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NEWS WEEKLY

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PM JUSTIN TRUDEAU
"WE NEED TO BE ABSOLUTELY CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT CANADA HAS AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY"



PREMIER DOUG FORD
"ONTARIO IS NOT READY TO OPEN BORDER WITH THE US"



MAYOR PATRICK BROWN
"I WELCOME PREMIER FORD'S DECISION THAT PEEL REGION WILL MOVE INTO STAGE 2 OF THE REOPENING"

ACCURATE NEWS & FAIR ANALYSIS

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COMMUNITY TEEN AARAV MODI CREATES PLATFORM TO EDUCATE, EMPOWER THE YOUTH

Fourteen is more or less a pivotal age that decides a kid's future. While most have social, emotional, and physical changes to deal with at this age, community youth Aarav Modi stands one step ahead of the curve. He created 'The Young Opinion' (TYO), an online platform built to educate and empower young audiences, and motivate them to showcase their talents, and put forth their thoughts.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

MISSISSAUGA MAN EJAZ CHOUDHARY, 62, FATALLY SHOT BY THE POLICE

"MY UNCLE WAS SHOT EIGHT TIMES. WE NEED ANSWERS"

In a shocking turn of events that puts added pressure on the police force, a father of four, Ejaz Choudhary, was fatally shot by officers over the weekend. Peel Police officers attended an apartment in the area of Goreway and Morning Star at around 5 PM on Saturday to check on the well-being of Choudhary, who was having a mental health crisis. Choudhary, as stated by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in a press release, had barricaded himself inside an apartment unit. It said officers were able to communicate with him through the door of the apartment. However, they breached the door and entered the unit when communication stopped. "An interaction occurred which included officers deploying a conducted energy weapon at the man, as well as firing plastic projectiles from an Anti Riot Weapon ENfield. When these had no effect, an officer discharged a firearm and the man was struck." Six investigators and three forensic investigators have been assigned to the case. In an exclusive interview with Y Media Group Editor Yudhvir Jaswal, the victim's nephew Hassan Choudhary confirmed that his uncle suffered from Schizophrenia and was experiencing an episode. "Which is why a call was made for help." He added, "My uncle was shot at eight times! We need answers." MPP Gurratan Singh, in a press brief, said, "Mr Choudhary did not understand English. That could have led to misunderstandings. Ejaz Choudhary, a father of four had spent 28 years in Canada." The incident saw major protests calling for justice for the victim's family. **I DETAILS ON PAGE 6**



ONTARIO EXTENDS DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TO JULY 15

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government has extended the provincial Declaration of Emergency under s.7.0.7 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to July 15, 2020. This extension, approved by the Ontario Legislature earlier today, provides Ontario with the additional time, flexibility, and the necessary tools to safely and gradually allow more places to reopen, while continuing to support frontline health care providers in the fight against COVID-19.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 7

US SHIFTING ARMY FROM EUROPE TO ASIA TO COUNTER CHINESE THREAT TO INDIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA : MIKE POMPEO

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has stated that Chinese threat to India and Southeast Asia is one of the reasons the United Nations is reducing its troop presence in Europe. Speaking at the Brussels Forum virtual conference, Pompeo said that the actions of the Chinese Communist Party meant there were "threats to India" and countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and the South China Sea.



I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

BRAMPTON MOVES INTO STAGE 2 OF ITS SAFE REOPENING

The City of Brampton is entering the next phase of its recovery following the Government of Ontario's announcement allowing the Region of Peel to move to Stage 2 of the provincial reopening. Mayor Patrick Brown said, "I am very pleased with the thoughtful, regional approach that the Province took in its reopening framework."



I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

INDIA WARNS CHINA OF CONSEQUENCES IF DISENGAGEMENT NOT IMPLEMENTED ; ARMIES BUILD UP ON BOTH SIDES

As the Indo-China border standoff refuses to show any signs of slow-down, New Delhi is keeping a close watch on the situation in eastern Ladakh as it seeks disengagement. It warned Beijing of stern consequences if Chinese troops do not retreat, urging China to accept "ground reality" that India will not back off from protecting its side of the Line of Actual Control. Satellite images show Chinese structures back at the June 15 clash site in Galwan Valley, along with massing of PLA troops in the Depsang plains. India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Anurag Srivastava said, "Both sides remain deployed in large numbers in the region while military and diplomatic contacts are continuing."

I CONTD. ON PAGE 5

Y MEDIA TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE

#YESWESUPPORT : FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Y MEDIA HAS LAUNCHED AN INITIATIVE IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK. WE URGE ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY. CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS IF THEY NEED ANY HELP. TAKING LEAD FROM OUR CAMPAIGN, MANY IN SUPPORT HAVE FORMED GROUPS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY AND OFFER SERVICES. WE ENCOURAGE THEM AND URGE ALL TO SUPPORT WHOEVER NEEDS OUR HELP

STAY AWARE, SUPPORT EACH OTHER

Y MEDIA BRINGS YOU LATEST UPDATES ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) AND OTHER NEWS FROM GTA, CANADA, US, INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD IN PUNJABI, HINDI, URDU & ENGLISH

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CIF delivers ‘Thank You Meals’ to North York Hospital



Canada India Foundation (CIF), teamed up with Hindu Federation to deliver freshly cooked vegetarian meals (Prepared by Tamarind Indian Bistro, Mississauga) to frontline health workers in North York General Hospital. CIF along with its partners delivered over 13, 000 meals till date to Toronto Police, Oakville Hospital, Trillium Health Partners, Humber River Hospital, among others. In addition, CIF is also providing groceries, medical help, accommodation, financial help & freshly cooked meals to the International

students and Senior citizens and other vulnerable people under our program working under: www.covid19-help.ca. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Anil Shah, Chair, CIF said that under the arm of CIF Charitable Foundation, we have taken up the task to pay our gratitude and thanks to our front-line responders and appreciate their work during this challenging time. Mrs. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto appreciated the 'Thank You Meals' program by CIF to motivate and show

solidarity with the frontline workers and felt proud of the Indo Canadian community. Mr. Rob Oliphant, Member of Parliament applauded the CIF's initiative to support and pay gratitude to frontline health workers who are working tirelessly to keep us safe. Mr. Pankaj Dave, National Co-convener said that CIF always try to support the community whenever it is needed. He thanked the hospital staff for working hard to keep us safe and meals are just a token of love and respect for our real heroes.

