



Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR & CEO YUDHVIR JASWAL AWARDED MEDALS AND TROPHIES TO CANADIAN WINNERS OF SUMMER CONTESTS. (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SHIFALI JAIN, DIRECTOR OPERATIONS, COMPETITIVE KIDS STEM; YUDHVIR JASWAL, Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR & CEO; YOGESH KUMAR, PRESIDENT, COMPETITIVE KIDS STEM & SHARDUL ATHAVALA, VICE PRESIDENT, COMPETITIVE KIDS STEM).

| DETAILS ON PAGE 5

PM TRUDEAU ADDRESSES CANADA'S LARGEST ANNUAL ISLAMIC CONVENTION



Thousands gathered for the second day of Jalsa Salana 2022 (Annual Convention) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Canada at Hadiqa Ahmad, Bradford, ON. The official program was presided by Imam Azhar Haneef, which included a special address by The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau. Several dignitaries, politicians and community leaders also spoke on the second day of the three-day National Islamic Convention. The Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat offers practical solutions to combat various forms of religious extremism, while discussing the reconciliation of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and Islam's compatibility with the West.

Justin Trudeau commended the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at for its commitment to upholding the principles of respect, inclusion and fairness. Trudeau expressed, "I can think of no community that better embodies the very values that Canada aspires to, more than the Ahmadiyya [Muslim] Community."

The Prime Minister was keenly aware of and expressed empathy for the unjust arrests of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan last week for taking part in Eid festivities.

| DETAILS ON PAGE 3

PATRICK BROWN TO RE-SEEK ELECTION AS BRAMPTON MAYOR

Patrick Brown will seek re-election for Brampton Mayor after getting disqualified from the federal Conservative leadership race. The former Ontario PC leader and three-term MP gathered with his wife, two children, and supporters on Brampton City Council to submit candidacy papers at the city clerk's office.

"I just wanted to inform everyone that after talking to my family, we've decided to put my name in again for Mayor of Brampton," Brown said at the news conference.

"I will be loud, and I will be heard to make sure Brampton residents are never shortchanged."

After his disqualification, in an exclusive interview with Y Media's Group Editor & CEO Yudhvir Jaswal, Patrick Brown said, "there was no wrongdoing" in his federal campaign. He mentioned, "unfortunately, the Conservative Party did not want a free and fair election. We're pursuing legal options to ensure what was done is exposed." However, during the press conference, he stressed that he's "not going to be involved in the leadership campaign anymore; my focus is going to be creating a great team here in Brampton."

"I'm moving on from that chapter and now just focused on making sure that I can give every opportunity to the residents of Brampton."

He said, "it's been the greatest privilege to serve the city over the last four years, and I'm looking forward to the next four years."



CANADA'S HOME SALES DOWN 23.9%, AVERAGE HOME PRICE \$665,850 IN JUNE 2022, DOWN 1.8% FROM LAST YEAR

- * National home sales fell by 5.6% on a month-over-month basis in June.
 - * Actual (not seasonally adjusted) monthly activity came in 23.9% below the June record set in 2021.
 - * The number of newly listed properties was up 4.1% month-over-month.
 - * The MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) edged down 1.9% month-over-month but was still up 14.9% year-over-year.
- | CONTD. ON PAGE 7**

PARDEEP BRAR, 26, OF BRAMPTON, SHOT DEAD INSIDE KING STREET NIGHTCLUB

The Toronto Police Service would like to advise the public of a homicide investigation. On Sunday, July 17, 2022, at 3:33 a.m., officers responded to 647 King Street West for reports of a shooting. It is reported that:

- * officers located two people who had been shot inside a nightclub

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BANK OF CANADA RAISES RATE BY 1% TO 2.5%

The Bank of Canada today increased its target for the overnight rate to 2½%, with the Bank Rate at 2¾% and the deposit rate at 2½%. The Bank is also continuing its policy of quantitative tightening (QT). Inflation in Canada is higher and more persistent than the Bank expected in its April Monetary Policy Report (MPR), and will likely remain around 8% in the next few months.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 7

RIPUDAMAN SINGH MALIK KILLING HAS HALLMARKS OF PROFESSIONAL 'HIT': BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EX-TOP COP

The killing of Ripudaman Singh Malik has all the hallmarks of a professional murder-for-hire, according to British Columbia's former solicitor general, CTV News reported. Kash Heed made the comments while discussing the challenges he believes investigators will face in finding Malik's killer or killers. Malik was gunned down on Thursday outside his Surrey business. Homicide investigators said a white Honda CRV pulled up more than two hours earlier, and that the occupants waited for Malik. The vehicle was later found burned in an alley nearby.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 7



BA.5 OMICRON SUBVARIANT 4 TIMES MORE VACCINE-RESISTANT: STUDY

The BA.5 Omicron subvariant, now the dominant coronavirus strain in the US, is four times more resistant to Covid-19 vaccines, according to a new study published in Nature. The study found the variant is four times more resistant to messenger RNA vaccines than earlier strains of Omicron, which include Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines, Xinhua news agency reported. The strain is "hypercontagious" and is contributing to increases in hospitalisations and ICU admissions, said the Mayo Clinic in a report on Thursday.

CANADA INVESTS \$15.7 MILLION IN ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES TO SUSAN FENNELL SPORTSPLEX IN BRAMPTON

Investing in recreation centres promotes people's health and well-being and builds inclusive and sustainable communities where people want to live, work and raise families.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 3



CANADIAN HINDU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CHCC) WESTERN ONTARIO INVEST INDIA INVEST CANADA EVENT





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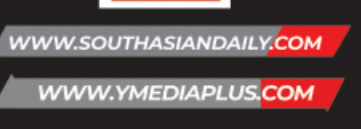

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PM TRUDEAU ADDRESSES CANADA'S LARGEST ANNUAL ISLAMIC CONVENTION

DOZENS OF PROMINENT CANADIAN LEADERS ATTENDED THE JALSA SALANA CANADA













BRAMPTON SOUTH MP SONIA SIDHU.

BRAMPTON MAYOR PATRICK BROWN.

ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SERVICE DELIVERY & MISSISSAUGA EAST-COOKSVILLE MPP KALEED RASHEED.

MPP FOR KING-VAUGHAN & ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF EDUCATION STEPHEN LECCE.

MISSISSAUGA—ERIN MILLS MPP SHEREF SABAWY.

MISSISSAUGA MALTON MPP DEEPAK ANAND.

BRAMPTON WEST MPP AMARJOT SANDHU.

