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Police rule out foreign interference in Simranjeet Singh's home shooting incident

By Link News Desk

SURREY: Surrey RCMP has arrested and charged two 16-year-old males related to a shooting that targeted the house of Simranjeet Singh, a close aide of slain Khalistan advocate Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The police have ruled out any link to foreign interference which was speculated during the time of shooting. Pro-Khalistan groups, including Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) had alleged that India was responsible for the firing. Although police did not reveal the identity of the victim whose house was targeted, Moninder Singh, spokesperson, BC Gurdwaras Council, had informed media after the shooting, that the victim of the targeted shooting was Simranjeet Singh.

Continued on page 25



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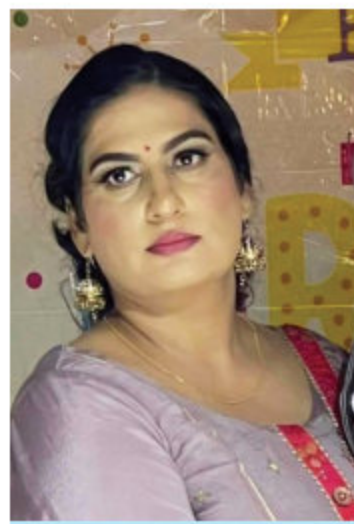
Prince Harry and wife Meghan visit Vancouver



Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, were in Vancouver last week to meet with Invictus Games athletes at a local curling rink, one year ahead of the competition. BC is hosting the Invictus Games 2025 in Whistler. Founded in 2014 by Prince Harry, the Invictus Games showcase the abilities of wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans and honour their contributions.

Surrey Man Receives Life Sentence for Wife Harpreet Gill Homicide

SURREY: Navinder Gill who stabbed his wife Harpreet Gill to death has been sentenced to life in prison with no parole eligibility for 10 years. Harpreet Kaur Gill, a 40-year-old mother of three kids, was brutally killed in her Surrey residence allegedly by her husband Navinder Gill on December 7, 2022 in what police called "intimate partner violence." The Surrey RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing in the 12700-block of 66 Avenue, Surrey. Officers attended and found a 40-year old woman, later identified as Harpreet Kaur Gill, in medical distress, resulting from multiple stab wounds. Despite the best efforts of first responders, Gill succumbed to her injuries after being transported to a local



Harpreet Gill

hospital. According to police, "A suspect was arrested at the scene and taken into police custody."

Continued on page 25

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Four Men Seriously Injured In White Rock Targeted Shooting

The White Rock RCMP informed that four people were seriously injured during a targeted shooting in the city early Thursday morning. On February 22, 2024, at approxi-

Surrey Police Service to advance the investigation. "This incident appears to be targeted and there is no ongoing risk to public safety in the area at this time," said



Photo by Sukhwant Dhillon

mately 12:25 a.m., the White Rock RCMP responded to multiple reports of shots fired and a vehicle collision in the area of Roper Avenue and Lee Street. Police located four men suffering serious injuries who were given immediate medical intervention by responding officers. All four men have since been taken to local area hospitals.

The suspect vehicle fled the scene and a vehicle fire was reported in Surrey shortly after, however, the investigation to determine whether the two events are linked is ongoing. White Rock RCMP is being supported by Lower Mainland District Integrated Police Dog Services and Integrated Forensic Identification Services, as well as the Surrey RCMP and the

Constable Chantal Sears, White Rock RCMP. "The investigation is in the early stages and our General Investigations Unit has been engaged."

The 15600 block of Rover Avenue was shut down in all directions and motorists were asked to find an alternate route. Police were on the scene conducting the investigation but also in the area to assist students with getting to school safely.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the White Rock RCMP at 778-545-4800.

If you have any information including CCTV and dash camera footage, please contact the White Rock RCMP at 778-545-4800 and quote file 2024-851.

Former Burnaby MLA Patty Sahota passes away

The sudden demise of former Burnaby-Edmonds MLA Patty Sahota has sent shock waves in the community and among her colleagues. Sahota, 54, passed suddenly on February 12, 2024, according to media reports. Her unexpected death prompted an outpouring of grief and remembrance for her contributions as a community advocate and political figure. Kevin Falcon, leader of BC United said he was "deeply saddened" to learn of Sahota's death. "I enjoyed serving with Patty while she proudly represented Burnaby in the BC Legislature from 2001 to 2005," Falcon said in a post on X/Twitter. "I will miss her sunny optimism and perpetual smile. My thoughts are with her family and friends in this difficult time."

MP Randeep Sarai while sharing an old picture with late Patty Sahota, said, "Deeply saddened by the sudden death of Patty Sahota. I first got to know Patty when she represented Burnaby Edmonds. A community advocate, she left a lasting mark in BC's political and business sphere. Her family is in my thoughts during this time, and she will be missed greatly."

Janet Austin, OBC Lieutenant Governor, in her Throne

Speech said, "We mourn Gordon Gibson Jr. and Patty Sahota, who once served in this



legislature, as we do former members of Parliament Stephen Owen and Pat Carney."

Sahota was born on October 26, 1969, in the village of Jagpalpur, Punjab (India), and grew up in Merritt. After high school, Patty attended Cariboo College (now Thompson Rivers University) in Kamloops. It was there that she became active in the British Columbia Liberal Party.

She transferred to the University of Victoria and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Patty then worked in various sectors of the forest industry before being elected to the BC Legislature in her early 30s. She served as the MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds from 2001-2005,

and was also appointed Minister of State for Resort Development. Patty was recognized as a trailblazer for women in politics.

She was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in the 2001 provincial general election for the constituency of Burnaby-Edmonds.

Sahota was appointed Minister of State for Resort Development on Feb. 1, 2005.

Sahota was instrumental in bringing the 2009 World Police and Fire Games to Burnaby, and had served as a member of the MLA Task Force on the Results-Based Forest Practices Code.

Patty is survived by her father Ajit Singh Sahota and mother Harbhajan Kaur Sahota, as well as her sisters Nunden (Parm), Navy, and Neelam. She will also be deeply missed by her nieces Jasmin and Marissa, her nephew Jessy (Bhavan), and her many cousins. Patty is predeceased by her brother-in-law Ross Yoneda and her nephew Joshua Yoneda.

A funeral service will be held on February 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Five Rivers (Riverside) Funeral Home, 7410 Hopcott Road, Delta, BC. It will be followed by a Sikh service at Ross Street Gurdwara, 8000 Ross Street, Vancouver, BC.

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Surrey's Arshdeep Bains makes Canucks debut against Colorado Avalanche

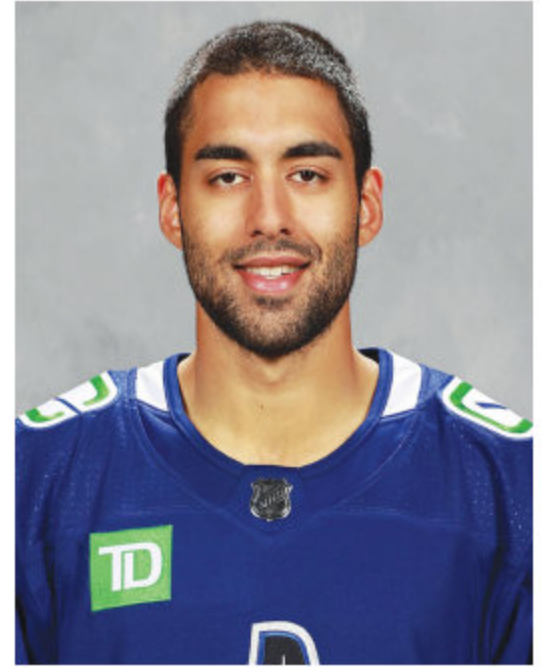
SEATTLE: Arshdeep Bains captured the attention of the hockey world this week when the Vancouver Canucks forward became the fourth Punjabi player to appear in an NHL game, debuting in a 3-1 loss at the Colorado Avalanche. "It was pretty special," Bains said before the Canucks visited the Seattle Kraken in

his second NHL game. Robin Bawa, Manny Malhotra and Jujhar Khaira are the Punjabi players to play in the NHL. Growing up in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey, British Columbia, Bains dreamed of playing for his hometown Canucks as a child and, much more recently, while playing for Red Deer of the Western Hockey League.

"I grew up watching these guys and watching this team play," Bains said. "And even the last couple years, I was still a fan in junior, and now I get to come play with these guys that I looked up to. And they're everything that I wanted to be when I was younger. Getting here now, it just hits you that you kind of chase that dream when you're a kid, and it's kind of finally happening."

Vancouver coach Rick Tocchet was impressed with the 23-year-old's showing Tuesday, when he had two shots on goal and was minus-2 in 13:21 of ice time. "I looked at the first two, three shifts, and I'm like, 'Hey, this guy's not wide-eyed,'" Tocchet said. "I think he's going to seize the moment."

Bains, who signed an entry-level contract with Vancouver as an undrafted free agent March 11, 2022, said he felt well prepared for his debut after getting called up Feb. 16 from Abbotsford of the American Hockey League, where he had 39 points (nine goals, 30 assists) in 42 games this season. Having three days between his call-up and his first game could help explain why Bains was comfortable when he took the ice Tuesday.



"I got in a couple practices and morning skates before I got my chance to play my first game, so I was set up pretty good," Bains said.

Wishes poured in for him from everywhere before the game.

"The years and years of hard work from Arshdeep Bains has been leading to this... Tonight could mark his NHL debut during the #Canucks game! I know people in his hometown Surrey and across BC will join me in cheering him on," said BC's premier David Eby.

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke said on her social media Platform X, "Amazing to see Surrey's Arshdeep Bains added to the Canucks roster - and I hear that he could make his NHL debut tonight! This is an incredible moment not only for Arshdeep and for Surrey, but also for South Asians in the NHL. Congratulations on this incredible achievement, and know that Surrey is cheering you on!"

Randip Janda, host of Hockey Night Punjabi, while sharing Arshdeep Bains father's pictures said, "Behind every kid's NHL dream is the sacrifice of their parents. This is Arshdeep Bains' father Kuldip, who is at every one of his son's home games along with his wife Harvinder. Tonight, he'll watch his son make his NHL debut in Denver. Congratulations to the Bains family."

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Extended day schedules confirmed for five Surrey secondary schools

Starting this September, five of the Surrey School District's most crowded secondary schools will begin implementing an extended day to address capacity challenges.

The five schools are Grandview Heights Secondary, Fleetwood Park Secondary, Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary, Kwantlen Park Secondary, and Tamanawis Secondary.

Additionally, Fraser Heights Secondary and Salish Secondary are under consideration for an extended day. Decisions regarding these two schools are expected by May 2024, and will be based on student course selections and enrolment.

"Extended day isn't an option we want to implement," said Laurie Larsen, Chair of the Surrey Board of Education. "We know there are likely going to be challenges for our staff, our students and their families. Our preference is to construct new schools and additions in neighbourhoods where they're needed, but we have to explore other options while we continue to advocate for provincial funding."

"We're at a point now where it's very difficult for us to accommodate any additional student enrolment growth in the existing infrastructure we have, particularly at our secondary schools where the majority of our schools are significantly over capacity."


An extended day involves lengthening the school day by one block (or class period), so there will be five blocks instead of four. Students at those schools would continue attending four blocks per day, but each student's schedule will depend on their classes. For example, some students may attend the first four blocks, others the last four, and some may attend the first two and last two blocks of the day. According to the school board, implementing an extended day schedule will increase each school's capacity by an estimated 10-15%. By staggering student attendance times, schools can optimize the use of available space and accommodate their current student population and anticipated growth, without compromising the quality of education or the integrity of the learning environment. Furthermore, an extended day will



optimize access to shared resources such as classrooms, technology labs, libraries, and metal/wood shops. This ensures that all students, regardless of their attendance schedule, have equal and fair access to these facilities.

