

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 20 Issue 34, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

**TRUDEAU ANNOUNCES OVER \$2 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ENHANCE SAFE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS ACROSS PROVINCES**



**I DETAILS ON PAGE 3**

**SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH : MYSTERY CLOUDS OVER CASE AS CBI TAKES OVER**

A lot has been said and done since actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death on June 14, 2020. With the Supreme Court transferring the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), several new avenues to the case have opened up, including a money laundering angle, and potential use of narcotics.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 3**



**ANUSHKA SHARMA, VIRAT KOHLI ANNOUNCE PREGNANCY**

Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma along with Cricketer husband Virat Kohli are expecting their first child together. Sharma took to Twitter to make the announcement. Showing off a baby bump alongside her husband in a picture, she wrote, "And then, we were three! Arriving Jan 2021."

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 3**



**94 YEAR OLD HARBHAJAN KAUR PROVES AGE NO BAR WHEN IT COMES TO FULFILLING ONE'S DREAMS**



**NEWLY ELECTED TORY LEADER ERIN O'TOOLE HAS A LOT ON HIS PLATE, BUT COMES PREPARED**

Conservative party leader Erin O'Toole gave his first speech after winning the election on Sunday. He said his party will be prepared for a snap election, if there was to be one. He said, "If Mr. Trudeau thinks he can play some games with a new leader and force an election, we will be ready." O'Toole revealed he held a phone conversation with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday, and raised the topic of Western Canada alienation, among others. O'Toole mapped his next steps as the leader of the Official Opposition as well as his vision for Canada. He said the country needs an ethical government led by someone that "cares more about keeping Canadians safe and united, than about his personal image, and the interests of insiders."

**Western Canada alienation**

The Durham MP stressed it is important for the Liberal government to address western alienation in its plan for the future. "If they continue to leave out the ability for our resource sector to get Canadian resources to market, we're going to see more Western alienation, we're going to see less jobs and opportunity for Canadians in Ontario, in Atlantic Canada." O'Toole added, "So we need to make sure that Canada's strength in natural resources is part of that economic plan. We can do that while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but we have to be proud of what we produce here in Canada."

**"I just fight for Canadians"**

Everyone heard the leader appeal to diverse groups during his acceptance speech on Monday. Contrary to his predecessor Andrew Scheer, who has maintained a stoic silence on the topic, O'Toole openly declared himself a "pro-choice Conservative MP". I won the leadership of the Conservative party as a pro-choice Conservative MP, one that won with a strong mandate. That's how I'm going to lead as the leader of the Opposition and

**VOWS TO CRACKDOWN ON TRUDEAU ADMINISTRATION**

*"I'm Erin O'Toole, you're going to be seeing and hearing a lot from me in the coming weeks and months, but I want you to know from the start that I'm here to fight for you and your family."*

*Newly elected Conservative Party of Canada leader, Erin O'Toole gave an explosive speech after he was elected to represent the national Opposition party late Sunday night. The Durham MP secured 57 per cent of party support, picking up down-ballot support from supporters of other leadership candidates. In his first speech as leader, the 47 year old launched an strong offensive against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his administration ; A rhetoric he has maintained throughout his campaign.*

that's how I will be as prime minister. I'm in politics to defend the rights of Canadians to secure a brighter future."

He also appealed to the middle-class, saying, "I'm not famous, I'm not well known. I get things done. I don't drop the ball and I've always fought for Canadians. And after the pandemic, with record deficits, with the challenges we face in the world, we need a fighter. I think we're tired of a directionless, divisive and ethically challenged liberal government."

**PEEL POLICE SET TO COLLECT RACE-BASED DATA: CHIEF NISHAN DURAIAPPAH VOWS TO USE INFORMATION TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC RACISM**



**RETAIL SALES UP 23.7 PER CENT IN JUNE**

Retail sales were up 23.7 per cent in June bringing Canadian retailers \$53 billion in Sales in the month. A new report by Statistics Canada on Friday reveals retail sales in the month of June were 1.3 per cent higher than February levels after three months of sales below pre-pandemic levels.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 7**

**FEDERAL GOVT ANNOUNCES \$37B CERB TRANSITION PLAN ; EXTENDS PROGRAMME BY 4 WEEKS, INTRODUCES THREE NEW TEMPORARY BENEFITS**

Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland announced a brand new \$37 billion Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) transition plan on Thursday. Making her first announcement after taking over the portfolio, she elaborated on the federal government's transition plan to move millions of people from CERB onto a revamped Employment Insurance program.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 7**



**UAE-ISRAEL-SAUDI ARABIA : NORMALIZATION OF TIES IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO THE QUESTION THAT IS IRAN**

Normalisation of ties between the United Arab Emirates and Israel has garnered a lot of attention ; Especially from the West considering US President Donald Trump's constant fanning of the agreement that he helped broker. The agreement has only boosted the front against Iran – a common enemy of all three countries involved in the deal.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 6**

**172 COUNTRIES WORKING WITH WHO TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO COVID VACCINE**

The World Health Organization (WHO) reveals around 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility that is designed to ensure equitable access to coronavirus vaccines. WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the facility was critical to ending the ongoing pandemic.

**I CONTD. ON PAGE 3**





# A HIGHRISE THAT RAISES THE BAR ON DOWNTOWN LIVING - BURKE

If you have ever wanted to live the quintessential downtown Toronto lifestyle, steps from the subway and everything the city has to offer, the opportunity has now arrived to Sherbourne and Bloor–Burke. Inside, these sophisticated residences reflect the finest urban sophistication, with a level of polish that suits your urban lifestyle. Combined with a well-rounded amenity package and the experience of one of

Canada’s most esteemed developers, Concert, Burke represents a not-to-be-missed real estate opportunity. With an 87 Walk Score and 89 Transit Score, Burke’s interconnected location in St. James Town puts you at the crossroads of so many diverse experiences. Stroll west on Bloor Street and explore the city’s most vibrant shopping, A-list restaurants and premier exhibits. Head the opposite direction and find yourself on

Danforth savouring truly authentic Greek food. Head south to Cabbagetown and explore the area’s quaint stores and unique character. Or perhaps escape from city life and connect with nature in the nearby Rosedale Ravine. In every direction, there is always something new. Standing 53 storeys, this sleek, contemporary tower carves a striking silhouette in the skyline and offers stunning city and treetop views. Far from just another skyscraper, Burke is thoughtfully designed at the ground level and features the integration of rich heritage homes as well as a dynamic and colourful pathway with benches, landscaping and architectural lighting. This is all part of an impressive sense of arrival that leads to an abundance of amenities spanning three floors and just about everything you and your guests could desire. Complete with chef’s kitchen, private dining room and expansive fireside terrace, the second floor is where you will entertain friends and family over a meal, movie or game of pool. The 27<sup>th</sup> floor is split between a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre that will have you canceling your fitness membership, and co-working and meeting spaces that make working from home seamless. At Burke, you can choose from a diverse selection of homes ranging from Junior One to Three Bedroom. Whatever your choice, each home has been elevated by sophisticated



design and a timeless palette of natural tones. Featuring a German-engineered Bosch appliance package, quartz countertops and thoughtful layouts, the modern kitchens have been designed to inspire your inner gourmet. Begin and wind down each day in your bathroom sanctuary – featuring

impressive, large-format marble-patterned porcelain tile floor and accent wall in striking contrast with matte black hardware. Peace of mind is also a standard feature at Burke. Over 30 years and 12,000 homes developed across Ontario and British Columbia, Concert has garnered more

than 100 industry awards. This means you can buy with confidence knowing that Concert is an experienced developer with a well-earned reputation for quality and homebuyer satisfaction. Burke is coming this September. Visit [BurkeByConcert.com](http://BurkeByConcert.com) to register your interest.

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## Vigil held on August 22 for Brampton man Surajdeep Singh who lost life in unprovoked attack on his way home from gurdwara



### TRUDEAU ANNOUNCES OVER \$2 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ENHANCE SAFE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS ACROSS PROVINCES

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced over \$2 billion in funding on Wednesday, to help provinces and territories safely re-open their schools in September. With the fall reopening of classrooms on the horizon, the money aims to help adapt learning spaces, improve air ventilation, increase hand sanitation, buy additional personal protective equipment, and more.