CANADA INVESTS \$15.7 MILLION IN ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES TO SUSAN FENNEL SPORTSPLEX IN BRAMPTON

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Susan Fennell Sportsplex in Brampton South plays a key role in bringing people together. That is why Sonia Sidhu, the Member of Parliament for Brampton South, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, announced over \$15.7 million in funding for retrofits to the Susan Fennell Sportsplex in Brampton. “The upgrades to the Susan Fennell Sportsplex will provide Brampton residents with a modern and energy-efficient facility where they can come together, access programming, and stay active. Our Government will continue to invest in infrastructure projects that strengthen our communities and grow our economy,” said Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. “Thank you to our partners at the Government of Canada for their investment in energy-efficient upgrades for Susan Fennell Sportsplex. Brampton is a Green City, and we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and being a leader in sustainability. This investment will help us reduce fuel consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and provide our residents with a modern and energy-efficient facility where they can enjoy our great recreational programs and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle,” said Patrick Brown, Mayor of the City of Brampton. Funding will support upgrades to increase the energy efficiency of the community centre. Work involves replacing the facility’s refrigeration plants, HVAC system, and lighting. It will also

include installing a battery energy storage system, a ground source heat pump, and a 600-kilowatt solar energy system. These retrofits will reduce fuel consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 932 tonnes annually. Once complete, the renewed

Susan Fennell Sportsplex will provide residents in Brampton with a modern and energy-efficient facility where they can access community and recreational programs and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.



PAKISTAN GETS OFFERED FOR UNSC PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATURE

Pakistan has been offered to launch its candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council by some powerful western countries, who have suggested Islamabad to opt for the option in order to break the ongoing deadlock to reform the UN's charter. Interestingly, sources revealed that Pakistan has rejected the offer as the country viewed it as part of a deliberate tactic to weaken the group that is opposed to the expansion of permanent seats at the UNSC. Confirming the news about offer to Pakistan by some influential western countries, a diplomatic source said the idea was turned down because there were questions on its genuineness. “Some powerful countries have approached us and said Pakistan should launch its bid for the permanent seat at the UNSC. Pakistan turned down the idea since it knew the offer was not genuine but the ploy

to push Islamabad to leave the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group that is opposed to the expansion of the UNSC,” said the official. This comes at a time when Pakistan-Italy led group UFC was able to foil the latest push by the G-4 group, comprising India, Brazil, Germany and Japan to seek expansion in the UNSC permanent members. UFC, a group comprising at least 13 countries including Pakistan, Italy, Canada, South Korea, Argentina, Spain and Turkey, has been lobbying against increasing the permanent seats at the UNSC. The United Nation General Assembly recently decided to roll over the inter-governmental negotiations (IGNs) on the Security Council reform to the next General Assembly session. UFC claims it to be its success. UFC, in contrast to G4, has proposed additional non-permanent seats with longer duration in term and possibility to get re-elected.

CANADIAN HINDU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CHCC) WESTERN ONTARIO INVEST INDIA INVEST CANADA EVENT



On July 15, 2022, more than 150 business owners, investors and individuals of Western Ontario and Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 234 Guelph for the Invest India Invest Canada Summit and inauguration of the prospective new Western Ontario chapter of Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce (CHCC). Many dignitaries joined such as the Honorable Consulate General of India, Toronto Apoorva Srivastava, Guelph MP Lloyd Longfield, Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, City of Guelph Mayor his worship Cam Guthrie and local Municipal councillor Dominique O'Rourke made an appearance and gave presentations. Honourable Som Prakash Ji union minister of state – Commerce & Industry Government of India also

joined virtually and sent a video message. A special video presentation was also made about investment opportunities in Canada and India. Two international corporate motivation speakers Shailesh Thaker of Global Guru & Himani from Himani's Happiness Hub made appearances. As did ethnic and mainstream media representatives were also present. Investment opportunities in India and Canada were both discussed by the various representatives of both Canadian and Canadian Governments. MP Loyd Longfield praised the Canadian Hindu community for their positive contributions to the Canadian and Guelph community. MP Longfield also praised the growing Indo-Canadian ties. CGI- Srivastava spoke about the growing economy in India and

its importance for investment. CGI Praised the event for creating more awareness about opportunities in India. Mayor Guthrie praised the CHCC Event and explained some great reasons for investing in Guelph. MPP Schreiner praised the Hindu community and talked about some opportunities for clean investment in Ontario. CHCC President Naresh Chavda mentioned the similarities between India and Canada in terms of democracy and culture. He showcased why Canada and India are the perfect trade partners for the future. CHCC Vice President Kushagr Sharma thanked all the new life members and spoke about the importance of different memberships in CHCC. CHCC Western Ontario prospective launch was also discussed.

'Our Vision is Your Growth': Canada Fortune Cup and Revel Realty celebrated Canada Day by promoting cricket in Canada beyond genders



'Our Vision is Your Growth': Canada Fortune Cup and Revel Realty celebrated Canada Day by promoting cricket in Canada beyond genders on Saturday, July 2, at Teramoto Cricket Ground in Brampton. There were day and night three Live T10 exhibition matches: Canada Fortune Group vs Revel Realty; Toronto Police vs Revel Realty; and Toronto Police vs Canada Fortune Group. Canada Fortune Group won the first match. The winners of the second and third matches were Toronto Police. The entry was free of cost. There was a Live DJ along with complimentary food and drinks. Canada Fortune Cup 2022 was brought to you by Mr. Moledina from Canada Fortune Group and Abhay Mathur, Niagara Falls Real Estate Specialist from Revel realty. The dignitaries include Amarjot Sandhu MPP Brampton West, Deepak Anand MPP Mississauga- Malton, Harkirat Singh and Gurpreet Singh Dhillon (Regional Councillor –Wards 9 & 10).

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Global Passport Ranking		
Rank	Countries	Access
1st	Japan	193
2nd	Singapore	192
3rd	Germany	190
4th	Italy	189
5th	Sweden	188
6th	United Kingdom	187
7th	New Zealand United States	186
8th	Canada Australia	185
69th	China	80
87th	India	60
109th	Pakistan	32

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX REPORT REVEALS CANADA'S PASSPORT RANKED EIGHTH MOST POWERFUL IN THE WORLD.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVES CAATSA WAIVER FOR INDIA

The US House of Representatives on Thursday passed a legislation measure that will urge the Biden administration to waive sanctions on India for purchasing Russian S-400 missile defence systems. The measure passed in a voice vote as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023 (the defense budget). To make it to President Joe Biden's desk for enactment, it must be a part of the final legislation that comes out of a process called reconciliation in which bills passed by the House and Senate are made into one. India is potentially facing US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for its purchase of the Russian 3-400s. The 2017 law seeks to punish Russia for the 2016 election interference and other issues by scaring away buyers of its defence equipment with the threat of secondary sanctions. China and Turkey, a NATO ally, are the only two countries sanctioned by the US under this law yet. India has started receiving these systems, which technically should have triggered CAATSA sanctions, but the Biden administration has not publicly declared its intentions, either way. The amendment that passed Thursday was introduced by Ro Khanna, an Indian American lawmaker from California who is now widely believed to be considering a run for the White House in 2024 if Biden decides to not run again. "The United States must stand with India in the face of escalating aggression from China. As Vice Chair of the India Caucus, I have been working to strengthen the partnership between our countries and ensure that

India can defend itself along the Indian Chinese border," Khanna said in a statement. "This amendment is of the utmost importance, and I am proud to see it pass the House on a bipartisan basis." The amendment says India relies on Russian weapons because it faces "immediate and serious regional border threats" from China. And the US should take further steps to encourage India to accelerate its "transition off Russian-built weapons and defense systems". The amendment argues then that it's in the best interest of the US and the US-India partnership to waive the sanction. "While India faces immediate needs to maintain its heavily Russian-built weapons systems, a waiver to sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act during this transition period is in the best interests of the United States and the United States-India defense partnership to deter aggressors in light of Russia and China's close partnership," it said as approved. Talk of impending CAATSA sanctions has dogged India-US engagements from the time the law was enacted in 2017, under the Trump administration; it was a bipartisan congressional initiative and then President Donald Trump had no option but to sign. Then Defense Secretary James Mattis and then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had publicly pressed lawmakers to exempt India and other countries that used to be too heavily reliant on Russian military hardware. Speculation about sanctions picked up in recent months as India began receiving the missiles. But there has been no public indication that the administration is considering them.