"Providing a quality education in a safe

and engaging learning environment is always a priority for our board," adds Chairperson Larsen. "Our staff will continue to ensure that every student in Surrey and White Rock continues to have equitable access to an enriching learning experience."



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BC Budget 2024 offers 25% increase in family benefit and free in-vitro fertilization

VICTORIA, BC: BC Government released its 2024 Budget this week which aims to provide immediate support for people and families struggling with inflation. The budget proposes 25% increase in BC Family Benefit, one free in-vitro fertilization cycle, a one-time BC Electricity Affordability Credit, property flipping tax, "Wherever we live - city, town, rural or First Nations community - we all want a decent, affordable home, quality health care, help when we need it, and a strong future full of opportunity for everyone," said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance. "In the face of global challenges, like inflation and high interest rates, we are taking on big challenges and supporting people to build a

good life in B.C." To help people through the impacts of global inflation, a BC Family Benefit Bonus will mean more money for more families. More than 340,000 families will receive a 25% bonus with their monthly family benefit in 2024. This includes an estimated 66,000 families that haven't received the BC Family Benefit previously. A family of four would receive up to \$2,850 per year and with the bonus will now receive as much as \$3,563. A single parent with one child would receive up to \$2,250 and will now receive as much as \$2,688 per year. On average, families will receive \$445 more. A one-time BC Electricity Affordability Credit will help reduce electricity bills for people



and businesses in the coming year. Small and growing businesses will also receive help with the impacts of inflation and labour shortages, through a higher Employer Health Tax exemption threshold, doubled from \$500,000 to \$1 million. To make sure housing is used as homes for people, starting in 2025 the Province is introducing a property flipping tax to further crack down on speculators and those driving up the cost of housing. Expanding the

First Time Home Buyers program will help more people save more money when buying their first home, while other tax changes will lower the cost of new home and rental construction. Everyone who wants to start a family will have that opportunity. For some people, in-vitro fertilization is one of the few or only options. No one will be denied the opportunity to have a child because of how much money they make, who they love or whether they have a partner. Starting in 2025, people will be able access one cycle of in-vitro fertilization for free. The budget provides a record \$43 billion in capital funding for schools, post-secondary facilities, housing, health-care facilities, roads and other infrastructure over the next three years. Significant new funding is kept

aside to help B.C. mitigate and better respond to climate emergencies by reducing flooding, bolstering resources for evacuees, improving wildfire prevention and response, and improving drought resiliency. Critical Minerals Strategy in collaboration with First Nations, industry, local governments and the public, and strengthens resources for mine permitting. The Province is also establishing enabling tools to help support equity financing opportunities for First Nations, including provincial equity loan guarantees and other supports. Responding to the budget, Anita Huberman, President & CEO, Surrey Board of Trade said, "The Surrey Board of Trade is pleased to hear about the increased threshold for the Employer Health Tax, and that the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain and the SFU Medical School projects were specifically mentioned in the budget." "We are disappointed that a tax review was not mentioned, and that Surrey will not receive capital investments in Budget 2024 for more health care services at the second hospital in Surrey or for schools. There was no indication of further funds committed if the Surrey policing transition is to continue. Funding for Bus Rapid Transit projects or other transit improvements connecting Surrey all together were also omitted from this budget."

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Golden Temple Art exhibition by Sukhpreet Singh coming to Strawberry Hill Library

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, March 2nd, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, join Sukhpreet Singh Artist for a unique and interactive art exhibit at the Strawberry Hill Library in Surrey. Immerse yourself in the Golden Temple: Sukhpreet Singh will showcase his mesmerizing miniature artwork, "Golden Temple from 20 Angles." This captivating piece explores the iconic landmark from various perspectives, offering a fresh and insightful viewpoint.

Inspire Your Inner Artist: Children can unleash their creativity with Sukhpreet's painting demonstration. Watch live as he paints the Golden Temple in just one hour, offering valuable tips on colors, shades, brushes, and color mixing techniques. This is a wonderful opportunity for young minds to explore art and express themselves on canvas.

More Than Just an Exhibit: This event is a community gathering for art lovers of all

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'Budget 2024 sets out an \$8 billion inflationary deficit — the largest in B.C.'s history' — Kevin Falcon

Many organizations welcomed BC government's 2024 budget, while many were unsatisfied. Here are few reactions:
BC United Leader Kevin Falcon



Budget 2024 sets out an \$8 billion inflationary deficit — the largest in B.C.'s history — with taxpayer-supported debt per person increasing 150 percent, from \$8,540 in 2016/17 to \$21,542 in 2026/27. The changes to the property transfer tax for first time buyers only applies to the first \$500,000 of a home, which will only save homebuyers \$8,000, compared to BC United's plan which will save people up to \$18,000 due to our raising of the exemption threshold to \$1 million. The Employer Health Tax (EHT) rate is doubling (from 2.9 percent to 5.8 percent) on businesses with over \$1 million in payroll. EHT revenues will climb by \$265 million over the fiscal plan.

Ken Peacock, Business Council of British Columbia



Today's B.C. budget projects a nearly \$8 billion deficit this fiscal year and serially large deficits over the forecast horizon. In October, the Bank of Canada Governor indicated that monetary and fiscal policy should be "rowing in the same direction" to cool inflation that is hurting family budgets. At 1.9 per cent of GDP, this year's deficit is significantly larger than last years which was the largest among the provinces and second only to the federal government. This budget continues an unhelpful pace of spending and borrowing that is stimulative despite B.C.'s inflation rate being 3.0% year-over-year in January. We do not agree the government should be running large operating deficits when the economy is near full capacity and people are struggling to pay the bills because of inflation.

Mayor Brenda Locke, City of Surrey

I acknowledge and welcome the funding for the new hospital and SkyTrain extension to Langley, however those projects will not be completed for at least another four years. Unfortunately, the NDP government has, once



again, failed to understand the current critical infrastructure needs of Surrey. This new budget offers no immediate relief to the challenges Surrey faces in health care, schools and transit. In the meantime, patients having to be housed in hallways and the stressful working conditions for Surrey Memorial Hospital doctors, nurses and staff will persist. Despite having a similar population to Vancouver, Surrey Memorial Hospital will have to make do with less than half of the operating rooms available at Vancouver General Hospital. One new elementary school will not make a dent in reducing the hundreds of portables at our already overcrowded public schools. No new transit funding for the Metro region means

there will be no relief for our overcrowded roads, and buses in Surrey will continue to run beyond capacity. It also means that many areas in Surrey will remain without basic bus service. Access to public transit is an essential component to achieving affordability and meeting the demand of the new housing targets set by Premier Eby.

BCTF President Clint Johnston



The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) was heartened to hear that public education is a top priority of the NDP government. However, without a significant funding commitment that goes beyond keeping up with the growing population, Budget 2024 won't make a dent in solving acute staffing shortages in schools. Budget 2024 allocates \$968 million to keep up with growing enrollment including more teachers, \$4.2 billion to build, renovate, and seismically upgrade schools, \$255 million for the Classroom Enhancement Fund, including special education

teachers and school counsellors to keep up with enrollment and \$30.3 million for learning supports to support students with dyslexia and related learning differences in K-12 system. However, missing from the budget is a targeted teacher recruitment fund to relieve current K-12 staffing shortages, a targeted teacher retention fund to enhance retention of the current workforce and improve working conditions and supports for students, funding for special education staffing and services that fully covers what school districts actually spend on inclusive education

BETSY AGAR, Buildings Director at the Pembina Institute
 Addressing climate change and protecting British Columbians from the impacts we are already facing must be the cornerstone of provincial government budgets and plans as 2030 quickly approaches. This is why we're pleased to see the government reconfirm its commitments under CleanBC, the government's climate change plan, with \$318 million over next three years. The cost of climate inaction is too great, as evidenced by the \$405 million commitment to protecting against climate emergencies. Budget 2024 represented an opportunity to put in place the tools needed to reach our 2030 and 2050 climate targets, provide new economic development opportunities, and address the affordability and well-being challenges of all British Columbians.



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Brampton employee Charged for threatening owner with Extortion threats

Peel Region Police have arrested and charged another individual following reported extortion incidents in Peel.

Hitesh Bansal, a 33-year-old from Brampton, has been charged with three counts of Extortion. He was held in custody pending a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton.

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Extortion Investigative Task Force began investigating allegations that a former employee of a Brampton business owner began threatening violence towards the owner, their family, and staff if they continued to operate.

The accused claimed to have ties to the mob and that they would force the victim to shut down their business. The threats were made via phone calls and text messages.

The EITF quickly identified the accused, and on Monday, February 12, 2024, he was arrested in the City of Hamilton.

EITF recently arrested and charged many individuals including two women due to their alleged involvement in extortion attempts against members of the region's South Asian community. Task force lead Supt. Shelley Thompson said of the 29 cases under investigation, nine incidents have involved shootings at local businesses, with multiple bullets being fired. No injuries have been reported. She said it was important to encourage the community to come forward and report extortions. She informed me that the businesses that are being victimized are South Asian-owned and mostly but not limited



Hitesh Bansal

to restaurants, bakeries, trucking, transport, car dealerships, and jewelry stores.

Gagan Ajit Singh, Anmoldeep Singh, a 23-year-old man from Mississauga, Hashmeet Kaur, a Lymanjot Kaur, were arrested

and charged.

Since October 2023, police in the Lower Mainland and other provinces have been receiving reports of small businesses facing threats through phone calls, WhatsApp messages, and letters, compelling them to provide monetary concessions. Surrey had 3 confirmed cases, with the cities of West Vancouver, Abbotsford, Edmonton (Alberta), and Brampton (Ontario) also confirming similar threats.

In an open letter published earlier this month, Brown and Surrey, B.C. Mayor Brenda Locke expressed "deep concern" over the growing number of "extortion attempts and violent acts, including shootings" in the two cities.

"This alarming development

underscores the severity and widespread nature of these threats, which are predominantly targeting members of the South Asian business community. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and local police departments including Peel Regional Police, have acknowledged the gravity of the situation," the letter read.

Anyone with information or who is a victim of an extortion related offence, is asked to contact the Extortion Investigative Task Force at 1-866-966-0616 or by email at taskforce@peel.police.ca

Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting peelcrimestoppers.ca.

Delta Police Arrest 3 Armed Youths Involved In Shoplifting And Robbery at Tsawwassen Mills

DELTA, BC: The Delta Police Department successfully apprehended three armed youths on February 13th, 2024, following a shoplifting and robbery incident at a retail store in Tsawwassen Mills.

The incident unfolded when three male youths entered a retail establishment. While one youth engaged in distracting store staff, the other two seized the opportunity to steal various items. The Delta Police Department promptly received a report on the shoplifting activity.

An officer responded to the report, locating and confronting the three suspects involved in the theft. Upon advising them of their arrest, all three attempted to flee. The officer managed to apprehend one male on the spot, who was found in possession of multiple stolen items, bear spray, and an imitation firearm.

Further investigation led the officer to a discarded bag linked to the other suspects. The bag, upon search, was noted to contain additional stolen property and a second imitation firearm.

The remaining two suspects were later located and arrested in a nearby residential area without further incident. A third imitation firearm was recovered during this arrest. The Delta Police Department has recommended charges against all three youths, including theft under \$5000 and obstructing a police officer. Additionally, two of the suspects face a charge of robbery.