Trudeau said the money is only meant to top up provincial resources, and does not come with conditions. However, the provinces will need to advise the federal government on how they have spent the money. The newly announced funding will be provided in two instalments, with the first payment expected to arrive this fall, and a second to arrive early next year.

Addressing the divided opinion on sending children back to school has reached him. “What we realised when we saw the level of anxiety and preoccupation that parents across the country had still, even with those plans in place, we realised that we could give the provinces even more resources. Some of it could go forward right away, some of it might be able to help out if there’s a second wave later in the fall.” Trudeau added that premiers are “very pleased” with the additional funding and provinces will decide how they spend the money to boost their existing plans. “These are the kinds of things that we know Canadians need to see their provinces acting on and giving this money to them in order to keep our kids safe is a way for the federal government to be there to help in an area that is provincial jurisdiction.” The \$2B funding will be allocated based on the number of children aged four to 18 years in each province and territory. There will be a \$2 million base amount of each jurisdiction.

## Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Prabmeet Sarkaria, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown. Peel Police Services Board Chairman Ron Chatha celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi at Toronto resident Pathik Shukla's residence



### Kangana Ranaut claims was minor when mentor spiked her drinks

Actor Kangana Ranaut has consistently hit the headlines since June for her explosive statements on the ongoing Sushant Singh Rajput’s death case. Known for her fiery statements, the actor who recently joined Twitter claimed her mentor spiked her drinks when she was a young aspiring actress and new to the industry. The revelations came shortly after the Narcotics Control Bureau registered a criminal case against actress Rhea Chakraborty over drug conspiracy reports. In a series of tweets, Kangana wrote, “I was still a minor my mentor turned tormentor used to spike my drinks and sedate me to prevent me from going to cops, when I became successful and got entry in to the most famous film parties I was exposed to the most shocking and sinister world and drugs, debauchery and mafia.” She added, “Most popular drug in the film industry is cocaine, it is used in almost all house parties it’s very expensive but in the beginning when you go to the houses of high and mighty it’s given free, MDMA crystals are mixed in water and at times passed on to you without your knowledge.”

Ranaut has offered to help the NCB in their investigation.

## SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH : MYSTERY CLOUDS OVER CASE AS CBI TAKES OVER

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has registered an NDPS case against actor and former girlfriend of the deceased, Rhea Chakraborty. The actress’ deleted Whatsapp chats about use of drugs and narcotics substances went viral lately. It is alleged that she used to consume the products and also sedate Rajput in a bid to control his finances and take over his life. Rhea, along with two others, have been booked under Sections 20 (b), 28 and 29 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned Rhea’s brother Showik at the DRDO guesthouse this week, and has also summoned the actress’ father Indrajit for questioning. The ED registered a case of money laundering in July 31, on the basis of a Bihar Police FIR filed by Rajput’s father KK Singh on alleged transactions of Rs 15 Crore.

On the other hand, the CBI questioned Rajput’s friend Siddharth Pithani, and cook Neeraj for the sixth day in a row. Pithani reportedly confessed that Rhea destroyed eight hard drives just days before the actor’s death. The CBI has until now, grilled Dipesh Sawant, his CA Sandeep Shridhar, accountant Rajat Mewati, doctors at Cooper hospital, and personnel from the Mumbai Police who were on duty on June 14.

**Rhea Chakraborty calls case against her a witch-hunt**

In an interview with NDTV, Rhea, who is currently the focus of the investigation surrounding Rajput’s death, said she and her family have been wrongly framed and hounded by the media and the actor’s family. Denying all allegations stating she isolated him from his family, she said, “It is extremely hurtful for someone going through a loss this big. I loved (KK Singh’s) son, looked after him. At least have humanity. If not for me, for him.”

Rhea added, “It is really difficult. Me and my entire family going through scrutiny. There’s a mob outside my gate. What are you doing to my family? Why can’t you wait for results to come? We have faith in the system. That is why we are alive, else would have committed suicide. My father served in the army for 25 years and this is what is happening to him.”

Sushant’s father KK has accused Rhea of mentally harassing his son, and driving him to suicide. An FIR filed by him with the Bihar police, names Rhea, her parents, brother Showik, Sushant’s former manager Shruti Modi, and Samuel Miranda, along with others.

Saying a “Pandora’s box has been opened by his family,” Rhea addressed drug allegations. She states the actor smoked marijuana and she tried her “best to control him”. She also went on to refute all allegations of money laundering. Calling them “baseless”, she said, “I never took a single rupee from him. I am being probed by the Enforcement Directorate. Sushant’s bank statements are in public domain. We had a company where we were equal partners. Mumbai Police were extremely harsh, ED was harsh and so will be CBI. I want the truth to come out but not by targeting me. The ED wants to know financial details. I am willing to cooperate with everyone.”

**Rhea claims was molested by Sushant’s sister Priyanka**

In shocking allegations laid recently, Rhea Chakraborty claimed her relationship with her former boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput’s family was bitter from the beginning because of an unfortunate incident. She said Sushant’s sister Priyanka got drunk and tried to molest her in a party. She said, “Sushant’s sister touched me inappropriately and misbehaved with me and I left home abruptly.”

She added that she told the actor about the incident later and he had a fight with his sister.

## ANUSHKA SHARMA, VIRAT KOHLI ANNOUNCE PREGNANCY

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

The couple were soon showered with congratulatory messages by celebrities like Priyanka Chopra, Varun Dhawan, Taapsee Pannu, Parineeti Chopra, among others. Sharma, and Kohli tied the knot at a countryside resort in Tuscany, Italy in 2017. A close-knit affair, they later hosted two lavish wedding receptions in Delhi and Mumbai which was flouted by who’s who of Bollywood and cricket worlds. On the work front, Anushka was last seen in Shah Rukh Khan’s ‘Zero’ in 2018, but has been batting in production under her banner Clean Slate Films. She recently bankrolled movies like ‘Paatal Lok’ for Amazon Prime Video, and ‘Bulbbul’ for Netflix.

## 94 YEAR OLD HARBHAJAN KAUR PROVES AGE NO BAR WHEN IT COMES TO FULFILLING ONE'S DREAMS

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

The journey began four years ago, when Kaur expressed her remorse on not having “earned a single penny of my own” to her daughter. Long story short, the nonagenarian is now a celebrity of her own. The story of this entrepreneur was initially shared by Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra earlier this year. Calling her “entrepreneur of the year”, he had tweeted, “When you hear the word ‘start-up’ it brings to mind images of millennials in Silicon Valley or Bengaluru trying to build billion dollar ‘unicorns’. From now on let’s also include a 94-yr-old woman who doesn’t think it’s too late to do a start-up.” The tweet garnered a lot of appreciation as Kaur proved age is just a number.

## 172 COUNTRIES WORKING WITH WHO TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO COVID VACCINE

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

“Vaccine nationalism only helps the virus. The success of the COVAX facility hinges not only on countries signing up to it, but also filling key funding gaps,” he said at a press brief. “Initially, when there will be limited supply, it’s important to provide the vaccine to those at highest risk around the globe,” he added. Dr Tedros said, this included health workers on the frontlines, who were “critical to saving lives and stabilizing the overall health system.” Co-led by the GAVI vaccines alliance, the WHO, and the CEPI coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, Innovations, COVAX is designed to guarantee equitable access globally to COVID-19 vaccines once they are developed and authorised to use. The programme currently covers nine vaccine candidates, and aims to be able to deliver 2 billion doses across countries that sign up by the end of 2021. Countries who want to participate in the global COVAX plan, may submit expressions of interest by August 31, confirmation of intention to join due by September 18, and initial payments due by October 9.





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# TRILLIUM HEALTH PARTNERS RECEIVES LARGEST DONATION IN CANADIAN HISTORY FROM MUSLIM COMMUNITY

In a record-breaking pledge, the Muslim community has announced \$5 million to support the future redevelopment and expansion of Mississauga Hospital, one of three sites that together comprise Trillium Health Partners (THP), as part of THP’s broader redevelopment plan. Individuals, corporations, mosques and community associations from the Muslim community have a long history of giving back to THP and other health care institutions across the country. Today’s announcement marks the largest gift to a hospital by the Muslim community in Canadian history.

