Information booklet prepared by



# for the meeting of Rakshak members

# with Honourable Judges visiting from India

# at the US District Court for Northern California

San Jose, California

June 28th, 2006

Information booklet prepared by



# for the meeting of Rakshak members

with

Shri Vayalar Ravi

Minister Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)

> at the Hyatt Century Plaza Los Angeles, California

> > June 29th, 2006



310, Carmelita Place, Fremont, CA 94539, e-mail: <u>help.rakshak@gmail.com</u> Phone: 510.490.2657, <u>http://www.rakshak.info</u>

## <u>Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS)</u>

8/21, Third Floor, Near Birbal Park, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014.

## The Honorable Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs

June 29, 2006

The Hyatt Century Plaza, Los Angeles (Meeting in person)

Subject: MOIA Officials repeatedly ignore NRI Interests, works Exclusively with NCW to unleash anti-NRI laws, brings out an NRI-Hating Booklet on NRI Marriages.

Dear Sir,

Thanks for taking time to meet with us. We would like to also thank Consul General of India at San Francisco, Mr. B. S. Prakash for arranging this meeting.

As the Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by a wife as genuine by default, laws made to protect women from dowry harassment are rampantly being misused as a weapon to blackmail, extort money and seek revenge on NRI husbands and their India-based families. This is taking a huge toll on the personal and professional lives of Overseas Indians. Overseas Indians who unwittingly land in India for various reasons have been arrested, ill treated and exploited in the name of dowry laws. The economic and emotional damage resulting from this "legal terrorism" is creating a fear psychosis among Overseas Indian men when it comes to marrying women of Indian origin.

Is MOIA interested in this wholesale social division between resident and non-resident Indians?

## MOIA Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians

As if this trauma is not enough, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has recently released a booklet on marriages with Overseas Indians. The booklet, published after an obstinate and rude disregards for all suggestions made by NRI organizations representing the husbands' point of view, are literally <u>an example of MOIA's hatred for Overseas Indians projecting them all as fraudulent</u>, <u>violent and abusive towards women</u>. While there are instances of abuse and violence in marriages with Overseas Indians (just like those in marriages with Resident Indians, some acts of violence, including well-publicized murders, directed at men), the booklet, primarily led by the MOIA official Ms. Sandhya Shukla, is causing deep and widespread resentment among Overseas Indians. <u>Does Ms. Shukla's definition of Social Services include only targeting Overseas Indian Men and their families?</u>

The MOIA booklet makes the following blatant generalizations against Overseas Indians:

- 1. Only NRI husbands and their families are responsible for failed and fraudulent marriages to Indian women.
- 2. NRI husbands physically and financially harass their wives frequently.
- 3. NRI husbands get married for dowry and abandon/divorce their wives after a short honeymoon.
- 4. NRI husbands and their family hide/lie about their marital status, job, visa status etc.
- 5. There are countless cases Indian wives of NRI husbands harassed by NRI families

MOIA has ignored suggestions made by "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS) and Rakshak members" to balance out the MOIA booklet on marriage to overseas Indians. Following suggestions were made to Ms. Sandhya Shukla and the committee over viewing the booklet contents on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> February. Some of the important points are:

- 1. Fraudulent marriages are prevalent from both bride and bridegroom, not only from NRI bridegroom.
- 2. The Booklet should be gender neutral and should not only address or talk about harassed people.
- 3. 'Wife' should be replaced by 'Spouse'. Ms. Shukla agreed to this, but we have not seen any change in the booklet yet.
- 4. It should specify do and don't to NRI while marrying an Indian bride.
- 5. It must mention that dowry case in India can be legally started by the Indian bride against the NRI's extended family without any proof.

## Disregard for the Exploitation of NRI Husbands

Overseas Indians trapped in false criminal cases are expending their valuable time, effort and money to fight their cases that drag on for several years due to the inefficient Indian police and judicial systems. Their extended family go through enormous torture. This trend is impeding the progress of extremely talented, intelligent and resourceful young Indians in India and abroad.



## <u> Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS)</u>

8/21, Third Floor, Near Birbal Park, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014.

MOIA officials have blatantly ignored several attempts by Overseas Indians to draw their attention to this exploitation through the misuse of anti-dowry laws:

- 1. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a memorandum was sent to the Indian Ambassador in Washington D.C. with copies to all Consuls General in the US, Officials in the MOIA and The President of India. We did not hear any response from Mr. Sen.
- 2. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Mr. Prabhat Kumar Singh, San Francisco Consul, forwarded the concerns to Mr. Malay Mishra, Joint Secretary, MOIA, about the misuse of 498A against Overseas Indians. We did not hear any reponse from Mr. Mishra.
- 3. On Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha (PSS)" had attended a meeting at MOIA when they reviewed the draft of the "Marriage to Overseas Indians" booklet and had presented their concerns (<u>http://moia.gov.in/showinfo1.asp?linkid=245</u>). We have not seen any cognizance of their suggestions to the review committee until now.
- 4. On Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha" had attended a meeting with Ms. Sandhya Shukla about the contents of the booklet and voiced their opinion, no action/cognizance has been taken on their suggestions.
- 5. Before Pravasiya Bhartiya Divas in January our members sent several e-mails to MOIA officials to take cognizance of crime against NRI husbands/families and to include this in their seminar chaired by Mrs. Girija Vyas (Chairman, NCW). This plea was also ignored.

Whose affairs the MOIA is Looking After? Only undermining NRIs through vile characterization to be plum targets for criminal exploitation?

## MOIA About to Unleash Anti-NRI Laws in Cahoots with NCW

Representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha, (PSS)" met NCW and MOIA officials and have raised their concern over the MOIA booklet. Still neither MOIA officials nor NCW in their statements to the public/press state the problems NRI families face, including elderly people.

Just as we were waiting for a response on the booklet, the MOIA organized a two-day meet on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 entirely to NCW's script, proposing to unleash the latest draconian laws against NRI husbands. The meet was organized without giving any voice to NRI husbands but exploited by MOIA officials to generate a huge anti-NRI propaganda in Indian newspapers, even the Times of India projecting in it's editorial all NRI husbands as evil wife abusers. We came to know about the meet only through the newspapers. It wasn't even announced on <u>www.overseasindian.in</u> or <u>http://moia.gov.in</u>. Typical NCW accusations are "Lying, cheating, false promises, unreasonable dowry demands are just some of the things unfortunate NRI brides have to put up with, not to mention divorce, desertion and abduction of children.".

## Will the MOIA stand up for Overseas Indians' Interests?

All of our efforts to get MOIA/MEA to acknowledge/act/understand our concerns for past several months have been unanswered. We fail to understand what is the agenda and role of MOIA and MEA for overseas Indians. All Counsel Generals in USA (except San Francisco every other consul Generals ignored over repeated requests.

We would like to know an easy and fast way to reach to -

- Indian Government officials at MOIA.
- Indian Ambassador and Indian Consulate Generals at the 4 consulates in United States.
- How to ensure that our concerns are not overlooked by MOIA when discussing the issues relating to overseas Indians.

Thanking you and with regards, Rakshak Team

## CC:

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, President of India Ambassador Ronen Sen, 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., USA - 20008 B.S. Prakash, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118 Neelam Deo, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021 Arun Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive,Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611 Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056 Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi – 110021, Shri R. Narayanaswami, Secretary,MOIA Shri Malay Mishra [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA Dr. R.K.Verma [National Informatics Center], MOIA Ms. Sandhya Shukla [Social Services Unit], MOIA



Honorable Justice Cyriac Joseph and Justice panel US District Court for Northern District of California 280 S. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Date: **June 28<sup>th</sup>**, **2006** 

## Subject: Follow-up on the Meeting of IPC 498A affected Overseas Indians

Honorable Justices:

We are grateful to you for the opportunity to be heard today. We thank Consul General of India at San Francisco Shri B.S.Prakash to arrange for this meeting.

The Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by wives to be genuine and immediately actionable by jailing the husband as well as his immediate and extended family <u>requiring neither a prima facie investigation nor presentation of probable cause to the magistrate</u>.

Consequently, laws made to protect women from dowry harassment have become a weapon to blackmail, extort money, coerce terms of martial settlement or seek revenge on Overseas Indians and their India-based families, all under the cover of legal sanction of the police, prosecution and judiciary. This rampant abuse has been inflicting legal wrongs upon Overseas Indians and their families without recourse to restitution or legal action against malicious prosecution.

We submitted the following prayers for the consideration of the Indian judiciary:

- That the Investigating Officer be required to state in court the basis or evidence for their reasonable belief that a crime has been committed; that the accuser be required to state her allegations on oath or an affirmation under penalty of perjury before an entire innocent family is subjected to indefinite and nonbailable custody;
- That the Judiciary may guide us how, when and by whom perjury charges for a false 498A report can be brought about;
- That, in order to minimize pre-trial extortion under duress, upon bail the accused NRI be allowed to return to his livelihood overseas until the trial begins; if necessary by requiring him to report to the nearest Indian consulate;
- That the accused NRI be allowed to make preliminary court appearances over a videoconference to spare several, short trips half way around the world.

## **For your perusal, press clippings, individual stories and information booklets are enclosed.** Our heartfelt thanks and warmest regards,

Rakshak Team

CC:

Ambassador Ronen Sen, 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., USA - 20008 B.S. Prakash, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118 Neelam Deo, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021 Arun Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive,Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611 Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056 Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi – 110021, Shri R. Narayanaswami, Secretary,MOIA Shri Malay Mishra [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA Dr. R.K.Verma [National Informatics Center], MOIA Ms. Sandhya Shukla [Social Services Unit], MOIA



## <u>Asha Kiran</u>

1252/6 P.M. Lakshmi Layout, Magdi Cord Road Layout, 1<sup>st</sup> Main, Vijay Nagar, Bangalore 560 040, <u>help.ashakiran@gmail.com</u>, Phone : 91-80-55334135

## Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha

8/21, Third Floor, Near Birbal Park, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014.

**Ambassador Ronen Sen** 

2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C., USA - 20008

**Date**: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Sub:** Memorandum to Indian Government officials about large scale misuse of dowry law against NRIs (Overseas Indians) and gender biased view of MOIA (in the marriage booklet published recently) against overseas Indian husbands and their families.

Dear Sir,

The large-scale abuse of the Indian dowry laws (predominantly section 498a of the Indian Penal Code), by some unscrupulous women and their families, has been taking a huge toll on the personal and professional lives of Overseas Indians. Since the Indian legal system considers all complaints filed by women to be genuine by default, laws that have been made to protect women from dowry harassment are now being increasingly used as a weapon to blackmail, extort money from or seek revenge on Overseas Indians and their families in India. Overseas Indians who unwittingly land in India for various reasons have been arrested, ill-treated and exploited in the name of dowry laws. This kind of "legal terrorism" has caused so much economic and emotional damage that marrying a woman of Indian origin has become a source of intense fear among Overseas Indian men.

As if the trauma of being implicated in false dowry cases is not enough, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has recently released their booklet on marriages with Overseas Indians, which presents an extremely biased picture projecting all Overseas Indians as fraudulent, violent and abusive towards women, with no reliable statistics to support their claims. While there are instances of abuse and violence in marriages with Overseas Indians (just like those in marriages with Resident Indians), the booklet exaggerated a one-sided story and has caused deep disappointment among Overseas Indians.

The abuse of Indian dowry laws has hampered the progress of hundreds of Overseas Indians whose intellectual abilities and professional skills are highly valued all over the world. Many Overseas Indians trapped in false criminal cases are expending their valuable time, effort and money to fight their cases which drag on for several years due to the inefficient Indian police and judicial systems. If this trend continues it will not only impede the progress of extremely talented, intelligent and resourceful Indians in India and abroad but will also hinder the progress of the countries that depend on their valuable services.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made by Overseas Indians to approach the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the offices of the Consulate General of India to draw their attention to the blatant exploitation of Overseas Indians through misuse of Indian dowry laws. The attached information booklets have been prepared by a team of concerned Overseas Indians to spread awareness among fellow citizens and the government authorities of various countries regarding the widespread injustice done in the name of Indian dowry laws. These booklets are intended to highlight the urgent need to address this issue and to safeguard the rights of Overseas Indians.

Thanking you and with regards,

## Satya (for) Bhavani Mahadevan (Co-ordinator, Rakshak)

## CC:

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India

B.S. Prakash, Consulate General of India in San Francisco, 540 Arguello Boulevard San Francisco, CA 94118
Neelam Deo, Consulate General of India in New York, 3 East, 64th Street, New York, NY 10021
Arun Kumar, Consulate General of India in Chicago, 455, North City Front Plaza Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60611
Consulate General of India in Houston, 1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600 3 Post Oak Central Houston, TX 77056
Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister, MOIA, 9th Floor, Akbar Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi - 110021
Shri R. Narayanaswami, Secretary, MOIA
Shri Malay Mishra [Diaspora Services Division], MOIA
Dr. R.K.Verma [National Informatics Center], MOIA
Ms. Sandhya Shukla [Social Services Unit], MOIA

Encl: MOIAbooklet.pdf, 498abooklet.pdf

## Shri S. Krishna Kumar

## Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Subject: Contents of Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians (OI) Ref : Letter to Chief Secretaries from Secretary MOIA (25/10/2005) No. OI-18013/02/2005-MS.I

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the contents of the 'Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians' which you have sent to the chief secretaries of different states. While I appreciate your initiative to help the citizens understand the various problems that may happen in 'overseas marriage', I must say that the issues raised in the booklet are totally one sided views (wife's side views). All the 10 examples of 'typical incidents' the booklet cites suggests that the overseas Indian groom and his family members are cruel, arrogant and fraud. Further, it suggests that the OI husband's family is solely responsible for failed/failing overseas marriages.

Every 'overseas marriage' has similar problems as in an Indian marriage (Indian marriage here refers to couples married and living in India). 'Overseas Marriage' has additional caveats due to immigration/visa issues. Indian government, NCW and other women organizations cannot say that mostly 'husband's family' is responsible for "sufferings of women who are the victims of marriage to Overseas Indians". If any of the above organization has cited the statistics to support their findings, it must be present on MOIA's site (with it's source) for people to download and comment. Is Indian government trying to suggest that OI's are female beaters, female abusers and do not have respect for their marriage and their wife?

I have seen umpteen cases here in the United States where in a tensed relationship wife goes back to India and files a 'false dowry harassment charges' and 'misuses IPC 498a' on the husband's family. There are cases where a wife wants to support her family in India by sending them part of husband's earning and when husband objects to that, problems start in their marital life. There are cases where marriage turns sour when wife tries to control husband's life in various ways. The list of marital problems in endless and it is common in 'overseas marriage' and 'regular Indian marriage'.

Media both in the US and India has reported numerous cases in past few years where wife who married to OI male falsely accused her husband and his family of various crimes (including domestic violence). After long litigations, which drain time, money and energy, husband's family was proved innocent.

The booklet must provide details and directions for both men (including OI's) and women about how they can protect their own rights before, during and after marriage both in India as well as overseas. I would also like to know the names of the NGOs, law agencies and addresses of the people who helped MOIA prepare this draft, so I can contact them and discuss the details of their and my findings.

I would like the **booklet to help all the Indian citizens irrespective of their gender and location**. If I could be of more help you in drafting a more balanced and informative booklet, please let me know, I would be more than happy in assisting you in this worthy cause.

I believe you will consider these views and facts before finalizing the contents.

With best Regards,

Satya Kumar (San Jose, CA, United States)

Cc: Indian Ambassador to USA, Consul General of India, San Francisco, President of India, Prime Minister's office

Dear Shri Kumar,

I am attaching the letter I had sent to you and other officials of MOIA on 12th November'2005. I have not received any response from the ministry on this regard.

As a person of Indian origin, working in the US, I am very much concerned about the approach Ministry is taking in creating the awareness about the "Failed and Fraudulent Marriages" among prospective brides in India. The booklet prepared by the joint effort of ministry, NCW and NHRC ( <a href="http://moia.gov.in/shared/linkimages/46.%2003-251005">http://moia.gov.in/shared/linkimages/46.%2003-251005</a>) suggests that the NRI men are responsible for the breakdown of marriages. The booklet fails to mention anything about how many thousands of innocent men and their families are duped by greedy and motivated women and their families. There have been a lot of incidents in the recent times where NRI husbands and their families were harassed by the wife and her family. Media everywhere (India and around the world) has highlighted the issues in various forms (articles, documentary and letters, internet) but Ministry has not taken the cognizance of any of that.

If you do not have data about problems faced by NRI men and their families, I can provide you with the same (the data is readily available on the internet).

Following are few of the links which may be eye opener for you.

- India West Article (Leading Newspaper in USA)
   http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaWestArticle\_498aMisuse.pdf
   http://news.ncmonline.com/news/view\_article.html?article\_id=768649893bc5975ce97b6
   bff5354c210
   http://expo.ncmonline.com/news/view\_article.html?article\_id=4341a52dbd42b1562e77d
   1b7f499890f (Lisa Tsering got the Best in-depth Investigative Journalist award for exposing this widespread problem):
- India Abroad (Leading Newspaper in USA) <u>http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad MinistryBiasedAgainstNRIHusbands</u> <u>.pdf</u> <u>http://www.498a.org/contents/Publicity/IndiaAbroad NotAllHusbandsAreGuilty.pdf</u>
- Channel 7: Documentary about gross misuse of Dowry laws and NRIs(aired in Feb'2006)
- Governments in USA and Canada have issued travel warning (against the misuse of dowry laws) for the people traveling to India. Please see the contents at: <u>http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article\_1754.shtm</u>

Men also suffer a lot in any broken relationship and it is not easy for men to find sympathetic shoulder. I am not saying that the kind of issues ministry is trying to highlight and warn the people against do not happen. Following are few of my questions to the ministry:

- Can ministry provide the data for each of the atrocities (booklet lists 10 of those) that is included in the list?
- Has the ministry done some statistical analysis about what is the kind/class of people responsible for the atrocities on women (like taxi driver, janitors, daily wages people, gas station workers, low income group people)?
- In how many cases the husband and/or his family were doctors, engineers, researchers, diplomats, businessman and highly educated person?

- Does the ministry find the fraudulent cases much more in PIO/Overseas India marriages (in percentage) than what is prevalent in rest of the Indian marriages?
- Has ministry tried to find the other face of the coin? How many husband and their family members suffering?
- Has the ministry invited any organization like {Asha Kiran (Bangalore), SangaBalya (Bangalore), PSS (Delhi), Pirito Purush Pati Parishad (Kolkata)} to present the other side of the picture?
- Everywhere in Media and Pravasi Bhartiya Divas'2006 MOIA has talked about the complaints it received from women PIO (Person of Indian Origin), but MOIA conveniently failed to mention the problems reported by PIO male members.

I wrote comments to your website, but nothing happened. I suggest you at least look at the various comments listed on your website and consider acting on them before finalizing the contents of the booklet on 18th Feb.

# A half baked solution is worse than a no solution at all. I would urge you to look into all aspects of failed and fraudulent marriages and then suggest a solution or warning.

I am copying Ambassador of India to the US, Counselor General of India at Chicago/Houston/San Francisco/New York on this mail. They may have something to add to the "Immigration fraud" by the wife and her family?

I hope you are able to take a balanced and "gender-neutral" approach while discussing not only the the contents of the booklet but while approaching this complex issue.

Thanking you and with regards,

- Satya (San Jose, California, USA)

Cc: Indian Ambassador to USA Minister, MOIA Secretary, MOIA Officials at MOIA Consul General of India, San Francisco Consul General of India, Houston Consul General of India, Chicago Consul General of India, New York President of India From: Rakshak Helpline <help.rakshak@gmail.com> To: "Consul General of India, San Francisco" <cg@cgisf.org> Cc: sndani@yahoo.com, help.rakshak@gmail.com, info@498a.org, mail@pariwariksuraksha.org, bhavani.mahadevan@gmail.com, cca@cgisf.org, jsds@moia.nic.in, dirss@moia.nic.in, minister@moia.nic.in Date: Jun 19, 2006 3:46 PM Subject: our concern about MOIA meeting with NCW on 20-21st June'06

Dear Mr. Prakash,

Please refer to the news article in hindustan times: <u>http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/5967\_1723537,00160006.htm?headline=NRI~marriages:~'</u> <u>Plz~do~something</u> which mentions about MOIA meeting with NCW and which does not refer to any attrocities on the families of the NRI grooms by the unscrupulous women and their families.

Mr. Prabhat Singh informed us in the mail to us that he has intimated Joint Secretary Mr. Malay Mishra in MOIA about the plight of Indian grooms and their families (extortion using the stringent laws like 498a). His mail to us is attached at the end of the mail. We have not heard from any official from MOIA till date.

We have not heard from the government and we feel that husband's and their family issues (NRI) have not been handled or represented at all. We and our representatives have made numerous attempts to present it to MOIA, but we are yet to see any results/communication from the government on that.We have received more than couple of hundred complaints of the NRI husbands about attrocities inflicted by the family of the wife (including wife) in a marriage that has gone sour.

Could you please let us know what is the best way to have our concerns heard in these meetings too. Some representatives of "Pariwarik Suraksha Sanstha" has attended a meeting at MOIA when they reviews the draft of the "marriage to overseas indians" booklet and had presented their concerns (<u>http://moia.gov.in/showinfo1.asp?linkid=245</u>). We have not seen any cognizance of their suggestions to the review committee until now.

They are copied on tihs mail too. Also included is the copy of the marriage booklet few of our volunteers have come out with, which we think is more balanced and contain much more relevant information.

We, working for family harmony are very concerned that the NRI marriage issues are not adequately represented (as there is no government funded organization to represent the rights of the husband and their families).

Please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Bhavani Ramamurthi (for Rakshak Team)

Rakshak 310, Carmelita Place Fremont, CA 94539 United States

e-mail: <u>help.rakshak@gmail.com</u> Phone: 510.490.2657 <u>www.rakshak.info</u>

Mail from Mr. Prabhat Kumar:

From: "Prabhat K. Singh, Consul CA" < <u>CCA@cgisf.org</u>> Date: Mon, 15 May 2006 15:16:58 -0700

Pl refer to our meeting this morning regarding misuse of sec498A of IPC by women to embroil their husbands and their realtives, in some cases distant ones, I have forwarded your petions to the Joint Secretary, Mr Malay Mishra in Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. My recommendation has been the following:

Even though the numbers involved may not be large, the issue is gathering steam with it attracting media coverage and even an advisory being issued by the US State Deptt regarding the misuse of the same legal provision to its citizens. In view of these and the sentiments expressed by the petitioners, it is requested that the MOIA may consider making the article concerning sec498A on the Ministry's website and the proposed booklet on the same subject at least gender neutral and request the Law Ministry to examine providing safeguards against the misuse of the legal provisions by hearing the other side or in this case the petitioners. Prabhat Kumar Singh Consul

On 4/27/06, **Consul General of India**, **San Francisco** <<u>cq@cgisf.org</u>> wrote:

I have gone through the useful material prepared by your organization for the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs regarding the misuse sometimes of Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code. I would appreciate if someone knowledgeable could talk to me in this regard.

(B.S. Prakash)

From: Rakshak Helpline <help.rakshak@gmail.com>Mailed-By: gmail.comTo: "Consul General of India, San Francisco" <cg@cgisf.org>Cc: sndani@yahoo.com, help.rakshak@gmail.com, info@498a.org,<br/>mail@pariwariksuraksha.org, bhavani.mahadevan@gmail.com, cca@cgisf.org,<br/>jsds@moia.nic.in, dirss@moia.nic.in, minister@moia.nic.in, manmohan@sansad.nic.in,<br/>presidentofindia@rb.nic.inDate: Jun 21, 2006 11:55 PM<br/>Subject: Re: our concern about MOIA meeting with NCW on 20-21st June'06

Dear Mr. Prakash,

It is really odd and frustrating for NRIs to see that there was a 2 day meet organized by NCW in partnership with MOIA about issues on NRI marriage with absolutely no representation by NRIs (on 21st and 22nd June). No news about this workshop was available at MOIA website ( <u>www.overseasindian.in</u>), no information was circulated, none of the organizations (like Asha Kiran, Rakshak, PSS) were informed about these events.

We got to know about this event 12 hours in advance through news paper sites. All of our efforts to get MOIA/MEA to acknowledge/act/understand our concerns for past several months have been unanswered.

We fail to understand what is the agenda and role of MOIA and MEA for overseas Indians. NCW (National Commission for Women) has been making only one sided, pro women remarks and maligning NRI groom and their family reputation.

Please suggest us what options we are left with? Is this all the commitment Indian Government shows to the hard working NRIs in exchange of the glory, fame and positive image we bring to our motherland?

Where did we go wrong?

- Rakshak Team.

Please see the news articles <u>http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20060621/369758.html</u>

A comprehensive legislation to tackle the problems relating to NRI marriages is expected to be prepared by the month of November, National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Girija Vyas said today.

Ms Vyas said the Commission was studying the problem of NRI men abandoning their Indian wives along with all other aspects of the issue and would come up with a report in this regard in two to three months.

"We will give our recommedations to the Central government by October so that a comprehensive and practicable act could be brought by the month of November," she said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a workshop on "Problems relating to NRI Marriages" organised by the NCW and the Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs jointly.

To a question, she said the Commission was in favour of enforcing this law with retrospective effect so that those NRIs who had already spoiled the lives of thousands of innocent girls from India by abandoning them after marriage could be brought to book.

She said the Commission was working in <u>tandem</u> with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare' besides several other related organisations, agencies, associations and NGOs in this regard.

The Commission, Ms Vyas said, would also recommend that those NRIs who would marry the Indian girls would be made to sign an affidavit declaring their antecendents. Such marriages, she said, should be registered within a specified period of time which could be up to three months.

Also, a dual photograph of the NRI husband and his Indian wife be incorporated in his <u>passport</u> in order to curb the tendency to break the marriage to marry someone again, she added.

# False cases of Dowry harassment by women

# False dowry cases on rise in City

## FAIZA HANEEF

R CHANDRASHEKAR

FillING a dowry case is as simple as ordering a coffee in a cafeteria as there is no penalty for filing a false case.

According to police sources, of the total dowry cases filed, 50 per cent of them will turn out to be false after thorough investigations and will have nothing to do with 'dowry'.

Speaking to **BVT**, sources in a City police station said that there is a large scale misuse of this law and this is resulting in irreparable damage to married life.

This is happening because people find filing a dowry case is the easiest way as this section is nonbailable. Let there be any differences among the couple, the parents of the girls find it easy to file a dowry case against their son-inlaw.

The other very important reason, the police points out is that, it is a mere 'shifting of burden'. Further explaining this, they say it is burden of proving in the prosecution. If there is a difference on some issue between the couple and if a case of harassment is filed by the parents, then the entire burden of proving falls on them and in order to shift this burden they easily find a way through a dowry case. In a dowry case the burden to prove lies entirely on the husband.



Only when the investigations are done, the police finds out that there is a different angle to the story which has to be proved to show the case is false. Most of the cases filed are of dowry harassment and dowry death.

About 10 per cent of the cases are solved at the initial stages, as soon as we find out it is false case. When the interrogation begins, they gradually accept their mistake and sort for a settlement with mere compensations, says sources from police department.

Many a time, the police has noticed the girl's parents requesting to take the boy under custody

## **CASE STUDY**

Case of dowry-death filed: Noor Jahan, was doused in kerosene and allegedly set ablaze by her husband in 2005. Noor Jahan's parents filed a case of dowry death. But, later when it was investigated, it was found out that the case had nothing to do with 'dowry' and he took this step as he suspected her fidelity. It was apparently a case of murder but the parents preferred to file a dowry case.

at least for an hour as per the section 498 (A) of the Indian Penal Code, which makes it mandatory for police to book the husband and his parents and other relatives/friends, whoever are being named on the complaint by wife or her close relatives and jail them.

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

## **CITIES: KOLKATA**

POWERED BY TIMESCITY.COM

Fly

to

n a 1

HERE

Click here

HERE

Click here

TO ADVERTISE Click here

Search

The Times of India

Indiatimes

Web

enhanced by ADVANCED SEARCH

Google

X00/ The Smorter Way To Send Money

Indiatimes > The Times of India > Cities > Kolkata > Article

#### Some brides are 'villains', not Home KOLKATA HEADLINES **CLASSIFIEDS** Matrimonial Jobs victims: lawyers I up New Town's biggest Real Estate Auto project unveiled RAHUI Tenders Taj : It's history of India at [WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2002 12:32:02 AM] Post Print Ads translation All Classifieds Surf 'N' Earn - Sign in now Moral police on ISIs' HOT LINKS campus KOLKATA: City lawyers claim to be surprised at the spate of 'patently ePaper unfair' cases alleging cruelty to the bride under section 498A of the Indian NRI Finance Penal Code, which is a cognizable and non-bailable offence offence XML RSS feeds NEWS meaning that the police can arrest without warrants and bails can be Politics obtained only from a law court and not the police station. Cities Ahmedabad They are also surprised to come across many cases which, they feel, are Bangalore brazenly fabricated and amount to a gross abuse of a legal provision. US -India -US Chandigarh Delhi Once a woman lodges a complaint, the arrest of the husband is virtually Hyderabad routine. And if he happens to be a government servant or working in a Kolkata -> public sector undertaking or bank, his suspension follows again as a Lucknow routine. Mumbai Patna In some cases lawyers have been appalled to find elderly relatives of the Pune TO ADVERTISE husband and even visiting relatives of the husband implicated in the case. Thiru'puram City Supplements In some cases the husband and his family are virtually being blackmailed India into coughing up money and reach an out-of-court settlement. <u>Cricket</u> TO ADVERTISE Sports In one of the cases the bride is said to have won the heart of her in-laws World so much that when her sister-in-law gets married, all the family jewellery Entertainment are put in her lockers. India Business Intl Business She takes the jewellery, leaves the house and promptly lodges a no connection **Infotech** complaint against her husband. Health/Science Photo Gallery Inquiries revealed that she had an earlier affair and had left to live with her TOI Headlines amantel love, recalls Ananda Basu, Advocate practising in the Calcutta High Court. Most Read Articles Obituary Eminent lawyer Bishnu Charan Ghosh says, "As a lawyer I have never **Archives** come across such gross abuse of any of the provisions of any Act as I am Weather OPINION experiencing in 498A IPC cases". <u>Columnists</u> Editorial He goes on to say, "I don't mean to suggest that brides are always the Interview villains and not the victim. In a majority of the cases, in fact, the brides are Letters to Editor at the receiving end. But what is surprising is the large number of cases SUPPLEMENTS where the brides actually seem to be villainous". Education Times SUNDAY SPECIALS Asked about the ways to check abuse of section 498A, B.C. Book Mark Culture curry Ghosh and Gitanath Ganguly, the former suggests a threefold measure: (i) All That Matters to convert section 498A into a bailable one, (ii) The Ld. court could

Life Mind Over Matter Open Space Special Report NRI SERVICES Remit2India Post Print Ads PRINT EDITIO Delhi Edition DAILY DOSE Ninan's World News Puzzle Crosswords Astro Predictions <u>Jokes</u> Newsletters

My Rewards

Sign in to win great prizes

carefully consider whether the allegations of the bride are indeed genuine at least against the in-laws or other relations of her husband when it directs investigation under section 156(3) of CrPC for an offence under section 498A and, (iii) The Ld. court could carefully take into account whether custodial detention is at all needed for the old in-laws and other relations.

Ganguly suggests that on receiving a complaint under section 498A from a woman, police should immediately approach the Magistrate instead of arresting the accused.

He asserted that the police should collect the materials, place them before the Magistrate and arrest people only with the permission of the Magistrate. He also suggests making the offence under this section a bailable one.

The lawyers also point out the irony that while women belonging to the poorer sections, for whom the section was primarily meant, are not even aware of the provision, the section is being merrily misused by a section of the urban women.

Surf 'N' Earn - Sign in now

# **Cordless Phones at Lowest Ever Prices**

**Click here to buy** 

## indiatimes shopping

Get indiatimes e-mail with

📇 Print this page	🖂 Email this page	🖗 Comment on this article					
RATE THIS ARTICLE							
1 2 3 4 5 1=Poor,2=Mediocre,3=Average,4=Good,5=Outstanding							
COMMENTS ON THIS	ARTICLE						
Its high time we should make proper changes in IP courageblue1							
		>>Read all comments					

<u>∧TOP</u>

About Us | For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service

Copyright © 2005 Times Internet Limited. All rights reserved. | Advertise with Us | Careers @ TIL | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Feedback | Sitemap



Today's Edition





Friday, January 06, 2006

IN TODAY'S PAPER	Front Page > Jamshedpur > Story	
Front Page		
Nation	email this page Print this page	_আ ন ন্দ
<u>Calcutta</u>	Dowry death a suicide	Car
Bengal	OUR CORRESPONDENT	
Opinion	Jamshedpur, Jan. 5: The post-mortem report has revealed that the woman, who was found	আনন্দবাজার পরিধা
International	hanging in her in-law's house yesterday, had committed suicide and was not murdered, as was	-
Business Stocks Live	claimed by her family.	From
Sports	The family members of the deceased, Ananti Devi (19), had alleged that her husband Ranjan	
<u>At Leisure</u> Sudoku New	Prasad, alias Dilip, and his family had murdered the woman. The wife of eight months was	Durga Puja
	killed in a dowry-related incident, they claimed.	to the
WEEKLY FEATURES	Dud a succession in the formation of the state of the Mathematical Mathematical Mathematical Mathematical Mathematical	
Knowhow Jobs	But sources in the forensic science department of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College Hospital claimed there were no signs to suggest that the victim was forcibly hanged or	Festival
Careergraph	even tortured.	of Light.
Telekids		of Light.
Etc	The experts who performed the post-mortem have ruled out any possibility of the use of force in handing the deceased	
Propertt	hanging the deceased.	COMP.
Weekend	"Investigation of the body clearly showed that the woman hung herself, contrary to the belief of	and the second
Look	her family members," said one of the experts.	
CITY NEWSLINES		
	The forensic experts, however, did not rule out that the woman could have been instigated to commit suicide. "This has to be investigated by the police," they added.	
EEDS	The deceased's family had insisted that Devi was murdered, police sources said, and so every	
RSS	care was taken to see if this could be true.	
My Yahoo!	Conscelly, a single expert does the past mortem in sees of a suiside. But in this sees, two	30
SEARCH	Generally, a single expert does the post-mortem in case of a suicide. But in this case, two doctors were appointed for this purpose and the process was recorded on video for future	www.anandautsav.com
	references.	
	Officer-in-charge of Birsanagar police station said Dilip, his father Kali Sah and brother Raj Kumar — who arrested on the basis of the FIR lodged by Devi's family — were forwarded to	- ADVERTISEMENT -
Archives Web	judicial custody today.	Bollywood Ringtones
Google		
ARCHIVES	"A case of dowry torture has been registered against them. Police are investigating and if the	Hey Ya!
Since 1st March, 1999	husband and in-laws are innocent, it will become clear soon," he added.	Rollywood Wollnemers
Since 1st March, 1999		Bollywood Wallpapers
THE TELEGRAPH		
About Us	⊠₌ ₫	
<u>Advertise</u>	email this page Print this page	
Feedback		
Contact Us		
$\frown$		
ADP		
The Power of Words		
- or		
	Copyright © 2005 The Telegraph. All rights reserved. Disclaime	r   Privacy Policy   Contact U

Tomorrow's

Afternoon The Statesman Ouest Online Booking News

Today

Classified Ads

Search

The Statesman

## Advanced Search

in

Monday, June 12 2006

## News

Page one
India
World
Editorial
Perspective
Business
Sport
Bengal
Magazine
Sports & Leisure
Career & Campus
Science & Technology
Voices
Lifestyle
Unplugged
Kolkata Plus
Bengal Plus
Viewpoint
North East Page
Orissa Plus
Note Book
N.B & Sikkim Plus
Entertainment
NB Extra
World Focus



## Orissa Plus

'Dead' woman returns alive

Web

## Statesman News Service

KENDRAPARA, June 11: Police had proclaimed the death of a woman. Then followed the arrest of people, accused of burning her alive. Now in an ironic turnaround, the dead woman has come back alive, lending a new twist to the bride-burning case, reported in the Rajnagar police station area. The woman was allegedly killed by her spouse and in-laws during a dowry-related dispute. But the offence was never committed.

Those who authored the sinister design of slapping the dowry-death offence against the relatives, are now cooling their heels behind bars.

This episode has triggered a public outcry at a seaside village of Kendrapara district's Rajnagar tehsil.

The unsavoury incident also brings into focus oftraised allegations that complaints of dowry torture and harassment lack substance.

"We had received a complaint that a newlywedwoman, Kuntala Mohanty, of Santhapada village was burnt alive by her spouse, Nakul and her father-in-law, Digambar Mohanty. The complainant also claimed that they had cremated the remains of the deceased.

The crux of the complaint was that the bride met her end, as she failed to bring home the dowry as demanded by the accused," police said. After preliminary investigation, the father-son duo was booked under Section 302, IPC and Section 4 (Dowry Prevention Act). "We should have exhumed the body. But we believed the heart-rending tale of the complainants, and went ahead and registered the



Username

Password

## New user? Sign-in



Flowers to Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad & more case. Later, acting on reports that the complaint was a fabricated one, the case had been reopened for a thorough investigation. More surprise was in store for us, as the deceased was found alive in a monastery in Arua-kadaliban village near Pattamundai.

"The local court was informed of the mistake, and the accused were acquitted. The woman, along with her parents, is now behind bars for implicating false cases against her spouse and father-in-law," police said. As a senior police officer put it, a majority of the

police stations in the district are flooded with dowry-related cases daily. A sizeable number of such cases is false. But the police have to abide by the legal provisions here, as the victims happen to be women.

