



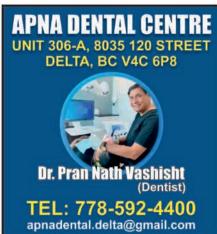
Saturday Dec 30, 2023



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From Provincial Triumphs to Local Challenges: BC's Year in Review

s we bid farewell to 2023, Ait's time to reflect on the stories that shaped British Columbia over the past year. From overdose crisis, policing in Surrey, or BC's housing initiatives, Canada's diplomatic row over murder of Sikh separatist leader in BC, the province has been at the forefront of both provincial and national headlines, sometimes navigating challenges and sometimes celebrating triumphs. Here's a recap of the top news stories that captivated British Columbians in 2023.

The Opioid Crisis

BC battled with drug overdose crisis throughout the year. The province has already recorded more than 2000 unregulated drug-related deaths in 2023. People were dying every day from overdose because of an unregulated and highly-toxic drug supply. According to BC Coroner unregulated drug toxicity is the leading cause of death in British Columbia for persons aged 10 to 59, accounting for more deaths homicides, suicides, accidents, and natural disease combined. The lives of at least 13,112 British Columbians have been lost to unregulated drugs since the public health emergency was first declared in April 2016.

The province made national headlines when it embarked on a first-in-Canada experiment at the beginning of this year with the decriminalization of small amounts of certain drugs in an effort to realign its response to the toxic drug poisoning













exemption, adults (18 years and older) in B.C. are not arrested or charged for possessing small amounts of certain illegal drugs for personal use. The pilot project is scheduled to last until Jan. 31, 2026. As project enters second year project, the reviews are mixed and province is making amendments as per requirements.

In September, the Province prohibited the possession



in a playground, a spray or wading pool, or a skate park. According to BC government, "Decriminalization is just one tool in the Province's toolbox in the fight against the toxic drug crisis. The B.C. government is working to build an integrated system of mental-health and addictions care that works for everyone."

Policing in Surrey

Surrey's transition from the

Police Service made national headlines throughout year. Current Mayor Brenda Locke narrowly beat Doug McCallum McCallum had advocated for and overseen the first steps in the police transition to the SPS. Locke won the municipal elections on the mandate of keeping the RCMP in Surrey as the police of jurisdiction. The mayor has been trying to halt the



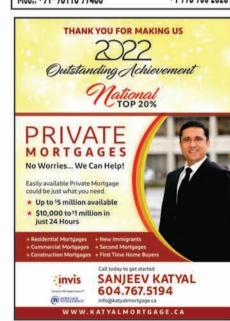
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BC Suspends Licence Of Chohan Trucking Company Following Repeated Collisions With Overpass

VICTORIA, BC: In a response to a trucking company's repeated collisions with overpasses, Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, announced the suspension of Chohan Freight Forwarders Ltd.'s ability to operate in British Columbia.

The truck struck the 112th Street overpass in the southbound lanes of Highway 99. The decision, effective as of 4:30 p.m. (Pacific time) on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, comes as a result of the company's sixth infrastructure crash in just two years.

Minister Fleming emphasized the need for urgent intervention, stating, "This needs to stop. We know that the vast majority of commercial drivers in B.C. operate safely and responsibly. However, some operators are not getting the message."

The suspension action was taken by B.C.'s Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement branch (CVSE), which has recently been granted increased powers to address safety concerns. The suspension entails the revocation of Chohan Freight Forwarders Ltd.'s safety certificate, rendering its entire fleet of 65 commercial vehicles unable to operate within the



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province.

"In the interest of public safety," Minister Fleming asserted, "we are taking decisive action. The driver and the carrier responsible for the repeated crashes will face the toughest fines in the country. Furthermore, the outcome of the investigation could lead to additional measures."

This move follows the government's recent announcement of heightened fines and the authority to suspend fleets, signaling a commitment to ensuring safe and reliable highway traffic for both travelers and commercial vehicles.

"This suspension is a direct consequence of the company's unwillingness or inability

to operate safely within the province," Minister Fleming continued. "Our goal is to keep highway traffic moving safely and reliably, so people can count on their commute without compromising public safety."

BC government introduced specific amendments to the Commercial Transport Regulations and the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations bring in new offences and higher fines to address over-height vehicles and loads, as well as require dump-style vehicles to have in-cab warning devices by June 1, 2024.

This will alert a driver if the dump box is raised when the vehicle is in motion. The over-height vehicle related fines will be \$575 (previously \$115), making this the highest fine of its nature in Canada. Not complying with having in-cab warning devices in dump trucks will result in a fine of \$598.

"Infrastructure crashes have a huge impact. They delay commuters, affect the movement of goods and can impede first responders. This means families, businesses and the economy all suffer," said Fleming.

Shots Fired at House in Surrey

Shots were fired at a residence in Surrey. Surrey RCMP is investigating the incident.

Although police have not revealed the identity of the residents living in the house, according to media reports it is the house of Surrey Lakshmi Narayan Mandir president's son house.

Satish Kumar while appearing in an interview to an Indian news channel confirmed that it was his son's house that was shot with bullets.

Police confirmed that there was a shooting at a residence in the 14900 block of 80 Avenue, Surrey.

According to police, no one was

injured

According to Constable Parmbir Kahlon, Media Relations Officer of Surrey Police, the residence involved sustained damage consistent with bullet holes.

"On December 27, at approximately 8.03 am, Surrey RCMP responded to a report of shots fired at a residence in

the 14900 block of 80 Avenue. No one was injured, but the residence involved sustained damage consistent with bullet holes. Police remained in the area, examining the scene, speaking with witnesses and canvassing the neighbourhood for CCTV footage. The Surrey RCMP General Investigation

Unit is conducting the investigation. Officers are working to determine the motive. Anyone with more information, including dash cam footage of the incident, is asked to contact the Surrey RCMP," the Surrey Police said in a press release. The identities and motives of the perpetrators are not known yet.

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Canada Police Soon To Arrest Accused In Hardeep Nijjar Killing Case: Report

In the latest update to the India-Canada Hardeep Nijjar earlier this year, the two him in British Columbia are being

I diplomatic row over the killing of men who, authorities suspect, fatally shot watched by police and are anticipated to be arrested in the next few weeks, The Globe and Mail reported citing

> According to a report in Globe and Mail three sources told the newspaper that the suspected killers never left Canada after Mr. Nijjar's slaying and have been under police surveillance for months. Two of the sources said the RCMP are expected to make arrests and lay charges in the coming weeks.

> The sources said police will explain the alleged assassins' involvement and that of the Indian government when charges are laid against the two men. The Globe is not identifying the sources because they were not authorized to discuss national-security and police matters. It is not known whether the RCMP are expected to arrest any suspected accomplices in the slaying. The Washington Post reported in September, citing video footage and witness accounts, that at least six men and two vehicles were involved in the killing of Mr. Nijjar. The ties between India and Canada have been strained after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in the murder of Hardeep Nijjar on Canadian soil earlier this year.

> Nijjar was shot dead outside a Surrey gurdwara in June.

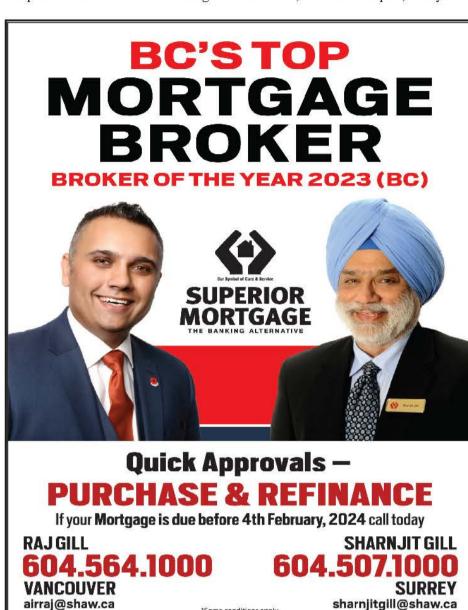
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said that Canadian intelligence had identified "credible allegations" of a link between Mr. Nijjar's death

TOP NEWS

and agents of the Indian state. He made the announcement in the House of Commons on Sept. 18.

New Delhi has denied any involvement in Mr. Nijjar's death, insisting that Canada has not shared credible evidence to show Indian agents were behind the slaving.

India on Friday said it has no information on the matter. "We certainly do not have any information on that," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.





BC's Premier David Eby Delivers Heartwarming Christmas Gifts to Seniors at PICS Assisted Living





o celebrate the Christmas I season, the premier of Columbia, David Eby marked a visit to the PICS Assisted living facility located in Surrey. According to Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society, "Over 100 residents of the facility took an active part in the performances, speeches and other interactive activities."

The event was also graced by Adrian Dix (Minister of Health), Rachna Singh (Minister of Education and Child Care), Harry Bains (Minister of Labour), Garry Begg (MLA Surrey-Guildford), Bruce Ralston (Minister of Forests).

A special induction ceremony was organised for all the dignitaries and they were offered PICS jackets and were welcomed into the PICS Family.

Eby during his remarks said, "The health authority is funding a new electric bus for the seniors of PICS assisted living. It is a no pollution transport, which is a great news and also effective transportation to get around the community".

Adding to this the Health Minister shared "I have been supporting PICS from decades and going forward the long-term care for seniors will be one more step that allows a continuous care to the seniors as their needs at 70 is not the same as their needs at 80 or 90". He referred this to the upcoming Guru Nanak Diversity Village initiative by the PICS

PICS President and CEO, Satbir Cheema welcomed and thanked Premier Eby for attending the Christmas celebrations at the PICS Seniors Housing facility. He said, "Your visit here is in fact a perfect 'Christmas Gift' for our seniors. You were always a good 'Friend of PICS' but by joining us for the Christmas celebrations of our seniors, you have now become part of the PICS family.'