Philanthropic support will be an essential component of financing THP’s future redevelopment project. This gift, led and organized by THP Foundation board member Abdul Qayyum Mufti and his closest friends and business associates, Nadeem Chaudhry and Atta Qureshi, shows the Muslim community’s commitment to its faith and the long-term health of the city and the region.

“I want to thank Abdul Qayyum Mufti and the Muslim community for showing the true Ontario spirit in making this generous contribution to support our frontline heroes at Trillium Health Partners,” said the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario. “Our strength as a province and as a people comes from our diversity and shared values, and it’s needed now more than ever. By having each other’s backs, we can get through these extraordinary times.”

“I want to thank Mississauga’s Muslim community for once again stepping up to show how much they care about our city. Their generosity never wavers, and this is yet another example of the true spirit of Mississauga. This historic pledge will help THP get one step closer to building a new and modern hospital that will care for our growing, diverse and ageing population,” remarked Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

THP the largest community-based acute care facility in Canada, with over 1.75 million patient visits last year, including some of the top numbers for births, surgeries and emergency visits. Over the next 20 years, THP will experience more demand for care than any other hospital in the province, as the area population continues to grow, with the number of seniors set to triple in just over 10 years.

“A redeveloped and expanded Mississauga Hospital is key to our ability to create a new kind of health care for a healthier community,



ensuring we can continue to offer care with innovation, compassion and excellence. To our friends in the Muslim community, we extend a huge thank you for this most generous gift,” said Michelle DiEmanuele, President and CEO of THP.

Caroline Riseboro, President and CEO of the THP Foundation, commented, “This momentous gift reflects the power of philanthropy in the most diverse city and region in Ontario. Thank you so much to the Muslim community for leading the way with this landmark gift to the new Mississauga Hospital.”

THP cared for one of the highest volumes of COVID-19 patients in the province, but had to overcome the limits of its Mississauga Hospital site, which opened in 1958 before today’s more rigorous hospital building codes. A new kind of health care requires bold new infrastructure and state-of-the-art technology within a more complete, efficient and inclusive system. To help achieve that vision, the larger,

modern Mississauga Hospital will boast significantly more capacity to care for patients while reflecting the best of today’s standards. The hospital’s expanded emergency, surgical and ICU capacity will ensure THP can continue to provide high quality, accessible and sustainable care in the face of rising demand.

“How we look after those in need of health care is a measure of our commitment to each other. The Muslim community is proud to make this gift to the people of Mississauga and Peel, and we encourage all members of the community, across Canada and beyond, to contribute to this extraordinary project,” said Abdul Qayyum Mufti. “Charity is at the heart of our faith. One of the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says You are not a believer if you sleep with your stomach filled while your neighbour goes hungry. We are thrilled that the Muslim community will be recognized by the hospital for this gift inspired by the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).”

# ONTARIO EMERGENCY ORDERS EXTENDED UNTIL SEPT 22

The Ontario government has officially extended emergency orders until at least September 22 under Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. The extensions provide the government with the necessary flexibility to address the ongoing risks and effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure important measures remain in place to protect vulnerable populations, such as seniors, people with developmental disabilities and those with mental health and addiction issues.

Solicitor General Sylvia Jones said, “We’ve seen great progress in our fight against COVID-19 in recent weeks, but now is not the time to let our guard down. We must continue safely and gradually down the path to recovery while tackling the ongoing effects of this pandemic. We’re conducting an ongoing review and assessment of all orders to determine if they are still necessary and will relax restrictions or lift orders when it is safe to do so.”



## CANADA SLAMS IRAN REPORT ON BLACK BOX DATA FROM DOWNED UKRAINE FLIGHT



Canadian federal ministers have struck out Iran’s preliminary report on a downed passenger plane that claimed 176 lives. Transport Minister Marc Garneau, and Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne blame the report only provides “limited and selected information” about the Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 that was shot down shortly after taking off from Tehran on January 8.

A joint statement from both the ministers say the brief report only mentions what happened after the first missile struck the aircraft. “We expect the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide an answer on important questions of why the missiles were launched in the first place and why the air space was open. These are the questions that Canada, Canadians and most importantly, the families of the innocent victims need answered,” it read.

The flight was hit by Iran, on a day it had launched a ballistic missile attack targeting US soldiers in Iraq in response to an American drone strike that killed an Iranian general on January 3. While Iran denied responsibility initially, after mounting international pressure, it admitted that the plane was taken down by two missiles. International rules dictate that Iran lead the investigation. Canada, Ukraine, and other countries will play supporting or observer roles.

The preliminary report details only a period of a few seconds after the first missile detonated near the plane shortly after takeoff. Several countries lost their citizens in the strike, including Canada, Britain, Sweden, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. These nations signed an agreement July 2 promising to work together to pressurise Iran to pay compensation to the victims’ families.

Of the 175 people on board the plane, 55 Canadians, and 30 permanent residents lost their lives too.

## KAMALA HARRIS OFFICIALLY BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN, SOUTH ASIAN WOMAN TO BE NOMINATED ON MAJOR PARTY’S TICKET

Senator from California Kamala Harris on Wednesday officially became the first South Asian, African American woman to be nominated on a major party’s ticket.

Harris accepted the nomination for vice president. She was officially nominated by her sister Maya, niece Meena and step-daughter, Ella Emhoff at the Democratic National Convention.

In her acceptance speech she pointed out that that woman had earned the right to vote 100 years back and African-American women had faced a long battle for voting rights, CNN reported.

“Even though mommy is not here to see her first daughter step into history, the entire nation will see in your strength, your integrity, your intelligence, and your optimism the values that she raised us with,” Kamala’s sister Maya said. “Let’s fight with conviction. Let’s fight with hope. Let’s fight with confidence in ourselves, and a commitment to each other. To America we know is possible. America, we love,” she added. It is to be noted that Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris as his running mate.

With Harris as Biden’s pick for VP, he is looking to mobilise the black vote amidst tremendous social unrest over racial injustice in the country. Also, Biden has been under mounting pressure to have a black woman as his running mate. Kamala Harris’ Indian heritage has dominated headlines in India. Her mother Shyamala Gopalan is a Tamil Indian-American who became a leading cancer researcher and activist, passed away from colon cancer in 2009. From Kamala’s name (Shyamala gave her and her sisters Sanskrit names to connect their heritage with their identities) to Kamala’s focus on immigration and equal rights, Shyamala has had a profound influence and lasting legacy on her high-flying daughter.



## DONALD TRUMP ORDERED TO PAY \$44,100 TO PORN ACTRESS STORMY DANIELS TO COVER LEGAL FEE FOR NDA CASE OVER ALLEGED AFFAIR

A California Superior Court Judge has ordered United States President Donald Trump to pay \$44,100 to porn actress Stormy Daniels, real name: Stephanie Clifford, to reimburse her attorneys’ legal fees for Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) case over their alleged affair.

The order was issued on Monday and it was posted online by Clifford’s attorneys.

To the uninitiated, Stephnie Clifford, an adult-film actress, said that she had an affair with Donald Trump from 2006 to 2007. She further claimed that she had signed a \$130,000 NDA with former Trump attorney Michael Cohen to hush up the alleged affair.

The NDA was reportedly signed 11 days before the United States Presidential elections which happened in 2016. In 2018, Clifford sued Trump to void the agreement. Trump and his legal team agreed outside of court not to sue or otherwise enforce the NDA. The suit was dismissed and Clifford’s claims ruled moot, as the NDA had been rendered unenforceable, reported CNN. The judge who ruled in favour of Clifford said that she was entitled to the legal fees under California law even though the case was dismissed.





# PM Trudeau, Premier Ford Announce Major Deal From Brockville’s 3M Facility



The Ontario and federal governments are partnering with 3M Canada to expand its Brockville, Ontario manufacturing facility to produce made-in-Ontario N95 respirators. Both levels of government are investing \$23.33 million to support 3M’s capital investment of \$70 million. The expanded facility will produce enough respirators to meet private sector, provincial and North American market demand throughout the pandemic and beyond.