ONTARIO INTRODUCES NEW MATH CURRICULUM FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The Ontario government released the province's new elementary math curriculum to better prepare students for work in a rapidly changing world, strengthen math competence and improve grades. The curriculum was developed over two years in consultation with parents, math educators, academics and math education experts, and is designed to reverse a decade of declining math scores. It will be available to students across the province beginning in September 2020. "I made a promise to parents that we would fix the broken education system we inherited, get back to basics, and teach our children the math fundamentals they need for lifelong success," said Premier Doug Ford. "Today, our government is delivering on that promise with the first-ever math curriculum in Canada for Grades 1-8 that includes the teaching of coding and financial literacy, both critical skills that will help our students prepare for and succeed in the modern world and in the modern workforce."

The new math curriculum for Grades 1-8 will:

- Build understanding of the value and use of money through mandatory financial literacy concepts;
- For the first time, teach coding or computer programming skills starting in Grade 1 to improve problem solving and fluency with technology, to prepare students for jobs of the future;
- Use relevant, current, and practical examples so students can connect math to everyday life;
- Put a focus on fundamental math concepts and skills, such as learning and recalling number facts.

"For over a decade, too many students were lacking everyday math, financial literacy, and numeracy skills," said Education Minister Stephen Lecce. "The new curriculum will help students solve everyday math problems, enshrine financial literacy in the early grades, and better prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow by ensuring every student learns how to code."

The Ministry of Education is also changing how it makes curriculum available to better reflect how Ontarians consume information. The new math curriculum will be the first uploaded to the new Curriculum and Resources website, a digital space where anyone can access curriculum and learning resources. This platform will help parents, students, and teachers see connections between learning in different grades and subjects. "Our research team provided an extensive background research report giving the Ministry of Education the most up-to-date research and analysis of other curricula," said Dr. Christine Suurtamm, Vice Dean Research, and Professor of Mathematics Education, Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa. "Ontario's new mathematics curriculum builds on what we know about student learning and how students develop an understanding of mathematics. It supports all students to be math learners with opportunities to learn foundational mathematics and engage in current topics. The goal is to support how students use math in the world today, and how they will use math to make informed decisions in the world ahead of them."

Toronto Mayor John Tory unveils police reform plan to “eradicate systemic racism within police force”



Toronto Mayor John Tory has called for a new community safety model that will see a replacement for cops to respond to calls for people in crisis. Speaking at a press brief at city hall, Tory announced his support for a brand new set of recommendations aimed at bringing “real change” to policing. The move comes at a time when the issue of police aggression stands in the limelight. Yet to be approved by city council, the recommendations call for staff to report back on an “alternative model of community safety” that would be less reliant on police officers to respond to people in crisis.

Making the announcement, Tory said, “To the tens of thousands of Torontonians who have called and emailed my office over the last couple weeks and to those who have peacefully taken to the streets to march and protest I hope this comprehensive roster of change will tell you that we see you, we hear you and we are listening.” He added, “As mayor I am committed to listening to learning and taking concrete action that will improve the day to day lives of indigenous, Black and other marginalized Torontonians.”

Two major incidents have occurred in the Greater Toronto Area, over the last month, involving two separate individuals who ended up dead after police were called to help them deal with a mental health crisis. 29 year old Regis Korchinski-Paquet fell to her death on May 27, at a High Park apartment after her mother called the police to bring her to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

62 year old Ejaz Choudhary was fatally shot over this weekend, after police were brought to his apartment to help him.

Tory said, “In order to eradicate systematic racism within our police service and on a broader basis as well we have to rethink in some cases whether police represent the right community response at all,” he said. “I strongly support this re-examination because I think we have to ask and answer these questions now because you cannot say that a system that sees people in crisis calling out for help and ending up losing their lives, you cannot say that is a system that is working.”

Canada Student Service Grant announced to provide students with one time payment for volunteering in communities' COVID response

Post-secondary students and recent graduates are facing unique and unprecedented challenges because of COVID-19. There are fewer jobs, and many co-op, internship, and community service placements have been cancelled. At the same time, not-for-profits are seeing an increased demand for their services and thousands of Canadians who want to be a part of the solution, which opens up opportunities for students in their communities. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the launch of the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG), which will support post-secondary students and recent graduates as they volunteer to serve in their communities' COVID-19 response and gain valuable experience at the same time. The CSSG will provide these volunteers with a one-time payment of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 based on the number of hours they serve. To find not-for-profit organizations looking for help during the pandemic, post-secondary students and recent graduates can use the new I Want to Help platform, which also launched today.

The Canada Student Service Grant and I Want to Help platform are part of the nearly \$9 billion in support for post-secondary students and recent graduates announced by the Government of Canada on April 22, 2020. The funding for Mitacs, DS4Y, CFS+, and the Business + Higher Education Roundtable also fall under this funding.

The Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, Bardish Chagger said, “Young people are powerful leaders of change and during these difficult times, we need them to help our communities. The Canada Student Service Grant is an innovative way to provide support, helping students gain valuable experience as they volunteer to serve and strengthen their communities. This will also ensure students are in a financial position to continue their studies or careers.”

As part of its COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, the Government of Canada is providing support for students who want to make a difference in their communities, while gaining the skills and support needed for future success whether that be in their studies or in the job market. This support also includes the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, and temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs and Canada Student Grants and Loans programs. Trudeau said, “Canadian students are looking for ways to make a real difference in their communities. With these new investments, we are giving them the support and connections they need to have a positive impact during COVID-19 and gain the skills needed for future success.”



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Includes people receiving \$1000 and less, seasonal workers, people who have exhausted their EI benefits

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Tax filing has been deferred until June 1.