**Discussion on this Orissa Plus item** Disclaimer: These are Internet generated discussion threads for which the The Statesman has no responsibility.

No discussions on this item

Other Orissa Plus Govt slows down industrial houses

Congress demands tax cut on fuel prices

**OGP MLA raps CM for ban on Maoists** 

BRIEFS

Ghadei dons peace broker's mantle

Up in arms against Reliance

Rs 12 lakh looted on main road

Marine biotechnology course in Berhampur

Home guards for wage hike and recruitment



Date:17/09/2004 URL: http://www.thehindu.com/2004/09/17/stories/2004091705030800.htm

#### New Delhi

Compensation to lawyer for police violations

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, SEPT. 16. The State Human Rights Commission has awarded Rs. 1.50 lakhs as compensation to an advocate for violations committed by the police, including a Deputy Commissioner, in connection with a complaint of dowry harassment.

S. Sambandham, Member, recommended that the Home Secretary pay the amount and recover it from the pay and allowances of the respondents equally.

In his complaint, T. Vignesh of Salem, said following a dowry harassment complaint from his wife in August 2003, the police started harassing him and his parents. No opportunity was given to him to explain his version. Though the court stayed his arrest, the police came to arrest him and his parents and insulted them.

They were also tortured. His parents committed suicide in October 2003 leaving a note that their daughter-in-law was responsible for their death. The police failed to register a case under section 306 IPC.

J. Bhaskaran, Deputy Commissioner, Law and Order, Salem city; K. Perumal, Sub-Inspector, Shevapet police station, and Mayavathi, Inspector, All-Women Police Station, Sooramangalam, were cited as respondents.

#### `Complaint exaggerated'

The respondents said the complaint was exaggerated and incorrect. The police neither attempted to go to the complainant's house nor arrest him.

Mr. Sambandham said as per rule 5(X) of the Dowry Prohibition Rules, the Dowry Prohibition officer should ascertain the genuiness of the complaint. Evidence from the parties should be collected.

The advocate's parents committed suicide. Though a suicide note was recovered the same day, the police did not alter the case to section 306 IPC. The advocate was compelled to move the High Court for direction.

The Member cited a High Court order which said when dowry harassment complaints are made, even innocent in-laws are arraigned as accused.

Following false complaints, some people unable to bear the accusations commit suicide. This should be taken note of by the authorities.

Mr. Sambandham said giving a complaint about dowry harassment was very convenient and an easy weapon in the hands of some unscrupulous elements. "Every innocent person should not be expected to commit suicide to prove their innocence.

The police should realise that it is not a matter between two individuals, not even between two families, but several families, such as in-laws." The police should weigh the evidence and find the truth.

© Copyright 2000 - 2005 The Hindu

DNA [Daily News & Analysis] - Mumbai - The double-edged rape-ier



Home | Evolutions | Grandeur | India | Money | Mumbai | Opinion | Salon | Speak Up | Sport | World | After Hrs | epaper Sunday: DNA Sunday | The Morning After | Ya! Supplements: Bio DNA | Academy | AdZip | Revv Up | Glory | Life360 | Bricks & Mortar

#### Seema Kamdar

Friday, November 04, 2005 00:37 IST

## The double-edged rape-ier

Email this article	8	Print this article
😏 Most emailed articles	XML	RSS feed
Bookmark this article		
Search this site		

Case 1: A minor girl from Malad recently alleged that a gym instructor had raped her. But later, cops found no evidence to suggest that the youth had sexually abused the girl. The case is under investigation

Case 2: A bar dancer in Nerul accuses a policeman of raping her. Police say evidence suggests that the woman had a relationship with the accused and sex was probably consensual

Case 3: An executive in a Delhi PR company spent two months in Tihar jail for rape. Later, investigations established that he was having an affair with the woman for two years and she wanted him to marry her. When he refused, she filed rape charges which she later withdrew as 'false'

Case 4: During the 2004 World Social Forum, a South African judge of Indian origin, Sirajuddin Desai, was accused of rape by a fellow delegate from the same country. The sessions court later let him off after she withdrew her complaint and circumstantial evidence hinted at consensual sex

Case 5: In Bhayandar last year, a 17-year-old girl falsely accused her father of rape

In common parlance, it is called a false complaint. Legal eagles call it malicious prosecution.

While rape laws in the country are justifiably stringent, recently a few cases have indicated that the law can be misused, and has end up damaging lives in profound ways. So, if the girl is found to have filed a false complaint, what is the remedy available to the accused, who, ironically, then becomes the victim?

#### But do the police act?

The general perception is that the cops don't act. But lawyers say there is no reason why the police should not ruthlessly pursue cases, which have been proved to be false. The police are duty-bound to file a final report in every case, which falls into one of the three categories:

'A final': Says the case is true but undetected (the case is left dormant till evidence possibly emerges at a later date)

'B final': Says the complaint was false (it could be followed up by prosecution of the complainant)

'C final': Neither true nor false.

Yet, there are a few cases where a false complainant is brought to book. In one instance, dating back to the prohibition, a tenant who had falsely implicated his landlady for drunken misbehaviour found himself at the wrong end of the stick when the police detected his complaint to be bogus. He was prosecuted and convicted.

Former DGP S S Puri, a law expert as well, says false complaints are more an aberration than the norm. Police say most false complaints fall under a few laws meant for weaker sections of society like Section 498 A of the IPC (dowry cases), Protection of Civil Rights Act or the Schedule Castes and Scheduled

## Latest News

· Six killed in TN stampede

- Australia defeats Windies by 379 runs
- Natwar's offence could damage ties with US
- 3 Indians among top spammers State looks to net Rs300 cr
- from the stars
- · Mafatlal feud takes a bizarre turn
- 11 Iragis killed in minibus ambush
- Natwar Singh defiant even as government digs into oil deals
- · 'Sceptics drive science'
- Festival blues for pre-paid cell users

📑 News At A Glance



What your stars foretell by MARJORIE ORR

## **SUTRA** Don't just do something, sit there.

Anon



DNA [Daily News & Analysis] - Mumbai - The double-edged rape-ier

Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

#### Crying rape is not that rare

While on one hand, rape remains a highly under-reported crime, on the other, there are instances of women seeking personal vendetta by crying rape. In the last year alone, there were two such instances reported in the city. But can a minor be sued by the police or by the aggrieved party?

Yes, say some lawyers. Section 82 of the IPC grants unconditional immunity to a child below seven years of age. However, the next section, 83, says, "An act of a child above seven and under 12 of immature understanding: nothing is an offence which is done by a child above seven years of age and under 12 who has not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion."

This indicates that anybody above seven years, and with a sound mind, can be prosecuted for an offence. However, offenders under 18 years will be prosecuted by the juvenile justice board.

Advocate Shrikant Bhatt is of the view that anybody of whatever age can be prosecuted for filing a false complaint. "For IPC offenders, it doesn't matter if he or she is a minor or major," he says. He/she does not even get the protection of section 82 and section 83."

Public prosecutor Rohini Salian, who represents the police in courts, however, says minors can be sued only as a juvenile under the Juvenile Justice Act before the Juvenile Justice Board. "Most of these cases, if convicted, end up in a remand home," she says. "The conditions in remand homes are far from ideal for corrective therapy."

A better option therefore, says advocate Raju Moray, is to introduce the idea of community service for offenders as is done in the US.

#### Why arrest an accused unless there is prima facie evidence?

The arrest of the gym instructor has also raised a crucial point of law: is it necessary to arrest any person named in a cognisable complaint? Lawyers claim police jump the gun and promptly arrest an accused in cognisable offences. As a result of this trend, many resort to misuse.

"I know an elderly couple who has been blackmailed by their son and daughter-in-law to sell their house for fear of being arrested by the police in a false dowry case," says Moray.

Police admit to a certain degree of misuse. And the fact that police often act promptly on such complaints encourages their misuse, feel lawyers.

"It is not imperative for the police to arrest an accused on the basis of a complaint," says Bhatt. Section 157 of the IPC says if the police receive information about a cognisable offence, it "should proceed to the spot, investigate facts and circumstances of the case, and, if necessary, take measures for the discovery and arrest of the offender."

Cops, however, dispute this point. "We are damned if we do and damned if we don't," says a senior police officer. "Take this girl's case. Had we not arrested the gym instructor, there would have, probably, been a huge women's morcha to the police station."

Another police officer points out that in a complaint of rape it is important to arrest the accused. "How else can we conduct a medical examination or interrogate him?" Most importantly, SC judgments clearly prescribe arrest "in prima facie serious cases".

## Section 177

A false complainant can be prosecuted for knowingly furnishing false information to a public servant "regarding the commission of an offence." The section provides for a two-year jail term or fine or both. However, the police cannot start investigations under without a magistrate's permission.

## Section 182

DNA [Daily News & Analysis] - Mumbai - The double-edged rape-ier

The victim can also seek recourse to Section 182 of the IPC, which deals with giving false information to a public servant in order "to cause him to use his power to injure or annoy anybody". The sentence for this offence is maximum imprisonment of six months or fine or both.

## Section 211

This section goes a step further and slaps a punishment of the same description on a false complainant that would be applicable on the accused had the charge been proved.

## Section 376

Rape carries an imprisonment of not less than seven years extending up to life and a fine. This provision is invoked in a false charge of offence meant with the intent to injure in such a manner that gets criminal proceedings launched against that person. Proving the "intention" of the complainant holds the key.

## Section 499

Apart from police action, the aggrieved party can also file a criminal case for defamation, under Section 499. The punishment in the latter case could go up to two years in jail, along with a fine.

## Section 203

A multi-causes civil suit for damages under the head of defamation causing trauma, shock damage to a career is also possible. Another provision that could be invoked on a false complainant is Section 203, which deals with giving false information concerning an offence.

🗹 Email this article 🛛 📇 Print this article 🔂 Search this site

## More Mumbai headlines...

Contact Us | About Us | Advertise with Us | Subscription

COPYRIGHT © 2005 DILIGENT MEDIA CORPORATION LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

BEST VIEWED WITH 800X600 SCREEN RESOLUTION





Advertise with us Friday, June 09, 2006 Front Page > Bengal > Story **IN TODAY'S PAPER** Persouare Yard.com Front Page ⊠≞ the complete email this page Print this page Nation real esta'te portal Tortured man out of wife abuse net Calcutta Bengal OUR LEGAL REPORTER Opinion Calcutta, June 8: Calcutta High Court today granted bail to a doctor, accused of torturing his International wife, after it was proved that it was he who had been physically abused and not the other way **Business** Stocks Live round. Sports After hearing the petition of Ishani Kumar Ghosh, a 34-year-old medical officer of North Bengal At Leisure University, Justice S.P. Talukdar said the "dangerous" practice of misusing Section 498A of the Sudoku New Indian Penal Code (cruelty on housewives by husbands and in-laws) should be immediately WEEKLY FEATURES stopped. Knowhow Ishani married 30-year-old Sumana, also a doctor, on February 18 this year and the couple Jobs lived in Jalpaiguri. A few days later, Sumana began assaulting him, Ishani told the court today. Careergraph She would scratch him and leave him bleeding at night. Telekids Etc Ishani then learnt that his wife was a psychiatric patient who was under medication. Weekend Look When Sumana realised she could be in trouble, she told her husband that she wanted to go back to her parents in Asansol, where she would start her private practice. **CITY NEWSLINES** Sumana lodged a police complaint as soon as she reached there. FEEDS Ishani was arrested in Asansol when he went there on May 31 to give Sumana her jewellery. RSS He was produced before the additional chief judicial magistrate of Asansol the next day, who sent him to jail. My Yahoo! SEARCH Your search Ishani then moved the high court, which granted him bail today. for a place might well be The ruling comes as a boost to lawyers who have long been demanding an amendment to over. Section 498A of the IPC, which allows police to arrest the persons named in FIRs without verifying the allegations. Archives Web - ADVERTISEMENT -Google **Baby Bedding Town** 个 **ARCHIVES** Shopping Marketplace æ ⊠≞ Since 1st March, 1999 email this page Print this page **Bollywood Wallpapers** THE TELEGRAPH More stories in Bengal - About Us - Advertise · Govt eyes empty airfields - Feedback CPM in Singur strikeback - Contact Us The Power of Words Copyright © 2006 The Telegraph. All rights reserved. Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Contact Us

where inundation was heavy on account of 84.8 mm rainfall during the past 24 hours.

Apart from causing water logging, the spell of heavy rain literally destroyed the road fabric in many parts of the city.

In Sector 47, a large portion of the outer road leading towards Mohali caved due to heavy rain. The authorities reportedly jumped into action, lest there should be any damage to life and property.

Water stagnation was witnessed in most of the colonies in the city for nearly the whole day today. Roads between sectors were also affected due to rain, which was the heaviest in Chandigarh as compared to that in its nearby towns.

While Chandigarh received the highest rainfall of 129.6 mm between 8.30 am yesterday and 8.30 am today, the corresponding measurements for other cities are: Kalka (80 mm), Panchkula (20 mm), Ludhiana (46 mm), Patiala (20.5 mm), Nangal Dam (112.2 mm).

The temperature continued to drop due to heavy rain. From 24.6°C recorded on October 10, it came down to 23.6°C yesterday. This was seven degree below normal. In comparison to yesterday, the temperature rose today to 27.2°C.

Met officials said although there was no forecast of immediate rain, the night temperature would continue to dip for some more days.



## Bail for dowry death suspect Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, October 12

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mr Balbir Singh, today granted interim bail to Ms Krishna Devi, a suspect in the dowry death case of Reeta and the mother of Satish, who jumped to death from the fourth floor of the district court yesterday.

According to information, the police did not oppose the bail application of Ms Krishna Devi, who was granted bail till October 31.

The police had booked Krishna Devi and Satish on the charges of harassing Reeta for bringing more dowry. While Satish had jumped to death while being escorted by a police party at the courts yesterday, Ms Krishna Devi, was sent to General Hospital, Sector 16, for a medical examination.



## Only one out of six dowry complaints genuine Sanjay Sharma Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, October 12

Only one out of six complaints of dowry demand, are genuine Surprisingly, such complaints are being made even in those cases where there have been love marriages. Reeta who hanged herself on Sunday and her arrested husband Satish, who committed suicide on Monday, had a love marriage.

A perusal of the cases registered with the local Child and Women Support Unit (CWSU) also reveals that 75 per cent of love marriages are failing due to, among other things, complaints of dowry demand.

An interesting fact which has emerged in the cases of harassment and dowry is that only six out of an average of 70 complaints in a month result in the registration of a case and remaining one are either settled through mutual understanding or given up due to lack of evidence. Only one in six cases, dowry demand is supported by evidence, the sources in the CWSU told the Chandigarh Tribune.

The sources said the complainants had gathered an impression that unless a demand of dowry was not made against the other party, the police would not consider entertain them.

Many cases of harassment (which includes mental torture) and dowry demand, however, are solved with a compromise if the boy's family makes a payment to the family of the girl.

Only in 30 per cent cases, there is a prima facie evidence of dowry demand but in all cases, the aggrieved party claims that the boy's family was demanding dowry and harassing the girl, the sources.

Commenting on the yesterday's incident, some police officers said matrimonial disputes had to be dealt with caution. There are chances that one of the aggrieved party can accused the police of being biased towards the other. In Reeta's case the police worked in a haste as it normally do if a girl commits suicide.

In another recent case, the Manimajra police took some time to arrest family members accused of poisoning their daughter-in-law. The police said evidence suggested that there was nobody at home at that time to hint that the girl might have been poisoned. But when the girl died in the hospital, the police had to arrest the entire family of the boy.

The sources said in a large number of a disputes dowry cases were being made to recover the money spent on the marriage.

The police officers, however, clarified that this do not mean that the evil of dowry had been eradicated as there were genuine complaints also.

Unemployment, lack of understanding, impotency, inappropriate employment, and infidelity are emerging as factors that are leading to marital discord.



## 112 suicides last year, could be more Tribune News Service

Chandigarh, October 12

As many as 112 suicides were reported in Chandigarh last year. But the figure is an underestimate as a large number of suicides still go unreported, say government officials.

A continuing medical education programme on 'Prevention of suicide and co-occurring physical and mental disorders', was organised here by the local branch of the Indian Medical Association to mark World Mental Health Day.

Prof B.S. Chavan, Head of the Psychiatry Department, Government Medical College and Hospital, said many people who committed suicide had visited medical officers and family physicians for treatment of mental disorders. However, a large number of these people received either no treatment or received inadequate treatment.

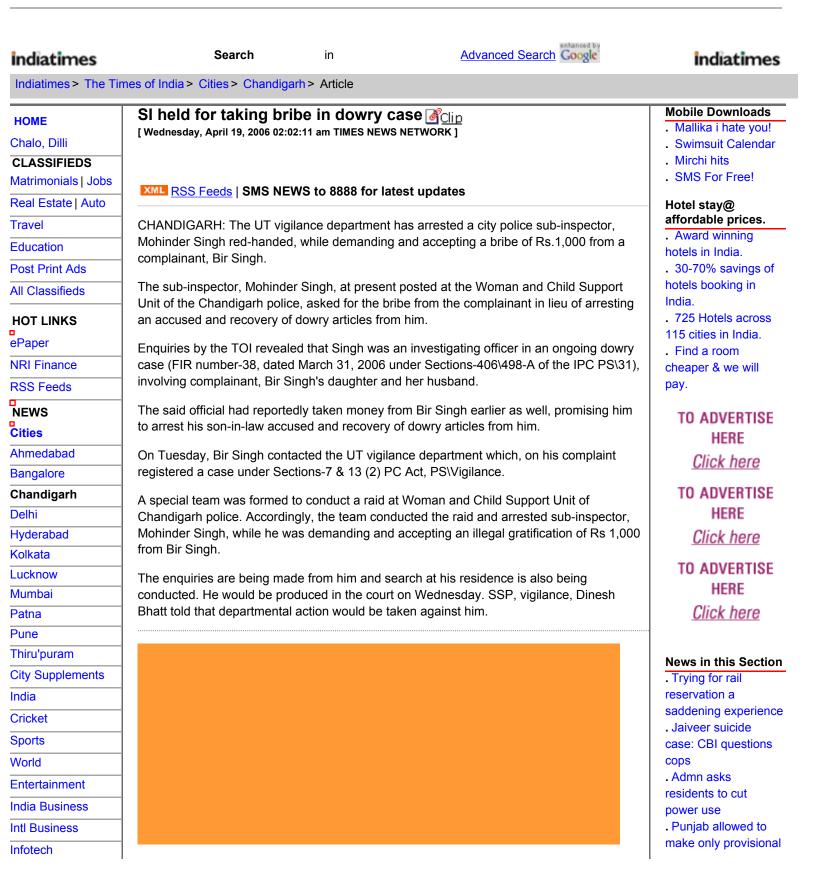
A brief survey of the families of the suicide victims revealed that majority of persons who committed suicide had depression, were addicted to alcohol or drugs, faced marital discord or chronic physical illness, he said. The Department of Psychiatry, GMCH, was making efforts to initiate preventive measure, he added.

The session was chaired by Dr C.B. Bansal, Director, Health Service, UT, Chandigarh.

Dr Neeraj Nagpal, president, IMA, and Dr Ajay Duseja welcomed the members and introduced the theme.



POWERED BY



NEWSLINES

**NL ARCHIVE** 

**NRIs Rang De** 

Basanti FREE DVD Fly non-stop to India.

Surf Bollywood at

bollywoodabc.com

New friendships,

send Gifts online

**Express Classifieds** 

**Express Estates** 

Express Money

**Express Travel** 

**ROUP SITES** 

The Indian Express

The Financial Express

Expressindia

Kashmir Live

**Express Cricket** 

Edition [Print]

COLUMNISTS

The Indian Express

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Free Newsletter

Wireless Express

**SYNDICATIONS** 

2.0

RSS Feeds

The Financial Express

Screen

Loksatta Lokprabha North American

experience of on-line

No Minimum Balance

Free Money Transfers

Whole new

romance...

NRI account

Personalised

Predictions

CHANNELS

Astrology

Shopping

to India

trading

Call 1-800-INDIA-10

SERVICES Matrimonials

nowl





## **CHANDIGARH Newsline** Ð

cities.expressindia.com

## Google

Advertisements Links Home> Chandigarh> News Monday, February 20, 2006 Ν C R Page One | Home & Around | Simplicity | Viva City | All Headlines Search by Date

#### NEWS

#### To do(wry) or not to do(wry), that is the Act

#### **Nazir Ahmad Rather**

Chandigarh, February 19: The stringent dowry laws, meant to deter dowry-seekers, are being increasingly misused by the very people they are meant to protect. The last three years have seen a steep rise in the number of cases of harassment for dowry with the Chandigarh police.

During this period — January, 2003, to January, 2006, — cases relating to 11 dowry deaths and 250 dowry-related harassment were registered in the city. Ajaib Singh, head of the Women and Child Support Unit, says 70 per cent of the 1,000-odd cases that they receive every year pertain to dowry, but only 20 per cent of these are genuine. "It is unfortunate that more and more people are misusing the stringent provisions of the law out of sheer spite."

"People generally make use this Advertisement

law to facilitate a divorce. And often, it's the lawyers who advise the women to implicate their in-laws under the provisions of this Act," says Shantosh Singh, chairperson of Women Welfare Counselling Cell at Sector 17.

A police officer narrated the case of a woman who had slapped a dowry case against her husband and in-laws only because she wanted the family house to be in her name.

Often, the number of items given in dowry is inflated to claim a

high settlement amount. "At times, they add car and other consumer durables to the list even if these were never given in the dowry," says a cop.

Ajaib Singh cites the case of a middle-aged woman with a 19-year-old daughter who too took recourse to the Dowry Act to seek divorce. "She insisted that her husband was demanding dowry from her parents even though she had been married to him for over 20 years."

Lawyers also admit that the stringent laws against the dowry are misused to a great extent,"There are only 10 per cent cases based on truth, and people usually come to us and ask specifically to mention the element of dowry in their divorce petitions," says Amrikh Singh Kalra, advocate at Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"Most of the cases are fabricated and the element of dowry is exaggerated in them. Basically women want to have a quick solution to their problems and the laws against dowry provide the easiest way out," says advocate Amarjit Singh Jattana.

There are many who feel that legal luminaries should find out ways to prevent the misuse of this Act. "With so many people filing cases under this Act, there may come a time when we begin to suspect even a genuine case," says Ajaib Singh.

Experts believe that there are no foolproof solutions to the problem. Sociologists look at a more holistic solution. Dr Sangeeta, a sociologist in the Women Counselling Cell at the Support Unit in Sector 17, feels people should be more cautious at the time of getting into a matrimonial alliance.

"Factors like family background, financial position, health, mindset, aspirations, previous romantic interests, et al, must be taken into account before forging an alliance. Often people marry in a hurry and repent at leisure.'

IRIs Add to your DVD
Collection
ang De Basanti FREE DVD
lick Here!

Travel to India Fly non-stop to India. Call 1-800-INDIA-10 now!

Go ride the stock market. Real time charts with indicators. Click Here!

The Indian Web-Mall Ebay-Register now for free. Online Shopping Paradise

ExpressIndia Astrology Bejan Daruwalla offers personalized predictions. Starting at Rs 500

Express Cricket Catch Live Commentary & Score, Latest News, Full Coverage, Cricket Crosswords





## citibank Rupee Checking Account



at the other end waiting to help you open your account

## Chat Now

FREE Money Transfers\*

Zero Minimum Balance\*

FREE Rang De Basanti DVD\* \*Conditions Apply

#### Career Oriented Trna

In JAVA, Data Stage, Net & QA

classifieds.sulekha.com

SAP Professional Trng

Be ready to take up a job opportunity

olassifieds.sulekha.com

Enhance your Career

Trng module specially designed for SAP

classifieds.sulekha.com

SAP Certification

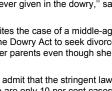
Equipped with the latest technology

olassifieds.sulekha.com

Job Orient Program

To assist them in developing the career





Vashi - Man ends life over false dowry accusation

Mid Day					Sponsored Ads by <b>Sulekha</b>
Keyword		[Advanced S	Search]	Monday,	November 7, 2005
lome   Diary   Cros	ssword   Voices   Advertise   Big Break	No.1) Matrimon	V 蕊	Up	odated: 5:56:48 PM
	Newsbar:				
Desktop Scorecard	SMS CRI TO 3650	IND VS SL 5th ODI - SL win by	/ 5 wickets; Dilsha	n 81* Arnold 49*; Next M	atch on Nov 9
metr	O VASHI	Letters   Emergency Numbers   Vendo	ors Best o	f Metro	Nov 4 - 10, 2005
Channels Other Metros	Man ends life over fa By: Rajendra Aklekar	alse dowry accusation		Advertise w	vith us
Bandra Malad To Borivli	May 23, 2003			LOCAL GUID	E
Chembur Andheri Mulund Thane Vashi Vashi City Sports HitList Other Headlines Metro Weekly Specials Play	suicide by strangulating himself on May 19. His paren on the same day. The police say Janmojay Mhatre, resident of Uran, ma between the two. Rajshri left the Mhatre household ar Janmojay had been trying to reconcile with her severa However, Rajshri threatened to lodge a complaint age household had been under stress. On May 20, while Janmojay committed suicide by stra sister Kalpana attempted to end their lives too by com Before attempting mass suicide, the Mhatre family ha should be held responsible for their death. A letter wit While Janmojay's parents are battling for life at Vashi Gandhi Memorial Rural Hospital. The Uran police are	eral times. gainst him and her in-laws of dowry harassment and since then the M trangulating himself in his house, his shocked parents and 22-year-or insuming Baygon Spray. and scribbled on the walls of their house that Rajshri and her threats rith similar text was also found in Janmojay's pocket. hi's NMMC FRU Hospital, his sister Kalpana has been shifted to Indi	iticide Whatre Id	Comment Vashi • NRI comp terror thre • 10pm dea flames thi • Residents	at cost of nature. lex ups security: eats dline goes up in s Diwali raise stink over
Hoy Hot Property Big Break <b>Other links</b> Wallpapers Diary Crossword Cartoons				<ul><li>bail</li><li>It's Diwali this reside</li></ul>	journo released on ke din diwala for ent to travel short:

## THE TIMES OF **INDIA**

# **CITY SUPPLEMENTS: CALCUTTA TIMES**

INDIA		CALCUIT	CALCUTTA TIMES					
TO ADVERTISE Click here	Search	The Times of India	Indiatimes	Web	ADVANCED enhanced by	The Senater Way To Send Hacey		
Indiatimes > The Times of India > City Supplements > Calcutta Times > Article								

## Home

CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonial Jobs Real Estate Auto Tenders Post Print Ads All Classifieds HOT LINKS ePaper **NRI** Finance XML RSS feeds Politics Cities City Supplements Delhi Times Bombay Times Bangalore Times Pune Times Calcutta Times Hyderabad Times Ahmedabad Times Lucknow Times Kanpur Times India **Cricket Sports** World Entertainment India Business Intl Business Infotech Health/Science Photo Gallery **TOI Headlines** Most Read Articles Obituary Archives Weather OPINION <u>Columnists</u> Editorial Interview Letters to Editor SUPPLEMENTS Education Times SUNDAY SPECIALS Book Mark Culture curry All That Matters

Life

## Women trapped in divorce as parents fall for alimon(e)y

AJANTA CHAKRABORTY

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [ THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004 12:14:43 AM ] Surf 'N' Earn - Sign in now

July 10, 2003: Susmita Bose weds software engineer Subimal Sen.

January 2, 2004: Susmita and her parents are at the marriage counsellors' seeking a divorce.

February 3, 2004: Subimal, who was away in the US, flies down to sort things out. But the Boses are adamant. Sen is asked to make a choice: A complaint under Section 498 A of IPC (cruelty towards bride), or a hefty one-time alimony. Sen opts for the latter option.

March 21, 2004: Divorce was agreed upon, and Susmita got richer by Rs 10 lakhs that she was granted as alimony.

A pretty long tale has been cut short here to take a look at one of the latest social trend. "When it comes to choosing between their daughters' happiness and money, some parents, I'm afraid, are increasingly lured by monetary gains. They force their daughters to seek a divorce instead of sorting out trivial marital issues," said Justice Dilip Basu, chairman, Legal Aid Service (LAS), West Bengal. "We've seen at least 10 such cases over the last one year. The first word uttered by the parents is divorce," added Justice Basu.

Sociologist Ruby Sain echoed, "I've seen this happening to a colleague. She threatened to file a case under Section 498A. The groom's family got scared and settled for divorce after paying up Rs 4 lakhs as alimony."

Additional commissioner of police (I), Partha Bhattacharjee, said, "During my stint with the CID, I came across several cases where Section 498A was misused. The law is absolutely needed because a large number of women genuinely need it. But the flip side of things also must be taken into account."

According to Justice Basu, LAS has managed to stop some of these divorces by talking to the daughters. "But more and more parents are coming to us as we also help people get divorce by mutual consent. This takes only six months, whereas a normal annulment case may take five years," said Justice Basu.

Sanlap, an NGO, is currently doing a research on the misuse of Section 498A. Citing another such case in Sonarpur, Rama Sarkar, a member of Gana Unnayan Parshad, said, "The groom was ill-tempered. The couple

CALCUTTA TIMES **HEADLINES** Thank you, roads Take me home Where have the gifts of magi gone? Lights, camera Sush Straight answers Dialing miss crazy High on phones, too! Don't see Salman Framed! Many a slip ... Straight answers Houseful! The son also rises! Choco, more than just an aphrodisiac! Whatta coincidence! Straight answers Want to promote blue films? Ms Mallika Sherawat Are the women safer here? Carrying the 'keep it simple' tradition

ahead 'Acting isn't a brainless job, yaar !' Straight answers



POWERED BY

## US -India -US



TO ADVERTISE HERE Click here TO ADVERTISE HERE Click here no connection fee min roundin amantel.com

Mind Over Matter Open Space Special Report NRI SERVICES Remit2India Post Print Ads PRINT EDITION Delhi Edition	often had fights. Three months after the marriage, the girl's family came here to file a divorce suit without giving the marriage a second chance. I think this is a dangerous trend." Lawyer Bishnu Charan Ghosh, who's handled about 100 such cases, agreed. "Parents are suddenly all too eager to get their daughters divorced. Hefty alimony may be a good reason," said Ghosh.	
DAILY DOSE Ninan's World	ajanta.chakraborty@timesgroup.com	
News Puzzle	Surf 'N' Earn - Sign in now	
Crosswords Astro Predictions Jokes Newsletters	Cordless Phones at Lowest Ever Prices Click here to buy	
	indiatimes <i>shopping</i>	
	Get indiatimes e-mail with	
	📇 Print this page 🛛 🖂 Email this page 🛛 👼 Comment on this article	
	RATE THIS ARTICLE	
	<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> 1=Poor,2=Mediocre,3=Average,4=Good,5=Outstanding	
	COMMENTS ON THIS ARTICLE	
	»Read all comments	

## <u>∧TOP</u>

About Us | For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service

Copyright © 2005 Times Internet Limited. All rights reserved. | Advertise with Us | Careers @ TIL | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Feedback | Sitemap



Sify										
Home	Astrology	Business	Classifieds	Movies	Ringtones	Samachar	Shopping	FIFA	Videos	more
Select Ca	ategory :	Web	Shopping	Classifie	eds Recip	oes Domain	Mobile	Jobs	Real Estate	e More
								[	Search enh	anced by Google"
>> Fullst	ory									

## Anjali Gupta loses sexual harassment case

Friday, 09 December , 2005, 18:12

**Bangalore:** A day after a military court ordered Indian Air Force Flying Officer Anjali Gupta's dismissal from service, a Court of Inquiry into her charges of sexual harassment against three senior officers has unanimously concluded she has 'failed to prove her complaint', IAF authorities announced on Friday.

"The three-member Court of Inquiry, headed by Air Marshal Bandopadhya, in its findings, has concluded it is the unanimous opinion that Anjali Gupta failed to prove her complaint of sexual harassment," IAF's Senior Personnel Staff Officer Ground Captain Ajay Masson and its legal officer, Wing Commander PC Prakash told a press conference.

"No action needs to be taken against Squadron Leader RS Choudhary, Wing Commander VC Cyriac and Commodore A Chopra, against whom Anjali Gupta has made charges of sexual harassment," the inquiry report concluded, they said.

The IAF officials, however, refused to comment on the status of the complaint lodged by the cashiered officer at the Vimanapura police station in the city, saying, "It is for the police to give an update."

Masson sought to clarify it was incorrect to say that Anjali Gupta was the first woman IAF officer to face court martial proceedings, as records point that some women officers have faced similar proceedings but refused to give details.

Despite giving ample opportunity by the Court of Inquiry, Gupta failed to make out a case, Masson said.

On Thursday, the General Court Martial sentenced Gupta to be cashiered on five charges, which included indiscipline and insubordination.

## Print | Mail | Post your comments | Rate this Feature



>> More News

PTI

© Copyright Sify Ltd, 1998-2006. All rights reserved. India News Portal, Sify.com hosted at SifyHosting India's first Level 3 Internet Data Centre. Site optimized for Internet Explorer 5.5 and above.

See Disclaimer | Privacy Policy & Parental Guidance on pornography | Careers@sify | About Us | Feedback | Advertise | Site Map

support had helped them a lot in trapping corrupt officials. He said a number of district level seminars and meetings had been organised to create awareness and to motivate people to curb corruption.



COMMUNITY

## Dowry cases to come under community policing plan Jangveer Singh Tribune News Service

Patiala, April 2

In a major policy shift, Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) in all five districts and three police districts in Patiala Zone have been asked to exercise restraint while proceeding against members of families charged under various dowry crimes.

The district police chiefs have been directed by Patiala Zonal Inspector-General of Police Rajinder Singh to arrest the accused in such cases only after a comprehensive inquiry.

Sources said these directions had been passed after a survey by the police revealed that a large number of false cases were being filed by women against their in-laws.

Besides asking the district police chiefs of Patiala, Sangrur, Barnala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ludhiana, Ropar, Jagraon and Khanna, which fall under the Patiala Zone, to exercise restraint, all have also been asked to take dowry cases under the ambit of the community policing programme.

This system has already started yielding results with 4,698 disputes being referred to various districts in the zone last year. As many as 3,673 cases were solved through reconciliation. The community cell solved another 369 cases through mutual divorce.

Zonal IG Rajinder Singh, when contacted, said it had been decided to change the police strategy with regard to dowry cases after reports that in some cases, members of the accused family had committed suicide because of the humiliation suffered by them. He said the force had been given specific directions on how they should react after a dowry case was registered.

"The SSPs have been asked not to raid the house of the accused after registration of a dowry case. Instead, the accused should be called for a meeting". He said it was also seen that sieze of dowry items did not help and that the items remained in police stations for years.

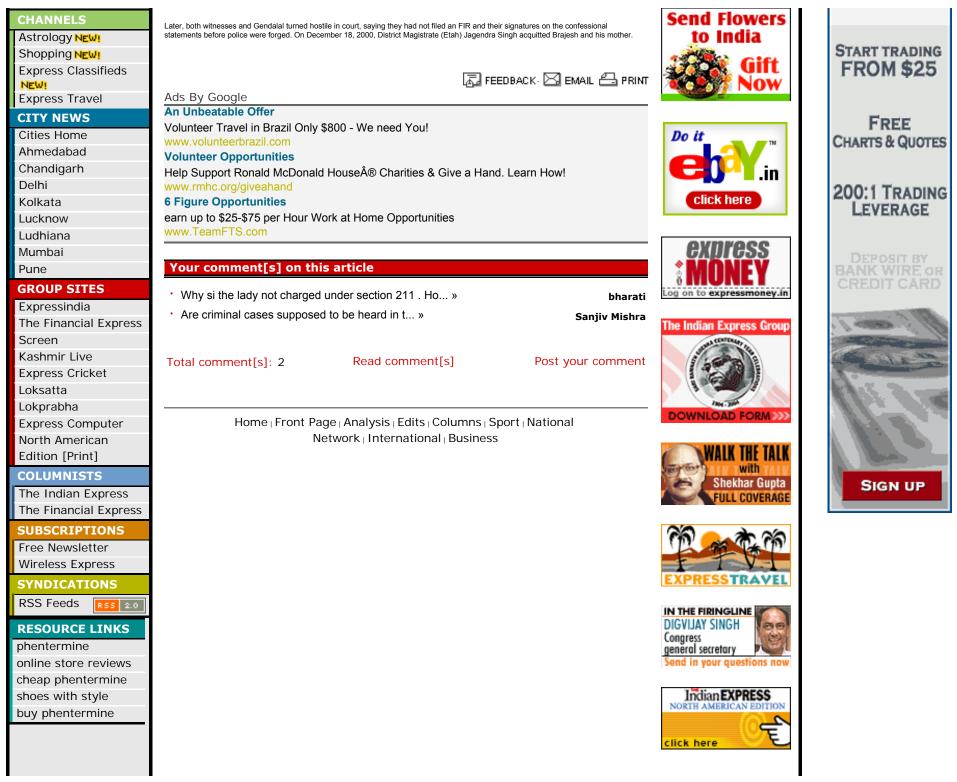
He said the police officers had been asked not to sieze such items. In order to ensure transparent functioning of the investigation officer in the case, the directions now held him responsible in case he made arrests not needed in the case.

The Investigating Officer would also be responsible for removing names of accused or relevant Sections from the FIR, if not proved, to ensure speedy and quick justice to the accused.

