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Can a non-Hindu enter into a temple?

Dr. Ajay Kummar Pandey Advocate, Supreme Court

he Court ruled that Hindus enjoy the same unimpeded freedom to follow their religion as other communities. The State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department and the Tamil Nadu government were instructed by the Madras High Court to make sure that non-Hindus are not allowed to enter the Palani temple (Arulmigu Dhandayuthap-

aniswamy Temple) and its sub-temples

in Tamil Nadu beyond the flagpole

Temples are not places for picnics. According to the Madurai court, Justice S Srimathy and Hindus have the same freedom to practice their faith freely

area.

as any other community. Consequently, the Court ordered the State government to "erect signs stating that non-Hindus are not permitted" anywhere within the temple grounds past the flagpole. The judge further mandated that anyone who is not Hindu and wants to attend the temple must give a written declaration stating that she accepts Hinduism, its traditions, and the gods of the temple.

The Court then gave the following instructions:

i) The respondents have been instructed to erect signs that state, "Non-Hindus are not allowed inside temple after Kodimaram," at the entrances to the temples, in the vicinity of Kodimaram, and in conspicuous locations within the temple.

- ii) The responses have been instructed to forbids non-Hindus who do not adhere to the Hindu faith.
- iii) If a non-Hindu claims to have visited a particular deity in the temple, the respondents must get an assurance from the non-Hindu that he has faith in the deity and that he will adhere to both temple and Hindu customs. Based on this assurance, the non-Hindu may be permitted to visit the temple.
- iv) Anytime a non-Hindu is permitted based on the undertaking, it must

recorded in the register that the temple will keep.

v) The respondents are required to uphold the temple's grounds by closely adhering to its

agamas, rituals, and traditions. The Palani Hill Temple Devotees Organization's organizer, D Senthilkumar, filed a petition with the court asking for orders to place such prohibitory boards and signage. A Muslim family with many women in "Burquas," according to Senthilkumar's petition, had bought tickets at the train station to travel to the Palani hilltop, which is the location of the temple, in June of last year. When the police attempted to stop them, they claimed that there was no board preventing non-Hindus from entering. Senthilkumar informed the court that the family wanted to visit the summit to take pictures.

SNAP

SHOTS

How 600 Years Mosque Escaped Bulldozer?

New Delhi SLNS

he Delhi High Court has restored the pre-demolition status of the 600-yearold mosque. The DDA demolished the Akhoonji mosque in Mehrauli last week; according to the locals,



the mosque was constructed during the Delhi Sultanate. On Monday, the Delhi High Court mandated that the Delhi Development Authority preserve the existing conditions on the area where the Akhoondji/Akhunji mosque, which dates back 600 years, was demol-

The decision issued by Justice Sachin Datta states that the current situation will persist until the next hearing on February 12. The Court made it clear that the current situation only applies to this specific property and does not stop the authorities from taking action against other houses that are illegal. On the Delhi Waqf Board Managing Committee's plea, the Court issued its ruling. The petitioner's attorney informed the court that the mosque had been there for perhaps 600-700 years before it was destroyed without any prior warning.



Reflecting On A Riveting Discussion On DD Urdu

New Delhi SLNS

ecently had the privilege to participate in a thought-provoking cussion on DD Urdu's program APNA MULK APANA AAIYN, hosted the insightful Nauman Hasmi. Alongside me was the esteemed Dr. Parul Gurudev, a distinguished Advocate, adding depth to our discourse.

