



Ahead of Gujarat polls, Rahul Gandhi promises loan waiver

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Hundreds of hotels and restaurants

SHUN

zomato gold delivery service

Sometimes Zomato bans its services and this time Zomato is banned by the 8000 hotels and restaurants across India by making the situation worse for Zomato that is already facing a boycott on dine-in. The ban was due to the food delivery from illegally-run kitchens, abrupt discounts offered for Zomato Gold members and inaccessibility of delivery executives.

The Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) has decided to boycott delivery services under Zomato's Gold program. They said "We have told Zomato that we are entirely against the Zomato Gold delivery service scheme and asked

them to scrap it."

The Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association president Santosh Shetty told Afternoon Voice that "We don't want illegal eateries and food makers to be promoted in the name of scheme. That is the reason we asked Zomato to stop the gold delivery service. However, there has been no action by the food collector on the same."

In 2017 Zomato offered lucrative membership to attract more members, under this program, Zomato Gold offers members one free dish each time they place an order. However, the scheme has been opposed by the restaurant industry

who allege that it hurts their profitability. AHAR has demanded scrapping of the 'gold service' and an end to alleged arbitrary commissions and steep discounts in addition to end providing service to non-licensed restaurants.

Arvind Ghule, the Zomato delivery boy said "Any which ways we suffer a lot, due to heavy discounts the eateries are packed with orders, they are not on mainstream lines. Picking up an order and delivering it in time is a task. The delay is not acceptable by the person who orders food. They vent all anger on us".

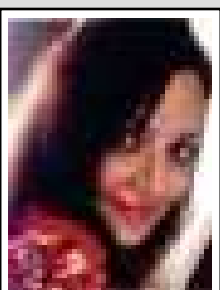
Ashfaq Tamboli, Swiggy delivery boy said "Our commission is too less,

that is the reason boys are not joining delivery jobs. There is no safety or security. Many times hotels and vendors do not allow us toilets or water, continuing traveling becomes difficult after slogging the whole day, hardly we earn anything to meet our needs at the end".

Lata's Bihari Litti Chokha centre said "we are not licensed restaurants but we make authentic home-made food, the scheme gold is actually an exploitation for us. In one price we have to deliver two. Many such unauthorized food suppliers compromise on the quality of grocery. But this scheme gave a lot of job opportunities to people like us."

Banning Swiggy and Zomato may cause inconvenience to working middle class

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Once we were very happy and active in Mumbai eating that hot Vada-pav or garam idli in the morning. People used to go out of their house to pack their lunch or most of the time on the go they used to eat. But since the Swiggy and Zomato app arrived on your mobile, kitchens have hardly anything to perform. An average middle class family is also depending on Swiggy for ready to eat food. You name it, they deliver it. Let it be Dussehra or Diwali, people have forgotten to prepare snacks at home. The personal food habits to festivals everything is taken over by food chains and these food supply apps.

This 21st century is all about the digital world. We are living in a world where everything is digitized. The smartphones are the new ruler of every industry. The implication of smartphones is increasing as the earth is revolving around the sun. The human existence and revolution dependency rate is now relying on smartphones. Why? Because we have added the use of smartphones in every single aspect of our lives. As a matter of fact, it is making human lives easier and more comfortable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Editoritis

The astonishing revolution of the technological world is proof that digitization is taking over the world. Mobile applications are evolving different aspects of our lives.

These kinds of services which involve mobile applications are helping consumers to place orders right on the spot which is providing them the whole ease and hint of the satisfaction without waiting much for your food.

Now the Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) has decided to boycott delivery services under Zomato's Gold program.

Banning Swiggy and Zomato may cause inconvenience to working middle class

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The current generation is living in peace. They don't struggle to eat what they want; they do not depend on the cook or kitchen manager. The rising use of smartphones is resulting in the rising use of smartphone applications. The mobile applications and the trending mobile phones are one of the most trending topics of this current time. People don't even need someone to share or care while eating their meal, the smartphone also fills that vacuum.

The astonishing revolution of the technological world is proof that digitization is taking over the world. Mobile applications are evolving different aspects of our lives. Not by surprise Mobile app development took over the food industry as well. There are several food industries which are now utilizing the platform of mobile application to expand their food chain in the whole world. Not only for the food industry owners but, the consumers also get the taste of its fruits. These kinds of services which involve mobile applications are helping consumers to place orders right on the spot which is providing them the whole ease and hint of the satisfaction without waiting much for your food. Furthermore, these mobile applications are pretty much communicating which builds a bridge between the consumer and you. The great business always considers these mobile applications are one of the best ways to stay connected with your targeted potential audience and the best source to offer them the complete information about their business and their services and features.