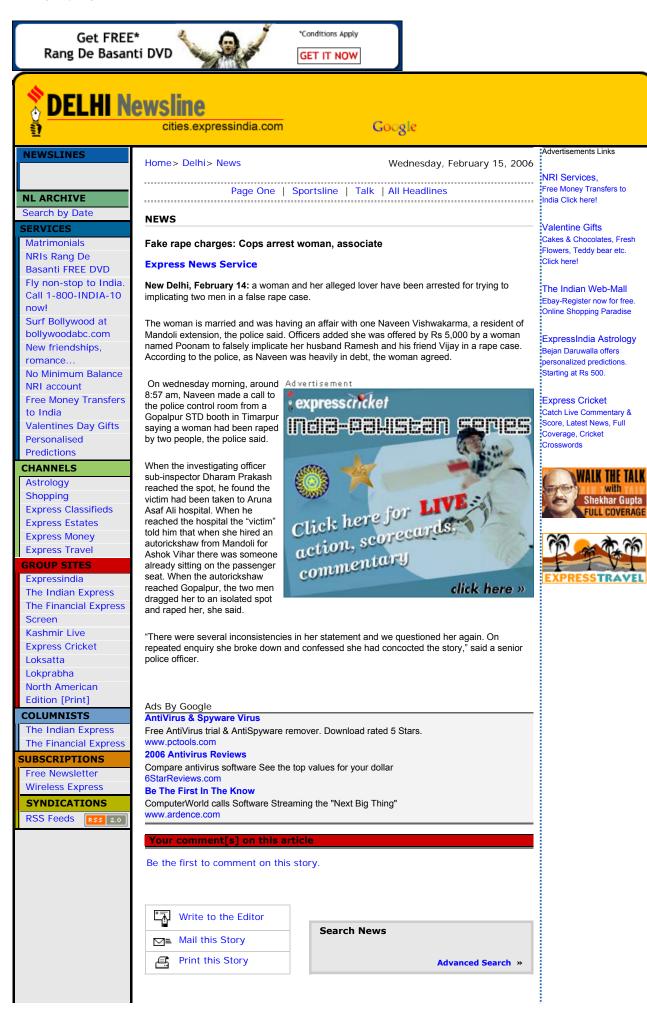








http://www.indianexpress.com/full\_story.php?content\_id=61245 (2 of 3)7/27/2005 10:43:22 PM

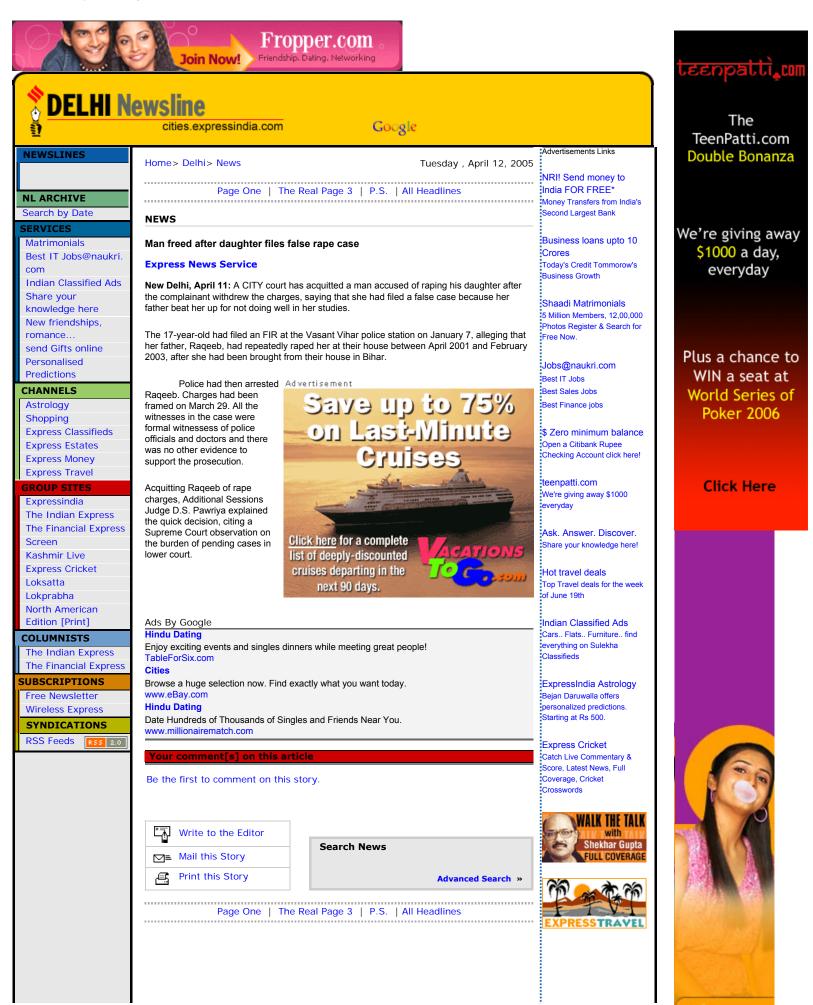


CLICK YOU	KY LA ME MD OH OK OR PA OF INDIA	AZ AR CA MA MI MN RI SC SD CITIES	CO CT MS MO TN TX : PAT	INA	GA HI NV NH VA WA	ID NJ WV	
For nour 2	Hi Guest, S	Sign Up   Clipping(s)		_			
For news? it's TOI	Search	<sub>in</sub> Times of	india 🗾 🖸	Advanced Sea	arch Google		
Indiatimes > The Tir	nes of India > Cities > Patna >	Article		S All	2-1N/D///	SP	
HOME	Majority of dowry ca	ases are false:	SP <u> Clip</u>			1	
CLASSIFIEDS	[ Tuesday, August 19, 2003 01:4	4:06 am TIMES NEWS	NETWORK ]			F	
Matrimonials   Jobs	Hajipur: "About 80 per cent o					k	
Real Estate   Auto	alleged dowry deaths in Vai						
Education	lodged by so-called victims' blackmailing the in-laws," sa						
Post Print Ads	Shobha Ohatker.						
All Classifieds							
HOT LINKS	Talking to TNN here recently there is a trend of levelling a of money as dowry in most of	llegations of demand		Does your			
Paper	women often do this under t		Email address				
NRI Finance	"greedy" parents, she addec	l.		ian au	uless		
RSS Feeds	"This is all because of a lack	of social protest		need	2		
NEWS	against the lodging of false of		neeu a				
	police have now initiated act	÷ · ·	m	۱akeov	/er?		
Cities	whose cases for dowry mure			lance			
Ahmedabad	were found "false" during the Ohatker adding that, at least						
Bangalore	declared "killed" for dowry by	y their in-laws, were					
Chandigarh	recovered "alive" by her from						
Delhi	district during her stint here	d5 05.					
Hyderabad	According to official figures,						
-	cases of dowry death were r	•					
Kolkata	district in 2002 and out of the cases were found totally fals						
_ucknow	cases were found totally false by police. Ohatker said that six dowry death cases out of 25 lodged up to July this year were found false after						
Numbai	probe.						
Patna	About 75 cases for harassm	ents for dowry were	registered in '	2002 in the distri	ct and more		
Pune	than one third of them were						
Thiru'puram							
ity Supplements	Besides, a new trend for lod						
ndia	also been witnessed. "Whenever young girls elope with their 'lovers' for marriage in Vaishali district, their parents, in a bid to save their social prestige, lodge a case of kidnapping," added						
Cricket	Ohatker.		1 30, .008	,			

# Majority of dowry cases are false: SP- The Times of India

Sports	In 2002, 28 cases of girls' kidnapping were lodged in the district. Of them, police investigation
World	found 10 cases as completely false. "The rest 18 cases were declared "true", but not because
Entertainment	they were cases of kidnapping in true sense but because the girls in question, though had
India Business	eloped with their lovers, were found minor," she said.
Intl Business	As many as 12 cases of girls' kidnapping had been lodged in the district till July this year, and
Infotech	six of them have been found false, the SP said. She added that rest of the cases were of
Health/Science	elopement with consent but the girls in questioned were found minor.
Photo Gallery	
TOI Headlines	
Most Read Articles	
Archives	
Weather	
OPINION	
Columnists	
Editorial	
Interview	
Letters to Editor	
SUPPLEMENTS	- Rvint this name - Recall this name - Recomment on this article
Education Times	📇 Print this page 🛛 Email this page 👼 Comment on this article
	RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] 1 2 3 4 5
SUNDAY SPECIALS	Read Comments
	No comment has been posted for this article yet.
Review	
Deep Focus	
Book Mark	
Culture curry	
All That Matters	
Mind Over Matter	
Open Space	
Special Report	
NRI SERVICES	
Remit2India	
Post Print Ads	
DAILY DOSE	
□ Ninan's World	
News Puzzle	
Crosswords	
Astro Predictions	
Jokes Newsletters	
NEWSIEITEIS	

About Us Advertise with Us Careers @ TIL Terms of Use Privacy Policy Feedback Sitemap Copyright © 2005 Times Internet Limited. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: Times Syndication Sei



Fronner

The Times of India Online Printed from timesofindia.indiatimes.com > India

# Mom forced me to frame papa on rape charge' [Friday, November 25, 2005 08:47:06 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]

# Citibank NRI Offer

NEW DELHI: Fact can, indeed, turn out to be stranger than fiction. Check out this real-life story.

A man was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment by a lower court for raping his daughter. The high court found hole prosecution story and acquitted him.

The case moved to the Supreme Court and the apex court said such a crime couldn't go unpunished, awarding the accused a

And now the daughter, on whose complaint the father is in prison, has confessed in a sworn affidavit that her dad was innoce

She said she had framed him at the instance of her mother whose relationship with her father was strained. This bizarre case say they've not heard of a more weird twist to a case—has raised several questions.

What happens to the punishment given by the SC now that its very basis has been dissolved? Will the daughter and the moth punished for misleading the court and tormenting the man?

How common is abuse of the law in shocking cases like rape and dowry? How rigorous is police investigation into such compl that of Asha Ram, about whose alleged crime an anguished Supreme Court had expressed outrage, saying he had destroyed sacred relations".

Only last week it had awarded him a life term, setting aside a Himachal Pradesh high court judgment which had disbelieved th story and had acquitted him.

Wife may get away lightly

In the West, perjury, that is, lying on oath before a court, is considered a serious crime. Millionaire author Jeffrey Archer was r term of one year and a fine of 1,75,000 pounds in the UK.

But it is doubtful if Asha Ram's wife, accused by her own daughter in an affidavit of forcing her to level rape charges against h as stiff a penalty as Archer, because in India the punishment is not severe.

Under Indian laws, one who abets commitment of perjury (in this case Asha Ram's wife) could face punishment as if she had the offence (Section 108 of the Indian Penal Code).

The Criminal Procedure Code (Section 344) provides that anybody accused of lying on oath or giving false evidence (in this c daughter) could face a summary court trial and, if convicted, could face a jail term of up to three months and a fine of Rs 500. minor at the time of trial could escape punishment.

### 'Cops too framed my father'

NEW DELHI: The daughter of a man, sent to jail for life for raping her, has now denied that he committed the act. The twist to about when a two-page affidavit by the 'victim', was annexed to the father's fresh petition before the apex court seeking a reviholding him guilty of the offence. He had all along claimed that he had been framed at the behest of his wife.

Narrating the facts before convicting Asha Ram, the apex court in its judgment had noted that on the intervening night of Augu

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-1307752,prtpage-1.cms

he had come home around midnight and asked one of his daughters, who was staying with him, to bring him dinner to his roo entered the room, the prosecution alleged, he had bolted the door and raped her after gagging her.

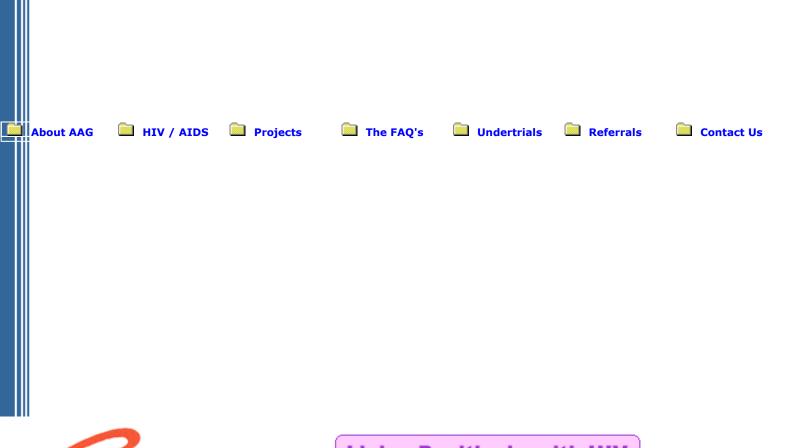
The daughter, now 31 (she was 14 at the time of the alleged rape), happily married and living with her husband and two childles. Nawansahar district of Punjab, has taken a considerable risk in making a sworn affidavit, for if it is proved that the affidavit is f her in jail.

She said in her affidavit, "As there was a matrimonial dispute between my mother and father, my mother wanted to take rever compelled me to lodge a false case against my father...I was also compelled by my mother, under whose custody I was living police to depose in the court against my father that he committed rape. Accordingly, I deposed in the trial court against him."

She repeated in the statement that her father was innocent and said, "The police, in connivance with my mother, fabricated fa that is, salwar and underwear, which did not belong to me as my father never committed rape upon me."

If her statement is true, it would hit at the root of the prosecution case and finally the judgment of the SC. Added to this is her statement that on the day of the incident, she had never even been into her father's room. The apex court was livid with the active by the HC despite what it thought was clear evidence against the accused.

©Bennett, Coleman and Co., Ltd. All rights reserved.





**Living Positively with HIV** 

# AIDS AWARENESS GROUP

# Is Section 376 IPC Being Abused ? A REPORT BY AAG

# **Reasons Responsible for Mis-Use of Law**

- 1. The girl had consensual sex, but subsequently, claimed that she was raped, under parental pressure.
- 2. When she was caught red handed in a compromising position
- 3. When the girl got pregnant, but the boy refused to marry her.
- 4. When the girl eloped and married the boy of her choice against her parents' wishes. The parents coerced her into claiming she was raped, and filing a complaint in the police station. The parents did not approve of the boy because of differences in caste, creed, religion or status. They used the loopholes in the law to take revenge.

# **1.** She had consensual sex, but subsequently, under pressure, claimed that she was raped.

# Jindu Vs State of Punjab (1979) XXXI Punjab L.R.194, 195

The prosecutrix was taken to a room upstairs in the appellant's house. There, they had sexual intercourse. To save her reputation, she lodged a false case of rape, against the appellant. But the appellant was acquitted on the ground of voluntarily consent.

• It was found that the door was not bolted from inside.

GROUP
Acknowledgement
Preface
<u>Review</u>
<u>How Women Became</u> <u>Powerful</u>
The Major Loopholes Responsible for Mis- Use of Law
Reasons Responsible For Mis-Use of Law
Cases of Alleged Rape Taken up by AAG
Conclusion
Annexures (1-9)
List of Participants
Report on the Workshop and Recommendations

• The prosecutrix did not give any bites to the appellant and she did not push him aside, preventing him from committing sexual intercourse. The sexual inter course took place with the consent of the prosecutrix.

### Bethala Samaya Vs State of A.P.1996 (3) Crimes 221 (HC).

The appellant accused, accosted the victim (a married woman), in a garden at about 2.00 p. m. on 23 Aug 1989. He dragged her to a place under a mango tree and raped her in the presence of the victim's cousin sister, a child aged about 8 years. The accused was acquitted because the court held that this was a case of voluntary consent:

(a) The circumstances that lent support to the suggestion by the defence that either the prosecutrix, knew the appellant from before and had consented to the act, or that the act had not taken place;

(b) If the accused were a stranger to the victim, it would not be possible for her to take her father in law to meet him and confront him with the offence.

It was observed in the judgment that "Evidence of rape victims should normally be believed, but if there is an inherent contradiction in the evidence and credibility of the identification of accused was in question, conviction could not be sustained".

## Surinder Kumar Vs State 1996 (3) Crimes 367 (Delhi HC)

Pushpa disclosed in her statement that she had visited the market, along with Surinder Kumar. The appellant, (Surinder Kumar) had purchased some gifts for her. She had accepted the gifts. It was therefore difficult to believe that Pushpa was being detained against her wishes at Ghaziabad. Rather, her statement, read as a whole, leaves no doubt that force or compulsion was not applied. Pushpa was not a minor and thus her consenting behaviour assumed importance. The accused was acquitted.

### Madan Lal Vs The State of Punjab 1997 (3) Crimes 210

On 15 January 1995 Madan Lal of Railway Department told the prosecutrix that he was going, to Allahabad for training. The prosecutrix expressed her desire to accompany him. On 8 Jan 1995, at about 6.30 p.m., the prosecutrix left her house giving the excuse that she was going out to ease herself. She secretly took out her suitcase. When she did not return, her mother, Surinder Kaur, lodged a report with the police on 14 Jan 1995 on the basis of which a formal F. I.R .was lodged u/s 363/366 IPC. During the process of trial, Section 376 IPC also added. The accused was acquitted u/s 376 as the evidence of prosecutrix revealed that she had left her house of her own without any invitation from the appellant. The Hon"ble judge relied on the precedence set in the case of **S. Vardarajan**, "where the minor left her father's protection voluntarily, honouring, and having the capacity to know the full impact of what she was doing. She joined Madan Lal, the accused. The accused cannot be said to have taken her away from the keeping of her lawful guardian. Something more has to be shown in a case of this kind and that is some kind of inducement held out by the accused person or an active participation by him in the formation of the intention of the minor to leave the house of the guardian".

The fact of the prosecutrix accompanying the appellant and living with him in one room was enough to infer that she was a consenting party to the sexual intercourse.

#### Chinta alias Chint Ram Vs State of H.P. 1997 (4) Crimes 343

The prosecutrix went to see the Dushera festival along with her friend. After attending the festival, while returning, she entered the nearby forest to ease herself. According to her statement, at that time, the appellant forcibly dragged her to a nearby cave. He then had sexual intercourse with her twice in the night. He further detained her for almost a month, taking her to different places, sometime at his aunt's place. The accused was acquitted on the following grounds:

The circumstances show that she was a consenting party. This fact, coupled with other circumstances which were on the record, it was clear that the prosecutrix was a consenting party. She had not only accompanied him from place to place but she had had sexual intercourse with mutual consent.

#### 2. To save her reputation when caught red handed,

The Rape law is most commonly misused when the boy and the girl, are found in a compromising position by a third party (which may be her mother or relative, or anyone known to the girl). The girls often allege that they were raped in order to protect their reputation. The following cases would illustrate this observation. The following cases are taken from the recorded judgments from different High Courts and also the Supreme Court.

## Arun kumar Vs State of U.P. 1992 UP G R 190 at 191

It was alleged by Meena Kumari that she had been raped in the waiting rooms of Lucknow and Delhi. Meena Kumari, on the prosecution's own showing, had returned back within 6-days. The Medical Officer had not found any injury on the private or any part of Meena Kumari's body. In the medical report she was shown to have been used to sexual intercourse. If the accused had indulged in sexual intercourse with Meena Kumari against her wishes, during the six days she was in the waiting rooms, the Medical Officer would have found evidence of it on her person. The defence counsel's argument that it was not possible for the accused to have sexual intercourse in the public waiting rooms of Lucknow and Delhi carried weight. The rape alleged by the prosecution between 15th July 1984 and 21st July 1984, could not be established, if the two at all indulged in sex, it must have been continuing with the consent of Meena Kumari. She was more than 17 years of age at the time of the alleged rape; it could not be held that her consent was immaterial. The accused was acquitted of the charge of rape under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code.

# Biram Soren Vs State of West Bengal. 1992 Calcutta Crl. 378 at pp 384, 385 (Cal)

There was an interesting football match. Most of the villager's were away to see the football match. Some of the girl's relatives residing in her house also went to see the match. Her parents had gone to the market. She was alone with the boy she was in love with. It gave them an opportunity to have sex, which they both wanted. So they had sex. She was afraid of her mother discovering that she had had sexual intercourse, so she alleged that she had been raped. A complaint was filed in the police station.

The fresh tear of hymen and the extensive laceration of the vagina were due to the fact that this was her first sexual intercourse. An absence of any other injury on any part of the prosecutrix gave a lie to her statement that there was a scuffle as a result of which the blouse, she was wearing, was torn. Non-disclosure of the incident of sexual intercourses and the name of the appellant at the earliest opportunity, even though she was found conscious and talking to her parents on the way to the hospital and the absence of any injury, such as nail marks on her breasts, or scratches and abrasions on her thighs, buttocks, back etc suggest consent.

The High Court was aware of the note of caution sounded by the apex court in the case of "**State of Maharashtra Vs. Chandra Prakash**". On the same basis, the court evaluated her evidence, the Calcutta High Court shuddered at the injuries sustained by the prosecutrix in her private parts and yet was constrained to hold that it was not a case of rape and acquitted the accused.

### Sudharmay Nath alias Bachhu Vs State of W.B 1999 Cr.L.J. 4482 (Cal.HC)

The appellant was a private tutor of the prosecutrix, and secretly became physically close to her on assuring her that he would marry her. She indulged in a sexual relationship with the appellant. The girl became pregnant. When her pregnancy was running into the third month, the girl's pregnancy could no longer be kept a secret. On enquiry, she revealed the aforesaid facts. On medical examination it was discovered that she was 17 to 19 years old. **It was held that it was not a case of rape, as there was consent**. The girl had full knowledge of the nature and the implications of such an act. She was fully aware that the person (accused) concerned was not yet her husband, even, if he had proposed to marry her.

#### 3. When the girl gets pregnant but the boy refuses to marry her.

If a girl gets pregnant as a result of a sexual relationship, to save her reputation either she herself, or her family allege that she was a victim of rape.

There are certain cases, where there is a sexual relationship between the accused and the prosecutrix. If the prosecutrix conceives and the accused refuses to marry her, the family

members, as well as, the prosecutrix, rope him u/s 376, as this section gives ultimate power to the women over the man. This is quite evident in following cases.

### M.C. Prasanan App. Vs State Respondent 1999 Cr.L.J. 998 (Cal.HC)

The prosecutrix was a student of the appellant. Consequently they became close to each other. They used to have sexual intercourse. The prosecutrix believing that he would marry her, continued her sexual relationship with the accused. Later the accused refused to marry the prosecutrix. As a result the family and the prosecutrix filed a case u/s 376. The case was filed 3 months after the alleged incident, when the pregnancy of the prosecutrix was visible. The girl was a minor and her consent cannot normally be accepted. Since neither definite corroboration, nor evidence, was available about the correct age of the girl, an acquittal was granted because there was consent.

## Jayanti Rani Panda Vs State 1984 (Crl.L.J. 1535 Calcutta)

"Where a full-grown girl consents to the act of sexual intercourse on the promise of marriage and continues to indulge in such an activity until she becomes pregnant, it is an act of promiscuity on her part and not an act induced by misconception of fact.

"This is a gross misuse of the Section 376 as it was not approved by the parents of the girl. In the particular situation of India the parents never digest that their daughter is having a sexual relationship or love affair with a boy of the girls choice so when they come to know about the alleged alliance between the two, they force the girl to fabricate a case of Section 376. As **according to this section the statement of the prosecutrix under Sections 161 and 164 of evidence act is enough for conviction of the accused, whether he is innocent or not.**"

A woman may have consented to have sex with some ulterior motives in her mind. It is quite often to blackmail, and to extort money. One cannot deny this fact that modernized, well educated women or women with loose morals are perfectly capable of crying rape falsely. Some times these women use the rape related laws to take revenge. This is evident in cases of women who have been seduced and later abandoned.

#### Mujia alias Mauji lal & others vs. State of M.P. 1998 2 Crimes 418

The man had won the Panchayat election. His opponent made his wife file a false case of rape in retaliation. The Honourable High Court acquitted the accused holding that "rape may have been alleged" falsely.

### Tapan Ghosh Vs State 1987 3 Crimes 108

The accused started a signature campaign asking the prosecutrix and her family to vacate the premises in a railway quarter, where they were staying unauthorisedly. The prosecutrix filed a rape case against the accused and he was convicted. In the appeal in the High Court the defence lawyer contended that this was the reason for the charge of rape against the accused. A division bench of the Calcutta High Court, while acquitting the accused on his appeal against the conviction, observed, "no finding can be arrived at on the basis of an isolated fact or proposition regarding a particular course of conduct or behaviour pattern."

State Vs H s/o S (Handled by AAG) F.I.R. No.414/2000 u/s 376, 377, 382, 452, 506 IPC

# 4. When the girl elopes and marries the boy of her choice against her parents' wishes

The parents coerce her into claiming she was raped, and filing a complaint in the police station. The parents do not approve of the boy because of differences in caste, creed and religion or status. They use the loopholes in the law to take revenge.

## **Oroos Fatima alias Nisha and Another Vs Senior Superintendent Of Police 1992 (3) Crimes 97 (SC).**

In this case a Muslim girl married to a Jain boy. The girl's family objected to this and they alleged rape. The boy was acquitted on the grounds that the girl was a consenting party.

# State Vs A R s/o I (Handled by AAG) F.I.R. No.323/99 u/s 366, 376, 34 IPC P.S. Pahar Ganj

Please see page 23, first para for details.

# State Vs. V S/O A. Singh.(Handled by AAG) F.I.R NO. 8/98 u/s 363,366, 376 IPC P.S. Nangloi

A Muslim girl aged about 20 years and a Hindu boy decided to get married in spite of the objection from the girl's father. The father, it appears, used to maltreat the girl. A year after registration of FIR by the father, the girl went back to meet him. He promptly complained to the police at the police station at Nangloi. He coerced his daughter into making a false complaint of rape On the basis of investigations and the same statement made by her under Section 164 before a Magistrate, the prosecution laid charges of Kidnapping (363), Kidnapping with intention to marry (366) and rape (376). The ossification test of the prosecutrix showed her age to be 20 years. After the charge

sheet was filed for prosecution and the case was committed to the court of sessions, charges under relevant Sections of the Penal Code were framed against the accused. The marriage between the couple was performed under civil law and the prosecutrix was in communication with her accused husband during his incarceration in jail. After almost one year, the trial court acquitted the accused holding that "**the prosecution has miserably failed to bring home guilt of the accused**". The accused had to remain in jail without

bail during this time. His wife had to fend for herself alone till her Husband was let off from the Case. The couple is facing difficult times to adjust in the society because of the stigma attached due to the husband's yearlong stay in jail.

# TOP

#### HOME | DISCLAIMER | CONTACT US

Copyright © 2003 AIDS Awareness Group. All Rights Reserved.

Campaigns
 Press Room

> Media Centre

together	indiatogether.org The news that matters.				X Sa	Say NO to Dowry		
	Home	Op-Ed	Interact	States	Services	Support	Search	
ANUSHI			Laws against d	omestic viole	11113 13500	e : Table of Contents		
> New Issue	Underused o Madhu Kishv					Inda.vsnl.net.in on India Together		
> Archives					• Women's	Issues		
> Subscribe > Campaigns	The W	aa ord						

The birth of MANUSHI in 1978 coincided with the unfortunate rise in reported cases of domestic violence and murder. Some of these appeared to be linked to dowry demands. When we organised one of our first demonstrations, in early 1979, to protest against the police gang up with the murderer's family by registering the death of the newly-married Tarvinder Kaur as a case of suicide, nearly 1500 people of the neighbourhood joined us in calling for a social boycott of the family. This protest received widespread publicity in the media. As a result, MANUSHI and other organisations who joined in that protest were flooded with cases of married women, seeking redress against abusive and violent husbands, as also parents, whose daughters had been murdered by their in-laws, seeking our help in getting justice from the police and courts. However, the experience of approaching the police and law courts turned out to be a very disappointing one for most women's organisations.

To begin with, the police would put all manners of hurdles in even registering cases of domestic violence, even when the victims feared for their very lives. In cases where wives had been murdered, the police were found to play an active role in destroying evidence and passing off these cases as suicides or accidental deaths – simply because they had been suitably bribed. The story in the law courts was not very different. Husbands and in-laws got away with torture and even murder, because the women and their families found it difficult to "prove beyond doubt" that they were victims of violence and extortion.

From that experience many concluded that what we needed were stringent laws. By comparison, far less importance was given to figuring out ways of making our law enforcement machinery behave lawfully. But most important of all, domestic violence and abuse came to be seen as a one-way affair, largely because most of those whose cases reached women's organisations, police stations and law courts, happened to be wives who had complained against their husbands. Our laws do not recognise the possibility of daughters-in-law maltreating old in-laws or other vulnerable members of their husband's family.

#### **Demand for Stringent Laws**

As a result of determined campaigning and lobbying by women's organisations, significant amendments were made to the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act, with the intention of protecting wives from marital violence, abuse and extortionist dowry demands. The most notable ones are sections 304B, 406 and 498A of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 113 A of the Indian Evidence Act.

However, the actual implementation of these laws has left a bitter trail of disappointment, anger and resentment in its wake, among the affected families.

On the one hand, many victims of domestic violence, as well as many women's organisations feel that despite the existence of supposedly stringent laws, that enshrine the dual objective of helping the woman gain control over her *stridhan* and punishing abusive husbands and in-laws, in reality most victims fail to receive necessary relief. This is due to the unsympathetic attitude of the police, magnified by their propensity to protect the wrong doers, once they are adequately bribed.

A survey of cases, in which wives had been murdered or had committed suicide, carried out by *Vimochana*, a Bangalorebased women's organisation, also indicates that the police and other law enforcing agencies are willfully avoiding use of the stringent laws against domestic violence. In most cases, even where the circumstantial evidence clearly indicates that the wife was killed, the police seemed to go out of their way to convert her death into a case of suicide. In many instances, families of victims found it difficult to register an accurate F.I.R., or have the case properly investigated. There are widespread allegations that the police usually collaborate with the murderers in producing false post-mortem and forensic reports, even destroying circumstantial evidence so that the accused can easily secure acquittal (see report by **Vimochana** in Manushi 117). Similarly, a study, based on police records, to evaluate the functioning of section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, conducted by a group of women activists associated with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, indicated that 40 per cent of women were dead by the time their families came to lodge complaints against their violent husbands.

Thus, numerous women continue to suffer humiliation and battering, many even to the point of death, despite the existence of stringent laws in their favour. On the other hand, there is a growing and widespread feeling that these laws are being used by most police officers and lawyers to help unscrupulous daughters-in law hold their in-laws to ransom.

#### The Tide Turns

In the first decade of MANUSHI's existence, most of those who came to us for legal aid were women who alleged abuse in their marital home. In the last few years, a good proportion of the cases coming to us involve complaints by in-laws and husbands about the misuse and abuse of laws, especially sections 498A and 406. Wherever I travel, in India or abroad, such cases are invariably brought to my notice, not only by aggrieved families and their friends, but more often by members of women's organisations themselves.

Things have come to this pass, not just due to police and judicial corruption but also because the laws, as they are currently framed, lend themselves to easy abuse.

During the 1980's, far reaching changes were introduced in our criminal laws to deal with domestic violence. Prior to 1983, there were no specific provisions to deal with marital abuse and violence. But husbands could be prosecuted and punished under the general provisions of the Indian Penal Code dealing with murder, abetment to suicide, causing hurt and wrongful confinement. Since marital violence mostly took place in the privacy of the home, behind closed doors, a woman could not call upon any independent witnesses to testify in her favour and prove her case "beyond reasonable doubt" as was required under criminal law. Therefore, women's organisations lobbied to have the law tilted in women's favour by bringing in amendments which shifted the burden of proof on the accused and instituted fairly stringent, pre-emptive measures and punishments against the accused.

All these amendments placed draconian powers in the hands of the police without adequate safeguards against the irresponsibility of the enforcement machinery. The truth is that there were adequate provisions in the IPC Sections 323, 324, 325 and 326 for use against anyone who assaults a woman or causes her injury. But the police would in most cases not register a complaint against a husband under these sections, even where there was clear evidence that the wife's life was in grave danger. This was partly because, as habitual users of violence, policemen, more than any other section of our population, find it easy to condone beatings and even murder of wives by husbands. Given their track record in routinely brutalising people who fall into their clutches, it is reasonable to assume that the propensity of our policemen to beat up their wives would be much higher than that of the average citizen. Add to this their entrenched habit of patronising criminals as a way of garnering extra income and it would be, indeed, naive to presume that they would turn into compassionate rescuers of women in distress, simply because more stringent laws had been put at their disposal.

No new principles of accountability were added to the Police Act. The only new innovation we witnessed was that special Crimes Against Women Cells were created in select police stations to handle women's complaints. And, in some places, Family Courts were put into operation.

However, since the new police cells for women are run by the same police personnel, barring a few exceptional officers, the rest have had no compunction in making a mockery of the new laws by systematic under use or abuse — depending upon which offers better money-making opportunities.

#### **The New Amendments**

Let us examine the new provisions to see how they facilitate this process: The Indian Penal Code was amended twice during the 1980s — first in 1983 and again in 1986 — to define special categories of crimes dealing with marital violence and abuse.

In 1983, Section 498A of the IPC defined a new cognizable offence, namely, "cruelty by husband or relatives of husband". This means that under this law the police have no option but to take action, once such a complaint is registered by the victim or any of her relatives. It prescribes imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and also includes a fine. The definition of cruelty is not just confined to causing grave injury, bodily harm, or danger to life, limb or physical health, but also includes mental health, harassment and emotional torture through verbal abuse. This law takes particular cognisance of harassment, where it occurs with a view to coercing the wife, or any person related to her, to meet any unlawful demand regarding any property or valuable security, or occurs on account of failure by her, or any person related to her, to meet such a demand.

During the same period, two amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, enacted in 1984 and 1986, made dowry giving and receiving a cognizable offence. Even in this case, where a person is prosecuted for taking or abetting dowry, or for demanding dowry, the burden of proof that he had not committed an offence was placed on the accused.

However, no punitive provisions were added for those making false allegations or exaggerated claims. There is, of course, the law against perjury (lying on oath). But in India, the courts expect people to prevaricate and lawyers routinely encourage people to make false claims because such stratagems are assumed to be part of the legal game in India. Therefore, the law against perjury has hardly ever been invoked in India.

### Partners in 'crime' let off

A person guilty of giving or taking dowry is punishable with imprisonment for a term ranging from six months to two years, plus a fine, or the amount of such dowry. Needless to say, no case is ever registered against dowry "givers." It is only dowry "receivers" who are put in the dock. Not surprisingly, the law is invoked very selectively. The very same family which would declare at the time of marriage that they only gave "voluntary gifts" to the groom's family, does not hesitate to attribute all their "gift-giving" to extortionist demands, once the marriage turns sour and is headed for a breakdown.

Section 406 prescribes imprisonment of upto three years for criminal breach of trust. This provision of IPC is supposed to be invoked by women to file cases against their husbands and in-laws for retrieval of their dowry.

Furthermore, another Section 304B was added to the IPC to deal with yet another new category of crime called "dowry death". This section states that if the death of a woman is caused by burns or bodily injury, or occurs under abnormal circumstances, within seven years of her marriage and it is shown that just prior to her death she was subjected to cruelty by her husband or any relative of her husband, in connection with any demand for dowry, such a death would be called a "dowry death", and the husband or relative would be deemed to have caused her death.

The person held guilty of a "dowry death" shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life. By inserting a new section 113B in the Indian Evidence Act, the lawmakers stipulated that in cases that get registered by the police as those of "dowry death", the court shall presume that the accused is guilty unless he can prove otherwise.

Under section 304B, in the case of a "dowry death", where allegations of demand of dowry or non-return of dowry are made, the accused are frequently denied anticipatory, or even regular bail.

The burden of proof is shifted to the accused party. The basic spirit of Indian jurisprudence is that a person is presumed innocent till proven guilty. However, in all such cases a person is assumed guilty till proven innocent.

This is understandable in cases of death because the unnatural demise of a woman through suicide or murder is in itself proof that something was seriously wrong in the marriage. But problems arise when the same presumption applies to cases of domestic discord where the underlying cause of conflict is not due to a husband's violence or abuse but due to the couple's inability to get along with each other.

## **Misuse of Section 498A**

Way back in 1988, I had pointed out, in what came to be a very controversial article, that there was already a distinct trend to include dowry demands in every complaint of domestic discord or cruelty, even when dowry was not an issue at all (see MANUSHI 48). The police as well as lawyers were found to be encouraging female complainants to use this as a necessary ploy to implicate their marital families, making them believe that their complaint would not be taken seriously otherwise. With the enactment of 498 A, this tendency has received a further fillip. Mentioning dowry demands seems to have become a common ritual in virtually all cases registered with the police or filed in court.

For years after the new law had come into existence, the police would refuse to register cases under 498A unless specific allegations of dowry harassment were made. However, determined action by some women's organisations ensured that this section came to be used in all situations of cruelty and violence — not just confined to dowry related violence. But, in places where there are no vigilant organisations taking up such cases, policemen and lawyers are often found encouraging complainants to add dowry demands as the main cause for cruelty. This has created an erroneous impression that all of the violence in Indian homes is due to a growing greed for more dowry. This makes the crime look peculiarly Indian, but the truth is that violence against wives is common to most societies, including those which have no tradition of dowry.

Often, highly exaggerated or bogus claims are made by unscrupulous families who demand the return of more than was

given as *stridhan*, using the draconian sections 498A and section 406 of the IPC as a bargaining tool. Sometimes the goal is reasonable — the woman wants the return of all items that legitimately belong to her, but she is encouraged to overstate her case and to demand an enhanced settlement as a pre-condition for divorce by mutual consent.

A large number of cases registered under 498A are subsequently withdrawn, though not necessarily because they were false. Bombay based lawyer, Flavia Agnes, points out that the "complexities of women's lives, particularly within a violent marriage, have to be comprehended beyond the context of popular ethics. The conviction and imprisonment of the husband may not be the best solution to the problems of a victimised wife." Her limited choices and constrained circumstances often "make it impossible for her to follow up the criminal case." As Agnes point out: "Since the section does not protect a woman's right to the matriomonial home, or offer her shelter during the proceedings, she may have no other choice but to work out a reconciliation. At this point she would be forced to withdraw the complaint as the husband would make it a precondition for any negotiations. If she has decided to opt for a divorce and the husband is willing for a settlement and a mutual consent divorce, again withdrawing the complaint would be a precondition for such settlement."