The engagement was enriched further by the presence of eager law students from Maharaja Agersen College, lending a vibrant energy to the conversation. We delved deep into the nuances of the People Representation Act, dissecting its implications and addressing the pressing issues plaguing our current electoral system. From electoral reforms to the challenges hindering the realization



Seen in picture from (Lift to Right) Adv. Dr. Parul Gurudev, Nauman Hasmi and Adv. Dr. Ajay Kummar Pandey

of a truly free and fair election process, every aspect was scrutinized. Having handled numerous election-related cases at the Supreme Court and contributing to various deliberations convened by the Election Commission, I shared insights garnered from firsthand experiences. Additionally, my involvement in the High-Level Committee formed by PM Modi, under the leadership of Ex-President Ram Nath Kovind, on the crucial matter of 'one nation, one election', provided valuable perspec-

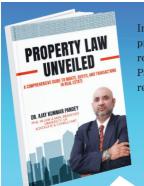
Challenges Before India Today:

Ensuring impartiality and transparency in the electoral process amidst rising concerns of malpractices. Addressing the influence of money and muscle power in elections. Tackling the menace of fake news and misinformation impacting voter decisions. Enhancing voter participation and trust in the electoral process, especially among marginalized communities.

Proposed Solutions:

Implementation stringent measures to curb electoral fraud and ensure accountability. Introducing reforms to regulate campaign financing and reduce the influence of money in politics. Strengthening cybersecurity measures to safeguard against external interference and manipulation. Promoting voter education and awareness initiatives to empower citizens with accurate information. As we navigate the complexities of modern democracy, it's imperative to foster inclusive dialogues and advocate for reforms that uphold the sanctity of our electoral system. Together, let's strive towards a future where every voice is heard, and every vote truly counts.

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Surrogacy Act And Regulations Challenge

New Delhi SLNS

n a plea contesting the validity of Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 Section 2(1) (s), which bars single women from serving as surrogate mothers, the highest court issued notice.

Recently, the Supreme Court requested the Central government's answer to an appeal contesting the legality of Surrogacy (Regulations) Act, 2021, Section 2(1)(s), which prohibits single women from serving as surrogate mothers. [the Union of India v. Jaswinder Kaur] According to the section that is being contested, an Indian woman can only be considered an "intending woman" for surrogacy if she is a widow or divorcee between the ages of 35 and 45.An unmarried 44-year-old woman filed the plea, arguing that the clause is "highly irrational, unlawful discriminatory, and violative to the Petitioner's fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21."

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih noted during the petition hearing that becoming a mother was customarily done inside the framework of marriage, not outside of it.

Judge Nagarathna went on to say, "While science has advanced. society has not...

Everything is not possible to obtain in life. You made the decision not to get married. Here, being in the West. We must defend the institution of marriage. We welcome you calling us conservative and labeling us as such." The amending notification dated March 14, 2023, which states that a single woman undergoing surrogacy must use her own eggs and donor sperms to obtain surrogacy, is also challenged



It worries us. Should

the nation continue to

recognize marriage as

an institution?

mother within framework marriage is normal. It is not common to be a mother outside

of the institution of marriage. It worries us. Should the nation continue to recognize marriage as an institution? We are not like nations.

in the case filed through Advocate Shvamalal Kumar. In addition to being against its own Rule 14, the plea

claims that the aforementioned notification is discriminatory towards the petitioner and lacks any iustification.







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Air India Pays Compensation to Senior Couple



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ased on the evidence, a committee made up of President Pawanjit Singh and member Suresh Kumar Sardana noted that the complainants experienced physical discomfort due to the substandard seats.

A Chandigarh district consumer complaints redressal committee recently ordered Air India to reimburse two elderly passengers who were made to sit on damaged seats during an Air India trip from New York to Delhi with 50,000. [Kumar Raiesh and Others, v. Air India Ltd.

Based on the evidence, a com-

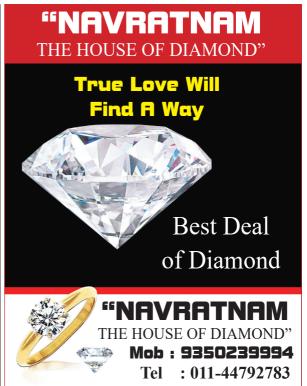
made up Pawanjit Singh and member Suresh Kumar Sardana noted that experienced complainants physical discomfort due to the substandard seats.