CHILD CARE BENEFITS

Extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

MORTGAGE DEFERRAL

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.

Y Media Exclusive: Finance Minister Rod Phillips tours Square One Shopping Centre, Mississauga, ahead of its reopening



EXTENDED HOURS ANNOUNCED AS MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING RETURNS TO BRAMPTON

Peel’s mobile COVID-19 testing site returns to Gore Meadows Community Centre in north Brampton this Friday, June 26. The first mobile testing centre visit to Gore Meadows in early June saw many residents tested and was one of the many actions that has contributed to Peel being able to move into Phase II reopening. With this, the mobile testing unit will continue to strategically move through neighbourhoods most in need of testing to keep up this positive trend.

We are also happy to announce that hours are being extended to 8 p.m. to help more residents attend for testing in the evening hours. Location: Gore Meadows Community Centre – 10150 The Gore Rd, Brampton
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020
Time: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Before attending, residents should remember: Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should attend one of the hospital-based assessment centres for testing, rather than attend the mobile location. Please wear a non-medical mask when you arrive. Depending on their risk of exposure, residents attending the mobile testing location may need to self-isolate at home for 14 days following their test or until their results come back negative. Results will be available online for anyone with a green Health Card. Mobile testing across Peel Region is made possible through a partnership between Ontario Health (Central), Region of Peel, Peel Public Health, Peel Paramedics, primary care, community partners and hospital partners like Headwaters Health Care Centre, Trillium Health Partners and William Osler Health System.

BRAMPTON MOVES INTO STAGE 2 OF ITS SAFE REOPENING

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Today is a milestone since declaring the emergency three months ago and a moment that is a result of our community’s commitment to following the advice of Peel Public Health. I know many of our residents and businesses are excited, and I would like to remind everyone that we must continue to follow best hygiene and safety practices in order to maintain this momentum in our recovery.”

As part of Stage 2, the City will safely reopen the following services, facilities and amenities:

Summer Camps

The City of Brampton is offering modified summer camps from July 13 to September 4, for children ages 4 to 10. Registration opens June 29, online and through 311. To ensure the safety of all participants, programming will include an increased amount of individualized indoor and outdoor activities. Additional enhanced safety measures will also be in place, including:
A maximum of eight participants and two instructors per camp group
Personal protective equipment worn by camp leaders
Increased cleaning and disinfecting at all facilities

Splash Pads and Professor’s Lake

Splash pads across Brampton will open Saturday, June 27. The City anticipates opening Professor’s Lake mid-July and the public will have access to the beach through reservation bookings.

Arenas: Figure Skating/ Hockey Training

Starting June 29, arenas will open for training only. No walk-ins will be accepted at this time and bookings will be through City staff at 905-874-BOOK. Rental bookings will start June 25. Enhanced safety measures include limiting use to a maximum of 10 participants, including coaches. There will be no access to change rooms at this time.

Sports Fields, Track & Field, Basketball Courts

Beginning June 26, outdoor basketball courts will be available for public use. On July 3, outdoor sports fields and batting cages will be available for permitted use for training only. No walk-ins will be accepted at this time and bookings will be through City staff at 905-874-BOOK. There will be no access to change rooms. A maximum of 10 participants will be allowed per field, including coaches.

Patio Brampton

Starting June 24, the City is accepting applications from food establishments for Temporary Patio Expansions. Restaurants and bars in Brampton are permitted to expand their patios onto sidewalks and private parking areas to accommodate more outdoor seating space. More information for businesses is available on the City’s Patio Brampton page.

Brampton Library

Brampton Library is preparing to introduce a contactless curbside pickup service at select branch locations as phase 2 of its reopening plan, in consultation with the City of Brampton and Peel Public Health. Details are available at www.bramptonlibrary.ca and on Brampton Library’s Facebook and Twitter at @bramptonlibrary.

Community teen Aarav Modi creates platform to educate, empower the youth

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

The platform is run by a group of young people with their own specific set of skills including photography, art, writing, journalism, and much more. TYO, as the platform is called, also extends to a magazine launched periodically. It features some of the best works of a bunch of creative heads ; everything bound together with a simple thought “Why not?” As a group, these 14 year olds believe that no matter how long it takes, how small each step, they will make sure their voices are heard. The idea of creating TYO sprung one day, when Aarav received a couple paintings from one of his friends, now co-head of the website, Roshni Sen. He said the first thought that came to him was, “What if these paintings were in a magazine?” In a blink of an eye, they gathered all their friends and decided to create a platform that allows them to illustrate their opinions as youths. This included Aarav’s young brother Anshul, 10, who contributed to the work. All these kids needed was support from their families, and in a whirlwind of events, The Young Opinion was born. Aarav urges everyone and anyone who has something they would like to showcase, to contact them through their website. Because... Why not?
Please log on to www.theyoungopinion.org to render support to our young brilliant minds.

US shifting army from Europe to Asia to counter Chinese threat to India and Southeast Asia : Mike Pompeo

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“We are going to make sure we are postured appropriately to counter the PLA (People’s Liberation Army). We think that is the challenge of our time and we are going to make sure we have resources in place to do that,” Pompeo said.
“So we really went back to fundamentally relook at what is the nature of the conflict, what is the nature of the threat and how we should allocate our resources. Whether that is our resources in the intelligence community, our resources in the air force, the marines. our broad set of allocations of the security apparatus,” he added.

India warns China of consequences if disengagement not implemented ; Armies build up on both sides

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In its warning of consequences, India said, “Continuation of the current situation would not vitiate the atmosphere for the development of the relationship” between both countries. Srivastava said, “At the heart of the matter is that since early May, the Chinese side has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC.” He stressed that this is “not in accordance” with the 1993 pacts. “Obviously, the Indian side had to undertake counter deployments and the resulting tension has thereafter expressed itself.” Calling out Beijing’s claim to Galwan Valley, he said, “The deployment of a large body of troops and changes in behaviour has also been aggravated by unjustified and untenable claims. The recent shift in the Chinese position on the Galwan Valley is one example.”

FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL PARTNERS INVEST OVER \$109M IN COVID-19 RESEARCH

To continue its efforts to address the health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada and around the globe, the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, along with provincial partners, launched a second rapid research funding competition on April 23, 2020.

Canada’s Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, announced the results of that funding competition: an investment of more than \$109M over one year in COVID-19 research. This investment will support 139 research teams from across the country that will focus on accelerating the development, testing, and implementation of measures to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its negative consequences on people, communities, and health systems.

For example, researchers will focus on domestic and international clinical trials and scale-up promising existing projects that will increase our understanding of the efficacy and effectiveness of vaccines, therapeutics, and clinical approaches to COVID-19. The research teams will also evaluate public health management, including containment strategies such as physical distancing and travel restrictions, and study at-risk populations. Their findings will inform decision-making and planning at national and international levels.

This research initiative includes a significant international component. More than a quarter of the 139 research teams will be working in collaboration with researchers in other countries. Many of these collaborations involve researchers in lower and middle-income countries where the greatest need exists for support in the pandemic. By helping curb the virus overseas, these Canadian researchers will contribute to global health while protecting safety at home.

Hajdu said, “Accelerating high-quality research and real-time evidence is a priority for Canada in its fight against COVID-19. I congratulate the successful teams for their essential work aimed at better preventing, detecting and treating COVID-19 at the individual and population levels. Our government believes that it’s through collaboration and data sharing that we will respond efficiently to this global health emergency.”

The Government of Canada is providing the funding for this research through CIHR and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in partnership with Alberta Innovates (AI), Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), Research Manitoba (RMB), Research Nova Scotia (RNS), Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF).

Child care centres in Toronto set to reopen beginning June 29

Beginning June 29, 11 of the 47 City of Toronto-operated Toronto Early Learning & Child Care Centres (TELCCC) will reopen to support parents returning to work and to help with the restart of the economy. The Province of Ontario announced that licensed child care services could begin to operate as of June 12 as part of the Province’s reopening plan. Child care centres are required to follow strict operational requirements to help ensure the health and safety of children, their families and staff. The City is taking a careful and gradual approach to reopening centres with the majority of the remaining centres planned to reopen in July and August. The City has been actively working with the Province, Toronto Public Health and community child care providers to assess what will be needed to reopen this large sector of more than 1,050 child care programs. The City is also working closely with licensed child care providers to ensure that they have access to the latest in COVID-19 health and safety training and guidelines, as well as best practices learned from operating emergency child care programs for essential workers. Over the coming months, the City will continue to support child care providers with ongoing training and information. Licensed child care providers will slowly resume modified operations once they have followed all of the requirements set by the Province and the City of Toronto. Some requirements include: limiting cohort sizes; having a COVID-19 response plan if someone connected to the centre is exposed to the virus; screening staff and children prior to entering the centre; enhanced cleaning and sanitation; not allowing visitors in the centres and implementing drop-off and pick-up protocols in a way that allows for physical distancing. Families are asked to contact their child care provider directly regarding the status of their services.

PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HELD OVER THE KILLING OF MISSISSAUGA MAN EJAZ CHOUDHARY, AT THE HANDS OF PEEL POLICE OFFICERS. EJAZ, 62, WAS HAVING A MENTAL CRISIS EPISODE WHEN PARAMEDICS WERE CALLED IN TO HELP HIM



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FORD GOVT TO INVEST MORE INTO COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

The Ontario government is investing more than \$13 million to support community- driven and youth-led projects to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families facing economic and social barriers. The funding will flow through the 2020 Youth Opportunities Fund, a province-wide initiative that creates opportunities for young people and empowers and supports parents, guardians and caregivers.

Details were provided by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues.

"It is our responsibility as government to support our young people and help them find a path to lifelong success," said Premier Ford. "This funding will enable youth across the province to develop the skills they need to be better engaged in school, empower girls and young women to lead, address racism and discrimination, and give young people access to the programs that will help them become the next generation of leaders and community builders."

The 2020 Youth Opportunities Fund will provide financial support to 43 community organizations that will benefit youth aged 12 to 25, and their families. Projects receiving funding this year include:

Black Moms Connection ? focusing on economic empowerment for Black mothers across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Immigrants francophones d'Afrique pour l'intégration et le développement (IFAPID)? to support newcomers from Francophone African nations to navigate financial systems in Canada.

Earthling Art Collective ? to provide development and mentorship opportunities for youth leaving care and the justice system in Thunder Bay.

Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment & Training ? to help Indigenous youth in the GTA access employment and training opportunities in the skilled trades.

"The Youth Opportunities Fund is a way for our govern-

ment to form partnerships with grassroots projects and community leaders who are creating change. Together, we can build an Ontario that give s everybody an equal chance to succeed," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

"By believing in our youth and supporting them today, we can help develop the knowledge and skills they need to reach their full potential," said Minister Dunlop. "I truly believe this initiative will go a long way towards developing our next generation of leaders. The projects selected for this year's Youth Opportunities Fund grants are wonderful examples of how community-led initiatives can make a positive difference in young people's lives."

The Youth Opportunities Fund provides funding through the following three granting streams:

Youth Innovations ? Provides youth facing multiple barriers with the resources they need to design and deliver new and inspiring solutions to issues that matter to them and their communities.

Family Innovations ? Invests in local, community-driven groups delivering culturally relevant projects that empower and support parents, guardians and caregivers who face barriers and challenges to child and family wellbeing.

System Innovations ? Supports organizations that are strengthening the quality and responsiveness of systems so that they may work better for young people facing multiple barriers.

"By increasing financial literacy for Black mothers and their families, it can change where they live, how they raise their kids, where they work and more. The impact will have a positive ripple effect for generations to come," said Tanya Hayles, Founder, Black Moms Co nnection.

"Earthling Art Collective is pleased to receive a Youth Opportunities grant so we can continue to engage youth in a meaningful capacity through one-on-one mentorship and workshop facilitation. We look forward to continuing our mission of establishing a web of young creatives supported by our programming and extensive network of partners and collaborators," said Benjamin Murray, Director, Earthling Art Collective.

