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Droupadi Murmu calls for women-led development at the 70th National Film Awards

Angel Deborah, III BA JOEN



Winners of 70th National Film Awards

The 70th National Film Awards took place, where the winners of different categories were honored by the President, Droupadi Murmu. The legendary actor Mithun Chakraborty was awarded the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024. Although the event was centered on finesse in art and cinema, it also delivered a socio-political message when the president urged more efforts toward women's achievement in motion pictures. This appeal stemmed from the fact that out of the 85 recipients of the award, only 15 were women.

She also highlighted how film and social media have an influence on changing society and asked to make efficient use of these platforms to advance gender equality and women's rights. Such a statement can be seen

as a general call for women's leadership across industries in India to increase women's representation in fields that are predominantly dominated by men, including cinema.

The awards also rewarded the newcomers and brilliant movies across genres and languages. For the MGR Sivajilingam Award for the Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role, Manasi Parekh won for the Gujarati film Kutch Express, while Nithya Menon won the Best Female Actor Award for the movie Thiruchitrambalam. For the Hindi film 'Uunchai,' Sooraj R. Barjatya received the award for Best Director.

The Malayalam feature film "Aattam," directed by Anand Ekarshi, stood as the winner for the 'Best Feature Film' category.

Rishabh Shetty has bagged the Best Male Actor for his performance in the Kannada language movie "Kantara." Movies like "Kantara" and "Aattam" show how regional cinema is slowly beginning to gain national, and in some cases, international, attention due to the creativity they depict.

"Gulmohar" bagged the award for Best Hindi Film, while Niki Joshi received the award for Best Costume Designer for Kutch Express. Such accolades pay attention to the technical aspect of filmmaking, given that films are not only the artistic production of the actors, the director, or the

screenwriter but are collaborative works of many talents. In the music category, the winners of the ARIIA-based Best Music Director were A. R. Rahman for the movie 'Ponniyin Selvan-Part 1' (Tamil).

Along with honoring cinematic accomplishments, the National Film Awards ceremony has also been used to discuss topical subjects and gender inequality in particular. President Murmu's plea for more development of the industry that is spearheaded by women also incorporated the general idea of the fight for gender parity in Indian society and other sectors as well.

Delhi University approves the strategic plan 2024-27 for the betterment of education

Amit Jayahar, III BA JOPS

The Delhi university's academic council on 10th October approved the revised strategic plan 2024-27 which was withdrawn in last year December followed by allegations of plagiarism from various institutions and universities.

Earlier the members of the academic council have opposed the 52-page document. The strategic plan which was made last year is aimed at making the DU into an "internationally acclaimed university" but due to some criticism it was removed.

A university official has said that since the documents were found unsatisfactory, they were reworked by the research council and he also added that the document mostly has the same content, but there is more clarity about DU's policies.

A few errors were removed, and new points were added. The new 22-page document mentions 'Viksit Bharat' which means developed India and it also discusses the principle of 'Rashtra Pratham' which means nation first.

Ritu Rathee Addresses Divorce Rumors, Urges Fans Against Sympathy

Shagun Joshi, III BA JOEN

In a heartfelt video titled "Divorce Reality Check", Ritu Rathee, the wife of a popular YouTuber, Gaurav Taneja (Flying Beast), opened up about the complexities surrounding their recent separation. While addressing the flood of rumours and accusations towards her husband, she urged her followers to stop attacking Gaurav Taneja through social media.

In her emotional video, Ritu Rathee reflected on her 8-year marriage with Gaurav Taneja, revealing that their relationship is far more different than what the audience has seen in their daily vlogs over the years. "A small thing happened between a husband and wife. The husband thought he was right, the wife thought she was right. He became stubborn, so did I," she explained, sharing how a small situation made a disturbing impact on their lives.

Ritu Rathee exclaimed that she was frustrated by the nature of social media, where assumptions and rumours often fuel the narrative of the audience. "I am frustrated with people who are assuming that they understand my judgments for my marriage," she said. She further explained that she had stepped back from social media over a year ago, to lead a more private life. Despite this, she has found herself at the centre of unwanted sympathy and affection from the audience,

which has only added to her emotional strain.

One particular incident that bothered her a lot was a viral video of her where she went to a private preaching session of a spiritual guru named Premanand Govind Sharan. In the clip, she expressed her concerns related to motherhood, what decision she should take about her marriage when she and her husband are not on good terms, and how she will take care of her two children. "In the future, I will have to quit my job to look after my daughters." She criticized the public for invading her privacy during an intimate session with a spiritual guru whom she worships. She expressed her denial towards the audience to make unfair decisions and to spread rumours about her struggles.

