



'MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS': PUNJAB CM TELLS KEJRIWAL FOR DEMANDING CBI PROBE OVER HOCH TRAGEDY | P10



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SOUTH ASIAN

MidWeek

NEWS WEEKLY



Tuesday, August 04, 2020

www.southasiandaily.com

Vol 20 Issue 31, Phone 647-272-8182, 905-670-3687

All eyes on India as PM Modi lays foundation of Ram Temple in Ayodhya



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON WEDNESDAY LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA. | DETAILS ON PAGE 3

BRAMPTON COUNCILLOR GURPREET DHILLON ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SHOULD BE SUSPENDED: INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

COUNCILLOR DHILLON DENIES SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS, CHALLENGES VALIDITY OF REPORT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Opening a Pandora's Box worth of troubles for Brampton Regional Councillor for wards 9 and 10, Gurpreet Dhillon a damning new report by Brampton's integrity commissioner which investigates allegations that he sexually harassed a city female while in Turkey in November 2019.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

FORD, LECCE ANNOUNCE NEW MEASURES TO REOPEN SCHOOLS IN PROVINCE THIS FALL



Ontario government announced its plan to allow licensed child care centres across Ontario to open at full capacity starting September 1, 2020.

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OPINION : WE CHARITY CONTROVERSY : Y MEDIA GROUP EDITOR YUDHVIR JASWAL SAYS SCANDAL FAR FROM OVER

As the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to send shockwaves, it is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberal government's WE Charity fiasco that has knocked the nation off its boots. PM Trudeau testified before the House of Commons Finance Committee on Thursday opening a brand new box of revelations. He insisted that the organisation in question "received no preferential treatment, not from me, not from anyone else. The public service recommended WE Charity, and I did absolutely nothing to influence that recommendation." The PM went on to state that he first was made aware of the development on May 8, and when he did, he "pushed back". While Trudeau's failed attempt at testifying comes under scrutiny, Y Media Group Editor Yudhvir Jaswal believes the whole charade is "far from over." Speaking at CBC Radio host Mark Kelley's show Friday morning, along with Paul Wells from Macleans, and Susan Delacourt from Toronto Star, Jaswal said Trudeau really failed to convince even his strong supporters. He says, "The question still remains unanswered. The timeline that Trudeau offers does not really match with the timeline the Kielburger brothers (WE Charity co-founders) gave. If Trudeau thought in the first place that this could be a conflict of interest, he is now saying it is a matter of perception. Then why didn't he recuse himself? These are questions Canadians haven't really gotten answers to." When asked if he thinks Trudeau helped convince people he is being transparent, Jaswal added, "No, I don't think the damage is being controlled, or that we have received any answers. Of course his strongest supporters will support the Liberal party based on what we hear on our show. The Prime Minister has given no clear evidence that he

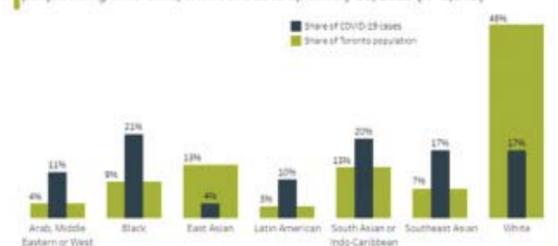


was doing his due diligence."

On whether the voters are paying attention, he added, "Absolutely! How many times do you find the PM standing in front of a committee and answering the MPs? I know these are COVID times, but people still want to know what is happening with controversy. They may not even be clear what is happening but they do want to know. Many are even comparing the situation to India and Pakistan. Liberal supporters are nervous and there is a lot of speculation." "Some say the Finance Minister could be shown the door, or Minister Bardish Chagger, or Katie Telford. This is far from over." "Trudeau needs to make sure he covers his blind spot. Someone has to be held accountable. He needs to make sure of that. It could be someone from his staff, or the cabinet, but he needs to assure Canadians this will not happen again," Jaswal signed off.

SOUTH ASIAN, BLACK, ARAB AND LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES HIT HARDER BY COVID 19

people living in Toronto, with valid data up to July 16, 2020 (N=3,861)



Brand new data revealed by the Toronto Public Health shows lower-income communities in the city are the most affected by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

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25 CANADIAN MPS CALL FOR SPECIAL REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN SIKHS & HINDUS

Around 25 Canadian MPs, from the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC), New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP) and the Green Party, have written to Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino calling for a special program for Afghan Sikh and Hindu refugees so that they can be brought to safety in Canada.

| CONTD. ON PAGE 6

CIBC partners with World Vision to provide relief for Cyclone victims in India



CIBC GLOBAL MONEY TRANSFER™

In response to the tragic events of Cyclone Amphan, CIBC has announced a partnership with World Vision to provide relief for those affected in West Bengal, India. As a way of showing support, CIBC will donate a portion of the revenue generated from Global Money Transfer transactions sent to India to the World Vision Disaster Relief Fund, in addition to offering a special exchange rate that will allow clients to maximize their contributions to family and friends who were impacted by the natural disaster.

| DETAILS ON PAGE 3

PAK PM IMRAN KHAN UNVEILS "NEW POLITICAL MAP", INCLUDES VALLEY, JUNAGADH

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan unveiled a brand new "political map" of the country which also includes Jammu & Kashmir, and also Gujarat's Junagadh region. Making the announcement ahead of the first anniversary of India's abrogation of Article 370 that provided the Valley with a special status, Khan said this would now be the "official map" of the country and would be the one used in schools and colleges.



| CONTD. ON PAGE 3

HEALTH CANADA'S COVID ALERT APP GOES LIVE ; ONTARIO FIRST TO TEST OUT APP

Health Canada's new COVID-19 contact tracing app has finally launched across Ontario after long delay. The COVID Alert app became available for download on Friday. Users can download the app and select their province to begin. The app uses the phone bluetooth to let you know if you've come in contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19.



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neighbours, stunning homes, and lovely open greenspaces for residents to enjoy. To show how much we appreciate our homeowners, we are introducing Lancaster Homeowner Appreciation Month! Every Sunday in August, we will be giving back to our communities throughout southern Ontario by providing an afternoon of fun in the sun—and FREE ice

cream! The iconic Toronto Softee ice cream truck will be visiting our Lancaster communities in Oshawa, Angus, Niagara, and Keswick offering free ice cream to our homeowners. Come outside and say hello!

We will also be giving out prizes at these events to our Instagram followers! Make sure you are following us at @Lancaster_Homes to win, and hashtag all your photos with #LancasterFamilyNight to make sure we see them! Lancaster Homes takes pride in building communities with homeowners at the forefront. If you live in one of our communities, or want to discover more about them, come visit us on these days from 12:00-4:00 pm:

For four consecutive Sundays in August, visit us at the following locations:

Sunday August 9th – Charing Cross

Starting at circular street between 384 and 385 Arctic Red Drive, Oshawa ON

Sunday August 16th – Pine River Starting at 39 Latimer Cres., Angus ON

Sunday August 23rd – Lyon's Creek

Starting at 4382 Mann Street, Niagara Falls ON

Sunday August 30th – Simcoe Landing

Starting at 29 Silverstone Cres., Keswick ON

We look forward to seeing you!