Agnes adds: "if she wants to separate or divorce on the ground of cruelty, she would have to follow two cases — one in a civil court and the other in a criminal court. Anyone who has followed up a case in court would well understand the tremendous pressure this would exert, specially when she is at a stage of rebuilding her life, finding shelter, a job and child care facility. Under the civil law she would at least be entitled for maintenance which would be her greater priority. So if she was to choose between the two proceedings, in most cases, a woman would opt for the civil case where she would be entitled to maintenance, child custody, injunction against harassment and finally a divorce which would set her free from her violent husband." Thus, many women end up dropping the criminal proceedings. In most cases, criminal proceedings are "quashed" as a result a settlement or compromise by presenting, with mutual consent, a joint petition/ in the High Court u/s 482 Cr. P.C.

#### Instrument of Blackmail?

Sadly, there are also any number of cases coming to light where Section 498A has been used mainly as an instrument of blackmail. It lends itself to easy misuse as a tool for wreaking vengeance on entire families, because, under this section, it is available to the police to arrest anyone a married woman names as a tormentor in her complaint, as "cruelty" in marriage has been made a non-bailable offence. Thereafter, bail in such cases has been denied as a basic right.

Many allege that such a drastic paradigm shift has lent itself to gross abuse, because arresting and putting a person in jail, even before the trial has begun, amounts to pre-judging and punishing the accused without due process. Although a preliminary investigation is required after the registration of the F.I.R, in practice such complaints are registered, whether the charges are proved valid or not, and arrest warrants issued, without determining whether the concerned family is actually abusive, or they have been falsely implicated. For example, there are any number of cases where the problem is mutual maladjustment of the couple rather than abuse by the entire joint family. However, a host of relatives, including elderly parents, who are not necessarily the cause of maladjustment, have all been arrested and put in jail for varying lengths of time before the trial begins. Lawyers have cited several cases where judges have refused bail unless the accused family deposits a certain sum of money in the complainant's name as a precondition to the grant of bail.

#### **Held Guilty Without Trial**

Scared by these developments, many apply for anticipatory bail at the slightest likelihood of a wife lodging a complaint with the police. I also know of several cases where the lawyer advised his client to pre-empt his wife from registering a case of cruelty against him, by filing a divorce petition before the wife could reach the police. Husbands could then reasonably argue that the charges of cruelty were a malafide retaliation against the husband's petition for divorce. Thus, instead of finding redressal for her grievances, a woman ends up fighting a defensive divorce case.

The law was recast, heavily weighted in the woman's favour, on the assumption that only genuinely aggrieved women would come forward to lodge complaints and that they would invariably tell the truth. In the process, however, the whole concept of due process of law had been overturned in these legal provisions dealing with domestic violence.

#### Police and Lawyers Mislead

During the preliminary investigations carried out by MANUSHI, several lawyers provided us with instances of the police using the threat of arrest to extort a lot of money from the husband's family. Likewise, people allege that the police threatened to oppose or delay granting of bail unless the accused family coughed up fairly hefty amounts as bribes. Others allege that many lawyers encourage complainants to exaggerate the amounts due to them as *stridhan*, assuring them that they would get them a hefty settlement from the husband, provided they got a certain percentage as commission for their services in coercing the husband's family.

Many cases have come to our notice whereby the woman uses the strict provisions of 498A in the hope of enhancing her bargaining position vis a vis her husband and in-laws. Her lawyers often encourage her in the misguided belief that her husband would be so intimidated that he will be ready to concede all her demands. However, once a family has been sent to jail even for a day, they are so paranoid that they refuse to consider a reconciliation under any circumstances, pushing instead for divorce. Thus, many a woman ends up with a divorce she didn't want and with weaker, rather than strengthened, terms of bargaining.

Several women's organisations, with long years of experience in intervening in such cases, find to their dismay that their help was being sought in patently bogus cases. Several police officers also admit that a good number of cases are of dubious standing.

The cases in which these provisions have been exploited cover a large spectrum. In an instance brought to our notice by the Delhi based organisation, *Shaktishalini*, a young woman who happened to have married into a much wealthier family than her own, used the threat of 498A to pressure her husband into giving money to her brothers for investing in their business. In yet another case, a woman wanted a divorce because she was having an affair with a doctor from whom she was also pregnant. Yet, she sought a divorce alleging cruelty at the hands of her husband and charged him with being impotent - all so that she could coerce him into giving her a sum of money. *Shaktishalini* also mentioned a case they had to deal with in which a wife refused to consummate her marriage because she was involved in an incestuous relationship with her own father. Yet this father-daughter duo filed a case under 498A and demanded ten lakhs from the groom's family as a pre-condition to uncontested divorce.

I personally know of instances where the main point of discord between the couple was that the wife wanted the husband to leave his parent's home or an old widowed mother and set up a nuclear family. Since the man resisted this move, the wife used 498A as a bargaining device, without success though. In one instance, the young wife being the only daughter of a wealthy businessman, wanted her husband to move in with her parents because his income allowed middle class comforts, not the luxuries she was used to. Since he did not succumb to the pressure of leaving his parents, she got both her father and mother in-law arrested and put in jail for several days under 498A, at a time when her husband had gone visiting his sister in the US. The man himself dared not return even to come and bail out his parents, before he got an anticipatory bail from the court. Needless to say, all these cases ended in divorce rather than in the wife getting her way.

## Are These Stray Cases?

The question to ask is: are these stray examples or do they represent a growing trend? Opinions differ. Some lawyers will tell you that more than 90 per cent of cases under 498A are false or are based on questionable grounds. A lawyer, who handles the cases of *Sabla Sangh*, told me that in Punjab, on any random day, 75 per cent of the cases listed for hearing in criminal courts are registered under section 498A, and of these more than 90 per cent are malafide. Sumitra Kant of *Punjab Istri Sabha* confirms that the proportion of such blackmail cases is growing fast in Punjab and cited several cases personally known to her.

Nobody has established as yet whether the abuse of these laws is as rampant as it is made out to be. Some think that the scare caused by isolated cases of misuse has caused a reaction in our society, making people exaggerate the damaging consequences of these laws. They dismiss the charges of abuse by pointing to the very low rate of convictions under 498A.

While it is true that very few people have actually been given sentences under 498A there is no doubt that a large number of families have been locked up in jail for a few days or weeks, some even for months, following the registration of a police F.I.R. That is punishment enough for most. In many instances, out-of-court settlements are made using 498A as a bargaining point by the woman's family. Many cases do not go far because the charges are so exaggerated that the cases fall through. All these and other factors may be contributing to an abysmally low conviction rate.

However, many feminists think that Section 498A has indeed served women well and proved extremely useful as a deterrent. They argue that women man not be in a position to see their complaint through to its logical end. But this is not to deny its usefulness in bringing the husband to the negotiating table. Since the offence is non-bailable, the initial imprisonment for a day or two helps to convey to the husbands the message that their wives are not going to take the violence lying down.

No doubt, some women feel compelled to use this method, to arrive at a speedy divorce and settlement of alimony because they feel that they won't get justice through the civil courts, given their tardy and unpredictable functioning.

But this in itself amounts to using the law as a weapon of intimidation rather than a tool of justice. I would condone its use thus, if it were true that lawyers used it judiciously to effect dignified settlements for women with legitimate

complaints. But in a good number of cases, least in metropolitan cities lawyers are actively distorting the spirit and purpose of the law.

The basic problem with the present laws dealing with domestic discord and marital abuse is that instead of providing effective remedies through civil laws, the whole matter has been put under the jurisdiction of criminal laws, with very draconian provisions to make their implementation stringent.

This is what scares many women from approaching the police or the courts for protection, because once they put their husbands behind bars, they know then that they are in a fight to the finish. Most women are not prepared for that. Instead, they prefer to approach organisations that can mediate on their behalf and work out a better solution for them. In some cases, where the Crimes against Women Cell personnel are sensitive and honest to their job, they do perform the role of mediators well. But in most cases, the police make such cases an occasion to make money by squeezing the husband's family, in return for the woman withdrawing her opposition to grant of bail.

### **Need For Workable Laws**

One of the tragedies of independent India is that we have not yet learnt to distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable laws, between implementable and unimplementable laws, just as we have failed to create a law-enforcement machinery capable of providing genuine recourse to all those whose rights have been violated.

By a great deal of struggle and hard work, women's organisations have won a measure of social legitimacy in persuading our society, especially lawmakers, to recognise the serious threat to women's lives due to domestic violence. However, if instances of manipulation of such laws become common, we will get less and less sympathy for the plight of women in our society, even for those women who are facing threats to their lives. We need to sift the grain from the chaff and check out whether the allegations of abuse are indeed genuine, or they are exaggerated and altogether malafide. Those of us who are concerned about expanding the horizons of women's freedom and strengthening their rights, both within the family and in the public domain, ought to be taking note of these developments as they arise.

We invite our readers, those who may have personal knowledge of such cases as well as those who are handling cases of matrimonial disputes through women's organisations, to send us their feedback on how these laws are being put to use in their respective areas, so that we can initiate systematic investigations in order to arrive at a realistic assessment of the situation and work out timely corrective measures.

Manushi content is reproduced on India Together with permission. Click here to visit the Manushi home page



# False 498a

# Extortion tool used against Overseas Indians

#### pns homeabout uscontact us

# PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE news for the new america

Media Channels PNS News WireNCMYO! Youth OutlookDebugThe Beat WithinRoaddawgz PNS News

Printable Version | Send Page to Friend

# **Indian Husbands Fall Victim to Dowry-Immigration Fraud**

News Feature, Lisa Tsering,

India-West, Jan 19, 2005

"Everything happened so quickly," says Pradeep, a tall, trim real estate agent based in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area, recalling his first nervous meeting with Madhu, his bride-to-be, at the Asoka Hotel in New Delhi on Christmas 2002.

He didn't feel entirely comfortable with her, at first, he explains. "She was kind of quiet. We sat separately, and she didn't say 'Hi.' Instead, she just sat there, biting her nails."

But he was impressed by something she said. "I asked, 'What are you looking for in a husband?' and she said, 'He should be nice and caring.' Usually, they ask how much money you make!" tells India-West in an interview at his home.

Pradeep and Madhu (not their real names) were married three weeks later, and she came to live with him in California in May 2003. In some ways, their story is typical — a nonresident Indian man settles in the United States, earns some money, and goes back to India to choose a bride.

But what happened next illustrates a dark side of the non-resident Indian (NRI) marriage story. Pradeep, 31, a naturalized U.S. citizen, says he became the victim of extortion, embezzlement and immigration fraud.

Pradeep and Madhu returned to India in January 2004 at her insistence, so that she could see her family. According to documents Pradeep filed with U.S. immigration authorities, once they arrived at her family's house, he was drugged, held at gunpoint, and held captive for weeks in an attempt to extort \$60,000 and help in obtaining visas to the U.S. for the rest of the family.

Only after his family in the U.S. contacted the New Delhi offices of the FBI, the Diplomatic Security Services and Delhi police, was he able to escape.

Ajay (not his real name), a 27-year-old H1-B high tech worker in New Jersey, told India-West in a phone interview that he met his bride on Shaadi.com. After two years of marriage in the U.S., she said she wanted to return to India to be with her parents and accused him of demanding dowry, he says. Back in India, she filed a complaint against him under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code. Commonly called "498A," the section defines the offense of "matrimonial cruelty" and makes demanding dowry a crime.

The law has been a (literal) lifesaver for women who have faced harassment or torture at the hands of their husband or his family, and calls for up to three years' imprisonment and a fine for offenders. The offense is non-bailable (the accused can remain in police custody at the court's discretion), and non-compoundable (even if the accuser withdraws her complaint, the court can continue to investigate and prosecute).

It is a simple procedure to file a 498A complaint, and the police must follow up on the complaint, notes Peco Chakravatru, an NRI online columnist, "Filing a 498A is as easy as ordering an idli sambar. Actually, it is easier the proprietor could refuse to give you an idli sambar but the police cannot refuse."

In some cases where the accused man has left India, judges have refused bail unless the accused's family deposits a sum of money in the complainant's name as a precondition to the grant of bail; some men say their parents have been taken into custody as well. Ajay says he has had to pay a total of \$10,000 in legal expenses to keep his own parents in India out of jail.

The number of false dowry claims against men is still overshadowed by the number of dowry deaths and other dowry-related crimes against women in India. A BBC report last year stated that Indian government statistics showed that nearly 7,000 women were killed in 2001 by their husbands and in-laws over inadequate dowry payments.

- Home
- Economy
- Politics
- Beliefs
- How We Live
- <u>Rights</u>
- <u>Sci-Tech</u>
- Environment
- <u>Health</u>
- •
- <u>Columns & Hot Topics</u>
- Contributors
- <u>Archive</u>

#### **Top Stories**

- From a Memoir of a Farmworker's Daughter: <u>Migrant Souls</u> lun 25, 2006
- Is Afghanistan Turning into Another Iraq? Jun 19, 2006
- Young Fan Blasts Iranian World Cup Negativity Jun 17, 2006
- Agent Orange to Bhopal Gas Leak The Long
   Fight for Environmental Justice
   Jun 16, 2006
- Black Press News Digest: Dropout Problem
   to Be Studied
   Jun 13, 2006
- Hope for Reunification of Families as Debate
   on Immigration Law Continues in Congress
   Jun 12, 2006



#### Immigration

- From a Memoir of a Farmworker's Daughter: <u>Migrant Souls</u> Jun 25, 2006
- Hope for Reunification of Families as Debate
   on Immigration Law Continues in Congress
   Jun 12, 2006
- Few in San Diego Register for Mexican
   Election
   Jun 12, 2006

Pacific News Service > News > Indian Husbands Fall Victim to Dowry-Immigration Fraud

Bikram Jeet Batra, legal officer for Amnesty International India, writes: "A large number of cases registered under section 498A are subsequently withdrawn though this is not necessarily because they were false. These withdrawals take place for a variety of reasons. At the same time, cases of abuse of section 498A cannot be ruled out."

Abuse of anti-dowry laws has become serious enough that the United States Department of State has published the following travel warning on its Web site, http://travel.state.gov, about "Dowry/Visa Demands" for travelers to India:

"A number of U.S. citizen men who have come to India to marry Indian nationals have been arrested and charged with crimes related to dowry extraction. Many of the charges stem from the U.S. citizen's inability to provide an immigrant visa for his prospective spouse to travel immediately to the United States.

"The courts sometimes order the U.S. citizen to pay large sums of money to his spouse in exchange for the dismissal of charges. The courts normally confiscate the American's passport, and he must remain in India until the case has been settled."

The warning also adds, "There are also cases of U.S. citizen women whose families force them against their will into marriages to Indian nationals."

The State Department cannot say how many false complaints are filed each year. However, "The fact that we issued a warning should be an indication of how widespread the problem is," said John Peters, the department's Citizen Services Specialist for India. Peters, who is based in Washington, D.C., told India-West that the local American Embassies could provide a list of Indian lawyers in New Delhi.

Angela Aggeler, a spokesperson for the State Department in Washington, D.C., says that "American citizens are often extremely desirable" to Indian families with marriageable daughters.

Still, as in any case where an American citizen is accused of breaking local laws overseas, there is not much that the State Department can do, she told India-West. "Our role in the State Department is maintaining the safety and security of American citizens overseas. That is even more important to us than issuing visas."

Although the department will do "what we can to ensure fair treatment under local laws, you need to be aware of the laws in that country, regardless of how true the accusations are. It's incumbent upon [the U.S. citizen] to adhere to the local law."

Aggeler, who has lived in India, says she empathizes with citizens in this predicament. "I know how complicated the law is in India," she says. Aggeler says the State Department decided to publish the travel warning after receiving information from the three U.S. embassies in India as well as from local law enforcement agencies and global agencies such as Interpol.

Just as the U.S. State Department's ability to get involved is limited, so too is that of the Indian Embassy here in the U.S. Akhilesh Mishra, deputy consul general for the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, told India-West: "The Consulate has no specific role or comment on the issue, which has to be addressed through usual legal means."

The Government of India's proposed "overseas citizen" dual nationality program may not be much help, either. The State Department's Web site states: "The U.S. Government recognizes that dual nationality exists but does not encourage it as a matter of policy because of the problems it may cause. Claims of other countries on dual national U.S. citizens may conflict with U.S. law, and dual nationality may limit U.S. Government efforts to assist citizens abroad."

Palvir Shoker, an attorney in Fremont, Calif., reminds readers that it is required for U.S. citizens traveling to India to register within 14 days at their local Foreigners Registration Office. Shoker, who says that her office has only handled two cases of this type in three years, says she the false dowry accusation and visa extortion problem is not as widespread as commonly believed.

Still, many Indian men who immigrate to the United States would never think to be concerned over whether a "homely, slim, fair" bride advertised in the Times of India or on a marriage Web site might try to extort money or visas out of him.

"I had no idea!" says Ajay. "If I had any idea this was a problem, I wouldn't have gone back to India (to find a bride). Most girls are honest, but you have to be aware."

Udit (not his real name), a high-tech worker from Toronto, told India-West, "In India, you're assumed guilty unless you can prove your innocence. If you're caught in India, your life is destroyed. It's a horrible law, 498A. The police are goondas."

Deepak (not his real name), a 28-year-old computational engineer in the East Bay, describes his early days as an immigrant after coming to UC Berkeley on a study fellowship. "It's a huge culture shock," he says over coffee at a neighborhood café. "It's adjusting to your new surroundings, missing your family. There's huge pressure to conform, to establish yourself."

- Government Snares 179 in Record Bust of Illegal Residents Jun 05, 2006
- Will Congress Make the Plight of Divided
   Families Better or Worse?
   Jun 01, 2006
- Vigilance Needed in Fight Against Human
   Trafficking
   May 29, 2006
- Guest Workers or Indentured Labor? Life in Singapore's Little India May 26, 2006
- Green Card Holders From India Anxiously
   Watch Immigration Debate
   May 19, 2006
- IMMIGRATION MATTERS: Senate Bill Gets
   Harsher; America, We Have a Problem
  May 18, 2006
- Counterterrorism Targets-- Are You One? May 12, 2006

Pacific News Service > News > Indian Husbands Fall Victim to Dowry-Immigration Fraud

Deepak selected his bride in December 2001 from a list selected by his family, and was engaged within a month. After going home to his native Punjab, he married her the following year. "She had a huge problem adjusting here," he says. Since his bride had come from a bustling city, the contrast with California's lonely, wide-open spaces was difficult for her, especially because she wasn't allowed to work (Deepak, formerly an H-1B visa holder, is now a green card holder).

Although he suspects one of the reasons his wife married him was that she could immigrate to the U.S. ("I learned that she or her parents had arranged the marriage solely to come here," he says), he wanted to make the marriage work. "It's typical of Indian families — they hate the word divorce."

Deepak says his wife started drinking heavily and threatening to kill herself, occasionally calling him frantically at work. After she bit him once during an argument, he called the police. Finally, the two agreed to file for divorce. "She and her family asked an immigration lawyer about the effect the divorce would have on her green card application," he remembers. "I was being used."

In February 2004, she returned to India and Deepak had the divorce papers served to her there in May. Soon after, "she filed a case against my parents, my brother, my sister and my sister-in-law, stating that they'd been asking for dowry," he recalls. She also took some pre-signed checks he'd given her for paying bills, and cashed them at Indian banks, (Deepak showed a reporter a photocopy of one check she'd cashed for \$12,000). In her case, his wife accused the family of torture, and said they had demanded "Rs. 10 lakhs [\$23,000] or a Honda city car."

Despite the fact that over two years had passed since the marriage, the police took on the case and started harassing Deepak's family, he says. "All the genuine cases of dowry start right away, or before the marriage."

Deepak says he signed a "fairly huge and unfavorable settlement" with his wife, more than \$60,000. Plus, the attorney fees here and on behalf of his family in India have "wiped out my 401K and savings," he says. Deepak has plans to travel to India over the New Year to see his family, though he doesn't know what he'll face when he arrives in India. "The hassles in India have trailed off," he saya.

In fact he says the very same Punjab police inspector who first took her case changed his mind when presented with the evidence of Deepak's (and his family's) innocence. In a document provided to India-West, the inspector writes, "On investigation it is found that there is absolutely no truth regarding the facts mentioned in this complaint."

Pradeep says his wife has been found guilty of immigration fraud and her father found guilty of smuggling and embezzlement. "Her dad owed people some money. That's why they wanted all that money from me," he says. The marriage has been annulled and he has secured a three-year restraining order against his wife, who is now in Delhi.

One of the first widely publicized cases of 498A fraud occurred in 1995, when East Coast physician Dr. Jayakrishna Ambati and his family were accused by his former wife, Archana, of mental and physical torture as well as a dowry demand of \$1,200. The Ambati family, well-known community leaders who had founded a charitable educational foundation known as the Ashtavadhani Vidwan Ambati Subbaraya Chetty Foundation, were acquitted in 1999. The case achieved notoriety because of the celebrity status of Jayakrishna's younger brother, Dr. Balamurali Ambati, who at 17 became the world's youngest physician in 1995.

A small but vocal community of so-called "498A victims" has been mobilizing over the Internet, trading furious stories and offering help and advice for men who find themselves in that situation.

During his interview with India-West, Deepak's cell phone kept ringing nearly every five minutes — calls came from men around the country who also claim to have been falsely accused. Deepak plans to launch a Web site so that more NRIs can support each other.

A small but dedicated nongovernmental organization in Bangalore, Sangyabalya, is working to create a dowryfree society and works on behalf of falsely accused individuals in India (see below for its helpline phone number). Sangyabalya's helpline only operates two hours a night, two nights a week, but still manages to receive up to 10 calls per night.

After all he's been through, Deepak offers this advice to men desiring an "old-fashioned" Indian girl: "Don't go to India to get married. There are a lot of great first-generation Indian girls here.

"I see these guys at the airport on their way to India, and I think — they look like poultry going to be slaughtered," Deepak says with a melancholy laugh.

The Dark Side of NRI Marriages: What You Can Do

498A victims offer the following advice for men getting married in India:

• When the bride and groom's families exchange gifts, keep a written record of everything received and given.

· If you are traveling to India, make copies of your passport, visa and all credit cards and leave the copies with a

Pacific News Service > News > Indian Husbands Fall Victim to Dowry-Immigration Fraud

trusted friend or relative.

• Don't give anyone your tickets or passport.

• Register with the local Foreigners Registration Office upon arrival in India, and let them know your expected

date of departure as well.

"Don't sign any blank checks."

• Consider a prenuptial agreement.

 ${\boldsymbol{\cdot}}$  Keep aware of any bank activity by monitoring your bank statements.

• Print out and save any emails that may help your case. Under India's recent cyber-laws, the emails may be admissible as evidence.

For more information, contact the following:

Yahoo! Groups: Misusedowryact and Nridivorce

• www.sangyabalya.org (site is not always operational; alternatively, call them in Bangalore at 011-91-80-5696-9850 or email them at victimsof498a@rediffmail.com.

The FBI's local Indian staff can be reached through the American embassy in New Delhi: 011-91-11-2419-8000
A few blogs are online, such as batteredmen.fullhydblogs.com, batteredmen.rediffblogs.com and batteredmen. blogspot.com.

Copyright © 2004 Pacific News Service

Powered by **DW Alliance**.

# India's dowry fraud hits Botswa

Police issue arrest warrant against an Indian expatriate working in Gaborone and his family members

# SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

he Indian community in Botswana has become the focus of police and human rights organisations in India in what is believed to be the latest case of India's international anti-dowry fraud. In a case that is expected to feature SMS messages and e-mail texts detailing the goings on in the tightly knit Botswana Indian community, police in India have already issued a warrant of arrest against an Indian expatriate in Gaborone, Rahul Chawla who is working for Kolok Botswana and his family members who reside in India.

The arrest warrants were issued after Rahul's wife Komal, who was working for CA Sales in Gaborone, left Botswana for India where she opened a case against Rahul under India's infamous Section 498a. The section deals with "cruelty to wife by husband with the intent of extracting dowry or behaving cruelly to the extent of driving her to suicide." The Indian government has made it a criminal offence for grooms to demand dowry from brides. The Penal Code makes it mandatory for police to arrest without bail, parents and other relatives named in a 498a complaint by the wife (bride). An arrest is made without investigation.

A flurry of SMS text messages between Rahul and his wife and a number of e- mail messages doing the rounds

among friends inside the Indian communi- Section 498a because it is being used by ty however cast Rahul as a victim of India's international dowry fraud scam which has already hit countries like the United States of America. One of the SMS messages believed to be from Rahul's wife to Rahul reads: "One of the biggest mistakes I have ever made in my life was marrying you. I will make sure that you pay the price."

Rahul claims his wife and in-laws tried to extort about P 100 000 from him by threatening to file for Section 498a if he did not agree to their terms. "I told them to produce proof that I had extracted dowry from them and even promised to double the figure. They failed to produce the proof and instead went ahead and filed for 498a," Rahul told the Sunday Standard. Indian police immediately issued a warrant of arrest against Rahul, rounded up his relatives in India and locked them up.

A report by India's Ministry of Home Affairs arising from an investigation chaired by Malimath has unearthed information that Section 498a has created an anti-dowry fraud racket in which, Indian women mostly married to husbands working or doing business outside India, use the anti-dowry law to blackmail and extort money from their husbands, before checking out of the marriage. It is estimated that about 30,000 false 498a cases are registered in India every year. An Indian High Court has also called for a review of

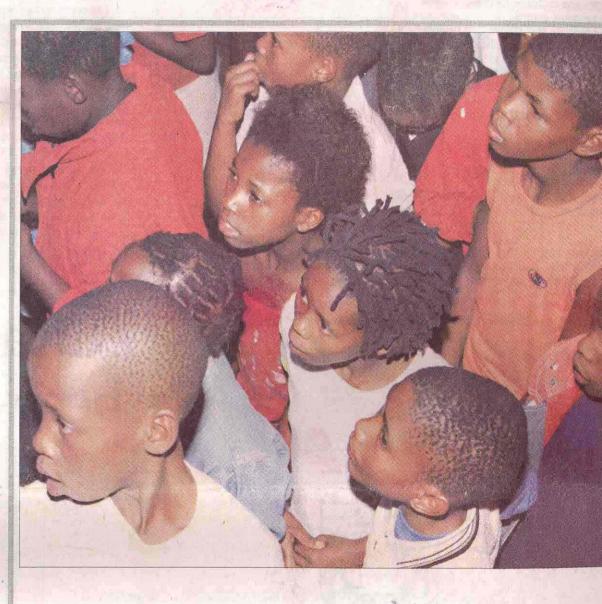
Indian women to blackmail and extort money from their husbands. Observing that anti-dowry laws are being increasingly misused by wives to harass their husbands and in-laws, the Delhi High Court urged the government of India to review their provisions. Judge J D Kapoor urged the review while rejecting a plea by a woman petitioner, Savitry Devi, seeking the arrest of her brothers-in-law for allegedly harassing her by demanding more dowry.

The judge said in his order "I feel constrained to comment upon the misuse of the provisions of the law to such an extent that it is hitting at the foundation of marriage itself and has proved to be not so good for the health of the society at large." The judge observed: "there is a growing tendency to come out with inflated and exaggerated allegations, roping in each and every relation of the husband. If one of them happens to be of higher status or of vulnerable standing, he or she becomes an easy prey for better bargaining and blackmailing."

He added: "The ground realities have persuaded this court to recommend to the authorities and law makers to have a review of the situation and legal provisions." Rahul's wife could not be reached for comment as she is in India.

**READ PAGE 3 & INDEPTH FOR DETAILS** 

1 2 4



Part of the crowd which attended the first day of maitisong festival at Old Naledi on Friday

# Botswana-Anti-dowry immigration scam hot spot waiting to happen

# SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

A good number of Indian expatriates working and doing business in Botswana - hard working and prosperous- fit the profile of an anti-dowry immigration scam victims which has been compiled by Save Indian Family Foundation.

The Save Indian Family Foundation is a non-governmental organisation which is campaigning against India's anti dowry fraud.

The foundation says most common cases of anti-dowry fraud involved "Monetary harassment: in this case, the woman wants out of marriage because she is not able to connect with her husband and hence treats the Section 498a as a voluntary retirement scheme to make a lot of money." Most of the victims are expatriate Indian husbands. Putting up a profile of the typical anti dowry immigration fraud victim, the foundation stated that he is "studious and less practical which makes him a good catch due to his earnings, but a boring life partner due to his simple and straight forward nature. His lifestyle does not meet requirements of romance. His woman feels life is becoming a drain and files for 498a to instantly gain a lot of money as settlement."

# 6 April 10 - 16, 2005

# Indevth

# Botswana Indian community shaken by 498a fraud racket

For scores of Indian immigrants staying in Botswana, e-mail adverts of "homely, slim, fair" brides flagged on India's marriage websites may be the difference between freedom and prison - Writes SUNDAY STANDARD REPORTER

ahul Chawla, an expatriate working for a computer company in Gaborone, is a face on one of the police "WANT-

ED" posters in India. His widowed mother, uncle and siblings have been locked up in Indian jails. This, however, is not because of some rampant criminal gene that runs in the family. His wife of 20 months has filed charges against them under Section 498a alleging harassment to extract dowry payment.

The Indian government has made it a criminal offence for grooms to demand dowry from brides. The Penal Code makes it mandatory for police to arrest without bail, parents and other relatives named in a 498a complaint by the wife (bride). An arrest is made without investigation.

The law has been a life saver for Indian women who have been harassed and tortured by their husbands or his family, and calls up to three years' imprisonment and a fine for offenders. A BBC report last year stated that Indian government statistics showed that nearly 7000 women were killed in 2001 by their husbands and in-laws over inadequate dowry payments.

"Filing a 498a is as easy as ordering a pizza," says Rahul, explaining the simple procedure and how the police are compelled to follow up the complaint. India has a number of marriage websites flagging picture advertisements of "homely, slim, fair" brides. Some end up extorting money or visas from unsuspecting immigrants. The abuse of anti-dowry laws by Indian women pursuing vendetta against their husbands, however, has become so serious that the United States Department of State has published the following travel warning on its Website about "Dowry/Visa Demands" for travellers to India: "A number of US citizen men who have come to India to marry Indian nationals have been arrested and charged with crimes related to dowry extraction. Many of

the charges stem from the US citizen's inability to provide an immigrant visa for his prospective wife to travel immediately to the United States

"The courts sometimes order the US citizen to pay large sums of money to his spouse in exchange for the dismissal of charges. The courts normally confiscate the American's passport, and he must remain in India until the case has been settled."

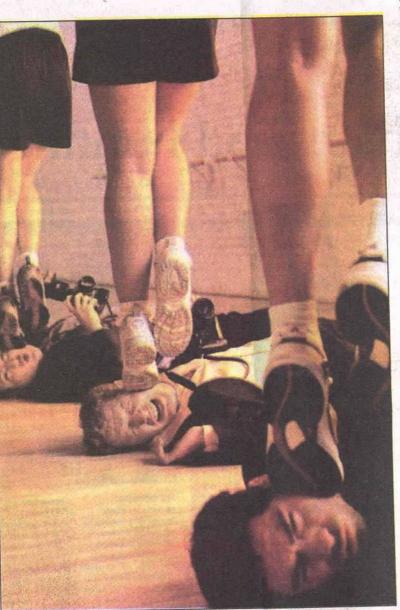
The State Department cannot say how many false complaints are filed each year. However, "the fact that we issued a warning should be an indication of how widespread the problem is," said John Peters, the department's Citizen Services Specialist for India.

A flurry of SMS messages on Rahul's mobile phone and e-mails on his computer suggests that he is a victim to India's dowry immigration fraud. An SMS message believed to be from his estranged wife reads: "I did the biggest mistake by marrying you but you will have to pay the price. A number of e-mail addresses and messages on his computer monitor links him to a growing and vocal community of so called "498a" victims which is mobilising over the internet, trading furious stories and offering help and advice for men who fall victim to dowry immigration fraud.

Rahul, a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), in Botswana with an M.Tech degree from one of India's most prestigious engineering colleges, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) fits the identikit of an anti-dowry immigration fraud victim which has been compiled by Save Indian Family Foundation.

The Save Indian Family Foundation is one of numerous nongovernmental organisation campaigning against India's anti-dowry fraud.

The foundation says most common cases of anti-dowry fraud involved "Monetary harassment: in this case, the woman wants out of marriage because she is not able to



Petticoat Government: 496 campaign posters depicting Indian women walking all over men

treats the Section 498a as a voluntary retirement scheme to make a lot of money. Most of the victims are Non-Resident Indians (NRI).

Putting up a profile of the typical anti-dowry immigration fraud victim, the foundation stated that he is "studious and less practical which makes him a good catch due to his earnings, but a boring life partner due to his simple and straight forward nature. His lifestyle does not meet requirements of romance. His woman feels life is becoming a drain and files for

connect with her husband and hence 498a to instantly gain a lot of money as settlement."

Rahul has been living in Botswana since 1999. He married a well-educated girl named Komal Nanda in India allegedly without demanding; any dowry. Fresh from the church isle, both groom and bride took the mext plane to Botswana where they lived together for almost 20 months.

Rahul says "Komal's greedy parents continuously disturbed our marriage with their unnecessary demands for money from their foreign settled

ties, we couldn't fulfill their demands which created differences between me and my wife.

Rahul says his in-laws started coming up with excuses and putting pressure on him to send their daughter to India. "At some stage they even proposed their daughter for marriage to another rich NRI in England who could easily fulfill their demands." He says his wife was sold on to her in-laws' designs.

In July 2003 he bought his wife a return ticket to India. His wife had claimed that she wanted to visit his father who was not well.

"On the eve of her departure I bought gifts for all her family members and a diamond ring for her. Just one day before her departure." Rahul flashes pictures of her estranged wife taken thirty minutes before she boarded the plane to India. The pictures show a happy wife all smiles and colourful dress.

No sooner had she unpacked her bags than "her family started blackmailing me demanding INR 10 lakh (P110,000). They threatened to file false dowry harassment cases against my family.

Rahul says his parents stood firm against the threat. His brother recorded calls from his in-laws blackmailing Rahul's family. The tape was passed to the police who put it away and forgot all about it.

Rahul says although Komal never stayed with his family after marriage, Indian Police booked the whole of Rahul's family under nonbailable offences and kept them behind bars for days.

He says his wife fabricated a list of dowry items with exaggerated claims. Rahul, who claims he did not taken a single penny from his in-laws at the time of wedding, asked the Indian Police to give him the bills and promised to pay double the money to the girl's side if the bills are verified. He asked that his widowed mother, uncle and siblings be spared from the 498a harassment in return.

A year later, the Indian Police who have been held hostage by India's strong women lobby groups have not made any effort to verify the claims although there are orders from the home ministry to investigate the matter properly. A number of e-mail messages from senior officials in the Indian Police Force involved in the investigation suggest

son-in-law. Having own responsibili- that they believe Rahuls in -laws may have framed him, but there is little they can do. They instead claim that the money Rahul's wife is demanding is her income she earned during her 20 month stay in Botswana.

Rahul's wife has currently filed for divorce and is understood to have made a huge settlement demand. It is estimated that about 30,000 false 498a cases are registered in India every year.

A member of the anti 498a community stated, " I'm working in the social welfare department and come across hundreds of cases where Punjabi girls once in the UK, leave their in laws' house, attain permanent

# Skelemani running with the hares and hunting with the hounds

# **Continued from PAGE 5**

Although President Festus Mogae would want to be remembered as a president who went to great lengths to bring about tribal harmony, Ndaba tars Mogae's with same brush he uses on the two preceding presidents.

To Ndaba, like his predecessors Mogae has failed. He is a helpless hostage of the vested tribal interests of the so called principal tribes. He points out that Mogae has been too obsessed with placating and appeasing the dominant tribes at the expense of others. Although he wants to take cred-

it for coming up with changes, "Mogae's changes are cosmetic, meant to maintain the status quo under different names." "That is how they forced him to

backtrack and withdraw the first white paper which had some hope of settling this matter."

He contends that there can never be ethnic equality as long as there are certain tribes mentioned by name in the constitution, at the exclusion of others. He is adamant that as the foun-

dation of all laws of the country, the

sundaystandard

residency and return to India. This is either to help siblings settle there or to marry their boyfriends and bring them back to the UK. This problem was highlighted by the immigration department and they increased the time span for permanent residency from one year to two years. Still people abuse it, says Akilesh settled in Birmingham, UK.

Such cases also abound in Canada where unlike UK as soon as the spouse gets a visa stamp, he or she becomes an immigrant. If the girl sponsors the boy, she thinks she can make him dance to her tunes and vice versa says Daljeet Kaur, lawyer who has fought cases of victimized NRI wives.

constitution should either mention everybody, or mention nobody. Mentioning some and excluding some creates distortions of identity, he maintains.

"What pains is that this thing can be resolved overnight. We have never called for a revolution. All we are saying is either we are all there, or nobody is there."

His advice to those with the power to institute changes is that history is awash with examples of ethnic wars and strife, "and these people did not wake one morning and say we are starting a war. These wars are a manifestation of a long struggle of people clamouring for recognition, talking nicely to those who suppress their being until they said 'oh no. Enough is enough."

At the end of the interview Ndaba says wryly that there is not much option for SPIL but to continue with its struggle not only to promote Ikalanga, but also to point out

the inherent evils of inequality of ethnic groups - a sad, and hard but worthwhile struggle which for SPIL will all be the harder without Phandu Skelemani's brains who they will miss as he is now presenting from the government benches.