The suspects, all hailing from Surrey, were subsequently released to their parents pending further legal proceedings.

One person injured in shots fired during an attempt robbery in Guildford

Shots were fired in the Guildford area and one person was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries on February 18, 2024.

At 6:23 pm, Surrey RCMP responded to a report of shots fired at a Jewelry store in the 15200-block of 101 Avenue. Police arrived on scene and determined an attempt robbery had taken place and one person was shot by the suspects who had fled the area prior to police

arrival. The victim was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The investigation is ongoing and Police are collecting CCTV and witness statements in the area. If you were in the area on February 18, between 6 pm to 6:30 pm and may have witnessed this incident or you have dash cam footage, please contact Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502 and quote file 2024-23721.

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**Obituary:
AMANJIT SINGH PUREWAL**



Vancouver resident Amanjit Singh Purewal (son of Sardar Gurmej Singh Purewal and Jasbir Kaur Purewal) passed away on 15 February 2024. Their previous village was Shankar district Jalandhar.

His funeral will be held on February 24, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Riverside Funeral Home, 7410 Hope Cote Road, Delta, and a requiem recitation will be held at 1 p.m. at Gurdwara Sahib Khalsa Dewan Society, 8000 Ross Street, Vancouver.

Saskatchewan Premier visits India to foster trade relations



Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe is leading a delegation to India to maintain and grow trade opportunities, increase investment attraction, and showcase Saskatchewan's capacity to foster food and energy security goals.

"This is an important mission for Saskatchewan as we continue to build relationships with India," Premier Scott Moe said. "We have built strong relationships

over a number of decades which has been crucial to building opportunities and protecting communities and jobs back home."

While Scott called the visit crucial, the visit has raised many eyebrows too. His visit comes amidst increased diplomatic tensions between India and Canada after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau accused India of being involved in the killing of

a Sikh community leader in British Columbia and meddling in Canada's affairs. Also his visit was criticized by the provincial opposition NDP which claimed that the visit will cost extra dollars to tax-payers' money. Official Opposition Trade Critic Aleana Young said "Premier Scott Moe's third trip to India comes on the heels of his controversial Dubai junket that cost taxpayers at least a million

dollars. His most recent trip to India in February 2023 cost taxpayers \$56,905.51 and came just two days after his Agriculture Minister got home from India. Premier Moe's first trip to India was in November 2018 and cost \$59,514.14," she said.

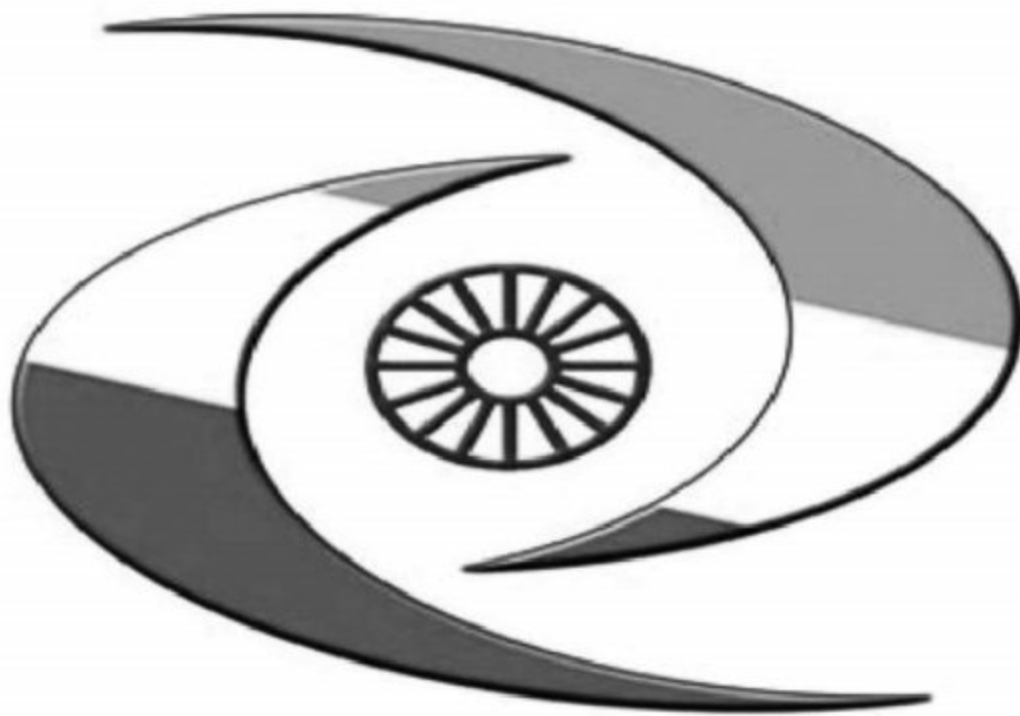
In a news release, the Saskatchewan government said the mission is meant to maintain and grow trade opportunities, increase investment attraction and showcase Saskatchewan's food and energy sectors. "The total Canadian exports to India were valued at \$5.1 billion. Of that total, Saskatchewan was responsible for 26 per cent, valued at over \$1.3 billion. The province's top five exports to India include lentils, potash, wood pulp, peas and non-durum wheat. Saskatchewan is India's largest exporter of key products including potash and lentils," the release mentioned.

One of the main events the Premier is attending the Raisina Dialogue, where he has been invited to participate as a speaker. The Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference held in New Delhi that brings together key stakeholders and policymakers from across the world to discuss global issues. During the event, Premier Moe focus is on Saskatchewan's sustainable agriculture practices and reliable supply chain.

During his visit Scott met with Indian Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje to discuss Saskatchewan's ongoing trade relationship with India as a consistent and reliable supplier of pulses, potash, agricultural technologies and research partnerships.

He also met India's External affairs minister S Jaishankar. "An important supplier of potash, lentils and uranium. Saskatchewan's Indian origin community has truly been a bridge between us. I appreciate Premier Scott Moe's strong support for our partnership and looking forward to deepening our cooperation," Jaishankar said

Continued on page 11



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Horrific attack on Afzaal family was a "textbook example of terrorist motive and intent": Judge

A London, Ont. judge has handed down her sentence in the case of Nathaniel Veltman, convicted of killing four members of a Muslim family and seriously injuring a young boy in June of 2021.

Veltman, 23, was found guilty in November of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder for hitting the Afzaal family with his truck while they were out for a walk on June 6, 2021.

Talat Afzaal, 74, her son Salman, 46, his wife Madiha, 44, and their 15-year-old daughter Yumnah were all killed while their then nine-year-old son was seriously injured.

The Court has ruled that the horrific attack on the five members of the Afzaal family was a "textbook example of terrorist motive and intent."

Canada's Special Representa-

tive on Combating Islamophobia Amira Elghawaby said in a statement, "Today, sentencing in the Afzaal family trial concluded with a decision that has met the expectations of the family members and Canada's Muslim communities. This decision will have profound reverberations throughout Canadian society."

"This designation adds to the perpetrator's previous murder convictions and marks the first time in Canadian history that a case involving white nationalism has met the threshold of terrorism," she said.

London's Muslim community has waited for nearly three years to see justice served in this case, which has devastated family, friends, and the wider community. Earlier this month, over 70 victim impact statements were read in the courtroom, including a statement on behalf of the lone



Talat Afzaal, 74, her son Salman, 46, his wife Madiha, 44, and their 15-year-old daughter Yumnah were all killed while their then nine-year-old son was seriously injured

surviving family member, the couple's son who was just nine years old at the time of the attack. "Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Islamophobia has had deadly consequences in Canada, and incidents of Islamophobia have been on the rise. Canada has had the highest number of targeted deadly attacks against

Muslims of any G7 country. Today's decision sends a strong message that Muslim communities in Canada must be protected against ideologically motivated violent extremism. It affirms that targeted, heinous, and hate-motivated attacks like this one are acts of terrorism, and perpetrators will and must face the full extent of the law. We also must see urgent efforts

to address the proliferation of online hate that can contribute to the radicalization of individuals who may commit such heinous acts of violence. As the judge ruled, this case may stand as "a cautionary tale", considering that "the tentacles of hate can reach a broad audience when they are merely a click away."

This decision will not bring back "Our London Family", as the Afzaal family is fondly remembered. Yet, it will provide some comfort to communities who demand equity and justice from our laws and from our institutions.

Our thoughts continue to be with the families and friends of those who were tragically taken from their community, as the magnitude of this heavy loss continues to be felt in their lives every day. We must recommit to working together to combat the hate and Islamophobia that continues to threaten our lives and livelihoods as equal members of Canadian society."

Continued from Page 10

Saskatchewan Premier visits...

The Canadian Delegation led by the Premier of Saskatchewan also met Indian Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh to discuss bilateral collaboration as well as joint ventures in areas like Electric Vehicles, Cyber Physical System, Quantum Technologies, Future Manufacturing, Green Hydrogen Fuel, Deep Ocean Mining etc.

The release by Indian government mentions that Moe observed that Canada and India relations have made great strides in recent years and have become truly multidimensional, spurred by a significant convergence of interests, mutual goodwill and exchanges. He said, Science and Technology cooperation is one of the strategic pillars of

the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Academia, Research Institutions and Industries of both countries have strong bonding and are playing the role of catalyst in our strategic research and development partnerships.

Post-secondary education is also a priority for the mission. Representatives from the University of Saskatchewan have joined the delegation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with QPIAL, a tech company based in India. Moe also signed another MOU on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education with the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute to promote educational collaboration.

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BC is hosting the Invictus Games 2025 in Whistler! Last weekend, BC Premier David Eby joined Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, for some wheelchair curling ahead of next year's games. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex attended the One Year to Go Dinner at the Vancouver Convention Center on Friday as part of the Invictus Games countdown celebrations. "The Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 will offer a global platform to expand the range and profile of winter adaptive sports. With deep respect, I'm also pleased to share that the Games in Canada will be held in partnership with the First Nations, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities," said Prince Harry, patron of the Invictus games foundation. Founded in 2014 by Prince Harry, the Invictus Games showcase the abilities of wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans and honour their contributions.

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The Conservative resurgence: A defeat of Liberals or Victory of Conservatives?



By Zile Singh

In many aspects, the executive power, anywhere in the world, is comparable to Shakespeare's drama: "There is a world of difference between appearance and reality." It cannot be denied that much important information about the functioning of the executive is shrouded in mystery.

Though it is not a Canadian case, but the Crossman Diaries Affairs, in which the inner workings of the British Cabinet in the late 1960s were laid bare through the posthumous publication of the daily journal of a high-ranking Cabinet Minister is an example.

A multiparty system is a sine qua non

of a viable democracy. The multiparty system flourishes on the universal truth that 'history repeats itself'. Today, one Party is in power. Tomorrow the other will win to rule. For example - Ad Scam or Sponsor Gate was a scandal in Canada that came as a result of a federal government 'sponsorship program' in the province of Quebec involving the Liberal Party of Canada which was in power from 1993 to 2006.

Though an ongoing affair for years, it rose to national prominence in early 2004 after the program was examined by the Auditor General, who found significant drawbacks in handling public money. A Public Inquiry revealed that the Ad Agency executives and Liberal Party officials had corruptly handled more than \$300 million; \$100 million of which was funneled from the government to the Liberal Party.

The overall operating cost of the Inquiry Commission was \$14 million. In the

national spotlight, the Scandal became a significant factor in the lead-up to the 2006 federal elections when, after more than 12 years in power, the Liberals were defeated by the Conservatives who formed a minority government that was sworn in February 2006. The Conservative Party governed under the leadership of Stephen Harper until 2015.

