar like him," he added.

'IT WASN'T MY FINEST MOMENT': SMITH OPENS UP ON DISMISSAL IN DELHI TEST

INDORE, (IANS) Australia batter Steven Smith has admitted he was furious with himself after being dismissed while attempting a sweep shot during the second Test in Delhi. He also said the Australian batters will aim to slow things down at the crease when they take on India in the third Test, starting on Wednesday here at Holkar Stadium. The 33-year-old fell victim to Indian ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin for 9 while attempting his first sweep shot of the series on day three of the second Test in Delhi.

AUSTRALIA RELYING TOO MUCH ON SMITH, LABUSCHAGNE, SAYS GLENN MCGRATH

NEW DELHI, (IANS) Former Australian pacer Glenn McGrath has said that the Pat Cummins-led side is heavily dependent on Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy and added that the "whole batting line-up needs to stand up." "I think they're relying too much on (Steve) Smith and Marnus (Labuschagne) at the moment. Travis Head has had a really good year as well. The whole batting line-up has to stand up," McGrath said. Australia have already conceded the Border-Gavaskar trophy after suffering defeats in the first two Tests in Nagpur and Delhi, respectively, that drew heavy criticism on their approach and shot selection.

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