



Maha CM Eknath Shinde had invited Vedanta Foxconn to sign MOU at Pune

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Mumbai slums has become HUB of adulterated milk

The police from Dharavi seized around 1010 litres of adulterated milk. Six people were arrested for allegedly buying milk packets from various companies like Gokul, Amul, and others, adding water to them, then sealing them with a candle flame and then sealed back. When they examined the packets during the raid, they concluded that the milk had been adulterated by the addition of water.

According to police, they received a tip-off that a milk adulteration racket was underway in Dharavi, acting on which police laid traps and activated their network of informers. Police learnt that the offence was committed here frequently from the past few years.

Mumbai police conducted a raid at

5.30am, wherein the accused were nabbed while they were engaged in packaging the adulterated milk. Police also seized several packets of milk of some reputed brands, along with wax candles, test tubes, lighter, stove pin, blade. They also seized liters of adulterated milk, which led to the arrest of the accused.

Explaining the modus operandi, police said the accused bought original pouches of milk and mixed tap water into it, which was dirty and non-potable. The mixture would be then packed into fresh packets, with original tag and print of reputed brands and then distributed. The adulterated milk packets would contain 40 per cent water, which is unhealthy. Police are now trying to ascertain how the accused procured counterfeit milk pouches and an

investigation is underway.

The accused are booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for adulteration of food and drink for sale (section 272), using a false property mark (section 482), counterfeiting property mark used by other (section 483), cheating (section 420), forgery (section 468) and common intention (section 34) along with the Food and Safety Standards Act. They were produced before a local magistrate court and remanded in police custody.

Investigating police officer said “There are provisions for punishment in the existing laws related to food safety for many offences such as preparation of food items in an unhygienic atmosphere; carrying adulterated food; if a person dies due to consumption of adulterated food or suffers

physical ailment or distress, etc. The punishments are in different forms viz. penal charges, imprisonment, etc. The administration does pay attention to maintaining the quality of food items, but citizens should also be alert while buying food items”.

Sunil Pakhare, a scientist of ‘Zilha Sarvajanic Arogya Prayogshala (District Public Health Laboratory), Satara and Kolhapur said “Police raids such adulteration businesses when they get a tip of it, otherwise the business continues. People need to be very prompt in checking the food packaging and other details to find out the authenticity of the product.”

The adulterated milk samples have been sent to the food and drug administration for further testing.

It doesn't take much to find out if your milk is adulterated

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Adulteration in milk is not new thing, I remember when I was small child a milk man used to carry those typical measurements and a big milk can on bicycle to deliver milk door to door, my grandmother used to pore few drops on the floor by questioning milkman “ aaj bhi dudh me paani milaya kya? Doodh patla lag raha hai?”. (Have you added water to the milk? its consistency is thin). This was a repetitive question to the milkman. Since childhood we have known that the milk is most commonly diluted with water - this not only reduces its nutritional value, but contaminated water can also cause additional health problems. But as the time changed and we

adopted modern ways of storing or packing milk the adulteration has gone on dangerous levels.

India is the largest milk producing country but almost 70% of the milk sold and consumed in India is adulterated by contaminants such as detergent and skim milk powder, but impure water is the highest contaminant. Milk adulteration techniques will be invented to meet the demand for milk products during the festival season. Farmers generally mix milk powder/oil, Urea and detergent to provide whiteness and leveling SNF. Detergents are added to emulsify and dissolve oil in milk.

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Editoritis

It doesn't take much to find out if your milk is adulterated

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The other adulterants used are mainly detergent, foreign fat, starch, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), sugar, urea, pond water, salt, maltodextrin, sodium carbonate, formalin, and ammonium sulphate.

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (fda), had, in a study, found that 20 percent of the milk is adulterated.

Food adulteration is a global concern and developing countries are at higher risk associated with it due to lack of monitoring and policies.

Collection agents Collects substandard milk from farmers. Due to poor cold-chain infrastructure, it adds formalin and hydrogen peroxide to prolong its freshness. Does pasteurization & homogenization. Store milk for a day or two before selling it. Milk brands get milk from agents, reconstitute it with skimmed milk powder to create variants and supply it after packing to customers. Adulteration techniques are business secrets. But there is no rocket science to understand that adulteration happens on every level. It doesn't take much to find out if your milk is adulterated. A few quick and easy tests can tell you if your milk is laced with any adulterant. There are also adulteration test kits available in the market today.