He also informed that Premier Eby will also be the Chief Guest at the "Friends of PICS" gala and fundraiser on April 12th, 2024.





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Surrey RCMP Arrest 11 Retail Thieves In Newton

Surrey RCMP South Community Response Unit (CRU) made multiple arrests and seized hundreds of dollars worth of stolen merchandise while conducting a "Boost and Bust' enforcement project targeting retail thieves in Newton.

On December 13, 2023, South CRU partnered up with the Surrey RCMP Police Mental Health Outreach Team (PMHOT), Transit Police, Transit Security and several Prevention Officers working at local businesses within the Newton Core to target shoplifters during the holiday season.

South CRU made a total of 11 arrests and recovered approximately thirteen hundred dollars of stolen goods. Multiple bans were imposed at the discretion of business owners along with 2 individuals are being charged with theft under \$5000. In addition, PMHOT was utilized to provide outreach referrals for those suffering from addiction and/or homelessness. "Thefts around the holiday season can greatly impact operations the daily business owners. The targeted enforcement of the South CRU officers in collaboration with the Loss Prevention Officers working at the local businesses helps to put a stop to criminal activity in the area," said S/Sgt. Jagjit Saran of the Community Response Unit.

Two arrested in connection to extortion investigation in Surrey; Police seeking information about a vehicle of interest

Currey RCMP has arrested Itwo men in connection to an ongoing extortion investigation and investigators are seeking public's assistance for information related to a suspect vehicle.

On December 28, 2023, Surrey RCMP arrested two men in a residential area of Cloverdale. The men, both in their twenties from Surrey, were transported to Surrey RCMP Detachment and they were later released pending further investigation.

"Surrey RCMP has a dedicated team of investigators who have been working around the clock on

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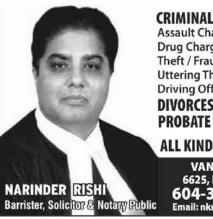
this investigation," says Sergeant the vehicle, please contact Surrey Derek Bonner of the Surrey RCMP Serious Crime Unit. "These arrests are a significant development in this ongoing investigation," added Bonner. Investigators are releasing a photo of a vehicle of interest to advance the investigation. The vehicle is described as a white, Audi e-tron, between the years 2019 and 2023. "We believe this vehicle was used during an incident in White Rock on December 4, 2023 at 12:09 a.m. in which shots were fired at a residence in the 13900-block of Marine Drive," says Sergeant Derek Bonner. "If you recognize

RCMP and if you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or www.solvecrime.ca," said Sergeant Bonner.

Surrey RCMP encourages any business owners who have been threatened to please call your local police department. If you are targeted in an extortion attempt, do not engage with the suspect and do not send any money, instead contact local police immediately. Anyone with more information is asked to contact the Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502, and quote file number 2023-193212.



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Two Targeted Shootings At Richmond's Local Restaurants

Richmond RCMP Major Crime Unit was investigating 2 shootings at local eateries that took place on December 18th and December 20th of 2023.

Police responded to local restaurants for reports of shots being fired. The first restaurant was located in the 8500 block of Bridgeport Road while the second, was located in the 7900 block of Alderbridge Way. Both shootings occurred when the restaurants were closing - the first around 10:30 p.m., and second around 11:30 p.m. "The safety of our community remains our paramount priority and the investigations

are being actively spearheaded by the

Richmond RCMP Major Crime Unit. At this time, these shootings appear targeted and are not connected to the BC Gang conflict. There will be increased police activity in these areas as our investigation unfolds," said cpl. Dennis Hwang, Richmond Media Relations Unit.

Major Crime Unit investigators are asking for information, witnesses, or video/dashcam footage to contact Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crimestoppers by phone at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visit them online at www.solvecrime.ca. Released by:



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Asbestos Licensing, Certification Required By Jan. 1, 2024

New rules to enhance safety for workers doing asbestos removal, transportation and disposal will come into effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

The rules will require asbestos-abatement employers to be licensed and ensure their workers are certified to perform this work. B.C. is the first jurisdiction in Canada to enforce a formal licensing program related

Asbestos abatement work includes removing, repairing, transporting and disposing of asbestos or materials that may contain

Asbestos-related diseases are the number 1 cause of workplace-related deaths in B.C., more than any other type of workplace injury or illness. In 2022, asbestos exposure was a contributing factor in 61 of 181 workplace deaths. Over the past decade, WorkSafeBC accepted more than 500 claims for workers who were killed



& certification required by Jan 1

WorkSafeBC has the authority to oversee the employer licensing program as well as worker certification. WorkSafeBC started accepting licence applications in September 2023 and an online registry of licensed employers is now available. The required training for worker certification was launched in June 2023, so that workers can be certified by Jan. 1, 2024.

To keep workers and the public safe from the dangers of asbestos, changes were made to the Workers Compensation Act in 2022 to strengthen regulatory requirements for asbestos-abatement work. Employers and workers have been given sufficient time to comply with the new rules.

Employers and workers should visit the WorkSafeBC website if the work they do requires a licence or a certificate.

To find approved training providers for worker certification, visit: https://www. worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/education-training-certification/asbestos-training-certification-licensing/find-training



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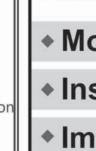
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Continued from Page 01

From Provincial Triumphs to...

The province, Surrey Police Service and the city went back and forth and prepared reports to support their cases. BC's public safety Minister Mike Farnworth rejected city's corporate report on moving back to the Surrey RCMP as it failed to demonstrate that moving back to the RCMP will be safe and not affect other communities throughout the province. The province ordered the city to move forward with the transition, however Mayor Locke did not bend down to the pressure.

The City filed a petition with the Supreme Court for a judicial review of BC's order of July 19, 2023 that asked the city to continue with the transition to the Surrey Police Service. The province then introduced changes to the existing Policing Act which specified that the City of Surrey must provide policing services through a municipal police department, giving the minister the authority to cancel the existing agreement between the Province and the City of Surrey for the RCMP's services and providing government the ability to appoint an administrator to assume the functions of the Surrey Police Board to manage the Surrey Police Service.

"This takeover of policing by the province will cost Surrey taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and result in a double-digit, NDP imposed tax increase." Locke said residents could be facing a 20 per cent tax hike to change to a municipal force, adding that the costs would not be a one-time increase but "generational."

Ironically, the mayor's only argument for keeping the RCMP in Surrey is to save tax payer's money. Whereas the Mayor is being criticized for wasting tax payer's money in procrastinating the policing transition from RCMP to Surrey Police Service. Every counter step to stop the transition is putting an extra burden on Surrey residents as they are paying to maintain two police forces in one jurisdiction.

Housing legislation

Canadians through out the country grappled with rising mortgages and housing crisis. The BC government appointed Ravi Kahlon as new housing minister. The BC government's April 2023 Homes for People (HFP) plan marked an important step forward towards

better managing and regulating housing in the province. Focused on four priorities unlocking more homes faster; delivering better, more affordable homes; helping those with the greatest housing need; and creating a housing market for people, not speculators - the actions in Homes for People include: offering forgivable loans for homeowners to build and rent secondary suites below market rates to increase affordable rental supply quickly; building thousands more affordable homes for renters, Indigenous Peoples on and off reserve, women and children leaving violence, and building thousands more on-campus student housing units; delivering thousands of new homes near public transit, and launching BC Builds to use public land to deliver affordable homes for people; introducing a flipping tax to discourage short-term speculation; providing an annual income-tested tax credit of up to \$400 per year for renters; providing more homes and supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness; streamlining and modernizing permitting to reduce costs and speed up approvals to get homes built faster; and strengthening enforcement of short-term rentals.

Canada India diplomatic standoff

The province of BC made international headlines when Hardeep Singh Nijjar, president of Surrey, BC gurdwara was shot dead in his truck by two masked gunmen. Nijjar was a vocal Khalistan supporter. Following the shooting, hundreds of Nijjar supporters took to the streets in BC, Toronto, along with a handful others in cities like London, Melbourne and San Francisco, to protest against the Indian government, which they believe is responsible for his death. While Canadian law enforcement agencies are still investigating, in September Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood up in the parliament and made a bombshell announcement alleging Indian government involvement in the shooting of Nijjar. He said that Canadian intelligence had identified "credible allegations" of a link between his death and agents of the Indian state. Trudeau's announcement sparked diplomatic stand-off between the two countries. It also brought Indian government under international radar.

The Indian government denied any hand in the murder. Canada announced it has paused talks on a landmark free-trade agreement with India in September, and at a G20 meeting between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Canada of not doing enough to quell "anti-India" sentiments on Canadian soil. New Delhi also halted visa services to Canada but later decided to resume services. Justin Trudeau had also accused New Delhi of violating the Vienna Convention by "kicking out" diplomats at a time when his country had reached out to the former and other global partners to get to the bottom of the murder. In an interview with the Financial Times, PM Modi said, "If someone gives us any information, we would definitely look into it".

BC's worst Wildfires season

The province faced one of its most challenging wildfire seasons in recent memory. Devastating wildfires swept through several regions, prompting evacuations and putting firefighting resources to the test. More than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land was burned, tens of thousands of people forced to evacuate, hundreds of homes and structures lost or damaged, impacts to cultural values, ecological values, infrastructure and local economies, indirect economic impacts to agriculture, tourism and other weatherdependent businesses, unquantifiable impacts to people's health and wellbeing. Many local non profit organizations like Surrey's Guru Nanak Food Bank (GNFB) provided vital assistance to the Central Okanagan Food Bank during these challenging times.

This season was emotionally challenging and will always be remembered for the tragic loss of six members of B.C.'s wildland firefighting community. A comprehensive and progressive emergency management framework was introduced this fall through the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, along with the announcement of the expert task force on emergencies, with representatives from First Nations, local governments, provincial government and more.