Deepak Anand, MPP
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Ford Govt announces \$83 million investment to support non-profits, legions affected by COVID-19



The Ontario government is investing \$83 million through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to provide grants to help eligible non-profit organizations, including food banks, child and youth programs and Royal Canadian Legion branches, recover from COVID-19 and continue the delivery of vital programming in their communities. The announcement was made by Premier Doug Ford and Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. "I am proud of the hundreds of volunteer organizations and thousands of volunteers who have stepped up over the last few months and shown the Ontario spirit in caring for others through these difficult times," said Premier Ford. "Our local non-profits, including our local Legion branches and food banks, are the bedrock of our communities and their work will be absolutely critical in helping people to rebuild their lives as we restart our economy and reopen the province." The OTF's Resilient Communities Fund will provide grants of up to \$150,000 to help eligible non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 with support for: Equipping board members and employees with supports to implement new approaches, prepare for change and build resiliency (e.g. organizational training and coaching, strategic planning and implementation, research & development, mental and physical health and wellbeing supports); Improving and increasing ability to access financial resources and develop new and/or alternative sources of revenues (e.g. develop fundraising plans, identify fundraising and financial technology resources, seek opportunities for public-private partnerships and so-

cial finance); Adapting or re-imagining the delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of the community, employees and volunteers (e.g. identify new health and safety processes and required personal protective equipment, technology supports, staffing and volunteer recruitment and training); Procuring equipment or renovating spaces to meet the changing needs of the organization, its programs and services, and adapt to new ways of working (e.g. equipment and/or renovations to meet changing technology health and safety, and service delivery requirements); and Creating and/or adopting new approaches for organizations to work together to meet the needs of communities (e.g. peer learning, professional development, networking, resource, knowledge and data sharing). "The Resilient Communities Fund is a tremendous example of the innovation and flexibility of Ontario agencies," said Minister MacLeod. "While we work towards the province's economic and social recovery, we're proud to support programs like the OTF Resilient Communities Fund that are making a positive contribution in communities across Ontario." "Due to the significant impacts of COVID-19 on the non-profit sector, the Ontario Trillium Foundation saw an opportunity to respond to the needs of non-profit organizations that have been struggling to deliver their programs and services," said Katharine Bambrick, CEO of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. "The Resilient Communities Fund will support the recovery and rebuilding of non-profits and help them as they return to building healthy and vibrant communities."

ALL EYES ON INDIA AS PM MODI LAYS FOUNDATION OF RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

There was a general mood of fervour in Ayodhya, India on Wednesday, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the much-awaited Ram Temple. He offered prayers at Ayodhya in the afternoon, and participated in the bhoomi poojan. Streets across the city were lit with lamps, and public address systems played 'Jai Shri Ram' on repeat. The laying of the foundation stone came on a day marking the one year anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. Speaking during his daily show Radio Y on 770 AM, Group Editor Yudhvir Jaswal said the original discussion surrounding the 2.77 acre disputed area included the Jain, Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim communities. "This was not just a Hindu-Muslim issue. Politicians turned this entire discussion into a religious Hindu-Muslim angle. Build a temple, build a mosque. Build whatever you want," Jaswal said.

He added that there are people within the Muslim community who want a school, or university built on the government-allotted five acre land. "But there are certain hardliners who won't make this happen. The general people has tonnes of questions that do not see the light of day. They do not surpass these leaders. And this goes for any religion or community. I personally believe both these things can co-exist. Religious places can co-exist and hospitals, schools and universities can co-exist," Jaswal said. He also said, "How many more religious institutes do we need? I think we should strengthen the existing religious places. Sure, go ahead and build places of worship in areas where there are none. But city mayors should make this a mandate on how many religious institutes will be allowed in their region, depending upon the population. I acknowledge this is difficult, but it is necessary."

Beirut Explosion: Tragedy Ensues As Blast Reports Over 100 Deaths, 4000 Injured

Authorities in Lebanon have declared a state of emergency, and launched an investigation into the catastrophic explosion on Beirut port on Tuesday. Officials have begun searching through the wreckage, as the government ordered port officials to be put under house arrest. The investigation surrounds how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate came to be stored at the facility for six years without no one dealing with it. For the uninitiated, Tuesday's tragic blast that has so far claimed over 100 lives, and injured approximately 4000 and counting, is reportedly attributed to a cargo ship carrying the highly explosive chemical that was docked at the city port since 2013. The explosion is said as being the worst, most destructive incident to hit

Lebanon in history. It not only claimed nearby lives, but caused buildings including residences, offices, and even a hospital to bite the dust in a matter of minutes. Overwhelmed with the events, Beirut governor said on Wednesday that hundreds of thousands may not be able to return to their homes for the coming few months. Lebanon President Michael Aoun has said the investigation would be transparent, and those responsible will be punished. For now, an unspecified number of Beirut port officials have been put under house arrest pending investigation. Public schools, and some hotels will reportedly be opened for the homeless. The incident comes at the worst time for Lebanon which was already on the brink of an economic collapse.

SOUTH ASIAN, BLACK, ARAB AND LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES HIT HARDER BY COVID 19

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In a press conference Thursday afternoon, Dr Eileen de Villa said, "There is growing evidence in North America and beyond that racialised people and people living in lower-income households are more likely to be affected by COVID-19 infection. We believe it is related to poverty and racism." The data was collected from individuals from various ethno-racial groups between May 20 and July 16. It is revealed that 83 per cent of people who have contracted the virus in Toronto are racialised. South Asians make up for 13 per cent of population in the city, but account for 20 per cent COVID-19 cases. Arab, Middle Eastern and West Asian people make up for four per cent of Toronto's population, but represent 11 per cent of COVID-19 cases. Black people make up for nine per cent of the city's population but represent 21 per cent of cases. It is to be noted that Toronto's racialised communities make up 52 per cent of the city's population. Dr de Villa said the communities, including South Asian are over-represented in the total number of cases compared to the population statistics.

PAK PM IMRAN KHAN UNVEILS "NEW POLITICAL MAP", INCLUDES VALLEY, JUNAGADH

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The new map clearly identifies occupied Kashmir as a "disputed territory", stating the final status will be decided in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Reacting to the news, Group Editor, Y Media, Yudhvir Jaswal said, "Pakistan can take in the whole of Kashmir if it wants." Speaking with callers on his daily show Radio Y on 91.9 FM, he said, "But do it after 10 years. Improve the economy first. Today, the Pak government has to reach out to the IMF for funds every now and then, or even China. If bilateral relations between India and Pakistan were great, it could have gotten the same funds from India. Imran Khan needs to focus on how to improve the economy, the system. Provide the people with education, infrastructure, improve their quality of life. And then, once all of this is accomplished, the government can focus on roping in the Valley." He asked, "Who is it helping if the government, instead of working towards development and economic growth, instead remains focused on Kashmir?" Meanwhile, the move has been rubbished by New Delhi, calling it an "exercise in political absurdity". External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "This is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in the Indian State of Gujarat and our Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and of Ladakh. These ridiculous assertions have neither legal validity nor international credibility." "In fact, this new effort only confirms reality of Pakistan's obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism," Srivastava added.

CIBC PARTNERS WITH WORLD VISION TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS IN INDIA

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"India is the largest outbound remittance destination for international money transfers for thousands of CIBC clients, and we hope this allows our clients to seamlessly support loved ones affected by the disaster," said Vineet Malhotra, MD and Head, Alternate Solutions Group & Retail Solutions Group, CIBC. Clients will also receive a cash back offer on their first transfer sent to India. The offer will be available until July 15.

ABOUT CIBC

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Infrastructure Min McKenna announces \$3.3 billion COVID infrastructure program



Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna announced a new COVID-19 Resilience Stream during a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday. The new time-limited stream will have an increased federal cost-share for a broadened range of infrastructure projects and a simplified approval process to allow work to get underway quickly while respecting public health measures. Under the stream worth up to \$3.3 billion, projects will be eligible for a significantly larger federal cost share – up to 80 per cent for provinces, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in provinces, and raising it to 100 per cent for remote, northern and territorial projects. McKenna said, "Our government recognizes that with the health and economic challenges presented by COVID-19, we need to support Canadians to protect their health, improve their quality of life, and create jobs. That's why we've changed our infrastructure program to make it easier to invest in making schools and long term care facilities safe for children and aging parents and to build projects that make it easier for people to get out and exercise and appreciate nature. Canada's infrastructure plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across the country and builds stronger communities."

