

Divorce contributes to global warming, says Delhi study

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Divorce not only proves disastrous for children, but is also bad for the environment and contributes to global warming. Sounds ridiculous? Well, it's not going by recent research findings.

The Capital's Additional District and Sessions Judge, Poonam A. Bamba says that this is true after her detailed research on this issue. She was fascinated when she came across a study conducted by scientists at the Michigan State University that was reported in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It says that the global trend towards higher divorce rate has created more households with fewer people. More households mean more

energy expended to build, towards fuel and to provide water for them.

Globally, the study points out, the number of households is increasing much faster than the number of people. Even in regions with declining population, there is a substantial increase in the number of households. Divorce is the main reason for reducing the number of people in a household. Whether there are two or three or six people in a house, the amount of fuel needed for heating is about the same.

"No data has been collected by any government or NGO in India to link divorces with global warming, but with my huge experience and studying research reports in the US (where divorce rate is alarmingly high) and Bangladesh, I can

claim that in India also, the same story is happening," says Bamba, author of a popular book 'Perfect Marriage - Not a Mirage' that she wrote on the basis of first-hand "encounters" with husbands and wives in different stages of agony and despair while holding the matrimonial court. Till recently, the 51-year-old was heading the Family Court in Rohini.

She recently presented her research at the Delhi Judicial Academy during a workshop on 'Why divorce is bad?' Researchers at the Department of Women and Child at the centre have also taken note of it.

A trained mediator, Bamba asks, "Is it not worth sparing a thought before breaking a marriage, and may be for humanity's sake?" Currently, posted at the Patiala House

SAVE THE EARTH

The global trend towards higher divorce rate has created more households with fewer people

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Courts, soft-spoken Bamba always quotes American President George Washington's comment in a letter dated May 1785 on the bond of marriage: "I have always considered marriage as the most interesting event of one's life, the foundation of

happiness or misery." Researchers, says Bamba, also found that divorce tosses out economies of scale. In America, divorced households used 73 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and 62,700 crore gallons of water in 2005 that could have been

saved if households had stayed the same size as when they were married. Thirty-eight million extra rooms were needed with associated costs for heating and lighting.

As per the study, in the US and 11 other countries such as Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Mexico and South Africa between 1998 and 2002, if divorced households had combined to have the same average household size as married households, there could have been 7.4 million fewer households.

The number of divorced households in those countries ranged from 40,000 in Costa Rica to almost 16 million in the US around the year 2000. The number of rooms per person in divorced households was 33 per cent to 95 per cent greater than in

married households.

Talking about the "economics of love", Bamba says a study conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, reported that taka 342,397.7 million, which was roughly 10 per cent of the gross domestic product of Bangladesh, was spent every year for the care of tortured or injured spouses, on their medical treatment, shelter and legal actions. Of the total cost associated with violence against women by their husbands, taka 131,180.7 million or 4.1 per cent of the GDP was spent on medical treatment of the injured or traumatised wives.

Women victims needed to spend taka 17,917 million covering treatment, displacement, arbitration, civil legal service, criminal justice

and lost working days, due to spousal violence per head per year. "India is not behind on this score though," says Bamba.

The finding that 10 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP was being wasted due to 'spousal violence' has forced the government to take immediate measures to address the problem. The Bangladesh Government is now planning to include 'domestic violence' as a subject in the school curriculum.

"Would not husbands and wives in India like to contribute to the GDP and help our economy grow?" asks the judge, who always advice litigants in the divorce cases: "Try to save marriage as this will save your energy and other resources... promote love for better utilisation of national income."

Shettar wants meeting with PM on Cauvery issue

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY/TNS

BANGALORE, DECEMBER 24

Undertore by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's refusal to meet him on two occasions in the recent past to discuss the controversial Cauvery water issue, Karnataka Chief Minister Jagdish Shettar has sought appointment with him once again on the issue of the sharing of the river water with the neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

In October, Shettar waited in New Delhi for three days to discuss the latest development on the Cauvery issue with the Prime Minister but was denied appointment. Apparently, the Prime Minister, who is also chairman of the Cauvery River

Authority (CRA), could not review his own order (regarding releasing water to TN by Karnataka) even if he wished to, as the Act would not allow this without getting the approval of the CRA.