The pandemic saw a surge in people ordering food online instead of going out. With an increase in orders, there was also an increase in the workload of the delivery executives dropping the food at our doorsteps. While the workers continued with their hard work, there have been several reports of discriminatory practices against the delivery executives. Ever since the lockdown was announced, it affected the business of several food delivery companies, as many people stopped ordering food from restaurants and online delivery platforms. As a result of this, Swiggy rolled back the incentives which were promised to several of its employees based on their performance. Sometimes these platforms ban their services and sometimes they get banned by their vendors.

Also, Swiggy and Zomato don't have their own Delivery Services; they outsource their deliveries. These companies are a disaster, and their management is completely hands off. Here is the life cycle of one order that was placed through food delivery apps. Customers first decide what kind of food they want to eat and then choose a hotel/restaurant based on discount/reviews and previous experience. So here the customer places an order, after placing the order that order gets assigned to the respective restaurant as selected by the customer and the restaurant starts preparing food. After assigning order the next step is Delivery Executive assigned. So once food is ready and packed, the Delivery Executive will pick up the parcel. (This will notify the customer that the order has been picked up and it will be delivered shortly.) This is the final step where the Delivery Executive delivers the order to the customer and the hungry customer is ready to eat, after waiting for almost 30-50 minutes. Now the Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) has decided to boycott delivery services under Zomato's Gold program. Because it is providing food from an illegal chain of food preparators. In 2017 Zomato offered lucrative membership to attract more members, under this program, Zomato Gold offers members one free dish each time they place an order.

Zomato Online food delivery platform already stopped its grocery delivery service from September 17 mainly on account of gaps in order fulfillment leading to poor customer experience, marking its exit from the segment for the second time since last year. Zomato had launched the pilot grocery delivery service in July this year in select markets offering grocery delivery within 45 minutes to its customers. The saga does not limit here, there are hundreds of delivery apps and food supply apps that have captivated people for their basic needs.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

The Jet PF scam is just the tip of the iceberg

Jet PF scam is just the tip of the iceberg & corporates bleeding financially adopt unfair practices by not depositing money in employees' PF accounts which have now become a routine affair. This is an important scam exposed by a leading newspaper & govt needs to tighten laws governing PF rules so that these malpractices can be monitored & checked early when they happen.

Provident Fund is a 'lifeline' for employees to survive after they retire. The contribution should be electronically linked to all stakeholders including the govt surveillance department so that any abnormality can be addressed satisfactorily at an early stage & stringent laws will take care of fraudsters!

SN Kabra

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day is celebrated every year on September 8. As a community, we see the impact of illiteracy every day affecting children in our school system or adults seeking employment. Illiteracy is a hidden shame that many children and adults carry privately, unable to develop the skills to properly decode the world around them.

This year's International Literacy Day theme is "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces".

Being literate allows children and adults to develop the skills needed to become successful and contributing members of society.

Jubel D'Cruz

Right decision of Central Railway!

Central Railway has decided to limit the number of air-conditioned local trains. Right decision. Not all citizens living in Mumbai city and suburbs are rich. Most of the citizens are middle class. Rich people don't travel locally. They have their vehicles. Middle-class people cannot afford the air-conditioned local ticket. Hence, air-conditioned locals run with few passengers. Keeping in mind a large number of middle-class passengers, air-conditioned locals have been reduced. The great decision was taken by Central Railway.

Sudhir Kangutkar

GDP like mirage

Rising interest rates and erratic monsoons as well as global slowdowns have had a combined effect on the Gross National Product (GDP). As actual GDP fell short of the projected GDP, leading banks in the country have lowered their GDP estimates for the current financial year. However, the estimate has been revised to 6.7 per cent. SBI has revised it from 7.5 to 6.8 and Moody's has revised it to 7.7 from 8.8.

According to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the GDP growth in the April-June quarter was 13.5 per cent, but the actual rate is much lower than in 2021-22. The same rate was 20.1 per cent last year.

Does this mean that the fluctuation of GDP seems like a lake of mirage, now the Reserve Bank will plan a strict policy to maintain the expected goals, alternatively there will be an increase in repo rate and interest rate and general housing loans and all kinds of increase.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Iconic "Atal Bridge"



Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an impromptu visit to the Atal Bridge on the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad after inaugurating it. Riverfront in Ahmedabad is one of the hot favourite spots for Amdavadis as it has a lot of fun-filled and rejuvenating places and activities for all ages. The steel bridge, named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has a unique design, complete with LED lighting. Keeping the interest of tourists and visitors in mind, another attraction has been added with the construction of a foot-over bridge between Ellis Bridge and Sardar Bridge. The bridge which is unique in its design – both technically and visually – will also augment the status of the Riverfront as well as of the city and will become an engineering marvel. The design is inspired by the kite festival organised in the city. The bridge is shaded by colourful fabric panels with colours inspired by kites. The Sabarmati Riverfront just got better as the authorities in Ahmedabad opened doors to the pedestrians-and-cyclists-only 'Atal Bridge' giving a visual treat to the people. The Atal bridge is

designed in such a smart way that it is accessible from both upper and lower walkways, as well as the riverfront promenades.