TRUDEAU DISMISSES DIPLOMATIC PUSH TO RELEASE HUAWEI EXECUTIVE MENG WANZHOU

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a strong stand against China on Thursday, as he refused to release Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou. Responding to a collective call from former parliamentarians and top Canadian diplomats seeking to end Wanzhou's process, Trudeau said such a move would only embolden China.

A group of 19 top Canadian diplomats, including foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy, wrote a letter to the PM earlier this week, stating the federal government should release Meng, in order to save the two detained Canadians in China. As per a CBC report, the letter states, "There is no question that the US extradition request has put Canada in a difficult position. As prime minister, you face a difficult decision. Complying with the US request has greatly antagonized China."

Two Canadians, Michael Spavor, and Michael Kovrig were shortly detained in China after Meng's detention in Vancouver in 2018, on allegations of spying against Beijing. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Trudeau took a firm stand against bowing down to Beijing to help secure freedom for the two men. He said, "I respect these distinguished Canadians who put forward that letter but I deeply disagree with them. They're wrong in their approach."

He stated that he is sympathetic to the Michaels' situation, and called it a "terrible and trying situation." However added that Canada can't let China get away with this sort of hostage diplomacy.

"The reality is releasing Meng Wanzhou to resolve a short-term problem would endanger thousands of Canadians who travel to



China and around the world by letting countries know that a government can have political influence over Canada by randomly arresting Canadians," he said.

"We need to continue to be absolutely crystal clear that Canada has an independent judiciary and those processes will unfold independently of any political pressure, including by foreign governments," Trudeau said. "We deplore what China did."

ONTARIO EXTENDS DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY TO JULY 15

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

"As we gradually and safely reopen our economy, our front-line care providers can continue to rely on these emergency orders to better protect our seniors and most vulnerable citizens and provide the flexibility to put resources where they're needed most," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are hopeful that another extension of the Declaration of Emergency will not be needed as we see improvements in the public health trends and as people and businesses continue to act responsibly and adapt to the new environment."

The provincial Declaration of Emergency enables the government to make, and as needed amend, emergency orders that protect the health and safety of all Ontarians. Emergency orders in force under the Declaration of Emergency include those allowing frontline care providers to redeploy staff to areas most in need, limiting long-term care and retirement home employees to working at one home, and enabling public health units to redeploy or hire staff to support the province's enhanced case management and contact tracing strategy. These measures continue to be needed to protect seniors and other vulnerable populations from the threat of COVID-19. The extension of the Declaration of Emergency will allow the province to make or amend emergency orders as needed as it continues to ease restrictions in support of its phased reopening.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the government will continue to monitor public health trends related to COVID-19 and assess on an ongoing basis whether the provincial Declaration of Emergency needs to be extended further. The government will also continue to review emergency orders currently in place to determine when and if it is safe to amend or lift them as more places in the province are allowed to reopen in a safe and measured way.

EDU MIN STEPHEN LECCE RESPONDS TO PUSH BACK ON NEW MATH CURRICULUM, SAYS NOT THE TIME TO DEFEND THE STATUS QUO

In a virtual conference with cultural media, Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce talked extensively about the recently announced brand new Math curriculum. The 'Back to the Basics' new curriculum includes financial literacy, and coding. The new curriculum comes as part of the Doug Ford-led Progressive Conservative government's campaign promise.



The move however, comes with its own set of dissent. Several educators, and unions have expressed dissatisfaction with the timing of the announcement. Classes were moved online in the past couple of months in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With schools finally set to reopen in September, several teachers believe they do not have enough time to prepare for the new course. Student union ETFO president Sam Hammond said the curriculum will take much more time to roll out than expected by the ministry.

At Lecce's virtual conference held on Thursday, Y Media's Mitul Paniker asked if the ministry believes educators are ready, considering the push back. Lecce said his ministry, and the PC government are keen on bringing in what is best for the students and parents. He added that there has been a lot of negative reaction from the Liberal party who continue to defend the status quo. "But this is not the time to defend the status quo," he said. "I will continue to work for what is necessary for the students."

Indian Minister for MSME invites Canada to invest in Small Industries



India is open to Canadian investment in Micro, Small and Medium size industries (MSME). India does have a strong government, skilled work force and lucrative market to sell the products, said Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Indian Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India in his virtual interaction with the Canada India Foundation through a live webinar on 24th June 2020. He said the Indian Government is looking to attract investment in industries across the world to participate in the Make in India program. India is heading to transform into manufacturing hub of the world.

India is willing to facilitate Canadian investors in sectors such as food processing, small solar power projects, animal husbandry, natural fertilizers, and other daily use products production. Canada as one of the leading countries in the innovation can collaborate with India to sharpen the skills of Indian work force as well.

Anil Shah, Chair Canada India Foundation in his welcome remarks said that MSME sector has a much untapped-unlocked potential between the two countries. Sector do have numerous opportunities for both the countries to work collectively. Cooperation, collaboration and coordination among the MSME players of both the countries can complement each other and support India's future requirements with local resources to help 'Make in India' initiative of Indian Government a thriving reality. Satish Thakkar, National Convener, CIF briefly introduced the foundation and CIF charitable foundation. He apprised the minister of different activities CIF has been doing to strengthen Canada India relations and charity work since its inception in 2007. He also briefed the different initiatives taken by the CIF charity during pandemic and raising funds through CIF's Charity Golf tournament for families of fallen soldiers in Canada & India.

Members of the Foundation are well-established industrialists, entrepreneurs, and business leaders. They are dedicated and passionate about both the countries and committed to continue working in deepening the Canada India ties, he said. Mrs. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto thanked minister for his work in MSME sector Consul General applauded the advocacy work done by CIF to further strengthen the Canada India relations and outreach to Indo Canadian community India and Canada are strategic partners, having strong people to people ties with 1.6 million Diaspora. Over 200 thousand Indian students studying in Canadian colleges and universities. Both the countries have \$10 billion bilateral trade but share of SME sector is very low which can be promoted through joint ventures & joint research, she added. Mr Pankaj Dave, National co-convener in his remarks thanked the minister for sparing time for interaction with the CIF members. He said that SME sector in both the countries is the backbone of their respective economies and there is a lot of scope for the two countries to work together.