The other adulterants used are mainly detergent, foreign fat, starch, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), sugar, urea, pond water, salt, maltodextrin, sodium carbonate, formalin, and ammonium sulphate. It has been a cause of concern for both the Government and the Dairy Industry. The Indian Council of Medical Research has reported, "Milk adulterants have hazardous health effects. The detergent in milk can cause food poisoning and other gastrointestinal complications. Its high alkaline level can also damage body tissue and destroy proteins. Other synthetic components can cause impairments, heart problems, cancer or even death. While the immediate effect of drinking milk adulterated with urea, caustic soda and formalin is gastroenteritis, the long-term effects are far more serious.

Contaminated milk continues to be sold in Maharashtra despite crackdown measures taken by authorities. The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (fda), had, in a study, found that 20 percent of the milk is adulterated. Though the study prompted immediate action and licences of 21 dairies to be suspended, yet, there is no respite. India produces a little over 105 million tones (mt) of milk annually and out of this Mumbai consumes 1.65 mt. Of that, 0.61 million tones are sub-standard & adulterated. The problem is not restricted to just within the state. Milk adulteration takes place, in the open in areas like Andheri, Antop Hill, Saki Naka, Kurla, Kurar village, Dahisar Baithi chawl and Dharavi in Mumbai. The laws are weak, that is the reason such practices are not stoppable. Moreover, fda does not have a dedicated food testing laboratory of its own.

Reports of substandard and adulterated food frequent the front pages of newspapers. Samples of items we consume daily—milk, pulses, oils, vegetables, sugar, among many others—have been rated

substandard. While it is difficult to track the production process and locate the item's source, simple tests can help you distinguish a pure sample from an adulterated one.

To find out water in milk, put a drop of milk on a polished, slanting surface

Pure milk either stays or flows slowly leaving a white trail behind Milk adulterated with flow immediately without leaving a mark.

To find detergent in milk, Take 5-10 milliliters (ML) of milk sample and equal quantity of water and shake the mixture thoroughly, if the milk is adulterated with detergent, it forms dense lather pure milk will have a thin layer of foam.

The easiest and domestic way to identify if a milk is adulterated or not is dip your finger in milk and pour the drop on the opposite of a clean palm. If it slides too fast and leaves behind a water trail, the milk is added with water. If it is too thick and massy it is added with starch. However, if it is thin and stays: cow milk genuine, if it is thick and stays: buffalo milk genuine. This experiment holds good with your experience.

Detecting starch in milk and milk products, Boil 2-3 ML of the sample (milk, khoya, chenna or paneer) with 5 ML of water for other ghee and butter, water need not be added. Add 2-3 drops of tincture of iodine after letting it cool

Formation of blue color indicates the presence of starch.

Food adulteration is a global concern and developing countries are at higher risk associated with it due to lack of monitoring and policies. However, this is one of the most common phenomena that have been overlooked in many countries. Unfortunately, in contrast to common belief, milk adulterants can pose serious health hazards leading to fatal diseases. Just reading the news and condemning the act is not enough, we as responsible citizens need to be more alert and smart in diagnosing what we receive and consume.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Neutralize the terrorists

Pakistan has shifted all its terror camps and launch pads near the Line of Control (LoC). The locations have been selected in such a way that every terror camp and launch pad is just a few kilometres away from our border. Sources in the intelligence agencies say Pakistan has done this to increase infiltration. The terror camps are of Jihadi groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM). "When we see maps, we find that they have multiple entry routes. These multiple entry routes are to avoid any firing and keep the Indian security forces busy", said the sources. According to a latest intelligence input, right now all launch pads are full of trained terrorists and are directly managed by Pakistan's ISI.

Backstabbing has always been Pakistan's attitude. So now India needs to respond in a language that the Pakistan understands! By attacking these camps, India should neutralize the terrorists before they can cross our borders.