"The complainants had purchased two business class air tickets for Rs.8,24,964/- from New York to Delhi and the seats which were allotted to the complainants were defective since the same did not slide or moved forward as a result of which the complainant No.1 has suffered with physical pain and discomfort due to the swelling in his legs and feet throughout the long air journey by the complain-

ants," the Commission stated in its order from February 2. The complainants paid around Rs. 8 lakhs for business class tickets, believing they would travel in comfort and hassle-free. One of the complainants was disabled and had traveled to the US for physiotherapy treatments. They had to use stools to support their feet during the 14hour flight because the aircraft's chairs were broken. Despite concerns, the airline did not address the issue, which prompted legal action.

To support their claims, the complainants produced documentation such as ticket receipts. medical records, pictures of the faulty seats, and contact with the airline. The Commission determined that the airline's services were inadequate in light of this information, and it also mandated Rs.10,000 in litigation costs in addition to Rs.50,000 in compensation for mental distress and harassment.





Safer Tomorrow through Data-Driven Crime Prevention: PM Modi



s India's esteemed Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasizes at the recent Conference of Directors General of Police (DGP) and Inspectors General of Police (IG), we must harness the power of data analytics to combat criminal activities more effectively. This forward-thinking approach is already bearing fruit within our nation's capital, where the Delhi Police have demonstrated their commitment to innovation and evidence-based policing.

The Delhi Police has been at the forefront of leveraging technology for crime prevention and detection. One such initiative that stands out is the implementation of Crime Mapping and Analytics System (CMAS). CMAS uses geospatial mapping techniques to identify patterns and clusters of crimes across various districts, enabling targeted interventions and resource allocation. By analyzing historical crime data, this system helps predict potential hotspots and facilitates proactive measures against emerging threats.

A prime example of CMAS' success can be seen in its role during the festive season last year. The system predicted an increase in theft cases around specific areas based on previous years' trends. Consequently,

additional security personnel were for utilizing data in preventing crime deployed, resulting in a significant reduction in reported incidents compared to prior years.

Another innovative application of data analysis comes from the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, which utilizes social media intelligence to track online criminal networks and prevent cybercrimes. Through advanced algorithms and machine learning models, they monitor digital platforms to detect suspicious behavior or communication among criminals, ultimately disrupting their operations before any harm occurs.

Moreover, the Delhi Police has also implemented a robust surveillance network comprising over 78.000 closed-circuit tele-

high-resolution age, providing valuable visual evidence for investigations deterring criminal activity. Furthermore.

vision cameras (CCTVs).

These cameras capture

the force employs facial recognition software to quickly

match suspects with known offenders, expediting the identification process. These initiatives demonstrate how the Delhi Police is embracing technological advancements to enhance public safety. As we continue to evolve our strategies, it becomes increasingly clear that data will play a pivotal role in shaping a safer tomorrow.

With continued investment in research, training, and infrastructure, we can ensure that our law enforcement agencies remain ahead of the curve in combating crime and pro-

holds immense promise. By adopting cutting-edge technologies like those employed by the Delhi Police, we can create a safer environment for all Indians while fostering trust between communities and law enforcement. It is time for us to embrace these opportunities and work together towards building a brighter future.



05



New Delhi SLNS

n a groundbreaking move to combat the rampant issue of mobile snatching at Delhi's railway stations, the Delhi Police have implemented a revolutionary strategy, leading to their first major success in apprehending a notorious mobile snatcher.

Undercover officers. blending seamlessly among passengers, have ditched their uniforms to masquerade as regular commuters, strategically stationed across the station premises, trains, tracks, and platforms. This innovative approach marks a significant departure from conventional policing methods, with officers assuming civilian roles to ensnare criminals operating in plain sight.