Anti-SOGI protests

Thousands took to the streets BC-wide to demonstrate their opposition and support for imparting SOGI 123 curriculum in Canadian schools. SOGI 123 stands for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. According to SOGI website, "SOGI-inclusive education is about students having conversations about the

SOGI diversity in society and the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect." Anti-SOGI protests were organized under banner 1 Million March 4 Children, advocating for the elimination of SOGI curriculum in schools. They termed SOGI-inclusive education policies, as "the sexualization and indoctrination of our children in schools." There is no specific SOGI curriculum in B.C., however K-12 students have subjects around human rights, respecting diversity, and responding to discrimination. Politicians, public figures, and education boards across the country released statements condemning the protests as being hateful and permissive of violence against LGBTQIA+ people.

Healthcare crisis

BC's premier David Eby and health Minister Adrian Dix broke ground on the second promised hospital. While many welcomed the news, many called it an insufficient effort compared to the rapidly growing population of Surrey. Surrey's new hospital will be built beside the Kwantlen Polytechnic University campus at 5500 180 Street. The new Surrey hospital will have inpatient beds, an emergency department, operating rooms, laboratory and diagnostic services, and outpatient services, with a state-of-the-art BC Cancer Care Centre. Dr. Randeep Gill, an Emergency Room physician at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) who has been advocating for more healthcare funding South of the Fraser, in an interview with The Link has appreciated these efforts but contended that they fall short of resolving the crisis. Despite the promised new hospital with over 150 acute care beds, he insisted that this won't suffice for the province's fastestgrowing community. Dr. Gill emphasized that Surrey remains at 300 percent less capacity than Vancouver while dealing with an increasing immigrant and at-risk population. Gill organized a rally on September 9th to put a spotlight on five critical healthcare issues in the region like unbalanced resource allocation between the north and south of the Fraser; insufficient bed capacity and inadequate hospital infrastructure; lack of a health services plan aligned with demographics and evidencebased requirements; limited access to primary and community care services, including a shortage of family doctors; and inadequate funding for specialized tertiary services like cardiac, trauma, maternity, pediatric, interventional radiology, and diagnostics.



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Police In Toronto Area Launch Task Force In **Response To South Asian Business Extortion Investigations**

The troubling incidents of extortion Largeting businesses in Surrey and Vancouver have extended to various cities across Canada. Peel Regional Police in Ontario informed that they were investigating extortion attempts that are primarily targeted towards members of South Asian business community.

Victims are contacted through a variety of social media platforms and demands for money are made under threats of violence, which have occurred in some incidents. Nine incidents are currently being investigated.

On December 9, 2023, Peel Regional Police arrested Tanmanjot Gill, a 23-year-old man from Abbotsford, British Columbia, for discharging a gun and firing multiple rounds at a business near Rutherford Road South and Clark Boulevard in Brampton.

Officers are looking for a second suspect, described as a South Asian male of medium build wearing a grey sweatshirt at the time of the incident, who later changed into a black sweatshirt with a white X on the back. If observed, call 9-1-1, and do not approach the suspect as he may be armed. In response to these incidents, Peel Regional Police has launched an Extortion Investigative Task Force (EITF). This will be a dedicated team comprised of investigative and intelligence units supported by our tactical teams. The EITF will continue to work with community members and other law-enforcement agencies on the investigations.

"This has caused grave safety and security concerns among our community members," said Chief Nishan Duraiappah. "Terrorizing our residents will not be tolerated and Peel Regional Police will devote the resources to pursue those who



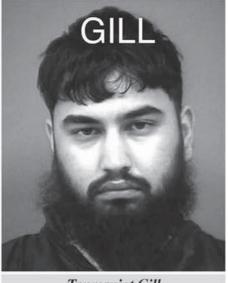
Outstanding Suspect

are responsible."

Police in Vancouver, Surrey and Abbotsford too are investigating reports of investigation. One of Surrey's busiest business plazas bustling with shoppers was under attack two days in a row this week. On November 22, there was an armed robbery and the next day early morning there were confirmed reports of shots fired at a business.

Surrey RCMP too become aware of extortions targeting business owners throughout the Lower Mainland and is encouraging anyone who may be a victim to call police.

"If you are a business owner in Surrey and have received any threats either directly or indirectly, we strongly encourage you to call Surrey RCMP," said Surrey RCMP Media Relations Officer Corporal Sarbjit Sangha. "It has come to our attention that some potential victims have spoken with



Tanmanjot Gill

local media and have not made police reports. In order for police to investigate

these incidents, they must be reported." The Abbotsford Police too has become aware of multiple businesses receiving the same letter requesting they pay money in exchange for protection from future violence. The letter cites recent reported events in Abbotsford, yet no connection has been confirmed.

"Our preliminary investigation indicates that these letters may have been sent en masse to commercial businesses. The letter is generic in nature and does not specify the business recipient or indicate a method of payment, contact, or communication.

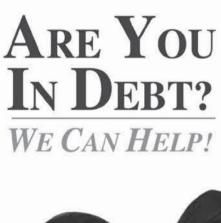
Based on the nature of the letter, the AbbyPD wants to remind members of our community not to engage with suspect(s). In this instance, the letter targets multiple businesses in the hopes that one will engage with the suspect(s)," Cst. Art Stele Media Relations Officer.

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Sher Vancouver Files Formal Complaint Against Recall Campaign Of Bc Education Minister

SURREY, BC: Sher Vancouver, an organization committed to LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusivity, has filed a complaint with Elections BC against the disturbing developments surrounding the recall campaign targeting Minister of Education and MLA for Surrey Green-Timbers, Rachna Singh.

The organization says that it condemns "the escalating misinformation, blatant lies, bullying, harassment, and queerphobia that have become pervasive elements of this campaign."

From street side protests at schools where kids are bullied while leaving school, to public spaces where a strong atmosphere of queerphobia pervades, we now see Surrey residents of all kinds feeling unsafe in their own neighborhoods.

"We stand by the right of any citizen to launch a recall campaign but always within reasonable limits as defined by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The continued use of defamatory language, the use of slander, and libel in materials provided, and across media, raise grave concerns as to the nature of this recall to begin with. Democracy cannot be distorted and weaponized against 2SLGBTQIA+ people to deny them their human rights," stated Sher Vancouver Founder Alex Sangha.

"The BC education system has made great strides in including all voices, all students, and instead of perpetuating harm, the education system is ensuring human rights are of foremost importance. What are parents of queer kids going to do if their children are facing constant in person and online bullying and being denied their rights to their identities? Having to face a barrage of unsafe spaces because some folks simply lack understanding or refuse to acknowledge any other opinion other than their own? We all have a gender identity, we all have a sexual orienta-



Sher Vancouver Founder Alex Sangha

tion, we have no right to deny anyone's gender or identity. The only ideology present in this recall campaign is one of homophobia and transphobia to erase the existence of queer human beings," stated

Sher Vancouver Board Member Annie

Sher Vancouver stands by educators and education system. "With this being said we have filed a formal complaint with Elections BC with the specific concerns and evidence we have of a recall campaign that continues to engage in hate, and vitriol. There is a way to raise legitimate concerns with our elected representatives, this recall campaign against the Hon. Rachna Singh violates the BC Human Rights Code in our view," he said. A petition to recall Surrey-Green Tim-

A petition to recall Surrey-Green Timbers MLA Rachna Singh was approved by Elections BC in November. The petition was filed by Gurdeep Jassal of Surrey.

Jassal has until Jan. 29, 2024 to collect signatures from more than 40 per cent of eligible voters registered in the riding. In a video posted on several social media websites under the username @recall-

rachna, Amrit Birring said they want Singh, B.C.'s minister of education, recalled because he believes children are being sexualized in B.C. schools "under her watch." Birring is the leader of the Freedom Party of B.C., which has organized marches in Surrey as part of an ongoing campaign to "boot SOGI123 from BC Schools." The group has also called on Singh to resign multiple times.



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New website for speedy grievance redressal of NRIs

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann this week launched a new website, nri.punjab.gov. in, for speedy grievance redressal of NRIs.

Chairing a meeting of the NRI Affairs department here, he announced to hold special meetings with NRIs, christened NRI Milnis, across the state from February 3.

Mann directed the officials to ensure speedy redressal of grievances and issues faced by the NRIs. Besides, he also asked the department to showcase to the NRIs those areas and places in the state that they had never seen before.

The CM also announced to open a help centre at the IGI airport in Delhi to help and facilitate Punjabis.



Set In Surrey A New Police Drama Focusing On Sikh Cop Will Premier In 2024

Cet and filmed in Surrey, a new OCBC police drama called "Allegiance" will be premiered in 2024.

CBC and Lark Productions announced casting and production details for Anar Ali's (Transplant) character-driven police procedural ALLEGIANCE, now in production in Vancouver and BC's lower mainland, according to a release posted on CBC

The drama is a character-driven police procedural about identity and belonging, policing and politics, and finding truth within the heart of a flawed justice system. The drama stars Supinder Wraich as Sabrina Sohal, a star rookie police officer who must grapple with the limits of the justice system as she fights to exonerate her politician father Ajeet Sohal (played by Stephen Lobo).

Sohal serves her diverse hometown of Surrey alongside Vince Brambilla (played by Enrico Colantoni), a veteran training officer who sees her potential but doesn't always agree with her forward-thinking methods. Allegiance is the story of a young woman caught between her allegiance to her flag, to her badge, and to her family.

"CBC greenlit this thoughtful and timely drama because it will offer audiences an emotionally gritty yet hopeful story that hasn't been told before, reflecting the complexities of policing and justice in contemporary Canada from multiple perspectives," said Sally Catto, General Manager, Entertainment, Factual & Sports, CBC. "We can't wait to watch as Lark Productions, Anar, Mark, Stephanie and this remarkable cast bring Allegiance to life."