Aparna Jagtap

True mentality

Pakistan has been hit by floods for the past few weeks. Local citizens are calling for help. The Baba Madhudas temple which has 100 rooms in Jalal Khan village of Kutch District in Balochistan Province has provided food, water and shelter for 200 to 300 flood victims. This includes mostly Muslims. It has also given shelter to animals. Hindus have also suffered in Pakistan floods. We should also find out, how many of those Hindus have been sheltered by Muslims in their mosques. On the contrary, some religious fanatics have gang-raped an 8-year-old Hindu girl by luring her for grains. This shows their true mentality. Not only in Pakistan, but the minority Hindus in Islamic countries too have no guardian!

Ramchandra Lugade

Oppression of Hindus must stop

Extremists recently vandalised the Idol of Shri Durgadevi in Lahini Karmakar village of Kushtia District in Bangladesh. This is the third attack on the Idol of Shri Durgadevi before Durga Puja during Navratri festival. "Terrorists are planning to prevent Hindus from celebrating Navratri. This oppression of Hindus must stop. We want quick and speedy action from the Government in this regard", Voice of Bangladeshi Hindus has demanded. When will the Government of India question Bangladesh on this matter? Looking at how frequently such incidents which are specifically aimed at insulting Hindu Deities, there is a need for a blasphemy law to punish those who attack Hindu Temples with capital punishment. It shows the need for establishment of Hindu Rashtra!

Sagar Shirodkar

RE-WRITE HISTORY AFTER YOUR RETIREMENT

I am not just retired from the bank. I am also retired from my stress, my commute, my alarm clock and just am satisfied being a jolly good man doing things which I enjoy doing. Retirement, a time to do what you want to do, when you want to do it, where you want to do it and how you want to do it. There is no need to be bound by convention, push the envelope, do it weird, do it differently, but most of all, do it for fun.

Life, after work, has been completely redefined. Those leaving the 9 to 5 behind, in favor of a more relaxed, enriched or exciting lifestyle, are rewriting the meaning of retirement. Part of the credit for retirement's overhaul can be given to longer and healthier lifestyle trends. Leaving the workforce does not have to be the endgame, but rather your signature version of a rich life after retirement that could last a long time!

When I retired at the age of 60, my family and friends were concerned about my "post-career" life. Well-meaning advice ranged from "Keep yourself fully occupied" to "You have worked enough, relax now". Add to them gentle warnings about missing the 9-to-5 routine and 24x7 responsibility. People die not because of illness or injury — they die because they simply lose the will to live. Advances in geriatric care

have prolonged the lives of senior citizens but many of them seem to be ruining this fact. The truth is that family members find it difficult to take care of them and they increasingly experience a sense of isolation and despondence. After a frenetic work pace extending to close to 40 years you need the much needed rest and recuperation to do better things in the remaining part of your life.

Life expectancy in India has more than doubled since Independence — from around 32 years in the late 1940s to 70 years or so today. Many countries have done even better, but this is still a historical achievement. Over the same period, the fertility rate has crashed from about six children per woman to just two, liberating women from the shackles of repeated child-bearing and child care. All this is good news, but it also creates a new challenge — the ageing of the population.

Built into your retirement plan is an expected return on your investment portfolio over time. Perhaps you've built a well-diversified portfolio to shield you from volatility, but that can only do so much. In the first half of 2022, for example, both stocks and bonds fell sharply in value. If you were using bonds to hedge against your stock positions, they didn't do you much good. Everyone knows the market doesn't go up in a pretty exponential curve. It's

a bumpy ride. And it can buck your expectations for a very long time.

On the most basic level, we all have goals and aspirations for our life after work. Some are big, some small, but most importantly, they are unique to each retiree. If you are stressed thinking about retirement, talk to your financial planner about the five steps above. Take the time to double-check that you are ready for what comes next. Today's retirement holds the promise of being more fulfilling than ever before — but could be longer and more expensive too.

As centuries passed, life expectancies began to increase, but caring for the elderly was still not a problem. That's because as recently as the mid-18th century, people rarely died from old age; they often died from infections that are easily cured today. And if someone was fortunate enough to age and no longer work in one field, they'd opt for a less labor-intensive job. It is survival of the fittest and we cope up with after retirement blues is up to you to manage in a most productive and useful way.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Writer

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

Maha CM Eknath Shinde had invited Vedanta Foxconn to sign MOU at Pune

Amid a row over Vedanta-Foxconn choosing Gujarat for its semiconductor plant, officials said that Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had invited the company to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government on July 29 to set up the facility near Pune. A senior government official said Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis were in regular touch with Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal and had spoken to him over phone.