GLOBAL DOMINANCE OF WEST IS COMING TO AN END, SAYS UK FORMER PM TONY BLAIR

For the first time in modern history, the East can be on equal terms with the West, as the global dominance of the US and its allies comes to an end, former British prime minister Tony Blair has said. Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, "for a large part of the Western population, living standards are stagnating", Blair noted in his annual lecture at the Ditchley Foundation on Saturday, RT reported. "Western politics is in turmoil – more partisan, ugly, unproductive; and fueled by social media," which affects both domestic and international affairs, Blair said, arguing that Russia's military operation in Ukraine "should become a pivot point reviving our [Western] sense of mission". However, according to the 69-year-old, who led the UK government from 1997 to 2007, "the biggest geopolitical change of this century will come from China not Russia". "We are coming to the end of Western political and economic dominance. The world is going to be at least bi-polar and possibly multi-polar," he predicted, RT reported.

POP SINGER DALER MEHNDI, CONGRESS LEADER SIDHU SHARE SAME BARRACK IN PATIALA JAIL

Punjabi pop singer Daler Mehndi and Congress leader and former cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Sidhu are in the same barrack in the Patiala Central Jail in Punjab. The other high-profile politician in the jail is Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia, the brother-in-law of MP Sukhbir Badal. A Patiala district court on Thursday upheld the two-year jail term of Mehndi, who in 2018 was sentenced for a 2003 human trafficking case. Mehndi has been kept in barrack number 10 where Sidhu is also undergoing his sentence, a jail official said, requesting anonymity. Majithia has been lodged in the neighbouring barrack in a drugs case registered against him in December last year. Jail officials said while Mehndi and Majithia are not having a special diet or home-cooked food, Sidhu, who was sentenced to one-year in prison by the Supreme Court in a road rage case of 1988 in which a 65-year-old man was killed, is having a special diet as recommended by the medical board owing to his medical conditions. Sidhu's high fibre and low fat diet mainly comprises fruits and vegetables. The meal is cooked without desi ghee, butter or any other saturated fatty oils. Former state Congress chief Sidhu on May 20 surrendered before a court in his hometown Patiala in the road rage case in which the apex court enhanced his punishment to a year's rigorous imprisonment.

CANADIAN SUMMER CONTESTS - 2022 AND THE STUDENT CELEBRATION EVENT HELD ON JULY 16TH, 2022, WERE HUGE SUCCESSFUL!



TORONTO, ON - The Competitive Kids STEM (CKSTEM) is pleased to announce the results of the 2022 Canadian Summer Contests, which were held in May and June of 2022. To provide a comprehensive range of STEM learning and enrichment, CKSTEM conducted the following three contests that included an additional component on public speaking & debate:

- * Canadian Math Summer Contest (CMSC)
- * Canadian Computing Summer Contest (CCSC)
- * Canadian Debate Summer Contest (CDSC)

These contests were conducted online and offered free of cost to all participants, transcending any physical, geographical, social, or economic barriers, including the global pandemic. Over 2500 students from 33 countries participated in these online contests. To offer a holistic experience, CKSTEM also provided participants with free training and learning material. Using these resources, students solved over one million problems on CKSTEM's learning platform, demonstrating high interest and commitment. The contests were held over eight weeks and comprised two phases, resulting in more than 250 winners. CKSTEM will also continue to offer these free of cost to all the students over the coming years.

In its first-ever Celebration event, held on July 16th, 2022, at Century Garden Recreation Center, Brampton, Canadian winners from these Summer Contests and various other national/ international contests were recognized and awarded for their performance and efforts. The trifecta of Community leaders, industry experts and educators across GTA, with Mr. YudhvirJaswal, CEO & Group Editor of Y Media Group, as the Chief Guest, awarded custom-designed medals and trophies to these young talented winners. The event had over 300, including families who drove from various parts of Canada to participate in the celebration.

Thanks to CKSTEM's partnership with Brilliant, winners of Canadian Summer Contests - 2022 will also receive a complimentary premium membership of brilliant courses that will further help them prepare for the upcoming school year and Canadian Summer Contests - 2023. CKSTEM is also offering a scholarship of up to 250\$ to each winner. In addition, CKSTEM will also provide 100% scholarships for the CKSTEM

year-long courses to one student each from Nigeria & Peru in support of STEM education in developing countries.

In summary, CKSTEM is providing an excellent service to our community by offering awards worth over CAD 25,000 to young students and youth through these free contests, making them the most rewarding elementary and middle school contest in the world. Arnav Vunnam, a CMSC gold medalist, says, "This is one of the best competitions I have done this year. I loved the questions. I had a lot of fun solving these interesting questions."

Canadian Summer Contest - 2022 Winners: Mark Raspopov, Grade 5 and Ansh Agarwal, Grade 8 student and student, won Outstanding Student Awards for exemplary performance in the Elementary and Middle School category, respectively. For more information on all the winners in different grades, please visit www.ckstem.org.

This year CKSTEM also took an initiative to recognize teachers for their efforts in STEM. Thirty-three teachers were nominated by the students globally for the Outstanding STEM Teacher award. Ms. CeraselaTesleanu, a math teacher at College Stanislas Montreal, won the outstanding STEM teacher award for her dedication to preparing talented students for the math Olympiad. In addition, five other teachers also won this award.

About the Competitive Kids STEM Organization (CKSTEM)

Based in Ontario, Canada, Competitive Kids STEM (CKSTEM) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that enhances kids' education by enabling them to achieve excellence. Their core value system consists of serving and giving back to the community while allowing learning opportunities for all students transcending all barriers. Their key focus is to make students "future-ready" by offering the best portfolio of global contests in STEM. Participating in competitions helps students develop invaluable skills, building their confidence and desire to excel, and helps prepare young learners to take on more significant challenges.

For more information on CKSTEM, please contact
Shifali Jain
Director, Competitive Kids STEM
Email: shifali@competitivekids.org OR info@competitivekids.org
Website: www.competitivekids.org

WORLD IS NEARING 'BRINK' OF NUCLEAR WAR, SAYS FORMER US CONGRESSWOMAN TULSI GABBARD



Former US congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard has warned that US President Joe Biden's administration is driving the world towards a devastating nuclear conflict by using the Ukraine crisis to fight a "proxy war" with Russia.

"The American people need to understand the seriousness of the situation that the Biden administration and leaders in Washington have put us in," Gabbard said in a Fox News interview, RT reported.

The Hawaii Democrat, who was among the candidates whom Biden defeated to win his party's 2020 presidential nomination, called for stepping back to focus on "the big picture and the great threat that we face, which is the reality that this war is continuing to escalate".