The announcement was made on Friday on the site of the expansion by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, Anita Anand, Canada’s Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and Vic Fedeli, Ontario’s Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. “In the face of a global pandemic, I vowed as Premier that we would do everything we can to get the essential supplies we need to protect our heroic healthcare and frontline workers in the province,” said Premier Ford. “Ontario is a manufacturing powerhouse and our joint investment with the federal government and 3M Canada shows we can make the best N95 respirators anywhere in the world to supply our frontline heroes here in Ontario and right across Canada.”

The Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada reached a five-year agreement with 3M for the provision of 50 million respirators annually beginning in early 2021 to meet current demand for frontline healthcare workers in Ontario and across Canada. The respirators will be shared equally between Ontario and Ottawa.

The project is expected to create 30 jobs in Brockville, Ontario, including production operators, maintenance technicians, process engineers, supervisors and quality assurance professionals.

“Our health care workers have been on the front lines of our country’s fight against COVID-19 since the very beginning,” said Prime Minister Trudeau. “While the virus remains a threat, we need to make sure these real-life heroes have the equipment they need. This agreement with 3M Canada highlights the Government of Canada’s commitment to protecting those who are doing so much to keep their fellow Canadians healthy and safe.”

“N95s are the respirators our health professionals and frontline workers depend on while they’re battling COVID-19,” said Minister Fedeli. “Ontario’s partnership with 3M and the federal government will provide a made-in-Ontario solution to reduce our dependence on foreign supply chains while strengthening our domestic supply chain and further expanding our world-class manufacturing capacity.”

The partnership between the Ontario government, the federal government and 3M Canada is an important step to meeting current and future needs and ensuring a readily available stockpile of N95 respirators. This investment is essential in the creation of new manufacturing capabilities, new jobs, and a strengthened domestic supply chain for vital PPE as Ontario continues on its path of renewal, growth and economic recovery.

# MidWeek

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## UAE-ISRAEL-SAUDI ARABIA : NORMALIZATION OF TIES IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO THE QUESTION THAT IS IRAN

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

While one would think the update is more than enough work for upcoming years, Trump intends to take it one step forward. Speaking in a press conference on Wednesday, he said he expects Saudi Arabia to join the dialogue and forge a broad new relationship. The agreement is monumental, says Y Media Group Editor Yudhvir Jaswal. He says “recognised” or not, Israel has always been a major source of power in the region. “As I always say, we bring the story behind the headlines – and the story behind this is,” he says, “Whether overtly or covertly, Arab countries have already been dealing with Israel for years.” How so?

“Presently seen as a major rival for both Saudi and Israel, Iran has definitely been dealing with Israel for the longest time despite its open criticism on the Palestine policy. Israel sold weapons to Iran during the Iraq War from 1980 to 1988,” Jaswal said. He continues, “Egypt recognised Israel, Jordan did that too. Saudi Arabia, if you look at it closely, knows that to get closer to the US, it has to go through Israel – even if the Democrats come to power. Israel has built stronger ties with the inner circle of the Trump administration, especially Jared Kushner who belongs to an influential and powerful Jewish family.”

“So basically, Kushner, who is a senior adviser to Trump, led the dialogue between UAE and Israel. I won’t be surprised if Saudi and other Arab countries openly declare that they not only recognise Israel, but also want to build formal ties with it.” Turkey has a close relationship with Israel. Arab countries, directly or indirectly have ties with the country. “Every nation involved in Oil is either selling to, or through Israel,” Jaswal says. He adds, “In this particular case, there was a summit on how to bring peace in the Middle East. Iran was highlighted as one of the major obstacles and this is where Israel and Saudi come together. Club both of them with the US and we have a strong front with a common enemy – Iran.”

When asked how UAE-Israel ties affect South Asian countries, Jaswal says India has no qualms with the countries formalising peace agreements and whatnots. “India has a good relationship with both UAE, and Israel. So New Delhi is a happy camper right now. It is even strengthening ties with Saudi and the US as well. Pakistan, on the other hand, is a whole different story. Prime Minister Imran Khan has made it very clear that they won’t recognise Israel. But he obviously will have to let go of that stand.” Why you ask? It’s basic math. “Pakistan does not share any border with Israel, they have never fought any wars. There are countries sharing a border with the Jewish nation and have tense relationships, yet, when they see economic benefits in dealing with Israel, they don’t hesitate. Pakistan needs to think in that angle too. Khan needs to see how he can gain economic benefits for its citizens and forge ties with Israel rather than continuing with the same Palestine rhetoric. Citizens of Palestine, nor Kashmir for that matter benefited with global publicity. They can only benefit from a peaceful resolution.”

### CHARITIES INVITED TO APPLY FOR ROTHMANS, BENSON & HEDGES’ GIVING BACK GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc. (RBH) today announced the application process for the second annual Giving Back grant funding program has opened. The Giving Back program is intended to support communities and community programs in the cities and communities that RBH employees live and operate in. RBH encourages charities focused on education, the environment, or community development to apply for a Giving Back grant worth up to \$25,000. The window for applications closes on November 30, 2020 and details on how to apply can be found here [www.rbhinc.ca/en/giving-back/](http://www.rbhinc.ca/en/giving-back/). Our commitment to a smoke-free future involves many initiatives that align with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the company is committed to: Good Health and Well-Being: A Smoke-Free Future in Canada RBH supports the Government of Canada’s goal of reducing smoking rates to five per cent of the population by 2035. In fact, we have committed to a smoke-free Canada by 2035 and our goal is to stop selling cigarettes. RBH will continue to develop and introduce smoke-free alternatives to the Canadian market that use new technologies and non-combustible products to assist the Government of Canada in achieving this goal.

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RBH is transforming its business in a way that promotes collaboration, inclusion and diversity. The company will continue to provide compensation and benefits that are at, or above, the Canadian market medians.

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RBH provides opportunities for women to assume roles on the management and executive teams. Gender equality is not only an internal objective of RBH but is also prioritized in community sustainability efforts through partnerships with local women’s charities and food banks.


**Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

RBH has developed a comprehensive policy framework to ensure that corruption and bribery are avoided by all employees and third parties and that all engagements with vendors, stakeholders, governments and consumers are transparent and conducted with integrity. Included in the policy is that RBH does not provide any political donations to uphold the high standards of responsible business practices. Additionally, RBH continues to work with local enforcement and government to combat illicit trade of tobacco.

Peter Luongo, Managing Director, RBH, said. “RBH is transforming its business and how it interacts with consumers and communities as we strive to be a leader in sustainable development. The Giving Back grant program is an opportunity to support and work with charities that are focused on education, the environment, or community development. Our employees drive our efforts to give back to a variety of communities and causes where there is a need. It’s meaningful and important as a part of our company’s culture to give back to the greater community. RBH is on a transformational journey to a smoke-free future with a goal to rid Canada of cigarette smoke. For change like this to happen, we need governments, consumers and society all to play a role.

If you are a charity in need of funding, please consider reaching out to RBH about our Giving Back program at [givingback@rbhinc.ca](mailto:givingback@rbhinc.ca)

### BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN : TDSB DELAYS REOPENING BY A WEEK



As school boards prepare to reopen classrooms the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) have unanimously approved a back-to-school plan that will see reduced class sizes. The board has confirmed that classes will officially start on September 15, a week later than originally planned. The extra days will give staff more time to implement their plans. All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask. The plan also includes a staggered start for different grades, so not all students are back to school at the same time. It has also been revealed that over 400 staff, and additional 366 teachers will be redeployed to help maintain physical distancing. The back-to-school plan has prompted the TDSB to reach into its pockets, with the board set to use \$6.3 million in provincial funding, and \$2.9 million in reallocated funds from its own budget. \$29.5 million will be taken from its reserve funds.

**Class Sizes**

The school board will maintain classroom sizes of maximum 26 students in junior and senior kindergarten. Maximum 20 students in Grades 1 to 3, and 27 from Grades 4 to 8. However, schools situated in high-risk areas may have their class size capped at 20 for Grades 4 to 8.

**Virtual Learning**

Not much detail has been revealed on the virtual learning platform. They are expected to be released next week. The board has stated that students opting to learn remotely will be part of a new centralized virtual school. TDSB’s plan however, is not set in stone. It needs to be approved by Ontario’s Ministry of Education. The board’s previous plan was rejected by the government.