Shinde had written to him (Agarwal) assuring that the state



cabinet's approval and the central government's nod for 20 per cent capital subsidy for the semiconductor facility would be taken, the official said. The Vedanta team held a meeting with Shinde, Fadnavis and top officials on July

26, he said. "Shinde wrote to Agarwal on July 26, inviting him for an MoU-signing ceremony on July 29 in Mumbai," the official added.

"Your request for central government alignment and cabinet

approval are in advanced stages and moving ahead expeditiously. A high-powered committee has already given its in-principle approval for requisite incentive package and the same will be moved to the cabinet for approval," chief minister Shinde said in a letter to Agarwal. "In addition we are also seeking alignment at the highest level of government of India to request for unfettered support in ensuring the project receives due support," the letter added.

According to the official, the state government offered subsidies in land, water power supply,

stamp duty exemption among other facilities. A political firestorm has erupted in Maharashtra after Vedanta-Foxconn opted for Gujarat for its Rs 1.54 lakh crore semiconductor plant. Vedanta, an Indian oil-to-metals conglomerate, and Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn have formed a joint venture to set up the plant in Gujarat. The unit was earlier proposed to be set up at Talegaon near Pune city in Maharashtra. Members of the ruling dispensation and the opposition in Maharashtra have been attacking each other over the issue. - PTI

Enforcement Directorate files its reply in court, opposes bail plea to MP Sanjay Raut



Enforcement Directorate has opposed the bail plea of Sena MP Sanjay Raut in the court in the matter of Patra chawl money laundering case. The reply was filed by the ED department on Friday in the court.

Sena MP was sent to Judicial Custody in the money laundering case. When Enforcement Directorate department had raided his residence they had sized approximately Rs 11 crore and even several other

locations.

Earlier in this case Sanjay Raut was been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate team twice but due to several reasons he was not able to go for the inquiry of this matter. After which Enforcement Directorate team had raided sena Sanjay Raut's residence.

Sanjay Raut was been sent to the Judicial custody and produced to special sessions court by the Enforcement Directorate.

BJP leader Chandrashekar Bawankule states he has not levelled any personal allegations on Sharad Pawar

Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party chief Chandrashekar Bawankule on Friday said he had not levelled any personal allegation against National Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar but the latter had taken his statement on Baramati as one.

Bawankule had recently said that the BJP would win Pawar's home turf Baramati in upcoming polls, which had invited a sharp rebuke from the NCP. "We don't

want to level personal allegations against Pawar. That is not our culture. We are strengthening our party through our works. My statement on finishing off NCP in Baramati was taken as a personal allegation by Pawar," Bawankule told reporters. Queried on prospects of a separate Vidarbha state, Bawankule said the BJP supports such a demand but a decision on this aspect would be taken by the prime minister, central and state leaders. - PTI

Maharashtra has setup a task force to control Lumpy skin disease

Maharashtra government has formed a state-level task force to control lumpy skin disease in the state.

The 12-member task force will be led by the Commissioner of Animal Husbandry, Pune. The animal husbandry department has issued a Government Resolution about the same.

The task force is authorised to hold meetings with the Animal Husbandry department's officials of affected districts and representatives of vaccine producers for Lumpy skin disease. According to the state's animal husbandry department, a total of 42 cows and buffaloes have died due to



the onslaught of the Lumpy Skin Disease in Maharashtra.

The first case of Lumpy Skin Disease was reported on August 4 in Chinawal village of Raver taluka of Jalgaon district. The virus has been found only in cows and

buffaloes. There is no danger to humans in using milk of animals that do not have the symptoms of the disease. Animals can be cured from the disease, however, the milk of such animals may get affected due to the virus. - ANI

Minor girl abducted, raped in Mumbai, case registered under POSCO

A minor girl was kidnapped from the Wadala area of Mumbai and was raped. A case was registered against the accused, informed the police on Friday.

According to the police, a case was registered against the accused under the relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 376, 323, and 506 and sections of POSCO, for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl from the Wadala area of Mumbai and was then taken to the Kalamboli area of Navi Mumbai and raped.

On September 5, the victim girl had left her home for college and when the victim girl reached



Wadala, the accused brought the Bolero vehicle and forced the victim girl into his car and took her to Pune Expressway where she was raped.