# Till dowry do us part

A growing number of NRI men allege they are victims of Section 498A, India's antidowry law, which they claim is used to harass them. **George Joseph** reports

hen Dr Jayakrishna Ambati, his younger brother Dr Balamurali Krishna Amabati, and their mother were arrested in an alleged dowry-harassment case in November 1995, it caused an uproar in the Indian-American community, even making it to the front page of the New York Post. Compounding the media interest was the fact that Balamurali was a minor celebrity of sorts, being, at 17, the youngest doctor to graduate from the Mount Sinai Medical College.

Four years and a bitter legal battle later in India, the family was acquitted of all charges by the Kolar Gold Fields sessions judge K S Venkoba Rao on April 28, 1998.

And therin lies a story, one that continues to reverberate quietly through the ranks of the married NRI men who face similar dowry cases back in India, claiming they are no more than innocent victims of a well-meaning law – Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code - run amok.

The law has it origins in the hornific string of homicides in the '80s when unsuspecting brides were burnt alive for not bringing enough dowry, and their deaths passed off the husband and in-laws as due to a bursting cooking-zas stove.

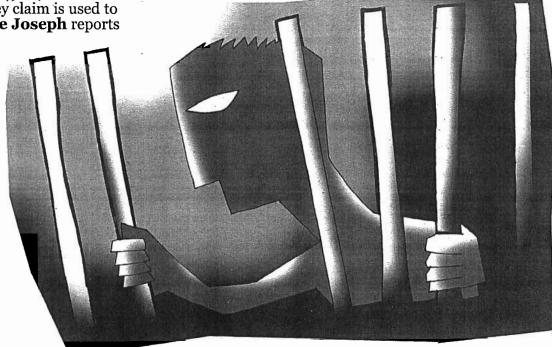
Following public outrage over the spate of deaths, the antidowry law was enacted, making it a crime to demand or take dowry or harass the bride and her family for the same, either before or after the wedding.

before or after the wedding. The most famous application of the law took place two years ago when a young Bride-to-be called the police from the altar when her in-laws refused to proceed with the ceremony unless they were paid the dowry up front.

Increasingly, however, NRI husbands in the United States are coming forward with their stories where they claim the law is being used to harass and intimidate them, often in divorce and custody cases.

Loaded in favor of the plaintiff, Section 498A allows for the husband and his family, sometimes extended, to be arrested and held without bail until the case comes to a court of law.

"The law was made to protect the ordinary women in India, but it is used by the women from cities, highly educated and ambitious, to settle scores with their former husbands and fleece money from them," says Rahul Agarwal, a resident of the Bay area, California, who claims he is a victim of the misuse of Section 498A. "Professionals like me are busy with our career. We have no time to think of such things. We keep more Indianness here than these women who come from



cities more Westernized than us and with ideas of women's liberation."

However, genuine cases of harassment for dowry still far outweigh the aberrations. Purvi Shah of Sakhi for South Asian Women, a support group for victims of domestic violence, points out that in Punjab alone, the number of women abandoned by their NRI husbands, who married for dowry, is in the region of 15,000.

"In some cases an NRI man will marry two or three times, collect dowry, and leave the brides after a few weeks," she says. The Ambati case, however, stands out both for its profile as well as the starkest illustration of how a perfectly good law can be twisted out of shape.

Though the Karnataka High Court ruled thrice that the trial should be completed within 3 months, the case dragged on, and the family was separated for over three-and-a-half years.

Balamurali lost two years of his career because he had to wait until 1998 to start his ophthalmology residency at Harvard, which he was supposed to join in 1996.

The Ambati family also claims

that plaintiff Archana's father, a former honorary Home Guard, had undue help from the police.

Jayakrishna says he had put the episode behind him. "It was a bitter nightmare. I don't look back at things that happened. I look forward to accomplish things," he said.

He said his former wife stayed with him only for a few days. "She did not want to be here. It was an arranged marriage and she was only a high school graduate," he said. "Many people think of the Indian women as the epitome of virtues only. That generation has come and gone. They might have been there during the generation of my parents."

ITTAM GHOSH

I ndeed, most of the cases involving NRI grooms are fallouts of arranged marriages, in which the parents decide who their son or daughter should marry. And NRI grooms are a prized commodity in India, often holding out hope for a better life.

In many cases, the arrangement does not turn out as expected; in some cases, it is the lack of support systems and services in the US, and sometimes due to the presence of the in-laws in the same house.

NRI weddings: look before you leap

Victims of abuse by women say that the draft of a booklet by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs titled Information Booklet on Marriages to Overseas Indians Safely is a slap on their face and against basic freedoms.

on their face and against basic freedoms. "It is maligning and defaming all Indian immigrants in the United States," says Gope Lalwani, who is associated with the Save Indian Family movement. He has demanded an unconditional apology from the ministry, saying the booklet suggests that Non-Resident Indians are cruel arrogent and are frauds.

Indians are cruel arrogant and are frauds. "The draft is completely biased towards women," says Dr Vikas Kumar, who claims to be a victim of Section 498A. "There is discussion only about women rights and no point for men rights! This clearly indicates the gender bias in making such draft."

In a post on the ministry's website, one reader wrote "Is the Indian government trying to suggest that overseas Indians are female beaters, abusers and do not have respect for their marriage and their wives? Is the government trying to prove that the NRIs who bring fame, glory and prestige for the nation are a bunch of cruel people?"

The ministry said it came out with the book-

let following the increase in incidents of women who marry NRIs being ill-treated.

On the other hand, the US State Department is aware of the problems caused by misuse of IPC Section 498A and had issued a travel advisory a long time ago that 'a number of US citizen men who have come to India to marry Indian nationals have been arrested and charged with crimes related to dowry extraction.'

The Candian embassy too has a warning for its citizens going to marry in India. A growing numbers of Canadian citizens have been caught up in marital fraud and dowry abuse in India. Most cases involve Indo-Canadian men who abandon their wives in India after cheating them out of large sums of money. Other cases involve misuse of India's Dowry Prohibition Act. This law, which was enacted to protect women and makes demanding a dowry a crime, is sometimes used to harass men through false charges of dowry demands.

"To avoid such problems, you are advised to register your marriage in India along with a joint declaration of gifts exchanged, as well as consider a prenuptial agreement,' the embassy cautioned. Meanwhile, India's National Commission for Women, based in New Delhi, has issued a report to the Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs, wherein it made the following recommendations for women seeking to marry NRIs: Compulsery registration of marriage; bilateral agreements for protection of such marriages be concluded between India and such other countries where the Indian diaspora is in large numbers; concerned Indian laws to apply irrespective of the place of the filling of the petition for dissolution of the marriage, if the NRI husband has not become a citizen of the country or residence; government monitored conciliation process of settlement of matrimonial disputes be initiated and; suppression of information regarding marital status by NRI grooms be dealt with under criminal law and steps taken through extradition treaties wherever operational. Other measures suggested include seeking

Other measures suggested include seeking the help of authorities at the workplace of the husband, attaching property in India, initiating legal action against the fraudulent spouse for compensation in India and; if withdrawal of dual citizenship to the husband, if it has been given.

Should the bride return to India, it is fairly easy to file a case: all it takes is a letter to the police. This section is nonbailable (only court can give bail), non-compoundable (complaint cannot be withdrawn) and cognizable (arrests without investigation or warrants). A non-bailable warrant does not require proof before arrest. No investigation is necessary.

Yogesh., who declined to give his full name, has been living in the US since 1997 and got married in 1999 without, he claims, any dowry. "My wife would threaten me that if I did not break ties with my family in India, she would trou-ble me through laws in India," he told *India Abroad.* "When I couldn't take it any more, I moved out taking only my clothes and leaving behind everything," After he filed a no-fault divorce in the US, his wife

returned to India and filed a dowry harassment case against him and his parents and sisters in India. alleging 'dowry demands, physical abuse, mental torture, and financial cheating,' despite the fact that none of the charges were raised in the US court where the divorce was granted.

'My ex-wife obtained her green card through my sponsorship and she continues to work and live comfortably here while I and my family suffer every day and are strug-gling to protect ourselves against false charges and legal case still pending with the police and courts in India,' Yogesh said. "I cannot visit India. For my parents who have lived a truthful life, this is too much to bear. Where is justice?'

A similar case entangles Prakash, a New Jersey resident who also declined to have his full name used. Although his was also an arranged marriage, he met the girl before the wedding and ascertained that she was marrying of her own will. He left for the US two days after the wedding and his wife joined him on a H4 (non-working) visa a month later. "But she was a different person, she would not speak to me, not interact with me," he charges. "She was not interested with anything to do with me and began to insult me in my friends' circle to the point where it became unbearable."

He claims that she then told him she had had been seeing someone else before marriage and that she had consented under pressure from her family.

They went back and decided to seek a divorce. "But her family started asking for money. It was unbelievable, Yogesh says. "They demanded \$100,0000. When we did not agree they filed an IPC 498a case. Now my family is going through hell. My parents who are over 60 are going though all these for no mistake of them.

"Our family goes to the court regularly, but her's does not show up. After this I am scared to marry again."

he more painful cases, however, are like those of Dr Rajeev Mehta, where children's custody is involved. Mehta, his former wife and two children are US citizens, but the Indian court accepted a case against him ignoring the fact that it has no jurisdiction, he said.

He and his wife met in 1994 and after living together

briefly, got married in New York. "Soon after our marriage, problems started becoming all too obvious. After marital counseling with three counselors failed; I filed for divorce in the US in 1998," he said. After three years of litigation, through which his wife used seven lawyers, Mehta was awarded custody of his daughters based on the recommendations of the court appointed guardian ad Litem, the court appointed psychologist (selected by his ex-wife's third lawyer) and custody evaluator, as well as the court's own findings.

His ex-wife soon presented a medical certificate saying that her father was seriously ill and wanted to see the "However, as soon as she reached India, my ex-wife -

who is a US Citizen, not domiciled in India and even though neither of us had been to India since 1998 - filed cases in the New Delhi courts to challenge the US divorce and custody judgments, saying that she wanted to re-liti-gate the divorce in India," Mehta told India Abroad. "For almost four years, I have challenged these cases but am facing the problem of delayed/denied justice by the Indian courts as my ex-wife's family and lawyers have postponed several court appearances using political and legal connections," Mehta said.

Three months after the US divorce, she also filed a dowry harassment case against Mehta, charging that her parents gave gifts worth approximately \$10,000 over the four years of the marriage - and average, Mehta points out, of \$1,250/year at a time when "I was earning \$425,000 a year as a specialist/medical consultant and she was earning about \$86,000 year " - and that constituted dowry. His ex-wife now wants the Indian court to overturn the

US court's orders and give her custody of the children and also some properties.

The Superior Court of New Jersey subsequently issued a criminal arrest warrant after she refused to return the children to the US, following which the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution warrant. The US State Department intervened unsuccessfully with the Indian Government

Purvi Shah, executive director of Sakhi for South Asian Women, a New two or three times, collect dowry, and leave the brides after a few weeks."

Shah welcomed the proposed man-ual by the Ministry of Overseas Indians on how to marry an NRI since it provides useful tips for assessing whether the marriage is safe.

Shah said fake marriages are an issue our communities need to address. A few weeks after the marriage, grooms who abandon their wives can leave the place and cut off all communication. "In these situa-tions, women suffer because they believe they are still married and bound to a relationship that simply doesn't exist for the husband.'

Given Sakhi's work is based in the US, Shah admits she has not met any woman who filed a case based on 498-A or a victim of it. But she is against scrapping the law. "Such laws are needed to protect women," she said. "If somebody misuses it, there should be safeguards in the implementation of it. For every woman who has the courage to file the complaint, there are many others who do not report the violence in their lives for fear of family, community, or police retribution." In India, many women and their families think that marriage with an NRI is more desirable. Some may NKI is more desirable, some may want to live in the West also. "But once they are in the foreign country they may face violence," she pointed out. "Yet many women will not report

violence or pursue a divorce fearing the social stigma attached to it - and because they believe they will bring shame to their families.

Shah indicated that for violence to end, the community needs to redefine how it treats men and women. "We need to support healthy relation-ships and understand that everyone deserves respect and a life free of violence. If we do take a stand against violence, our communities will be stronger for it."

"What makes it worse," says Mehta, "is the bias of the NRI ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs against NRIs," and the ludicrous length they can go in their efforts to secure justice fo women.

York based organization working for preventing violence against women,

says there could instance of the abuse

"I feel sorry for the men who are

However, she pointed out that the

"the number of men who face unjust

treatment is far overshadowed by the

number of women who face domestic

violence or abandonment by NRI

husbands, there is far greater gender

discrimination and violence in the

community against women." "For example, the number of women

abandoned by their NRI husbands has

caused concern in many regions in

India," she said. "In Punjab alone, it is

reported that 15,000 women have been abandoned by NRI husbands. In some cases an NRI man will marry

taken advantage of. No one deserves to be subjected to unjust claims or

of section 498-A by some women.

violence," Shah said.

I that sounds draconian, it can be, depending on how it is used. Indian Penal Code 498A, the linchpin on which all these cases turn, is a criminal law stating that Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

The law can only be invoked by wife/daughter-in-law or her relatives, and can be filed even after a divorce.

However, only two percent of the cases have reached conviction, with some being for blackmailing the husband's family, victims point out. The Delhi High Court once dubbed it 'legal terrorism.'

However, even if the defendants are acquitted, the case can take up to four or five years, if not more, to resolve. Even those who are not part of the 'day-to-day' family life can be named and arrested on the basis of a single complaint, which can also include pregnant women and children.

Victims say that most of the cases are filed because the husband refuses to throw his parents out of the house at the wife's demands. They also allege that with the law weighted in favor of the wife's side, police and lawyers often advise the husband to settle the matter financially out of court, and sometimes try to fleece the defendant.

Many victims consider the women's rights organizations responsible for such a situation.

A committee under Justice Malimath, former chief justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts recommended making 498Abailable and compoundable.

Indeed, in Punjab, Patiala Zonal Inspector-General of Police Rajinder Singh recently went so far as to direct senior superintendents of police to exercise restraint while

proceeding against members of families charged under various dowry crimes.

Singh was quoted in the Indian media that in some cases, members of the accused family had committed suicide because of the humiliation suffered by them.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has proposed an information booklet on 'Marriages to Overseas Indians Safely.' The National Commission for Women in New Delhi has also prepared a report on the problems of NRI marriages and a proposed Draft Convention (See Box).

Interestingly, though, while the ministry recognizes that dowry is one of the causes of failed and/or fraudulent marriages, it also notes that sometimes failed marriages are an outcome of lack of modernization amongst rural brides to respond to the Western way of life.' Nonetheless, the issue being a state subject, the ministry

has advised states to formulate their own responses. Additionally, it has advised that Indian diplomatic mission abroad, whenever they receive a complaint of torture or desertion of Indian wives by their NRI-husbands, 'render all possible assistance with a view to bringing about an amica-ble settlement.'

# Purvi Shah, executive director of Sakhi for South Asian Women

# 'Everyone deserves life free of violence'





# **THIS WEEK**



VOL. XXXI NO. 12 • CALIFORNIA • February 3, 2006 • North America's Most Honored Weekly Indian Newspaper
 • 50 cents • Periodicals Postage paid at San Leandro, CA, and at additional mailing offices.

National — U.S. \_\_\_\_

# Activists Decry Dowry Laws



And Andrew Constraints of the second second

stories. Now Indian American victims of dowry fraud are mobilizing to change the Indian Penal Code.

A28

# India-West Reporter Receives NCM's Top Award at Banquet

INDIA-WEST — February 3, 2006 — A31



SAN JOSE, Calif. — India-West's Lisa Tsering speaking to the audience after receiving the New California Media's award for the Best Investigative/In-Depth story in English in the print media category. She received the award, which she won for her story on Indian husbands falling victim to dowry fraud, at the 7th NCM Awards banquet Jan. 26. (Som Sharma photo)

# National — U.S. **Activists Mobilize to Change Indian Dowry Laws**

The publication of the awardwinning article "Indian Husbands Fall Victim to Dowry Fraud" (I-W. Dec. 31, 2004) has inspired a groundswell of activism among Indian American men. Now that India-West's article has drawn this issue into the public eve. victims of dowry fraud are mobilizing in greater numbers.

- Editor

#### **By LISA TSERING** India-West Staff Reporter

In the year since India-West published an article exposing the scope of dowry fraud, many victims have come forth with their stories. Now, Indian American victims of dowry fraud have outlined their mission — to change the Indian Penal Code --and have begun to mobilize online and in the public sphere.

"Till now, there has not been much awareness [of the problem]," Rahul (not his real name), a 29-year-old Silicon Valley research engineer, said this week. "There are hundreds of victims here. The India-West article definitely helped, by portraying the reality of what's going on. especially since the major dailies

in India have been hesitant to publish our stories."

A growing number of nonresident Indian men are being victimized by their brides, and their brides' families, who falsely accuse them of demanding dowry. Accused under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which makes demanding dowry a crime. these men have even been thrown into Indian jails when they visit India. Though they may be American citizens, since they are accused of a crime they find little solace through United States missions in India.

If the man is not in India when the charge is made, his family can be fined, or jailed in lieu of fines, and many men have reported that it has cost them tens of thousands of dollars to pay legal fees. Often, the bride's familv offers to "settle" out of court for vast sums of money, which 498a victims and their advocates say is tantamount to extortion.

The creation of the biggest online forum yet addressing the issue may change that.

A group of activists has created www.498a.org, a Web site with an active blog and forum.

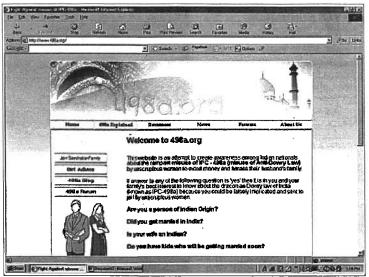
The self-funded group, which calls itself Save Indian Family, or SIF, offers informal help and advice to 498a victims, recommends legal proposals to the Indian government, and claims to work toward progressive marriages, domestic harmony and the eradication of dowry. The site also offers definition of relevant legal terms.

"The reason we created the Web site, and the reason we are creating awareness, is we found that this was injustice and a basic breach of human rights by people who are misusing this law." Rahul said in an email.

The group is also asking the public to sign an online petition at

though Rahul said he knows that it's hard to get online petitions taken seriously, he said that once they amass at least 1,000 signatures, they will file a statement with the Indian government.

Rahul claims that his wife, an American-educated Indian woman, displayed bipolar behavior after their marriage: when he filed for divorce, she



MyNation.net demanding A recently launched Web site, www.498a.org, answers many questions for Indian revisions in the law. Al- American victims of dowry fraud.

tract large sums of money from NRIs," said Satva, a contributor to the site. "There are thousands of people suffering in the U.S. alone."

Representatives of the group made a showing at the recent Pravasi Bharativa Divas in Hyderabad, but felt frustration that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs placed the wrong obliged to record the complaint and begin an investigation). Activists are seeking to reverse those three factors.

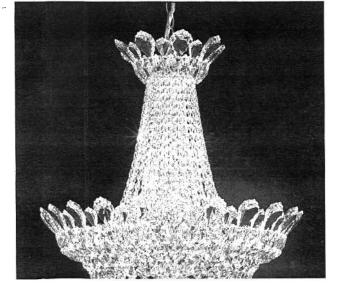
There is also no law against filing a false claim, said Rahul, calling for lawmakers to make it a crime to file a false claim.

In future, the group also hopes to address other issues, such as parental child abductions to India, elder abuse, and the Indian government's refusal to legally accept divorces granted in the U.S., requiring the couple to be divorced anew in India to avoid charges of bigamy.

Online at www.498a.org, the activists have been batting around proposed solutions, such as getting in touch with vounger politicians in India such as Rahul Gandhi, political heir-apparent to the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, to get their point across.

"Since the last 50 years we are being ruled and having ideas imposed on us by the previous generation," said one contributor to the site.

"Most of the ways and ideas of the 1950-1965 generation don't work now."



"Since the last 50 years we are being ruled and having ideas imposed on us by the previous generation. Most of the ways and ideas of the 1950-1965 generation don't work now."

retaliated by filing a police report in India accusing him of demanding Rs. 20 lakhs dowry.

"Even the lawyers in India have nowadays started suggesting [to] their clients to misuse this law to harass the husband's family in cases where marriages go south due to myriad of reasons," he told India-West. "In urban India, this law is being rampantly misused."

"False dowry complaint has become a racket in India to ex-

emphasis on fraudulent NRI marriages by stressing in a statement the victimization of Indian brides by unscrupulous Indian American grooms.

Currently, a 498a offense is:

• Non-bailable (meaning that the accused can remain in police custody at the court's discretion);

• Non-compoundable (even if the accuser withdraws her complaint, the court can continue to investigate and prosecute); and

• Cognizable (the officer is



# Ministry biased against NRI husbands?

I would like to bring your attention towards the website of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). There is a section which talks about the issue of 'failed and fraudulent' marriages with NRIs (http://www.moia.gov.in/dfmain1.asp? tid=1). Ironically, the ministry intended to protect NRI rights is trying to put all the blame for such failed marriages on NRIs. The website also published the letter sent by the MOIA secretary to all the chief secretaries of Indian states in this regard. There is also a draft of an *Information Booklet On Marriages to Overseas Indians* which the MOIA wants to publish.

A cursory reading shows how outrageous the contents are. All the examples of 'typical incidents' the booklet cites suggests that the overseas Indian groom and his family members are cruel, arrogant and indulge in fraud. Further, it suggests that the overseas Indian (abbreviated to OI in the booklet), and his family members are solely responsible for failed/failing overseas marriages. Every 'overseas marriage' has similar problems as an marriage in which the couple lives in India.

'Overseas Marriage' has additional caveats due to immigration/visa issues. Indian government, The National Commission on Women and other women organizations cannot say that the husband's family is mostly is responsible for 'sufferings of women who are the victims of marriage to Overseas Indians.'

If any of the above organization has cited the statistics to support their findings, it must be present on MOIA's site (along with it's source). Is the Indian government trying to suggest that OI's beat and abuse women and lack respect for the institution of marriage and their wife? Is the government trying to prove that the NRIs who bring fame, glory and prestige for the nation are bunch of cruel people.

I have seen umpteen cases here in the United States where in a tense relationship, the wife goes back to India and files a false dowry harassment charge and misuses IPC 498a to get back at the husband's family.

There are cases where a wife wants to support her family in India by sending them part of husband's earning and when husband objects to that, problems start in their marital life. There are cases where marriage turns sour when wife tries to control husband's life in various ways.

The booklet must provide details and directions for both men (including OIs) and women about how they can protect their own rights before, during and after marriage both in India as well as overseas. The MOIA should also publish the names of the NGOs, law agencies and

addresses of the people who helped MOIA prepare this draft. The booklet should help all the Indian citizens irrespective of their gender and location. The MOIA should consider the facts and such views before finalizing the contents.

Vijay Sharma San Jose, California



Friday, December 16, 2005 Vol. XXXVI No. 11 A REDIFF PUBLICATION www.rediff.com (Nasdaq: REDF) LOS ANGELES EDITION \$1 1 of 1

Not all husbands are guilty

nternational Weekly Newspaper

December 2) 'Ministry biased against NRI husbands?' l came across a letter in (India Abroad,

dle. trying to solve the issue give the curb fraudulent marriages between ty in, and breakdown of, marriages. the only ones responsible for the cruel-Women (NCW)'s recommendations in NRI grooms and Indian girls, is trying The truth lies somewhere in the midimpression that the NRI grooms are HLCID and National Commission for foremost, the statements made by lowed in such marriages. First and to publish some guidelines to be fol-Indian Affairs (MOIA) in its efforts to (HLCID) and Ministry of Overseas Committee on the Indian Diaspora marriage gone sour? The High Level Is the NRI family always at fault in a

to carry out such acts which would only als who do not have the time or energy given to the grooms because they are respectable and responsible individuusually well-qualified, hard-working, In fact, the benefit of doubt should be

01100

overboard and in the process declared the NRI grooms and his family guilty and his family. The MOIA/HLCID /NCW in their enthusiasm have gone and trampled on their basic rights. such a breakdown of a marriage is fol-One glaring issue missing in the MOIA directive is that almost always be detrimental to their lives and career. meant to harass and extort the groom gated, but there are lot of other cases that are in fact fraudulent and are only there are genuine cases being investithe bride's family. I understand that lowed by a 498a (dowry) case filed by

help out affected people, but it is sounds very women-centric. The provisions should be amended by keeping The MOIA has some provision to

and not implicitly assume that NRI responsible for all the fraud/disharmogrooms and their families are the ones the following things in mind: Make the MOIA directive neutral

i.e., provide another outlet (instead of fraudulent marriage, marital discord, the groom/bride should do in case of ŋ Ņ Have clear information on what

.

complaint in the nearest Indian misviolence is a crime in most countries. dled in a swift manner with the help of sion so that the complaint can be han-498(a)) for the grooms/brides to file a families already affected by 498(a) in local authorities given that domestic 3. Provide help to individuals and

harassment and loss of wages. courts with no resolution in sight, ures as will alleviate endless trips to ot facts in foreign land, and such measterms of quick resolution, investigation

# an NRI affected by misuse of 498(a) Kanishka Gupta Sunnyvale, CA

I would like to share my experiences in the US at that time. India were jailed without any investimy brothers, parents and sister in against our family and consequently with respect to IPC-498a and NRIs. gation. I was not arrested because I was My sister-in-law filed a false 498(a)

This is a very evil and unfair law. My

# Page A3

# Page A2

Chicago/Dallas | Los Angeles | NY/NJ/CT | New York | Toronto

India Abroad December 16, 2005

are from Andhra Pradesh and were respected in cessful. He is against the dowry system and did our community and town but after the case that we all are victimized by a single-line false comnot take even a single paisa as dowry, but still brother is very well-educated and highly suchas changed. harassing for dowry' by my sister-in-law. plaint, 'My husband and in-laws are asking and We

people easily believe the woman's version, and the media simply publishes one-sided stories. I believe it is partly because of our culture;

women to extract money. I used to believe real victims, but is only misused by educated how to extort money rather than educating women's NGOs are doing good for us; in fact, women. they are spoiling women and teaching them The 498(a) section is not doing any good to

without doing proper research. very unfair and believe women's organizations wish more media should come forward to get the women. The MOIA has shown that they are than just publishing one side of the stories of the real stories by investigating the truth rather I agree with the views of Mr. Vijay Sharma. I

also, not just from women's groups. I still wonto avoid problems with the corrupt legal system. der-biased and daughter-in-law favoring laws der how our lawmakers are making such genlions of people who want to get out of India and in India and abroad? No wonder there are milwhich are used to harass the husband's family The government must seek opinion from NRIs

# Los Angeles, CA Kalpana Lanka

# A PASSAGE FROM INDIA

NASA



# ANNUAL

# CONVENTION HOUSTON, TEXAS · 2005

# Misuse of IPC Section 498 A

# The "Misuse of IPC Section 498A"

In urban India, the majority of families have adequate knowledge regarding IPC Section 498A, more commonly known as the "dowry-law", which was introduced in an attempt to eliminate DOWRY that affects mostly the poverty stricken. As per this law, both giving and taking of dowry is illegal, but only the taker is to be punished. Most cases where Sec 498A is invoked turn out to be false as they are mere blackmail attempts by the wife (or her close relatives) when faced with a crumbling marriage.

Section 498 (A) of the Indian Penal Code makes it mandatory for the police to file charges against the husband, his parents and other relatives/friends (whoever being named on the complaint by the wife or her close relatives) and put them in jail. There is no penalty (not even a fine) for filing a false case. This section is non-bailable, non-compoundable (complaint can't be quashed) and cognizable (arrests without investigation or warrants). There have been many instances where, without any investigation, the police have arrested elderly parents and even grandparents, unmarried sisters, pregnant sister-in-laws and 3 year old children. Some accused parents, sisters and even husbands have committed suicide after time in jail.

Recent statistics reveal that there are almost 33 million widows in India. The suicide rate among married men in India is 3.2 times higher than in married women; whereas before marriage, the rate is almost equal (IndiaStat.com). Therefore, all mothers (and their husbands) contemplating an Indian marriage for their son should be careful as unholy matrimony could be injurious to the young man's health and this is even before the marriage starts crumbling and leads to the "divorce wars". Once the word "divorce" comes into the picture, the attempt is to grab what you can, and what better way to settle old scores and take over the husband's family's assets? Obviously, it has to be achieved with the "dowry" accusations, the sure shot way of making money as then the husband's entire family is under the gun to settle on the wife's terms.

Currently, there is no law/way for the husband and his relatives to escape harassment from the police, courts and the wife, if she looses tolerance and respect for other's emotions. Also, since in-laws are deeply resented, the wife's vengeful drive is molded by her parents and based on their knowledge of this section for their own mundane selfish reasons. It is estimated that about 25,000 dowry cases are filed in India every year, 65% are dismissed by the courts because they are blatantly false and the rest are settled out of court after the wife or her parent's monetary demands have been met. There is strong affirmation from the judiciary and the Malimath committee that this section needs to be amended (made bailable/compoundable/applicable only to husband) before it inflicts irreparable damage to the institution of marriage. In the 'Karnataka High Court's judgment, CrI.A. 589 of 2003, made on 4-9-2003 (Saldhana vs. Rajendra Prasad), the Judge states that in about half the cases, prosecution is thoroughly unjustified. Various rulings from other parts of the country too have questioned the Law commission of India's decision to keep this Section in its present form (eg: MANU/AP/0979/2002, Saritha vs. Ramachandra).

Several Police Commissioners and members of the Judiciary have said that the laws are being used for ulterior motives. A women head of a Women Police Station in her interview to a leading daily newspaper of New Delhi gave a courageous statement that 99% complaints of dowry demands are false and baseless. An article published in a Times of India publication states that 90% women prisoners in Tihar Jail are locked up because of dowry related cases.

In most parts of the civilized world, domestic issues like divorce are resolved by civil laws. Even in criminal law, a person is considered innocent until proven guilty. As per the draconian dowry law (IPC Section 498A), the man, his family and his friends are considered guilty without any evidence are jailed and harassed until proven innocent and face life-long stigmatization. In any regular divorce, there is no way that a wife would acquire a part of her husband's property or a lump sump payment from him, when marriage is irretrievably broken within a couple of years. However, using 498A and complimentary laws, the wife can lay claims to all her husband's family assets. This is the main reason for the misuse of the dowry laws.

The US Department of State has already posted a warning for its citizens at http://travel.state.gov/india.html DOWRY/VISA DEMANDS: A number of U.S. citizen men who have come to India to marry Indian nationals have been arrested and charged with crimes related to dowry extraction. Many of the charges stem from the U.S. citizen's inability to provide an immigrant visa for his prospective spouse to travel immediately to the United States. The courts sometimes order the U.S. citizen to pay large sums of money to his spouse in exchange for the dismissal of charges. The courts normally confiscate the American's passport, and he must remain in India until the case has been settled. There are also cases of U.S. citizen women whose families force them against their will into marriages to Indian nationals.

You can read about the numerous cases of misuse of 498A on Google hy searching for India 498A"

# BY RAJ

# The Hidden Side of the "Dowry Accusations"

In the most obvious case of false dowry accusations (where the philanthropic and wealthy Ambati family from New York were accused of demanding a dowry of \$1,200 by their daughter-in-law Archana and her father Mr. Nanda (a former honorary Home Guards Commandant) of Karnataka, India. Because of the Nanda's legal connections and political manipulations with the help of the women's support groups, there was a complete lack of public outrage over the leniency shown to the Nanda's (who had tiled the false dowry accusations in an attempt to extort US \$500,000 from the Ambatis). After being found guilty of such an outrageous deception, they were not even sanctioned.

Although, there had been no public outcry at the leniency shown to the Nandas, there however was an outcry in the last New Delhi High Court case in which a woman was charged with making malevolent and baseless dowry accusations to have even a child sent to jail. That was from the women's support groups, denouncing the fact that "This case will deter genuine dowry victims from reporting abuse." The illogic was breath-taking, for we rightly reserve particular opprobrium for dowry seekers. But by making light of the false dowry accusation, women's groups are trivializing dowry itself. You cannot debase a currency for some of the time; once debased, it stays debased.

False dowry allegations, however, are about power, for they mobilize the proper revulsion society feels about the crime against the unfortunate target. So we should protect the powerful societal taboo on dowry by treating those who falsely allege dowry abuse with the severity with which we treat dowry seekers. That is the least the true dowry victims deserve. Certainly people such as the Nandas who go to such extraordinary lengths to subvert legal and cultural taboos against dowry for their own purposes should be severely punished. Not even a day's sentence for such an elaborate ruse is a bad joke.

Madhu Kishwar, a women's rights activist says that even if there is some misuse of the dowry laws, she condones it (however, what if the law was misused against her own male relatives). Brinda Karat, the former General Secretary of the All India Democratic Womens' Association (AIDWA) thinks that the misuse of 498A is of insignificant consequence as men need to pay for all the wrongs done over the centuries to women and if there is any attempt to dilute the dowry laws, her 50 lakh followers will take to the streets in India. Senior Advocate Indira Jaising who is very active on women's issues says that there is some misuse of 498A but that is irrelevant. The NCW chairperson Poornima Advani admits that the dowry laws are being misused, but when the NCW chairperson was asked why no action has been taken against those giving dowry, she replied: "We must remember that it is the poverty stricken people who are the main victims". If that is really the case, Indian society needs to answer an important question: "Why are dowry accusations almost non-existent among these poverty stricken people, and the communities and professions where dowry is a traditional, and why is it that most such (obviously false) accusations come from educated, modern and liberated families with political and legal connections?"

In a recent interview with HindustanTimes.com, Shobhaa Dé said: "Marriage as an institution is under threat. People are questioning the rules of the game and asking themselves whether they need marriage at all. There is no 'perfect recipe' for marriage. Each couple has to arrive at their own formula - and that takes years. The single most important ingredient in this recipe is 'love'. Without that, there is nothing. Men and women, who cheat, will always cheat. There is no gender difference. Of course, women today have more opportunities to stray than ever before". Sexual encounters are mere handshakes and changing partners is as easy as changing a dress. Tolerance is virtually non-existent in the current generation, and this is resulting in the high divorce rate.

The Ambati case is a prime example of how the Dowry Laws can be abused by unscrupulous families to extort money from innocent families, especially NRIs and other well-to-do Indians. The institution of marriage is under threat along with the future of our families and children. All god-fearing people, NRI and the human rights organizations, the Indian government and the leaders of the civilized world should take notice of the growing epidemic of false dowry harassment cases filed against innocent Indian families/NRIs and take steps to curb the spiraling abuse of this law.

You can read about the numerous cases of misuse of the dowry laws at: http://indiatogether.org/2004/mar/law-sect498a.htm







http://peopleinaction.info/board/2/703.html

The India Monitor (Jan 9 - Jan 16, 2000 issue Vol.X, No.464, p.16)

The Ambati family, which was embroiled in a dowry-harassment case in India in November 1995, has now been acquitted of all the charges in the dowry harassment case. Kolar Gold Fields sessions judge K.S. Venkoba Rao pronounced the order of acquittal on April 28, 1999.

Dr. Jayakrishna Ambati and his family were accused by his former wife Archana of taking Rs. 50,000 (US \$1,200) in dowry and of mental & physical abuse. The couple was married in June 1995 in Bangarpet,

Karnataka and came to the United States shortly thereafter, but Archana returned to India in July.

However, she did not file a police complaint until 4 months later, in November, coinciding with the well-publicized visit of the Ambati family to Visakhapatnam. There they were taken into custody by Sub-Inspector T. Konappa Reddy of the Bangarpet police.

During the course of the trial, which lasted over 3 years, Konappa Reddy, also the investigating officer, admitted that the police had not ascertained the veracity of the complaint, or investigated the reason for the 4 month delay in filing the case, or interviewed any of the witnesses prior to the arrest.

Under cross-examination he also acknowledged that no permission from superior authorities was obtained to cross state lines and arrest the accused. He also admitted that the U.S. Embassy was not informed of the arrest of the Ambati family, who are American Citizens, as per the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Although the initial chargesheet listed over 20 witnesses, only 2 of the material prosecution witnesses appeared in court during the trial. Even Archana's mother and sister, who initially provided statements to the police did not testify.

At the trial these two witnesses, recanted their earlier statements and testified that they did not witness any demand of dowry by the Ambati family. Assistant-sub-inspector H. Munivenkataiah who initially took the statements of the witnesses, stated under cross-examination that none of the witnesses told him that dowry was demanded by the Ambatis.

In an unrelated twist, Konappa Reddy is himself now facing murder charges for the July 1997 custodial death of Mr. Gopalappa in the Bangarpet police station.

In October 1996, Kolar sessions judge K. Sathyamurthy Holla discharged Dr. Balamurali K. Ambati from the case and dismissed all charges against him for lack of prima facie evidence. Although the state of Karnataka appealed this decision, Justice L. Sreenivasa Reddy of the Karnataka High Court upheld the discharge in April 1998. This decision was appealed by Archana but the Supreme Court of India dismissed the appeal earlier this year. During the course of the trial the Ambatis produced a tape in which Nanda, the father of Archana, demanded US \$500,000 to drop all the charges. Although the prosecution opposed the production of this audiocassette, Justice Narayan of the Karnataka High Court ruled that such evidence was admissible in February 1999.