A CBC Original Series ALLEGIANCE is produced by Lark Productions in association with Universal International Studios, a division of Universal Studio Group, with NBCUniversal Global Distribution handling the distribution of the series globally. Showrunners Stephanie Morgenstern and Mark Ellis also serve as Executive Producers with Series Creator Anar Ali, alongside Lark Productions' Erin Haskett, Nicole Mendes, David Valleau and Tex Antonucci. For CBC, Sally Catto is General Manager,



SATURDAY DEC 30, 2023 A11

Supinder Wraich in character as 'Sabrina Sohal' in a unit still from the CBC original series ALLEGIANCE

Entertainment, Factual & Sports; Trish Williams is Executive Director, Scripted Content; Sarah Adams is Director of Current Production, Drama; and Gosia Kamela is Executive in Charge of Production.

Brampton's Jagdish PANDHER identified as suspect in Hindu Temple Break-and-Enters

Police have identified the suspect of breaking into the temple and taking a multiple break-and-enters at Hindu temples.

Jagdish Pandher, age 41 from Brampton is facing charges for numerous offences including: Break-and-Enter Place Other Than Dwelling x4. Possess Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5000 x4, Breakand-Enter with Intent x1, and Breach of Probation x5.

On Sunday, October 8, 2023, at approximately 12:45 a.m., members of West Division responded to reports of a breakand-enter in progress at a Hindu temple in the area of Bayly Street and Krosno Boulevard in Pickering.

A male was seen on security surveillance

large quantity of cash from the donation boxes. The male fled the area prior to police arrival. The male was seen on surveillance footage later that morning committing additional break-and-enters at Hindu temples in Pickering and Ajax. Investigators have linked the same suspect to numerous other break-and-enters at Hindu temples throughout the year. These break-and-enters occurred in Durham Region and around the Greater Toronto Area.

"Although these offences occurred at places of worship, they do not appear to be hate crimes or motivated by hate," said police in a press release.

He was held for a bail hearing. Anyone that has any information about these incidents is asked to contact D/

Cst. Aselton of the West Division Property Crimes Unit at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 2535



Firdaus Kharas gets one of **Canada's highest honours**

Firdaus Kharas, an India-born entrepreneur and thought leader, has been appointed as an officer of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours, for advancing social change through human-centred media.

The annual list of 2023 appointees to the Order of Canada was released by Governor General of Canada Mary Simon on Thursday.

The Order of Canada is one of the country's highest honours. It recognises people across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to Canada.

Simon's office announced three new highest level of the Order of Canada — their insignia. The dates of these cere-15 officers, including one honorary offi- monies will be announced in due course.

cer and 59 members.

Kharas, 68, had been appointed officer of the Order of Canada "for advancing social change through human-centred media as a social entrepreneur, humanitarian and mass communications media producer"

"I am deeply moved to receive this high honour, which is especially meaningful to me as an immigrant. Although a high achieving community, Parsis are a minuscule community numbering only 3,600 in Canada, so it is extremely satisfying to be noticed in this way," Kharas said in a statement.

Appointees will be invited to an investiappointments of "companions" — the ture ceremony at a later date to receive



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RESTORATIONS

1,350 Toys Donated to Help Families in Need of Christmas Support Family Honours Legacy with Uncle Vinny's Toy Drive







The family of the late Vinny Maan, a beloved personality who loved Christmas, continued the tradition of honouring his legacy of spreading love and cheer through the third annual Uncle Vinny's Toy Drive.

Last week, The Salvation Army loaded up a rental truck with over 1,350 toys that were collected by the family to take to their Christmas Toy Shop, a special display of toys for children that otherwise would not be able to afford Christmas gifts and is set up in a way that allows families the dignity to choose their own gifts.

"It's because of this toy drive that we'll be able to serve up to 500 families who may have gone without Christmas this year if it wasn't for the generosity of this family," said Tamara Randlesome, Corps Officer, The Salvation Army Boundless Vancouver.

After losing Vinny in December 2019 the family decided to do something that would allow them to commemorate him. They started in 2021 with an original goal of 100-200 toys and shattered expectations collecting nearly 3,000 toys over the last two years. "Vinny would love to see smiles on children's faces. I don't think we could have found a better way to honour him and carry on his legacy," says Pinder, Vinny's sister, and organizer of the toy drive.

Donation bins were left at local businesses and at the door of the family home for friends to drop off donations. New this year, the Maan family hosted a Christmas Market with 18 vendors to celebrate Vinny's birthday where they raised nearly \$1,000 and collected 88 toys.

"We wanted the toys to go back into the community," said Pinder, on why they chose to give to The Salvation Army. The family plans to continue the tradition moving forward, "we will definitely keep doing this, it gets us through the holidays, and brings so much joy," she added. The Salvation Army is an international Christian organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become the largest nongovernmental direct provider of social services in the country. The Salvation Army gives hope and support to vulnerable people today and every day in 400 communities across Canada and more than 130 countries around the world.

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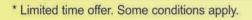
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Drunk Indo-Canadian Man Crashes Car In US With Four-Month-Old Baby Inside

A 30-year-old Indo-Canadian man has been charged in the US state of Florida after police accused him of driving drunk and crashing his vehicle with his 4-month-old daughter inside Tuesday evening.

Peeyush Gupta, a resident of Ontario province, was taken into custody last week and remains behind bars in Monroe County's Key West jail facility.

He faces two felony child neglect charges in addition to a misdemeanor DUI (Driving under the influence) charge, according to Miami-based WPLG news channel

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said it received a call on December 12 for a driver who crashed a red vehicle into a concrete wall on the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys. However, he con-



tinued to drive, "speeding up and slowing down" before stopping at a gas station, the police said.

When he drove away from the gas station, the deputies followed the vehicle, "swerving from side to side" and following other vehicles too closely, leading them to pull over the driver.

According to the arrest report, the deputies saw Gupta's wife, who

was also drunk, and his wailing child inside the vehicle.

Gupta, who smelled of alcohol, told deputies he was coming from Canada, then Miami, then Key West where he downed a pitcher of Budweiser "within five minutes".

While Gupta was taken into custody after he failed sobriety tests, the wife told the deputies that the baby was crying as she was hungry. The wife added that they were planning on driving from Key West to Miami to get food for the baby.

Deputies wrote in their report that they arrested Gupta on charges of child neglect without great bodily harm based on his impaired driving and not having food for the infant. Authorities said they notified the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Playing role of Sahibzadas in events under 'Veer Bal Diwas' is against Sikh traditions: Harjinder Singh Dhami

The Shiromani Gurdwara
Parbandhak Committee
(SGPC) has taken strict notice of
the physical presentation of the
character of Sahibzadas in plays

Gurdwara under the Veer Bal Diwas events
Committee announced by the Government of India.

The Union government announced last year that December 26 would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'





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to mark the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's younger sons and various events were organised on the occasion this year.

Terming it against Sikh principles and traditions, the SGPC has sought an explanation from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) along with the Ministries of Education, Culture and Minority Affairs of Government of India. In a statement, SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that any such anti-Sikh act cannot be accepted. The SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami said that any act against Sikh principles, customs, traditions and values hurts the Sikh mentality and big objections are coming from the Sikh Sangat about the acts of playing physical roles of Sahibzadas under the instructions of the Centre Government regarding Veer Bal Diwas in educational institutions in various states.

He said that taking cognizance of these acts against the Sikh principles, the SGPC has asked various Union ministries and CBSE to present their aspect. The SGPC President said that regarding Veer Bal Diwas, according to the order of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, the Union government had already been written to change the name of this day, but the government has not taken it seriously till date.

He said that the concern of the SGPC and the Sikh Sangat in this regard has come true as efforts are being made to make children play the roles of Sahibzadas by going against the Sikh traditions. He said that the responsibility of this anti-Sikh phenomenon lies directly on the Union government and the respective State governments. Such actions can never be accepted by the Sikh world and action will also be taken against the educational institutions by identifying them, that have got the characters of Sahibzadas played in physical form.



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Softening Home Sales but Prices Remain Firm Across BC

The British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) reports that a total of 4,630 residential unit sales were recorded in Multiple Listing Service (MLS) systems in November 2023, an increase of 2.2 per cent from November 2022. The average MLS residential price in BC was \$964,246 up 6.6 per cent compared to November 2022. The total sales dollar volume was \$4.5 billion, representing an 8.9 per cent increase from last year.

"Despite high mortgage rates and generally weak sales, home prices across the province have been remarkably resilient



in 2023," said BCREA Chief Economist Brendon Ogmundson. "Low inventory

has meant that prices hold firm even at the much-reduced levels of sales activity experienced this year.'

On a seasonally adjusted basis, active listings in the province have increased for the sixth consecutive month and are now back to their highest level since August 2020. Year-to-date BC residential sales dollar volume was down 12.4 per cent to \$67.5 billion, compared with the same period in 2022. Residential unit sales were down 9.8 per cent to 69,551 units, while the average MLS® residential price was down 2.9 per cent to \$971,069.