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Strengthen Your Learning in as Little as Two Weeks with OVS's Summer Upgrade Opportunities



With the disruptions faced during the latter half of the 2019-2020 school year, many students and families may feel less comfortable than usual with the material they have learned during the disrupted period. While schools across the country and the world have tried to adjust to online learning, the sudden, unexpected transition has sometimes been a rocky one. At Ontario Virtual School, we have over a decade of experience as a school dedicated to online learning, and are currently offering Summer Upgrade courses for Grades 9 through 12, to help you strengthen your learning and increase your marks in as little as two weeks! Summer School options are just one of the reasons students have chosen OVS. There are many benefits to Summer School, like getting ahead and taking courses you'd otherwise take in the next school year, or getting back on track with courses in which you already succeeded, but would like to strengthen your learning. By utilizing upgrade courses, you



can even increase your grade to help ensure acceptance into selective courses and programs. At OVS, we also already offered Upgrade Courses for Grade 12, but this summer, to help students and families who feel like they would like to review and strengthen their grasp of materials that they learned during this disrupted school year, and increase their marks in these subjects, OVS will be offering students in Grades 9 through 12 the opportunity to take Summer Upgrade Courses. Like all of the courses offered at Ontario Virtual School, our Summer Upgrade Courses are fully online, and can be taken whenever and wherever you like. Students can take advantage of their less busy summer



schedule and complete lessons and courses as fast or as slow as they like. If you want to get your learning out of the way and free up time for the rest of the summer, upgrade courses can be completed in as little as 2 weeks! Or if you'd like to slow things down and take a more relaxed schedule, you can take the whole summer, if you need the time. In addition, you have the freedom to take as many courses as you like, so you can make the most of your time, and create a schedule that works for you. At Ontario Virtual School, we give you the tools to take control of your own education.

TORONTO, PEEL REGION ENTER STAGE 2 OF RECOVERY PLAN



Two of the most populated regions in the province finally opened up more doors, as the Toronto and Peel regions stepped into Phase 2 of the Ontario COVID-19 Recovery Plan. The move came at a time when Ontario reported 163 new cases, second-fewest on any single day since late March. Businesses in the regions have finally been allowed to resume operations. These include hair stylists, pools, and tour guide services. Restaurants are also allowed to reopen their patios for dine-in service, though no one is yet allowed to be served indoors. Meanwhile, Windsor-Essex remains the only region to not move to the next phase. COVID-19 cases among migrant workers on farms in the region have found to be a new and major issue on Premier Doug Ford's hands. He has criticised farm owners for not getting enough workers tested. Ford said yesterday that he would reveal a plan to protect agricultural workers.

PEEL POLICE PEACEFULLY REMOVE AN ADULT SUFFERING A CRISIS FROM HIS HOME

A man suffering a mental health crisis has been peacefully removed from his home after over a 12 hour-long standoff involving officers from the Peel Regional Police. Reports revealed officers were called to a home in the area of Highway 10 and Collingwood Avenue shortly after 1 AM Thursday morning. The situation was reportedly calm, even though it involved a large number of officers, and a prolonged negotiation. The man was brought out of the home without any incident after 2 PM, and has been taken to a hospital for assessment.



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RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID RUSSIA HOPES THE BORDER SITUATION BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA REMAINS PEACEFUL.

NO OUTSIDE HELP NEEDED TO RESOLVE INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE: RUSSIA

Russia has said that it doesn't believe that India and China need 'help from outside'--a reference to third party involvement—to resolve bilateral issues and added that both the countries have showed their commitment to "peaceful resolution" of the recent incidents of boundary dispute that has led to violent clashes between the armies of the two neighbours. The statement comes on a day when India-Russia and China were engaged in a RIC trilateral to discuss several issues including cooperation to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said that Russia hoped that the (border) situation between India and China will "continue to be peaceful" as "neither side" had given statements to indicate that any of them would pursue "non-diplomatic" solutions. Earlier today, external affairs minister S Jaishankar, who is representing India in the summit, had said that the world's "leading voices" should act in an exemplary manner by respecting international law and recognising the interests of partners. This was seen as an indirect reference to China's "unilateral" actions at the LAC which led to violent clashes between the two sides on June 15, resulting in deaths of 20 Indian soldiers and an undeclared number of Chinese casualties. "I don't think that India & China need any help from the outside. I don't think they need to be helped, espe-

cially when it comes to country issues. They can solve them on their own, it means the recent events," Lavrov was quoted as saying at the RIC foreign ministers' meeting. The RIC meeting is being held through video conference and it was expected that it won't delve on the issue of Indo-China border stand-off. Lavrov suggested that Russia recognised efforts from both sides to defuse the tensions through diplomatic options. "New Delhi-Beijing showed their commitment to peaceful resolution. They started meetings at the level of defence officers, foreign ministers and neither of the two sides made any statements which would indicate that any of them would pursue non-diplomatic solutions," ANI quoted him as saying. He added that Russia hopes for a peaceful solution of disputes between the two countries. "We hope that the situation will continue to be peaceful and they will continue to be committed to peaceful resolution of disputes," ANI quoted Lavrov. Russia is considered to have good relations with both Beijing and New Delhi. Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh is on a three day trip to Moscow to attend a grand military parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the soviet victory over Germany in the second World War. He is expected to hold talks with Russia's top military

leadership. Earlier today, external affairs minister S Jaishankar took a dig at China without naming the country and said that India believed in "time-tested principles of international relations" while advocating practice of "multilateralism" and "common good" as the only way of building a "durable" world order. Russian foreign minister Lavrov's comments also come in the backdrop of a meeting between senior Indian and Chinese commanders at Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC, where a "mutual consensus to disengage" from "all friction areas" was said to have been reached, according to officials privy to the details. The delegations were led by Lieutenant General Harinder Singh, commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and Major General Liu Lin, commander of the South Xinjiang military region. The Indian side was demanding the pullback of Chinese troops from the Finger Area, where the PLA has set up bunkers, pillboxes and observation posts, withdrawal of the PLA troops from Galwan Valley and the restoration of status quo ante in key strategic areas, according to the two officials aware of the developments. India was also seeking an assurance that the Chinese side will end aggression along the LAC and reduction of Chinese deployments in "depth areas" on their side of the disputed border, the officials said.

