

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Social Issues(GSI)-Page-1

Sexual abuse rampant in Malayalam film industry: report

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The K. Hema Committee report on the issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry has revealed horrid tales of sexual exploitation, illegal bans, discrimination, drug and alcohol abuse, wage disparity and in some cases, inhuman working conditions.

The 235-page report, released on Monday without the names of the witnesses and the accused five years after it was submitted to the Kerala government, notes that the industry is in the clutches of certain male producers, directors and actors, whom a prominent actor referred to as "mafia", as they could ban anyone.

The committee confirms the rumoured existence of the practice of "casting couch" in the industry.

Contrary to the other fields, sexual harassment starts even before a woman starts working in the film

Horror script

The panel was formed on a demand by the Women in Cinema Collective to study the issues faced by women in the industry

Major findings in the panel report:

- The industry is in the clutches of certain male producers, directors and actors
- 'Casting couch' is a reality; even famous people in the industry ask for sexual favours in lieu of roles
- Many don't reveal things fearing adverse consequences



■ No changing rooms or toilets in the set

industry as demands for sexual favours are made by very well-known people in lieu of roles.

Some of the witnesses provided video and audio clips and screenshots of WhatsApp messages as proof of "casting couch" attempts.

Many of the women find it unsafe to stay alone in the accommodation arranged for them during shooting, as men in inebriated condition habitually knock on their doors. Attempts to forcibly enter their room by knocking down doors were

also recounted by witnesses, notes the report. One specific case mentions an actor who had to act as the wife of her abuser the very next day of the incident, causing the victim immense trauma. In an attempt to persuade newcomers, some people in the industry actively create the impression that successful women have made it through "compromises".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 5

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The Hindu –Environment (GSIII)-Page 9



Greener future: A camel drinks water from a small pond in Banni near the Great Rann of Kutch in 2018. FILE PHOTO

How the Banni grasslands of Kachchh, Gujarat can be restored

The Kachchh district in Gujarat houses one of the largest tracts of grasslands in the country. In a new study, researchers have assessed the suitability of different areas of Banni for sustainable grassland restoration, considering ecological value to be the primary criterion

- Grasslands are one of the largest ecosystems in the world.
- They are distributed mainly in semiarid and arid areas, and include savannahs, grassy shrublands, and open grasslands.
- They harbour a large number of unique and iconic species and offer a variety of material and intangible advantages to people, including several ecosystem services such as carbon storage, climate mitigation, and pollination.
- Like other types of biodiversity, they face the problem of degradation due to deforestation, overgrazing, agriculture, urbanisation, and other natural and human-made reasons.
The Kachchh district in Gujarat, in the western part of the country, houses one of the largest tracts of grasslands in the country. Popularly known as ‘Banni’, it once covered an area of approximately 3,800 sq. km but
- it has now decreased to about 2,600 sq. km.

The Hindu –Economy (GSIII)-Page 13

RBI draws plan for financial market SRO recognition

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework for recognition of Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) in financial markets for strengthening compliance among SRO members and providing a consultative platform for policy making.

The framework specifies broad parameters such as objectives, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, membership, governance standards and application process for the recognition of these SROs.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)



A female Bornean orangutan carries her offspring at a rehabilitation centre in Sepilok, Malaysia. REUTERS

Malaysia reconsiders plan to send its orangutans abroad

Agence France-Presse
KUALA LUMPUR

- The name orangutan means "man of the forest" in the Malay language.
- They have a characteristic ape-like shape, shaggy reddish fur and grasping hands and feet.
- They are the largest arboreal mammal, spending most of their time in trees.
- They are the closest living relatives of humans and they share 96.4% of Human genes and are highly intelligent creatures.
- There are three species of Orangutan - the Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli - which differ a little in appearance and behaviour.
- Habitat and Distribution : They can occur up to 1,500m above sea level, most are found in lowland areas and prefer forests in river valleys or floodplains.
- These great apes are only found in the wild on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- IUCN Red List status :All three orangutan species are critically endangered

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)

Ministry of Earth Sciences

India shines at the 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad

Posted On: 17 AUG 2024 11:02AM by PIB Delhi

The Indian student team has bagged multiple prestigious medals at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO) held in Beijing, China, from August 08-16, 2024. The four-membered Indian team comprising students from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have won three gold and bronze each and two silver medals across three competition categories (Theory and Practical, Earth System Project, and International Team Filed Investigation).