Around the Province November 2023		
	ear % change in ital	
Board	Avg. Price (\$)	
BC Northern	396,284	253
	-3.3	-3.4
Chilliwack	694,387	153
	7	5.5
Fraser Valley	988,647	829
	8	5.5
Greater Vancouver	1,283,004	1,702
	6.6	5.1
Okanagan	752,804	455
	2	-11.3
Kamloops	619,805	164
15	3.6	13.9
Kootenay	476,688	193
	1.3	-0.5
South Peace River	256,189	26
	1.4	0
Powell River	535,557	14
	-2.5	-22.2
Vancouver Island	732,534	467
	3.6	2.4
Victoria	968,634	374
	6.2	2.5
British Columbia	964,246	4,630
	6.6	2.2

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Nestled in the heart of Cloverdale, this family-oriented have offers contemporary living with its 10ft ceilings, modern kitchen and expansive den. The home features a convenient two-ca garage with abundant storage space and a legal 2-bedroon ment suite with a private entrance and separate laundry ties. Upstairs, the master bedroom boasts a spacious walk-in closet and a luxurious spa-inspired bathroom, while anothe master suite and two additional bedrooms share a well-appointed full bath. With a total of 6 bedrooms, a versatile den, and 4.5 bathrooms, this property, still under the new home warranty, provides ample space for comfortable living. Its strategic location ensures easy access to transit, quality schools, diverse shopping 19710 33 Ave



Welcome to your luxurious oasis featuring 9 bedrooms 9 bathrooms, and 2 Suites of two-bedrooms each! This custom-built masterpiece boasts a mainfloor master suite with an ensuite while the upper level offers 4 bedrooms, each with walk-in closets and private ensuites. The basement is a paradise for entertainment enthusiasts, with a sprawling theatre room and a chic bar perfect for hosting gatherings. The contemporary design, high-end finishes, and meticulous attention to detail define this home. Outside, enjoy beautifully landscaped gardens and outdoor spaces.

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SULLIVAN STATION BRAND NEW HOUSE. Features 8 Welcome to Wesmont Centre in Langley located at the high exposure corner of 62nd Avenue & 203rd BEDROOMS & 7 WASHROOMS! You are welcomed into this custom built beauty with beautiful finishings. Bright his custom built beauty with beautiful finishings. Bright and spacious living and dining rooms. Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen! Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. There is also a den/bedroom on the main with a FULL washroom. Glass railings throughout. Modern design and finishings. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 with their private ensuites and good size closets! Also a large patio! In the basement there is a large media room perfect for entertaining with a 2 piece washroom. There are also 2 MORTGAGE HELPERS! Fully finished 2+1 suites with their own separate entrances. This home truly has it ALL! Street directly in the Willowbrook Town Centre Providing businesses with corporate branding opportunities and unparallel access to local nenities and shopping. M-2 General Industrial zoning allows for various uses. Wesmont Centre is the latest industrial flex strata project in the center of Langley, BC. 26' Clear Ceiling Heights w/ 1 Grade Door. 125 Amp, 120/208 Volt, 3 Phase Electrica Service per Unit Transfer is provided.



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6205 Square Foot Lot available in Surrey PANORAMA RIDGE! Get ready to build your dream home! The subdivision is surrounded by brand new multi-million dollar homes, and yours could be next This Lot will accommodate a 2 Storey + Basement Home. Make your dreams into a reality and design your dream home on this beautiful lot in the prestigious panorama ridge area. The lot is ready to build and fully serviced awaiting its next owner! Call for more information. Quiet neighborhood. Centrally located near schools, parks, highways, restaurants

arguably the best neighbourhood in all of Surrey! Located in what is known as the "K subdivision in Sullivan Station! RENOVATED 2 level executive home with over 2,500 sq.ft. of living space on a MASSIVE & CORNER lot 13,585 sq.ft. lot WITH 151 FT FRONT! The home is RENOVATED and eatures 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Renovations include kitchen, mouldings, lights, railings, bathrooms, 5 y/o hot water tank, new windows and gutters. Main floor features living room, dining room, kitchen and eating area. Good size family room which leads into the packyard. Upstairs you have 3 good size bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Located in an excellent neighbourhood.

Surrounded by 1/2 acre lots and tons of green spaces all within walking distance to parks, schools, the YMCA and

Ditton Street

Easy to show! Call for more info.

Investors and Builders Alert! CORNER LOT! Ready to build rarely available R-1 lot 5350+ Sqft. Great location, minutes walk to all levels of schooling, grocery shopping, transportation and many other amenities. Call today for more information. (11143 Princess Ave Subdivision) Princess Subdivision Lot 1 is facing Ditton St. Adjacent lot can also be purchased together. Seller financing available. Seller can provide Vendor Take Back Mortgage 9518 132 STREET



QUEEN MARY CORNER MEGA MANSION! Features 10 BEDROOMS & 9 WASHROOMS with 2 DRIVEWAYS and 3 MORTGAGE HELPERS (2+1+1) registered suites. You are welcomed into this custom built beauty with beautiful finishings inside and out. Bright and spacious living and dining rooms with a master bedroom on the main with a recroom! Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen! Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. Modern design and finishings there are 5 bedrooms, , 4 with their private ensuites there are 5 bedrooms, , 4 with their private ensuites and good size closets! Covered Decks.

there can be media room presently attached to suite with full washroom. Stucco+Stone on the exterior. Fully finished 2+1+1 suites with their own

12686 56 Avenue



Experience luxury living in this exquisite 1 PANORAMA RIDGE 4 bedroom rancher on What a fantastic chance to possess your very own The Holland. Enjoy an abundance of amenities spread across 13,000 square feet, including a concierge service, gym, yoga studio, music studio, guest suite, indoor/outdoor social and dining lounge, and more. Located in the heart of the city, this apartment offers convenient access to the possibilities are vast, including agricultural to nearby walkways, cafes, shopping malls, and to nearby walkways, cafes, shopping malls, and to nearby walkways, cafes, shopping malls, and two Skytrain stations. Enjoy a park-side living in a lifetime opportunity to own one of the best experience with an amenity-rich lifestyle, on highly sought after 56 avenue. Surrounded including easy access to all of the City Centre's by multi million dollar homes. Ultra clean home retailers, as well as \$FU/future UBC campus and with open layout, enclosed sunroom, newer Surrey Memorial Hospital.

13359 OLD YALE ROAD



pedroom, 1 bathroom apartment located in the beautiful half acre (approx) 19,997 sq.ft lot - PRIVATE piece of land, all within a convenient 15roof., detached garage & RV parking

1290 FRANCES AVENUE



uses, farm retail, agri-tourism, bed and breakfast, duplex construction, horse boarding, and much more. Perhaps you're considering subdivision? There are numerous ideal spots to establish the homestead you've always envisioned. Alternatively,



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WEST NEWTON BRAND NEW HOME!

8 BEDROOMS & 6 WASHROOMS! You are welcomed into this custom built with beautiful finishings. Bright and spacious living and dining rooms. Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. There is also a bedroom on the main with full washroom, can be a separate office. Central Air Conditioner & HRV. Glass railings throughout. Modern design and finishings. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 with their private ensuites and good size closets! In the basement there is a large media room perfect for



SULLIVAN STATION BRAND NEW HOME! 3800+ Sq.Ft Home! 8 BOUNDARY PARK HOME! Features 5 BEDROOMS & 6 BED 7 BATH HOME. Thoughtfully designed plan features a Master Bedroom on the main floor with walk in closet + ensuite. Loads of features grand living room, dining room, study room, large family room leading to kitchen + BONUS spice kitchen! Upstairs features 4 suites (2+1) that will generate great rental income. Central location access to 64 ave and major routes. Beautiful home for the growing



WASHROOMS with a 1 Bedroom LEGAL suite! You are welcomed into this custom built beauty with beautiful finishings. Bright and spacious windows to soak in the natural light with high ceilings. Home also living and dining rooms. Custom built kitchen along with a spice kitchen! Huge family room with big windows to soak in that natural light. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, 3 with their private ensuites and good size closets! large bedrooms and 3 washrooms. In the basement you have 2 In the basement there is a large media room perfect for entertaining with a FULL WASHROOM. There is also a 1 bedroom MORTGAGE to YMCA, Panorama Village Shops, Bell Centre (School) with easy | HELPERI Fully finished with its own separate entrances. This home truly has it ALL! Perfect for the growing family. Plenty of parking and easy access to Highway 10 and JT Brown Elementary

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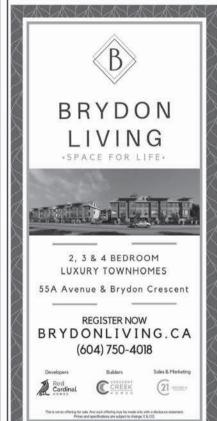




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6 16655 64 AVENUE



oversized master suite with gas fireplace as well as a den and flex space. Spacious living area with gas fireplace opens up to the rear deck while the generous basement rec room accesses the ower patio. Additional features are an over sized ge, AC/2017, new deck/2020.

\$909,800

1001 13380 108 AVENUE



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\$434,900

\$434,900

14103 110 AVE., N.SURREY



\$1,779,000

26964 28 AVE., LANGLEY



\$920,000

5235 UPLAND DRIVE



\$1,635,000





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and a coach home Potential rent \$5000 or more per month (3 separate rental units)



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11516 PARKWOOD PLACE DELTA







#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY



9750 128 ST., SURREY



14379 66A AVENUE



6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful House sits over a 10318 Sq. Feet
Lot in prime neighbourhood of East Newton & features with Three Bedrooms & Two Washrooms including extra large master bedroom with ensuite and a Balcony, Huge Living Room, Dining Room & a separate Family Room UPSTAIRS. Downstairs comes with two mortgage helpers (2+1), Fully Renovated with lot of updates like both new Kitchens, Bathrooms, flooring, Lighting, Hot Water tank & Furnace. Enjoy the tranquility & quietness of Cul-de-sac with your morning tea sitting on the Front Patio. Close to all Amenities.

ASKING 1,599,000

1001 14881 103A AVENUE



2 BED - 2 BATHS

Welcome to Your Dream Home! Best Opportunity for the first time home buyers & nature lovers to enjoy the scenic beauty, spectacular north shore & panoramic coastal mountain views. This amazing Corner unit features with 2 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms with a Huge Master Bedroom Ensuite, A Good Size Living Room, Dining Room with fully renovated kitchen with quartz countertops & new kitchen cabinets, New stainless steel appliances & pot lights. All these appliances & renovations were done two years ago. Carpet in the whole unit is one year old. You are minutes walk to Guildford Town Centre, TNT Supermarket, dining, public library and highways. The maintenance fees include gas & hot water, One Storage locker & One Parking. There is also a bike room and lots of outdoor Visitor Parking.