Despite the challenges that they are facing, Ritu Rathee was firm in expressing the respect that she still holds for her husband after their eight years of marriage. She appreciates the support of her fan base but requests them to stay out of her personal matters. As Ritu Rathee concluded her video, she remained hopeful that her fans would respect her call for privacy. Her decision to address the public was not to provide a detailed explanation of her marital issues, but rather to clarify misconceptions and unwanted sympathy that the couple does not need.



RBI Boosts UPI Limits and Adds Name Verification for Safer Transfers

Ankita Das, III BA JOEN



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced an increase in UPI123 and UPI Lite transaction limits on Thursday in an attempt to promote greater use of the Universal Payments Interface (UPI).

At the moment, UPI123 Pay has a maximum transaction limit of 5000 rupees. After consulting with stakeholders, the RBI has decided to raise the "per-transaction" limit to 10,000 rupees in order to increase usage.

Additionally, the RBI made the decision to raise the overall wallet limit from 2000 to 5000 rupees and the per-transaction limit on UPI Lite from 500 to 1000 rupees. Following the example of payment systems like UPI and IMPS, the banking regulator has decided to add a 'Beneficiary Account Name Look-

Up Facility' for Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems.

This will allow the remitter to confirm the beneficiary's name before completing a payment transaction, which means when a person wants to transfer funds, they can see the name of the person they are sending the money to before the transaction is finalised.

This option can be easily compared to the features that are already present in other payment systems including RTGS and NEFT. This improvement has been introduced to help mitigate risks and enhance user security. The RBI hopes that more Indian users will choose UPI for transferring their funds in future.

India-Australia Clash Amid Injury Concerns Among the Players

Hamna Najiya, III BA JOPS

The match between India and Australia's women's teams does not require special assistance in the drama department. Ahead of their big group clash here on Sunday, injuries to key members of the Australian squad have shaken up the arts further.

In the previous match against Pakistan in Dubai, Tayla Vlemink, returning to World Cup cricket for her country, for the first time in 18 months, miserably dislocated her bowling shoulder. This was Tayla's first match at the World Cup, and given the

bowling depth. However, the worried faces of the players and Ellis Perry immediately urging the girls to boost their spirits, and Ashley Gardner's insistence on supporting Tayla certainly point to some holes in morale as we approach the business end of the tournament. India has its own problems.

It's a two-way battle with New Zealand. The Kiwis have the advantage of knowing their exact requirements to qualify as they play their final group game against a weak Pakistan side.

The Surge in News Stories on Violence Against Women: What's Happening?

Arpita Jha, III BA JOEN

Many people begin the day going through the news either digitally or in the old prints. However, recently it has been written that more than ever, news regarding violence against women has surged. It appears that such news mostly revolves around home violence, harassment, and all those other dreadful offenses. This has become such a frequent occurrence in what we go through in terms of the news, that some questions were raised on the reason as to why it seems so dominant in our pages of the news and its implications.

It is hard to face, but it is a proof of progress. These stories were covered up for too long, and so many women were afraid to utter a word. Nowadays, with all sorts of platforms, many women are becoming strong enough to speak. The media responded by spreading so

much about such stories, thus highlighting the daily problems women have to contend with.

However, the more we report, the greater the challenge. We must share these stories, but the more we are exposed to them, the greater the risk of

becoming desensitized. People get used to seeing such stories. When we come across such stories of crimes daily, it becomes easy to stop paying attention altogether. We begin to scroll past these stories and forget the actual suffering they represent. Media has to be careful with this as well because there needs

to be a balance between keeping people informed and making them sick of the same thing time and time again.

News outlets can address this issue by featuring a broader range of narratives. While reporting on violence is crucial, it is equally

important to showcase stories of optimism and transformation. For example, the media can cover the implementation of laws and policies aimed at safeguarding women. These types of stories not only educate the public but also have the potential to motivate individuals to take action or help others fac-

ing similar challenges. The media needs to improve their elaboration of the root causes of violence. Instead of reporting on the individual cases, they must probe into the root causes contributing to such acts within the community. Toxic masculinity, the inequality between genders, or some outdated cultural practices might appear as some of the influencing factors behind the events of violence against women. Providing context, the media may bring about the understanding that these events are not stray and, thus, require attention.

The media should continue reporting on these stories, but in a manner that does not overwhelm readers or make them indifferent to the issues. The ultimate goal should be to evoke hope and provide a deeper insight into the reasons for their persistence.