Biden has led the charge for international sanctions to punish Moscow over its military offensive in Ukraine. The US has approved 70 billion dollars in aid, including advanced weaponry, to help Ukraine fight Russian forces.

During a visit to Israel on Thursday, Biden said Washington will continue to provide such aid indefinitely to ensure that Moscow suffers "a strategic failure" in Ukraine.

"President Biden himself says he has no idea when or how it's going to end, but we know where this escalation leads," Gabbard said. "It leads us closer and closer to the brink of a nuclear war with Russia", RT reported Gabbard as saying.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT ZELENSKY SAYS RUSSIA DOESN'T WANT TO END WAR AS RUSSIAN TROOPS TOLD TO 'FURTHER INTENSIFY' EFFORTS



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday said that Russia started a war and does not want to end it, whereas Ukraine is defending its own land and fighting for peace.

Ukrainian President Zelensky published several photos of Ukrainian forces, and posted, "This is a war in Ukraine that Russia started, that Russia continues and that Russia does not want to end. Ukraine defends its own land, its sovereignty, its territory. Ukraine is fighting for peace." He added that this is a cruel paradox of the 21st century, and it is a reality for Ukrainians, Ukrinform reported. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24. Russia has been shelling and bombing Ukrainian cities and villages since then.

COVID DEATHS AGAIN ON RISE, WHO CHIEF SCIENTIST SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN SAYS BE PREPARED FOR WAVES

Even as Covid cases and even deaths are again on the rise globally, the world must be prepared for such Covid-19 waves, World Health Organisation's (WHO) Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan has said.

According to Swaminathan, all new Covid variants in the future will be more transmissible and capable of evading immunity that can result in increased illness and hospitalisations.



"We need to be prepared for these #Covid19 waves- each new #variant will be more transmissible & immune evasive- higher numbers infected will translate into greater hospitalisations & sickness," she wrote on Twitter. She urged countries to "have a data driven plan to quickly respond to changing situations".

Swaminathan was responding to a tweet from Philip Schellekens, a senior Advisor at the World Bank Group, who stated that the world is witnessing a "global U-turn in Covid-19 mortality. Following months of decline, it has started to rise again". Schellekens attributed the rise to properties of BA.5., relaxed attitudes towards infection control, and three-fourth of the world not being up-to-date on vaccination.

He said that the US, France, Italy, Germany and Japan are the drivers of the global surge among high-income countries, while Brazil, an upper-middle-income country, is leading in the developing world. The US and Brazil are currently the main contributors to global mortality. In the US, the new Omicron variants have pushed up hospitalisations and deaths in recent weeks. Meanwhile, the WHO's weekly review of the Covid-19 pandemic showed that in the last two weeks, Covid cases surged 30 per cent, driven largely by the hugely infectious omicron relatives, BA.4 and BA.5. The two Omicron sub-variants have shown a worrisome ability to re-infect people previously vaccinated or who have recovered from Covid. The biggest increases in Covid-19 cases were seen in the Western Pacific and the Middle East, where they jumped by more than a quarter. Deaths spiked by 78 per cent in the Middle East and by 23 per cent in Southeast Asia, while dropping elsewhere or remaining stable, the WHO report said.

From panchayats to Parliament, is BJP attempting to create a 'vipakshmukt' India?

SANTOSH KUMAR PATHAK

Beginning with two Lok Sabha members, the BJP's political journey that passed through the phases of the Ram Mandir movement, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's coalition era, 'Operation Kamal', successive electoral victories and a Congress-free India campaign, is now headed to create an opposition-free India.

After Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and now Goa, the opposition parties are continuously attacking the BJP and accusing it of intimidating and suppressing the opposition. Speaking to IANS on these allegations, a BJP leader associated with Maharashtra said that it is very important for a democracy to have a strong opposition, but it does not mean that it is the responsibility of the BJP to strengthen the opposition. He said that the opposition political parties are getting scattered because of their mistakes, so what can the BJP do about it? During his tenure as BJP President, Amit Shah used to often tell party leaders and workers that the time has come that the entire governance system from Panchayat to Parliament should be in the hands of the BJP. At that time, Shah used to cite the example that during the first few decades after Independence, the system from Panchayat to Parliament was in the hands of the Congress and now the BJP's time has come. Calling on the BJP workers to work hard, Shah also used to say that they should think of being victorious from Panchayat to Parliament for 50 years.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Shah became the Home Minister of the country and J.P. Nadda the national President of the BJP, but the party continued on its mission, winning election after election. In the party's national executive meeting held in Hyderabad recently, Amit Shah claimed that the BJP era would prevail in the country for the next 30-40 years.

During the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign, Narendra Modi, who was then nominated for the post of Prime Minister by the BJP, for the first time used the slogan of having a Congress-free India, which later all the BJP leaders would voice in their speeches and rallies. After winning the Lok Sabha election, Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. Rajnath Singh, who was heading the party at that time, was made the Home Minister by Modi and the then National General Secretary of the party and his closest friend Amit Shah was made BJP President.

The duo of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah worked hard to realise the slogan of a Congress-mukt Bharat. Both the government and the BJP together chalked out such a strategy that the party started winning elections one after the other and today the condition of the Congress has become such that it has its own governments in only two states



HE SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES ARE GETTING SCATTERED BECAUSE OF THEIR MISTAKES, SO WHAT CAN THE BJP DO ABOUT IT? DURING HIS TENURE AS BJP PRESIDENT, AMIT SHAH USED TO OFTEN TELL PARTY LEADERS AND WORKERS THAT THE TIME HAS COME THAT THE ENTIRE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM FROM PANCHAYAT TO PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE BJP. AT THAT TIME, SHAH USED TO CITE THE EXAMPLE THAT DURING THE FIRST FEW DECADES AFTER INDEPENDENCE, THE SYSTEM FROM PANCHAYAT TO PARLIAMENT WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE CONGRESS AND NOW THE BJP'S TIME HAS COME. CALLING ON THE BJP WORKERS TO WORK HARD, SHAH ALSO USED TO SAY THAT THEY SHOULD THINK OF BEING VICTORIOUS FROM PANCHAYAT TO PARLIAMENT FOR 50 YEARS. AFTER THE 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS, SHAH BECAME THE HOME MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY AND J.P. NADDA THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE BJP, BUT THE PARTY CONTINUED ON ITS MISSION, WINNING ELECTION AFTER ELECTION. IN THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD IN HYDERABAD RECENTLY, AMIT SHAH CLAIMED THAT THE BJP ERA WOULD PREVAIL IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT 30-40 YEARS. DURING THE 2014 LOK SABHA ELECTION CAMPAIGN, NARENDRA MODI, WHO WAS THEN NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER BY THE BJP, FOR THE FIRST TIME USED THE SLOGAN OF HAVING A CONGRESS-FREE INDIA, WHICH LATER ALL THE BJP LEADERS WOULD VOICE IN THEIR SPEECHES AND RALLIES. AFTER WINNING THE LOK SABHA ELECTION, NARENDRA MODI BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER. RAJNATH SINGH, WHO WAS HEADING THE PARTY AT THAT TIME, WAS MADE THE HOME MINISTER BY MODI AND THE THEN NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY AND HIS CLOSEST FRIEND AMIT SHAH WAS MADE BJP PRESIDENT.

- Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The Congress today is weak even in Parliament and also in legislatures across the country. The BJP is also working on a plan to oust the Congress from power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh in 2023.

But the BJP does not seem to be stopping here. The biggest dream of the BJP is still unfulfilled and that is to saffronise the states of South India as well as West Bengal. The BJP is trying vigorously for expansion in states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal. During the Hyderabad meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked all the parties over dynasty politics, he even termed dynasticism a curse for democratic politics.

After decimating the Congress, the BJP is now ready to take on the regional parties. In Maharashtra, the BJP has made its intentions clear by breaking away Eknath Shinde from Uddhav Thackeray and making him the Chief Minister with its support, also sending a signal

to the disgruntled leaders of other parties.

In fact, it is true that most of the regional parties in the country are dominated by a family and almost every political party has dissident leaders like Shinde. Recently Telangana BJP President, B. Sanjay Kumar had targeted Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, claiming that there are many like Eknath Shinde in his party TRS. Political experts may call it a new form of 'Operation Kamal', but the stand of the BJP is very clear that it is the responsibility of the leader and president of a particular party to keep their flock united and if they can't do it, then how can the BJP be held responsible for it.

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CANADA'S HOME SALES DOWN 23.9%, AVERAGE HOME PRICE \$665,850 IN JUNE 2022, DOWN 1.8% FROM LAST YEAR

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* The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average sale price posted a 1.8% year-over-year decline in June. Home sales recorded over Canadian MLS® Systems fell by 5.6% between May and June 2022. Although larger declines were recorded in April and May, monthly activity has dropped to slightly below average levels for the month of June. Sales were down in three-quarters of all local markets, led by Canada's biggest cities – the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Greater Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and Hamilton/Burlington to name a few. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) number of transactions in June 2022 came in 23.9% below the record for that month set last year. "Sales activity continues to slow in the face of rising interest rates and uncertainty," said Jill Oudil, Chair of CREA. "The cost of borrowing has overtaken supply as the dominant factor affecting housing markets at the moment, but the supply issue has not gone away. While some people may choose to wait on the sidelines as the dust settles in the wake of recent rate hikes, others will still engage in the market in these challenging times. Markets adjust to change and the guidance of your local REALTOR® is paramount. If you're looking to buy or sell in 2022, contact your local REALTOR® about how to navigate the current environment," continued Oudil. "One important feature of the market right now that isn't getting enough attention is the difference in mortgage qualification criteria between fixed and variable, because while variable rates adjust in real time, fixed rates have already priced in most of what the Bank of Canada is expected to do over the balance of 2022," said Shaun Cathcart, CREA's Senior Economist. "As such, it's no surprise to see people piling into variable rate mortgages at record levels, but probably not for the reasons they may have chosen them in the past. It's because the 200 basis points plus the contract rate element of the stress test has, just since April, become much more difficult to pass if you want a fixed-rate mortgage. A strict stress test made sense when rates were at a record-low, but policymakers may want to assess if it continues to meet its policy objectives now that fixed mortgage rates are back at more normal

levels." The number of newly listed homes climbed 4.1% on a month-over-month basis in June. The monthly increase was most influenced by a jump in new supply in Montreal, while new listings in the GTA and Greater Vancouver posted small declines. With sales down and new listings up in June, the sales-to-new listings ratio eased back to 51.7% — its lowest level since January 2015. It was also below the long-term average for the national sales-to-new listings ratio of 55.1%. Almost three-quarters of local markets were balanced markets based on the sales-to-new listings ratio being between one standard deviation above or below the long-term average in June 2022. There were 3.1 months of inventory on a national basis at the end of June 2022, still historically low but slowly increasing from the tightest conditions ever recorded just six months ago. The long-term average for this measure is more than five months. The Aggregate Composite MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) edged down 1.9% on a month-over-month basis in June 2022. Regionally, most of the monthly declines were seen in markets in Ontario. Home prices have also eased in parts of British Columbia, although the B.C. provincial totals have been propped up by mostly static prices in Greater Vancouver. Prices continue to be more or less flat across the Prairies while only just now showing small signs of declines in Quebec. On the East Coast, prices are mostly continuing to rise but appear to have stalled in Halifax-Dartmouth. The non-seasonally adjusted Aggregate Composite MLS® HPI was still up by 14.9% on a year-over-year basis in June, although this was just half the near 30% record year-over-year increases logged in January and February. The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average home price was \$665,850 in June 2022, down 1.8% from the same month last year. The national average price is heavily influenced by sales in Greater Vancouver and the GTA, two of Canada's most active and expensive housing markets. Excluding these two markets from the calculation in June 2022 cuts almost \$114,500 from the national average price.

RIPUDAMAN SINGH MALIK KILLING HAS HALLMARKS OF PROFESSIONAL 'HIT': BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EX-TOP COP

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"These are the hallmarks of a hit person or hit persons, doing this type of work, and it's quite common," Kash Heed said, referencing the similarities to other shootings that have occurred in B.C.'s Lower Mainland, some linked to the ongoing gang conflict, CTV News reported. "It's going to be a difficult investigation, and the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies are really going to have to step up their game and try and find a confidential informant," Heed said, adding that he believes police will have to find ways to guarantee the safety of anyone who assists with the investigation. "There are people that will know what occurred to Mr. Malik a couple of days ago in Surrey, B.C.," Heed said. "But they're not going to come forward if, in fact, they fear for their safety." Malik is known to most as one of two men acquitted in the 1985 Air India bombings. But the 75-year-old has a long history within both the Surrey business and Sikh communities. Independent journalist Gurpreet Singh said Malik was trying to get the rights to publish Sikh scriptures in Greater Vancouver, which outraged some separatist groups. "That tour was cancelled because of the backlash he was getting from the Sikh community," Singh said. "Malik was very upset about it, he acknowledged that during the conversation I had with him, but he never showed any signs of receiving any threats to his life," CTV News reported.