CHINA ORDERED ATTACK ON INDIAN TROOPS IN GALWAN VALLEY: US INTEL ASSESSMENT



A senior Chinese general authorised his forces to attack Indian troops in the Galwan River valley last week, resulting in a brutal skirmish that killed dozens and dramatically escalated tensions between the two Asian power-houses, according to a U.S. intelligence assessment. Gen. Zhao Zongqi, head of the Western Theater Command and among the few combat veterans still serving in the People's Liberation Army, approved the operation along the contested border region of northern India and southwestern China, a source familiar with the assessment says on the condition of anonymity. According to U.S. News, Zhao, who has overseen prior standoffs with India, has previously expressed concerns that China must not appear weak to avoid exploitation by the United States and its allies, including in New Delhi, the source says, and saw the faceoff last week as a way to "teach India a lesson." The assessment contradicts China's subsequent assertions about what happened on June 15. And it indicates the deadly and contentious incident - in which at least 20 Indian and 35 Chinese troops died, and reportedly a handful on each side were captured and subsequently released - was not the result of a tense circumstance that spiralled out of control, as has happened before, but rather a purposeful decision by Beijing to send a message of strength to India. Yet that plan appears to have backfired, as the

incident sparked widespread outrage in India that continues a week later. And Beijing's attempts to make India more amenable to future negotiations, including about contested territory, instead appear to have pushed the economic giant closer to the U.S. Much is at stake, far beyond territorial control. The U.S. has pressured India for months to back away from employing Chinese tech company Huawei to help build its 5G infrastructure. In the aftermath of June 15 incident Indians were reportedly deleting Chinese social media app TikTok and destroying phones made in China. "It does the very opposite of what China wanted," the source says, adding that "this is not a victory for China's military." It remains unclear the extent to which Chinese President Xi Jinping was involved in the decisions that led to the bloody encounter, though analysts familiar with Chinese military decision making say he would have almost certainly known about the orders. Troops had massed on both sides of the border in recent months in the northern India region of Ladakh and the southwestern Chinese region of Aksai Chin, causing global concerns of a potential escalation between the two. Private geo-intelligence firm Hawkeye 360 recently reported that satellite imagery from late May showed a buildup on the Chinese side of what appeared to be armed personnel carriers and self-propelled artillery.

Private hospitals in Rajasthan oppose fixing of Covid-19 treatment costs, govt warns of action

Private sector hospitals in Rajasthan are opposing the fixing of charges by the state government for treatment of Covid-19 patients, calling for a revision of rates even as the health minister on Tuesday warned of action against hospitals that fail to comply.

The state government on Saturday fixed the amount chargeable by private labs and hospitals for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. Private labs can charge Rs 2,200 per test while private hospital can charge Rs 2,000 per day for a bed while they can charge Rs 4,000 for a ventilator bed in the ICU.

State health minister Raghu Sharma said private hospitals cannot be allowed to loot the people. He said the government has appointed a nodal officer who will look into the complaints filed by patients against private hospitals. "We are not against private hospitals but they should understand their responsibility. They cannot extort money from patients. They will have to provide treatment on the rates fixed by the government or we will be forced to act against them," said Sharma.

He said complaints received on the toll-free number would be investigated by the nodal officer and action will be taken against hospitals. He said the government was willing to talk to the private hospitals and address their concerns. Representatives of private hospitals say they were not consulted before the government fixed the rates.

Dr Vijay Kapoor, secretary of the private hospitals and nursing homes society, said the rates fixed by the government are not financially and practically feasible. The society has around 400 private hospitals as members.

Dr Kapoor said there is much unrest among the members regarding the charges. "We would urge the government to rethink and revise the rates."

Dr MN Thareja, president of Indian Medical Association, Rajasthan chapter, said private hospitals should be able to meet expenses such as salary and overheads incurred on the treatment of Covid-19 patients.



PROTESTERS BURN AN IMAGE OF CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING AT A DEMONSTRATION REQUESTING CONSUMERS TO BOYCOTT CHINESE GOODS ORGANISED BY THE CONFEDERATION OF ALL INDIA TRADERS (CAIT) AT KAROL BAGH MARKET IN NEW DELHI, INDIA. (BLOOMBERG)

India takes another step to block China products with new rules

India has amended rules for purchases by government departments, making it mandatory for suppliers to mention the country of origin in a move to push for local products and keep out Chinese manufacturers. New sellers on the Government e-Marketplace, an Amazon-like online procurement platform, will have to register the origin of their products while those already available must meet the new requirement or risk being removed, according to a government statement on Tuesday. The platform will allow buyers to filter products based on the country of origin and select those with a high percentage of local content. Buyers can choose to buy only those products that meet the minimum 50% local content criteria.

The push for products made in India comes amid rising public clamor for a boycott of Chinese goods as the two nations are engaged in their deadliest border conflict in four decades. The platform, which serves India's government departments, recorded sales worth 400 billion rupees (\$5.3 billion) in the last fiscal year and has 324,000 vendors. Earlier this month, India also modified public procurement rules to give maximum preference to companies whose goods and services have 50% or more local content, with an aim to promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" program in response to calls to make the country self-reliant.