Earlier this month, Shettar once again tried to meet Manmohan Singh to explain the "problems" being faced by the state in the wake of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee's order to it to release water to Tamil Nadu. But the PM refused to meet him and Shettar could only meet the union water resources minister Harish Rawat in Delhi.

Not one to be disheartened by Manmohan Singh's rebuff, Shettar has sought appointment with him once

again on the Cauvery issue.

A meeting with floor leaders of all the parties of Karnataka and MPs from the state was held on December 15 and it was resolved that a delegation led by the Chief Minister would call on the Prime Minister and represent the views of Karnataka on the publication of the final award of the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal.

In a letter written to the Prime Minister today, Shettar sought an appointment with him for the Karnataka delegation to impress upon him the need to consult all the states of the Cauvery basin before issuing the final notification by the union government.

Lokayukta police raids K'taka Deputy CM's residence

₹10.9 lakh in cash, 1.9 kg gold, 37 kg silver seized

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE, DECEMBER 24

If its first chief minister in Karnataka e m b a r r a s s e d the BJP after his name figured as an accused in the Lokayukta's report on illegal mining of iron ore, it is now the turn of the state party president to find himself in the middle of



KS Eshwarappa

a corruption scandal.

In an early morning swoop today, Lokayukta sleuths simultaneously raided several premises belonging to the Deputy Chief Minister and state BJP chief K S Eshwarappa.

The Lokayukta cops raided seven properties belonging to Eshwarappa, including his house at Malleshwar Nagar in Shimoga, his official residence in Bangalore and offices of the educational institutions and business establishments owned by him, a house in Hassan and his old residence in

Chakravathy Layout in Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore. The sleuths seized Rs 10.9 lakh in cash, 1.9 kg of gold and 37 kg of silver during the searches. The raids are still on.

A Shimoga court on December 15 ordered an investigation into a complaint filed by advocate B Vinod, who alleged that Eshwarappa, who holds the revenue and rural development and panchayat raj portfolios in the Jagadish Shettar-led government, his son Kanthesh and daughter-in-law Shalini had amassed wealth disproport-

ionate to their known sources of income. Lokayukta police had subsequently registered a case and taken up investigation.

Eshwarappa has been named as the first accused and his son and daughter-in-law the second and third accused in the FIR.

Vinod contended that Eshwarappa only had an ancestral house in Shimoga before 2006 and after assuming office in 2008, had purchased assets worth crores by misusing his position.

It is also alleged that a two acre plot of land in Bangalore

has been illegally transferred in the name of Eshwarappa's wife. The prime land worth Rs 1.14 crore was given to her for Rs 22.8 lakh only, which is much below the existing market rate.

Fearing arrest following the FIR, Eshwarappa and his family members have sought anticipatory bail from a Shimoga court.

Eshwarappa has rejected Congress demands for resignation as deputy chief minister to ensure a "fair" probe.

He is the latest BJP leader in Karnataka to face corruption cases.

CSD sales plummet as staff remain on strike

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 24

With the employees of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) proceeding on an indefinite strike in support of their demands, the sales of goods through its outlets has plummeted with the drop in Chandigarh, Mohali and Chandimandir alone being estimated at Rs 50 lakh per day.

There are five major canteens in the area with two located in the Chandigarh Air Force Station, one at Sector 21, Chandigarh, and one each in Mohali and Chandimandir.

These are staffed by civilian employees hired on a contractual basis. The canteen in Chandimandir, the largest among the five, alone accounts for sales worth about Rs 20 lakh a day, according to office-bearers of the CSD employees union.

With the employees being on strike since December 7, the total drop in sales from these five canteens runs into crores of rupees. There are about 4,500 CSD outlets nationwide with a combined annual turnover of Rs 10,000 crore, out of which a sizable chunk are those whose daily operations are run by civilians.

Most large canteens, located in major military stations and cities where the clientele is heavy, are staffed by civilian employees who do not come under the purview of the Army, Navy or Air Force Act, but are governed by regulations applicable to civilian government employees. The total strength of civilian employees is about 7,200, out of which about 250 are working in the Chandigarh-Mohali-Chandimandir area.