Then came to power the Liberals under Justine Trudeau. The stewardship of Prime Minister Trudeau has earned the wrath of a majority of Canadians on several fronts, whether it is domestic, bilateral, multilateral, or international policies. Reliable public opinion shows Conservatives' popularity at 44% whereas the Liberals are at 24%. The emerging fissures in the New Democratic Party are not hidden from the public eye. Alberta took the lead. The disease is contagious. It will spread. The Provincial NDPs are bidding goodbye to the Federal NDP.



In another recent report, the Auditor General said that she found a "glaring disregard" for basic management practices and record keeping in the Liberal government's ArriveCan App. The concerned departments spent about \$59.5 million on outsourcing work with private contractors. The report questions why government officials approved invoices and time sheets from contractors in cases where "details of work performed were often missing." The Scam is under investigation.

However good a leader may be, his government is susceptible if there is no accountability and answerability. In 2017, Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), expressed strong objection to the Liberal government's plans to rewrite the rules empowering the spending departments. Without strong measures to control finances, any political party can succumb to favoritism and nepotism. The public has seen such cases of favoritism and in appropriation of public funds during the last several years. It is easier to make a budget than to control and use it with due care in the public interest.

Let us not break the circle. Should history repeat itself, it is the turn of the Conservatives to come to power in the next Federal Elections. As a student of Political Science, to me, it will not be a defeat of the Liberals, but a triumph of Canadian democracy.

What's in the name? Appearance has proved deceptive. Liberals can act ill-liberal, and Conservatives can advocate for middle-class and small businesses. The face is no index to the heart. It is not the beard that makes the philosopher; if the beard were all, the goat might preach. Liberals, Conservatives or the New Democrats, all have to govern according to rules laid down in the Canadian Constitution. And the Constitution is for the welfare of all Canadians. I quote Section 15(1) of our Constitution.

"Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Zile Singh is a columnist, author, poet, human rights activist, go fer and a vipassana meditator. He can be contacted at zsnirwal@yahoo.ca

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PM Announces \$2 Billion Funding For BC Housing Initiative

VANCOUVER, BC: BC Builds, the Province's new initiative to build more housing for people with middle incomes, will benefit from \$2 billion in additional financing from the Government of Canada to help deliver thousands more homes that people with middle incomes who live and work in B.C. can afford.

"All levels of government need to work together to solve the housing crisis," said Premier David Eby. "With the federal government's contribution and partnership toward BC Builds, we can help build more homes people can actually afford. That's good news for our economy and for our future, but most importantly it's good news for British Columbians looking for a decent place to live." On Feb. 13, 2024, the Province announced BC Builds, an initiative delivered through BC Housing that leverages government, community and non-profit owned and under-used land to speed up the delivery of housing and help bring costs more in line with what middle-income households earn. All BC Builds projects have a target of middle-income households spending no more than 30% of their income on rent.

"Canada needs more homes that the middle class can afford. That's what today's historic partnership with British Columbia is all about," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "Our investment, through the BC Builds Pro-



gram, will use public land to create more affordable housing, bring down the cost of construction and ensure that we build more homes faster so that Canadians - from teachers, to nurses, to construction workers - can afford to stay in the communities where they work."

In addition to the \$2-billion financing from the Government of Canada, BC Builds is supported through an investment of \$950 million from the Province to ensure units are available at below-market rates, as well as \$2 billion in provincial low-cost construction financing. The BC Builds team will help streamline approvals for projects seeking federal financing to meet the 12-18-month concept-to-construction BC Builds timeline. BC Builds has established 20 initial sites

through partnerships with local governments, First Nations and non-profit organizations to support the development of housing for middle-income households throughout the province.

With the federal financing in place and through the 20 initial BC Builds sites, it is anticipated a minimum of between 8,000 and 10,000 homes for people with middle incomes will initially be built over the first five years of the program. The total number of units is expected to grow as more partners and land are secured.

"Teachers, nurses, construction workers and other middle-income people need more housing options in B.C., and with several BC Builds sites identified and dozens of interested partners, we are well on our way to getting the additional housing they need built," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "We are in a housing crisis that requires support from all levels of government. BC Builds will ensure that middle-income housing will get built faster and more in line with what households earn."

Continued on page 23



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986 HABGOOD STREET

FOR SALE \$1,299,900



Ideal location just steps from Marine Drive! This presents an excellent chance to construct your dream three-story home on this stunning ocean-view property. The rectangular lot comes with ready-to-go plans, allowing for a spacious 4,500 SF residence with a legal suite featuring two bedrooms. The fully serviced lot is conveniently situated within walking distance to both levels of school and public transit. With easy access to the Peace Arch Border and Highway 99, this location is perfect for those on the go. Embrace the finest aspects of White Rock's lifestyle, including top-notch restaurants, the beach, shops, and the iconic Pier.

12364 53 AVENUE

FOR SALE \$6,199,000



This Property is located in the prestigious Panorama Ridge neighbourhood with development potential. 2.92 Acres of LAND! Property is free of creeks, right of ways and easements. Rectangular parcel. Please call for additional information.

3030 16 HIGHWAY

FOR SALE \$3,199,900



"Pleasant Valley Motel" located at 3030 Highway 16 in Houston, B.C. This property consists of a 51 unit motel plus a full service restaurant and living quarters for the owner/manager.

19710 33 AVE

FOR SALE \$2,499,000



Welcome to your luxurious oasis featuring 9 bedrooms 9 bathrooms, and 2 Suites of two-bedrooms each! This custom-built masterpiece boasts a main-floor 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. Located in sought-after Brookwood Langley, this home

12420 80 AVENUE

FOR SALE \$1,899,000



WEST NEWTON HOME! Three level home built by experienced builder. This exceptional quality build includes an open concept plan, high quality throughout, radiant heat along with A/C and appliances. The main floor has a family room, BEDROOM with ensuite which could be used as a den, living & dining rooms, powder room, mudroom, dream kitchen with a spice kitchen and a covered patio area leading to the backyard. The floor above has 4 bedrooms plus 2 ensuites and one central bathroom. The floor below has a 2 bedroom suite and a 1 bedroom suite with separate entrances from below the covered patio. Lane access leads to the double garage. This home is centrally located close to Scott Road and other major routes.

22442 125 AVENUE

FOR SALE \$1,149,000



A fantastic opportunity awaits with this updated four-bedroom residence, ideally positioned at the cul-de-sac's end on a pie-shaped lot, just a short stroll from downtown Maple Ridge! The kitchen boasts quartz counters, stainless steel appliances (including a built-in microwave), and hardwood floors. Flowing seamlessly from the kitchen, the generous dining and living spaces feature a natural wood fireplace framed by a built-in entertainment unit. The master bedroom includes a 3-piece ensuite and a walk-in closet. The fully finished basement is perfect for guests or in-laws. Noteworthy features include a 2-year-old high-efficiency furnace and an 11-year-old roof. Commuters will value the proximity to Golden Ears Way! Book your showing today!

14753 62 AVE

FOR SALE \$1,999,000



SULLIVAN STATION BRAND NEW HOUSE. Features 8 BEDROOMS & 7 WASHROOMS! You are welcomed into this 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! Perfect for the growing family.

1081 EWSON STREET

FOR SALE \$1,789,900



WHITE ROCK 3 bed and 2 Bath Home! This home sits on a 7973 Square foot rectangular lot. Located in the prestigious area of White Rock with close proximity to White Rock Beach, shopping centres and major bus routes. The home is currently rented to good tenants at \$2900 Month to Month. There is a possibility for a secondary suite down below. Build your dream home or watch your investment grow! Surrounded by multi million dollar new homes this property has a lot of options! Please call for more information.

13661 59A AVENUE

FOR SALE \$1,349,000



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, and shops.

15451 KILMORE PLACE

FOR SALE \$1,949,900



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 features 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Renovations include new oak flooring, 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 backyard. 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 shops at Panorama.

11141 Ditton Street

FOR SALE \$799,000



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 (28863376)

2940 16 HIGHWAY

FOR SALE \$3,199,900



"Pleasant Valley Motel" located at 3030 Highway 16 in Houston, B.C. This property consists of a 57 unit motel plus a full service restaurant and living quarters for the owner/manager. 18 RV

12686 56 Avenue

FOR SALE \$2,288,000



Experience luxury living in this exquisite 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment located in the 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 nearby walkways, cafes, shopping malls, and two Skytrain stations. Enjoy a park-side living experience with an amenity-rich lifestyle, including easy access to all of the City Centre's retailers, as well as \$FU/future UBC campus and Surrey Memorial Hospital.

105 8028 128 STREET

OR SALE \$2,349,000



PROPERTY WITH BUSINESS FOR SALE IN LITTLE INDIA PLAZA- Retail unit located in the heart of Surrey at the intersection of 80th Avenue and 128th Street. The retail area offers optimal visibility for pedestrian traffic, featuring a well-lit, open floor plan with expansive windows and lofty ceilings. Spanning 1045 square feet with 424 square feet mezzanine the space fronts the bustling 128th street. The intersection of 80th Avenue and 128th Street witnesses a daily traffic flow of more than 37,000 vehicles. The shopping center boasts abundant parking and convenient transit accessibility. Notably, Little India Plaza is the inaugural establishment in the region to secure approval for 'Comprehensive Zoning', allowing a diverse range of commercial enterprises to establish a presence in the shopping centre.

1290 FRANCES AVENUE

FOR SALE \$349,000



What a fantastic chance to possess your very own PRIVATE piece of land, all within a convenient 15-minute drive from town! This 38.23-acre undeveloped property, located on Frances Drive, surrounded by picturesque small acreages, eagerly awaits your creative ideas. With RR2 zoning in place, the possibilities are vast, including agricultural 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.

13956 56 AVENUE

FOR SALE \$6,599,000



TRANSFORM YOUR LIVING EXPERIENCE & ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR in PANORAMA RIDGE! Nestled within a secure gated community, this magnificent residence sprawls across an impressive 2.109 acres and showcases mesmerizing OCEAN/VALLEY VIEWS! Crafted with impeccable attention to detail, every facet of this 10,000 sq.ft+ home exudes world-class quality craftsmanship. Step into the grandeur of a TOWERING FOYER, adorned with breathtaking chandeliers and dual staircases. Custom-designed, this mansion boasts ULTRA-LUXURIOUS features, including a spacious gourmet kitchen with top-grade appliances, a convenient wok kitchen, in-floor heating with custom stonework.

13265 80 AVENUE,

FOR SALE \$1,999,000



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 entertaining.

14742 62A AVENUE

OR SALE \$1,999,900



SULLIVAN STATION BRAND NEW HOME! 3800+ Sq Ft Home! 8 BED 7 BATH HOME. Thoughtfully designed plan features a Master Bedroom on the main floor with walk in closet + ensuite. Loads of windows to soak in the natural light with high ceilings. Home also features grand living room, dining room, study room, large family room leading to kitchen + BONUS spice kitchen! Upstairs features 4 large bedrooms and 3 washrooms. In the basement you have 2 suites (2+1) that will generate great rental income. Central location to YMCA, Panorama Village Shops, Bell Centre (School) with easy access to 64 ave and major routes.

105 7511 120 Street

FOR SALE \$1,624,999



Located on the busy SCOTT ROAD! Very HIGH EXPOSURE UNIT perfect for a family doctor! The unit is a 1404 square foot. Very tastefully built with modern finishes. There is a good size reception desk, 6 examination rooms, lunch room and 2 washrooms, personal office. Ample parking in the parking lot. Please call to schedule your private viewing.