Canada signs deal with Pfizer, Moderna to secure future supply of Covid vaccine

In an announcement made by Minister of Public Services and Procurement (PSPC) Anita Anand, and Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (ISED) Navdeep Bains announced the federal Liberal government has arrived on deals with pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and biotechnology firm Moderna to secure future supply of COVID-19 vaccine. While Pfizer will supply its BNT162 mRNA-based vaccine candidate, Moderna will provide its mRNA-1273 vaccine candidate. All potential vaccines will require Health Canada regulatory approval prior to being used to vaccinate Canadians. Active negotiations with other potential vaccine suppliers are also under way. The federal government is also negotiating and signing agreements with a number of leading pharmaceutical companies to establish a guaranteed supply base of potential vaccine candidates. Anand's ministry, meanwhile, is also procuring the equipment and supplies that will be needed to perform the final manufacturing and packaging stages of vaccine production in Canada. Anand said, "Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been working diligently to secure the necessary personal protective equipment and supplies needed to protect frontline healthcare workers and combat COVID-19. While that work continues, we are now squarely focused on preparing Canada for an eventual vaccine. Given intense global competition, we are taking an aggressive approach to secure access to the most promising candidates so that we will be ready to vaccinate all Canadians as quickly as possible. We are extremely pleased to establish these agreements with Pfizer and Moderna. Canadians can rest assured that the Government will continue to do everything possible to keep them healthy and safe." Bains announced an investment of up to \$56 million to support clinical trials for a COVID-19 related vaccine candidate from Variation Biotechnologies Inc. (VBI) through the Strategic Innovation Fund. He said, "The Government is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians. That's why we are working hard on all possible fronts to deliver safe and effective treatments and vaccines against COVID-19 for Canadians as fast as possible. Guided by the expertise of these task forces, which has informed the VBI investment announced, we are leaving no stone unturned in exploring every promising option to enhance our research our development capacity for long-term emergency preparedness."



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Tax filing has been deferred until June 1.

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Defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal) for impacted borrowers

STUDENTS

Loan payments and interest suspended till September 30

BUSINESSES

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for employers suffering due to COVID-19
Up to 75 per cent wage subsidy allowing up to \$847 per week for employers who suffered at least a 15 per cent drop in revenues in March, and 30 per cent in April and May

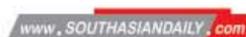
Applications to open April 27

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

Loans and/or forgivable loans to commercial property owners who will in turn lower or forgo rent of small businesses for the months of April, May, and June

Tax Deferral

Businesses can defer until after August 31, payment of income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, and before September 2020.



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CERB recipients to be transferred to federal EI program says Trudeau, more details by end of August

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in his press brief from Ottawa today, has announced that the millions of people who are still claiming the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will soon be transferred onto the federal Employment Insurance program. Without divulging more details, he said "no one will be left behind". The federal emergency response program was extended until September. However, with the deadline inching close, people remain anxious as to what awaits them.

Reports reveal there have been 8.46 million unique CERB applicants as of July 26. The government, meanwhile has paid out \$62.75 billion since it was launched in April. Trudeau said, "EI should cover every Canadian who is looking for work, and for those who don't qualify for EI right now, like gig or contract workers, we will create a transitional, parallel benefit that is similar to Employment Insurance."

Trudeau's federal wage subsidy program, which is scheduled to run until the end of December fewer recipients than expected. The PM also announced that the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance plan will be extended through the month of August. He said, "Over 700,000 employees have benefited from the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance – people who have been able to keep their jobs because of the help businesses got through this program."



Ford, Lecce announce new measures to reopen schools in province this Fall

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This decision was made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the COVID-19 Command Table. As a result, parents will be able to return to work knowing their children are in a safe and supportive care setting.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres will also be permitted to reopen with in-person programming along with before- and after-school programs for school aged children which will be permitted to operate with standard ratios and maximum group size requirements. All of these programs will be subject to health and safety protocols in order to keep kids safe.

"Our government is gradually and safely supporting child care expansion to ensure moms and dads across the province can return to work with confidence," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. "We will continue to ensure strict health and safety protocols remain in place, to keep our youngest learners safe."

The Ministry of Education will continue to work closely with municipal service managers, First Nations, and childcare operators to maximize capacity and access for families over the coming weeks. This includes revised health and safety operational guidance, additional funding parameters, and direction on providing notice to parents for placements. Licensees will continue to be required to maintain ratios and group sizes as set out under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA).

Key Takeaways from Ontario school Reopening Announcement :

Non-medical masks mandatory for children from Grade 4 to 12

Medical masks for teachers, staff members

Elementary :

Kindergarten to Grade 8 to return to school full day, five days a week including recess and lunch, no change in class sizes

Secondary :

Schools in select 24 boards to open to an adapted model, class cohorts of approximately 15 children

Students to attend class on alternate days, or schedules

Safety :

Enhanced health and safety protocols to be put in place

Kindergarten to Grade 3 students encouraged, but not required to wear masks in common spaces

Additional hand hygiene, cohorting, and distancing.

Visitors in schools limited, subject to pre-registration

Remote Learning :

Parents allowed to make the call, students offered option of remote learning which would be delivered by the school board

"Our commitment to the health and safety of the children and staff, will never waver," continued Minister Lecce. "Child care and early years programs will operate with additional health and safety procedures in place upon fully reopening. And rest assured, if at any time the health and safety of the children is jeopardized, we will take action immediately."

Ontario will also provide additional funding, with support from the federal government through the Safe Restart Agreement, to help child care operators and EarlyON Child and Family Centres purchase cleaning supplies, PPE and support staffing needs related to new procedures.

MidWeek

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'YMEDIA@SOUTHASIANDAILY.COM'

YUDHVIR JASWAL
CHIEF EDITOR & CEO
yudhvir@southasiandaily.com
647-272-8182

SUNIL VERMA
GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT

MITUL PANIKER
CONTENT EDITOR

ALI - NICE PHOTOGRAPHY
PHOTOGRAPHERS

DR. PUSHPINDER BRAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BASHIR NASIR
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Newspaper
MIDWEEK NEWS WEEKLY
Published in English every Tuesday

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BRAMPTON COUNCILLOR GURPREET DHILLON ACCUSED OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SHOULD BE SUSPENDED: INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The commissioner in the report, has recommended an unpaid suspension of Councillor Dhillon for 90 days.

A strong-worded 268-page report released Friday reveals investigation details by Integrity Commissioner Muneza Sheikh against Dhillon which allege the "unnecessary, unwelcome, and unwanted sexual touching" of a Brampton woman in her hotel room while on an official trip to Turkey. Sheikh said she reviewed a cellphone recording the complainant made of the alleged attack, which records the woman saying "no" to Dhillon 74 times over a period of 2 minutes and 57 seconds. The complainant owns a beauty salon in Brampton and as per the report gave a detailed version of the events that happened at a hotel room in Turkey. Commissioner Sheikh wrote "misconduct of this nature warrants the highest level of discipline" but the integrity commissioner only has the power to recommend a 90-day suspension without pay. Sheikh also recommended Councillor Dhillon to issue a formal apology to the complainant and the community. It needs to be understood that the commissioner's report is NOT a finding of criminal wrongdoing. The allegations have not been tested in court. Dhillon, meanwhile, has denied all allegations in a statement on Friday. It reads, "I completely deny the allegations and conclusions made in this report. The investigation was flawed from the start and this report is riddled with inconsistencies. Despite my repeated requests, the Integrity Commissioner refused to disclose the purported evidence against me. This refusal calls into question the integrity of this entire investigation. The total lack of due process in this investigation undermines the rule of law."