This is a pedestrian-only 'Atal Bridge' a foot-over bridge (FOB) on the Sabarmati River, constructed between Ellis Bridge and Sardar Bridge. This iconic bridge, with an eye-catching design and LED lighting, is nearly 300 meters long and 14 meters wide in the middle built using 2,600 metric tonnes of steel pipes. The roof of the bridge is made up of colourful fabric and the railing has been built with glass and stainless steel. Apart from pedestrians, cyclists can also use this bridge to cross the river while avoiding traffic. It is designed in such a way that people can approach it from both lower and upper walkways, or promenades of the riverfront.

The Atal Bridge has been designed by architect Urvi Sheth. She said that "We wanted to carry forward the concept of the bridge which is derived from the traditional kite festival. So, we composed a lightweight sculpture, with elements of the kite in it, made of mild steel and black

in colour. "This bridge will provide connectivity to Multi Level Car Parking and various public development on the East and West Bank from the plaza between Flower Park and Event Ground on West Bank to the proposed Art / Cultural / Exhibition Centre on East Bank. Atal Bridge will link the future arts and culture centre on the river's eastern side with the event venue and floral park on its western bank. If one like to take a pause and admire the natural beauty around then the seating arrangements on the bridge helps to get that spectacular riverfront view. The "Atal Bridge" looks like a giant fish from an aerial view. There is no doubt that as the bridge is named after former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee it will be instrumental in further beautifying the Sabarmati Riverfront.

- Jubel D'Cruz

Writer

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Mumbai court extended Sanjay Raut's judicial custody till Sept 19

A Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday extended the Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's judicial custody by 14 days till September 19 in connection with the Patra Chawl land scam case.

Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on August 1 in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl in suburban Goregaon.

After being in the ED's custody initially, the Shiv Sena leader was sent to judicial custody for 14 days on August 8.

On 22 August, a special PMLA court extended Raut's custody till September 5 which has now been further extended till September 19. ED officials raided the Shiv Sena leader's home on July 31, and af-



ter detaining and questioning him for several hours, arrested him on August 1.

On June 28 this year, Sanjay Raut was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the prevention of the money laundering case pertaining to the Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl land scam.

Back in August, the wife of Shiv Sena MP was also summoned by the agency in connection with

the Patra Chawl land case.

The MP's wife Varsha Raut was summoned by the central agency after the ED officials raided the Shiv Sena leader's home and after detaining and questioning him (Sanjay Raut) for several hours, arrested him.

Raut is a close aide of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray. Meanwhile, another FIR was registered against Sanjay Raut in Mumbai for alleg-

edly threatening Swapna Patkar, the wife of Sujit Patkar who is believed to be a close aide of the Shiv Sena MP.

The case was registered at the Vakola police station under sections 504,506 and 509 of the Indian Penal Code. An audio clip had gone viral in which Raut was allegedly heard threatening Swapna Patkar.

Notably, Swapna Patkar is also a witness in the Patra Chawl land case in connection to which the ED detained Raut after conducting a raid at his residence.

According to sources, ED officials seized Rs 11.50 lakhs unaccounted cash from his residence during the raids.

Soon after the ED officials detained him in connection with the Patra Chawl land scam case, the Shiv Sena leader said that he

"won't be cowed down".

Speaking to media persons, Raut said, "False charges and documents are being framed against people. All of this is being done to weaken Shiv Sena and Maharashtra. Sanjay Raut won't be cowed down. I will not leave the party."

On June 28 this year, Sanjay Raut was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the prevention of the money laundering case pertaining to the Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl land scam. Raut is being probed in connection with the re-development of Mumbai's Patra Chawl.

In April this year, the ED had attached immovable properties worth Rs 11.15 crore, including a flat at Dadar, held by Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha and eight land parcels at Kihim near Alibag, jointly held by the latter with Swapna Patkar.

Tata sons former chairman late Cyrus Mistry's last rites will be performed tomorrow in Mumbai

The last rites of former Chairman of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry, will be performed on Tuesday at 10 am at Worli crematorium in Mumbai.

Well-known industrialist and former Tata Sons chairman Mistry died in a road accident near Mumbai on Sunday evening. According to Palghar Police, Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai when his car hit the divider. There were four people in the car. Two died on the spot, including Mistry, while the other two were shifted to hospital.