7784 DUNSMUIR STREET

FOR SALE \$6,880,000



Sale by Court Order: 3.27 acres development opportunity situated in Mission's prime location. The property boasts Urban Residential zoning (R558) and is earmarked for Attached Multi-Unit Residential development. Land value only.

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total 2625 Sq ft, prime location 123st and 84 ave area, \$2,900,000 for both.

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**HOUSE IN
FLEETWOOD**

3 separate suites, 3 separate laundry, 3 Potential Home with subdividable potential. Great investment property \$1,500,000. **SOLD**

INVESTOR ALERT

Large 1.3 Acres development site for sale in the heart of Fleetwood. Location Location potential to acquire 3.25 floor space Ratio (FSR)

**HOUSE
FOR SALE**

A house for sale on \$2,300,000, rancher with loft on 25,000sq ft. lot.

FOR LEASE

4.363 acres of prime land in the heart of Surrey. Near 152st and 68ave. ALR is designated as an industrial business park. (Truck parking only not allowed)

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BODY SHOP**

Extremely busy location. **SOLD** Option can buy building alone, business alone or together. **Call for details**

**WAREHOUSE
FOR LEASE**

124st and 84ave. Total 15,146, on 2 levels. **LEASED** **Call for details**

**Warehouse
for Lease**

2637sq ft, Newton area 124st and 82ave., end of January. \$17 sq ft. plus \$6 additional rent.

WAREHOUSE

3000sq ft. warehouse, 1500sq. ft. up and down, near payal business center **Call for details**

**WAREHOUSE
FOR SALE**

2817 Sqft in New... auto etc. 16 foot ceiling. **LEASED** **Only \$1,199,000.**

FOR LEASE

Space Scott Road and 84th ave area, 983 Sq FT, Available March 2024, Great Expo 15 SQ ft plus \$11 additional rent, ideal for Physiotherapy clinic **LEASED**

Surrey aims to create one job for every resident worker in Surrey through new Economic Strategy

The City of Surrey launched its 2024 Economic Strategy titled "Investing in our Future" at the Mayor's State of the City Address on Feb. 15.

This Council-approved plan provides a roadmap for how Surrey will build the city's economy over the next five years while focusing on the accelerated creation of well-paying jobs and attraction of transformative investments.

The strategy outlines the need for the creation of 300,000 jobs by 2042 to ensure there is one job per resident worker by the time Surrey reaches a population of one million residents.

"The City of Surrey's newly unveiled 2024 Economic Strategy stands as a pivotal milestone to guide us to create new jobs and opportunities to support our growth," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "With Surrey projected to be a city with one million people as early as 2042, Council is committed to meeting the target of one job for every working resident in Surrey. As we grow, our focus remains firmly on the people - cultivating job opportunities, enriching livability, and addressing the needs of our ever-growing population."

Over the next five years, the City will focus on increasing Surrey's global investment attraction efforts and enhancing entertainment and health care options for residents. Additionally, the strategy outlines a road map for the launch of Innovation Boulevard 2.0 to promote innovative opportunities in health technology, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, and agritech.

"Together these strategies will allow Surrey to have an economic framework that sup-



ports Surrey's tremendous growth and our potential to be leaders in all aspects of the new economy focused on the technology, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors," Locke said.

"To accelerate job creation, we need to attract transformative investments to Surrey. We define transformative investments as those that - in addition to creating high-quality jobs - will increase business-supporting assets (e.g., hotels or a convention centre), bolster our innovation ecosystem, enhance infrastructure, or are in a priority sector. To succeed, we also need to enhance our investment readiness - that is, the state and availability of various elements that companies require to set up operations and thrive in a location. We want sites to be fully ready for company operations within 18 to 24 months of an investment decision being made. Importantly, investment readiness actions are also designed to support the expansion of existing Surrey businesses. Key actions related to attracting transformative investments include targeting priority markets to increase qualified investment leads suitable for Surrey, streamlining permitting, and refreshing the Invest Surrey brand to support promotion activities," the Mayor said.

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<p>6 16655 64 AVENUE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>This 2 storey plus 10 basement corner townhome is located in desirable Ridgewood at Northview. Boasting 3 bedrooms including an 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 lower patio. Additional features are an oversized garage, AC/2017, new deck/2020.</p> <p>\$909,800</p>	<p>1001 13380 108 AVENUE</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Welcome to prestigious City Point, one bedroom condo in the heart of downtown Surrey with outstanding view of the bridge, mountains, city & park. Open concept floor plan. Fabulous design with Quartz kitchen countertops, S/S appliances & in suite laundry. One parking & storage. Free exercise room, common lounge, bike room. Security cameras at every excess in parking & elevators. Steps away from SFU campus, new city hall, public library, recreation facility, gateway sky train, parks, playground & shopping. 24 hours notice for showing.</p> <p>\$424,900</p>	
<p>14103 110 AVE., N. SURREY</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Truly delightful home on a large lot in a desirable area. Home sits on a rectangular lot with 11 bedrooms & 10 washrooms built in 2014. Main floor has 3 bedrooms & 4 full washrooms. 5th media room with bar & washroom for parties. Home has 3 spacious ground level basement suites (2 bed + 1 bed & 1 bed). Total rent of the suites is \$2500/month. Very nice tenants. Easy access to Pattalo bridge, Post Mann bridge & shopping center. Motivated sellers. Easy to show.</p> <p>\$1,779,000</p>	<p>26964 28 AVE., LANGLEY</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Truly delightful home in a great location. Home sits on a rectangular lot with 11 bedrooms & 10 washrooms built in 2014. Main floor has 3 bedrooms & 4 full washrooms. 5th media room with bar & washroom for parties. Home has 3 spacious ground level basement suites (2 bed + 1 bed & 1 bed). Total rent of the suites is \$2500/month. Very nice tenants. Easy access to Pattalo bridge, Post Mann bridge & shopping center. Motivated sellers. Easy to show.</p> <p>\$920,000</p>	<p>5235 UPLAND DRIVE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>This 4 bed / 4 bath home has everything you need for a great lifestyle. Home sits on a large lot with a 2nd floor view of the mountains. Above garage room added in 2007 and upgraded in 2014. Hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-suite laundry, master bedroom with walk-in closet, 2 way see through fireplace with jetted Chromotherapy Acromotherapy tub. Large walk-in shower with rain head and body sprayer. Enjoy the outdoor view in a private back yard with mature Palm and bamboo trees while you lounge around the concrete pool with attached hot tub. Pool is solar heated as well as gas and the yard is fully landscaped.</p> <p>\$1,635,000</p>
<p>5843 180 STREET, CLOVERDALE</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Sold family home on almost 10,000 square foot rectangular lot in Cloverdale with loads of potential. Large open lot offers plenty of space for a pool, playground, or use the extra space to build a garage, or use the central location to commute to work. Home has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a finished basement with two bedrooms suite. Large covered patio, area on floor, private, sunny backyard. Transform it into a modern, functional family home.</p> <p>\$912,500</p>	<p>14030 GROSVENOR RD., NORTH SURREY</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>This well-maintained family home with 4 beds up, suite potential down and a detached workshop, garage has everything you and your family need for a great lifestyle. Home sits on a large lot with a 2nd floor view of the mountains. Above garage room added in 2007 and upgraded in 2014. Hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, in-suite laundry, master bedroom with walk-in closet, 2 way see through fireplace with jetted Chromotherapy Acromotherapy tub. Large walk-in shower with rain head and body sprayer. Enjoy the outdoor view in a private back yard with mature Palm and bamboo trees while you lounge around the concrete pool with attached hot tub. Pool is solar heated as well as gas and the yard is fully landscaped.</p> <p>\$955,000</p>	

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<p>62 15175 62A AVENUE</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE FEB 25 FROM 2-4</p> <p>\$919,000</p> <p>FULLY RENOVATED! Beautiful 3 bed townhouse with TWO entrances 1st entry from 62a ave through backyard with no stairs. All new kitchen high end appl., granite waterfall countertop, backsplash, country sink and faucets. Elegant wide plank vinyl flooring resists kids, pets and spills! New electric fireplace and custom built walnut wall unit perfect for entertainment and storage. Upstairs features 3 good size beds, lush bathroom, and updated washer/dryer.</p>	<p>19913 72 AVE LANGLEY</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>House with basement suite and a coach home Potential rent \$5000 or more per month (3 separate rental units)</p> <p>\$1,849,000</p>	<p>UNIT 34 - 1010 EWEN AVE NEW WEST</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>OPEN HOUSE FEB 24 FROM 2-4</p> <p>\$849,000</p> <p>Hot location in New Westminster! Just minutes from Walmart shopping outlet and restaurants, 10 min to Richmond, 10 min to Metrotown. Walking distance to Queen Elizabeth School. Corner unit townhouse w/spacious layout. Spacious 3 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom. Shows beautifully! Living and dining room faces inside of complex and the other side has kitchen, family room and a den with large balcony for family entertainment.</p>
<p>217 20696 EASTLEIGH CRESCENT</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>\$699,000</p> <p>Welcome to The Georgia, Langley's newest collection of homes centrally located in Langley City close to shops, restaurants, parks, schools and walking distance to the future Skytrain. Modern open concept designs, featuring inviting 9ft ceilings, high-quality laminate flooring, air conditioning in the master bedrooms, and granite stone kitchen countertops. Contact sales for more information! Don't miss out, only a handful of homes remaining!</p>	<p>19917 72 AVE LANGLEY</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>House with basement suite All rent approx \$3000 per month Open house Sunday 1-4</p> <p>\$1,599,998</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>11516 PARKWOOD PLACE DELTA</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Check out this well maintained, beautifully updated basement entry home in the heart of North Delta. Main floor boasts 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, spacious living room/dining room, beautiful kitchen, sundeck. Downstairs features 2 bedroom legal suite with separate entry. Single garage and driveway can fit up to 4 cars. Steps away from Chalmers Elementary and Burnsville Secondary, San God Rec Centre, transit, shopping and parks.</p> <p>\$1,499,000</p>
<p>5105 ABERDEEN ST., VAN</p> <p>\$1,495,000</p> <p>Beautiful Corner House in the most desired area of Collierwood. Unit features three bedrooms and two bathrooms with a good size living room with separate dining room and kitchen. Home has a large deck and a full basement with a 2nd bedroom and 1 bath. Comes with a lot of parking and is very close to all amenities, walking distance to Joyce Collierwood sky train and Gaston Park.</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>#37-8358 121A ST., SURREY</p> <p>\$699,000</p> <p>Located in Kennedy Trails, this house checks all the boxes. Cost effective & environmentally friendly. BETHERNAL, Hardwood floors, 5 star windows. Three bedrooms in the heart of Surrey. Main floor has a large dining room, gas stove, granite counter, bath and BUILT-IN. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet. Below is very large recreation room with 4th bed and comes with a full bathroom. Backyard approx 300 sq ft. Double side by side car garage, additional 1 car parking. New Paint, Professionally Cleaned Carpet. Close to all amenities, supermarkets, restaurants and very easy access to the highway and school. This is a great find.</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>9750 128 ST., SURREY</p> <p>\$999,900</p> <p>Sold 6 bed and 2 bath home in the heart of Surrey. A park like setting, this home features a large living room, kitchen with granite counter, in suite laundry, massive master bedroom with walk-in closet, Downstairs corner unit 3 bed, 1 bath and kitchen. Lots of parking at the front and back. Detached garage. Some recent renovations include roof, windows, paint.</p> <p>SOLD</p>
<p>#51-7090 180 ST., SURREY</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>Sold in 7 days \$185,000 over asking</p>		

14379 66A AVENUE

OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4 PM



6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF

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

5758 131 A STREET SURREY



11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN PRIME NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PANORAMA

ASKING 4,000,000

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 924,000

11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! 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 bath Downstairs. This home has lots of options to rent. The home features an updated kitchen (2015) updated washrooms (2017) and has been freshly painted. The roof has been updated as well in 2017. Walking distance to George Vanier Elementary school, daycare and to public transportation. THIS IS A MUST SEE!! 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 Home! This is a well kept home in one of the best & prime neighbourhood of Fairfield Island in Chilliwack. This 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 storage area. Roof was replaced 2-3 years back. Close to all shopping amenities, plenty of schools nearby and more parks within walking distance than any other neighbourhood.