BANK OF CANADA RAISES RATE BY 1% TO 2.5%

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While global factors such as the war in Ukraine and ongoing supply disruptions have been the biggest drivers, domestic price pressures from excess demand are becoming more prominent. More than half of the components that make up the CPI are now rising by more than 5%. With this broadening of price pressures, the Bank's core measures of inflation have moved up to between 3.9% and 5.4%. Also, surveys indicate more consumers and businesses are expecting inflation to be higher for longer, raising the risk that elevated inflation becomes entrenched in price- and wage-setting. If that occurs, the economic cost of restoring price stability will be higher. Global inflation is higher, reflecting the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, ongoing supply constraints, and strong demand. Many central banks are tightening monetary policy to combat inflation, and the resulting tighter financial conditions are moderating economic growth. In the United States, high inflation and rising interest rates are contributing to a slowdown in domestic demand. China's economy is being held back by waves of restrictive measures to contain COVID-19 outbreaks. Oil prices remain high and volatile. The Bank now expects global economic growth to slow to about 3½% this year and 2% in 2023 before strengthening to 3% in 2024. Further excess demand has built up in the Canadian economy. Labour markets are tight with a record low unemployment rate, widespread labour shortages, and increasing wage pressures. With strong demand, businesses are passing on higher input and labour costs by raising prices. Consumption is robust, led by a rebound in spending on hard-to-distance services. Business investment is solid and exports are being boosted by elevated commodity prices. The Bank estimates that GDP grew by about 4% in the second quarter. Growth is expected to slow to about 2% in the third quarter as consumption growth moderates and housing market activity pulls back following unsustainable strength during the pandemic. The Bank expects Canada's economy to grow by 3½% in 2022, 1¾% in 2023, and 2½% in 2024. Economic activity will slow as global growth moderates and tighter monetary policy works its way through the economy. This, combined with the resolution of supply disruptions, will bring demand and supply back into balance and alleviate inflationary pressures. Global energy prices are also projected to decline. The July outlook has inflation starting to come back down later this year, easing to about 3% by the end of next year and returning to the 2% target by the end of 2024. With the economy clearly in excess demand, inflation high and broadening, and more businesses and consumers expecting high inflation to persist for longer, the Governing Council decided to front-load the path to higher interest rates by raising the policy rate by 100 basis points today. The Governing Council continues to judge that interest rates will need to rise further, and the pace of increases will be guided by the Bank's ongoing assessment of the economy and inflation. Quantitative tightening continues and is complementing increases in the policy interest rate. The Governing Council is resolute in its commitment to price stability and will continue to take action as required to achieve the 2% inflation target.

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ORANGEVILLE BRAMPTON RAILWAY HAS BEEN ACQUIRED FOR A NEW TRAIL SYSTEM IN PEEL

The Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon and City of Mississauga have finalized the acquisition of approximately 51km of the former Orangeville Brampton Railway corridor which run from the Caledon-Orangeville boundary to just north of Streetsville. The lands were purchased at a cost of \$5.8 million, funded from the Region’s Greenlands Securement Program, and have largely been transferred to the local municipalities, who will manage the multi-year process of developing the future of the lands, from design to construction and ongoing maintenance.

The acquisition is an excellent example of partnership between the Region and local municipalities, which will benefit the health and wellness of the community, support local business and become a significant regional tourism asset. It also provides a protected corridor for future utility needs. In addition, the lands offer the opportunity to secure a strategic north-south connection of the Trans Canada Trail System. Dignitaries from each municipal partner were in attendance at a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Region to commemorate the acquisition.

ONE-IN-FIVE VACCINATED CANADIANS SAY THEY DON’T BELIEVE SECOND BOOSTER SHOT IS EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING SERIOUS ILLNESS: POLL



An emerging seventh wave of the COVID-19 virus – spurred forth by the BA.5 variant of Omicron – has health officials proclaiming the need for up-to-date vaccination among Canadians. A new study from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds a population once boisterous about boosters now more hesitant. Three-in-five vaccinated Canadians (61%) say they’re ready and willing to get their next shot when eligible, led by men and women over the age of 54 (73% and 81% respectively). There is, however, an emerging schism among those willing to continue receiving a COVID-19 inoculation. For those who have already had three or four shots, willingness to keep boosting remains high. That said, among Canadians who say they have thus far received one or two doses just 17 per cent say they will seek another vaccine

dose, while three-in-five say no. Those who are keen would like their government to speed up the timeline for boosters. Overall, 54 per cent of Canadians say their province should offer a fourth dose to all adults who want one as soon as possible, while one-in-five (18%) would wait until the fall. Not everyone, however, is convinced that boosters are necessary or even effective. One-in-five (22%) Canadians now say they do not believe that keeping up with vaccinations gives a person protection against either infection or serious illness. Few of those who have received three (7%) or four doses (2%) agree. Vaccine producer Pfizer addressed concerns about this recently, stating that its vaccine has been tweaked to better target the Omicron strain, and that its fall boosters will increase effectiveness. Other major producers are expected to do the same.

York Police Charge 25 People, Seize \$1.7 Million Worth Of Drugs In Ontario Bust

Investigators with the York Regional Police Organized Crime and Intelligence Services – Major Projects Unit have made 25 arrests and dismantled a large-scale drug trafficking network that extended across Ontario. In June 2021, officers began an investigation into a drug trafficking network. The individuals initially investigated resided and trafficked controlled substances within York Region. As the investigation progressed, it was discovered that this group was also responsible for trafficking controlled substances throughout the Greater Toronto Area and into other areas of Ontario, including Durham Region, London and the Kawartha Lakes area. As this investigation grew in scope, a team of investigators from York Regional Police, the Durham Regional Police Service, the London Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Toronto Police Service established a joint-forces operation, dubbed Project Entrust. Through supportive funding provided by the Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario, York Regional Police and our partners investigated these individuals for more than a year, before systematically arresting and charging the suspects. Between June 2021 and June 2022, an investigative probe and 19 search warrants resulted in 25 people charged with 113 criminal offences. Officers seized approximately \$1.7 million worth of illegal drugs including: 7.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, 2.7 kilograms of cocaine, 18 grams of crack cocaine, 534 grams of fentanyl, 115 oxycodone pills, 89 hydromorphone pills, 48 Percocets and 27 Vyvanese pills. Investigators also seized \$23,000 in firearms, ammo and magazines and \$136,000 in Canadian



currency. Two stolen vehicles were recovered and one vehicle was seized as proceeds of crime. Photos highlighting the investigation can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/clfo/da5z1kq7guav2e1ulzehh/h?dl=0&rlkey=zq27ra676k9ljrupech7flc8> The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Major Projects Unit at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 6970, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips, leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

FEDS PROPOSE TO CAP OIL, GAS EMISSIONS USING INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC CARBON PRICING SYSTEM ACROSS CANADA

In the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, the Government of Canada committed to fighting climate change while creating jobs and building a strong economy for generations to come. Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, and the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, opened consultations on a key commitment in that plan: capping and cutting emissions from the oil and gas sector. The oil and gas sector is Canada’s largest and fastest growing source of emissions. To remain competitive in a tighter future market, Canadian production will have to reduce its carbon intensity while the sector also explores opportunities to transition to non-emitting products and services. Reducing oil and gas emissions is key to achieving Canada’s emission targets and driving meaningful climate action. It also will create sustainable, long-term economic growth and provide affordable, clean energy. The discussion paper released today to launch consultations outlines two options to establish the cap. A cap-and-trade system under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act that sets regulated limits on emissions from the sector; and Modifying the carbon pricing benchmark requirements for heavy emitters to create price-driven incentives to reduce emissions to levels corresponding to the cap. Core to either approach is the goal of lowering emissions at a pace and scale needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and make a meaningful contribution toward Canada’s 2030 emission reduction target. Also core to either approach is supporting investments in clean technologies to decarbonize the sector and create good, sustainable jobs. The Government of Canada expects to outline the design of the oil and gas emissions cap early next year, ahead of the next steps to implement the cap. The Government of Canada will work closely with provinces and territories, Indigenous groups, the oil and gas sector, and other stakeholders to provide certainty for industry and Canadians, while remaining attuned to evolving energy security considerations, and maximizing opportunities for ongoing investment in the sector. With record profits in the oil and gas sector, now is the time to work collaboratively on the path forward to ensure clean air, long-term economic success, and good jobs that will serve Canadians for generations to come.