Apart from Mistry, another deceased has been identified as Jahangir Dinsha Pandole. The injured Anayata Pandole and Darius Pandole are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.



Upnagaracha Manacha Ganpati, at Rajendra Nagar in Borivali East area

Amit Shah offers prayers at 'Lalbaug cha Raja' along with Maha CM Eknath Shinde and Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Monday offered prayers at the famous Mumbai's Lalbaugcha Raja along with Maharashtra's CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the lockdown situation for two years, the Home Minister was not able to visit the famous Ganpathi pandal in Mumbai.

Apart from Labaughcha Raja, Amit Shah visited a few more Ganpati Pandals in Mumbai, the



Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandal in Bandra organised by BJP Mumbai Chief Ashish Shelar, and will be

also visiting the CM's residence, Varsha Bungalow to take the blessings of Ganpati Bappa.

Is Maha govt waiting for auspicious day to frame policy on clean, hygienic toilets in schools? HC asks

The Bombay High Court on Monday said the condition of toilets in schools across Maharashtra was very bad, and asked the state government if it was powerless or waiting for some auspicious day to frame a policy on the issue.

A division bench of Justices Prasanna Varale and Sharmila Deshmukh said it was "pained by the sorry state of affairs".

The court was hearing a petition filed by two law students Nikita Gore and Vaishnavi Gholave, raising concerns over the central and state governments not implementing effec-

tive menstrual hygiene management resulting in women, and particularly adolescent girls, facing problems.

The petition also pointed out the issue of unclean and unhygienic washrooms and toilets for girls in government aided schools.

Pursuant to orders from the court in July this year, the Maharashtra District Legal Services Authority (MDLSA) carried out a survey of schools in Mumbai city, suburbs and neighbouring districts and a report was submitted to the court on Monday.

As per the report, 235 schools were surveyed out of which the condition of toilets in 207 schools was

found below standards.

After perusing the report, the HC said the condition of toilets in schools was very bad.

"And the report is about schools in urban areas like Mumbai suburbs. If this is the situation in urban areas, just imagine the situation in rural areas. What are the state government's education officers doing? Is it not the duty of your (government) officers to carry out periodic checks?" Justice Varale sought to know.

"Is the state government powerless to frame a policy? Are you (government) waiting for any auspicious day to do this?" the court asked.

Nation

Ahead of Gujarat polls, Rahul Gandhi promises loan waiver and free electricity to farmers, LPG cylinder at Rs 500

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday promised loan waiver of up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers of Gujarat, LPG cylinder at Rs 500 instead of Rs 1,000, free electricity to farmers and up to 300 units of free power to general consumers if his party comes to power in the state.

Addressing the Congress's booth-level workers at the 'Parivartan Sankalp Rally' at the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gandhi made a host of promises to people of Gujarat, where the Assembly polls are due later this year.

He promised creation of 10

lakh new jobs, building 3,000 English medium schools, free education to girls and Rs 5 per litre subsidy to milk producers.

He said the Congress will focus on employment in Gujarat and will provide jobs to 10 lakh youth.

Gandhi targeted the ruling BJP, claiming that while it built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat, it worked against those for whom Patel lived and died for.

The Gujarat Assembly elections are due in December this year.

Earlier, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had

also announced a number of sops and promised freebies if it comes to power in Gujarat.

Addressing the rally on Monday, Gandhi said, "The BJP government here will waive loans of top industrialists, but have you ever heard that they have waived loans of farmers? I promise to waive loans of up to Rs 3 lakh of each farmer after we come to power in Gujarat." He also promised to provide people LPG cylinder at Rs 500 instead of its current price of Rs 1,000.

Gandhi also promised free electricity to farmers and up to 300 units of free power to general con-



sumers if the Congress comes to power in the state.

He claimed the BJP on one

hand built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel, on the other hand it insulted him.

CBI refutes Manish Sisodia's allegations on death of agency's deputy legal advisor



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday refuted allegations made by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on the alleged suicide of the agency's deputy legal advisor.

CBI in a statement mentioned that in a press conference Manish Sisodia, one of the accused named in the FIR pertaining to the Delhi Excise Policy for the year 2021-22, has stated that Jitendra Kumar, deputy legal advisor in CBI, died by suicide because he was pressurized to make a strong false case against him.

"CBI strongly refutes this mischievous and misleading statement by Shri Sisodia. It is clarified that the gentleman officer Late Jitendra Kumar was in no way connected with the investigation of this case," the statement read.

The statement further said that he was Deputy Legal Advi-

sor in charge of prosecution in which capacity he was supervising prosecutors who were conducting the trial of already charge-sheeted cases in Delhi.

Further, as per the Delhi Police, which is conducting an inquest into the death, the officer has not held anyone responsible for his death in his suicide note. The Excise policy case is under investigation.