ASKING 929,000

1001 14881 103A AVENUE



2 BED - 2 BATHS

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

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 Carpet, 5 Bed rooms with 3 Washrooms upstairs. Downstairs Open & Bright Basement with Separate entrance with Wet Bar, which could be converted into a suite. Triple Car Garage with Ample Parking , Private Sports Court & Lot more. Must Visit

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 contact for more info.

ASKING 249,999

GROCERY STORE FOR SALE IN CLOVERDALE
ASKING 500,000

MASSAGE PARLOUR IN RICHMOND FOR SALE
\$99,000.00

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2024 Toyota Grand Highlander and Prius win AJAC

The new 2024 Toyota Grand Highlander has been crowned as Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year. By the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) recently.

"As the last full-line automaker in the industry, Toyota remains committed to ensuring every Canadian can find the right vehicle for their lifestyle - including those who require comfortable seating for seven or eight, top of segment cargo space, and performance and efficiency that goes the distance," said Cyril Dimitris, Vice President, Toyota Canada Inc. "That's what we deliver in the Toyota Grand Highlander - and everyone at Toyota Canada is thrilled that the members of AJAC have recognized our commitment with this important award."

AJAC announced the award today at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto, where the 2024 Grand Highlander will be on display in the Toyota booth February 16-25, alongside a full range of Toyota vehicles and technologies.

Toyota Canada offers the 2024 Grand Highlander with a choice of three distinct powertrains. The Toyota Hybrid MAX system generates 362 combined horsepower and a 5,000-pound towing rating for high-performance adventures. A second, hybrid option offers 243 system horsepower with impressive efficiency. Finally, a turbocharged gas powertrain delivers a peak 265 horsepower. Every model features all-wheel-drive and an impressive package of handling and control technologies.

The 2024 Grand Highlander expresses a distinctive, beautiful exterior design with a low hood line and large side windows that emphasize visibility. Inside, the cabin is defined by its refined elegance, ample space for all three rows, and thoughtful



2024 Toyota Prius

touches such as convenient storage and USB charging points for every occupant. Even with all seats filled, there's room for seven carry-on suitcases behind the third row - and with the second- and third-row seats stowed, the Grand Highlander offers up a cavernous 2,775 litres (97.5 cubic feet) of cargo space.

Every Grand Highlander is also a high-tech showcase, headlined by the powerful yet user-friendly Toyota Multimedia system and the active technologies of Toyota Safety Sense 3.0.

As well as the Highlander winning a prestigious award, the the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) announced the 2024 Toyota Prius is its Canadian Car of the Year.

"When the Prius started the electrification revolution almost a quarter-century ago, it quickly became the global ambassador for sustainable mobility - and the new, fifth generation Prius continues to inspire with its unbeatable blend of style, the driving fun of a well-engineered car, the efficiency of Toyota's industry-leading hybrid electric expertise, and the intelligence of our advanced connectivity and active safety technologies," said Cyril Dimitris, Vice President, Toyota Canada Inc. "Everyone at Toyota Canada is thrilled that the mem-



2024 Toyota Highlander

bers of AJAC agree - and we thank them for this important award."

AJAC announced the award today at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto, where the 2024 Prius will be on display in the Toyota booth February 16-25, alongside a full range of Toyota vehicles and technologies.

The first-generation Prius debuted in 1997 in Japan and was the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle. It arrived in Canada in 2000 and since then, more than 100,000

Prius models have been sold in the country. Now in its fifth generation, the 2024 Prius features an athletic silhouette and a clean, modern design that excites. Inside, the Prius welcomes up to five adults to a high-tech cabin characterized by smart design and soft-touch materials.

Under the hood, the Prius features a 5th generation hybrid powertrain that delivers 196 combined horsepower and a 0-100 km/h time of 7.2 seconds. Every Prius sold in Canada features Toyota's electronic on-demand AWD system as standard, which contributes to driving stability under a range of road and weather conditions while remaining surprisingly efficient: The Prius achieves an impressive fuel efficiency rating of 4.8L/100km city/highway combined.

Every Prius is also a high-tech showcase, headlined by the powerful yet user-friendly Toyota Multimedia system and the active technologies of Toyota Safety Sense 3.0.



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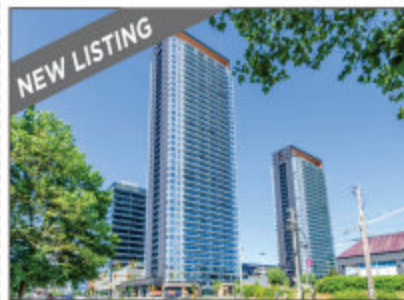
Architectural elegance at its finest; this West Vancouver-inspired property is located within the prestigious Elgin Park Estates neighborhood in South Surrey. This extravagant home portrays the unique blend of timeless sophistication and secluded park-style living. Sitting on approximately 14,000 sqft 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 bedrooms - 3 on the top floor, and 1 on the 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 wall-to-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



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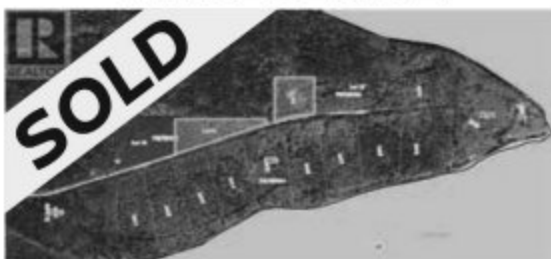
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**LOT 11 CHIEF LAKE ROAD
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**5192 MANOR ST,
BURNABY**



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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Farmer's death: SKM demands registration of murder case against Haryana CM Khattar

The "Dilli Chalo" campaign came to a standstill and turned ugly after the death of a 22-year-old farmer in action by the Haryana Police at Khanauri. Over 100 protesters were injured, according to media reports.

Subhakaran Singh (21), hailing from Bathinda district, died at Khanauri on the Sangrur-Jind border and about 12 police personnel were injured in clashes at Punjab-Haryana border this week. The incident took place when some protesting farmers were trying to head towards barricades. Police fired tear gas shells at the two border points multiple times to disperse groups of protesters when they attempted to move to-

wards the layers of barricades stalling their march to the national capital.

Thousands of farmers remain camped at Khanauri and Shambhu with their tractor-trolleys and trucks agitating for their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops and farm debt waiver.

The Punjab farmers are also demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and com-

ensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), which spearheaded an agitation in 2020-21 against three farm laws that have since been repealed, on Thursday demanded registration of a murder case against Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and state Home Minister Anil Vij for the death of a protesting farmer at the Khanauri border point of Punjab-Haryana.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said he was saddened by the farmer's death and asserted that stringent action would be taken against those responsible for it. "After the postmortem, a case will be regis-



Subhakaran Singh

tered. The officials responsible for his death will have to face stringent action," Mann had said.

Continued from Page 15

PM announces \$2 billion funding for BC housing...

The Province also announced BC Builds' fourth site, owned by the City of Vancouver, located at 560 Davie St. and 1210 Seymour St. The site is in addition to three sites announced on Feb. 13, 2024, comprising more than 400 housing units in the Cowichan Valley, Gibsons and North Vancouver.

At least 20% of all BC Builds homes will have rents that are at least 20% below market rate for projects in partnership with non-profits and First Nations. All BC Builds units have a target of middle-income households spending no more than approximately 30% of their income on rent. The rents for BC Builds will not exceed market rent for that community, and will in many cases be below.

Platform X disagrees with Indian government action to block accounts, posts linked to farmers' protest

Social media platform X expressed disagreement with the Indian government's order to block accounts and posts related to the ongoing farmers' protests and called for extending freedom of expression to the affected posts.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT has ordered social media platforms to temporarily block 177 accounts that were linked to farmers' protest on request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to sources.

"The Indian government



has issued executive orders requiring X to act on specific accounts and posts, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment. In com-

pliance with the orders, we will withhold these accounts and posts in India alone; however, we disagree with these actions and maintain that freedom of expres-

sion should extend to these posts," X said in a post.

The social media platform said a writ appeal challenging the Indian government's blocking orders remains pending and called for making the order public to enhance transparency.

"Due to legal restrictions, we are unable to publish the executive orders, but we believe that making them public is essential for transparency. This lack of disclosure can lead to a lack of accountability and arbitrary decision-making," X said.

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BC Prosecution Service updates Hate Crimes policy

VICTORIA, BC: The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) has announced revisions to the Hate Crimes (HAT 1) policy. The policy acknowledges the significant harm caused by hate crimes to victims, their communities, and society as a whole.

The service said the definitions of hate crime have been updated to include "hate propaganda offences," such as public incitement of hatred and "wilful promotion of antisemitism," as well as offences related to "conversion therapy," a discredited practice that aims to change sexual orientation or gender identity.

It said the updated policy manual for Crown prosecutors also includes specific guidance for hate crimes targeting Indigenous victims and communities. It recognizes that hate crimes can

cause grave psychological and social consequences that may impact one's own self-worth, inclusion and belonging, as well as personal and collective safety. Changes to the policy include defining "hate crimes" for the purposes of the policy to include any of the following prohibited acts:

hate propaganda offences: advocating or promoting genocide, public incitement of hatred, wilful promotion of hatred, and wilful promotion of antisemitism

- conversion therapy offences
- mischief to property of an identifiable group motivated by bias, prejudice, or hate
- any Criminal Code offence motivated by bias, prejudice, or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual



Mike Farnworth,
BC Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

orientation, or gender identity or expression, or on any other similar factor

- specific advice on five new Criminal Code hate crime offences (wilful promotion of antisemitism and four conversion therapy offences)
- specific guidance for hate crimes targeting Indigenous victims and

Indigenous community. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, said, "Today's changes from the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) sets clear direction for police officers to support victims and survivors, and to ensure they mount successful investigations against those who commit hate crimes happening to people in our communities. British Columbia, like the rest of Canada, has witnessed a worrying rise in police-reported hate crimes over the last several years. Despite these increases in hate crimes, they remain among the least-reported offences. It is clear we have more work to do to ensure that people feel comfortable reporting hate crimes to the police. The reporting of any hate-motivated incident can help police to find the perpetrator and bring them to justice. It will also allow to better

target crime prevention efforts in communities and identify trends and repeat perpetrators. We know that a single incident can affect the wider community and that hate is targeted. That's why we have worked with police to expand accessible online hate reporting options in multiple languages to reduce barriers to reporting to ensure that people can access these services. I commend the BCPS for these changes they have made to their policy on hate crimes. They will have meaningful impact on the lives of people throughout our province."

B.C. Attorney General Niki Sharma issued a statement applauding the changes, saying they will "go a long way" in supporting efforts to address the significant harms caused by hate crimes and deliver justice to victims and survivors.

Funding available to organizations targeted by hate, violence

VICTORIA, BC: The BC government is inviting applications from community organizations that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing hate-motivated crimes and are seeking funding for enhanced security measures and repairs.