# PREMIER FORD ANNOUNCES \$25M FOR 200 NEW OPP OFFICERS

The Ontario government announced the hiring of an additional 200 Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers. These new recruits will provide OPP frontline officers with the additional resources they need to better protect communities, while safeguarding their mental health and well-being.

Details were provided on Thursday by Premier Doug Ford, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, and OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique at OPP General Headquarters in Orillia.

“As we help communities recover from the impacts of COVID-19, it’s absolutely critical we give our brave men and women in uniform the tools and resources they need to do their job, stay healthy, and keep us all safe,” said Premier Ford. “That’s why our government is putting more boots on the ground to crack down on the criminals who would rob families and individuals of the chance to rebuild their lives during this very difficult period.”

“Frontline police officers are always there when our communities need them and we have all witnessed their profound dedication to the public during the COVID-19 outbreak,” said Solicitor General Jones. “As we continue to safely and gradually reopen the province and more people go back to work, these new frontline OPP officers will provide much-needed support to our existing complement of officers and ensure we keep our communities safe.”

This recruitment initiative responds to recommendations made by the OPP Independent Review Panel (IRP) in its final report released in March. Established in April 2019 to study the workplace culture at

the OPP, the IRP was also tasked with examining how the provincial police address issues of mental health, occupational stress injuries and suicide among its members and with providing a series of recommendations.

The OPP is addressing other recommendations from the panel including changes and enhancements to leadership training and activities to promote a healthy and inclusive workplace, creating a new Healthy Workplace Bureau, and establishing OPP-wide strategies to support members when they return to work after a leave of absence.

“Policing is a service that ensures Ontario’s communities remain safe, secure, healthy and prosperous,” said Commissioner Carrique. “The addition of 200 frontline officers demonstrates a commitment to the Ontario Provincial Police, the well-being of officers and community safety.”

The hiring of 200 new frontline OPP officers builds on Ontario’s \$2.6 million investment announced in April to hire new OPP psychologists and other mental health clinicians. It also supports the creation of a new integrated mental health support program launched in March in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA).

“This announcement aligns with the recommendations highlighted by the Independent Review Panel and further reinforces the government’s commitment to support the mental health and well-being of our members,” said Rob Jamieson, President of the OPPA. “We would like to thank Premier Doug Ford and Solicitor General Sylvia Jones for their ongoing support and dedication.”

# FORD ANNOUNCES \$7M OVER 5 YEARS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ONTARIO

The Ontario government announced frontline victims services organizations will receive \$7.65 million over five years in funding for specialized services to support human trafficking victims and survivors as part of the government’s comprehensive anti-human trafficking strategy. A portion of this funding will be directed to Victim Services Toronto, Victim Services of York Region and the province’s other Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario organizations.

Details were provided on Monday by Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, and Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women’s Issues.

“Through our government’s anti-human trafficking strategy, we are helping young women and children escape a living nightmare and rebuild their lives,” said Premier Ford. “We will continue to work with police to give them the tools and resources they need to go after the thugs responsible for this disgusting crime and put them behind bars where they belong.”

**Supports funded through this investment include:**

Additional funding to the Victim Quick Response Program+ to help human trafficking victims and survivors cover essential expenses, such as accommodation, meals, transportation, dental care, mobile phones and tattoo removal.

Enhanced services under Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario to enable front-line staff across Ontario to address the immediate and local needs of human trafficking victims and survivors, particularly children and Indigenous persons. This could include early intervention to help victims transition out of human trafficking, referrals to local programs and increased hours of service.

Expanded funding to the Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund to cover key court-related expenses for human trafficking victims and survivors, including basic necessities such as weather or courtroom-appropriate attire, and costs associated with travel, meals and accommodations.

“Our government is partnering with law enforcement, prosecutors and front-line victim service providers to comprehensively respond to the shocking growth of these crimes,” said Attorney General Downey. “These investments will ensure victims can access dedi-



cated supports and services when and where they need them.”

The funding announced today is part of the government’s anti-human trafficking strategy released in March, which includes a \$307 million investment over five years. The comprehensive strategy aims to raise awareness about human trafficking, protect victims and intervene early, support survivors, and hold offenders accountable.

“Human trafficking is a vicious and violent crime that preys on our most vulnerable, robbing them of their health, safety and dignity,” said Solicitor General Jones. “This investment helps ensure victims and survivors have the support they need while we work to combat human trafficking, hold offenders accountable and end this heinous crime.”

“Supporting victims and survivors is a key commitment in our new anti-human trafficking strategy,” said Associate Minister Dunlop. “Our investment in these agencies will support increased access to a range of trauma-informed services to help victims rebuild their lives. It will also assist them in navigating the justice system so that more traffickers can be held accountable.”

## FEDERAL GOVT ANNOUNCES \$37B CERB TRANSITION PLAN ; EXTENDS PROGRAMME BY 4 WEEKS, INTRODUCES THREE NEW TEMPORARY BENEFITS

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

The new plan brought with it a four week extension to CERB, and three new temporary benefits including paid sick leave. The entire plan is budgeted to cost at least \$37 billion over the next year. CERB, which was set to run out at the start of the month for Canadians who have been on the program since March, has been extended by an additional four weeks, to a maximum of 28 weeks. After September 27, CERB claimants who qualify for EI will be transferred to that program. The EI program will be getting a bit of a revamp, to accommodate Canadians who have worked 120 to be able to apply for benefits next year. They can receive a minimum payment of \$400 per week, and a maximum of \$573 per week. EI claimants can also earn income while claiming benefits, although it will be adjusted.

The federal government also announced three new taxable benefits projected to cost around \$22 billion:

**Canada Recovery Benefit**

Available for 26 weeks to self-employed, gig or contract workers, or those not eligible for EI, Canadians must be looking for work, or have had their income reduced due to COVID-19. For this \$400 a week program – Workers will need to repay \$0.50 of every dollar earned about an annual net income of \$38,000 through income tax return.

**Canada Sickness Benefit**

A temporary sick leave benefit will provide \$500 a week for up to two weeks. People who don’t already have paid sick leave through their employer can use this benefit for when they have to stay home from work while sick, or if/when they have to self-isolate. This benefit cannot be claimed if the employee has paid sick leave through their employers.

**Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit**

This program offers up to 26 weeks per household, a \$500 a week claim. People who need to stay home to care for a loved one such as a child under the age of 12, a family member with a disability, or a dependent, can avail this benefit.

## RETAIL SALES UP 23.7 PER CENT IN JUNE

**CONTD. FROM PAGE 1**

Sales were up in all subsectors, with growth primarily led by motor vehicle and parts dealers, as well as clothing and clothing accessories stores. Rounding out the second quarter, retail sales were down 13.3 per cent compared with the first quarter. Retail sales in volume terms were 22.9 per cent in June. Stats Canada said, “Based on respondent feedback, approximately nine per cent of retailers were closed during June. The average length of shutdown was one business day.”

The motor vehicle and parts dealers subsector contributed the most to the sales increase, largely the result of pent-up demand following dealership closures during the spring months. Sales at gasoline stations were up 26.3 per cent while sales in volume terms at gasoline stations rose 19.9 per cent. Higher gasoline prices contributed to the gain in June, reflecting growing demand due to the gradual reopening of businesses and increased local travel. Clothing and clothing accessories stores posted a 142.3 per cent gain in June