Y Media reached out to the Councillor through email, his counsel Zachary Al-Khatib responded saying, "You should also be aware that Councillor Dhillon has launched an application for judicial review in Divisional Court challenging the validity of the report and the investigation. The City and the Integrity Commissioner were served on Wednesday."

A spokesperson from Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown's office too responded saying, "My Office received the report and recommendations that were issued late this afternoon by the City's Integrity Commissioner regarding Councillor Dhillon.

Given the detailed content in the 268-report, I will be taking time to review it and give it the serious consideration it deserves.

The City of Brampton has a Code of Conduct for Members of Council to establish rules that guide Members of Council in performing their duties and roles. Council will consider the Report and the recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner at the Council Meeting on August 5, 2020. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further until Council has had an opportunity to fully review the report and discuss it next Wednesday.

Questions regarding the complaint process, investigation, or final report are most appropriately addressed by the Integrity Commissioner."

25 CANADIAN MPS CALL FOR SPECIAL REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN SIKHS & HINDUS

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The letter expresses "concern about the existential threat to religious minorities in Afghanistan, specifically, Sikhs and Hindus." Afghan Sikhs and Hindus have been subject to increasing persecution in recent years, including the murder of 25 Sikhs on March 25, 2020 in an attack on Gurdwara Guru Har Rai Sahib in Kabul by ISIS-K terrorists. The community has also been targeted for kidnapping and extortion. The letter, signed by 16 CPC, 6 NDP and 3 Green MPs, asks the Canadian Minister of Immigration to use his powers under section 25.2 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to create a special program for the less than 800 remaining Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan. The WSO along with the Manmeet Singh Bhullar Foundation and the Canadian Sikh community have consistently called on the Canadian Government to assist Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan, as Afghan authorities have been unable to offer meaningful protection of their basic human rights.

WSO President Tejinder Singh said,

"We are thankful to the MPs that have called on Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino for a special program to bring Afghan Sikhs and Hindus to safety in Canada.

These vulnerable minorities are living in constant terror and it's not a question of whether ISIS will launch another attack, but when. Canada has previously created special programs for Tibetan and Syrian refugees. Given the relatively small number of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus remaining, the imminent risk to their lives and the fact that Canadian Sikhs are willing to bear the entire cost of their evacuation, we believe a special program needs to be put into place.

We are very grateful for the support of the Conservative Party of Canada, the NDP and the Green Party on this matter.

The time to act is now."

HEALTH CANADA'S COVID ALERT APP GOES LIVE ; ONTARIO FIRST TO TEST OUT APP

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

However, the app won't notify you if you just pass each other on the street. The user needs to be closer than two metres to someone positive with the virus for at least 15 minutes before your phone records a connection. People who test positive for the virus and intend to use the app will be asked to type in a code. The app does not track the users personal information.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the announcement from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Calling the solution "innovative", he encouraged people across the country to download it. He said, "I've downloaded the app this morning, and I encourage you to do the same. The more people who use it, the better it can trace, and therefore slow, the spread of the virus. In fact, health experts say that if enough people sign up, this app can help prevent future outbreaks of COVID-19 in Canada."

Ford, Fedeli announce \$2M to increase production of made-in-Ontario sanitization devices for PPE



The Ontario government is providing Clean Works Medical and Pure Life Machinery with \$2 million from the Ontario Together Fund to help manufacture a one-of-a-kind, sanitizing device called the Clean Flow Healthcare Mini. This Ontario-made device can decontaminate up to 800 N95 masks per hour along with other personal protective equipment. The announcement was made by Premier Doug Ford and Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "This is an incredible success story about an Ontario apple farmer taking technology used to decontaminate produce and converting it into a device that can decontaminate personal protective equipment," said Premier Ford. "By making targeted investments and supporting these homegrown innovative trailblazers, we are not only supporting our economic recovery, we are also making sure we are ready with the necessary PPE and equipment should the need arise in the future."

With Ontario's support, the company will scale up the production of its Clean Flow Healthcare Mini portable disinfectant device to nearly triple its current capacity. The device is a Health Canada-approved innovation based on existing technology designed to disinfect fresh

produce. The technology uses UV light, hydrogen peroxide and ozone to decontaminate surfaces. The technology can destroy up to 99.99 per cent of pathogens and viruses on surfaces, making them as sterile as an operating room.

"The fight against COVID-19 is far from over, and Ontario's innovators continue to step up and support our frontline workers, as well as our economy," said Minister Fedeli. "These projects are equipping Ontario with innovative solutions that can be deployed to help keep everyone safe as the province reopens and recovers."

Ontario's funding will support 19 new jobs and the purchase and installation of metal fabrication, equipment assembly, and facility modifications.

"We are ecstatic that the Ontario government has selected Clean Works Medical and Pure Life Machinery as recipients of the Ontario Together Fund," said Mark VanderVeen, president of Clean Works. "The Ontario Together Fund will enable us to scale up our production and triple our capacity. Our innovative disinfection devices will ensure those on the frontlines have clean PPE to continue the fight against COVID-19."

SOUTH ASIANS AMONG 21 ARRESTED FOR CAR THEFT IN GTA

Peel Regional Police Commercial Auto Crime Bureau along with auto theft investigators from 11 and 22 Divisions Criminal Investigations Bureau have made numerous arrests involving a car theft ring, recovering around \$4.2 million dollars worth of stolen vehicles from across the province of Ontario.

In February 2020, investigators from the Commercial Auto Crime Bureau commenced a vehicle theft investigation called Project GTA-fordable. The investigation identified a crime group that was responsible for stealing numerous vehicles, re-winning them and then fraudulently registering the vehicles with Service Ontario. The thieves targeted car dealership properties within the Region of Peel as well as in several cities across Ontario.

To date, investigators have arrested 21 people, laid 194 criminal charges and have recovered 36 stolen vehicles with an estimated value of \$4.2 million dollars.

As a result of the investigation a number of high-end vehicles were seized. Vehicle Brands seized include Ford, GMC, Chevrolet and Dodge. Luxury brands including Cadillac, Lincoln, Porsche, and Lamborghini were also recovered.

The following is a list of people arrested and charged to date as part of this ongoing project:

William Bray, a 48-year-old man from Burlington, was arrested June 1, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 14, 2020.

Paramjit Nirwan, a 55-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested June 5, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and one count of Public Mischief. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on August 10, 2020.

Michele lamundo, a 68-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested June 10, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on August 17, 2020.

Luigi Beltrano, a 43-year-old man from Caledon was arrested June 24, 2020 and is charged with three counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle and five counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on August 31, 2020.

Scott Wilson, a 35-year-old man from Rama Township, was arrested June 24, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on August 31, 2020.

Janvier Sidhu, a 33-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested June 30, 2020 and is charged with six counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, five counts of Possession of Automobile Master Key, three counts of Uttering A Forged Document, one count of Possession of Property for the Purpose of Trafficking, one count of Possession Break-In Instruments and one count of Obliterated Vehicle Identification Number. He was held for a bail hearing and attended the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on July 1, 2020

Sazzad Ali, a 40-year-old man from Toronto, was arrested June 30, 2020 and is charged with nine counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle, five counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, five counts of Possession of Automobile Master Key, one count of Possession of Break-In Instruments. He was held for a bail hearing and attended the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on July 1, 2020

Juvaraj Panneerchelvam, a 34-year-old man from Toronto, was arrested June 30, 2020 and is charged with two counts of Fail to Comply with Undertaking. He was held for a bail hearing and attended the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on July 1, 2020

CONTD. ON PAGE 8

Toronto District School Board Releases Plan For Return To School In September



Following the release of a back-to-school outline by the Doug Ford government, Toronto District School Board has released a plan for return to school in September. The plan, which still needs approval from the Ministry of Education, includes all students attending in-person classes five days a week. It states secondary students would attend classes for half of the instructional day, and would have four semesters in the school year.