The Anti-Hate Community Support Fund provides financial support to places of worship, cultural community centres and other at-risk groups, such as 2SLGBTQ+ organizations. Funding can be used for security equipment, graffiti removal and repairs to damaged property, as part of efforts to respond to hate-motivated crimes. Since the grant launched, 11 organizations have

received a total of \$102,114.

The Anti-Hate Community Support Fund was launched on Nov. 28, 2023, to support identifiable groups in B.C. that have experienced, or who are at risk of experiencing, hate-motivated crimes, or incidents. The \$500,000 fund is intended to support organizations, such as places of worship or cultural community centres, that have sustained damages to their sites or are seeking to enhance security measures in and around their sites.

"Let me be unequivocal. There is no place for hate in British Columbia," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety

and Solicitor General. "Our government staunchly opposes those seeking to create divisions in our communities and stands firm in our support for these organizations, ensuring their safety and the safety of their members."

Applications to the Anti-Hate Community Support Fund are still open and the application process has been designed to be as simple as possible. Eligible organizations may receive as much as \$10,000 to help keep their facility safe and support repairs caused by hate-motivated incidents.

This funding is made available through civil forfeiture, which works to remove profits

from unlawful activity and redirects it to support communities and victims of crime.

Expenses incurred on or after Jan. 1, 2023, will be considered for funding. Eligible organizations that have more than one site are permitted to apply for a maximum of three sites. One application per site is required.

Organizations that have received funding are not being publicly identified to support their safety from future hate-motivated incidents.

To apply for the grant and learn more about Anti-Hate Community Support Fund, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants/anti-hate-grant>



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Continued from Page 01

Police rule out foreign interference in Simranjeet Singh's home shooting

Moninder had claimed that Simranjeet's close association with Nijjar and his active involvement with the Khalistan issue might be the reason he was targeted and speculated India's involvement behind the shooting. "Simranjeet has actively volunteered during Khalistan Referendums. Since he has no criminal record or related to any criminal activity, we are very sure in our minds that this shooting is not related to any gang war or extortion but it is political," he said in a press conference.

The Surrey RCMP has now made it clear that investigators have not established any links to foreign interference in this case. "The real motive of the shooting will be presented in the court. But the reason we mentioned that there was no foreign interference was because, at the time of this incident, there was a lot of speculation circulating that this was connected to foreign interference. We want to let the community know that investigators have not established any



links to foreign interference in relation to this matter," said Sarjit K. Sangha, Surrey RCMP. The police on February 1 were informed that shots were fired at a residence in the 2800-block of 154 Street at approximately 1:21 AM. The police said no in-

juries were reported and did not reveal any details regarding the shooting or the identity of the victim. Moninder while giving details of the shooting said at 1:20 AM Simranjeet's home was shot with 20 bullets. "Two shooters

went to the scene and hid for a few minutes. One of the shooters shot his car and front of his house, and the other shooter shot the front of the door. The firing happened 10 minutes after he came to his home and entered his living room. They

nearly missed him and missed his young son who was sleeping on the second floor."

On February 6, 2024, the Surrey RCMP Serious Crime Unit executed a search warrant on a residence in the 7700-block of 140 Street. Police seized three firearms and multiple electronic devices during the search.

On February 12, 2024, the two males were arrested and the BC Prosecution Services approved charges of Discharging a Firearm into a place and Possessing a Loaded Prohibited Firearm. "The youths are currently being held in custody awaiting their next court appearance," Sangha said.

Hardeep Nijjar, president of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara was shot to death in the parking lot of the temple last year. Canadian Prime Minister Justine Trudeau said that Canada has some credible information that India was behind the killing. India, however, rejected the charges by Canada, deeming them as "absurd and motivated."

Continued from Page 01

Surrey Man Receives Life Sentence for Wife Harpreet Gill Homicide

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) took conduct of the investigation and worked closely with the Surrey RCMP."

On December 16, 2022, a charge of second-degree murder was laid against the suspect, identified as 40-year old Navinder Gill of Surrey, the husband of Mrs. Gill.

On June 22, 2023, Navinder Gill

entered a guilty plea to the charge of second-degree murder. On February 21, 2024, Navinder Gill was sentenced to life in prison with no parole eligibility for 10 years.

"Incidents of intimate partner violence have a profound effect on families and communities," says Sergeant Timothy Pierotti of IHIT. "We're thankful for the great work being done by Surrey RCMP

Victim Services and the Ministry of Children and Family Development who continue to support the family and the community."

Baljinder Kaur, a community volunteer, who is part of Hope Seva Society, arranged fundraiser for Harpreet. Baljinder also organized a Candle light vigil in memory of Harpreet to raise awareness about the prevalent issue of domestic

violence in the community.

Discussing different cases where women have become the victim in abusive relationships due to various reasons, she said in an interview to The Link newspaper that the most common reason is our cultural upbringing. Financial dependence coupled with inherent beliefs that once a girl is married, she needs to stay in the marriage

life long even if it is abusive. "The women most of the time do not get support from their parents and families due to the stigma attached to separation. Our community does not speak up, women get scared." She said there is a need to organize more seminars and workshops to spread awareness about local resources and support available to them.

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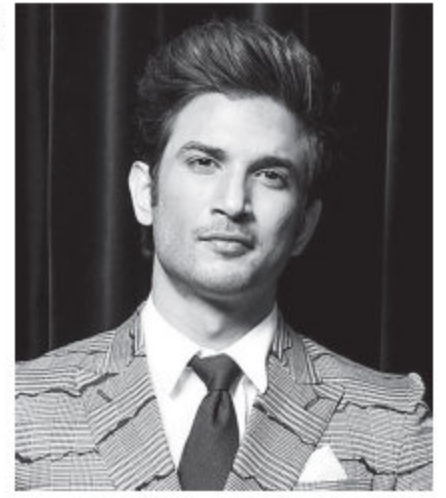
Sushant Singh Rajput's Sister Shweta Says Actor's Spirit Once Helped Her Find Lost AirPods

Late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's sister, Shweta Singh Kirti recently appeared on Preetika Rao's podcast. She talked about her spiritual experiences and how she dealt with the pain of losing her brother. She even revealed that he 'talks to her' even after his death. 'He helped me find lost AirPods' She said that she shared a 'cute' relationship with Sushant because they were closer in age. 'I have felt his presence a lot of times. We had a very cute relationship and we were almost like twins,' she said. She recalled an incident after his

passing, "I lost my AirPods toh I was looking for it everywhere and I was not able to find it. Toh bhai dheere se mere kaan mein bolta hain (he softly whispered in my ear), I felt it like his voice and his husky voice and everything. Tumhara AirPod tumhare curtain ke peeche hain. Jao waha par mil jayega on the window sill (Your AirPods are behind the curtain on the window sill.)" She said he also told her it isn't 'spooky' that he can connect with her despite being dead. Fans react One fan thought it was 'priceless' how happy she was to talk

about him, writing, "Look at the happiness while she is talking about him.. it's priceless... I really want people to get punished who have separated her with his lovely brother." Another fan however was skeptical, "His Spirit talks about yr earpod, didn't talk about his own closure, didn't he talk about his suffering till he didn't get justice.. Showoff ki duniya se bahar aakar duniya dekhiye (stop showing off), he never

ever show off, he believes being natural.. So grow up & talk about his justice not these stuff." About Sushant Sushant was found dead in his home on June 14, 2020. Maharashtra police claimed it was suicide but his family and fans believed otherwise and appealed for them to delve into the case further.



Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani reveal their stunning second look from Goa beach wedding

Alia Bhatt Reacts As Fan From Kerala Says 'I Will Start Preparing For My Exams If She Comments On This Reel'

Actor Alia Bhatt's fan got her to join a new trend on Instagram. As per the trend, fans posts reels on Instagram, saying that they will start preparing for their exams if XYZ celebrity comments on the video. After Vijay Deverakonda, Alia Bhatt has also reacted to one such video.

Ab padhna start kar

A fan page of Alia from Kerala posted a video of the actor from the London screening of her new series Poacher. They added the following text on it: 'If Alia Bhatt comments on this Reel, I will start preparing for my exams.' Sure enough, Alia commented on the post. She left a few laughing emojis in the comments section.

Others also left comments on the post. "Indian celebrities motivating children towards study," wrote one. Another joked, "If Alia Bhatt will comment on this cringe post then I will stop studying forever." A person commented, "Aagya comment abh padhna start kar (The comment is here, start studying now)."

Vijay Deverakonda's promise to fans

Earlier, Vijay Deverakonda also replied to one such reel. Instagram user Harshitha Reddy shared a video of herself with her friend. The caption on the video reads, "If 'Vijay Deverakonda' comments on this video then we will start preparation for our exam!"

In a surprising turn of events, Deverakonda replied to the video. What's more, he even promised to meet them if they secure 90% in their examinations. "Get 90% and I'll meet you," reads the reply from the Arjun Reddy actor.

Alia will be seen next in Jigra with Vedang Raina. The film is produced by her own Eternal Sunshine Productions and Dharma Productions and directed by Vasan Bala. She announced a wrap on the movie on Thursday with pictures with Vedang, who plays her brother in the movie. Alia will also be seen in director Farhan Akhtar's film Jee Le Zaraa alongside Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif.

The film promises to be another tale of friendship in the lineage of Dil Chahta Hai and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara.



Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani's wedding photos from Goa have been grabbing attention. Now, an inside video of the bride walking down the aisle has surfaced online. On Thursday, Rakul Preet and Jackky also dropped a new photo of their matching wedding look, seemingly for their Anand Karaj ceremony from Wednesday morning.

Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani's new pic

Decked up in a gorgeous ivory Tarun Tahiliani lehenga, Rakul Preet Singh was the epitome of grace, and Jackky Bhagnani looked handsome in his golden and cream groom attire. She wore heavy gold and kundan bridal jewellery. Their wedding looks screamed elegance and sophistication. The couple held hands and looked straight into the camera in the photo.

Rakul Preet's bridal entry

The couple also tied the knot in a Hindu sunset wedding on the same day. A video of Rakul Preet beaming as she walked the aisle to marry Jackky Bhagnani has also emerged on social media.

The actor, decked up in a blush pink bridal lehenga, walked solo.

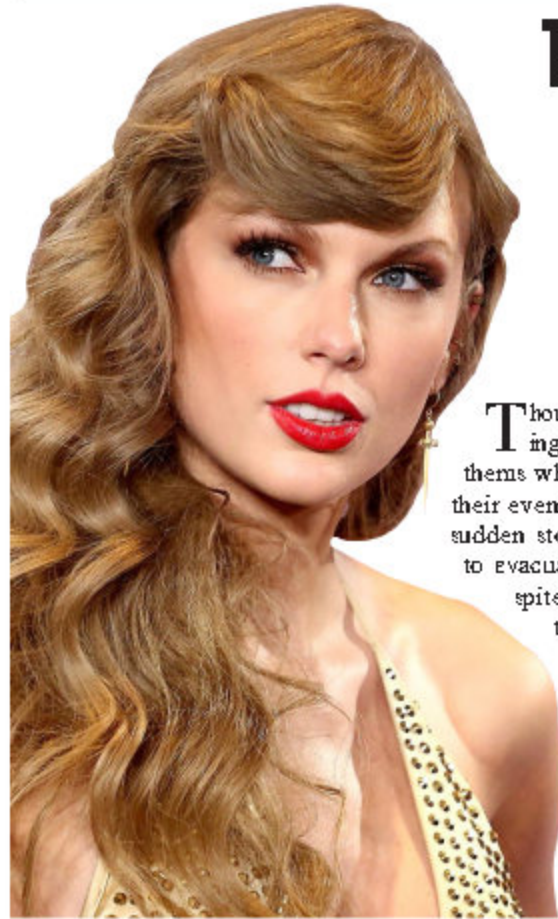
The clip gave another glimpse inside their dreamy wedding ceremony in Goa. Amidst the wedding celebrations, Jackky also unveiled a special gift for Rakul Preet - a heartfelt song titled Bin Tere, written, composed, and sung by the actor-producer himself.