ASKING 589,000

9097 BROADWAY STREET



3 BED - 1 BATH - 10,019 SF LOT

Builder's Alert! The Property is sub dividable and has been rezoned R1-C. PLA Application has been submitted to City & is in process. Excellent Heritage style home with three bedrooms and one bathroom . Large Private backyard.

ASKING 1,599,000

11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Homel This beautiful renovated home at a prime location in a quiet neighbourhood of Royal Heights features with 7 Bedrooms & 5 Washrooms, very spacious open concept kitchen with quartz countertops & stainless steel appliances, Huge Living Room & Family Room, tons of Natural Light, Stone front, Glass Railing, Air Conditioning Upstairs. 2+1 Bedroom Suites as great mortgage helpers. Enjoy your morning tea in the open front deck or the covered sundeck in the backyard. Easy Access to Hwy 17, Scott Rd Skytrain station, Schools and Shopping

ASKING 1,699,000

7028 142 STREET, SURREY



5 BED - 5 BATHS - 7,107 SF

Welcome to this well-maintained and updated home in the heart of Newton with over 7100 sqft lot with 77 feet Front just steps away from school and Bus Stops. Upstairs there are 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms with a living room, dining room and kitchen along with a bonus Family room. There are 2 separate balconies off the Family & Living Room. 2 Mortgage helpers (1 bedroom each) currently rented to Nice tenants. There is one full extra both Downstairs. This home has lots of options to rent. The home features an updated kitchen (2015) updated wosthrooms (2017) and hos been freshly painted. The roof has been updated as well in 2017. Walking distance to George Vanier Elementary school, doycare and to public transportation. THIS IS A MUST SEEII Please book your private Showings.

ASKING 1,699,000

10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK



4 BED - 2 BATHS - 9,750 SF LOT

Welcome to Your Dream Homel This is a well kept home in one of the best & prime neighbourhood of Fairfield Island in Chilliwack. This best & prime neignournood or Turneau Beautiful Rancher with Basement house sits on a huge 9750 Sq. Feet Lot with a wide frontage of 75 feet & a Subdivision Potential | Please confirm with City| features with 3 Bedrooms & 1.5 Washroom on the main floor with a spacious kitchen equipped with Stainless Steel appliances. Downstairs you got a very spacious space, complete with two large Recreation/family rooms plus a bedroom and starage area. Roof was replaced 2-3 years back. Close to all shopping amenities, plenty of schools nearby and more parks within walking distance than

ASKING 929,000

5758 131 A STREET SURREY

EXCLUSIVE LISTING



11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

Beautiful House under construction on Most Prime Area of PANORAMA RIDGE

ASKING 4,000,000

5748 123 Street Surrey

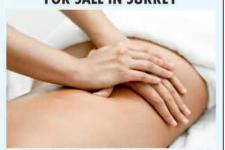


7 BED - 8 BATHS - 20,211 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful & Luxurious Architectural Masterpiece on a CORNER HALF ACRE LOT in the most prestigious neighbourhood of Panorama Ridge Features with Elegant Porte- Couchette Hotel Like Entrance with circular driveway, Italian Bricks Exterior, Open Concept Kitchen with Custom Italian Cabinets & Italian Black Marble, High Ceiling, Gorgeous sunken Living Room with oversized windows, which provide excellent Lighting, Circular Cherrywood Staircases, Huge Family Room & Dining Room with Master Ensuite on the Main Floor, High End Wool

ASKING 2,999,000

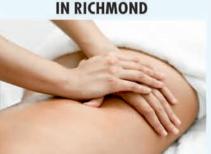
MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE IN SURREY



Location! Location Location! Great opportunity to own a well established & profitable MASSAGE CENTRE in the prime neighborhood of East Newton. The seller is running this centre for last eight years & wish to retire. This unit has three massage chambers with one chamber for tradition Indian Ayurvedic Shirodhara Table & a separate kitchen area & washroom. Lease is expiring in March 2024 but has two renewal options of 5 years each but the seller is getting it renewed by himself. Please more info

ASKING 249,999

MASSAGE PARLOUR



Location! Location! Great Opportunity to own a MASSAGE CENTRE in the prime neighbourhood of Steveston Village in Richmond. The Seller wishes to retire. This unit has three massage chambers & a separate kitchen area & washroom. Please contact listing realtor for more info.

ASKING 99,000

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Minimum Rates Increase On Jan. 1 For Farm **Workers Who Hand Harvest Crops**

✓ inimum piece rates for hand harvest- raspberries and strawberries. Ming of specified farm crops will increase by 6.9% on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. The increase applies to 15 agricultural crops harvested by hand as specified in the employment standards regulation. The hand-harvested crops are peaches, apricots, Brussels sprouts, daffodils, mushrooms, apples, beans, blueberries, cherries, grapes, pears, peas, prune plums,

The increase is based on B.C.'s average annual inflation rate in 2022 and is consistent with the 6.9% increase to the minimum hourly wage that came into effect on June 1, 2023.

Quick Facts:

Piece-rate farm workers harvest crops such as blueberries and mushrooms by hand. Each of the 15 crops has its own minimum

Farm-worker piece rates in B.C. were increased by 11.5% in January 2019 and 2.8% in January 2023.

B.C.'s farm-worker minimum piece-rate system has been in place since 1981.

For a full list of B.C.'s minimum piece rates and more information about employment standards for farm workers, vishttps://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/



employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/hiring/farm-workers

People asked to take prevention measures and seek care amid elevated levels of influenza and respiratory infections

B.C. is experiencing elevated influenza and RSV activity, similar to levels experienced before the COVID-19 pandemic. The BC Centre for Disease and Control (BCCDC) has received two reports of influenza-associated deaths among children (under the age of 19) in British Columbia (B.C.). These deaths occurred in the past two weeks and are the only influenza-related deaths in children that BCCDC is aware of to date during this respiratory season. Our thoughts are with the families and communities affected by the loss of a loved one.

Early findings indicate the two children experienced secondary bacterial infections contributing to severe illness which can be a complication of influenza.

This year's influenza vaccine appears to be well matched to the influenza viruses circulating in B.C. Getting immunized is the best way to prevent serious illness. Vaccination is particularly important for children at highest risk of severe outcomes.

There are a number of steps families can take to reduce their risk of serious infection from respiratory viruses and to prevent others from becoming ill like getting immunized, staying home, wearing mask, avoiding touching face eyes, mouth and nose

Most children with influenza and other respiratory viruses recover safely at home without the need for medical intervention. For children at high risk of severe complications, parents should consider talking to their care provider about early access to an influenza anti-viral drug called oseltamivir (Tamiflu), which is most effective against influenza if started within 12 hours, and ideally not later than 48 hours after illness

Parents and caregivers of children who experience any symptoms of concern, such as difficulty breathing or fever in a child under three months of age, should seek immediate medical attention.

In addition to monitoring for respiratory infections, the BCCDC and BC Children's Hospital issued an information bulletin on December 22, 2023 about a rise in infec-

tions from invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) bacteria in people under age 20, noting a progressive increase in annual infections since 2016.



14317 31A AVENUE, SURREY



Architectural elegance at it's finest; this West Vancouver-inspired property is located within the prestigious Elgin Park Estates neighborhood in South Surrey. This extravagant home portrays the unique blend of timeless sophistication and secluded park-style living. Sitting on approximately 14,000 sqft of land, this property offers 6488 sqft of luxurious living space; meticulous by design, it features four opulent bedrooms upstairs and similarly one spacious bedroom on the main floor. The kitchen is equipped with Miele appliances throughout and features a beautiful transparent wine cabinet. Furthermore, the property possesses an abundance of outdoor entertainment space in conjunction with a designated theatre room gymnasium, games room, and bar. Call now to book your private showing!

#92 15111 EDMUND DRIVE



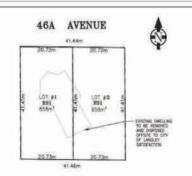
Welcome to Townsend! This beautiful unit is one of the largest in the entire complex, boasting 1,976 sq ft. of living space. Built in 2019 by award-winning builder, Polygon, this beautiful townhome features 4 spacious ground floor as guest quarters, 3.5 bathrooms, as well as a grand main floor which includes a large family room and separate dining area. The guest quarters on the ground floor feature a spacious bedroom and a full bathroom, and a double side-by-side garage. In addition to the double garage, there are an additional two parking spots outside. The home has been exceptionally maintained by its current owners. Call to book your private showing today.

UNIT 2808 13615 FRASER HWY



Welcome to King George Hub, built by PCI is one of the most sought-after locations in central Surrey. Move in or Invest in the fastest-growing city in BC. This bright north-facing unit is located in the master-planned community with all of your needs at your doorstep. The unit is finished with laminate flooring, quartz countertops, and wallto-wall windows for natural light. The unit has one parking, one storage locker, and an already paid-for EV charger.

LOT B 20444 46A AVENUE, LANGLEY



9000 sqft lot available to build your dream home in Langley City's one of the best pockets. You can build a 3 story house on a flat rectangular lot. The location is close to all shopping and the newly approved sky train.

LOT A 33734 MAYFAIR AVENUE, SURREY

Welcome to Central Abbotsford this brand new three-lot subdivision. The lots will be ready to build in 4-6 months. You can build a 3600sqft home.