Class sizes have been suggested to approximately 15 students for every teacher. The other half of the instructional day includes learning from home. Elementary school students, meanwhile, would be in class for five full days a week in one cohort. Interim TDSB director of education Carlene Jackson is quoted as saying, "We do not know what this year has in store and we will need to be responsive to ensure the safety of our community."

She adds, "This may mean changes to the model throughout the year, and while we cannot avoid it, we can be prepared for it." The TDSB plan states that high school students will not be permitted to use lockers or eat lunch in school. Organized sports and field trips will be suspended, and parents/students may opt for online schooling.

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SOUTH ASIANS AMONG 21 ARRESTED FOR CAR THEFT IN GTA

CONTD. FROM PAGE 7

Carlos Munoz, a 33-year-old man from Toronto, was arrested June 30, 2020 and is charged with five counts of Possession of Automobile Master Key, five counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, three counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle, one count of Possession of Break-In Instruments. He was held for a bail hearing and attended the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on July 1, 2020

Karanjot Parhar, a 32-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested July 2, 2020 and is charged with Theft of a Motor Vehicle, eight counts of Mischief Over \$5000, eight counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, five counts of Possession of Automobile Master Key, one count of Theft Under \$5000 and one count of Uttering A Forged Document. He was held for a bail hearing and attended the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on July 3, 2020

Jacob Noguera Aviles, a 22-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with five counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle and one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 9, 2020.

Anthony Pols, a 22-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with five counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle and nine counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 9, 2020.

Shane Persad, a 32-year-old man from Etobicoke, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with 15 counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, five counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle, one count of Possession of Break-In Instruments and one count of Trafficking in Property Obtained by Crime. He will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 14, 2020.

Avin Ramkhalawan, a 36-year-old man from Toronto, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with nine counts of Theft of Motor Vehicle, five counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and two counts of Possession of a Prohibited Weapon. He will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 17, 2020

Nicholas Hosein, a 22-year-old man from Etobicoke, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 9, 2020

Giglio Fusaro, a 39-year-old man from Caledon, was arrested July 6, 2020 and is charged with seven counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime, three counts of Trafficking in Stolen Goods over \$5000, four counts of Careless Storage of a Firearm. He was released



on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 14, 2020

Laura Snider, a 33-year-old woman from Kitchener, was arrested July 9, 2020 and is charged with three counts of Use, Trafficking or Possession of a Forged Document. She was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 23, 2020

Arber Dakaj, a 18-year-old man from Woodbridge, was arrested July 13, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 14, 2020

Simarjit Nirwan, a 25-year-old man from Brampton, was arrested July 13, 2020 and is charged with four counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on September 14, 2020

Kevin Michael Gauci, a 28-year-old man from Lefroy, was arrested July 21, 2020 and is charged with one count of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime and one count of Trafficking in Stolen Property over \$5000.

He was released on a Promise to Appear and will be attending the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton on October 7, 2020

The investigation is ongoing and further arrests are anticipated.

"This is an excellent example of investigators working hard to prevent the continued victimization of our residents in our local community and the GTA. The accused were part of an organized auto theft ring originating from across Ontario. The outcome of this project will have a significant impact towards enhancing community safety and protecting people's property." Deputy Chief Milinovich

WINDSOR-ESSEX CONTINUES TO STAY BACK IN STAGE 2

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the local medical officer of health, other health experts, and local authorities, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit will remain in Stage 2 as the province continues to monitor local transmission of COVID-19 and support efforts to contain its spread. "We are working hard with our federal and local partners to provide the communities in Windsor-Essex with the support they need during their reopening," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "With the health and safety of the people of Ontario our absolute top priority, Windsor-Essex will remain in Stage 2 until the data indicates they can safely move to Stage 3."

Outbreaks, especially in agriculture and agri-food sectors, pose unique challenges that require a targeted and collaborative response. Working with federal and local authorities, the province recently deployed the Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) to Windsor-Essex. EMAT is providing both incident management support and coordination to the health sector in Windsor-Essex and will provide clinical support should it be required.

Ontario is also implementing a three-point plan to support Windsor-Essex County Health Unit in reducing the risk of transmission on farms and throughout the community. This plan includes ongoing and expanded on-site testing, access to employment benefits and supports, and public health guidance specific to the agri-food setting. Local public health officials are assisting with the implementation of plans to ensure essential workers in the sector are able to return to work safely. "We continue to take action to address outbreaks in the region and provide our farmers and agribusinesses in Windsor-Essex with the help, tools and resources necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of their workers and employees," said Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "We are all working together to fight the spread of COVID-19 while protecting our vital food supply chain and the health and safety of the people who put food on our tables." The Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health experts will continue to closely monitor and assess local trends of key public health indicators, including lower transmission of COVID-19, sufficient hospital capacity, public health capacity to do rapid case and contact management, and increased testing, before advising when the region can move safely into Stage 3.



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A HEALTHCARE WORKER COLLECTS A SWAB SAMPLE FROM A MAN FOR CORONAVIRUS TEST, AT A HEALTH CENTRE INSIDE RAMJAS SCHOOL, IN DARYAGANJ, NEW DELHI ON MONDAY.

MORE THAN 50,000 NEW COVID-19 CASES FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE DAY, INDIA'S TALLY CROSSES 1.85 MILLION

The number of new coronavirus infections jumped by another 52,050 in India, which took the nationwide tally to 18,55,746 (over 1.85 million). This is the sixth consecutive day that Covid-19 cases have increased by more than 50,000 in the country. According to Union health ministry's update on Tuesday, there are 5,86,298 active cases and 38,938 fatalities (803 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours). So far, 12,30,510 patients have been cured or discharged. Along with the number of Covid-19 cases, the number of tests too have gone up in the country. On Monday, India recorded highest single-day testing by conducting over 6.6 lakh tests to diagnose Covid-19. "In its fight

against Covid-19, India scales a new high of 6,61,715 tests in the last 24 hours," said the Health Ministry in a tweet on Monday. The number of Covid-19 tests carried out in India has also crossed the two crore mark, according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The Covid-19 recovery rate stands at 65.77 per cent in the country, while the fatality rate is at 2.11 per cent, according to health ministry data. India continues to improve the Case Fatality Rate (CFR), and maintains its global position of having one of the lowest Covid-19 fatalities rates, the ministry said. The government, meanwhile, issued guidelines for reopening of

gyms and yoga institutes on Monday. Only asymptomatic people will be allowed at these places, according to the guidelines. Maintaining social distancing, disinfecting equipment and wearing of visor while exercising have been made mandatory. Persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised not to use gyms in closed spaces, the guidelines said. In another significant development, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given nod to the Serum Institute of India for conducting phase 2 and 3 human clinical trials of the Oxford University's Covid-19 vaccine candidate in the country.