More about the wedding ceremonies

A source close to Rakul Preet and Jackky had told India Today before the wedding, "The couple will take the saath pheras after 3.30 pm at the ITC Grand South Goa. Rakul Preet and Jackky will have two wedding ceremonies: Anand Karaj and a Sindhi-style ceremony, reflecting both their cultures. The choice of an early evening wedding reflects the couple's desire for a bright and cheerful start to their marital journey."

Soon after their wedding on Wednesday, Rakul Preet and Jackky treated fans to their official wedding pictures. The newlyweds also stepped out of their hotel in Goa and posed together for the paparazzi in their wedding look.





Taylor Swift's Sydney Concert Hit By Storm

Thousands of fans in Sydney were belting out their favorite Taylor Swift anthems when the unexpected struck. However, their evening took an unexpected turn when a sudden storm rolled in, prompting organizers to evacuate the floor section for safety. Despite the disappointment of the interruption, concertgoers cooperated calmly, ensuring everyone's well-being amidst the stormy weather. As fans eagerly awaited the concert to begin, a sudden storm out of nowhere created a chaos-like situation inside the venue, leading Accor Stadium staff to evacuate the floor, prompting Taylor Swift fans to run for the immedi-

ate cover. Reports indicate that a massive storm, coupled with lightning strikes, rolled in less than an hour before the scheduled Friday evening performance. Earlier, a spokesperson for Accor Stadium had assured that the concert would proceed "rain or shine," though severe weather conditions would be an exception. Take a look. Taylor Swift's Era's Tour in Sydney gets delayed. Recent updates indicate that the interior of Accor Stadium is in disarray as fans gather inside, seeking shelter from the storm. The question on everyone's minds is: could the show be cancelled, and how long will the delays persist? Swifties are visibly anxious, fearing a potential cancellation if the situation persists. However, organizers have released a statement addressing the situation. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TAYLOR SWIFT | THE ERAS TOUR TONIGHT (23 FEB)** Please note, due to weather, the show start time has been delayed. Stay undercover until further notice and follow venue screens and staff instructions. Stay safe and remember to be kind to those around you." As per Accor Stadium via X. The Bureau of Meteorology predicted "possibly severe" thunderstorms for Friday afternoon and evening, according to the Guardian. Travelers, both on the road onboarding aircraft, were advised by emergency services to proceed with caution.

Selena Gomez releases flirty new single titled Love On



Singer-actor Selena Gomez released her latest single, titled Love On, on Thursday. The video, directed by French director Greg Ohrel, pays homage to the City of Love, Paris. The flirty song sees Selena, who's currently dating record producer Benny Blanco, sing about getting her 'love on.' Fans react Selena's fans were thrilled with her latest single, Love On. "Im sorry but Selena gomez just released a bop omg, (sic)" wrote a fan, sharing a clip from the song, while another wrote, "selena gomez saw the drought in pop music and decided to show us what FUN and REAL pop music sounds like. (sic)" Some fans even claimed that Selena is "back" with the number. "everyone i know irl that has listened to love on has liked it... oh selena gomez, you might have a smash on your hands! SELENA IS BACK, LOVE ON OUT NOW, (sic)" while another wrote, "Pop queen is back omg this vibe and music video takes me back to love you like a love song and selena with the scene #LoveOn. (sic)" **Filming in Paris** Selena gave fans a sneak peek of her time in France while filming a movie called Emilia Perez in June last year. "Thank you Paris for being a home to me for two months! I loved every moment. Working on this film has completely changed my life. I can't wait to share more soon! Love you all," she wrote sharing a couple of photos. Selena also revealed that she spent '40 hours' in Paris over the weekend, posing in a bathtub, eating a croissant and taking pictures at the Eiffel Tower.

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When Shahid Kapoor spoke about bumping into Kareena Kapoor

Exes Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor bumping into each other at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 on Tuesday has everyone talking. Back in November 2016, in an interview with Hindustan Times, Shahid had spoken about his 'very nice' encounter with a pregnant Kareena at an event. Shahid had revealed they spoke about his and wife Mira Rajput's daughter Misha Kapoor, who was born in August 2016, and Kareena's soon-to-be-born baby, Taimur Ali Khan, who arrived in December 2016. Shahid had said, "Yes, I did bump into her and it was heartwarming to see her fully pregnant, because I've just been through

(that experience of) having a baby. I felt happy for her. I asked her when she was due, and she told me it is sometime next month. She also asked about Misha. So it was very nice."

Kareena Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor's relationship following their break-up, Kareena Kapoor and Shahid have never shared screen space, albeit in the 2016 film *Udta Punjab*, they didn't have to shoot together even once.

Shahid and Kareena were in a relationship for several years before parting ways in 2007. In 2004, the actors had made headlines after images of them kissing were leaked. Kareena and Shahid starred together in

many films such as *Fida*, *Chup Chup Ke*, *36 China Town*, *Milenge Milenge* and the hugely popular *Jab We Met* (2007). They welcomed their elder son Taimur Ali Khan in 2016 and Jehangir Ali Khan (Jeh) in February 2021. Shahid tied the knot with Mira Rajput in July 2015. They became parents to daughter Misha Kapoor in 2016 and son Zain Kapoor in September 2018.

In a

widely-shared video from the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 red carpet, Shahid stood with filmmakers Krishna DK and Raj Nidimoru. They laughed while posing together for the paparazzi. Shahid's ex-girlfriend Kareena walked past them, smiling and shaking hands with only Raj. Shahid, who stood next to him, smiled and looked at her.



Janhvi Kapoor Says She's 'Ashamed' She Never Learnt Telugu As She Shoots For *Devara* With Jr NTR

Actor Janhvi Kapoor will soon debut in south cinema with Koratala Siva's *Devara: Part 1*, starring Jr NTR and Saif Ali Khan in the lead roles. In the film, she plays a village belle called Thangam, which sees her in a new avatar. In an interview with *The Week*, the actor talked about how she's finding it difficult to learn her lines for the film.

'I regret not learning Telugu'

During the interview, Janhvi mentioned that she received her *Devara* lines and wants to learn them. However, she seemed nervous, given that she doesn't know the language. "I never learned Telugu and it is something I am ashamed of. I can understand it phonetically, but I can't speak it. Yes, it is one of my biggest regrets. This part of me had been dormant for a while. But the *Devara* team is very patient and helpful. They are working with such stalwarts and I am so grateful they are just a call away to help me with my lines," she said. "I don't know what my father said"

Recently her father, producer Boney Kapoor, confirmed in an interview with iDream Media that Janhvi has films lined up with Ram Charan and Suriya. Neither confirming or denying the news, she said, "My father has gone and made some announcement, and I don't know what he has said. It's too early to talk about the other films. My father has definitely not spoken to me or my producers. I wish I belonged to a universe where you just shoot films, you didn't have to announce, clarify or deny them."

Upcoming work

Apart from her Telugu projects with Jr NTR and Ram Charan and the Hindi film with Suriya, Janhvi will be seen in *Mr and Mrs Mahi*, *Ulajh* and *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulusi Kumari*.



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UNBEATABLE EXTRA SUPER SPECIAL

Fine Cane Sugar (Indican) 4 lbs
ਗੰਨੇ ਦੀ ਖੰਡ 4lbs



\$4.99
bag

EXTRA SUPER SUPER SPECIAL

Indian Okra
ਭਿੰਡੀ ਦੇਸੀ



\$2.88
lb

Gala Apples US #1
ਗਾਲਾ ਸੇਬ
ਯੂ.ਐਸ. #੧



\$1.29
lb

SUPER SPECIAL
Almonds #1 Large Size
ਵੱਡੇ ਬਦਾਮ



\$3.98
lb

SUPER SPECIAL
Fresh Ginger
ਤਾਜ਼ਾ ਅਦਰਕ



\$1.59
lb

SUPER SPECIAL
Daikon (Moli)
ਮੂਲੀ



99¢
lb

Red Lentil Split
ਧੋਤੀ ਮਸਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਦਾਲ



88¢
lb

Long English Cucumber
ਲੰਬੇ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਖੀਰੇ



98¢
ea.

SUPER SPECIAL
Swarna Chakki Atta 20 lbs
ਸਵਰਨਾ ਚੱਕੀ ਅੱਟਾ



\$13.99
bag

SUPER SPECIAL
Cilantro
ਧਣੀਆ



2
bunches for **\$1.49**

SUPER SPECIAL
Punjabi Shakkar (Indican) 2 lbs
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸ਼ੱਕਰ ਇੰਡੀਕੈਨ 2lbs ਜਾਰ



\$3.99
jar

Mazola Corn Oil 2.84 L
ਮਜ਼ੋਲਾ ਮੱਕੀ ਦਾ ਤੇਲ
2.84 ਲੀਟਰ



\$12.99
ea.

Rapini (Sarson da Saag)
ਸਰਸੌਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਗ



\$2.98
bunch

Pink Lady Apples
ਗੁਲਾਬੀ ਲੇਡੀ ਸੇਬ



79¢
lb

Seviyan Egg-Free
300 g
ਸੇਵੀਆਂ ਐਗਫ੍ਰੀ
300 ਗ੍ਰਾਮ



2
Packs for **\$2.99**

Desi Karela
ਦੇਸੀ ਕਰੇਲਾ



\$1.49
lb

Red Lentil Whole, Red Lentil Split & Black Chana 4 lbs (Indican)
ਧੋਤੀ ਮਸਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਦਾਲ
ਮਸਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਦਾਲ, ਕਾਲੇ ਛੋਲੇ
(ਇੰਡੀਕੈਨ)



\$3.98
bag

Roma Tomatoes
ਰੋਮਾ ਟਮਾਟਰ



\$1.49
lb

Indian Eggplants
ਦੇਸੀ ਬਤਾਉਂ



\$1.49
lb

Red Delicious Apples USA #1
ਲਾਲ ਸਵਾਦ ਸੇਬ
ਯੂ.ਐਸ. #੧



88¢
lb

Large Seedless Oranges
ਵੱਡੇ ਸੰਤਰੇ
(ਬਿਨਾ ਬੀਜ ਤੋਂ)



99¢
lb

Spinach
ਪਾਲਕ



\$1.49
bunch

Red Lentil Whole
ਮਸਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਦਾਲ



88¢
lb

Zucchini Squash
ਜ਼ੁਕੀਨੀ ਸਕੁਐਸ਼



99¢
lb

Green Cabbage
ਹਰੀ ਬੰਦ ਗੋਭੀ



69¢
lb

Russet Potatoes Snoboy 10 lbs
ਆਲੂ ਰਸਟ ਸਨੋਬੁਆਏ



\$3.98
bag

Opo Squash (Long)
ਓਪੋ ਕੱਦੂ



98¢
lb

Roasted Peanuts in Shell
ਭੁੰਜੀ ਮੂੰਗਫਲੀ



\$1.88
lb

Almond Oil 1 L (Indican)
ਇੰਡੀਕੈਨ ਬਦਾਮ ਦਾ ਤੇਲ



\$12.99
bottle

Fri Feb 23, 2024 - Wed Feb 28, 2024

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