PARDEEP BRAR, 26, OF BRAMPTON, SHOT DEAD INSIDE KING STREET NIGHTCLUB

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- * a 24-year-old woman was transported to hospital with non life-threatening injuries
- * a 26-year-old man was transported to hospital with life-threatening injuries
- * the man was pronounced deceased at the hospital
- * the woman was treated at the hospital and has since been released
- * there is no suspect information at this time

The victim has been identified as Pardeep Brar, 26, of Brampton. Any witnesses who were in the nightclub at the time of the shooting, or anyone with information or video of the shooting is asked to contact police at 416-808-7400, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com.



IMRAN MALIK, 45, FROM MILTON CHARGED IN RELATION TO ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION

Investigators from the Peel Regional Police Special Victims Unit have charged a 45-year-old Milton man in relation to a sexual assault investigation. It is alleged that the victim, a 19-year-old female, was sexually assaulted during a driving lesson. The victim did not sustain any physical injuries.



On Monday, July 17, 2022, police arrested and charged Imran Malik with the following offence:
* Sexual Assault
He will attend the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton at a later date. Imran Malik is not a current driving school employee. It is believed that a driving school in Brampton had previously employed him; however, he had been terminated by the driving school prior to the offence date. This investigation remains ongoing, and investigators believe there may be additional victims. Anyone that believes they may have been a victim, or anyone with information on this or any similar incident, is asked to contact investigators at the Special Victims Unit at 905-453-2121, extension 3460. Anonymous information may also be submitted by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. None of the allegations have been proven in court.

SUKHMANI HAVEN LAUNCHES TO SUPPORT PUNJABI INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

New non-profit organization will protect Punjabi international students from abuse and provide emotional, financial, housing and other support
Sukhmani Haven is a new not-for-profit organization that will advocate on behalf of and provide support for Ontario international students from the Punjab region. Launched in the city of Mississauga, Sukhmani Haven aims to provide emotional, financial, housing, and mental health support to Punjabi international students studying, working, and living in Peel Region and beyond. Sukhmani Haven will advocate for fair employment policies, protection from exploitation, funding for social infrastructure and other issues that affect the international student community. “Sukhmani Haven is helmed by a team of legal experts, experienced social workers, rights activists, and diverse Punjabi and Sikh community leaders,” says Baljit Singh Sikand Chair of Sukhmani Haven Board. “We have come together with a mission to improve the lives of international students in our community and hold all stakeholders accountable for their well being.” Sukhmani Haven believes that international students have a crucial role to play in building Canada’s future. However, presently, international students need support, education and information about their rights. Each year, thousands of international students migrate from Punjab, India, to Ontario, Canada, in search of a brighter future. But for international students in Canada, the path to a better life is often riddled with financial strains, abuse, exploitation, and isolation. “Almost 30% of international students studying in educational institutes in our region are from Punjab and many of them are young women from remote and rural parts of Punjab, says Deepa Mattoo, volunteer Member of the Board, Sukhmani Haven. “These female students are particularly vulnerable to abuse. They deserve safety and dignity regardless of their immigration status.” Sukhmani is a Punjabi word meaning: “a rosary of comfort”. While the organization is based in Mississauga it aims to advocate on behalf of and support students across the province. For more information visit sukhmanihaven.com or email info@sukhmanihaven.com



ONTARIANS AGED 18+ ELIGIBLE FOR SECOND BOOSTER SHOT

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is expanding eligibility for second booster doses to Ontarians aged 18 and over in order to provide an extra layer of protection to those who may need it. Eligible individuals can book an appointment through the COVID-19 vaccination portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900. Eligible individuals can also book an appointment directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics and participating pharmacies. Appointments are based on availability, which may vary by region. “As we continue to manage COVID-19 for the long term, we’re expanding second booster doses and extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests to give people the tools they need to stay safe and to ensure Ontario stays open,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Vaccines continue to be our best defence against COVID-19 and protecting our hospital capacity for those who need it most.”



Start construction of Delhi-Katra highway on fast-track: Punjab CM

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday issued a directive for starting the construction of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra National Highway on a fast-track mode.

Chairing a review meeting of the Public Works Department (PWD) here, the Chief Minister asked the officials to accord top priority to all approved and sanctioned works for their timely completion. He issued directions to ensure the department strictly adheres to the prescribed specifications for ensuring quality construction, maintenance and repair of the upcoming projects.

He said Delhi-Amritsar-Katra National Highway is an ambitious project, which once completed will save time, money and energy of commuters travelling from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir via Punjab. It will be beneficial for those desirous of paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Mann said the 254-km long Delhi-Katra highway will be constructed at a cost Rs 11,510 crore and will pass through nine districts of the

state — Jalandhar, Sangrur, Malerkotla, Patiala, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur.

The Chief Minister also asked the department to complete the work on construction of Aam Aadmi Clinics as per the fixed deadline of August 15. Mann envisioned that the clinics will act as catalyst for providing quality healthcare services to people.

He asked the department to speed up the process for starting work on the construction of the Sant Attar Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences in Sangrur coming up at an outlay of Rs 350 crore.

Reviewing other projects, the Chief Minister also directed the officers to complete the ongoing projects of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Law University in Kairon in Tarn Taran district, Sri Guru Ravidass Memorial Khuralgarh in Garhshankar in Hoshiarpur district, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Sports University in Patiala, Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji Skill Institute in Sri Chamkaur Sahib and the Centre of Interfaith Studies in Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar.

PUNJAB SETS UP DISABILITY CELL FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday ordered the formation of a dedicated disability cell for the welfare of persons with the disabilities.

An official statement quoting the Chief Minister said the formation of the dedicated cell was a long-pending demand.

He said the persons with disability had to face a lot of difficulties for availing the benefits of the several government schemes and programmes meant for their well-being.

Mann said most of the time they had to run pillar to post for getting

their work done.

The Chief Minister said this dedicated cell will be a single-window platform for the persons with disabilities to avail the benefits of these schemes.

Likewise, he said the persons with disability can lodge their complaints and give their suggestions to make the functioning of this cell more efficient.

Mann said this initiative will enable this section of society to live their lives with dignity and pride.

INDIA, CHINA AGREE TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE ISSUES: DEFENCE MINISTRY

A day after the 16th round of the India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held on the Indian side of the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point, the Defence Ministry on Monday said that “both sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels”.

“Building on the progress made at the last meeting on March 11, 2022, the two sides continued discussions for the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in a constructive and forward-looking manner,” the Defence Ministry said in a statement. “They (the two top military leaders) had a frank and in-depth exchange of views in this regard, in keeping with the guidance provided by the state leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest. The two sides reaffirmed that the resolution of remaining issues would help in restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations. “In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and



stability on the ground in the Western Sector. The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest,” the statement said.

OVER 163K RENOUNCED INDIAN CITIZENSHIP IN 2021, US TOP CHOICE

Over 1.63 lakh Indian nationals renounced their Indian citizenship during 2021, the highest during the last three years, the Parliament was told on Tuesday.