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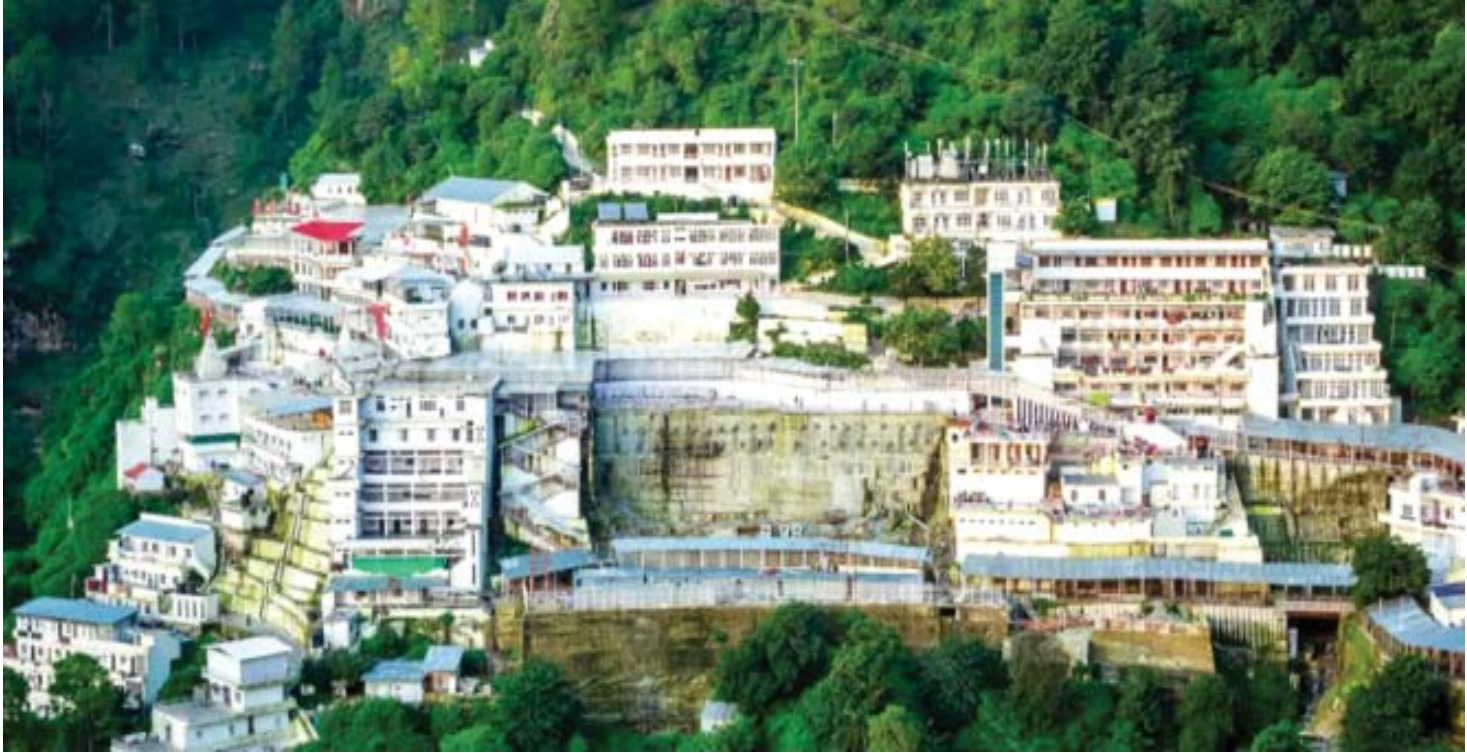
# UNLOCK 4: WHEN WILL CINEMA HALLS, METRO, AUDITORIUMS OPEN DOORS? CENTRE MAY HAVE ANSWERS IN NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES



To increase economic activities and employment opportunities, the Government of India is considering to give a breather to various sectors in Unlock 4. According to the sources, the government may give some more relaxations but its implementation in the respective states or Union Territories (UT) will be done on the basis of the assessment conducted by state governments. So far, the government has received various suggestions for allowing local rail/metro, allowing single theatre cinema halls, auditoriums, assembly halls, and similar places. But, the final decision of allowing these activities is yet to be taken. The government is considering opening local rail transportation from the first week of September. Also, single-screen cinema halls are likely to be allowed with strict social distancing norms. Similarly, the government is also considering giving relaxations to auditoriums, halls but they will have to adopt social distancing norms like thermal screening and temperature check with less number of gatherings than halls' capacity. "The process of phased re-opening of activities will be extended further and new guidelines, will be based on feed-

back received from states and UTs and extensive consultations with related Central Ministries and Departments," a senior government official said. "So far, the Government of India, the Home Ministry's SOP (standard operating procedure), has a fixed number of 50 people. We have written a letter to the Home Minister to ask for permission for banquet halls to open with 50% of their capacity. The hotel owners also want to move forward with this situation towards their revival. I think the government is taking decisions very quickly, this industry also believes. I think this decision will also be taken soon," Tourism minister Prahlad Patel told ANI in an interview. According to the sources, nothing has been finalised yet and it is expected to get finalised soon as a meeting regarding the same is pending. The government is not keen to open schools and colleges. It is expected that there would be hardly any change in international air travel norms as air travel of passengers has been permitted in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat Mission. The government is also unlikely to open entertainment parks and multi-screen movie halls.

## VAISHNO DEVI: MORE PILGRIMS FROM OUTSIDE OF J&K TO BE ALLOWED SOON



Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is mulling on increasing the number of pilgrims outside the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir from the current 100 to 200 or more. Amidst strict COVID protocol, only 2000 pilgrims can go the Holy Place in the Reasi district of the union territory. Of these 2000, 1900 are from within the union territory and only 100 can be outside it. Ramesh Kumar Jangid, Chief Executing Officer of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Jammu and Kashmir told WION, "We have kept outsider capacity at 100. This will be reviewed this week. This is expected to be increased. The maximum limit can be 500 till September if allowed". The Shrine board has come up with protocols for the pilgrimage for outsiders, which includes--carrying a COVID negative report which is not more than 48 hours old and only online registered yatris

can be allowed. They can register by going to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. In accordance with the Ministry of Home Affairs COVID guidelines, children below 10 years, above 60, persons with comorbidity, pregnant women won't be allowed at the shrine. At entry point also, yatris will be checked by thermal scanning and all along with the route and even at the Holy Caves, strict COVID rules of social distancing are being implemented. Yatris without mask or face cover are not allowed at the shrine, and at every location, sanitizers have been kept. The pilgrimage resumed earlier this month on 16th August. Helicopter services till the shrine has also started but due to lack of pilgrims, no chopper has flown yet. The Shrine Board is mulling to put helicopter services as an option during online registration.

## Centre forms National Council for Transgender Persons

The Central Government on August 21 constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons, headed by the Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment. The Council was announced in a gazette notification issued on Friday. The council will have joint secretary-level members from the ministries of health, home, housing, minority affairs, education, rural development, labour and law. In addition, there will be members from the department of pensions, Niti Aayog, National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women. The representatives of the state governments and union territories by rotation, one each from the north, south, east, west and northeast regions will be members of the commission. Also, five representatives of the transgender community, one each from the north, south, east, west and northeast regions have also been announced. The National Council, formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, will perform the following functions:

1. To advise the Centre on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.
2. To monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality.
3. To review and coordinate the activities of all the departments of government and other governmental and non-governmental organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons.
4. To redress the grievances of transgender persons.
5. To perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

The tenure of the council members will be for three years.

## Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar tests positive for COVID-19, admitted to Bengaluru hospital



D.K. Shivakumar, president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), on Tuesday, said that he had tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The veteran leader of the grand old party was admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru after he was diagnosed with the COVID-19 infection. Notably, Shivakumar has been on an extensive tour of the state lately, working at the grassroots level to strengthen the Congress party's district units in Karnataka. There has been a surge of COVID-19 cases in Karnataka lately as Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had all tested COVID-19 positive, before DK Shivakumar. Five ministers from the southern state have also tested positive for COVID-19. In meanwhile, experts have said that after unleashing its fury across the country, the coronavirus pandemic has now waned over northern India and instead cast its shadow on the southern states, with health experts claiming that Kerala could be starting on its second wave while Tamil Nadu successfully passed its peak. Five southern states - Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Kerala have cumulatively logged 37.8% of the total confirmed cases, up from 33% last month. Of late, there has been a spurt in cases across all five states.