As such no clean chit has been given to any of the accused. The mischievous and misleading statement of Sisodia is an attempt to divert attention from the ongoing investigation in Delhi Excise Policy case, and also amounting to interference in the inquest proceedings into the death of the gentleman officer. On September 1, a 48-year-old man, posted as a Deputy Legal Advisor with the CBI, was found dead at his house in Hudco Place in South Delhi.

Ministry of Health and Family Affairs: 5,910 new COVID cases in last 24 hours

India recorded 5,910 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs on Monday.

India's active caseload currently stands at 53,974 which accounts for 0.12 per cent of the total cases. The recovery rate currently is at 98.69 per cent.

As many as 7,034 recoveries were made in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 4,38,80,464.

The country has been seeing a daily positivity rate of 2.60 per cent with a weekly positivity rate of 2.15 per cent.

On the vaccination front, the government informed that over

213.52 crore vaccines had been administered so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

A total of 94.36 crore second doses and 16.82 crore precautionary doses have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive.

Karnataka Hijab case: SC to hear plea against Karnataka HC's order upholding ban on Hijab in educational institutions



Supreme Court will hear various pleas against Karnataka High Court's judgement upholding the ban on Hijab in educational institutions today at 2 pm.

Earlier on August 29, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Karnataka government over a batch of pleas challenging the

Karnataka High Court's judgement upholding the ban on Hijab in educational institutes.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia also clarified that it will not accept requests for adjourning the matter and said, "We will not allow this type of forum shopping."

The court had said that it will

hear the matter seeking a stay and challenging Karnataka High Court's judgement on September 5.

Various petitioners have approached the apex court challenging the Karnataka HC order upholding the Karnataka government's order which directs strict enforcement of schools and colleges uniform rules.

A bench of Karnataka High Court comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna S Dixit, and Justice JM Khazi had earlier held that the prescription of uniforms is a reasonable restriction that students could not object to and dismissed various petitions challenging a ban on Hijab in education institutions saying they are without merit.

World

Thousands of people protest against targeted killings in Khyber Pakhtunkwa province in Pakistan

Thousands of people in the Khyber tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkwa province demonstrated against the targeted killing and demanded the government to restore peace in the district and provide security to them. The huge gathering titled Khyber Amn (peace) March was organised by Khyber Siyasi Ittehad. The protestors holding white flags marched through the different roads before converging at the main Bara Bazaar, Dawn reported.

They demanded that the government take notice of acts of terrorism, targeted killings of personnel of law enforcement agencies and rising incidents of extortion. According to Dawn, the former Member of the National Assembly, Malak Waris Khan, while addressing the gathering, said that the residents of Khyber were peace-loving people and had always raised the slogan of



peace but now they could no more tolerate militancy and insecurity.

"The last decade of militancy from 2005 to 2015 caused huge losses to them," he said, asking the federal government to take steps for ensuring peace in all the tribal districts at the pattern of

Islamabad, Lahore and other big cities of the country.

"It is the responsibility of the state to restore peace. We demand of the state authorities to provide a peaceful environment to the people of militancy-affected Khyber Pakhtunkwa as they can no more

tolerate terrorism and militancy," said the former lawmaker.

A local leader of Jamaat-i-Islami, Haji Momin Khan, said that their youth were the first target of extremism with most of them losing their lives while scores of educational institutions were also

destroyed that seriously affected the education of the tribal youth.

"The peace march awakened the tribal youth of their deep slumber and they were now demanding lasting peace in the entire merged region," said a young political activist Naseeb Gul.

He further said that living in peace was a universal right of every human being and the people of Khyber in particular and the rest of the merged districts, in general, were demanding that constitutional right. The protests against the targeted killing have been rampant in North Waziristan as several such cases of targeted killings were reported in North Waziristan over the past months.

Earlier, the workers of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl and Utmanzai tribes also been protesting in Khyber Pakhtunkwa's North Waziristan against the killing of its local leaders and lawlessness in the district.

Jaishankar, Iranian FM discuss nuclear deal over phone call



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Iranian counterpart H Amirabdollahian discussed bilateral issues including the nuclear deal and joint economic commission meeting in a telephonic conversation on Sunday. According to the Iranian foreign ministry, Amirabdollahian extended greetings on behalf of the country's President Ebrahim Raisi to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He then pointed to the expanding ties between Tehran and New Delhi, describing the outcome of his recent visit to India as satisfactory. The Foreign Minister also stressed that Iran is ready to implement the agreements reached during the official visit.