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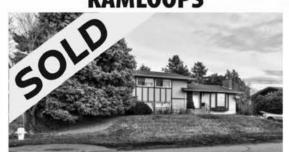
I WILL PAY THE LEGAL FEE **OF THAT HOUSE!!**

#7 11077 RAVINE ROAD, SURREY



ASKING \$760,000

1698 SLATER AVENUE, KAMLOOPS



ASKING **\$750,000**

#34 15030 28 AVENUE, **SURREY**



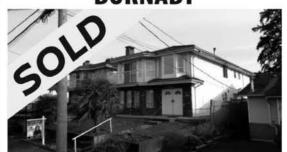
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LOT 11 CHIEF LAKE ROAD PRINCE GEORGE



Beautiful 5.48 acre property. \$28,776

5192 MANOR ST, BURNABY



ASKING \$1,567,000

259 HOLLY AVENUE, KAMLOOPS



ASKING \$675,000

56-8168 136A ST, **SURREY**



ASKING \$795,000

5533 CHESTNUT CRE, LADNER



ASKING \$1,325,000

16669 31B, **SOUTH SURREY**



ASKING \$2,640,000

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"No Surplus Water" To Share: Punjab Chief Minister On Sutlej Yamuna Canal Issue

Dunjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a key meeting to discuss the contentious Sutlei Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue, reiterated his state's old stand that there is "no surplus water" to share. "As a chief minister, I am saying we do not have any water (to share). We apprised Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat about it in the meeting. We are firm on our earlier stand that we do not have water," Mann told reporters after an over hour-long meeting on the issue held by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with chief ministers of Haryana and Punjab this week.

NEWS

"Punjab's groundwater table has been depleting and the quantum of water in the rivers is also much less than what it was when the water share was decided. Also, Haryana refused to accept more water during recent floods, which proved they did not need more water," Mann said.

Shekhawat and Haryana CM Khattar remained ensconced in the meeting, even after the Punjab CM left the venue.

Later, Khattar said that Haryana was well within its rights to demand water from Punjab. "We do not do politics on water like AAP. We demand our share and also feel that Rajasthan should also get water," he said.

"Punjab has acknowledged that excess river water is flowing to Pakistan from Harike. It is unfortunate that water is going to the neighbouring country, but Punjab refuses to give it to

"Mann hai ki maante nahin," Khattar quipped.

Khattar said that Punjab is linking the construction of the canal to availability of water. "We have said that these two issues are separate," the Harvana CM said.

Meanwhile, Shekhawat in a post on 'X' said that the Central Government is making every possible effort to resolve the SYL canal issue with the consent of the state governments of Punjab and Haryana.

It was the third meeting between the two chief ministers during the past over a year on the issue and the second one during the current year being presided over by Shekhawat in which both CMs are present.

The SYL canal issue has been a



bone of contention between the two states for the past several years.

The canal was conceptualised for the effective sharing of water between the two states from the Ravi and Beas rivers.

The Tribune said, "The project envisages a 214-kilometre canal, of which a 122-kilometre stretch was to be constructed in Punjab and the remaining 92 kilometres in Haryana. Haryana has completed the project in its territory but Punjab, which launched the work in 1982, shelved it. Haryana was carved out of Punjab on November 1, 1966. The Haryana government wants the implementation of the Supreme Court verdict on the construction of the SYL canal."

The apex court had on October 4 asked the Centre to survey the portion of land in Punjab that the state was allocated for the construction of part of the SYL canal and make an estimate of the extent of construction carried out

All political parties in Punjab had earlier asserted that the state does not have a single drop of additional water to share with any other state, though political outfits in Haryana had welcomed the apex court directions. - with PTI

Punjab Doesn't Figure In R-Day Tableau List, Again

or the second consecutive year, there will be no Punjab tableau at the upcoming Republic Day parade, revealed Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, accusing the Centre of bias against the state.

Addressing a press conference. CM Mann said the Centre was demeaning and humiliating the enormous sacrifices made by Punjabis for the country's freedom and the state's contribution towards food security.

"We have received the list of

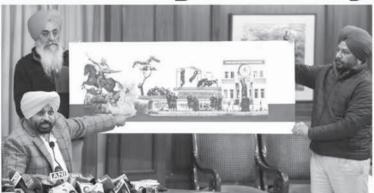


tableau. Punjab again doesn't

states selected to showcase their figure on the list. Importantly, Delhi is also missing. It clearly

shows government's bias against AAP," he alleged.

The state had submitted three themes for the tableau -Punjab's history of sacrifices, woman empowerment portrayed by Mai Bhago, and state's rich heritage. "It is unfortunate that on one hand the government is organising events to show their appreciation for sacrifices made by the Sikh Gurus and on the other, they are rejecting the state's tableau on the subject," he said. Slamming the BJP for "politicising" the Republic Day, CM Mann said, "We will write to the Centre on the issue". He dared BJP leaders, including Capt Amarinder Singh, Sunil Jakhar, RP Singh, Manjinder Sirsa and others to explain why "grave injustice" was being done with the state by their government at the Centre.

State had submitted three themes for tableau - Punjab's history of sacrifices, woman empowerment portrayed by Mai Bhago and state's rich heritage

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Kareena Kapoor's eyes well up as she speaks about Saif Ali Khan on Koffee With Karan,

As Saif Ali Khan and Sharmila Tagore appeared on the latest episode of Koffee With Karan, their family members shared beautiful video messages for them. The clips--featuring Kareena Kapoor, Soha Ali Khan and Sara Ali Khan-- were shown to Saif and Sharmila as they graced the couch together for the first time.

Only love for her 'Amma'

Kareena had the sweetest message for her 'Amma' and revealed how she has been calling her that since the time she met Saif. "I genuinely feel that connection and love for her because she has been so warm, so caring. I think she looks at me more like a daughter, like Soha and Saba. It's always been like that. She's always made me feel

welcomed.

'Saif is my entire being'

When it was her turn to speak about Saif, Kareena got emotional and had tears in her eyes. "What does Saif mean to me? Saif is my entire being. He is my entire universe. My whole life revolves around my Saif. My eyes well up every time I talk about him. He's my life," she said. Saif put a hand to his chest, overwhelmed by his wife's words for him.

Reddit loves their love

A picture of emotional Kareena was shared on Reddit as well and fans cheered for their strong bond even after all these years. "Kareena getting teary-eyed while talking about Saif was such a wholesome moment. What they have is very healthy and heart-warming," read a post. Another person commented, "Same I saw this too! I feel Kareena and Saif are one of the rare couples in Bollywood who seem to have a healthy marriage. And it's so nice to see how madly in love Kareena is even though they have been together for a long time." Another comment read, "Awwwwww,



Actor Anupam Kher recently visited Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at his home in Delhi. Taking to Instagram on Thursday, Anupam posted several photos with the BJP leader. Anupam meets Union Defence Minister

In the first photo, Anupam and Rajnath Singh stood next to each other as they posed for the camera. In the next pictures, Anupam and Rajnath sat and spoke with each other. The actor also folded his hands while talking to the minister. For the meeting, Anupam wore a black jacket, denims and shoes. Anupam pens note

Anupam captioned the post, "It was my privilege and my honour to meet the

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dynamic #DefenceMinister of our country Shri. #RajnathSingh ji at his residence! His knowledge about various topics apart from our defence forces is vast and deep. Great learning experience. Thank you Sir for your warmth and hospitality! Jai Hind!

(Folded hands and heart eyes emojis) @rajnathsinghbjp."

Anupam recently met Uttarakhand CM On December 12, Anupam met Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun at the state secretariat. Both exchanged warm greetings

this is so cute. I love their relationship."
Saif and Karcena got married in 2012 and have two sons together.-Taimur and Jehangir.

Inath

and discussed the new film policy implemented by the state government.

Anupam's projects
Anupam's projects
Anupam recently finished shooting for his upcoming movie Vijay 69. He got injured while shooting for the film.



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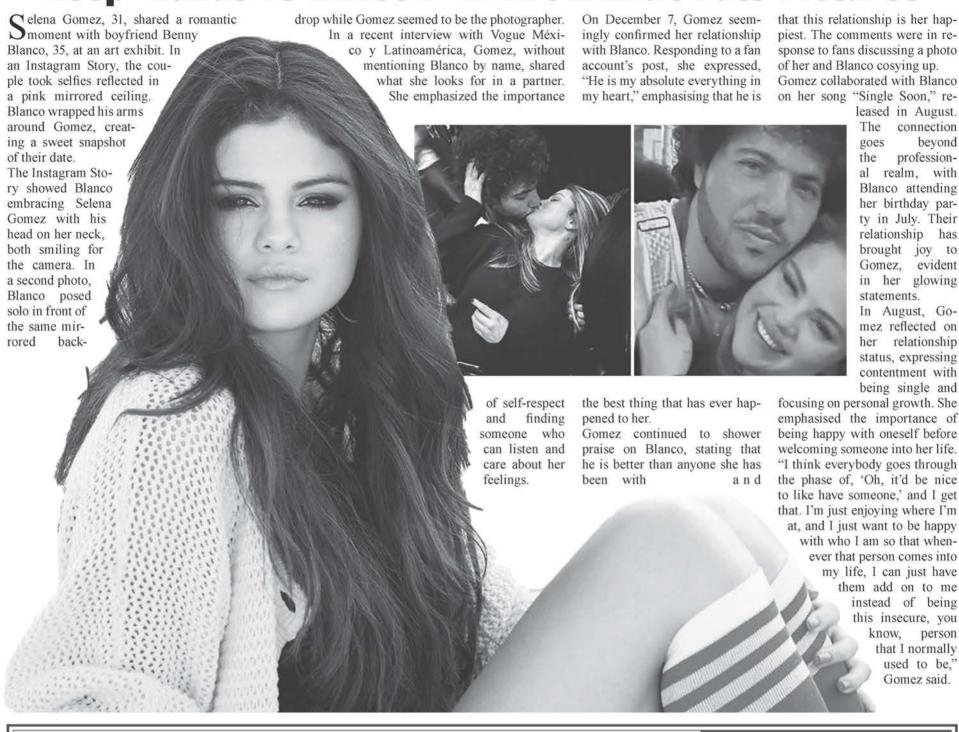
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Selena Gomez's Boyfriend Benny Blanco Can't Keep 'Hands To Himself' In Art Exhibit Date Pictures