FIR was first registered at Kalamboli Police Station on the complaint of the victim girl and then the matter was transferred to Matunga Police Station for

investigation, informed the police.

Meanwhile, on the complaint of the minor girl, the police started their further investigation by registering a case against the accused.

Police is still working on this case as accused still not caught yet. - ANI

Nation

CBI reaches Goa office to probe into Sonali Phogat death case

A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation from the national capital on Friday reached the office of Goa CBI in connection with the alleged murder case of Bharatiya Janata Party leader and actor Sonali Phogat.

The CBI took over the matter for probe on Thursday and registered an FIR into the case followed by an order for a detailed probe in the case.



This came days after Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that he would request Union Home Minister

Amit Shah to hand over the Phogat case to the CBI. On September 12, the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended CBI Investigation into Sonali Phogat's death case.

Earlier on Sunday, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar had also assured Phogat's family that the CBI would probe the BJP leader's death as the family was not satisfied with the Goa police's investigation.

Talking to media persons, CM Khattar had said, "We had asked for a CBI probe in writing but they've stated that first Goa would complete their own investigation and if the family is not satisfied with it, the investigation will be handed over to CBI." Earlier, a Khap Mahapanchayat was also held in Hisar demanding a CBI inquiry into the death of Sonali Phogat.

Ex-Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh to join BJP on Monday

Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh will join the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday. According to Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal, Amarinder Singh is also likely to merge his party PLC with the BJP in the national capital on September 19. The development comes days after Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

"Had a very productive meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah Ji. Discussed various issues pertaining to National security, the rising cases of narco-terrorism in Punjab and the future roadmap for the overall holistic development of Punjab," Singh had tweeted.

Amarinder Singh who broke ties with Congress ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections had fought the polls in alliance with BJP.

Amit Shah to chair key BJP core meeting during 2-day visit to Telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a two-day visit to Telangana where state leaders will apprise him about the kind of support that the Bharatiya Janata Party is getting in the state during a crucial core group meeting in Hyderabad. Sources said that on Saturday, Shah will meet the top leaders of the state including state party chief Bandi Sanjay, several party MPs and key office bearers from the state.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Telangana BJP in-charge and party general secretary Tarun Chugh will also be part of this meeting.

Shah will discuss with the state leaders the kind of support that the party is getting on the ground and how to build on to it. He will also provide guidance to the state unit on strengthening



the organisation in the coming months. The first and the most immediate task for the BJP in Telangana will be the preparation for the high-profile bye-election to the Munugode constituency.

Last month, Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, the sitting MLA from the seat resigned from the Congress and joined

the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. While Gopal Reddy is certain to get the BJP ticket for the bypoll, it is interestingly a high-profile poll for which the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and Congress so far have been adopting a wait-and-watch policy.

My relations with Congress reduced to zero: Karan Singh



Expressing dissatisfaction over the Congress, veteran leader Karan Singh on Friday said his relations with the grand old party are almost zero. "I had joined Congress in 1967. But in the last 8-10 years, I am no more in Parliament.

I was dropped from the working committee. Yes, I am in Congress but there is no contact, nobody asks me anything. I do my own work. My relations with the party are almost zero now," Singh told.

Singh's statement sparked speculations about him leaving Congress. Karan Singh, son of the last Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir Hari

Singh, had been a Union Minister. Last month, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad resigned from the party He has been Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2008.

In his resignation letter to Sonia Gandhi, he had targeted party leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, over the way the party has been run in the past nearly nine years. In the hard-hitting five-page letter, Azad had claimed that a coterie runs the party while Sonia Gandhi was just "a nominal head" and all the major decisions were taken by "Rahul Gandhi or rather worse his security guards and PAs".

Delhi liquor policy scam: ED raids at Robin Distilleries in Hyderabad

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday conducted raids at Robin Distilleries in connection with the Delhi liquor policy scam case.

The ED is conducting searches in multiple cities including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai in the Delhi Excise Policy case.

Earlier on September 6, the raids were conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab Haryana, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Last month, the enforcement agency conducted searches on Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Si-

sodia's official residence besides several other places in connection with the alleged corruption in the implementation of Delhi's excise policy.