The recent triumph unfolded when vigilant officers intercepted an alleged mobile snatcher who had brazenly targeted an ITBP personnel. Deputy Commissioner of Police, KPS Malhotra, disclosed that a meticulous spatial pattern analysis of the crimes facilitated the identification of hotspots prone to such incidents. "A team of plainclothes officers was swiftly deployed to execute the devised plan, resulting in the apprehension of the culprit," DCP Malhotra remarked. The entire operation was meticulously captured by CCTV cameras, providing irrefutable evidence of the successful apprehension. The sequence of events leading to the arrest was triggered by a complaint filed by T. Samuel, an ITBP Havaldar, who fell victim to a mobile snatching incident while boarding the Hisar Express at Sarai Rohila Railway Station. The perpetrator forcibly shoved him inside the train before making off with his mobile phone.

Utilizing advanced technological tools, the police promptly traced the location of the stolen device, indicating its presence within the station vicinity. Subsequently, SHO Upadhayay Balashankaran orchestrated a strategic maneuver to ensnare the culprit.

Analysis of crime data pertaining to the railway station unearthed a recurring trend of mobile thefts occurring in the vicinity of a particular lift during the early hours. Armed with this insight, a team of undercover officers positioned themselves near the identified hotspot. Employing a ruse, a head constable simulated a casual phone conversation while negligently placing the device in his back pocket, enticing the attention of the lurking snatcher. Swiftly seizing the opportunity, Constable Pritam, stationed nearby, apprehended the suspect, identified as Shadab (23), a resident of Anand Parbat. The stolen mobile phone belonging to the ITBP personnel was swiftly recovered from the perpetrator's possession.

In light of this successful operation, senior police officials have issued ad-

visories to the public to mitigate the risk of falling victim to such crimes. Commuters are urged not to linger near train doors while disembarking, as this common practice presents an opportunity for criminals to strike. Additionally, passengers are advised to remain within the train bogie until the train comes to a complete halt at the platform, minimizing exposure to potential threats.

The Delhi Police's innovative approach, coupled with strategic analysis and swift action, has not only resulted in the apprehension of a notorious mobile snatcher but also underscores their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of commuters within the city's bustling railway stations.

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Traffic Police Utilize Mobile Cameras

New Delhi SLNS

n a bid to enforce traffic regulations more efficiently, the Delhi Police have adopted a discreet yet effective approach by employing mobile cameras to monitor and penalize motorists for violations such as illegal parking, halting, and stopping in designated no-parking zones, particularly in the bustling Connaught Place area.

Traditionally, dealing with such violations involved considerable human interaction and often led to haggling between the police and motorists. However, a noticeable ists and police personnel. shift in strategy has emerged, with law enforcement now leveraging technology swiftly address these infractions. The use of mobile to



capture real-time footage of vehicles parked unlawfully, ensuring concrete evidence for issuing fines and penalties. This method not only streamlines the enforcement process but also minimizes the need for face-to-face confrontations, reducing potential conflicts between motor-

By adopting a faceless mechanism, the Delhi Police to have embraced a more efficient and objective approach enforcement. Violators cameras enables officers to now receive electronic chal-

lans directly to their registered mobile numbers or email addresses, eliminating the need for physical ticketing or manual intervention. Connaught Place, being one of the most congested areas in Delhi, has witnessed a significant improvement in traffic management since the implementation of this technology-driven initiative. Motorists are becoming increasingly aware of the consequences of flouting parking regulations, leading to a gradual reduction in such road users.

utilization of mobile cameras serves as a deterrent. dissuading individuals from engaging in illegal parking practices. This proactive enforcement strategy not only enhances road safety but also contributes to the overall efficiency of traffic management in the city center.

While some may argue that the use of technology in law enforcement lacks the human touch, it cannot be denied that it offers a more objective and transparent means of holding violators accountable. As the Delhi Police continue to harness the power of innovation in combating traffic infractions, the streets of Connaught Place and beyond are poised to become safer and more orderly for all

Can Parents Stop Children From Marrying On Their Own?