INDIAN ENVOY OUTLINES PAKISTAN'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN MANUFACTURING TERROR

India's permanent representative to the United Nations, TS Tirumurti, has lashed out at Pakistan, saying it is the nerve centre of terrorism. "It is a well-known fact that Pakistan is the nerve centre of terrorism. Pakistan is home to largest number of listed terrorists, internationally designated terrorist entities and individuals, including Jamaat-ud-Dawah, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen," Tirumurti said. Pakistan prime minister (Imran Khan) has on record said that there are around 40,000 terrorists present in the country, Tirumurti further said. Referring to United Nations' 26th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS, the ambassador said there is a clear acknowledgement that the leadership and funding for the terrorist entities like Al-Qaeda, ISIS emanate from Pakistan. "Under the 1267 Committee, which submits its report periodically on terrorist activities of ISIL al Qaeda and its affiliates. There are several direct references to Pakistan's involvement," Tirumurti said. He stepped up the attack further, saying Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the bilateral issues it has with India. Tirumurti said that Pakistan's latest attempt fell flat. "Attempts by Pakistan to try and internationalise what is a bilateral issue is nothing new. Contrary to what the foreign minister of Pakistan has asserted, there has been no formal meeting of the UN Security Council on India-Pak issue since 1965," said Tirumurti. "What came up recently was a closed-door and completely informal meeting under 'Any other business', which is not even a recorded discussion," India's permanent representative to the UN added about



the recent UN meeting. "Pakistan's attempt fell flat. Even UN secretary general, in his statement last August, clearly referred to 1972 bilateral Shimla Agreement. Consequently, Pakistan's efforts haven't met any traction in UNSC. Even if Pakistan persists, there are no takers here in the United Nations," he said. Tirumurti then went on to talk about the "infodemic" launched by Pakistan about the Covid-19 situation in India and how New Delhi countered it. "India and a group of select countries, cutting across regions, made a joint statement in the context of infodemic in the context of Covid-19, at the UN. The statement was designed to counter exactly this type of disinformation spread by countries like Pakistan in the context of Covid-19 to foment division and create disharmony among communities," he said. Tirumurti was appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations in April. He will replace Syed Akbaruddin.

Sonia Gandhi discharged from hospital, condition stable



Three days after she was admitted to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi, Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi was on Sunday discharged, according to a health bulletin. "Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi who was admitted on July 30, 2020 evening at 7 pm to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has been discharged today at 1 pm. Her condition at the time of discharge was stable," as per the health bulletin of the hospital. Her condition was stable at the time of discharge, said Dr D.S. Rana, Chairman (Board of Management), Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. The 73-year-old Congress patron was admitted to the hospital for routine tests and check-up on Thursday. She was under the care of Dr Arup Kumar Basu, a chest and respiratory medicine specialist. On Thursday, she had chaired a meeting of the party Rajya Sabha MPs which went on for more than three hours.

India strengthens troops presence in northern Ladakh to tackle Chinese threat, tank regiments deployed

In response to China's deployment of more than 17,000 troops and armoured vehicles opposite Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) and Depsang plains in Ladakh, India has made heavy deployment of troops and tank regiments in the area to counter any misadventure by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) there. "We have done a very heavy deployment of troops and tanks in the DBO and Depsang plains area including the T-90 regiments which are part of an armoured division," government sources told ANI. The deployments have been made from the Patrolling Point 1 near the Karakoram Pass (PP-3) to the Depsang plains where the Chinese have amassed more than 17,000 troops since April-May time frame and have been blocking Indian patrols from PP-10 to PP-13, sources said. The armoured deployment is such that the Chinese would find it difficult to operate there, in case, they try out any misadventure, they said. Before the Chinese started build-up opposite the DBO and Depsang, the entire area was looked after by a mountain brigade and an armoured brigade but today more than 15,000 troops and several tank regiments have been moved there both by road and by air to tackle the threat from China, sources said.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL: CENTRE ISSUES FRESH GUIDELINES; PASSENGERS TO UNDERGO MANDATORY 7-DAY PAID QUARANTINE

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), on part of the central government, has issued fresh guidelines for international air passengers arriving in India. The new guidelines are set to come into effect from August 8. All international air passengers will have to compulsorily submit a self-declaration form on the official online portal of the New Delhi Airport -- www.newdelhiairport.in -- at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel. The MoHFW guidelines added that the passengers will have to give an undertaking that they would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days, including 7 days paid institutional quarantine and 7 days isolation at home. The Ministry, however, said that 14-day home quarantine may be permitted in cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in the family, serious illness, and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 years or below. "If they wish to seek such exemption, they shall apply to the online portal (www.newdelhiairport.in) at least 72 hours before boarding. The decision taken by the government as communicated on the online portal will be final," the guidelines stated. Travelers may also submit a negative RTPCR test report on arrival in order to seek exemption from institutional quarantine. The samples for the COVID-19 test should have been collected a maximum of 96 hours prior to undertaking the journey. The passenger will have to upload the test report on the portal for consideration.





CHINESE HACKERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLA HAVE ON NUMEROUS COUNTS ATTEMPTED TO GATHER SENSITIVE INFORMATION OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH CYBER ESPIONAGE.

CHINESE ARMY'S SECRET '61398' UNIT SPYING ON INDIA'S DEFENSE AND RESEARCH, WARNS INTELLIGENCE

The Chinese Army's secret unit '61398', known for cyber espionage, is eyeing information related to India's defense and research, the security agencies sounded an alert on Monday. According to a report of the security agencies, this secret unit of the People's Liberation of Army (PLA) has intensified its activities against India. Many cases have been reported in the last few months in which Chinese hackers associated with the PLA attempted to gather sensitive information of the country through cyber espionage. Headquartered in Datong Avenue of Pudong district in China's Shanghai, unit '61398' is witnessing a spurt in these activities, asserted an officer deployed in the central security speaking to Zee Media. "Through unit '61398', China has been engaged in gathering information like cyber,

space, and geolocation intelligence around the world for a long time. These units are found to be very active against India," said the officer. Since 2015, PLA has centralized its space, cyber and electronic warfare (EW) assets in the newly raised PLA Strategic Support Force (PLASSF). Therefore the unit '61398' which deals with cyber warfare and was under erstwhile 3 PLA (General Staff Department Third Department) have been subordinated under the network system department of the PLASSF.

Another officer who is aware of the development said that there is a report of at least three cyber hackers supporting cyber espionage activities. Recently, there have been attempts made by these hackers to send a special computer program worldwide by attaching

malware tools to cyber espionage. Icebug, Hidden Lynx (a professional advanced persistent threat using the program), and APT-12 have been used for attacking government and industrial organizations by Chinese hackers.

In 2014, the US had charged five PLA military officers for espionage and they were part of unit '61398'. The US agencies believe that, like Unit '61398', many such groups exist in China with the active support of the PLA, who are engaged in cyber spying around the world.

Many analysts believe China now has the capability to successfully target critical infrastructure during the war. There is also concern that Chinese hackers may disrupt the electric grid and banking system through cyber attacks.

'MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS': PUNJAB CM TELLS KEJRIWAL FOR DEMANDING CBI PROBE OVER HOOCH TRAGEDY



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday suggested Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Supremo Arvind Kejriwal to 'mind his own business' after the latter demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe in the hooch tragedy, which has left around 100 people dead. As per a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Singh asked his Delhi counterpart to not exploit the tragic affair for reviving his "defunct" Aam Aadmi Party's stake in the state. He further alleged that Kejriwal's demand for the CBI probe was nothing but a "political gimmick" aimed at regaining lost foothold for his party, which had lost ground in Punjab despite being the principal opposition party, the release quoted Punjab CM.

"Rather than delay the investigation and allow the trail to go cold even in the present spurious liquor case by handing over the probe to CBI, he was more interested in ensuring swift action against all those whose greed had cost the state around 100 lives," Singh said.