There are also hundreds of small CSD outlets at the

EMPLOYEES' DEMANDS

The employees have demanded that the pay and allowances of employees working in the CSD retail canteens should be on a par with those working in CSD wholesale outlets

All CSD transactions be brought under the ambit of the Comptroller and Auditor General

unit level that are generally operated by service personnel from the respective unit. While the sales in these unit canteens have not been hit, the pressure on them has increased even though they maintain a limited inventory of items.

A large number of ex-servicemen, who depend upon these canteens for provisions and other necessary commodities, have also been adversely affected.

Employees said that canteens stock a large variety of edible items and commodities which have a limited shelf life and if there is no movement of such goods, there is a risk that these would 'expire', thereby adding to the damages.

In a letter sent earlier by the All-India Defence Civilian Canteen Employees Union to the Defence Minister, the employees have demanded that the pay and allowances of the employees working in the CSD retail canteens should be on a par with those working in CSD wholesale outlets.

Further, they are also demanding that the all CSD transactions be brought under the ambit of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

US 'contemplated' nuking China after 1962 war

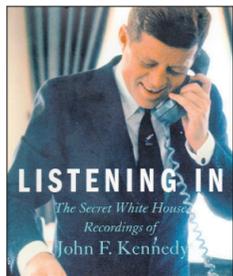
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24

Six months after the 1962 Chinese aggression on India, the US had contemplated using nuclear weapons in the event of another attack from Beijing as it was determined to prevent an Indian defeat at the hands of the Communists.

The then US president, John F Kennedy, at a meeting with his top military aides on May 9, 1963, had expressed clear determination not to let Beijing defeat New Delhi, with his defence secretary even talking about using nuclear weapons against China if it launched another attack against India.

These disclosures have come in a just released book 'Listening In: The Secret White House Recordings of John F Kennedy' co-authored by Ted Widmer and Caroline Kennedy.

"I gather we're coming to the defence of Israel and



The book cover

Saudi Arabia. What I think we ought to think about is, (unclear) it's desirable (?) for us, to give India a guarantee which actually we would carry out. I don't think there's any doubt that this country is determined that we couldn't permit the Chinese to defeat the Indians," Kennedy said.

"If we would, we might as well get out of South Korea and South Vietnam. So I think that's what we'll decide at the time. Now, therefore, I don't mind

making, seeing us make some commitments. Now, if it is politically important," he said.

Kennedy was quoted by the book as making these remarks in the White House meeting with his Defence Secretary Robert McNamara and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Maxwell Davenport "Max" Taylor.

Kennedy was the president of the US from 1961 until his death in 1963. The book is a selection of audio recordings of Kennedy's conversations and meetings at the White House.

The recordings have been selected from the hidden recording systems in the Oval Office and in the Cabinet Room installed by Kennedy in July 1962, in an effort to preserve an accurate record of Presidential decision-making in a highly charged atmosphere of conflicting viewpoints, strategies and tactics. — PTI

AJAY BANERJEE/TNS

JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 24

Looking at the growing needs of India in terms of security and its war-fighting capabilities, Israel, New Delhi's second-largest arms supplier after Russia, is offering a clutch of new generation of missiles, UAVs, air-defence mechanisms, all-weather-day-night capability radars and avionics.

It has been exactly 20 years since India and Israel established relations in 1992 - following the collapse of the USSR in 1991 triggering a global recalibration of diplomatic ties.

During the Cold War, Israel was firmly in the US camp while India was in the USSR stable.

The annual non-defence trade stands at \$5 billion (approx Rs 22,500 crore) largely in gem-stone polishing and agriculture with a Indo-Israel joint venture in agriculture having been set up at Karnal, Haryana.

The two countries have been collaborating on defence equipment and, in the past decade, defence sales to India have surpassed \$10 billion (approx Rs 55,000 crore).

Both sides keep exact figures on defence sales a secret. In India, unlike the public announcements about ties with Russia, ties with Israel are not discussed in public by the establishment.

Top military delegations of both sides met in New Delhi in the first week of December. One of the key things on offer is what Israel refers to by a rather dramatic Biblical name, 'David's Sling'. It is an air defence missile in the short-range - 250 km - class.