Data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Lok Sabha disclosed that the US was the top choice with almost half of Indians – 78,284 – preferring to become US citizens.

In 2021, as many as 1,63,370 Indians gave up their Indian passports. The corresponding number in the year 2019 and 2020 was 1,44,017 and 85,256, respectively.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, in a written reply, said that the reasons for these Indians renouncing their citizenship, which also means they have to surrender their Indian passport, was “personal to them”.

As per the data, shared in response to a query by Bahujan Samaj

Party member Haji Fazlur Rehman, showed that that after the US, Australia (23,533), Canada (21,597), the UK (14,637), Italy (5,986), New Zealand (2,643) and Singapore (2,516) were where Indians preferred to get citizenship.

So far as US citizenship is concerned, 78,284 Indians took up US citizenship in 2021, 30,828 in 2020, and 61,683 in 2019. All of them were based in the US itself while renouncing their Indian nationality. A total 41 Indian nationals based in Pakistan also gave up their Indian citizenship last year, compared to only seven in 2020.

Total 326 Indians renounced their citizenship while being in the UAE last year and applied for citizenship in countries such as Albania, France, Malta, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland, Grenada, Jordon, Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, among others.

HARYANA CM ANNOUNCES RS 1 CRORE COMPENSATION FOR DSP SURENDER SINGH KILLED BY MINING MAFIA

Expressing condolences on the unfortunate death of Deputy Superintendent of Police Surender Singh, who had gone to investigate an illegal mining case in Nuh, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday announced a relief of Rs 1 crore and job to one of the family members of the victim.

The state government is standing with the bereaved family in this hour of grief and strict action would surely be taken against those found guilty. Surender Singh was a brave officer and his bravery will always be remembered, he said, as per an official statement. The Chief Minister made this announcement in a programme held in Gurugram. During this, he along with all dignitaries who attended the programme observed a two-minute silence for the departed soul. Khattar assured the family that the culprits involved in this case would not be spared at all. He said strict action has been ordered in the matter. The culprits will be arrested as soon as possible and strict punishment will be given.

The DSP had gone to Nuh to investigate an incident of illegal mining. During the investigation, Surender Singh was allegedly crushed to death by a dumper driver.

After the incident, the search operation is on to nab the accused. Police officers are present at the spot and are investigating the matter.



WORLD

US RATTLED BY 40-YEAR-HIGH INFLATION RATE, FED TO GET AGGRESSIVE WITH INTEREST HIKES

With inflation at a staggering 13 per cent, WPI at 11 per cent and CPI at 9 per cent, the US economy is in a tailspin and American voters see this as a “Bad Economy” in a crucial year of the mid-term polls in 2022 where inflation goes on ballot as the Democrats and Republicans face off to capture the 435-member house of representatives in the upcoming election on November 8. Inflation, soaring gas prices, and rising groceries prices are all odds stacked against the Democrats as President Joe Biden’s rating is constantly falling since September of last year till date. The worst was 33 per cent in September 2021, bad for any incumbent president in the first year of governance. But gun legislation, and the executive order on abortion rights seem to have tilted the balance slightly with ratings going over 44 per cent. Voters see a bad economy, even if they’re doing OK, says a New York Times/Siena poll. There is remarkable pessimism despite the labor market’s resilience, and that could be costly for the Democrats, and the economy. The fastest inflation in 40 years has Americans feeling dour about the economy, even as their own finances have, so far, held up relatively well. Just 10 percent of registered voters say the US economy is “good” or “excellent”, according to the poll – a remarkable degree of pessimism at a time when wages are rising and the unemployment rate is near a 50-year low. But the rapidly rising cost of food, gas and other essentials is wiping out pay increases and eroding living standards.

American voters taking a grim outlook of the status of the country’s economy is actually bad news for President Biden and Congressional Democrats heading into this fall’s midterm elections, given that 78 percent of voters say inflation will be “extremely important” when they head to the polls. A Biden voter in 2020, Christina Simmons has more than doubled her salary in recent years but feels she is falling behind. She plans to vote for Republicans in the midterm elections. And that’s not a happy trend for the Democrats. The New York Times/Siena College poll of 849 registered voters from July 5 to 7 this year says it could be bad news for the economy as well. One long-running index of consumer sentiment hit a record low in June, as the CPI exploded to 9.1 per cent, and other surveys show Americans are getting mighty nervous about both their own finances and the economy, in general.

UKRAINE WAR: PRESIDENT ZELENSKY SUSPENDS SECURITY CHIEF, TOP

PROSECUTOR IN WAKE OF TREASON CASES

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has suspended the head of Ukraine’s spy agency (SBU) and the prosecutor general in the wake of treason cases in the two organisations.

President Zelenskyy on Sunday suspended Ivan Bakanov and Iryna Venediktova. However, the officials are yet to comment on their suspension. Over 60 former employees were now working against Ukraine in Russian-occupied areas, BBC reported quoting the Ukrainian President.

“Such an array of crimes against the foundations of the national security of the state... pose very serious questions to the relevant heads (of the two organisations),” President Zelenskyy said in a video address late Sunday night.

On the suspensions, Deputy Head of the President’s Office Andriy Smyrnov said that the President’s decision did not mean the dismissal of officials, Ukrinform reported.

Official checks will be carried out, after which the President will decide whether to file an appropriate motion at the parliament, Andriy Smyrnov said.

President Zelenskyy has assigned temporary duties of the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine to Vasyl Maliuk.

TURKEY TO FREEZE FINLAND, SWEDEN’S NATO BIDS IF THEY FAIL TO KEEP PROMISES: PRESIDENT ERDOGAN

Turkey will suspend Finland and Sweden’s NATO accession process if they do not keep promises on counter-terrorism, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

“I would like to remind you that we will freeze the process if they do not take the necessary steps to meet our terms,” Erdogan added on Monday at a press conference after a cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara, adding Sweden was “not showing a good image” for now. “Our stance is very clear. The rest is up to them,” he said. NATO’s 30 member states signed accession protocols for Sweden and Finland in early July, starting the process to admit the two Nordic countries into the military alliance, Xinhua news agency reported. The next step is for the parliaments of all NATO members to ratify their accession to NATO. Finland and Sweden’s NATO bid was initially blocked by Turkey, which accused them of “supporting” anti-Turkish terrorist groups as they rejected Ankara’s extradition requests for suspects affiliated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and the Gulen movement.

PAKISTAN, CHINA DISCUSS EXTENDING CPEC TO AFGHANISTAN

The senior officials of Pakistan and China discussed the possibility of extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan in order to promote economic development and prosperity in the war-ravaged country, local media reported.

The idea to extend the flagship programme of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was discussed during a meeting between China’s special envoy on Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at the Foreign Office in Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported. An official statement said the two sides exchanged views on the political and security situation in Afghanistan, humanitarian assistance by Pakistan and China to Afghanistan, and other matters of mutual interest. “In the context of regional connectivity, both sides exchanged views on extension of CPEC to Afghanistan to promote economic development and prosperity,” read the statement, Express Tribune reported. The foreign secretary underscored Pakistan’s commitment to a peaceful, stable, prosperous and connected Afghanistan. He highlighted the provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan including Pakistan’s relief efforts in the wake of devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on June 22.



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