The Ambati family feels that although the courts have vindicated them after almost 4 years, the victory is bittersweet. Although Drs. Jayakrishna and Balamurali Ambati and their father Dr. Muralimohan Rao were allowed to leave India and return to India in January 1996, their mother Mrs. Gomathi was not permitted to do so. Despite 3 separate Karnataka High Court rulings that the trial should be completed within 3 months, the case dragged on, and the family was separated for more than 3 ½ years. In addition, Dr. Balamurali Ambati lost 2 years of his professional career because he had to wait until 1998 to commence

his ophthalmology residency at Harvard, which he was supposed to join in 1996.

The Ambati family is well known in the New York area for their social and community service. For the last 10 years, they have been conducting free weekly academic classes for hundreds of middle and high school students. Also, they have established a charitable educational foundation, the Ashtavadhani Vidwan Ambati Subbaraya Chetty Foundation, which recognizes and rewards talented students in India and the U.S.

They believe that the close police ties of Nanda, a former honorary Home Guards Commandant, were responsible for the brazen actions of the police. The case achieved tremendous sensationalism because of the celebrity status of Dr. Balamurali Ambati, who at 17 became the world's youngest graduate in 1995. However, little press coverage was given to his discharge or to his family's subsequent acquittal.

The Ambatis feel that this case is a prime example of how the Dowry Prohibition Act can be abused by unscrupulous families to extort innocent families, especially NRIs. They also believe that NRI organizations and the Indian government should take notice of the growing epidemic of false dowry harassment cases filed against NRIs and take steps to curb the spiraling abuse of this law.



I was charged of dowry harassment and two policemen took me to police station. They alleged that I demanded Rs.4 lakhs as dowry. The

Perfume To Police - Arjun - Give Pleasure Take Pain

laptop I had got Swarnamalya mother in US by paying \$1600 dollars was returned to me by cheque in Indian currency of Rs.75000 and this cheque was shown as the first payment of dowry. Baap re what a cunning woman! says Arjun!

After tearing off my peace into pieces she has once again filed a police complaint on me for abusing her and my job at present in Chennai is also at stake.

This is not a film script what we have given above. What ever explained above is the version of Arjun. We have just condensed his six pages e-mail. Along with this he as sent the court notice copy.

You can't win, you can't break even, you can't even quit the game is the situation of Arjun.

Chitraloka tried to contact Swarnmalya. But she was in Chennai and her mobile switched off. What will her version be?

Click Here to Send Your Comments

<< Back

3

All Right Reserved. Copyright © 2000-2005 Chitraloka.com Site Designed and Hosted By www.EducationBangalore.com The State News is viewable on all platforms, but your browser may not support recognized web standards. Find out more.





**Friday** May 19, 2006 More information:

What's next?

Jonaki Ray will be sentenced for voluntary manslaughter April 22 at the Clinton County Courthouse. The crime carries a maximum of 15 years in prison.

Feedback Send a letter to the editor

The State News is not responsible for the content of external sites.

<u>News</u> | <u>Entertainment</u> | <u>Features</u> | <u>Sports</u> | <u>Opinion</u> | <u>Classifieds</u> <u>Advertising</u> | <u>Archives & Search</u> | <u>Contact Us</u> | <u>Police Briefs</u> | <u>Photo Reprints</u> | <u>Puzzles</u>

# Woman found guilty of voluntary manslaughter in death of professor

By SHANNON MURPHY

The State News

**St. Johns -** After more than three hours of deliberations Friday, jurors found a 28-year-old Dewitt Township woman guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the death of her husband, an MSU associate professor.

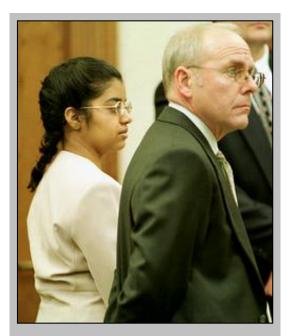
Jonaki Ray faces a 15-year maximum sentence for the slaying of Dinesh Balagangadhar, who taught mechanical engineering. Balagangadhar died July 1 from a stab wound that penetrated his heart and lungs.

Clinton County Circuit Court Judge Randy Tahvonen will sentence Ray at a April 22 hearing.

Ray told police after the incident three different stories of how she accidentally stabbed her husband while cutting vegetables at their DeWitt Township home.

At trial, she told the Clinton County Circuit Court that Balagangadhar was abusive and had slapped, pushed and pulled her hair many times. Ray said she and her husband had been in an argument the day of the stabbing and Balagangadhar dragged her by the hair around an island counter in their kitchen.

Ray said she was scared and in pain so she grabbed the first thing that she came across and swung it at her husband.



SHEILA KRISHNAN • The State News

Dewitt Township resident Jonaki Ray, left, waits with her lawyer, Frank Reynolds, for a verdict from the jury in the slaying of her husband, MSU Associate Professor Dinesh Balagangadhar, Friday in Clinton County Circuit Court. Ray was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, which holds a maximum sentence of 15 years.

In closing arguments, Ray's attorney, Frank Reynolds, argued she had not committed any crime and stabbed her husband so he wouldn't hurt her.

Reynolds said the couple, who are natives of India, had married out of love, instead of the

arranged marriage their families had hoped for, causing Ray to be ashamed to talk of the abuse. She said she felt she needed to work harder to make their marriage work because of the frustrations they had put their families through.

Reynolds said he was disappointed with the verdict, but felt the jury took its time and looked at all the evidence. He said he will speak with Ray to decide if they will appeal.

"I was confident there would not be a murder charge," he said after the verdict was announced.

Clinton County Prosecutor Charles Sherman sought a second-degree murder verdict after the judge ruled Thursday there wasn't enough evidence to prove first-degree murder. First- and second-degree murder charges carry sentences of up to life in prison.

A first-degree verdict would require the jury to determine the crime had been previously thought out. Manslaughter only requires the jury decide if a killing was the result of a impulsive decision by a person in a reasonable mindset.

"This was a case where the jury heard difficult testimony and had to make a judgment call," he said.

Ray's family declined to comment.

Balagangadhar's brothers, Suresh and Mahesh Balagangadhar, said they felt Ray got a lesser sentence than she deserved.

"She was lying the whole time, the jury didn't get the whole picture," Suresh Balagangadhar said. "She's the only person speaking of what happened because Dinesh is not here."

Friend Subath Kamalasan said Dinesh Balagangadhar was a gentle person and a scholar.

"She took a life that was important to society," Kamalasan said. "It's sad that she was just given voluntary manslaughter."

Printer Send to Friendly a Friend

Home | News | Entertainment | Features | Sports | Opinion | Classifieds | Archives | Search problems/questions? | Vandeventer Publishing Engine | privacy statement

All content ©2006 The State News







#### Today's Edition

| Thursday, June 30, 2005 |

#### Front Page > Jamshedpur > Story IN TODAY'S PAPER ß ⊠≞ Front Page email this page Print this page Nation Calcutta Trust trapped in deceit and greed Bengal - IITian husband's claim of 'dignified life' fails to convince court Opinion hearing dowry case lodged by wife International SHASHANK SHEKHAR Business From Sports At Leisure Durga Puja WEEKLY FEATURES Bokaro, June 29: She is willing and ready to go back to her to the husband, asserted a tearful Smita before the court. He is Knowhow ready to treat her with honour, dignity and care, stated Jobs Saurabh in his bail petition before the Ranchi High Court. Festival Still, the two IIT graduates, who got married in 2001 and Careergraph migrated to USA, are unlikely to live happily ever after; as Telekids of Light. five days before Saurabh filed his bail petition on May 13 Etc this year, he had filed for divorce in a US court. Smita and Saurabh in happier times Weekend Look The apparently false statement made by the husband was designed to persuade the court to allow him anticipatory bail as he has been evading summons to appear before the trial court in **CITY NEWSLINES** India, looking into the complaint of harassment for dowry. The ploy did not work though and Justice Amreshwar Sahay turned down the bail plea. A warrant for the arrest of Saurabh, son of a DGM at the Rourkela steel plant, has now been sent to the Interpol for execution. FEEDS Smita appeared before the court on June 24 and told the judge that she would still like to live RSS with her husband. She had clearly hoped for a reconciliation because her father-in-law had My Yahoo! promised that Saurabh too would be physically present at the high court that day. But he did not turn up though and she is now unsure how the legal tangle will proceed, sandwiched between SEARCH the Indian and the US courts. www.anandautsav.com According to the US divorce laws, she said, Smita has furnished a financial statement to account for the bank balance and assets she holds; but Saurabh's statement is yet to reach Archives Web her. Both are supposed to share the pool but distrust now runs so deep that Smita suspects her husband would do everything to deny her dues. She flies to France next month to join INSEAD Google and, hopefully, to a better life. ARCHIVES Sitting at home here, she recalls that hers was an arranged marriage and everything indicated a Since 1st March, 1999 happy marriage. Her father-in-law had written to her father, saying how proud and happy they were to have her as a daughter-in-law. The couple flew off to Hawai for their honeymoon before THE TELEGRAPH settling down in California with Smita getting a job at Brocad Communications and Saurabh working for Alcatel.

The Telegraph - Calcutta : Jamshedpur

- <u>About Us</u> - <u>Advertise</u> - <u>Feedback</u> - <u>Contact Us</u>	The fairy-tale wedding went sour, however, soon after Smita's father, Shree Prak voluntary retirement from Bokaro Steel. Saurabh, according to Smita, started pes Rs 20 lakh so that his younger brother, Gaurav, can be educated in the US. She threatened with divorce, forcing her to take a heavy dose of sleeping pills. "The tibecome unbearable and I did not want to live any longer as the hypocrisy of my hexposed," she said.	stering her for was rauma had	
ABP The Power of Words	⊠≡ email this page	Print this page	
	Copyright © 2005 The Telegraph. All rights reserved.	Disclaime	er   Privacy Policy   Contact Us

#### Will there be a law to protect innocent males? Some clever girls and their parents are using this Law to their benefit

Dowry Law Posted By: Sandy State: Haryana District: Ambala City:

In today's Indian society is the 'Dowry Law' really helping people or is it being misused is indeed the moot point.

I have a question for the Law makers, when the 'Dowry Law' was enacted did anybody think of the other side of the coin also vis-à-vis, misuse of the Law. In fact, I write this after being witness to many incidents where clever people are misusing the Law.

Unfortunately, it is the educated masses of our society who always misuse certain Laws for their own benefit and the 'Dowry Law' is no exception.

Everybody knows that this is one of the strongest Laws and people booked under this Law have no choice other than to lead their lives in jails. Some clever girls and their parents are using this Law to their benefit, if they feel that things are not going the way they want to.

In fact there have been instances where the bride's family has threatened the groom's family if things haven't gone their way. This has resulted in a number of innocent people suffering.

To quote an instance, an MTech from IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) and his family had to suffer the ignominy of jail under the current 'Dowry Law' for no fault of theirs.

The girl in question invoked the Law just because she couldn't get adjusted to the family of the engineer. It took the aggrieved family almost seven years to prove their innocence. The victim, who used to be a very intelligent person, has now become and nervous wreck and drug addict.

Just last year I came across another such incident. A friend of mine got married to a girl arranged by the respective parents. After the first day of marriage the girl told the him that she was not interested in this marriage, but she had to put up with it as her parents did not want to lose such a good income earning NRI guy.

She also told him that she was in love with someone else and will keep meeting her lover. When my friend objected, the girl's parents booked him under the Law.

One more instance is of a girl and her parents who harassed a guy just because he refused to go back to the US post 9/11. In fact, the girl creates such a ruckus that the neighbors always tend to believe her rather than view the issue in its right perspective.

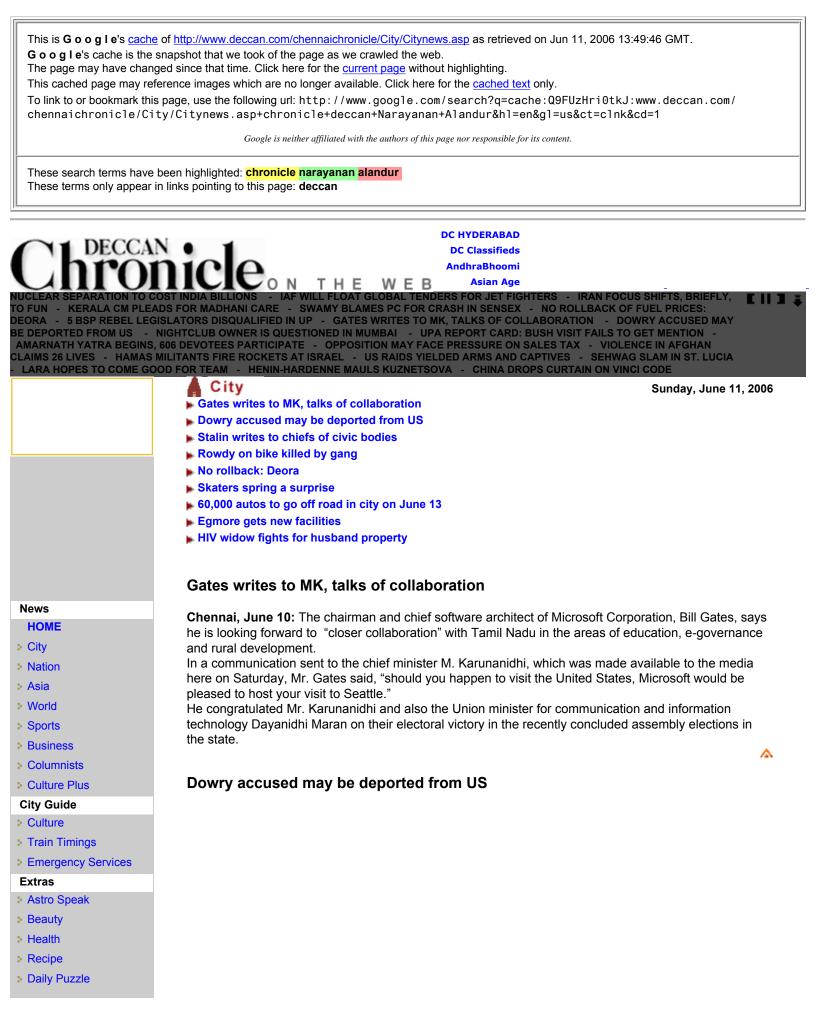
He has written to a number of people including top police officers to conduct a just enquiry and sort the matter out. But, all his pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Will our judicial system mete out justice to such aggrieved males?

A number of such cases abound in cities like Delhi, but nobody seems to be bothered.

Why I am writing this, because I am suffering the same since 2 years, I am USA and my wife even tried to kill me, Though I initially informed police here but later my culture and Indian heart stopped me and I got the case cancelled, more over In USA this is very common she just had to attend a domestic violence class and that's it, I know if it was me and I would have done the same in India, I and my family would have been behind the bars. After that also she did not change rather she has become more aggressive as she knows that In USA nothing will happen to her being a female she has been able to get advantage of Women organization etc.

I am not sure whether the time will come or not when I will get the justice or I will have to live and die like this only.

Will there be a law to protect innocent males?



## Su Do Ku Features

#### -----

- Chennai Chronicle
- Teen
- School
- Lifestyle
- DC Estate
- ESQ
- TV Guide
- Wine and Dine
- Cinema

**Chennai, June 10:** The city police is considering approaching the Indian embassy in USA to deport a software engineer involved in a dowry harassment case. The engineer in question is **Narayanan** (29), of **Alandur**, who was working with a top IT company in India. He married 28 year old Sangeetha, the daughter of Danapaul of Saidapet. The wedding was a lavish affair and Danapaul gave 35 sovereigns of gold and Rs 1 lakh as dowry. Initially, **Narayanan** and Sangeetha led a happy life. But after some time the couple began to quarrel and. **Narayanan**'s family began to harass Sangeetha by not giving her enough food and asking her to do all the housework, the police said.

Meanwhile, Sangeetha got pregnant and could not work as much. Upset with the attitude of her husband's family, Sangeetha tried to commit suicide. Hearing this, Sangeetha's father Danapaul took her back to his house where she gave birth to a girl child. Sangeetha later decided to go back to her husband's house and live with him. But when she returned to her husband's house at **Alandur**, her mother-in-law Usha claimed that **Narayanan** had left home.

Sangeetha went to the company where **Narayanan** worked, where she was told that he had been promoted and was transferred to the company's facility in USA. The company gave Sangeetha her husband's telephone number. When she called up her husband, he asked her to give him Rs 1 lakh more as dowry, according to the police.

Sangeetha then approached the St. Thomas Mount all women's police station, which unsuccessfully tried to contact **Narayanan** over the phone.

On Saturday, the police arrested **Narayanan**'s mother Usha and produced her in the **Alandur** judicial magistrate court. Usha was remanded to 15 days judicial custody. **Narayanan**'s father Shanmugam and brother Arun Kumar are absconding. The police have also filed an FIR against **Narayanan**, who is in the USA and is considering approaching the Indian embassy in USA to deport him back to Chennai.

۸

# Stalin writes to chiefs of civic bodies

**Chennai, June 10:** Local administrations minister M.K. Stalin has written letters to all the heads of the local bodies across the state urging them to ensure better public services and speedy completion of civic projects. The letters have been sent to 552 heads of the local bodies, including mayors of six corporations, 152 municipal chairmen and 385 panchayat union leaders. The letters signed by the minister read: "Let us join to make the local bodies emerge as the best organisations in the country."

Mr Stalin, who sought the co-operation of all the civic bodies, appealed specifically to the rural local bodies to become more vibrant and pointed out that 68 per cent of the people live in rural areas. Measures like ensuring collection of taxes and other fees on time, implementation of new initiatives to increase income of the local bodies, and cost-cutting measures would help the local bodies serve the people better, the letter said. Mr Stalin also urged the municipal and village panchayats to focus more on the areas of sanitation, drinking water, streetlighting and infrastructure.

He assured that he would get the necessary assistance from the state government for strengthening the local bodies. He also requested the heads of civic bodies to contact him through phone, or letter or in person for any assistance from the local administration department. It may be recalled that Mr Stalin had announced that all the powers of the local bodies that were curbed by the previous AIADMK government, including the Act forcing the Chennai Corporation to convene its council meeting once in three months, would be taken up with the state government, so that they could be restored to the civic bodies.

# Rowdy on bike killed by gang

◬

#### citibank The new CitiBusiness Account Exciting Launch Offer!

Learn more

Free CitiBusiness Card, Desktop Planner and More!\*



citibank

Today's

advice

Tomorrow's

business

arowth

CitiBusiness

Business

Loans from

Rs. 10 lakh

to

10 crore

Exciting Launch

Offer

Free CitiBusiness Card,

Desktop Planner

and More!\*

Learn more

Limited period offer

Account

The new

# THE TRIANGLE ONLINE

The Student Newspaper at Drexel University

<b>Current Issue:</b> July 22, 2005	Home > <u>News</u>
Classifieds	Grad. student facing challenges across borders
Editorial	-
Local Weather	False statements in hometown paper are among Ganguly's numerous problems
Get Involved	By Craig Eisenberger
Forums	Published: Friday, August 20, 2004
Datebook	
Login	The Times of India allegedly made false statements about University student and teaching assistant Adrish Ganguly in its article "Deserter' son spoils father's case for bail" Aug. 7.
Submissions	The Times of India reported that Ganguly was married to Tanupriya Guha Roy Dec. 8, 2003
More	for the purpose of obtaining his U.S. visa. The marriage occurred two years after Ganguly obtained a U.S. visa in Calcutta Feb. 23, 2001, which will not expire until sometime in 2005.
Archives	Executive Director for International Students and Scholars Services Kathleen Trayte wrote a letter to the editor of The Times of India, stating that the article "contains many
Advertising	inaccuracies" and the comment about the reason for the marriage "is completely and utterly without basis."
Distribution	The article also mentions charges filed against Ganguly and his parents by his wife, under
RSS Feeds	Section 498A and 406 of the Indian Penal Code.
Updated News	According to section 406, "whoever commits criminal breach of trust shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term, which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."
National News	Section 498A states that "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a
World News	woman, subjects such woman to crueity shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine."
Technology	Cruelty in such a case is defined as "(a) any wilful conduct which is of such a nature as is
Entertainment	<ul> <li>likely to drive the woman to commit suicide or to cause grave injury or danger to life, limb or health (whether mental or physical) of the woman; or (b) harassment of the woman</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>where such harassment is with a view to coercing her or any person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any property or valuable security or is on account of failure by her or any person related to her to meet such demand."</li> <li>Adrish Ganguly</li> </ul>
Current Poll	Ganguly told The Triangle that Tanupriya's statements and charges were false. He claimed that she had an ulterior motive for the marriage, saying she wanted him to bring her and her family over to America.
What do you think should be done with the vacant lot	"I told her that I could bring her over but not her parents. If I was going to bring anyone's parents over, it would be my own," Ganguly said.
at 32nd and Powelton?	He added that Tanupriya wanted him to help her parents get jobs in America, an action that is illegal given immigration laws. It would also cause Ganguly to lose his student visa status.
Drexel should be able to develope the student housing.	<u>Continued</u>
Drexel and the PVCA	
should build a community	
park.	Forum: displaying 1 - 3 of 3 top level comments
Something in between whe Drexel and the PVCA wan	
	L live in Maryland. I have read the news (9/18/04)
Nothing, it should remain vacant.	- Dear Nilanjan Thank you very much for y (9/21/04) Adrish, my heart goes out to you and you (9/22/04)
VOTE	Adrish it looks like a clear case of neg (9/25/04)
RESULTS	Post a comment
Front Page   July 22	Note: The Triangle Web site is currently under construction. We apologize for any inconvenience during this time. Please let us know what you think of our new design. Post on the forums or drop us an entert.
	National College Advertising and Marketing
	Privacy Policy Article Syndication College Scholarships

home

about us contact

# THE TRIANGLE ONLINE

The Student Newspaper at Drexel University

home

about us contact

# THE TRIANGLE ONLINE

The Student Newspaper at Drexel University

NEWS EDITO	TAL & OPINION SPORTS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMICS ENTERTAINMENT	
<b>Current Issue:</b> July 22, 2005	Home > News	
	Grad student facing challenges across borders	
Classifieds	Grad. student facing challenges across borders	
Editorial		
Local Weather	False statements in hometown paper are among Ganguly's numerous problems	
Get Involved	By Craig Eisenberger	
Forums	Published: Friday, August 20, 2004	
Datebook		
Login	"He is a fraud. He is telling lies to all the people at Drexel University," Tanupriya said. "I am not lying at all."	
Submissions	"The court has issued an order, as well as an arrest warrant, against him," Tanupriya said. The Triangle has not been able to independently confirm this.	
	Tanupriya added that her family's lawyer said Ganguly's father, Dilip Ganguly, stated that Adrish married her to get his visa early.	
More	Ganguly forwarded the message to Barsoum, who offered his assistance, calling the entire situation a nightmare.	
Archives	Ganguly forwarded the message to Barsoum, who offered his assistance, calling the entire situation a hightmare. The Triangle contacted Trayte and asked for her opinion of the situation.	
Advertising	"I feel sorry for him," Trayte said. "He feels that he is going to be kicked out of the University, but I assured him that isn't going to happen."	
Distribution	Trayte advises all international students with problems to come to the Office of International Students and Scholars Services.	
RSS Feeds	"We have resources at hand that [students] may not know about," she said. "That is why we are here, to assist them in situations like this."	
Updated News		
National News	Forum:	
World News	displaying 1 - 3 of 3 top level comments	
Technology		
Entertainment	Llive in Maryland. I have read the news (9/18/04)	
	- Dear Nilanjan Thank you very much for y (9/21/04)	
	Adrish, my heart goes out to you and you (9/22/04) Adrish it looks like a clear case of neg (9/25/04)	
Current Poll		
	Post a comment	
What do you think should be done with the vacant lot at 32nd and Powelton?	Note: The Triangle Web site is currently under construction. We apologize for any inconvenience during this time. Please let us know what you think of our new design. Post on the forums or drop us an E-field.	
Drexel should be able to develope the student housing.	National College Advertising and Marketing	
Drexel and the PVCA	Privacy Policy Article Syndication College Scholarships	
should build a community park.		
Something in between what Drexel and the PVCA want.		
Nothing, it should remain vacant.		
VOTE		
RESULTS		
From the Device of Table 22		
Front Page   July 22		

about us

home

contact

# Alpna found guilty of killing husband

WASHINGTON, Sept 19 (PTI) — Indian Canadian dentist Alpna Patel has been found guilty on charges of manslaughter for killing her 26-year-old husband. The maximum sentence for manslaughter is 10 years.

A Baltimore jury yesterday found Alpna guilty of voluntary manslaughter of her husband, Viresh Patel in March 1999 after a 10-month arranged marriage. Voluntary manslaughter means that she killed her husband in an emotional rage, legal experts said.

The sobbing woman was taken to the city jail handcuffed behind her back.

Judge John Prevas said he would decide whether to grant her bail and set October 24 for sentencing.

Her first trial had led to a verdict of not guilty of first and second degree murder.

The first jury accepted her plea that she did not intend to kill her husband and that he got stabbed several times when she struggled with him repeatedly as he tried to kill her.



# Genghis Khan's `tomb' found

URUMQI, Sept 19 (PTI) — Chinese archaeologists have claimed to have discovered the "real" tomb of Genghis Khan, founder of the ancient Mongolia dynasty.

The tomb is located in Qinghe county in China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the state media reported today.

"This is the real tomb of Genghis Khan. The tomb at the Gandeli steppe in south-western inner Mongolia was not the burial ground of the Mongol ruler," said Mr Zhang Hui, a research fellow at the Xinjiang museum here.



# Indian beheaded for drug trafficking

RIYADH Sept 19 (AP) — An Indian man convicted of drug trafficking was beheaded in Saudi Arabia today, the Interior Ministry said.Tampi Raj Mandiram was found guilty of smuggling an unspecified quantity of heroin into the kingdom and was executed in the capital Riyadh, said the statement. It did not provide further details.Today's execution brings to at least 102 the number of persons beheaded this year. At least 99 persons were executed last year.



# 3 Indian UN troops hurt in accident

RASHAYA (Lebanon), Sept 19 (AFP) — Three Indian peacekeepers in the UN force in Lebanon were injured, two seriously, in a road accident last night at the country's borders with Israel, a UN spokesman said.

The soldiers were injured when their military vehicle overturned on a border road in Abbassiyeh, he said.



# TIMESJOBS.COM If you have a reason, we have the job.

EMAIL ADDRESS :

UPLOAD RESUME:

File size not to exceed 50KB, .doc or .rtf format only.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: MUMBAI**



Click here shaadl.com	Search in Advanced Search Google	Bharat Matrimony. <i>com</i>
Indiatimes > The Tin	nes of India > Cities > Mumbai > Article make	trip
G@AL 2006	Interpol notice in dowry case Mateen Hafeez [Saturday, December 24, 2005 02:55:14 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]	Mobile Downloads Aaj nishana lagaya kya? Swimsuit Calendar Krrish on 8888! Mallika i hate you!
Mission Mumbai CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs Real Estate   Auto Travel Education Post Print Ads	MUMBAI: A 27-year-old IT professional Abhijeet Khatav along with his parents, who are based in Sydney and are of Australian nationality, have been listed by the Interpol as wanted for demanding dowry from an Indian. This is probably the first case where an Interpol notice has been issued in a dowry case, city police said. Usually, a red-corner notice is issued against those accused in crimes like drug trafficking,	Hotel stay@ affordable prices. Holidays in Tirupati 1 night/2 days @ 7040 Best Western the Emerald, Mumbai @ 2550 Nalapad
All Classifieds HOT LINKS ePaper NRI Finance RSS Feeds	bomb blasts, hijacking, child sexual abuse, terrorist activities, illegal remittance of foreign exchange, etc. The request for a red-corner notice was issued on the basis of a complaint filed with the Borivli police station. Interpol is expected to issue a request to the Australian police for their extradition. Kamal Bansode, police inspector attached to Borivli police station, said the complainant,	Residency, Bangalore @ 1485 . Hotel Nand Residency, Mussoorie @ 1620
Test Centre NEWS Cities	Sapna (name changed), has named husband, Abhijeet, father-in-law Suresh Khatav (57), and mother-in-law Chhaya (55). In her complaint, Sapna said that her husband, who works as Credit Officer with M/s Haier	
Ahmedabad Bangalore Chandigarh Delhi Hyderabad Kolkata Lucknow	Electricals in Sydney, had demanded Rs 5 lakh as dowry after the marriage. 1 2 3 Next > Write to the Editor	My Voice My Times. My Voice
MumbaiPatnaPuneThiru'puramCity SupplementsIndiaCricketSportsWorld	📇 Print this page 🛛 Email this page 🖉 Comment on this article	News in this Section Anil Ambani in fray for 3 Film City studios Birla BPO barges into N. America's Top 10 Some farmers got aid hours before guv visit Rising MedEd costs
Entertainment India Business Intl Business Infotech Health / Science Lifestyle Photo Gallery TOI Headlines	RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding]       1       2       3       4       6         Read Comments         Very clearly a case of misusing the law for extor  Read - rrpalaparthi why the girl name is changed and not the boy? Bec  Read - santhakka         Read all comments	hit middle class aspirants hard . Cops file chargesheet against Kasliwal

# TIMESJOBS.COM

If you have a reason, we have the job.

EMAIL ADDRESS :

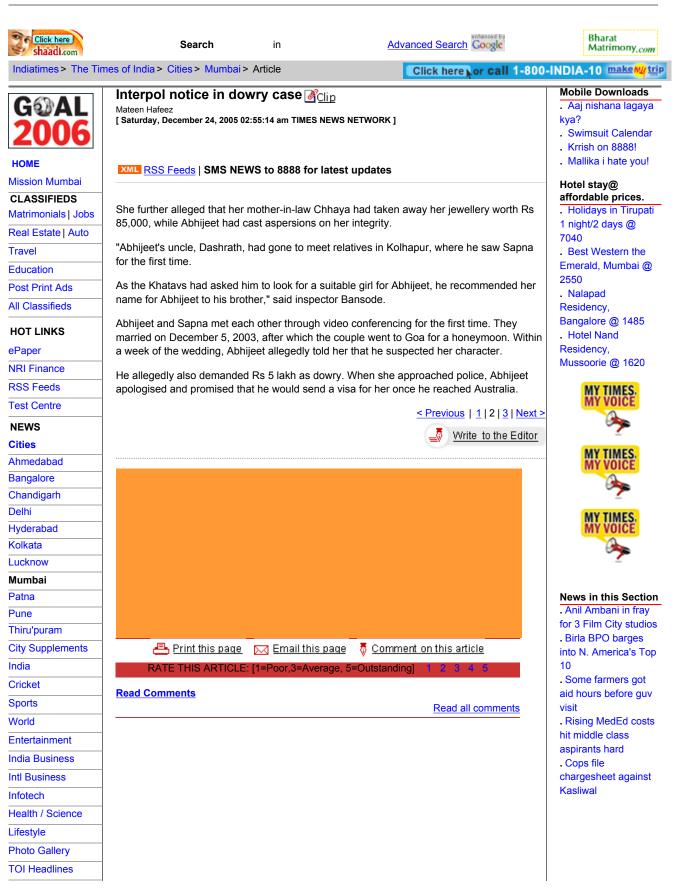
UPLOAD RESUME:

File size not to exceed 50KB, .doc or .rtf format only.

### THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: MUMBAI**

# POWERED BY



# TIMESJOBS.COM If you have a reason, we have the job.

EMAIL ADDRESS :

UPLOAD RESUME:

File size not to exceed 50KB, .doc or .rtf format only.

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: MUMBAI**



Click here shaadi.com	Search in Advanced Search Coogle	Bharat Matrimony. <i>com</i>
Indiatimes > The Tin	nes of India > Cities > Mumbai > Article make	<u>ci</u> p
G@AL 2006	Interpol notice in dowry case Mateen Hafeez [ Saturday, December 24, 2005 02:55:14 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]	Mobile Downloads . Aaj nishana lagaya kya? . Swimsuit Calendar . Krrish on 8888!
HOME Mission Mumbai	<b>XML</b> <u>RSS Feeds</u>   SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates	. Mallika i hate you! Hotel stay@
CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs Real Estate   Auto	Months after Abhijeet and his family left for Australia, she received a letter from the Australian embassy, informing her that a visa could not issued to her as her husband had told Australian officials that the marriage would be annulled soon.	affordable prices. Holidays in Tirupati 1 night/2 days @ 7040
Travel Education	It was then that Sapna approached the Borivli police and lodged a complaint against Abhijeet and his parents on May 21, 2004.	. Best Western the Emerald, Mumbai @ 2550
Post Print Ads All Classifieds	The Borivili metropolitan magistrate on July 21 last year issued non-bailable warrants against the three accused.	. Nalapad Residency,
HOT LINKS ePaper	Later, the extradition cell of the city crime branch took charge and sent a request to the CBI to issue a red-corner notice against the three accused.	Bangalore @ 1485 . Hotel Nand Residency,
NRI Finance		Mussoorie @ 1620
RSS Feeds	Sapna who continued with her education in the meanwhile stays with her parents in Kolhapur.	MY TIMES
Test Centre	<u>Previous</u>   <u>1</u>   <u>2</u>  3	MY VOICE
NEWS		<u> </u>
Cities		-
Ahmedabad		MY TIMES. MY VOICE
Bangalore		
Chandigarh		~ <b>`</b> _
Delhi		MY TIMES.
Hyderabad		MY VOICE
Kolkata		8 <b>%</b>
Lucknow		÷
Mumbai		
Patna		News in this Section
Pune Thiru'puram		for 3 Film City studios
Thiru'puram	📇 Print this page 🛛 🖂 Email this page 🧔 Comment on this article	Birla BPO barges
City Supplements India	RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] 1 2 3 4 5	into N. America's Top 10
	Read Comments	. Some farmers got
Cricket	Read all comments	aid hours before guv
Sports		visit
World		. Rising MedEd costs hit middle class
Entertainment		aspirants hard
India Business		Cops file
Intl Business		chargesheet against
Infotech		Kasliwal
Health / Science		
Lifestyle		
Photo Gallery		
TOI Headlines		

# Helpless and harassed husbands

# 498 A gives men pre-wedding jitters

#### NIRMALA RAMCHANDRA

EDDING blues and bridal nerves have always been associated with women. But nowadays lots of men are experiencing pre-wedding jitters. The reason: They are terrified of misuse of the anti-dowry law.

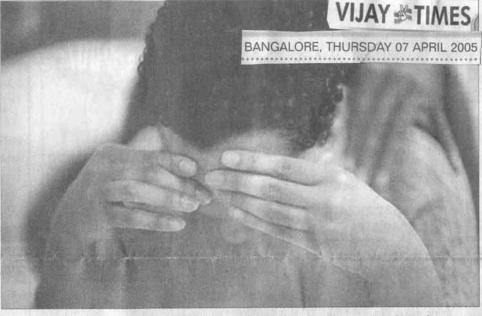
Romantic dreams have been replaced by nailbiting anxiety about being jailed in false case of dowry harassment, should the marriage turn sour.

"I get a lot of calls from to-be married men who ask me what steps to take to avoid being implicated by their wives in harassment cases in case the marriage fails. Cases of women misusing Section 498A of IPC has made men wary of marriage," says HV Arun Murthy, who has set up Sangyabalya, a forum to address problems of husbands and families victimised by anti-dowry laws. Sanghyabalya gets at least three calls and 15-20 emails per day from men seeking help from Bangalore and other parts of the globe.

So what advice does Murthy give such men? "There is no fool-proof mechanism to protect them. However, I advise them to register their marriages without fail along with joint declaration of the gifts exchanged," Murthy said.

Another alternative, which has already gained ground in Mumbai, is pre-nuptial agreement, where in couples decide who gets what should the marriage break up. Sometimes, this also includes custody of children.

"While this may sound very businesslike and distasteful, remember that countless men are being victimised for no fault of theirs. They are guilty by gender. If there is marital discord, man



is considered to be the culprit. Everybody sympathises with the woman. Many women are making use of this and the stringent anti-dowry law to settle personal scores or to get out-ofcourt settlements. The law was made stringent to protect women, but instead it has become a tool of blackmail," Murthy says.

Even women's forum agree that the law is being misused. Shylaja, a counsellor with Guild of Women Achievers, says, "Not all cases of dowry harassment are true. Nowadays, more women are aware of the law. And some of them are abusing it to torment their husband's family for whatever reason."

According to Murthy, 90 per cent of dowry harassment complaints are false. This law has become a money-making device for mercenary women and the police, he alleged.

"I know there are countless women who are actually harassed for dowry and I'm all for pun-

# WHAT THE ACT SAYS

Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code (Dowry Prohibition Act) was enacted with the aim of protecting wives from marital violence, abuse and extortionist dowry demands.

The Section was introduced by Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act of 1983. It says: "Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine".

It is a non-bailable offence, which means that a person booked under this section can be arrested once the complaint is filed.

ishing the perpetrators of such a crime. But we want to aid men and their families who are being tormented on false charges. What was given voluntarily as a gift by bride's family during wedding becomes 'dowry' if the marriage breaks down. Then the man and his family members are put behind bars without any trial," Murthy said.

"I just want to say that not all men are greedy alcoholics who beat up their wives and not all women are innocent."

Harassed husbands' helpline 56969850.