## CBI to interrogate Sushant Singh Rajput's former house manager and Rhea Chakraborty's close aide Samuel Miranda

Widening its probe in the Sushant Singh Rajput case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to interrogate the late actor's former house manager and Rhea Chakraborty's close associate Samuel Miranda in a second-round today. Samuel Miranda had been questioned by the CBI in the first round of interrogation when the investigating agency took over the case after the Supreme Court's direction. The former house manager had also been previously questioned by the Directorate of Enforcement, who was probing the money laundering angle in Sushant's case. Samuel Miranda had been Sushant Singh Rajput's house manager since April 4, 2019. However, he was unable to visit Sushant's house after the lockdown that was imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The CBI has since Thursday also questioned Sushant's other staff Dipesh Sawant on multiple occasions after the team arrived in Mumbai from Delhi, following the apex court's nod. Meanwhile, the CBI has already shared the autopsy report and other videos with AIIMS Forensic department for the medico-legal opinion. The source said that in the coming days it will also summon Rhea, her brother Showik, father Indrajit and other accused named in the case, which is registered on August 6 based on the Bihar Police case on the orders of the Central government following a recommendation by the Bihar government. Sushant's father K.K. Singh had filed the case at Patna's Rajiv Nagar police station on July 25. The case was registered against Rhea, her parents, brother, Sushant's former manager Shruti Modi, Samuel Miranda and unknown persons.

## Air Transport Bubble: Centre issues SOPs for 'Vande Bharat' flights, commercial air travel

The Centre announced Standard Operating Procedures for travel on Vande Bharat and Air Transport Bubble Flights for inbound and outbound travel. As per the Civil Aviation Ministry's guidelines, the cost of travel will have to be borne by the travellers. "At the time of boarding all travellers to undergo thermal screening. Only asymptomatic travellers to be allowed to board," it added. "Category of persons eligible to travel will be permitted by the Home Ministry from time to time. Civil Aviation Ministry will display on its website the category of persons eligible to travel out of India," it read. The eligible persons would have to apply to the civil aviation agency or their designated agency along with their necessary details. "Travel shall be on non-scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Civil Aviation Ministry. While onboard, precautions such as wearing masks, hand hygiene etc. to be observed by staff crew and all passengers," it added. With regard to inbound flight, the category of persons eligible to travel would be permitted by the Union Home Ministry. "Passengers of Vande Bharat Flights must register themselves with Indian Missions abroad. Air Transport Bubbles arrangements do not require such registration. They will travel by non-scheduled commercial flights/ships allowed by the government," the guidelines stated. For inbound flights as well the cost of travel would be borne by the travellers.



# GANGA, YAMUNA RISING AT ALARMING RATE; FLOOD THREAT AT PRAYAGRAJ



The water level of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers has started rising at an alarming rate, forcing many residents living in the flood-prone areas to shift to safer locations in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. Although both, the Ganga and Yamuna, are still flowing below the danger mark, the water being released from barrages in Kanpur and Mata Tila in Lalitpur has put the district administration on alert. The barrage in Kanpur is built over the Ganga, while the one in Lalitpur is constructed over the Betwa. The water level in the two rivers has been on the rise for the past five days. On Monday, the river water started inundating low-lying areas in Phaphamau, Salori, Daraganj, and Jhunsia areas. The Ganga water level at Phaphamau increased by 19 cm as compared to Sunday. At Chhatnag, which is around two kilometers downstream of Sangam, the Ganga has risen by 38 cm and its water level was recorded as

77.08 Mt. Officials said that the Yamuna water level has been increasing at the rate of 35 cm over the past 24 hours. At Naini, the water level of the Yamuna on Monday was 77.80 Mt. Executive engineer of the flood control unit, Brijesh Kumar Verma, said, "At 4 p.m., the water level of Ganga at Phaphamau was recorded as 79.45 Mt. At Chhatnag, the level was recorded as 77.23 Mt. At Naini, Yamuna's water level was recorded as 77.80 Mt at 4 p.m." "The huge volume of water discharged into the Ganga from Kanpur barrage and from Betwa in Lalitpur would be reaching the district over the next 24 hours. The water level of both the rivers is expected to increase further," said Verma. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been visiting localities situated near the river banks to review the situation

# COVID-19 negative report mandatory for passengers flying to UAE: AI Express



The Air India Express on Tuesday has rolled out new guidelines for the passengers aged 12 years and above travelling to UAE making it mandatory for them to submit a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test on the website prior to their flight. It has also stated that the travellers are required to take coronavirus screening test "not more than 96 hours before departure." "For all passengers 12 years old and above, a valid negative COVID-19 PCR test report in the printed form, from a government-approved laboratory in India (ICMR) or a certified designated laboratory which is available on screening.purehealth.ae website is re-

quired. Passengers are required to take a COVID-19 PCR test not more than 96 hours before departure," the guidelines from the Air India Express read. At present, India has made it mandatory for a seven-day institutional quarantine and a seven-day home quarantine for passengers arriving into the country on international flights but has exempted those producing a negative certificate of an RT-PCR test conducted within 96 hours of their flight's departure. Also, on inbound flights, only those crew members that have tested negative for coronavirus is allowed to operate flights to India.

# DIGITAL INDIA: IAF LAUNCHES MOBILE APP 'MY IAF' TO PROVIDE CAREER-RELATED INFORMATION TO ASPIRANTS



Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria on Monday launched a mobile application 'MY IAF' at IAF Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) to provide career-related information to aspirants as a part of Digital India initiative. "The application, developed in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), provides career-related information and details to those desirous of joining the Indian Air Force," read an official statement.

"The user-friendly format of the app serves as a single digital platform interfacing the users with the details of the selection procedure, training curriculum, pay and perks, etc for both officers and airmen in the IAF," it added. The application provides glimpses into the history and stories of valour in the IAF. It is available for download on Google Play store for android phones and is also linked to IAF's social media platforms.

# CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: WITH 60,975 NEW CASES, INDIA'S COVID-19 TALLY CROSSES 31 LAKH-MARK



With more than 60,000 new cases reported in the last 24 hours, India's COVID-19 count on Tuesday crossed the 31 lakh-mark, while the death toll has crossed the 58,000-mark as well. At 9:30 AM on this day, the COVID-19 tally in the country has reached 31,67,324 cases, which include 7,04,348 active cases; 24,04,585 cured, discharged, or migrated patients, and 58,390 deaths. According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as many as 60,975 new COVID-19 cases and 1,092 deaths were reported in the country in the last 24 hours, marking a significant spike. Total coronavirus cases in the worst-hit state of Maharashtra has crossed the 6.93 lakh-mark and registered 1,68,126 confirmed cases as of Tuesday. Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu with 3,85,352 cases. The state crossed Andhra Pradesh to take up second place in the list due to a recent massive surge in the number of cases. Andhra Pradesh is third on the list with 3,61,712 cases. After Andhra Pradesh comes Karnataka, where the COVID-19 figure stands at 2,83,665 cases with 1,97,625 patients recovered, and 4,810 fatalities. Uttar Pradesh has reported 1,92,382 cases of which 1,40,107 have recovered and 2,987 patients are dead. Delhi has reported 1,62,527 positive cases so far of which 1,46,588 patients have recovered and 4,313 patients have lost their lives due to the virus. In West Bengal, as many as 1,41,837 people have confirmed COVID-19, of which 1,11,292 recovered and 2,851 people succumbed to it. In Kerala, which reported the country's first COVID-19 case, 59,504 people have been detected positive for coronavirus so far.

# Funded by PM-CARES, DRDO's 500-bed COVID hospital inaugurated in Patna



A 500-bed COVID hospital with 125 ICU beds, set up by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in Patna was inaugurated on Monday by Union Minister Nityanand Rai. The hospital located in the newly constructed ESIC Hospital at Bihta has been built on the lines of the 1,000-bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Hospital at Delhi Cantt built by DRDO. Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Trust has allocated funds for the hospital. Another such hospital will be set up in Muzaffarpur. The infrastructure facilities for the hospital include the already existing seven-storied ESIC hospital with power, air conditioning, water supply, fire fighting and diesel generator backup, oxygen piping to each bed, lifts and morgue, the Ministry of Defence said. DRDO has provided the infrastructure for the hospital such as the administrative block including Doctor's room, triage area, visitors area and reception. There are 125 ICU beds with ventilators and monitors, 375 normal beds, 10 KL cryogenic liquid medical oxygen vessel, oxygen supply to every bed, PPE kits and sanitizers, CCTV surveillance system, house-keeping services including consumable items; pharmacy, medical pathology lab, catering services, laundry services, ambulance service; computerized Hospital Management System; professional manning & maintenance staff for specialised services like the electrical system, air conditioning system, DG sets, etc.