Demanding the CBI probe in the hooch tragedy, Kejriwal had tweeted earlier today: "Saddened by the loss of lives in Punjab due to illicit liquor. State government needs to immediately take necessary steps to curb such mafias. The case should be handed over to CBI immediately as none of the illicit liquor cases from the last few months have been solved by local police."

Pointing out that strict action was being taken against those found guilty in any case of illicit brewing and smuggling, Singh said that 30 persons had already been arrested under five FIRs registered in three districts in the hooch tragedy.

"Moreover, 13 officials from the police and Excise and Taxation departments had been suspended for negligence, while investigations were on to ascertain their complicity in the case," he said.

A Magisterial Commission of Inquiry had been set up with the mandate to submit its report within a month, he further pointed out, asking what was the need for CBI to take over the case when the local police was handling it so effectively. Punjab CM said not only had he given the police force a free hand to take any action needed to control crime and maintain law and order in the state but had also made it clear to them that nobody found involved guilty in any case should be spared. Singh said he had specifically directed the police to crack down against public servants or any senior officers who were misusing their power and position to nurture or help criminals in any way.

'HIGH TIME MEHBOOBA MUFTI IS RELEASED FROM DETENTION': RAHUL GANDHI URGES CENTRE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday called for the release of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti who has been under detention for almost a year under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Gandhi said that it is particularly 'damaging' to democracy when the central government 'illegally' detain political leaders.

"India's democracy is damaged when GOI illegally detains political leaders. It's high time Mehbooba Mufti is released," the Congress leader tweeted.

On Friday, Mufti's detention under PSA was extended by three months.

Mufti and many other leaders of Kashmir, including Farooq Abdullah, were put in detention following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that accorded special status to the erstwhile state. Earlier, the former J-K CM's detention was extended on May 5 for three months.

In April, Mufti was shifted from a make-shift jail to her residence based on a government order.

The order stated that she was being shifted from a subsidiary jail at Maulana Azad Road to "Fairview Gupkar Road" which is her official residence.

Her official residence was accorded the status of subsidiary jail before shifting her, the order said. Mufti, 60, was initially put under preventive custody on August 5 last year. She was later booked under the stringent PSA on February 6.

Home Minister Amit Shah hospitalised for COVID-19; get well wishes pour in from across India

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tested positive for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Sunday. The minister himself confirmed the news from his official account on Twitter. He has currently been admitted to a hospital in Delhi.

In the meanwhile, reactions started pouring in from across the political spectrum in connection with the development.

BJP President JP Nadda wrote, "Received news of Union Home Minister Amit Shah testing COVID-19 positive. I pray to God for his speedy recovery."

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan tweeted in Hindi, he wrote: "May God heal you completely soon and you join the service with full energy. We wish you all the best!" Notably, Chauhan himself had tested positive for coronavirus last month.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu wrote: "Our Prayers for a speedy recovery, get well soon Amit Shah Ji."

Senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy wished recovery to Shah on Twitter and wrote, "I am sorry to hear from news media that Amit Shah has to be admitted to hospital because he has tested positive for Coronavirus. I wish him a speedy recovery and pray for his early discharge."

Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma wrote, "My good wishes for your speedy recovery Adarniya @AmitShah Ji. With your resolute determination and strong will power, you will soon come out of this." Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah himself confirmed the news from his official handle on Twitter. He said that due to early symptoms coronavirus, he went for a test and the test result came positive. Although his health is fine, he will get himself admitted to the hospital on the advice of doctors, Shah said. He also urged those who came into close contact with him in the past few days to get themselves tested for the virus.

"On getting the initial symptoms of coronavirus, I got the test done and the report came back positive. My health is fine, but I am being admitted to the hospital on the advice of doctors. I request that all of you who have come in contact with me in the last few days, please isolate yourself and get your tests done," Shah tweeted out in Hindi.

Meanwhile, India has witnessed a huge single-day spike of 54,735 COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking its tally over the 17.50 lakh mark, informed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. With this latest spike, the total cases in the country stand at 17,50,724. Among these cases 5,67,730 are active. A total of 11,45,630 patients have been cured/discharged/migrated.



"I'M SIGNING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIVES BY A VERY SIMPLE RULE: HIRE AMERICAN!", PRESIDENT TRUMP SAID.

US President Donald Trump signs executive order prohibiting hiring of H-1B visa holders for federal contracts

United States President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order prohibiting American employers from using H-1B workers to displace Americans in outsourcing contracts. The order aligns federal contracting and hiring practices with the "interest of American workers". "Today I'm signing an executive order to ensure that the federal government lives by a very simple rule: Hire American. We've been doing it at a level that hasn't been done maybe ever," President Trump said. This order will change the priorities of the federal government in the US drastically, forcing it to hire Americans rather than signing on foreign workers majority of those who are on H-1B visas. "As we speak, we're finalizing H-1B regulations so that no American worker is replaced ever again. H-1Bs should be used for

the top, highly paid talent to create American jobs, not as inexpensive labour program to destroy American jobs," he said.

The H-1B, which is a non-immigrant visa, allows companies in the US to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. As many as 500,000 migrant workers are employed in the US on an H-1B visa status. The H-1B visa is also especially popular among highly-skilled Indian IT professionals.

The Executive order signed by President Trump states that "the head of each agency that enters into contracts shall assess any negative impact of contractors' and subcontractors' temporary foreign labor hiring practices or offshoring practices on the economy and efficiency of Federal procurement and on the national security, and propose

action, if necessary and as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to improve the economy and efficiency of Federal procurement and protect the national security.

Notably, a few Republican Senators had written to US President Donald Trump on Thursday urging him to suspend all the new guest worker visas for 60 days and some of its categories, including the H-1B visa, for at least the next year or until unemployment figures return to normal levels in the country.

More than 33 million Americans have lost their jobs in the past two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought the US economy to a standstill. The White House officials predict that the country's economy is likely to grow at negative 15-20% in the second quarter.

INDIA'S REVIEW OF CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES RILES CHINA, SAYS TREAT THEM IN 'FAIR MANNER'



Nearly 24 hours before India begins a comprehensive review of local chapters of Confucius Institutes and agreements with Indian universities, Beijing on Tuesday asked New Delhi to treat India-China higher education in an "objective and fair manner". In a statement, the Chinese embassy asked India to avoid what it described as "politicisation of normal cooperation" between the two countries and maintain stable people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

The agencies had also pointed out that many central universities and institutes had gone ahead to sign pacts with Chinese institutes without basic approvals from the Centre. The security alert came against the backdrop of a standoff between soldiers of the two countries along the Line of Actual Control in East Ladakh that has stretched for over 90 days and mounting concerns in parts of the world over the misuse of institu-

tions funded by the Chinese government for activities other than academics. The review, to be carried out jointly by the higher education regulator University Grants Commission and the education ministry, is scheduled to be held on Wednesday. A senior education ministry official rejected the insinuation that the review is a political exercise as claimed by the Chinese embassy. The Confucius Institutes are directly funded by the Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China with the ostensible aim to promote Chinese language and Culture.

But they have come in for criticism all around the world, including the US and the UK for helping spread Chinese propaganda. Already, ranking members of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo Standing Committee have been quoted saying that Confucius Institutes are part of the overseas propaganda to project Beijing's soft power.

Kulbhushan Jadhav Case: Pakistan invites India to be part of Sept 3 court proceedings, offers consular access

Pakistan has invited India for the September 3 proceedings at the Islamabad high court in Kulbhushan Jadhav case and offered "unimpeded and unhindered" consular access with no mandatory use of English as a medium for conversation.

The Pakistani government in the latest offer to India on Thursday evening also conveyed that New Delhi can appoint a lawyer of its own choice to fight the case.