The Aam Aadmi Party had been maintaining that the allegations of corruption labelled against them were politically motivated. A report on July 8 by Delhi's Chief Secretary established prima facie violations of GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR) 1993, Delhi Excise Act 2009 and Delhi Excise Rules 2010.

The Chief Secretary's report

indicated substantively of financial quid pro quo at the top political level and that the Delhi Excise Policy was implemented with the sole aim of benefitting private liquor barons for financial benefits to individuals at the highest rungs of the government leading up to Manish Sisodia.

Sisodia, who is in charge of the excise department, has been under the scanner for alleged deliberate and gross procedural lapses which provided undue benefits to the tender process for liquor licensees for the year 2021-22.

World

Chinese companies continue fraudulent activities of tax evasion in Bangladesh



Bangladesh is suffering from the unethical behaviour of Chinese companies as the country authorities have found many cases of tax evasion by Beijing-based firms or their subsidiaries in Dhaka.

The Chinese companies trading in Bangladesh have been continuously engaging in tax evasion and smuggling of items ranging from cigarettes, and alcohol, among other items.

The unscrupulous behaviour of Chinese companies is causing heavy loss to the exchequer of Bangladesh, reported Bangladesh Live News. There is always a question mark on their integrity.

The multilateral financial institutions, especially the World Bank, are also keeping an eye on their functioning. Though Beijing projects itself as a reliable economic partner, its activities are fraught with

corruption and criminality.

The saga of fraudulent activities of Chinese companies in Bangladesh does not seem to cease. In the latest incident, the BD authorities seized a container imported by the Chinese company 'Zong Sine Textile Industries Limited'.

The declared item in the container was supposed to be textile dyestuff; however, when the container was opened, it was found to be filled with around 900 packages of foreign cigarettes.

Had the container passed undetected, it would have resulted in the loss of around Taka 7 crore to the Bangladesh government, Bangladesh.

Pakistan faces TTP, JeM hurdle in exiting FATF grey list



The UN's anti-terrorism watchdog - the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - will meet next month to evaluate not just enacting of laws and their enforcement, but also individuals and terror groups suspected to be the beneficiaries in Pakistan, reported local media.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is scrambling to play down the rebellious Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)'s marauding of innocent civilians in the Swat Valley, but also convince the FATF that Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) chief, Masood Azhar, is absconding and is not being sheltered on Pakistan territory, reported Islam Khabar.

Pakistan's record on the flow of funds into terrorist activities has been under sustained scrutiny by

FATF which has placed it on the 'grey' list since 2018. Pakistan has to explain not only Azhar but also the role of his chief aide, Sajid Mir, besides others who conduct their activities in and out of Pakistan in a shadowy manner.

For form's sake, Islamabad has sent a formal letter to Kabul, ruled by an intransigent Taliban group, to locate Azhar. But it can expect no cooperation for a simple reason: Kabul is not obliged to help Islamabad and it is not affected by the FATF scrutiny, reported Islam Khabar.

Biden administration favours closer economic ties with Taiwan amid China's provocative drills



After China's provocative military drills around Taiwan, post US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the self-governing island on August 2, the Biden administration is advancing toward a closer economic relationship with Taipei.

Congressional and administration stalwarts criticized China for overreacting and for attempting to reverse rising US support for Taiwan. The post-visit discussions highlighted significant divisions over the American foreign policy towards China and Taiwan.

China responded by conducting provocative military drills around the island for four days. Bipartisan majorities in Congress closely collaborated with Trump and Biden administrations to

hardening of US policy.

It created a "whole of government" effort to counter Beijing's security, economic, and governance challenges, reported Poreg. Moreover, the arrival of Xi Jinping as the numero uno on the China scene has popped up two issues, which, since 2018, have come to be viewed as exceptionally grave existential risks to the basic safety and security of the United States.

One: Beijing's attempt to subvert American might and influence in Asia and the Pacific and jump into the driver's seat. Two: A very calibrated campaign by Xi's egg-heads to seize control of upcoming high-tech industry, which is of great importance for contemporary national security.

Funded by China, Sri Lanka's Colombo Lotus Tower declared open for public

The Lotus Tower of Colombo which is funded by China and constructed under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was declared open to the public on Thursday. According to the Sri Lankan news agency, the government had earlier announced that the Colombo Lotus Tower would be opened in three stages over the next few months of which the first stage of the Colombo Lotus Tower (also known as Nelum Kuluna), which was built for an estimated USD 113 million was

opened to the public on Thursday.