The statement issued by the Iranian foreign ministry, further stated that the country also prepared to hold a new round of Joint Economic Commission meetings

with India. "In other comments, Amirabdollahian briefed Indian Foreign Minister on the latest state of the sanctions removal talks and thanked India for its efforts to bring the views of Iran and the other sides closer together," it read.

Jaishankar referred to the good level of ties and cooperation between Iran and India and expressed hope that their relations will further expand in various spheres.

The Indian foreign minister underlined that his country always supports the peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear issue and this support will continue in the future.

"As for the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and India and the need to draw up a roadmap for ties, Jaishankar voiced hope, with the follow-up on the major topics on the agenda of the countries, their relations will further expand in all areas in the long run," the statement read.

Amid Taiwan tensions china has created "Debt Diplomacy" in Africa to gain votes of United Nations General Assembly

At least ten people were killed and eight were injured in a blast outside the country's embassy in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, according to Sputnik News Agency. According to sources in the Estiqlal hospital near the embassy, 10 dead and several injured were taken to the medical facility.

A blast took place near the Russian Embassy in Kabul around 11 am today, as per Khaama Press. "A Russian diplomat was also injured in

the explosion in front of the Russian embassy," Sputnik News Agency reported.

Earlier, Russian media reported that 15-20 people were killed or injured due to an explosion near the embassy. Last month, a number of blasts were reported in the capital city of Kabul, claiming dozens of innocent lives.

This series of blasts comes on the heels of one year of Taliban rule in Afghanistan. Rights groups said the Taliban had broken multiple pledges to respect human

and women's rights.

After capturing Kabul in August last year, the Islamic authorities have imposed severe restrictions on women's and girls' rights, suppressed the media, and arbitrarily detained, tortured, and summarily executed critics and perceived opponents, among other abuses.

Rights groups say that the Taliban's human rights abuses have brought widespread condemnation and imperilled international efforts to address the country's dire humanitarian situation.

Earthquake in China's Sichuan kills seven, shakes provincial capital

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck China's Sichuan province on Monday, the strongest to hit the region since 2017, killing at least seven people and shaking the provincial capital of Chengdu and more distant provinces.

Some roads and homes near the epicentre were damaged by landslides, while communications were down in at least one area, state television reported.

No damage to dams and hydropower stations within 50 km (31 miles) of the epicentre was reported, although damage to the



provincial grid had affected power to about 40,000 end-users.

The epicentre was at the town of Luding, the China Earthquake Networks Centre said, in the mountains about 226 km southwest of Chengdu.

Earthquakes are common in the southwestern province of Sichuan, especially in its mountains in the

west, a tectonically active area along the eastern boundary of the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau.

Laura Luo, who lives in Chengdu, a city of about 21 million people, was on her way to her apartment block when she saw people rushing out of their high-rise homes in panic after getting earthquake warnings on their phones.

Column

One teacher, hundreds of duties, lakhs of vacant posts, how will the world of children change?



Dr. Satyavan 'Saurabhi'

One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world. The current teacher in India is unable to cover his goals. Because of one teacher and hundreds of duties, and lakhs of vacant posts, how will the world of children change? India is dealing with significant teacher vacancies, which are around 60-70 percent in some states. There are over one lakh single-teacher schools across the country. The workload on teachers has increased, (mid-day meal, election duty, etc.) and the standard teacher-student ratio (1:30) is not followed. There is a lack of a proper monitoring system for the evaluation of the performance of teachers and a system providing proper feedback. Only 3-4 percent of those who qualify for the TET result qualify for the test, yet statistics show that they too do not get a teacher's job on time.

Quality education plays an important role in one's life which helps him/her to be socially acceptable, increase job opportunities, be financially sound, etc. Hence the role of teachers is very important in providing quality education. The learning crisis is evident from the fact that nearly half of Grade 5 children in rural India cannot solve simple two-digit simple subtraction problems, compared to 67 percent of Class 8 children in public schools with 50 percent of math-based assessment ability score less than

Current teacher training in India is unable to cover the difficult targets. India is dealing with significant teacher vacancies, which are around 60-70 percent in some states. There are over one lakh single-teacher schools across the country. The workload on teachers has increased, (mid-day meal, election duty, etc.) and the standard teacher-student ratio (1:30) is not followed. There is a lack of a proper monitoring system for the evaluation of the performance of teachers and a system providing proper feedback. Only 3-4 percent of those who qualify for the TET result qualify for the test, yet statistics show that even they do not get teacher jobs on time.

About 20 percent of regular teachers and 40 percent of contract teachers do not have

the professional qualifications for elementary education. The increase in the culture of private coaching classes and the participation of teachers there has made the teacher a businessman. Due to the paucity of an adequate number of qualified and properly trained teachers, widespread corruption at various levels in the appointment of ad-hoc teachers in teaching (management level, internal politics, etc.) has licked the education system like termites, National Council of Educational Research and The training study found that there is no systematic incorporation of teacher feedback into training design. Decreasing level of class results Nearly half of teachers believe that not all children achieve excellent academic results because of their socioeconomic background.