Coronil: All you need to know about Ayurvedic medicine which claims to cure Covid-19

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev on Tuesday claimed that his company Patanjali Ayurved has made the first Ayurvedic medicine for coronavirus disease Covid-19. The medicine called 'Coronil' will help in treating the respiratory disease, claimed Ramdev. "The whole country and the world was waiting for medicine or vaccine for corona. We are proud to announce that the first Ayurvedic, clinically controlled trial based evidence and research-based medicine has been prepared by the combined efforts of Patanjali Research Centre and NIMS," he said at a press conference in Haridwar. Here is everything you need to know about the new Ayurvedic medicine for Covid-19:

- The medicine comes as part of a kit which consists of tablets named Coronil and Swasari Vati, and an oil called Anu Oil. Patanjali Ayurved tweeted to say that they have used active compounds of Ahwagandha, Giloy and Tulsi in the new Covid-19 medicine.
- Ramdev said more than 100 compounds have been used in Coronil. The entire kit will help in strengthening immunity.



- Patanjali prescribes two tablets should be consumed with hot water half an hour after each meals. This quantity is suitable for people between 15 to 80 years of age, the company says. Children between the age of 6-14 years can take this medicine, but the dosage should be half of what is prescribed for adults.
- According to Ramdev, the company conducted two-stage trials. The first was a clinical controlled study which took place in Delhi, Ahmedabad and many other cities. Under this, 280 patients were included and 100 per cent of those recovered, he said. After controlling the disease and its complications, the all-important clinical control trial was conducted, said Ramdev.
- Patanjali claims those administered the medicine were fully cured and none died. Ramdev even claimed that 69 per cent of them recovered within three days. He said that 100 per cent recovery was seen in seven days.
- The company said that data of the trial will be released as evidence in the next few days.
- The efficacy of Patanjali's medicine on Covid-19 cure has not been corroborated by any independent medical body as of yet. The World Health Organization (WHO) had recently said that while several drug trials are ongoing, there is currently no proof that any drug can cure or prevent Covid-19.

India has been battling the pandemic and the number of Covid-19 cases neared 4.5 lakh cases on Tuesday. Over 14,000 people have died due to the disease so far in the country. There are now over nine million people affected by the pandemic since it broke out in China's Wuhan city in December last year.

‘TAKE WHATEVER ACTION YOU WANT TO’: PRIYANKA GANDHI DARES UP GOVT OVER COVID-19 TWEETS

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has dared the Uttar Pradesh government to take whatever action it wants against her, but she will keep highlighting the truth. "As a public servant my duty is towards the people of Uttar Pradesh, and that duty is to bring the truth in front of them. My duty is not to propagate the government propaganda. Uttar Pradesh government is wasting its time in trying to threaten me. Take whatever action you want to, I will keep highlighting the truth. I am the granddaughter of Indira Gandhi, not an undeclared spokesperson of the BJP like some leaders," she tweeted in Hindi on Friday. Gandhi has been attacking the Uttar Pradesh government in various issues, including the spread of the coronavirus disease in the state.

On Sunday, the Congress leader in a Facebook post cited a media report to claim that 57 girls tested positive for coronavirus at the state-run child shelter home in Kanpur, with two girls being "found" pregnant, including one HIV positive. She had equated the incident with the Muzaffarpur shelter home case in Bihar, where cases of alleged sexual abuse were reported. The state child rights panel on Thursday issued a notice to Gandhi, asking her to file a reply within three days for her "misleading" comments on the shelter home.

Deepak Anand, MPP

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UK to lay out more reopening plans as coronavirus toll eases

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to outline plans Tuesday to allow Britons to go to a movie, enjoy pints in a pub and get a haircut — the latest easing of lockdown measures imposed three months ago to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Johnson will speak to Parliament on Tuesday afternoon after meeting his Cabinet in the morning.

The lockdown loosening, expected to take effect on July 4, comes amid intense pressure from businesses to relax a government requirement that people who are indoors must stay 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) apart.

Britain's pubs and restaurants, many of which operate in small spaces, are urging a reduction to 1 meter (3 feet) — the minimum recommended by the World Health Organization — saying without it many will go under.

The social distancing requirement is also a concern for educators hoping to safely open British schools in the fall. The Conservative government is desperate to restart the stalled British economy, and that desire is likely to be reflected in guidance to re-open businesses ranging from hotels to hairdressers.

But some scientists are worried that the government is reopening the economy too fast and that a track-and-trace system meant to quickly stamp out any outbreaks is not fully functional.

Britain has Europe's highest death toll from the virus, with almost 42,700 confirmed dead. That is also the third-highest death toll in the world after the United States and Brazil, which both have much larger populations.

The number of daily deaths and new infections in the U.K. has fallen significantly from its April peak, but the country is still confirming 1,000 or more new Covid-19 cases a day.

WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris urged the British government to use caution.

"The U.K. has brought a very difficult outbreak right down," she told the BBC. "Very good news in the last couple of days about the limitation in cases, and far, far fewer people dying. So now is the moment to celebrate that by being super careful."

The measures being announced by Johnson apply only in England. Other parts of the U.K. —Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — are all following slightly different lockdown plans.

‘FOR SURE IT’S FAKE NEWS’: CHINA OFFICIAL ON LOSING 40 SOLDIERS IN LADAKH

China on Tuesday dismissed as "fake news" reports indicating that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had suffered at least 40 casualties in the bruising brawl with Indian soldiers in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15.

While denying the reports on PLA casualties, the Chinese foreign ministry said Indian and Chinese militaries held a meeting on June 22 to resolve the ongoing tension through talks.

"China and India are in dialogue, in talks with each other to resolve this issue through diplomatic and military channels," ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

"As for what you saw in the media, for example, some people alleged that casualties on the Chinese side amounted to 40, I can tell you for sure that this is fake news," Zhao said responding to a specific question on the PLA's casualty numbers.

While the Indian Army lost 20 soldiers during the violent clash on the night of June 15, China has so far refused to reveal details of the casualties suffered by the PLA.

Union minister Gen VK Singh (ret'd) had indicated over the weekend that China could have suffered double the number of casualties in comparison to India numbers. A commander-level meeting led by Lieutenant General Harinder Singh, commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and Major General Liu Lin, commander of the South Xinjiang military region, was held on Monday, lasting for nearly 11 hours. It was held at Moldo on the Chinese side of the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) with a focus on cooling tensions.

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