Kuwait Fire Claims 49 Lives, Triggers Investigation

Varsha M, III BA JOPS

The devastating fire in Kuwait tragically claimed the lives of 49 people, mostly Indian nationals from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and various Northern Indian states.

The victims were mainly unskilled and semi-skilled workers who died from smoke inhalation and severe burns while sleeping in a building housing about 200 residents. The fire, sparked

by an electrical circuit, broke out in the kitchen of a six-story residential building in the Mangaf area of Southern Kuwait's Ahmadi State.

This structure accommodated a large number of employees from the same company, making the incident all the more devastating. The fire spread to the upper floors, causing panic and chaos. In desperate attempts to escape,

some individuals jumped from the building. Others were severely injured due to respiratory poisoning, and some were critically burned.

The death toll of 49 people was confirmed by Kuwait's interior minister. In response to this terrible tragedy, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, ordered a thorough investigation into the fire.

He guaranteed that those responsible for this tragedy would be held accountable and would have to face severe consequences. The government has pledged to enhance safety measures and ensure accountability. The Indian Ambassador Adarsh Swaika visited local hospitals, meeting the injured workers and victims and offering them support.

Coldplay Tickets Vanish in a Matter of Seconds, Leaving Fans Disappointed

Saaraa Khadeeja Sunil, III BA JOEN

British rock band Coldplay is coming back to India in 2025! They'll be performing their "Music of the Spheres" tour at Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium. Originally, the band planned two shows on January 18 and 19, but due to overwhelming demand, they added a third show on January 21. Many fans rushed to get tickets, causing the BookMyShow website to crash within minutes!

When the tickets first went on sale, fans logged in early on multiple devices to secure their seats. The demand was so high that the servers couldn't keep up, leading to crashes and long wait times. Tickets sold out almost instantly, leaving many disappointed as resale prices skyrocketed. Fortunately, the announcement of the extra show gave more fans a chance to see the band live.

Indian fans have a special connection with Coldplay. They first performed in India at the Global Citizen

Festival in 2016. Lead singer Chris Martin even filmed a video on the streets of India for his music video for the song "Hymn for the Weekend", winning over many hearts. The band, Chris Martin (vocals and guitar), Jonny

about giving up anything for a seat. With the extra show, excitement grew, and fans felt their wishes had been heard.

Coldplay's concerts will draw thousands of fans from India and around the world to Mumbai. Local ho-

Mumbai, I was thrilled and logged in hours before tickets went on sale on multiple devices. When I finally got in, I saw I was 200,000 people behind in the queue! That really showed how many wanted to attend the concert.

The experience will be unforgettable, filled with dazzling lights, thrilling sounds, and incredible crowd energy. After the event, visuals from the concerts are sure to trend across India. Rumors are swirling that Bollywood stars and other artists may join the concerts, adding to the excitement. With bright lights, fireworks, glowing wristbands, and stunning projections.

Fans can hardly contain their excitement, eagerly awaiting a night filled with music, lights, and fireworks. Now that the tickets are sold, the countdown to January is on! As the dates get closer, Coldplay fever is growing stronger in India.



Members of the Coldplay Band

Buckland (lead guitar), Guy Berryman (bass guitar), and Will Champion (drums). This concert is more than just a show, it's an experience itself.

On social media, those who managed to get tickets celebrated, while those who missed out shared funny memes and lyrics, joking

tels, restaurants, and transport services are getting ready for the crowds and expect a boost in business. This concert isn't just an event; it's a huge celebration that will unite fans from all walks of life for three nights of amazing music.

Even though I don't live in

Justice Served Immediately after Alleged Assault in Kalkere Village

Rachel Kamble, III BA JOEN



A 33-year-old man was charged with harassment after being beaten up by a mob for allegedly attempting to assault a woman.

This incident took place at Kalkere Village of Bannerghatta Road. Ravi Kumar from Dharwad was a cook, and was booked as the

primary accused in the case. According to initial investigation, the victim, who was in her late 20s was on her way to the shop to buy milk when Ravi inappropriately touched her.

When the woman shouted for help, a group of men in the area came to her rescue and beat up the accused aggressively as they believed that he was prepared to sexually assault the woman.

Following this

beat-up, Ravi was being taken by the mob when nearby police heard the commotion. Ravi was then taken to the hospital and discharged the next day, and through his complaint, three of the mob members were arrested. The Superintendent of Police said that efforts to search for the other assaulted woman were on, however Ravi may not be arrested as the victim he allegedly assaulted refused to file the complaint even after persuasion.