Major General (Retired) Prasad Samarasinghe, the Head of the Colombo Lotus Tower Management Company announced the opening of the structure. The second stage of the Lotus Tower is expected to open in another 2 months and will include the opening of e-sports centres as well as a digital museum.

In contrast, the third stage of the tower is set to be ready by March next year and will in-

clude the opening of a 9D cinema and a revolving restaurant.

The lotus tower is located in Colombo city and is a 350-metre-tall 17-storey structure.

Though the crisis in Sri Lanka was apparent after the pandemic that dried up the international tourist traffic to the island nation, one of its main foreign exchange earners, the country's debts spiralled and foreign exchange reserves shrunk as the end result of reckless borrowings from China to finance infrastructure projects.

PM Shehbaz becomes laughing stock as he struggles with headphones during bilateral meeting with Putin

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif became a laughing stock among social media users after he was seen struggling with headphones during bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The video shared by the Russian state-owned news agency RIA shows Putin laughing as Shehbaz struggles with the headphones.

The video was also shared by former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI). It also showed that Shehbaz was asking an aide



for help, however even after the aide's assistance, his headphones dropped once again. A PTI member said that Shehbaz is a "constant embarrassment" for Pakistan. Another picture shared by Qasim Khan Suri, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Balochistan's Provincial President of PTI took a dig at Shehbaz's delegation comprising Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari,

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif who were "sitting idly like a beggar."

He made the statement after Shehbaz tweeted, "It was a long but productive day in Samarkand. In my meetings with leaders of our friendly countries, we agreed on enhancing trade & investment. I explained the flood ravages due to climate change. Food & energy shortages present a real challenge to our shared development agenda."

In response, Suri tweeted, "But in the picture, one party is writing a note and the other is sitting idly like a beggar."

Column

Bridge the gap between school and college

A holistic development model is needed at the school level to smoothen the transition to college

Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get the students to score good grades.

Students transitioning to college are often underprepared for the demands and find it difficult to cope. To make this transition smooth, they must be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. This requires policymakers and educators to address the gaps between school and college education, as the former's outcome do not meet the latter's expectations.

Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get students to score good grades. Counselling students about possible career pathways is sidelined. At the end of high school, students may have the grades but unaware of what to study in university. Thus, they enroll in courses unaligned with their interests and skills, which negatively impacts their futures. What is required is a more holistic approach, which can be achieved by the following ways:

Focus on the fundamentals: A strong base that provides students with knowledge and skills will help them identify their areas of interest and passion, build their profiles, and chalk out a path to excel in college and professional careers.

Develop life skills: Preparation for college and career success requires more than exposure to a dynamic curriculum. Life skills can be developed through socialisation and learning values and attitudes through interactions with others. Middle-school is a perfect place to incorporate and develop soft skills such as communication, leadership, creative thinking, and collaboration, among others.

Introduce research in high school: Apart from marks and grades, qualitative opportunities like research projects have become popular for students applying to colleges abroad. Research is a great way to explore areas of



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interest more deeply and develop academic passions in all fields. Students who have been a part of research programmes can use their projects to showcase their passion and the depth of their abilities.

Internship programmes: This allows students to explore their interests and various career fields before taking the leap and committing to a specific programme. The focus should also be on transferable skills.

Internships are an excellent way for students to gain work experience, learn about professional opportunities, and network with like-minded peers.

Vocational training: Skill-based training can prepare students better for their future career options; whether it is their enrollment in colleges/universities or decision to join the corporate world.

To help students make a smooth transition from school to college, there is a need to develop a model that takes a multifaceted approach and considers all the essential aspects of education, including its social, economic, and cultural tenets.



High School

College

Entertainment



An entertaining film with a social relevant message

It is said and believed that cinema's main purpose is to entertain people. But the history of Hindi cinema tells us that cinema isn't just meant to entertain, but it is also a medium to make people think about their own issues, give out social messages and change rigid perceptions about society.

That is what 'Saroj Ka Rishta' succeeds in doing in a light-hearted way. 'Saroj Ka Rishta', directed by Abhishek Saxena, is a comedy film but it succeeds in making the viewer both smile and also question people's perception about 'overweight' girls.