Only 25% of teachers incorporate activity-based learning and 33% use storytelling or role-playing in their pedagogical approach, either not prioritizing or lacking the time. The National Accreditation and Assessment Council, responsible for quality standards in higher education, has covered only 30 percent of all institutions since its inception in 1994. As of today, there is no accurate real-time database of the number and details of teacher education institutions, enrolled students, and programs offered in the

country.

There are today 17,000 teacher education institutions across the country that are responsible for producing teachers through programs like Bachelor of Education and Diploma in Elementary Education. Considering their approved recruitment, on full operation, these TETs can generate more than 19 lakh newly trained teachers every year against an estimated annual requirement of 3 lakh teachers. At present, there are about 94 lakh teachers in all schools in India. . But every year no satisfactory part of the total number of teachers gets recruited into the teacher education system. This is a matter of serious concern.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development recently launched the National Initiative for the Holistic Advancement of School Heads and Teachers, which aims to train over 42 lakh teachers across the country. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and the National Council for Teacher Education launched the National Teachers Forum or DIKSHA in 2017 in collaboration with non-governmental stakeholders. DIKSHA is envisioned as a one-stop solution to address teacher competency gaps through courses that address their skill gaps and empower them to learn "what they want, where

they want". make.

"Teacher skills and motivation both matter" and personally targeted, continuous training is key to achieving improvements in learning through teachers. After the training, there should be no difference in the salary of public or private teachers. It will attract the best young minds to this profession and help them to regain their lost ground. Teachers need to re-learn and re-learn the subjects and the way they should be taught. There is no point in cramming and teaching just to pass the exam.

Teacher training programs should be supplemented by focus-group discussions with local NGOs and community-based organizations. The teacher training model should have the potential to provide continuous professional development through a blended model, complementing the existing physical training. A technology-enabled platform that allows training to become an ongoing activity rather than an annual event is essential.

Another key determinant of quality is the curriculum which should be regularly revised and revised to ensure that our teacher education system is at par with global standards. Ideally, given that teacher education requires a good mix of curricular inputs and good quality pedagogy, the move towards integrated four-year

subject-specific programs conducted in specialist multidisciplinary colleges and universities Advocating for a change.

A common accreditation framework should be designed through a consultation process involving all relevant stakeholders to facilitate its wider acceptance.

A transparent and reliable system of accreditation can form the basis for removing substandard TEIs and improving quality in the rest. Given the wider scenario of the teacher education sector alone and the current capacity constraints, multiple accreditation agencies must be empaneled. In addition to creating good content, it is also important to consider the technology consumption patterns of teachers, the potential for facilitation to increase engagement, and the role of principals in fostering teachers' professional development.

Reforms should be driven by administrative will and executed through a well-established governance mechanism. A child taught by a good teacher gets 1.5 grade-level equivalents, while a child taught by a bad teacher gets only half an academic year. Focusing on providing the best quality education is the prime need of the hour to build the future of this country.

Entertainment



Shilpa Shetty's husband Raj Kundra has been approached for the 'Big Boss'

If reports are to be believed, Shilpa Shetty's husband and businessman Raj Kundra has been approached for a new season of the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss'.

According to a source, the discussions are happening between Raj and the makers of the show and the former is actually thinking about participating in 'Bigg Boss 16'. "They feel the real side and the truth needs to be shown in front of the country," the source added.

Raj was arrested in July 2021 for allegedly producing pornographic videos and was granted bail in September. He was booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act and the Information Technology Act. Since then, he has been avoiding media by covering his face with innovative masks.

Last year, Raj's sister-in-law, Shamita Shetty participated in 'Bigg Boss 15' and ended up in top 5. Whereas, Raj's wife Shilpa Shetty Kundra mastered this game by becoming the title winner of Big Brother in 2007. It looks like it's a parampara of the family to be in Bigg Boss.



Katrina Kaif states "Why can't it be suhaagdin" as Alia Bhatt calls 'suhaagraa' a myth

Actor Katrina Kaif will be seen marking her presence with her 'Phone Booth' co-stars Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi in an upcoming episode of 'Koffee with Karan 7'.

On Monday, host Karan Johar took to social media and unveiled the episode's promo which has left the internet in splits, courtesy of Katrina's witty humour. With Bollywood witnessing an array of weddings, discussions of 'suhaag raat' (wedding night) can never be far away from the Koffee With Karan couch. While Alia Bhatt dismissed the concept of 'suhaag raat' as a myth, recently married Katrina shared a more innovative solution for tired couples to follow.