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Isha Koppikar **And Timmy** Narang Reportedly **Divorce After** 14 Years, **Actor Reacts**

ctor Isha Koppikar and hotelier-husband Timmy Narang have reportedly divorced. As per an ETimes report, Isha reacted to the news and said it's 'too early' and that she needed her privacy. It happened in November this year, according to the report. Isha and Timmy got divorce

ETimes quoted a source, "The couple parted ways due to compatibility issues, which cropped up a while ago. They tried every bit to save the marriage but didn't succeed. Isha has moved out of the house and is living separately with their daugh-Isha reacts to divorce news

Isha stated via a text, "I have nothing to say. It's too early. I need my privacy. I would appreciate your sensitivity." Isha and Timmy tied the knot in November 2009. Reportedly, they fell in love after meeting at a gym. The duo had known each other for three years before they started dating. Isha and Timmy are Rianna's parents, whom they welcomed in July 2014. Speaking

with Hindustan Times 2021,

Isha had said about staying happy. She had said, "For me, the concept of being happy starts and ends in one's own mind. Nothing materialistic or any individual is responsible for your thought process. It's something you have to understand and practice in regular life because you could be happy with nothing and sad with everything. If only we could learn to live a simple life like my granny said Simple living high thinking." Isha's career

Isha has featured in many movies. She made her film debut in 1997 with the Telugu film W/o V Vara Prasad. She has starred in many films such as Fiza, Pyaar Ishq Aur Mohabbat and Aamdani Atthanni Kharcha Rupaiya, Pinjar, Dil Ka Rishta, LOC Kargil, Krishna Cottage, Rudraksh, Hum Tum and Inteqam: The Perfect Game.

Fans also saw her in Kyaa Kool Hai Hum, D, Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya, 36 China Town,

Don, Salaam-e-Ishq, Ek Vivaah Aisa Bhi, Shabri and Hello Darling. She has also featured in Marathi, Tamil, and Kannada films. Isha was also part of web series such as Fixerr, Dhahanam and Suranga.

Isha will be seen in Ayalaan, an upcoming Tamil science fiction film. It is being directed by R Ravikumar and produced by Kotapadi J Rajesh under KJR Studios. The film also stars Sivakarthikeyan, Rakul Preet Singh, Sharad Kelkar, Bhanupriya, Yogi Babu, Karunakaran and Bala Saravanan.

2023: The Year **Bollywood Blockbusters Finally Made** A Comeback



ll the film industry yearned Afor after the long and daunting Covid pandemic was for theaters to come alive once again with loud whistles and giggles, and the year 2023 certainly made all those dreams come true. A cinematic spectacle unfolded as Shah Rukh Khan almost rose like a phoenix from the ashes, with his two consecutive Hindi films etching their names in history and hitting the ₹1000 crore milestone. The entire industry rejoiced as four more films joined the pack, achieving collections over the ₹500 crore mark at the global box office.

Who ruled the year 2023

For those who were quick to dismiss Shah Rukh Khan after his Zero debacle, the 58-yearold star added a bit too many zeroes to Pathaan, making it a gigantic ₹1050 crore-grosser. Before it could be passed off as a miracle, he beat his own record with Jawan, achieving a staggering ₹1152 crore. Just like Shah Rukh, 66-year-old Sunny Deol also proved he is not the one to retire so soon. On the latest episode of Koffee With Karan, Ajay Devgn, Rohit Shetty, and Karan Johan confessed that none of them had expected Sunny to deliver a historical blockbuster in Gadar 2, that amassed ₹687 crore. If you think only Shah Rukh and Sunny are back to their A-game, the 73-year-old Rajinikanth continues to prove age is just a number as he returned to the silver screens with a ₹605



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2023 was the year of Orry: Decoding why the internet loves Orhan Awatramani

2023 was the year when everyone from Karan Johar to my long-lost friends posed the question, "Who is Orry?" The next one in line was, "What does Orry do?" It's the end of the year and we still don't know anything more than exactly what Orry aka Orhan Awatramani wanted us to: "He's a liver. He lives." Well, I want that on a T-shirt. Oh wait. the T-shirt already exists. That's the Orry machinery for you: It's snappy, shallow philosophy instantly embossed on bright colours. Basically, it's everything that Instagram stands for today. Orry origins

Orry has maintained his primary identity as not who he is, but who

he's seen with. He wasn't the one who was spotted in Nysa Devgan and Khushi/Janhvi Kapoor's vacation pictures, but they were spotted in his. He found his way to our Instagram feeds through his Stories that were reposted by his famous friends. His Instagram bio never reflected the qualification that allowed him access to the inner sanctum of Bollywood. In fact, his current bio seems more like a backhanded compliment to the nepo babies in his followers list: "Hard work beats talent, when talent

doesn't work hard."
Speaking of working hard, Orry
does work hard

on himself. Orry has a new comeback to every time he's asked what he does for a living. In an exclusive interview with Hindustan Times, he traced back to the "ahan moment" when Shanaya Kapoor shamed him for disturbing her while she was shooting her debut film. Orry argued that he was also working, even if his Instagram Stories suggested otherwise. "Yes, she is on set, she is acting, she's an actor. I am living, I am a liver."

Orry took one for all of us who have been shamed for posting too many Instagram Stories of partying and socialising. But the fact that he has managed to conceal his occupation so far despite the information overload out

there is commendable. He's also kept his education background under wraps, though a little birdie tells me he's graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York. He may insist that

he's from the 'school of life' and 'experience' has been education, these rather lame dodges actually help him – people take him seriously for who he's with, but not too seriously as to shame him for his lifestyle.

Sonu Sood reminisces working with Vijayakanth in his debut film Kallazhagar

Vijayakanth's death has left a void that cannot be filled, state fans and celebs alike on social media. The actor who passed away at age 71 on

Thursday
morning was
known not
just for his
philanthropy,
but for also
encouraging
new talent in
Tamil cinema.
Actor Sonu Sood

is one of the many
who got a kickstart in the film industry thanks
to him. Talking to Hindustan Times, Sonu
reminisces about his debut film, his association
with the late actor-politician and more.

'Vijayakanth is the nicest person I've met'

In 1998 Vijayakanth came across a picture of Sonu flexing his muscles on a bike. This led to him getting his on-screen debut in 1999 with Kallazhagar in which he played a priest by the name

of Soumya Narayanan. The film opened doors for him to continue acting in Tamil and Telugu before his big Hindi debut in 2002 with Shaheed-E-Azam. "Vijayakanth is one of the finest actors and the nicest people I've ever worked with," Sonu tells us.

'He gave me the time I needed'

Sonu remembers how he was surprised by Vijayakanth's willingness to halt shooting for him. "There's a fight scene in the climax between us and I needed not just to build my body but also train for it. I asked for a month's time and Vijayakanth willingly stopped shooting for me," he explains, adding, "I put on weight for the climax and stayed in Chennai for a month to train. I would train with three fighters at Marina Beach every single day."

'I owe everything to him'

The very climax fight Sonu shot for would make people sit up and take notice. In fact, Vijayakanth even predicted Sonu's success. "We shot the climax sequence at the Botanical Gardens. I am a trained fighter today because he let me take my time to get the sequence right and let me learn," says Sonu, adding, "He told me the film will do wonders for me and he was right. I owe everything to Vijayakanth because he introduced me to the film industry."



showed interest in anime in one of our conversations. It's a really really cool show to be a part of. We as Indians are big consumers of anime and I couldn't have asked for a better way to enter this interesting world," he shares. Despite the challenges of dubbing in a different language, the 37-year-old understands the importance of carefully mapping out syllables to ensure translations make sense and resonate with the massive international fan base of the show. "These characters are lovable and likeable, so there had to be something of that sort in the texture of the voice, no matter what the language you dub it in. Somewhere it has to sync with the spine of the show," he notes. To prepare for the new feather on his hat, the actor "researched" and "read up" on characters. "I did a bit of research and read up on the buildup of the characters, it's arcs through the entire show, and their origin, just to understand how the delivery must make a difference. Situation delivery is one thing but if you don't know your arc, it becomes hard to identify actions within context," Fazal tells us.

The Khufiya actor sees his involvement in the anime as an opportunity to connect with a larger audience. He expresses, "I can only hope that my involvement brings in a larger base. I think voice is a large part of the delivery, the thing that takes the image to the audience and presents itself. And, I feel that a lot of people have connected with me over the years and I am very grateful that Solo Leveling came my way. There is already a big fan base, if it becomes bigger, why not?"

Despite a busy schedule both inside and outside India, Fazal is enthusiastic about his venture into the world of anime. "For me, nothing is side by side. Anime is already a huge industry. As a production, we are already dabbling into animation. I think it is a great addition to my life and I genuinely would love to explore more anime in the future. It is definitely not a side hustle, it will take up a lot of time if I do go into that or if the opportunity presents itself," he wraps up.









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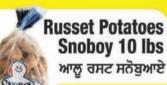
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Abbotsford----- 2785 Bourguin Crescent W. 604-744-0328 Abbotsford ----- 31205 Maclure Rd. ----- 604-504-5877 Port Coquitlam 2807 Shaughnessy St. ---- 604-464-0822 Vancouver ----- 6257 Fraser St. ----- 604-321-9931 Richmond----- 4101 No.5 Rd. ----- 604-244-9520