And that's the biggest strength and the beauty of the film. 'Saroj Ka Rishta' is a story of a girl named Saroj who lives in the city of Ghaziabad. On the surface, she is a common girl, like every other girl living in the city, but her being overweight is what gets noticed by people whenever she steps out of her house.

But Saroj is not bothered or bogged down by what people think about her appearance and how she looks. She believes in enjoying her life to the fullest. Even though she is considered 'overweight', she has no dearth of boys who lust after her or want her to marry them.

Effervescently played by Sanah Kapur, Saroj makes you laugh because of her demeanour and behaviour, and with her razor-sharp tongue she also makes you think about the kind of society we live in. That is where 'Saroj Ka Rishta' scores.

The relationship shown between father and daughter in the film has been

portrayed in a funny as well as emotional manner. The father of Saroj, played by Kumud Mishra, is so much attached to his daughter that he wants her to marry a man who agrees to stay in their house post marriage so that the father is not separated from her.

There are many scenes between father and daughter that will bring tears to your eyes. Kumud Mishra, who fits perfectly into the role of Saroj's father, enacts his part brilliantly and shows his range and caliber as an actor.

'Saroj Ka Rishta' excels in all departments. The lyrics, for starters, are meaningful; the music and background score give a different high to the movie. The thoughtfully written dialogues touch your heart. The cinematography makes each and every frame look very rich and provides great context to the wholesome experience of watching the film.

Apart from Sanah Kapur and Kumud Mishra, Gaurav Pande and Randeep Rai also excel in their roles and leave an impact on the audience. Supriya Pathak, Sanah's real-life mother, has also played an important cameo in the film.

Needless to say, she leaves a mark with just a few minutes of her appearance in the film. Overall, it can be said that once you leave the theatre after watching an entertaining and socially relevant film, you'll have a big smile on your face and great satisfaction in your heart.

Presented by MiiCall, 'Saroj Ka Rishta' is a heartwarming film that releases this Friday in cinemas near you. Don't miss it at any cost!

Amber Heard accused of blackmailing director Wan to keep her role in 'Aquaman 2'

Actress Amber Heard is hit with yet another accusation in the aftermath of the much-publicised defamation trial against Johnny Depp. She is now accused of blackmailing Hollywood men to nab parts, including 'Aquaman' director James Wan.

According to a source close to production producers, the rumours about Heard had been swirling even "before the divorce drama started, it's just a different tune now."

The source went on detailing, "Anybody who is anybody in Hollywood has heard of Amber's wild orgies and sadly that means Depp knew too. He knew and it was slowly killing him."

"He didn't want to confront Heard, he just ran away, went on benders to try and kill his emotions and thoughts with drugs and alcohol."

As "most big studios began distancing themselves from Amber Heard after the messy divorce simply because they didn't want to upset Johnny Depp by hiring her," the source wonders how Heard managed to secure her role in 'Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom' following her loss in the defamation case, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"A lot of us were actually pretty shocked when we found out that Amber Heard had been cast as Mera in the 'Aquaman' movies - not because of the Johnny Depp situation but because she's not a great actress. I would hesitate to even call her b-list," the source further told Australian gossip site Pop Topic.



John Boyega says he is 'disciplined' with dating options

Actor John Boyega is "very disciplined" when it comes to who he views as a potential partner and won't give in to any pressure to rush into settling down.

The 'Woman King' actor said that he is "very disciplined" when it comes to who he views as a potential partner and won't give in to any pressure to rush into settling down.

He told GQ Hype: "I only date Black, then it's about chemistry, personality, goals. Is there a synergy? Can I help you? Can you help me? I'm very disciplined in the type of women I speak to. They don't want you in their business."

"Being in the public eye, they would prefer if you had the wife and family. It's the ultimate PR package. But my parents have been together for 35 years. There's nothing that this world can do in terms of pressure to make me be inspired by anything else but my parents."

The 'Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens' actor said that finding love has become more of a priority for him since he turned 30 earlier this year, reports an entertainment website.

Asked if he now focuses on love after focusing on work for so long, he said: "Both are a priority. That's changed. I'm 30 now. From 28, I just worked on getting peace and getting myself together. Moving with honesty and transparency. No misleading. No lying. And being devoted to what I commit myself to."