Looking at the threat from Iran, Israel is in the final stages of developing the Arrow-3 missile. State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries and the Boeing of the US have developed this as the main line of defence to intercept incoming long-range ballistic missiles at an altitude of 100 km. India,

on its own, is looking to hit the 120km ceiling in January.

Israel, which as a policy does not open up on military ties with other nations, invited a small group of Indian journalists to get a first-hand feel of what all it is offering.

In 2009, the Jewish majority state briefly overtook Russia, India's largest and the oldest defence supplier.

Israel has developed a specialised loitering guided missile that can stay in air, keep hovering over an area and then be guided from ground-based controllers to hit targets like airbases, warships and ammunition dumps with pinpoint accuracy. Officials at the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) said that "it can be launched from land, sea and air".

The synthetic aperture radar (SAR) enables visibility in day as well as night, under cloudy conditions and even under dense foliage. Israel has the technology while India is looking to develop the same.

Book on rare Sikh relics released

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

The world now has a chance to see the rarest of Sikh relics, including the hair strands of Guru Gobind Singh, tenth and last of Sikh gurus.

Hidden for ages from the public eye and denied to scholars, over 150 precious relics of the religion have been brought out of private collections for the first time to be documented.

The treasure-trove of relics, woven together by one of their custodians Sikandar Singh and author Roopinder Singh, was dedicated to the people at a quiet function here this evening. PM Manmohan Singh's wife Gursharan Singh launched the 204-page "Sikh Heritage: Ethos and Relics" published by Rupa. Gursharan took the occasion to remind the



Gursharan Kaur, wife of PM Manmohan Singh, releases a book 'Sikh Heritage: Ethos & Relics' by Sikandar Singh (L) and Roopinder Singh (R) in New Delhi on Monday. Tribune photo: Manas Ranjan Bhui

Sikhs of their dying mother tongue Punjabi.

Eminent art historian Dr BN Goswamy and Gurinder Singh Mann, professor of religion at the University of California, nodded. The work introduces a repository of Sikh heritage. The collections are not simply manuscripts; these include objects used by the gurus, including

the comb of Guru Gobind Singh. Also adorning the robe is a rare walnut wood "chariot" gifted to the fifth Sikh guru by a Muslim carpenter from Kashmir.

"The rath was gifted to the fifth Guru Arjan Dev and was passed down to generations of his disciples. We have placed the chariot in its historical perspective. It was

used to bring home the guru's bride," Sikandar Singh told The Tribune.

The work's biggest asset is its authenticity as Dr Goswamy explains, "Finally, you have a set of objects which are authentic and belong to the times. The authors have drawn the attention to the manner in which these relics have been preserved in obscure places for years."

Each work documented in the book bears a historical context. The story of Guru Gobind Singh's hair strands and the comb is traced back to his disciple Syed Pathan, who helped him in a war.

About the historical importance of the book, Roopinder Singh, co-author and senior journalist with The Tribune, said, "We have been able to showcase these relics in this manner for the first time. By placing them in historical

perspective, we have conveyed that the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts. The work would be of great importance to the Sikh diaspora. It germinated from an exhibition of Sikh works which the Smithsonian Institute hosted in the US." The work took the authors five years.

Present also at the launch were Prof Upinder Singh, Prime Minister's daughter and professor of history at University of Delhi; and her husband Vijay Kantha, Prof of philosophy at St Stephen's; former editors of the Tribune HK Dua and Hari Jaisingh; former director of PGI Chandigarh JS Neki; National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions member Mohinder Singh, Punjabi Akademi vice-chairman Anita Singh and famous hotelier Bhai Balbir Singh.

ISI says linking it to Mumbai attacks is smear attempt

ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 24

Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency has claimed it had "absolutely no role" in the 2008 Mumbai attacks and attempts to link the organisation and its ex-chiefs to the incident were a "crude smear attempt", a media report said today.

A lawsuit filed in a New York court by relatives of two Jewish victims of the Mumbai attacks was "against the alleged perpetrators and masterminds — Hafiz Saeed, Zakir Rehman Lakhvi and others", sources in the ISI were quoted as saying by The News daily. The sources claimed the ISI agency had no role in the attacks and the inclusion of the names of former ISI chiefs Nadeem Taj and Ahmed Shuja Pasha was "only done to smear the agency". — PTI