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Fuel cost hike shatters bikers' dreams

Suhas S Kashyap

BENGALURU: The recent increase in the fuel prices is badly affecting the bikers, with biking enthusiasts saying they are sometimes forced to cancel plans or postpone them due to fuel expenses.

Pranuth Kumar, a biking enthusiast, said: "I was planning to ride back to my native place like every year, but this time I had to take the train because of the fuel expense that I would have had to incur if I rode my bike. It generally takes around Rs 1,300 in fuel expenses to reach home, but this time it was expected to be around Rs 1,600."

He added: "Also, given that I had to ride back here, it was



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a good amount of added expense. I recently had to cancel my Puducherry ride as most of the riders backed out

due to increasing fuel prices. We expected an additional expense of Rs 1,400 per vehicle. The difference was

huge, considering the whole group."

Pavan Kumar, an entrepreneur and biking

enthusiast, echoed the sentiments. He said: "The fuel expense makes bikers feel it's not worth taking the bikes out. If this is the scenario, it will have a negative effect on the biking community, and biking will be only for commuting and not as a hobby."

He explained: "I own a naked sport bike of 900cc. It takes up more fuel than other bikes. Given the current fuel prices, I feel it's better to just look at it and not ride."

He also said: "I am a part of a biking club and we are planning to start an Explore Karnataka Ride on March 7. I am very worried about the money I will have to spend on my bike, which may be as much as Rs 4,500 than expected."

Sansad TV a 'brutal murder' of democracy: Trinamool MP

Shahul Hameed

BENGALURU: Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien on Tuesday, March 2, said the merger of Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV into a single channel called Sansad TV was a "brutal murder" of the parliamentary system and democracy.

He further questioned the "institution of accountability" of the functions of Parliament as there were doubts regarding the limitation of access to the live telecast, air time of the members to raise issues, as the farm bill portion was censored out for telecast.

He was speaking merely hours after news of the merger leaked. There has been no official confirmation yet from the central government or any of its arms yet.

Retired IAS officer Ravi Capoor has reportedly been appointed as the first CEO of Sansad TV for a period of one year or until further orders. He will be responsible for all the final working of the merger.

Meanwhile, O'Brien in the video in his tweet can be heard claiming that Rajya Sabha TV had been asked to cut its telecast so the Opposition parties' protests in the Upper House could not be broadcast.

Users wary as cost of OTT subscriptions keep rising

Anna Mariam I

BENGALURU: "I was thinking I should calculate how much I spend on Over The Top (OTT) platform subscriptions in a year," said Agnidh Baruah, a postgraduate student.

Baruah is not the only one who feels the proliferation of OTT platforms — each with a separate subscription fee — is burning a hole in their pocket.

"Netflix is expensive but given the amount of good original content they have, I think the price is very much worth it. However I like to support the companies I use a lot, and the fact that Spotify is one of those apps always running on my phone and laptop makes it feel worth it," said college student Kanishk Biswas.

Jerin George, an IT-firm employee said he shares his OTT packages with friends if it is a year-long subscription. He said he doesn't consume much content from OTT platforms.

"Once in a while I take a one-month subscription for Netflix whenever I am free and am in a mood to watch movies," he said.

Pratibha 2021 gets underway at SJC

Nandita Narayanan

BENGALURU: "Education must always go with talent and that talent must always help the society," said Fr Victor Lobo SJ, Principal of St Joseph's College (Autonomous), during the Inauguration of the intra-collegiate cultural festival Pratibha 2021 on Monday, March 1.

"This year's theme celebrates us. It celebrates our resilience, resistance and our revolution," said Shruti Lal, students council

president, while speaking at the event.

Usually, the annual cultural fest takes place in August or September, but has been postponed to March due to the ongoing pandemic, she added.

The theme of the fest is Epoch of the Dauntless. It has new events like Aircrash and multiplayer gaming.

The college will be conducting most of the events online and some of the events offline, keeping in mind the Covid-19 protocols. Fr Denzil E Lobo, head of



Pratibha 2021 Inauguration

Nandita Narayanan

the IT cell, Registrar Melvin Colaco, PG block Vice-Principal Rabbi Akkiba Angiras and others were also present at the inauguration.

There were performances by

various student associations like Western Dance Team (JStreets Crew), Western Music Association, MIMA and city-based rock band Manga.

'India's biotech sector will be \$150b by 2025'

Worinphi R Shimray

The Indian biotech sector, valued at \$62 billion in 2012, "will grow to \$150 billion by 2025," said VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, on Tuesday, March 2.

He was speaking during the first day of the three-day Global Bio-India 2021, inaugurated by Union Home Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Saraswat said on the occasion, "During the pandemic, the startups in the biotech sector have come out as great success stories to

show to the world."

Deepak Bagla, CEO of Invest India, said at the event: "India is one of the most open economies in the world, with a top greenfield destination. Hence the scope in the biotech sector is quite wide."

Swiss Ambassador Ralf Heckner said at the event: "India today is big part of solutions in science and innovation sectors."

He added: "We want India to know Switzerland as a highly competitive country in terms of innovation, development."

Your guide to pre-Holi skincare

Varsha Benedict

BENGALURU: Colours on your skin only look good on Holi, so as the festival of colours approaches, experts suggest that skincare should be number one on your list.

Dr Bandana Ganguly, a noted dermatologist from Kolkata, recommended having a pre-Holi checklist to not regret the colours.

"Drench yourself in a good moisturiser, body oil or coconut oil if you have to, because you will be exposed to a lot of chemicals," she said.

"This not only will act as a barrier to your skin, but also



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help you get rid of all the colours later. Sunscreen is also another key to help protect your skin," she added.

Makeup artist Ranajoy Basu said: "Wear sunglasses and refrain from using contact

lenses, because you don't want the colours to cause eye infection.

He added: "Apply the darkest shade of nail enamel; this helps you avoid weird colors on your nails the next day."