You are here : Home > News >

News Channels	Breaking News Last Updated on : 10/8/2005 11:30:00 AM IRS officer alleges threats from his in-laws	More News in Breaking
City Breaking City Politics City Discounts	An IRS officer from the State Dr. A. Mallikarjuna Rao, presently Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax at Delhi, alleged that his father-in-law and West Bengal cadre IAS officer Mr. P.	State managing committee reconstituted
City Events City Sports City Entertainment	Vanamali was threatening him of dire consequences and to kill him, as he had filed a case in the Court seeking divorce from his wife on grounds of adultery and cruelty.	Certificate Course in Videography July 3
City Education National / Other News News Photo Feature	Dr. Rao said that his wife Mrs. Meghana had abducted him and married him forcibly and his in-laws were threatening him that they would ruin his career if he opened his mouth against their daughter. Since the marriage, his career and entire life was under the virtual control of his father-in-law.	YSR appeals people to support the secular forces
Archives	His place of posting, residence everything was controlled by his in-laws. He said that he has serious differences with his wife and whenever he brought it to the notice of his in-laws, they	<u>Certificate Course in</u> <u>Hindustani Music</u>
	threatened him with dire consequences if he opened his mouth. Dr. Rao alleged he and his family members were threatened and manhandled by his in-laws because they were witnesses to certain shocking incidents in his married life.	All Party meeting to ensure_ free,fair poll:TDP_
	He also said his wife had left her eight months old daughter with him and went to America for higher studies. He also said that he had approached a court for divorce on the grounds	Centre appoints national research professors

of adultery and cruelty, and requested the government to give protection to him and his

participated in the media meet.

Consumer awareness scheme family members from his father-in-law. Mrs. S. Vani, victim's lawyer, and his family members during the tenth five-year plan

> Economic development influences social development: Prof.Tataji

TDP charge on unanimous elections denied by the Congress

Revision of 15-point programme for welfare of minorities

Division Bench Verdict hailed

M.A. Thomas National Human Rights Award-2006 for Swamy Agnivesh

Full bench on the Da Vinci Code Film: Govt.

CBN responsible for the recent developments: YSR

Chinese delegation appreciates Medicare in the State

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Bill Enacted

JNTU & Central Michigan University M.B.A Entrance on June 30

Congress, TRS and CPI reach agreement on ZPTCs

# TIMESJOBS.COM

If you have a reason, we have the job

**EMAIL ADDRESS :** UPLOAD RESUME: File size not to exceed 50KB, .doc or .rtf format only POWERED BY INDIA THE TIMES OF INDIA **INDIATIMES** Bharat Click here Advanced Search Google Search in Matrimony.com shaadi.com Indiatimes > The Times of India > India > Article Click here or call 1-800-INDIA-10 make Mutrip Mobile Downloads Man assaulted by wife, gets divorce RClip Gena . Aaj nishana lagaya [Sunday, November 07, 2004 06:49:04 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ] kya? . Swimsuit Calendar . Krrish on 8888! XML RSS Feeds | SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates . Mallika i hate you! HOME **Mission Mumbai** Hotel stay@ NEW DELHI: It's not always women who suffer due to cruelty and assault by their errant CLASSIFIEDS affordable prices. husbands. A husband too has been able to get divorce from his wife on grounds of assault . Holidays in Tirupati Matrimonials | Jobs and abuse. Before the SC granted him divorce on the charge of cruelty and assault by his 1 night/2 days @ wife, the man had lodged complaints with the Mahila Samiti in 1993. He suffered a fracture Real Estate | Auto 7040 after his wife slapped him and pushed him against a wall. Travel . Best Western the Emerald, Mumbai @ Rearing the two children himself as his wife, surprisingly, lives with her husband's parents, Education 2550 the man charged her with both both physical and mental cruelty. While the trial court Post Print Ads . Nalapad granted him decree for divorce, his wife challenged it and sought restoration of conjugal All Classifieds rights. Residency, Bangalore @ 1485 HOT LINKS She succeeded in the high court, which held that the allegations of abusive behaviour by . Hotel Nand the wife were not proved. The aggrieved husband's counsel argued that it was not Residency, ePaper necessary for a husband to establish from written statement that the wife was abusive. She Mussoorie @ 1620 **NRI** Finance had made the charge of adultery during the proceedings for maintenance, which she got ----**RSS Feeds** Rs 800 a month. **Test Centre** A Bench of Justices Ruma Pal and Arun Kumar dismissed the wife's plea for restoration of NEWS conjugal rights and upheld the decree for divorce that the husband had got about a decade ado. Cities **City Supplements** Since the two children of the estranged couple were being brought up by the father, no maintenance could be paid for them. But as there was an increase in the husband's India income, his wife should be given enhanced maintenance of Rs 1,500 per month from Cricket November 1. Sports Write to the Editor World Entertainment India Business **News in this Section** Intl Business . Police to file Infotech chargesheet against Health / Science Praveen Mahajan . MCOCA court to Lifestyle hear Salem's plea on Photo Gallery June 30 **TOI Headlines** . Wanted criminal shot dead in Lucknow News Four militants killed Most Read Articles in J-K encounters . Govt considering Archives 📇 Print this page 🛛 🖂 Email this page 👼 Comment on this article expanding definition Weather RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] of rape OPINION Read Comments Columnists No comment has been posted for this article yet. Editorial SUPPLEMENTS Education Times

big impact on health if it is released at a time and place when people are present. So, it is necessary to look not only where the pollution is but also where the people are. Earlier human comfort in a building was primarily measured in terms of temperature, humidity and odour. Today, comfort is also measured by indoor air quality, lighting and background noise level. Defining air quality or acceptable air quality is not easy. According to the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), the indoor air quality refers to the physical, chemical and biological characteristic of air in the indoor environment within a building.

All indoor-generated pollutants result from human activity or choice. There are broadly four kinds of pollutants—those that are formed in the combustion process for heating and cooking, the ones derived from construction and furnishing materials or those related to human activity or presence..

The pollutants from the above sources may include radon, the environmental tobacco smoke, carbon monoxide which is a volatile organic compound, oxides of nitrogen and sulphur like the lead and respirable particulate matter like asbestos.

Kitchens are the places where most combustion-generated pollutants are present, affecting mostly women who spend several hours in cooking at homes.

A study conducted in east Delhi found that in houses where cooking gas was used as fuel, the concentration of pollutants was significantly higher indoors than outdoors. If improperly adjusted cooking gas appliance is used, the concentration of CO is higher in kitchen and living rooms.

The ventilation in Indian kitchens is generally very poor.

Another study found that women using mixed fuels (biomass and dung) have more respiratory problems than those using LPG. This situation prevails in all types of indoor environments, both rural and urban, the researchers said.



## Life's hard knocks Man complains against harassment by wife, in-laws Our Correspondent

Ghaziabad, February 8

A Loni resident has complained to the senior police officers, alleging harassment by his wife, her father, brother and other in-laws.

Sandeep Panwar, a resident of Raj Nagar Colony in Loni, was married on April 5, 2000 to Lovely, alias Chanchal, daughter of Dharampal of Chohlda village in Bagpat.

According to Sandeep, his father-in-law Dharampal, brother-in-law Deepak and a relative Satyander came to his house recently. The trio beat him up, took away his wife and also some of his belongings.

He had filed a report with the Loni police the same day and lodged a written complaint with the SSP Ghaziabad also. However, the police have not taken any action so far.

On the other hand, Sandeep alleges, his wife and her relatives have filed a false dowry case against him in the women cell of the Delhi police by giving a fictitious address in Delhi.

Since then, he has been knocking at the doors of Delhi police and Ghaziabad police, but in vain.

## Traffic held up

Sonepat: A large number of residents, including women, held up traffic on the Sonepat-Rohtak Road near Harsana Kalan village, about 8 km from here last evening in protest against the disruption in power supply in the village.

According to a report, the movement of traffic on this road remained affected for two hours and a large number of vehicles were lined up on both sides of the road, causing inconvenience to the

http://www.cybernoon.com/DisplayArticle.asp?section=fromthepress&subsection=inbom bay&xfile=October2005\_inbombay\_standard8141

# 'Mother-in-law played spoilsport': Ex-ADC Pandey

Staff Reporter | Thursday, October 06, 2005 9:15:32 IST

Says would not have uttered a word against his 'Srimati' but for allegations of singeing with cigarette butts...



Deepak Pandey, IPS, who was formerly Governor's aide-de-camp (ADC), until two incidents put a spanner in the works of his promising career, called a press conference yesterday. Initially, it was traffic constable, Vishnu Patil, who had lodged a complaint against the senior officer saying he was harassed by Pandey when he was on duty. Patil had alleged that he was made to stand in the scorching heat in the Raj Bhavan campus and that Pandey had also threatened to transfer him (traffic constable Patil).

Following this, an inquiry was initiated and the issue was lapped up by the media. However, that was only the tip of iceberg of the hardship that Pandey was to undergo. A few days after this episode took place, his wife Nidhi lodged a complaint of harassment for dowry against the officer, resulting in an FIR being recorded and the subsequent suspension of Deepak Pandey. Thereafter, Pandey was hounded by the media. However, yesterday he called a press conference since he could no longer stand the allegation made by his wife that he had tried to singe her with cigarette butts. Pandey revealed his side of the story to the media yesterday. "I kept silent as I did not want to reveal that my 'Shrimati' was a psychiatric patient suffering from panic psychosis and personality disorder," he said, adding that he never had any serious issues on which to fight with Nidhi. He said that they were a happily married couple.

"We were a couple that people would refer to as an `ideal couple'. Lekin na jane kiski nazar lag gayi," said Pandey. "Hamare beech mein kaha-sooni toh hoti thi, but that happens with every newly married couple. We were hoping to sort it out," said the ADC, adding that Nidhi's mother had played a major role in Nidhi making up her mind to sever ties with him.

"Bahut chotti-chotti batonko bahut galat tarike-sey pesh kiya gaya hai. Unki Matajine sab duniya ko galat bate batayi," said Pandey, adding that the first incident occurred on December 25, 2002 at Gadchiroli when Nidhi's parents had come to visit them. To avoid inconvenience Pandey inlaws were put up in a government guest house with all amenities. But they were unhappy about the lodging and conveyance arrangements made for them and the mother-in-law vowed to ensure that the marriage broke up. Since then, each time that Nidhi would meet her mother, she (Nidhi) would try to implicate him, with a new allegation, Pandey informed.

He said that incidents like his sister's marriage proposal with a man who was seen as Nidhi's prospective husband before she became an IAS officer and before she married Deepak Pandey, only added fuel to the fire. She was upset over the issue and in collusion with her parents decided to leave the house. However, even prior to that on January 30, 2004 she had made an application for her transfer outside Mumbai after returning from a 20-day sojourn at her mother's house in Lucknow.

"I kept silent as I thought she was upset over something and would return to normalcy," Pandey told reporters. However, she left the house on February 12, 2004 only a few days after the marriage of Deepak's sister and on April 19, 2004, an FIR of demand for dowry and harassment for the same was lodged at the behest of the mother-in-law, Pandey stated.

"Hamare aur Nidhi ke beech mein koi muddha nahi tha, na hai. It is not a mere coincidence that every time her mother had been around Nidhi had drifted towards separation and now she has decided to that," said Pandey, adding that he could prove all the allegations of assault, illtreatment, demand of dowry etc. as false. Pandey also told the media that since he did not possess any service revolver, there was no question of he having pointed it towards his wife with the intent of threatening to kill her, as alleged by her.

"There is nothing like demand for dowry. These things don't happen in IAS-IPS cadre. She was a gold medallist doctor and being an IAS officer, she was a superior officer, how could there be a demand for dowry," said Pandey.

Pandey also termed the cigarette-burns story as false. He said Nidhi was a gold medallist doctor but nowhere in her 26-page letter to the chief secretary nor in her initial complaint of demand for dowry and harassment had she mentioned anything about it. Demanding that both of them be made to undergo a lie-detector, narco-analysis and brain mapping test to find out the truth, Pandey ruled out the possibility of he having singed his wife with cigarette butts, but challenged that even if one allegation of causing of injury were to be proved, he would resign from his post. Pandey also denied allegations that he had behaved rudely with the police constable. He said the media made a hue and cry about the whole thing. In fact, it was the constable who, despite seeing his photo in uniform, had deliberately tried to belittle him. "I could have handled the issue much professionally," confessed Pandey, adding that when the days were bad, things tended to go awry. "I have knocked on every possible door in the last few months, including that of astrologers to keep the marriage," said Pandey.



# RAJASTHAN PLUS

#### Home | Feedback

# ARTICLES

#### >> Mujhe meri biwi se ...

- >> US of A, no ...
- >> Clay composition ...
- >> BIRD FLU:The lowdown ...
- >> Takin' it easy... ...
- >> Scientists create slimline ...
- >> Rendezvous with Aamir ...
- >> 'I am like clay ...



#### Mujhe meri biwi se bachao

#### Rajendra Chhabra

In a state where leaders from opposition are never out of their breath in criticising the Vasundhara Raje government for the increasing incidents of atrocities against women, there is an RAS officer working in one of the boards under the state government, who has been subjected to manhandling and beating by his wife. There are numerous instances of government officials who are slaves of their wives. The Saheb's PAs and PS's and other staff members are aware of many instances where the wife publicly humiliated their husbands before the office staff. Such stories spread easily in the departments and in the secretariat.

But there is one officer who faces the humiliation inflicted by none other than his own wife. It is not known what fate meets this officer in his home, but his wife often lands up in the office and the "Hitler Bibi" as she is described scolds her husband and in sheer rage tears the clothes of her husband and often beat him up. The staff members have seen their boss getting humiliated like this, at least half a dozen times in the past six months. Once in the presence of the minister of the official's department, the wife had beaten her husband. In sheer humiliation and in panic the officer ran away from the house to save himself. This incident of November 10, 2005 shocked even the minister and other high officials This RAS (selection scale) officer had suffered such humiliation in the past also from the hands of his wife. On several occasion, the wife in sheer anger, threw paperweight at her husband by reaching office following arguments.

On several occasions, the officer ran away from office, yet the wife followed him. The clash and commotion are being caused on the issue of money. The officer has two official cars, but the wife keeps the keys of the official cars. The wife and children uses the cars for personal use and in the past six months, the board has incurred an expenditure of Rs six lakh on cars and maintenance. This means the wife is burning fuel worth Rs 70,000 per month. Both cars are parked at the officer's residence even in the night and the wife controls the keys. The officer's parental house is not in Jaipur and every Saturday the wife and children visit the nearby city and uses the cars for this purpose.

While the wife goes to the other city by husband's official car, the husband visits the nearby city travelling by bus.. Once after having clashed with his wife, the husband was forced out of the house by his wife. He was not in proper dress and he had to buy kurta-pyjama from shop to enable him attend the office. The department's secretary knows about the sufferings of the officials. Once during an important meeting, the officer reached in kurta-pyjama and that too late. Later he explained the position to the secretary and he was surprised to hear the complaint. The wife has come and misbehaved with his husband several times in office and the higher officials have not taken up any cognizance of it. The misuse of the cars by the wife is a matter of probe as the expenditure of Rs 70,000 on petrol is more than double the monthly salary of the officer.

#### OTHER PLUSES Agra Plus

Anand Plus **Bareilly Plus Bhopal Plus** Doon Plus **Durgapur-Asansol Plus** Dwarka Plus East Delhi Plus East End Plus East Kolkata Plus Education Plus (Rajasthan) Faridabad Plus Goa Pluses Gurgaon Plus Indore Plus Jalgaon-Dhule Plus Madras Plus Meerut Plus Mumbai Pluses Nagpur Plus Nasik Times Noida Plus North Delhi Plus Pune Eastside Plus Pune Westside Plus Rajasthan Plus South Delhi Pluses South Gujarat Plus **Twin City Plus UP East Plus** West Delhi Plus

SEARCH

# ARCHIVES

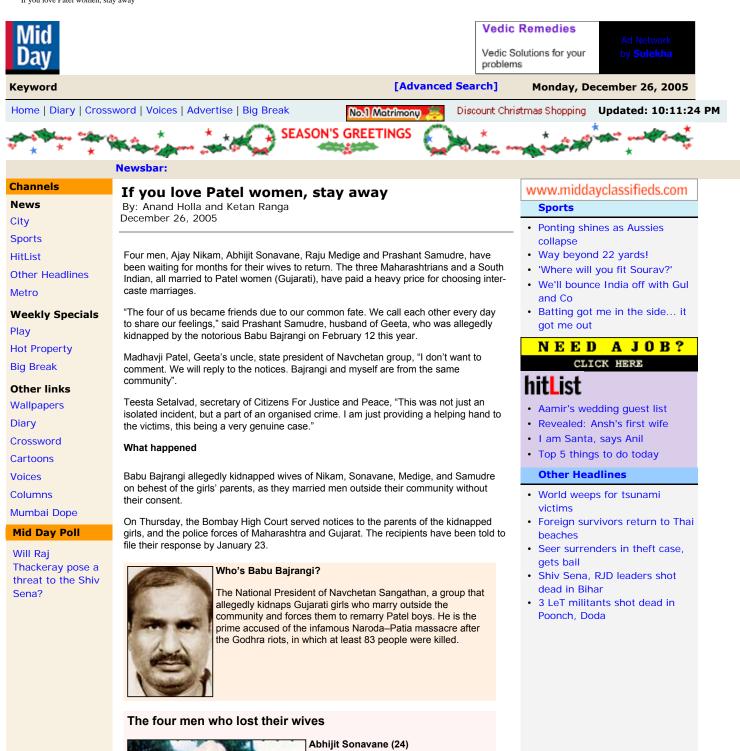
CITIZEN REPORTER Dear Reader you can submit your articles online Click Here to submit

## MUMBAI MIRROR





Copyright © Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. • All rights reserved Other Times Group Sites - Indiatimes | The Times Of India | The Economic Times | Femina | Filmfare | Navbharat Times Times Classifieds | Education Times | Maharashtra Times | Jobs & Careers | Times Multimedia





Abhijit and Bhavna knew each other for four years before they got married. Even as Bhavna's parents repeatedly threatened Sonavane, they got secretly married. However, Bhavna's parents and relatives came to Sonavane's house and demanded their daughter come back.

In May 2005, when the Sonavane family had gone for a holiday to Panchgani, a

group of 15 kidnapped the pregnant Bhavna. Two days later, the police told the Sonavanes that Bhavna was with Baba Bajrangi by her own will.

A mob of 400 people of Navchetan group accompanied Bhavna to Khandala court on June 13, where she said she did not wish to stay with Abhijit. Later Abhijit learnt Bhavna had filed for divorce under pressure.

#### Raju Medige (23)

Married Naval against the wishes of both families and her



parents placed her under house arrest. In January, Naval's relatives began threatening Raju to sign divorce papers or his mother and sister's lives would be in danger. Raju finally gave as he was scared for the well being of his family.

In August, Naval called Raju to tell him that one Atul Patel who

had come to Raju's house had plans of taking Naval to Babu Bajrangi. She said Bajrangi would ask questions like, "How many times have you slept with Raju?"

On August 28, the couple decided to meet at a spot and then run away. But Naval didn't turn up. Raju got a call at night and Naval told him she was in Naroda, Ahmedabad. She cried the whole time. Till date does not know where she is. He said, "I want my wife back from the clutches of Bajrangi."

#### Ajay Nikam (29)

Married Geeta on May 23, 2003 without their parents' consent after five years of dating. They informed their families in October 2004. Geeta's parents, uncle Madhav Patel and aunt Kamla got gangster Babu Bajrangi to abduct her. Geeta disappeared on November 30, 2004, a month after her parents were informed of the marriage.

After the abduction, Ajay received threatening calls from Ahmedabad asking him to forget Geeta. But a determined Ajay went to Ahmedabad, where Bajrangi's men met him. There, he was forced to sign divorce papers at gunpoint.

Nikam said, "In whatever conditions and circumstances, I want my wife back"

#### Prashant Samudre (26)



Runs a hotel in Miraj, Sangli district, and on May 5 he married Geeta, who went back to stay with her parents, as both intended to complete their studies. She went missing in February after she went to a restaurant after receiving a call. Later, she called Prashant from Ahmedabad and told him she could not break free from those who held her.

But when Prashant reached Naroda he was chased away by eight people. On reaching Miraj, he got a divorce petition. But later in April he came to know his wife was illegally forced to marry Shivlal Patel in Mumbai.

Another girl, Bharati Patole who had run away from Bajrangi's clutches, she complained to the Karnataka police of the sinister racket.

Email this article 🖪 Print this article 📑 Post / View comments

**Rate this story:** 1 2 3 4 5 **Submit** 

Columns | Diary | Hot Property | Big Break | Cartoons | Voices | 26th Anniversary © 2005 Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd. All rights reserved Disclaimer | About us | Register | Feedback | Archive Other group sites: Inquilab | Corporate site | GO92.5 FM

# MUMBAI MIRROR | Front page

### MUMBAI, Monday, November 21, 2005





#### Feedback | Mirror Blog

Home
Front page
City
Nation
World
Business
Views
Technologies
Sports
Health & Fitness
Relationships
Entertainment
People
Chai-time
Television

# MY MUMBAI MIRROR







# mAD hatters

## Kidnapped by her parents?

#### Aspiring actor, embroiled in filmi marriage drama, says he is unable to get wife back from her family

Yogesh Sadhwani

Aman Koiri (26), a television and film actor, says his wife Jigna Thakkar (21) was whisked away by her own parents after he was beaten unconscious by hired goons. Armed with the marriage certificate, Koiri has made many attempts in the last two months to reunite with her but in vain.

While police officials who tried to 'extricate' Thakkar from her parents' house say that she refused to come back, Koiri says she has been threatened with her life and his if she does. "She calls and tells me she wants to be with me. But I am unable to do anything," he says.

Koiri, who has acted in a few television soaps and a yet-to-be released film called Kasam Pyar Ki, says they got married at the Arya Samaj in Mulund on August 18 this year. "We did not inform her parents as they would definitely have opposed the marriage. My father was also against it as she is from a Gujarati family and we are from North India," he says. However, he informed his father and sister about it on the day they tied the knot.

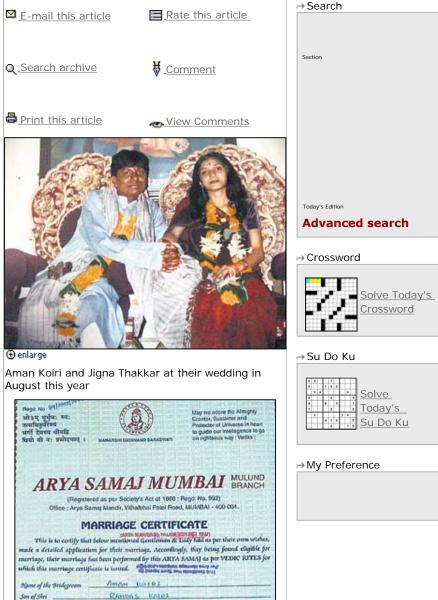
After the marriage, the couple decided to stay apart till the Ganpati festival was over, said Koiri who lives at Yashodan Nagar, Thane. Jigna went back to her house so that her parents would not have to face any embarrassment during the festival.

On September 13, the two moved in together. "I had decided I would move out of my father's house once Jigna came to stay with me. But as I hadn't rented a place till then, I brought her to my father's place. I had told him I would leave in a couple of days after I had found a house," says Koiri.

On the same day, Thakkar called her parents and told them about the marriage.

"A few hours later, her father called to say that Jigna's mother was seriously ill and had been admitted to a hospital. He pleaded with her to visit her mother," says Koiri. But sensing that something was amiss Jigna refused to go, says Koiri.

"The calls continued through the night and even Jigna's brother spoke to me. I got carried away and persuaded Jigna to meet her mother. She agreed to go on the condition that they would meet at a restaurant and not at her parents' house," says Koiri. The next day, the couple went to Aditya Hotel in Bhandup along with a lawyer. "Initially, Jigna's parents were nice to us. But then they started insisting that



Nome of the Brile JIGHA THOMAS P.

Due of two y Mairing Conflores - 27 8 3005

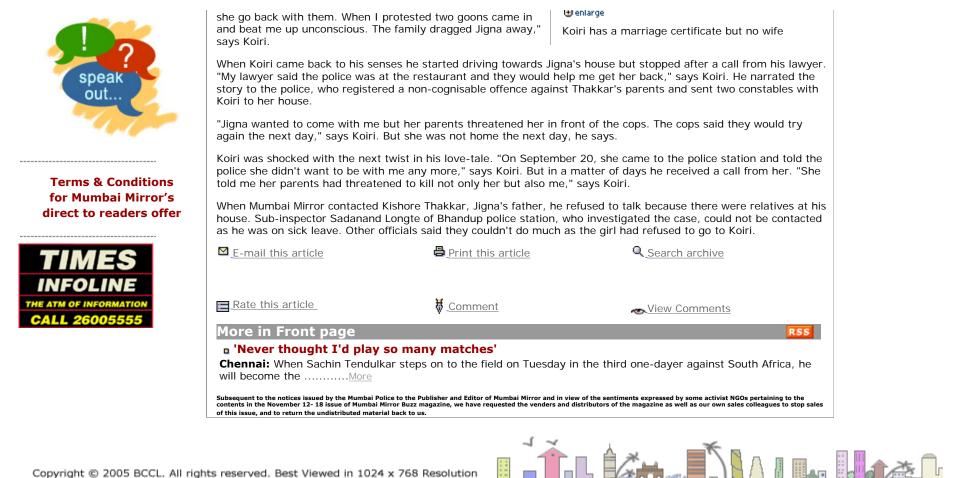
atter of the same Bart and 2 de

Dete of Merricht \_\_\_

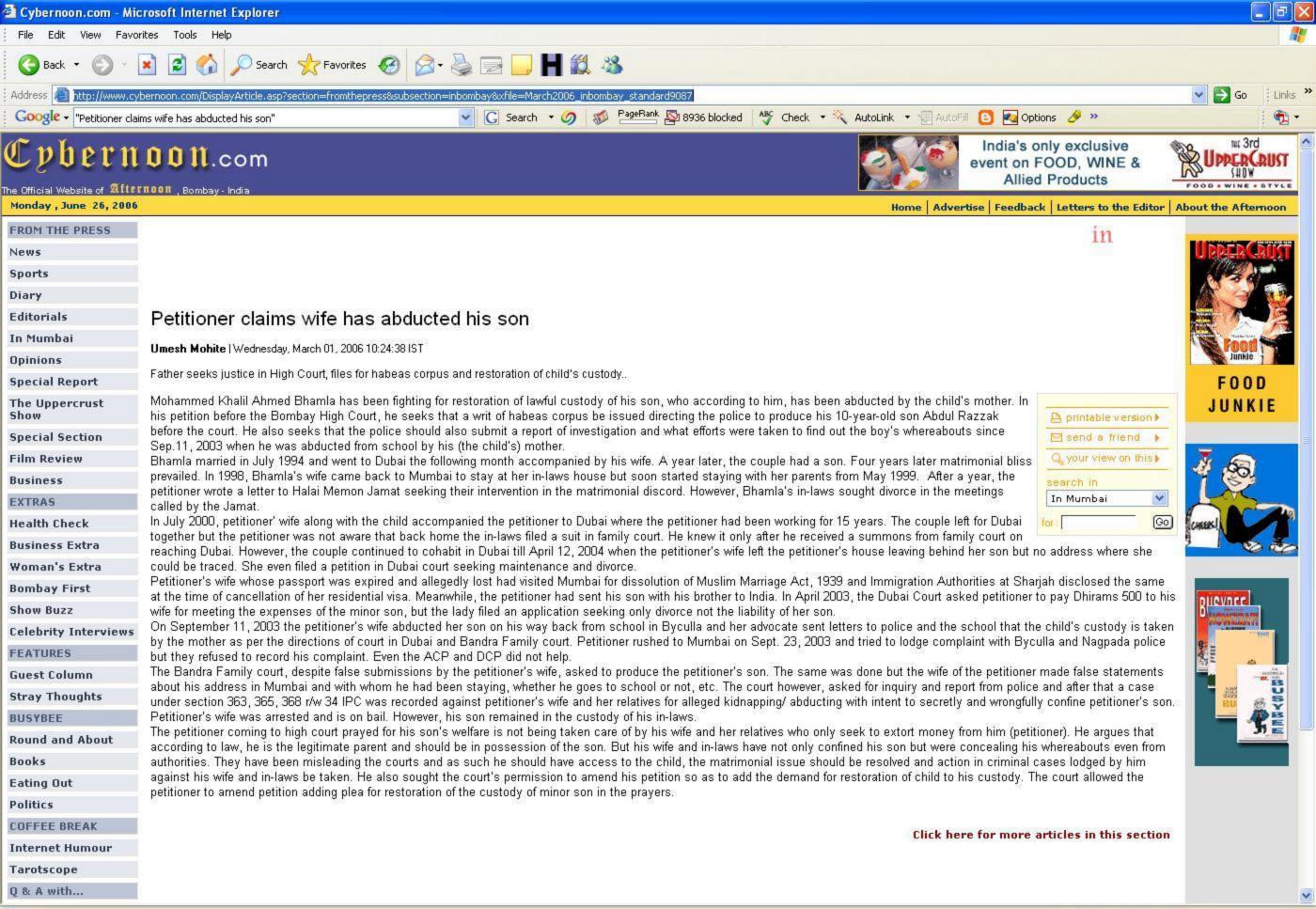
Despherofield KISNOR K. THOUSER

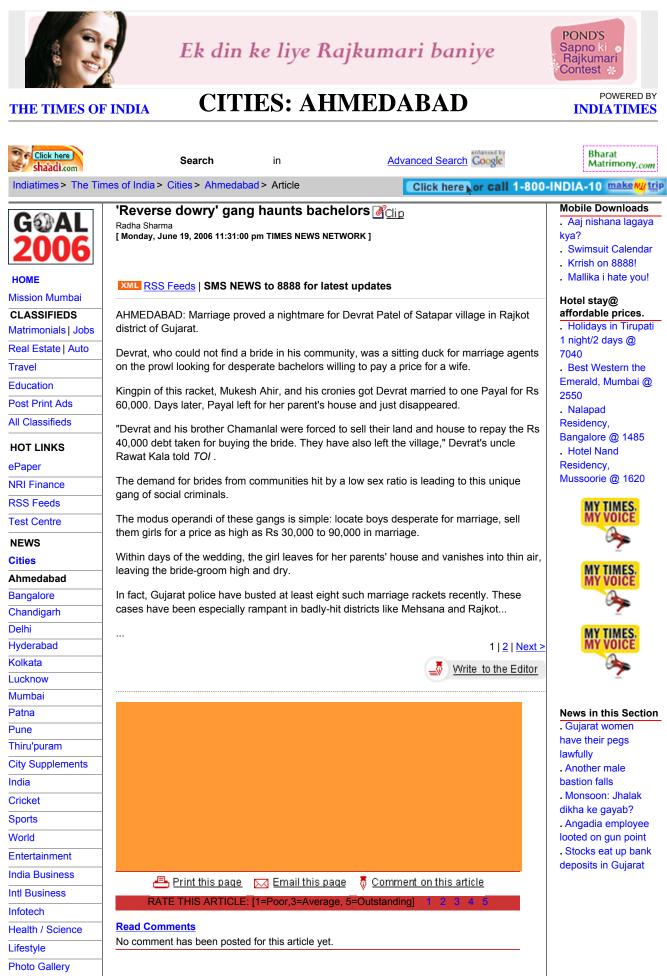
(RINING)

Mumbai Mirror



Copyright © 2005 BCCL. All rights reserved. Best Viewed in 1024 x 768 Resolution



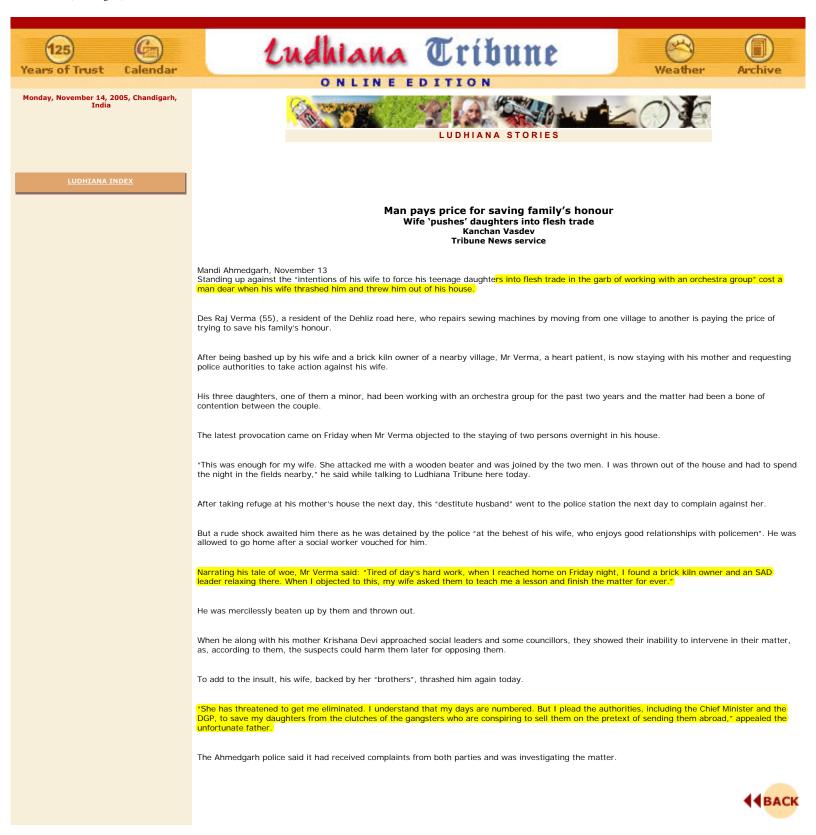


. Holidays in Tirupati 1 night/2 days @ . Best Western the Emerald, Mumbai @ Bangalore @ 1485 Mussoorie @ 1620 MY TIMES VOICE

News in this Section . Gujarat women have their pegs . Another male . Monsoon: Jhalak dikha ke gayab? . Angadia employee looted on gun point . Stocks eat up bank deposits in Gujarat

**TOI Headlines** 





Select

Prior

#### MUMBAI MIRROR





# The Telegraph



From

Durga Puja

to the

Festival

of Light.

www.anandautsav.com

- ADVERTISEMENT -

www.find-psychics.us

**Company Registration** 

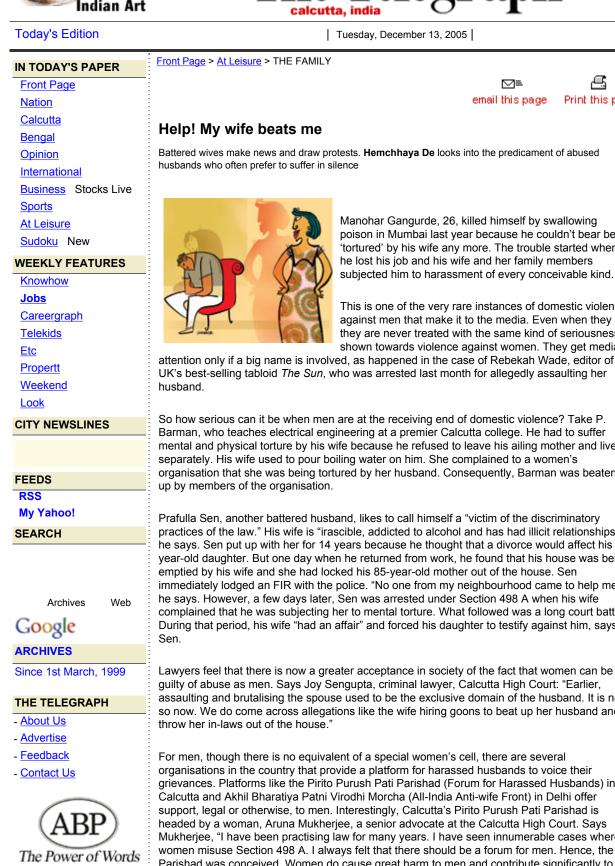
**Bollywood Ringtones** 

**Bollywood Wallpapers** 

Hey Ya!

Wedding Favors

#### Advertise with us



Manohar Gangurde, 26, killed himself by swallowing poison in Mumbai last year because he couldn't bear being 'tortured' by his wife any more. The trouble started when he lost his job and his wife and her family members

Print this page

This is one of the very rare instances of domestic violence against men that make it to the media. Even when they do, they are never treated with the same kind of seriousness shown towards violence against women. They get media

attention only if a big name is involved, as happened in the case of Rebekah Wade, editor of UK's best-selling tabloid The Sun, who was arrested last month for allegedly assaulting her

So how serious can it be when men are at the receiving end of domestic violence? Take P. Barman, who teaches electrical engineering at a premier Calcutta college. He had to suffer mental and physical torture by his wife because he refused to leave his ailing mother and live separately. His wife used to pour boiling water on him. She complained to a women's organisation that she was being tortured by her husband. Consequently, Barman was beaten

Prafulla Sen, another battered husband, likes to call himself a "victim of the discriminatory practices of the law." His wife is "irascible, addicted to alcohol and has had illicit relationships," he says. Sen put up with her for 14 years because he thought that a divorce would affect his 10year-old daughter. But one day when he returned from work, he found that his house was being emptied by his wife and she had locked his 85-year-old mother out of the house. Sen immediately lodged an FIR with the police. "No one from my neighbourhood came to help me," he says. However, a few days later, Sen was arrested under Section 498 A when his wife complained that he was subjecting her to mental torture. What followed was a long court battle. During that period, his wife "had an affair" and forced his daughter to testify against him, says

Lawyers feel that there is now a greater acceptance in society of the fact that women can be as guilty of abuse as men. Says Joy Sengupta, criminal lawyer, Calcutta High Court: "Earlier, assaulting and brutalising the spouse used to be the exclusive domain of the husband. It is not so now. We do come across allegations like the wife hiring goons to beat up her husband and

For men, though there is no equivalent of a special women's cell, there are several organisations in the country that provide a platform for harassed husbands to voice their grievances. Platforms like the Pirito Purush Pati Parishad (Forum for Harassed Husbands) in Calcutta and Akhil Bharatiya Patni Virodhi Morcha (All-India Anti-wife Front) in Delhi offer support, legal or otherwise, to men. Interestingly, Calcutta's Pirito Purush Pati Parishad is headed by a woman, Aruna Mukherjee, a senior advocate at the Calcutta High Court. Says Mukherjee, "I have been practising law for many years. I have seen innumerable cases where women misuse Section 498 A. I always felt that there should be a forum for men. Hence, the Parishad was conceived. Women do cause great harm to men and contribute significantly to the breakdown of marriages."