# Sonia Gandhi to remain interim Congress president for now, new party chief within 6 months

Sonia Gandhi will remain Congress party's interim president and a new chief will be elected within the next 6 months, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) unanimously decided after deliberations of over seven hours. PL Punia, a Congress leader and a member of the CWC, said Sonia Gandhi has to continue and the election will take place as soon as possible. This, he said, was the unanimous decision of the working committee. "Members expressed faith in Sonia Gandhi & Rahul Gandhi & urged her to continue leading party, she agreed. Next meeting to be called soon, probably within 6 months, to elect new chief. Till then, Sonia Gandhi agreed to remain interim president," Punia said. Another senior leader KH Muniyappa said there is no different opinion on leadership. "There is no different opinion on leadership and even Ghulam Nabi Azad ji, Mukul Wasnik ji and Anand Sharma ji have given in writing that there is no dispute on leadership," Muniyappa said. Earlier, Sonia Gandhi asked members to relieve her from the top post. The crucial meeting of the CWC was held after 23 leaders wrote to party interim chief Sonia Gandhi calling for sweeping reforms in the party.



# SECOND RUSSIAN COVID-19 VACCINE SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS: REPORT



A COVID-19 vaccine developed by Russia's Vector State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology appears to be safe in early tests in humans, the media has reported.

This vaccine - different from the one dubbed 'Sputnik V' which has already been approved by the country - produced no side effects in the volunteers who received the first shot of the vaccine, Russia's Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing said on Friday.

The agency said that clinical trials of the 'EpiVacCorona' vaccine will be completed in September.

"All inoculated volunteers are feeling well. To date, the first vaccination was administered to 57 volunteers, while 43 received placebo,"

the agency said in a statement, adding that no side effects were observed in the volunteers who received the vaccine.

According to a report in TASS news agency which quoted the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing, the vaccine elicits an immune response after double administration with the interval of 14-21 days.

So far, just one volunteer has been inoculated twice, said the report.

Earlier this month, Russia registered the 'Sputnik V', becoming the first country to approve a Covid-19 vaccine.

Media reports this week said that Russia is now planning a large-scale trial of its 'Sputnik V' vaccine involving 40,000 people.

## 'Kim Jong-un in coma, sister to take over North Korea': South Korean diplomat makes astounding claim

Chang Song-min, a former aide to South Korea's late president Kim Dae-Jung on Sunday fired up rumours by claiming that North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un is actually in a coma and that his sister, Kim Yo-jong, is presently poised for power to take over North Korea.

Taking to social media Song-min said that the fact that Kim Yo-Jong has been made the de facto second-in-command speaks for itself since, he claimed, no North Korean leader would entrust any of his authority to another person unless he was too sick to rule or was removed through a coup.

Song-min said that authority and responsibility have been delegated to Kim Jong-un's sister for managing relations with the US and South Korea. He has claimed to have gotten the information from a source in China as per The Korea Herald.

In an interview with South Korean media, Chang Song-min said: "I assess him to be in a coma, but his life has not ended. "A complete succession structure has not been formed, so Kim Yo-jong is being brought to the fore as the vacuum cannot be maintained for a prolonged period." He went on to say that photos of Kim Jong Un that were released by the North Korean media in recent months were fake. As per Chang, the power restructuring does not make Kim Yo-jong the successor to Kim Jong Un. South Korea's spy agency informed the country's political leaders that the North Korean leader



seemed to have adopted delegating authority and responsibility to some of his most trusted aides. But according to the National Intelligence Agency, the change doesn't appear to be linked to any major health problem, said The Korean Herald.

## Massive protests erupt in PoK's Muzaffarabad against construction of dams by China and Pakistan on Neelum-Jhelum river



Massive protests and a torch rally was held in Muzaffarabad city of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Monday night to oppose the mega-dams to be constructed by Chinese firms on Neelum-Jhelum River.

The protesters hailing from the "Darya Bachao, Muzaffarabad Bachao" (Save River, Save Muzaffarabad) Committee chanted slogans like "Neelum-Jhelum behne do, humein zinda rehne do" (let the Neelum and Jhelum rivers flow, let us live). The rally was attended by over a thousand people from the city and other parts of PoK.

Recently, Pakistan and China signed agreements to construct Azad Pattan and Kohala Hydropower Projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project of 700.7 megawatts of electricity as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was signed on July 6, 2020.

The \$1.54 billion projects will be sponsored by the China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC).

The Kohala Hydroelectric Power Project which will be built on Jhelum River is roughly 7 km upstream of Azad Pattan Bridge in the Sudhanoti District of PoK and 90 km from Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan.

The project expected to be completed by the year 2026 will be sponsored by China Three Gorges Corporation, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Silk Road Fund.

What really irks locals is high Chinese presence in the area, massive construction of dams, and river diversions threatening their very existence. Pakistan and China are jointly plundering the natural resources of PoK and Gilgit Baltistan in the wake of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The resentment in the occupied territories is high against Pakistan and China.

## PAKISTAN PUTS CURBS ON 26/11 MASTERMINDS ZAKIUR REHMAN LAKHVI, HAFIZ SAEED, 88 TERROR OUTFITS TO AVOID FATF BLACKLIST



In looking for a way out of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, the Imran Khan-led government in Pakistan has now imposed severe financial sanctions on 88 banned terrorist outfits and their leaders, including Hafiz Saeed Ahmad of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Mohammad Masood Azhar of the JeM, Dawood Ibrahim, and others.

The Pakistan government has also ordered the seizure of all properties and freezing of all bank accounts of global terrorist Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, following new restrictions issued by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Islamabad issued two notifications on August 18 announcing sanctions on key figures of terror outfits and the seizure of all movable and immovable properties of these outfits and individuals, and freezing of their bank accounts.

These terrorists have been barred from transferring money through financial institutions, purchasing of arms and travelling abroad, Pakistani media reported, adding that the notifications ratified a complete ban on all leaders and members of defunct Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hiding in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas.

Some of the individuals who have been named in the list of sanctions are -- Saeed, Azhar, Mullah Fazlullah (alias Mullah Radio), Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, Abdul Hakeem Murad (wanted by the Interpol), Noor Wali Mehsud, Fazal Raheem Shah of Uzbekistan Liberation Movement, Taliban leaders Jalaluddin Haqqani, Khalil Ahmad Haqqani, Yahya Haqqani, and Ibrahim and his associates.

Some of the terrorist organisations named in the list include -- the now defunct TTP, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, JeM, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Tariq Geedar group of TTP, Harkatul Mujahideen, Al Rasheed Trust, Al Akhtar Trust, Tanzim Jaish-al Mohajireen Ansar, Jamaat-ul Ahrar, Tanzim Khutba Imam Bukhari, Rabita Trust Lahore, Revival of Islamic Heritage Society of Pakistan, Al-Haramain Foundation Islamabad, Harkat Jihad Al Islami, Islami Jihad Group, Uzbekistan Islami Tehreek, Daesh of Iraq, Emirates of Tanzim Qafqaz working against Russia, and Abdul Haq of Uyghurs of Islamic Freedom Movement of China. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system, had put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018. It had also asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action by the end of 2019, but the deadline was extended later due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Failing to comply with the FATF directive by October will likely result in Pakistan being moved to the 'Black List' along with North Korea and Iran.

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## Nepal govt's links with China affecting its autonomy, ability to take independent decisions: Report

As China continues to wield its influence over various countries, Beijing's nexus with the top establishment in the Nepal government has raised serious doubts over the Himalayan nation's 'autonomy' and 'ability to take independent decisions', according to a report in Global Watch Analysis. According to an article by Roland Jacquard, the author explains China's policy of corrupting the political class of a country, especially those who are not economically strong. He also details how the foreign policy of Nepal, the latest entrant to fall victim to China's strategic expansionism, has veered towards pushing the interests of Beijing. In January last year, the day when China condemned United States' move to slap economic sanctions on Venezuela, the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) also issued a similar statement denouncing Washington and its allies for intervening in Venezuela's internal matters. This was probably the first time Kathmandu had taken a stand pertaining to US policies in Latin America. Another worrying and trend noticed in Nepal is the deteriorating human rights condition of Tibetan refugees residing in Nepal.



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