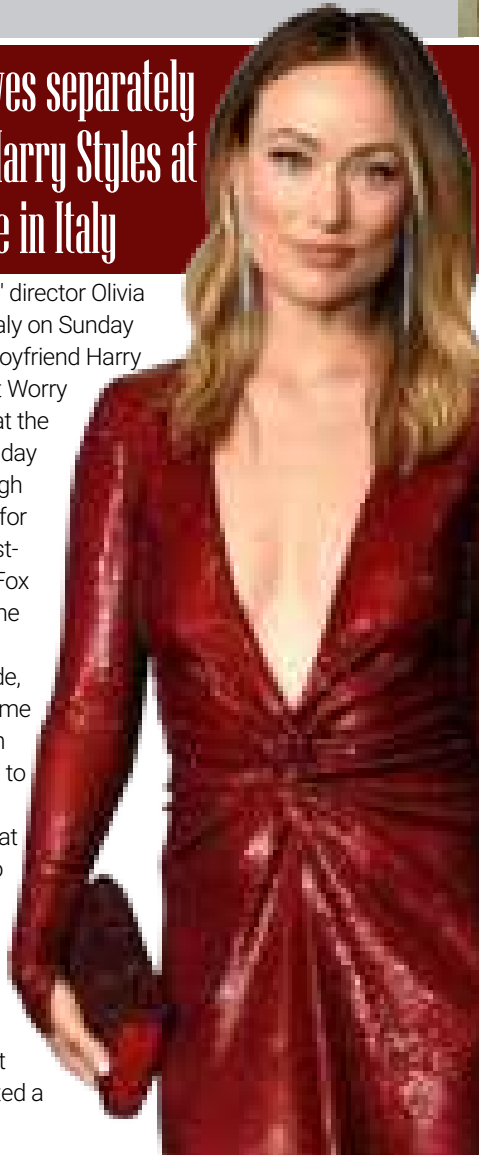
The promo begins with Katrina, Siddhant and Ishaan taking their time to figure out the best positions on the couch for them. After they were settled, Karan began his round of questions.

He then told Katrina about Alia's recent comment on the show that she was too tired to do anything on her suhaagraa, the wedding night. Asked about her own case, Katrina said, "Why can't it be suhaagdin," making the boys raise their eyebrows. Katrina tied the knot with Vicky Kaushal on December 9, 2021, in Rajasthan in presence of close friends and family members. Meanwhile, Katrina's co-stars from Phone Booth claimed they were both single. Siddhant said he is so single that even Ishaan single after hanging out with him.

Olivia Wilde arrives separately from boyfriend Harry Styles at press conference in Italy

'Don't Worry Darling' director Olivia Wilde landed in Italy on Sunday separately from boyfriend Harry Styles ahead of the 'Don't Worry Darling' movie premiere at the Venice Film Festival Monday night, where Florence Pugh will not be in attendance for the press conference post-screening. According to Fox News, as she landed at the Italian airport wearing a cream-coloured suit, Wilde, who marks her second time in the director's chair with the new thriller, appeared to be in good spirits.

Before boarding a boat to take him to his hotel to await the highly awaited premiere of the film, the former member of 'One Direction', who plays Jack in the upcoming film, also donned his best flying costume and sported a maroon blazer.



Christina Haack, Joshua Hall exchange vows again in Hawaii

Reality TV star Christina Haack hosted a ceremony on the Hawaiian island of Maui with husband Joshua Hall and a few of their close friends and family to celebrate their marriage, nearly five months after the couple first said "I do" in secrecy. The home renovation expert looked absolutely stunning as she cuddled up to her spouse in romantic photos by the beach to remember their special day while wearing a sheer white lace gown with a long train.

"Shared vows in front of family and our close friends," she wrote on Instagram. "Everything in life has led me to where I am right now, which is exactly where I want to be. "My dream man on the dreamiest island. Maui holds a special place in my heart. What an amazing night filled with love." In Christina's stunning wedding dress, white floral appliques were stitched all over a fine mermaid form, and a long train of tulle fabric was collected at her feet. She wore a corseted dress with delicate flower straps, and her long blonde hair was styled in beachy waves with a thick braid and wispy fringe pieces surrounding her face.

Hall wore a khaki suit, a white button-down shirt, and black velvet loafers. He kept with the island vibes by forgoing a tie in favour of a more conventional ti leaf lei, which symbolises good fortune and protection from evil spirits. The couple confirmed to Fox News Digital in April that they had married after he proposed in the fall of 2021. They began dating last year. According to Fox News, all of her children were there at the little island ceremony, when she told Hudson, three, Brayden, seven, and Taylor, eleven, about her experiences.