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, congratulated the Indian team and expressed appreciation for bringing the coveted academic laurel to the country.

"The International Earth Science Olympiad is one of the most successful student-centric programs facilitated under the REACHOUT (Research, Education, Training and Outreach) scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. We are proud of our young earth science wizards and achievers", said Dr M Ravichandran, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) congratulating the winners.

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- IESO, established in 2003 at the International Geoscience Education Organization Council Meeting in Calgary, Canada, is an annual competition for secondary school students from across the globe. It aims to generate awareness of earth sciences through teamwork, collaboration, exchanging ideas, and competition.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Environment

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

FSSAI Launches Project to Address Microplastic Contamination in Indian Food

New FSSAI Initiative Aims to Develop Detection Methods and Assess Prevalence of Microplastics in Indian Food

Posted On: 18 AUG 2024 1:51PM by PIB Delhi

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched an innovative project to tackle the growing concern of microplastic contamination in food on August 18, 2024, in New Delhi. Recognising microplastic pollution as an emerging threat that requires immediate attention, the project - **“Micro-and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants: Establishing Validated Methodologies and Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices”** – was started in March this year to develop and validate analytical methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in various food products, as well as assess their prevalence and exposure levels in India.
- The primary objectives of the project include developing standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conducting intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Defence

Raksha Mantri & External Affairs Minister to host their Japanese counterparts for 3rd 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

Shri Rajnath Singh to also hold a bilateral meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Mr Kihara Minoru

The interactions aim to further deepen defence cooperation & Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries

Posted On: 19 AUG 2024 4:04PM by PIB Delhi

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will host Japanese Minister of Defense Mr Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Yoko Kamikawa for the 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on August 20, 2024. On the sidelines of the 2+2 dialogue, a bilateral meeting will be held between the Raksha Mantri and his Japanese counterpart.
- India and Japan share 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law. Defence has emerged as one of the most important pillars in this relationship. Strengthened India-Japan defence partnership is vital for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific in the prevailing global environment.
- This visit will further deepen defence cooperation and bring greater depth to the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries. The second India-Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in September 2022 in Japan.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Governance(GSII)

Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Reaches Successfully
Completes 500 Bone Marrow Transplants



- The Ministry of Coal on Monday (19th August 2024) said that Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana has reached a significant milestone with the successful completion of 500 bone marrow transplants. The programme provides financial assistance of up to 10 lakh rupees per patient for the treatment of Thalassemia Major and Aplastic Anemia.
- The scheme was launched in 2017, and it supports families with an annual income below 8 lakh rupees. In a statement, the Ministry further said that Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) and its joint ventures have set up 28 medical oxygen plants with a combined capacity of 2 thousand 5 hundred beds across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-Health(GSII)

Sudan Declares Cholera Outbreak, WHO Reports 316 Deaths



Sudan's Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim today officially declared a cholera outbreak in the country. The announcement came shortly after the World Health Organization (WHO) said that about 316 people had died of cholera in Sudan.

Since the war broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023, epidemic diseases such as cholera, malaria, and measles have spread, leaving hundreds dead.

- Sudan declares Cholera outbreak, WHO Reports 316 Deaths
- Cholera is an extremely serious disease that can cause severe acute watery diarrhoea with severe dehydration. It takes between 12 hours and 5 days for a person to show symptoms after consuming contaminated food or water. Cholera affects both children and adults and can kill within hours if untreated.