New Delhi SLNS

arents still don't approve of their children getting married on their own and even go so far as to file a formal complaint: Allahabad High Court Voices Worries*

Sections 363 and 366 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 7/8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act were invoked in the criminal case against a man, which was dismissed by the Allahabad High Court. Concerning the choices made by children in marriage, the Court noted that cultural pressures were causing lawsuits against them. This is an obvious example of the dark side of our culture, said Judge Prashant Kumar of the Bench. In modern times, parents who do not approve of their child's marriage due to social pressure and familial ties even file F.I.R. against the male when their child marries for the first time. The applicant was living together with the third party, the opposing party no. 3, after they were married. Dissatisfied with the marriage, the third party's father made a formal complaint, resulting in the filing of a charge sheet and the issuance of a summons. The attorney for Opposite Party No. 3 attested to their happiness and marital status, saying that the father's discontent with the marriage led to the start of the lawsuit. The Court voiced worry about the pressures from society that result in these kinds of situations, where parents take legal action against their children's marriage decisions. "The court records its deepest anguish, whereby this social menace is so deeply ingrained that even after 75 years of independence we are fighting the cases with his opponents on this score

alone," the court continued after hearing from the parties. The Court noted rulings that emphasized a person's right to choose their spouse and place of residence, regardless of age, provided the person is sui juris and older than eighteen. According to the ruling of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of Mafat Lal and Another Vs. State of Rajasthan in Crl. Appeal No. 592 of 2022 decided on March 28, 2022, there cannot be any obstacle in accepting this marriage, even though it is the biggest obstacle in our society. The court stated, "This is the greatest impediment in our society." The Court granted the application under Section 482 Cr.P.C. and quashed the proceedings of the criminal case described, taking into account the happy married status of the applicant and opposite party no. 3 as well as legal precedents safeguarding individual liberty.

Is Consensual Sex Rape?

② @editor.kumar @editor.kumar

he Supreme Court ruled that rape was proven to have occurred if the woman's consent was based on a false marriage promise from the beginning.

According to the Supreme Court, in order to prove that a woman's consent was gained based on a false promise of marriage from the beginning, rape charges based on such a claim must be proven. Anurag Soni v. State of Chhattisgarh (2019) 13 SCC 1 was cited by the bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Pankaj Mithal. "If it is established that from the inception, the consent by the victim is a result of a false promise to marry, there will be no consent, and in such a case, the offence of rape will be made out," the bench said. The man who filed the appeal was contesting the Bombay High Court's decision to not drop the rape case against him. The prosecution's case states that the man and lady had a four-year (2013-2017) sexual relationship under the false pretense that he would marry her. After seeing photos of the man's engagement ceremony with another woman in 2018, the woman filed a formal complaint, claiming that her assent was based on a misapprehension brought on by a fraudulent marriage promise. The man presented a document of "nikahnama" and asserted that he had married the complainant-woman in 2017. After reviewing the evidence submitted, the Supreme Court concluded that the woman was older than eighteen when she gave her permission to engage in a sexual relationship. For the full four years of the relationship, the woman made no objections. "Therefore, given the circumstances of the case, it is inconceivable to accept that the second respondent's false promise to marry allowed the physical relationship to continue with her from 2013 to 2017."

The court made the following observations after citing "Nikahnama":

The second respondent acknowledged that they were engaged. The second respondent admitted that the

appellant had proposed to her in 2011 and that she had become engaged in 2017. She didn't even object when she took part in the engagement ceremony. She has, however, refuted claims that she was married to the appellant. If the prosecution's case is true, it is impossible to accept that the appellant's marriage pledge was the sole reason the second respondent continued to have a sexual relationship. Based on the aforementioned observation, the court noted that since the man had provided ample evidence in the form of a Nikahnama to demonstrate his marriage to the woman, the case of false promise to marry was not estab-

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lished from the start. As a result, the court determined that carrying on with the prosecution in this particular case would be a flagrant abuse of the legal system and would not further the interests of the parties involved.

in ajaykumarpandey1



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