The Pak proposal for consular access said it was willing to give "unimpeded" and "unhindered" access without any "glass barrier" and conversation that can happen in any language. This is a departure from the previous stance of the Pakistani government when it said, the mode of language for talks between Jadhav and Indian Diplomats should be only English.

The Pakistani offer is in light of the Islamabad High Court order. The court, while taking up Pakistani government's petition for appointment of its own lawyer, said India should be "authorized" to arrange a lawyer for the case. The next date of the case is September 3.

Speaking to media outside the court on Monday, Pakistani Attorney General Khalid Javed Khan said, "Court said if India wants to engage a lawyer, it can do. Federal government also wants that. Only Pakistani lawyers can be allowed." In the month of May, Pakistan had come up with an ordinance to implement the International Court of Justice (ICJ) verdict of last year. Under the ordinance, India on behalf of Jadhav can file review for the case. In fact, New Delhi had appointed a Pakistani lawyer to fight the case in Pakistan court but the person was not given relevant legal document. India tried to file a petition on July 18, just two days before the ordinance expires, but in absence of power of attorney and supporting legal documents, this could not be done. While Pakistan had called Indian diplomats to meet Jadhav terming as "consular access" before the ordinance expired, the Ministry of External Affairs had said that the meet was scuttled by Pakistan authorities. "The Consular Officers were instructed not to hand over any document to Shri Jadhav. Hence, the Indian Consular Officers could not obtain a Power of Attorney from Shri Jadhav," the MEA said.

Beijing accuses US of harassing Chinese students, researchers

China on Monday accused the United States of "monitoring, harassing and willfully detaining" Chinese students and researchers in the U.S. Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin's comments follow the denial of a bail request in California for a university researcher accused of lying about her ties to China's military and governing Communist Party to gain access to the United States. Wang also criticized the Trump administration for imposing sanctions on a major paramilitary organization in the country's western Xinjiang region and on two officials for alleged human rights abuses against ethnic and religious minorities. Wang said China had no intention of helping Juan Tang escape from the United States, but did not otherwise comment directly on the accusations against her.

US Senate panel approves ban on using TikTok app on government devices

In another blow to TikTok, the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on Wednesday passed a bill that would ban federal employees from using the Chinese-owned mobile video app on government-issued devices.

The "No TikTok on Government Devices Act" from Senator Josh Hawley was passed unanimously as lawmakers feared the security of users' personal data. It will now be taken up by the US Senate for a vote.

US regulators and lawmakers fear that the personal information of TikTok's American users will fall into the hands of government officials in Beijing. The platform, highly popular among American teens, is used to create short videos. Last year, the company said that about 60% of its 26.5 million monthly active US users are aged 16 to 24. Under a Chinese law introduced in 2017, companies have an obligation to support and cooperate in the country's national intelligence work.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro says he tested negative for coronavirus in new COVID-19 test

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Saturday that he has tested negative for the novel coronavirus after weeks quarantined in his residence due to an infection. In a photo posted to social media, Bolsonaro appeared with a box of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug he credited for his recovery despite a lack of scientific evidence about its effectiveness. In an accompanying text, he said his RT-PCR test for Sars-Cov 2 was negative. He did not say when he took the test nor did he provide any further details. Bolsonaro had reported testing positive three times this month, including an initial diagnosis on July 7 for COVID-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. Since then he has been in partial isolation at the presidential residence, filling his official agenda with videoconferences. He was spotted outdoors occasionally, including at a rally where he greeted supporters, removing his mask occasionally when at a distance of a few meters. Bolsonaro's coronavirus infection was one of more than 2.3 million cases in Brazil, second only to the United States. The pandemic has killed more than 85,000 people in Brazil. Bolsonaro has played down the risks of the virus he called "a little flu" and defied public health experts and fought against governors and mayors imposing lockdowns to fight the pandemic.

Tick-borne SFTS virus re-emerges in China: All about the disease that has killed 7, infected 60 people so far

60 people have been infected by a new disease, caused by a tick-borne virus, and 7 people have been killed so far, Chinese media reported on Wednesday. It also warned about its possibility of human-to-human transmission.

More than 37 people in East China's Jiangsu Province contracted with the Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome Virus (SFTSV) in the first half of the year. Later, 23 people were found to be infected in East China's Anhui province, state-run Global Times quoted media reports.

At least seven people have died in Anhui and East China's Zhejiang province due to the virus, the report said.

UK says 50 million face masks it bought might not be safe

The British government says it won't be using 50 million face masks it bought during a scramble to secure protective equipment for medics during the coronavirus outbreak because of concerns they might not be safe. The admission sparked calls from the political opposition for an urgent inquiry into the way contracts for essential supplies were handed out. The masks were part of a 252-million-pound (\$332 million) contract the government signed with investment firm Ayanda Capital in April. Papers filed in a court case reveal that the masks won't be distributed because they have ear loops rather than head loops and may not fit tightly enough. The papers, published Thursday, are part of a lawsuit against the Conservative government by campaigning groups the Good Law Project and EveryDoctor. They want the courts to review contracts signed by the government for personal protective equipment, which they say were not properly scrutinized. As the coronavirus outbreak accelerated across the U.K. in March, it became clear that the country lacked enough masks, gloves, gowns and other protective gear for health care workers and nursing home staff. That sparked a race to buy billions of pieces of equipment from suppliers around the world. Jolyon Maugham, director of the Good Law Project, said the government had signed three contracts worth more than 100 million pounds each "with respectively a pest control company, a confectioner and a family hedge fund." "Each of those contracts has revealed real cause for alarm," he said. The government said in its response to the lawsuit that the offer to supply the 50 million masks came from Andrew Mills, a businessman who is both an adviser to the government's Board of Trade and to Ayanda Capital. Mills has denied there was any conflict of interest.



The government says another 150 million masks of a different type supplied by Ayanda are still being tested. It said in a statement that "there is a robust process in place to ensure orders are of high quality and meet strict safety standards, with the necessary due diligence undertaken on all government contracts." Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "very disappointed" that the shipment was unusable.

But he said Britain had "achieved a colossal race against time" to obtain supplies of equipment and stockpile it in case of a second wave of coronavirus in the fall and winter.

Keir Starmer, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, called for an urgent investigation into the way personal protective equipment was acquired. "It's just not good enough to people who need that protective equipment that we find ourselves in this position," he said.

Donald Trump says coronavirus vaccine possible before November 3

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday it was possible the United States would have a coronavirus vaccine before the November 3 election, a more optimistic forecast than timing put forth by his own White House health experts. Asked on the Geraldo Rivera radio program when a vaccine might be ready, Trump said, "Sooner than the end of the year, could be much sooner." "Sooner than November 3?" he was asked. "I think in some cases, yes possible before, but right around that time," Trump said.

Trump, who is seeking re-election to a second term amid a U.S. economy crippled by coronavirus shutdowns, has pushed for schools to reopen and things to get "back to normal" as coronavirus deaths in the country average more than 1,000 per day.

Top government health officials have said corners would not be cut in the race to secure a vaccine against the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. government infectious diseases official, offered a more conservative view in a Reuters interview on Wednesday, saying there might be an indication that at least one vaccine works and is safe by year end. Trump was upbeat on the U.S. economic recovery once a vaccine is available. "We're going to have vaccines very soon, we're gonna have therapeutics very soon," he told the radio program.

David Green
Vice Chair PDSB Brampton, Ward 1&5
905-495-4579, david.green@peelsb.com

Happy Eid-al-adha

Michael Tibollo
MPP for Vaughan Woodbridge

Constituency Office
5100 Rutherford Road, Unit 3
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