Mukherjee identifies some principal causes of harassment. These could range from having

extra-marital affairs to making tough demands on their husba of the Patni Virodhi Morcha that was founded in 1988. "Many punish their husbands and in-laws," he says.		
	-	wry laws to
Sociologist Bula Bhadra believes that domestic violence aga issue. "If we go by the numbers, it's still a private issue. I bel need to look at the bigger picture. We have to take into acco is in the dominant position in a family structure, be it a man of her power to inflict hurt on the other. But as women are gain a 'fear psyche' working among men."	lieve anyone can be ount the power relation or a woman, will tend	abusive. We ons — whoever I to use his or
Mukherjee feels that more and more men are now coming fo is afraid of being called weak if he admits in public that he ha says.		•
Chugh claims that since his organisation was formed, about including judges, bureaucrats and army officers, have got in scared that they can't give their names or come out in public	touch with him. "The	
Though the misuse of Section 498 A is believed to be the ma men, the legal situation is not entirely hopeless. Says Sengu to arrest a man and his family members on the basis of just a Unless the investigating agency is absolutely certain of a prin he should not be put to unnecessary harassment or incarcer	ipta. "It's not that eas a complaint lodged b ma facie case agains	sy these days by his wife.
Meanwhile, the battle between the sexes continues.		
(Some names have been changed on request.)		
Additional reporting by Anirban Das Mahapatra in New I	Delhi.	
		Ŷ
	⊠≡ email this page	Print this page

Copyright © 2005 The Telegraph. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Contact Us



indiatimes	Search in <u>Advanced Search</u> Google	crtibank know more
Indiatimes > The Tir	mes of India > Cities > Ahmedabad > Article Best Deals •CHI-Del-CHI US \$1	033 Call 1-800-INDIA-10
НОМЕ	Want divorce? Add extra sugar to tea	Mobile Downloads . Thrilling games !
Chalo, Dilli	Tushar Tere [ Friday, March 24, 2006 09:28:35 pm TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]	. Swimsuit Calendar
CLASSIFIEDS		. Mirchi hits
Matrimonials   Jobs		. SMS For Free!
Real Estate   Auto	XML RSS Feeds   SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates	Shopping Deals
Travel		. Free Air Ticket offer
Education	VADODARA: Nitin Shah (name changed) recently divorced his wife simply because she kept eggs in the refrigerator. As a vegetarian, he found this offending enough to ask for	<ul> <li>Digital Cameras on best prices</li> </ul>
Post Print Ads	divorce.	. Best Brand of Color
All Classifieds	In fact, if you thought using a bathing soap your wife doesn't like may lead to just a small	TV on auction
HOT LINKS	argument, think again. Chances are that she might be planning to divorce you because she	. Best Brands of Microwave Ovens on
■ ePaper	can't stand that fragrance!	auction
NRI Finance	"The reasons for which couples seek divorce are very frivolous and laughable these days.	To download
RSS Feeds	In such cases, both partners are well-educated and come from good families," said advocate Shabiya Sindhi, who fights divorce cases.	Mobile games
NEWS		Click here
□ Cities	"I got a case where the husband wanted a divorce as his wife would add more sugar to his tea. He alleged that she wanted him to die of diabetes.	
Ahmedabad		TO ADVERTISE
Bangalore	I had a tough time convincing them, but they got divorced," added Sindhi,who gets about 10 such cases every month. The Vadodara district court gets hundreds of such divorce	HERE
Chandigarh	cases every month. Of these a majority end up in divorce.	<u>Click here</u>
Delhi	4.121 Next >	No Minimum
Hyderabad	1   <u>2</u>   <u>Next &gt;</u>	Balance <sup>*</sup> (>>>
Kolkata		NRI account
Lucknow		
Mumbai		
Patna		News in this Section
Pune Thiru'puram		his PA back
City Supplements		. CAG castigates govt
India		for pampering PSUs . HuM terror matrix
Cricket		decoded
Sports		. Kurien's ouster
World		decided in his own backyard
Entertainment	📇 Print this page 🛛 Email this page 🧋 Comment on this article	Modhvadia
India Business	RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] 1 2 3 4 5	demands Modi and Advani's resignation
Intl Business	Read Comments	Advanto resignation
Infotech	No comment has been posted for this article yet.	

#### THE TIMES OF INDIA

## **CITIES: AHMEDABAD**

### POWERED BY INDIATIMES

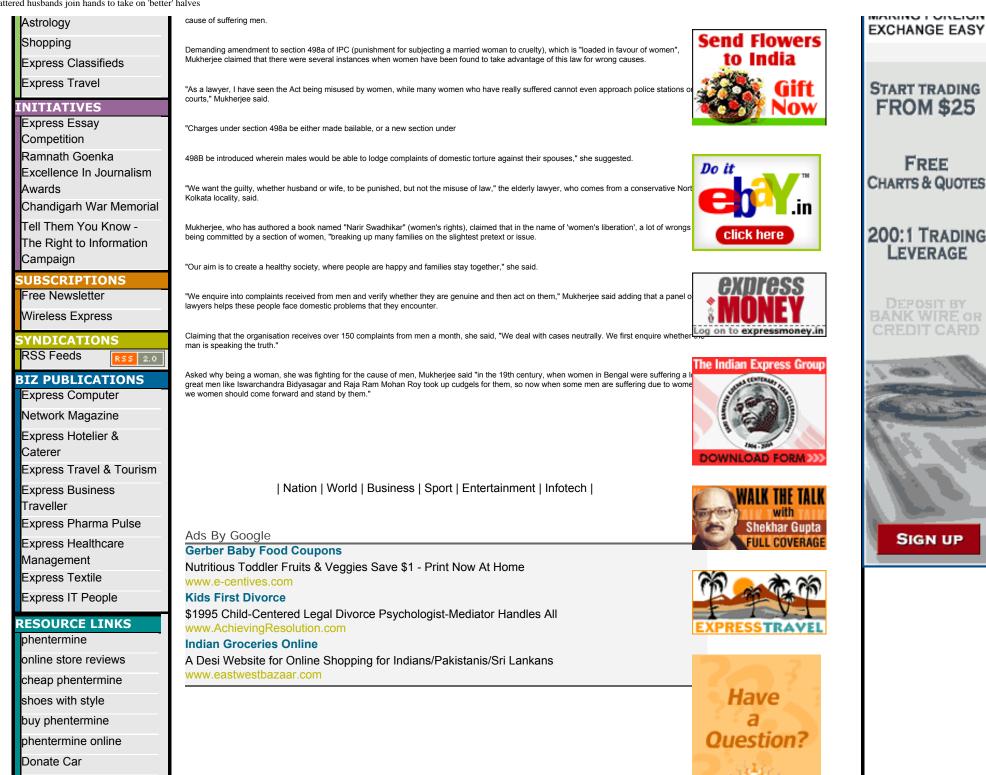
indiatimes	Search	in	<u>Ac</u>	Ivanced Search Google	citibank know more
Indiatimes > The Tir	mes of India > Cities > Ahmeda	abad > Article		Best Deals •CHI-Del-CHI US	1033 <u>Call 1-800-INDIA-10</u>
HOME Chalo, Dilli CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs	Want divorce? Add Tushar Tere [Friday, March 24, 2006 09:28:3	-			Mobile Downloads Thrilling games ! Swimsuit Calendar Mirchi hits SMS For Free!
Real Estate   Auto Travel Education Post Print Ads All Classifieds HOT LINKS ePaper NRI Finance RSS Feeds NEWS	and wife are not ready to a The cosmopolitan and stre advocate Sapan Teredesa each other after marriage. The girl, who had recently	les are not even rea rance levels are re djust or compromis ssful lifestyle has a i. "A couple got sep graduated from the ness run by her hu	ady to go for co sponsible for s se with each oth lso led to rise i parated without home science sband was in h	uch break-ups. Both husband her. n such divorces," said spending even one hour with	Shopping Deals  Free Air Ticket offer Digital Cameras on best prices Best Brand of Color TV on auction Best Brands of Microwave Ovens on auction  To download Mobile games Click here
Cities Ahmedabad Bangalore Chandigarh Delhi Hyderabad Kolkata Lucknow	"In most cases, couples are gives an outlet to their sim Rajaram.		•	me and a small argument o divorce," said sociologist N <u>&lt; Previous</u>   <u>1</u>  2	TO ADVERTISE HERE Click here No Minimum Balance* NRI account
Mumbai Patna Pune Thiru'puram City Supplements India Cricket Sports World Entertainment India Business Intl Business	E Print this page RATE THIS ARTICL Read Comments No comment has been post	E: [1=Poor,3=Avera	ge, 5=Outstand	nent on this article ing] 1 2 3 4 5	News in this Section . Now, Kurien wants his PA back . CAG castigates govt for pampering PSUs . HuM terror matrix decoded . Kurien's ouster decided in his own backyard . Modhvadia demands Modi and Advani's resignation

Battered husbands join hands to take on 'better' halves



http://www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=48919 (1 of 3)7/31/2005 9:34:20 AM

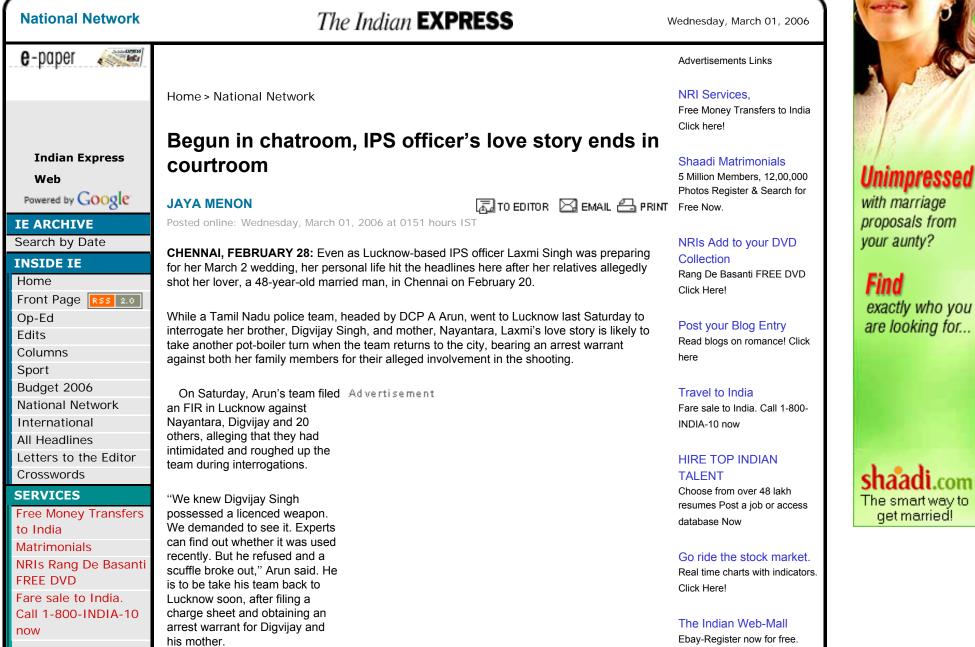
Battered husbands join hands to take on 'better' halves



http://www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=48919 (2 of 3)7/31/2005 9:34:20 AM

Begun in chatroom, IPS officer's love story ends in courtroom





http://www.indianexpress.com/full\_story.php?content\_id=88790 (1 of 3)3/1/2006 11:27:30 AM

Begun in chatroom, IPS officer's love story ends in courtroom

Surf Bollywood at			Online Shopping Paradise
bollywoodabc.com	"While obtaining the arrest	A HEE INVECTONANT	
Read blogs on	warrant, we will tell the court	LIFS INVESTSMART	ExpressIndia Astrology
romance!	here that the Lucknow police had refused to co-operate," Arun	Click here to trade online. >>	Bejan Daruwalla offers
Whole new	said, adding that the family		personalized predictions.
experience of on-line	appeared to be influential in		Starting at Rs 500.
trading	Lucknow and were using their		
HIRE TOP INDIAN	powerful contacts to hinder the		Express Cricket
TALENT	Chennai police team from doing		Catch Live Commentary &
No Minimum Balance	its duty.		Score, Latest News, Full
NRI account	The 32-year-old Laxmi caught	CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER	Coverage, Cricket Crosswords
New friendships,	public attention in Chennai when		
romance	her lover, Nagarajan, a	ALL AND	WALV THE TALK
Make money with	businessman, married with two		WALK INC IALK
zero Investment.	children, was shot at by two men	HOL HI - MITTY DA 145 M LATELA HIL DATA	Shekhar Gupta
Send Gifts Online	near his Anna Nagar residence in the city on February 20. Laxmi		FULL COVERAGE
Personalised		to know each other through an Internet chat room. He had	TOLE OUTERINGE
Predictions		al status. But their relationship continued even after they met	
Travel to Las Vegas,	and Laxmi learned of his marriage		(m) 🚕 👧 (m)
Bellagio,Venetian			
Online Auctions &	The Chennai police believe that D	igvijay Singh and Nayantara were behind the attack, as they	EXPRESSTRAVEL
shopping site	were strongly opposed to the liaiso	on. Nagarajan is said to be recuperating.	
CHANNELS			Indian EXPRESS
Astrology		ugly controversy, Laxmi said in a press statement on	NORTH AMERICAN EDITION
Shopping	mother.	the Tamil Nadu police allegations against her brother and	<u>م</u> ے ()
Express Classifieds	mother.		click here
Express Estates			
Express Money			
Express Travel		👼 to editor 🛛 email 📇 print	People who read
CITY NEWS	Ads By Google Alameda County Warrant?		this also read
Cities Home	Traffic Court Pros can help! We so	lve traffic court problems	<ul> <li>To stop girlfriend,</li> </ul>
Ahmedabad	www.alamedacountywarrants.com		he called in a
Chandigarh	Sex Offense Legal Defense		bomb on plane to
Delhi	Cochran Firm Criminal Defense Se	ex Crimes Defense Team	Milan
Kolkata	www.criminalattorney.com		
Lucknow	Locate Arrest Warrants		Bazaar Thugs
Ludhiana	Search Online for Arrest Warrants	. Find Out the Truth.	Three Navy sailors
Mumbai	Records-Search.Net		killed in accidental
Pune			blast on ship
GROUP SITES	Your comment[s] on this a	article	Phoolan killer
Expressindia			ready to surrender
The Financial Express	Be the first to comment on th	is story.	ready to surrender
Screen			Quote, UNquote
Kashmir Live			
Kashinii Live			

http://www.indianexpress.com/full\_story.php?content\_id=88790 (2 of 3)3/1/2006 11:27:30 AM

Begun in chatroom, IPS officer's love story ends in courtroom

Express Cricket		Full Coverage
Loksatta		• Budget 2006-07
Lokprabha		
Express Computer North American	Home   Front Page   Op-Ed   Edits   Columns   Sport   Budget 2006   National Network   International	<ul> <li>The Bush Visit; March '06</li> </ul>
Edition [Print] COLUMNISTS		India-England
The Indian Express		Series
The Financial Express		<ul> <li>Rail Budget, 2006 07</li> </ul>
SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Free Newsletter		Bird Flu
Wireless Express		
SYNDICATIONS		
RSS Feeds RSS 2.0		
RESOURCE LINKS		
Adipex		
Phentermine		
Didrex		
Designer Bags		
Cheap Phentermine		
Discount Footwear		
Buy Phentermine		
Phentermine Online		
Cheap Phentermine Discount Shopping		
Shoe Legends		
Тор		
<b>F</b>		
	About Us   Advertise With Us   Privacy Policy   Feedback  Site Map	
		arld
C.	2006: Indian Express Newspapers (Mumbai) Ltd. All rights reserved throughout the wo	JIIU.



 $City \ News \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# Bride \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# \ 20 runs \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# \ 20 runs \% \ 20 runs \% \ 20 off \% \ 20 with \% \ 20 lover \% \ 20 after \% \ 20 marriage \# \ 20 runs \% \ 2$ 

	DC CHENNAI
DECCA	DC Classifieds
Unro	n 10 AndhraBhoomi
SPEAKER CALLS DINNER ME	EET TODAY ON MP FUND'S FUTURE - STUNG MP GOES ON OFFENSIVE, FILES FIR - RIL NOW STRIKES OIL IN K-G
	FIRST SIKH OFFICER - 'MPS USE MPLAD TO MAKE MONEY' - TAKE LEAD, ADVANI URGES SPEAKER - SANGMA
	SUSPENSION OF MPS NOT RIGHT MOVE: JETHMALANI - AP COUNCIL BILL RECEIVES PARLIAMENT APPROVAL - ER LINK WITH SCAM - HEADWAY ON SIACHEN LIKELY: PAK - BUSH MIXES UP OSAMA, SADDAM - US DROPS
30,000 H1B VISAS FROM BUE	DGET BILL - TRANSIT WORKERS ON STRIKE IN U.S ONGC-CNPC WIN SYRIA OILFIELD BID - LANCO POWER'S
	SOLVE TRANSCO ISSUE - 17 COMPANIES SHORTLISTED FOR BIO-IT PARK - I WILL MEET LEFT OVER WTO DEAL, SONG, INDIA ROCK - RAJ SINGH MAY BE MANAGER FOR PAK TOUR
	Kednesday, December 21, 2005
	T-zone gets most water projects
	Don't dig roads for meet: Sonia
	Bolt from blue: Astronomy students can't teach maths
	YSR buckles up but his ministers do not
	FM radio to target villages
	MCH for single parking ticket
News	DNA helps nab killers
HOME	Bride runs off with lover after marriage FIR on colleges with false claims
⇒ City	Assembly session ends amid uproar
Region	State's finances show dip in fortune
Nation	
Asia	
• World	T-zone gets most water projects
	Understad, Dec. 20: Minister for main inightion December Jakehmaich an Tuesday said Talensone
<ul> <li>Sports</li> </ul>	Hyderabad, Dec. 20: Minister for major irrigation Ponnala Lakshmaiah on Tuesday said Telangana would be the biggest beneficiary of the ongoing and proposed irrigation projects as part of Jala
<ul> <li>Business</li> <li>Ochanaciata</li> </ul>	Yagnam. Speaking to mediapersons here, the minister said the existing irrigation facilities, other than
<ul> <li>Columnists</li> </ul>	minor and well irrigation, in Telangana region was 22/75 lakh acres, of which 19.22 lakh acres were
Culture Plus	irrigated under major irrigation and about 3.53 lakh acres under medium irrigation. As part of Jala
City Guide	Yagnam, it was proposed to take up 27 major and medium irrigation projects in Telangana region to create irrigation potential of 46 lakh acres.
Culture	create inigation potential of 40 land acres.
Train Timings	"Out of Rs 27,123.87 crores value of projects awarded so far in the last two years, Rs 14,682.57 crores,
Emergency Services	accounting for 54 per cent, had been allocated in Telangana area only. Out of one crore acres of
Extras	irrigation potential, including 22 lakh acres of stabilisation, to be created in the State, about 46 lakh
Astro Speak	acres was from Telangana region. This indicates that the government is committed to improving the living standards of the backward Telangana region," he said.
Beauty	living standards of the backward relangana region, the said.
Health	Mr Lakshmaiah said on December 31, Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy would be laying
Daily Puzzle	foundation stone for Dummugudem lift irrigation scheme and Indirasagar lift irrigation scheme, both
Su Do Ku	aimed at irrigating four lakh acres in Khammam district. He said in Khammam district, only 4.28 lakh
Features	acres of irrigated area and there was only another 4.5 lakh acres of cultivable area. The new projects would benefit the entire farming community in the district, he said.
Hyderabad Chronicle	
> Teen	A
School	
Lifestyle	Don't dig roads for meet: Sonia
DC Estate	
> ESQ	
TV Guide	
Wine and Dine	
<ul> <li>Cinema</li> </ul>	

**Hyderabad, Dec. 20:** DNA fingerprinting of bloodstains found on the clothes of the victim and suspects helped police to crack a murder case. On the basis of this evidence, police on Tuesday arrested Mohammed Ham-eed alias Abu, 22, a resident of Kishanbagh and Syed Saber, 22, of Gulbarga in Karnataka, for killing a person in Mangalghat. They were produced before court and remanded to judicial custody. The murder took place on November 4. Hameed and Saber were walking along the road in an inebriated condition and a person bumped on them accidentally. "The duo got angry and there was a scuffle. They slit his throat and smashed his head with a boulder," said the West Zone Deputy Commissioner Amit Garg.

Both of them suffered injuries in the scuffle and their hair follicles and skin was found in the nails of the dead person. The duo did not confess the crime, but police booked them after matching the DNA of the bloodstains on their clothes with that on the clothes of the deceased. Goshamahal Assistant Commissioner K. Sridhar Rao said that the victim was not identified. "We took the body to OGH mortuary and conducted an autopsy," he said.

"We picked up Saber and Hameed who were found lying in an inebriated condition 20 yards away with bloodstains on their clothes," he added. Since it as dark, nobody witnessed the murder. "But I think we can nail them with the scientific evidence. We are investigating it further," said Mr Sridhar Rao.

Bride runs off with lover after marriage

**Hyderabad, Dec. 20:** A bride eloped with her boyfriend, who is reportedly two years her junior, carrying money and ornaments, a week after she was married to another man. The incident took place at Banjara Ka Darwaja of Golconda. Ms Kavita, 20, was married to Mr Yadagiri on December 11. Her parents were getting set for the Satyanarayana vratam, a mandatory puja here, when Ms Kavita eloped on December 18 with Mr Naresh, alias Chitti, 18. Her parents lodged a complaint against Mr Naresh, alleging that he kidnapped her.

Golconda police registered a case of kidnapping under Section 366 of the IPC (kidnapping, abducting) or inducing a woman to compel her marriage). Ms Anasuya, wife of Mr M. Krishna, alleged in her complaint: "We performer her marriage on December 11 with Mr Yadagiri. On December 18 we were about to perform the (Satyanarayana) vratam. Suddenly our daughter Kavita, 20, went missing. The boy took her away without her consent."

Ms P. Jeeva, the bride's aunt, said: "She went away with Rs 32,000 worth of gold, Rs 4,000 cash and half kg of silver ornaments. Her parents had spent Rs 2 to 3 lakh on the marriage. The parents of Mr Yadagiri, the groom, are now demanding that we send the girl to the family or compensate them for the marriage expenditure."

ѧ

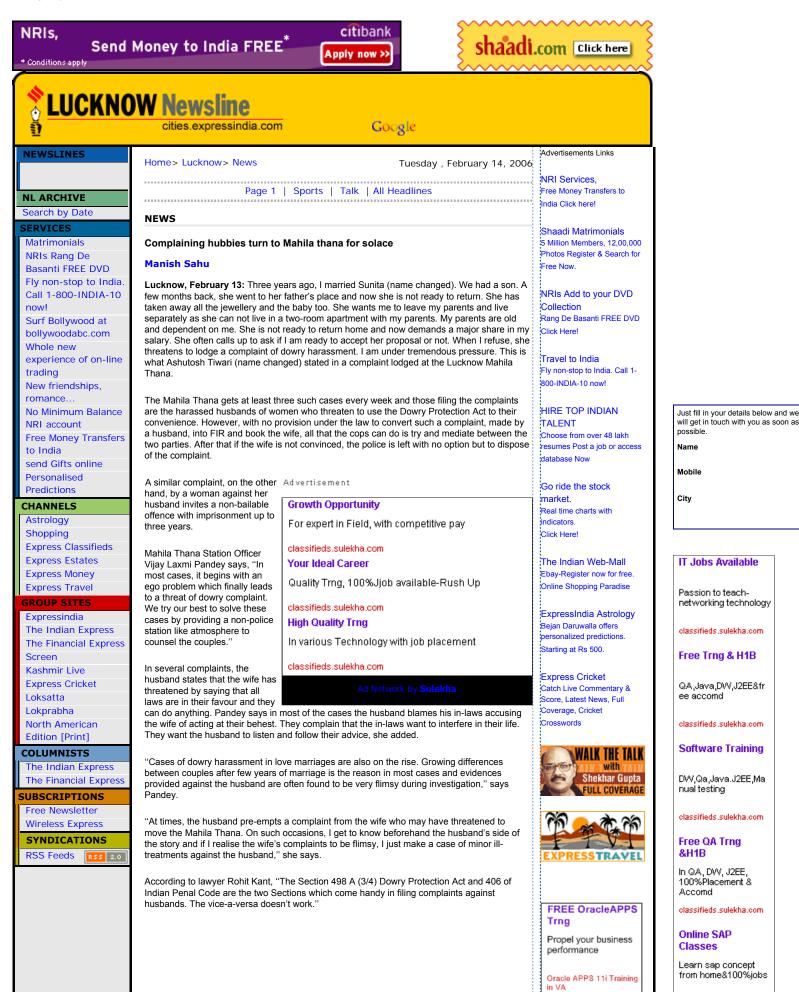
ѧ

#### FIR on colleges with false claims

**Hyderabad**, **Dec. 20**: A division bench of the High Court on Tuesday asked the State government to register FIRs against corporate colleges which issued false advertisements. The bench asked the police to complete the investigation in this matter within a month and to proceed as per the provisions of law.

The bench passed the orders while responding to a letter written by Giri Kumar from Nellore complaining that due to the advertisements, parents were pressurising children to get ranks. The bench passed orders in a PIL seeking enquiry into the advertisement by Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions claiming that their candidates had secured certain ranks.

#### Assembly session ends amid uproar



classifieds.sulekha.com

DNA - Mumbai - Men seek help. Is women's panel listening? - Daily News & Analysis



Home | Evolutions | Grandeur | India | Money | **Mumbai** | Opinion | Salon | Speak Up | Sport | World | After Hrs | epaper

Sunday: DNA Sunday | After hrs.sunday | Me | Ya! Supplements: Bio DNA | Academy | AdZip | Revv Up | Glory | Life360° | Bricks & Mortar

#### Men seek help. Is women's panel listening?

#### Aditya Ghosh

Monday, February 13, 2006 02:21 IST

MUMBAI: Counsellors at the Maharashtra Commission for Women, setup to help women harassed by men, are having a tough time these days. Besides women, they have men queuing up with complaints against

Email Article	Print Article
Most Emailed Articles	KML RSS Feed
Most Viewed Articles	Search This Site

their partners, wives, girlfriends and even mothers-in-law. And of the complaints filed by women, many are turning out to be false.

"In quite a few cases, women are filing complaints which are not only motivated but quite misleading — just to harass men deliberately," said the MCW Member Secretary Sudha Bhave.

Counsellors are investigating the matter before making a judgment. "In one case, a woman complained against her husband saying that he was not keen to live with her. "After investigation we realised that the husband was unnecessarily being made a villain," a counsellor said.

In another case, a woman complained against her brother for harassment in a property dispute. "We found that the woman had never discussed the matter with her brother and did not even turn up for hearing. On the contrary the brother came on the scheduled date and we found it was a falsified complaint," said Bhave.

But what is really intriguing is the rapidly increasing male turnout. The number of cases filed by men has gone up and now comprises 5 per cent of the total complaints with the commission. "Quite a few men are coming to us seeking to redress various kinds of agonies they are facing from women, be it their wives, mothers-in-law or even bosses," said counsellor Vaishali Thakur.

In a recent case, she claimed, a lady boss harassed a man so much that he sought help from the commission which counselled both parties to sort out the crisis.

But is there a technical problem in helping the men in distress? Though set up with the aim of helping women, the commission believes it can help men as well.

"We have decided that the commission will deal with any dispute which 'involves' a woman," Bhave claimed. She added, "Our main job is to counsel both parties so that the dispute is resolved. As we were counselling men all this while, we will counsel women as well now. We call both the parties and try to understand who is troubling whom."

The cause for the shifts, of men filing complaints and women misusing the law, probably has to do with the fact that the "law favours women heavily".

"A strong law is required in most cases, but sometimes at the commission, we have seen how a woman has harassed the man by exploiting the law and issuing false statements to the police," said a counsellor.



ፚፚፚፚ

Current Rating
4.0

#### Latest News

Carnage at the zoo: 11 deer found dead

RSS XML

- Govt plans to double FSI in city
- Dabhol plant may get gas
  next year
- V Day infection spreads to Tier-2 towns
- The love bug bites again this Valentine's day
- Butcher of Genoa Friedrich Engel dead
- Haryana teachers' aptitudes under scanner
- JKLF reacts guardedly to PM's invite
- Cops halt Jeeva Samadhi of young swami in Madurai

#### News At A Glance

Solution Most Emailed Articles

Contemporary Most Viewed Articles



#### SUTRA

If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question? Lily Tomlin



The Times of India Online Printed from timesofindia.indiatimes.com > City Supplements> Lucknow Times

#### Domestic abuse Bill: Men deserve protection too

Lina Mathias [Sunday, February 17, 2002 09:42:20 pm TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]

#### RSS Feeds | SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates

• the protection of men's rights organisation says the proposed legislation on domestic violence "targets the male and will destroy the family." • in a recent judgment, the supreme court ruled that an act committed with the intention to cause suffering to the opposite party, including husband, would be grounds for seeking divorce. the proposed legislation against domestic abuse, cleared by the union cabinet but awaiting introduction in parliament, is called protection from domestic violence bill 2001, it is this proposed civil law that pomero finds "draconian." says pomero president arun sethi, "already, we are at the receiving end of section 498a of the ipc and now this proposed legislation insists on ignoring men who face cruelty from their wives." the controversy over 498a began in 1984 when women's organisations succeeded after a long battle in getting it introduced. it allows a man and his family to be jailed on the complaint of a woman subjected to cruelty (physical or mental) and harrasment for dowry. pomero claims that this section is "misused" by 80 per cent of complainants. lawyer-activist flavia agnes argues that barely 100 cases are filed under this section every year and the conviction rate is abysmally low. sethi says he doesn't want 498a to go but wants 498b to be introduced in order to protect the husbands, and 'husband' in 498a should be replaced by 'spouse'. it is, however, an organisation led by men which comes out most strongly in favour of women and the need not only for 498a but also the proposed bill. says secretary of men against violence and abuse (mava) harish sadani, "we found that this so-called misuse constitutes 0.06 per cent of the cases filed in the last 14 years. anyone who knows the social stigma that a woman who goes publicly against her in-laws and husband faces, realises that she has to be goaded beyond endurance to go to the police, the wider social situation is so obviously loaded against the woman that it is ridiculous to talk about misuse, we stand for gender equality and take up cases even of men who are harrased by their wives" family court lawyer sheela ramnathan concurs: "false complaints can be lodged under any section, not just this one. besides, police check medical records, letters and testimonies of neighbours and relatives." argues a male lawyer, "it is power, authority and economic status which largely determine a person's response to situation, irrespective of the gender."

©Bennett, Coleman and Co., Ltd. All rights reserved.





Big Brands Canon, Nikon, Sony, Kodak

### Unbelievable prices! on

indiatimes shopping

Buy Now

#### THE TIMES OF INDIA

## **CITIES: CHANDIGARH**

### POWERED BY INDIATIMES

indiatimes	Search	in	Ad	vanced Search Coogle	R R Is NRI Account
Indiatimes > The Tin	nes of India > Cities > Chandiga	rh > Article		Book Now for peak	season deals.
НОМЕ	Dowry death case: H Shradhha Sharma [Thursday, January 05, 2006 02:7	-			Mobile Downloads Love is for Free! Swimsuit Calendar
CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs			Free DVD		. Bluffmaster tones . Hanuman Exclusive
Real Estate   Auto	XML RSS Feeds   SMS NEW	NS to 8888 for la	atest updates		
Travel					Shopping Deals Biggest Online
Education	CHANDIGARH: At a time wh			2	Shopping festival
			-	gement acquitting a husband	. Mega Sale upto
Post Print Ads	in a dowry death case has o	nce again locuse	d allention on tr	ie issue.	75% off
All Classifieds	While acquitting Manimajra-I				. Digital Cameras
HOT LINKS				cruelty, the court of Additional	starting at Rs. 2990 Flowers delivered
■ ePaper	District and Sessions Judge death and that as per the evi			÷	anywhere in India
NRI Finance	-	-		matrimonial house between	
RSS Feeds	her and her mother-in-law to	o seriously."			
NEWS	Shilpa reportedly killed herse	elf in November 1	999.		
□ Cities					GIIGATIGIO
Ahmedabad					TO ADVERTISE
Bangalore					HERE
Chandigarh					<u>Click here</u>
Delhi					TO ADVERTISE
Hyderabad					HERE
Kolkata					
Lucknow					<u>Click here</u>
Mumbai					
Patna					News in this Section
Pune					. Six of family die in
Thiru'puram	Print this page		· ·	nent on this article	road accident . Senators smell
City Supplements	RATE THIS ARTICLE:	[1=Poor,3=Avera	ige, 5=Outstandi	ng] 1 2 3 4 5	disgrace to system
India	Read Comments				. 'We don't have any
Cricket	No comment has been posted	d for this article ye	t		hope of fair probe' . 'Power department's
Sports					slab system irrational
World					Cop trying to crack
Entertainment					son's murder case
India Business					
Intl Business					
Infotech					
					I

#### Dowry Act-scared parents disown sons Raman Mohan Tribune News Service

#### Rohtak: The fear of dowry cases is driving parents to disown their sons before their marriage as a precautionary measure should marital bliss turn into nightmare.)

A large number of public notices published in newspapers testify to the fears of the misuse of the Prohibition of Dowry Act. The local Tribune office books 10 or 15 such public notices every month. Inquiries from other nearby towns and local dailies show a similar trend. Advertising agencies estimate that about 3500 such public notices appear annually in various newspapers all over Haryana.

Dilawar Singh of Kiloi village, near here, issued a public notice last week disowning his son, Rajinder Singh, who is due to marry a girl from a family in Putthu village on the Delhi-Haryana border next month. He said the notice was a mere formality. "Should trouble arise, all my family members, except the son, would be safe. Otherwise, the 'bahu' could name the entire family in her complaint", he added.

Another father with similar fears is Gaje Singh, a resident of Chikenwas village in Hisar.

He said he had gone a step further by getting the name of his son struck off the ration card. "This will strengthen my case. I will raise a temporary wall in the compound and allot a room to the newly weds till they have settled down to my satisfaction.

Otherwise, my son will remain a member of the household for all practical purposes", he said.

Inquiries from a cross section of the rural society show that the Dowry Act is generally viewed as a draconian law, which is being misused. Parents say the law itself is now the cause of trouble in family.

Newly wed daughters-in-law, they say, are taking shelter behind the law to have their way. Boys' parents are, therefore, keen to safeguard their interests.

Kailasho of Gugheri village, near here, who has two sons, said she was lucky that neither of her two daughters-in-law had given her any trouble. "My neighbour's newly wed daughter-in-law is, however, different. A few days ago, her mother-in-law objected to her going around the village without covering her head. The daughter-in-law told her to mind her own business.

When the mother-in-law raised the issue in the presence of family elders, the daughter-in-law threatened to lodge a complaint with the police on the pretext of harassment for dowry. That silenced the entire family. Nobody dares question the daughter-in-law now", she added.

Lawyers, however, say disowning a son before marriage does not by itself provide parents immunity from the law. Mr P.K. Sandhir, a Hisar-based lawyer, said, "Disowning without sufficient grounds does not carry any legal sanctity. The parents must be able to prove that the son had been wayward for long. Besides, circumstantial evidence in a dowry case must establish the non-involvement of parents if they are to prove their innocence". He was of the view that such notices perse served no purpose.

Mr Bharat Bhushan Batra, a local advocate, agreed with Mr Sandhir, but added that such a notice could be relevant in certain cases. "A public notice is meant for everybody. If a notice has been published before marriage, the girl's family is expected to be aware of the fact that the boy stands disowned. This can strengthen the parents' plea of innocence should such an eventuality arise. However, circumstantial evidence will still hold the key," he said.

The number of dowry cases registered in Haryana reflect the fears in the mind of parents. According to Mr A. S. Ahlawat, SP, Hisar, an average of six cases are registered every month in the district.

Between October and December last year, 18 cases were registered. Mr Ahlawat agreed that the law was being misused. "There are instances where a case is registered 10 years after marriage. Obviously, dowry is not the root cause. But the police has to take cognizance and probe all allegations", he added.



#### Girl restored to parents in child marriage case Kiran Deep

Panipat, January 31

The Child Marriage Restraint Act is being violated with impunity in Bihar. The fact came to light when an 11-year-old girl was found from a factory in Kacha camp here today. The girl, hailing from Bihar, had been forced to marry a youth by her parents due to abject poverty three years ago. She had been staying with a 24-year-old youth, Vinod, in a hut on the factory premises for over two years.

Some persons staying on the premises of an other factory became suspicious when they found that Vinod always locked her in a hut before leaving. They informed the matter to a local Crime Prevention Society. When a team of the NGO visited the hut and asked the girl about her whereabouts, she started weeping and expressed her desire to go to her parents' house. The matter was reported to the police.

The police took Vinod into custody. He said he had married the girl with her parents' consent. He was not aware of any law in this regard, he added. Giving reason for the marriage Vinod said his parents had died and so, he had to marry as early as possible.

However, when the girl was asked about her marriage she expressed ignorance. The police then contacted her father in Jalandhar. He works as a gatekeeper there.

He confirmed the marriage and expressed ignorance regarding any law. He added that child marriages in Bihar were a routine. Later, the police released Vinod after questioning him for more than an hour. The girl was sent to her parents' house.





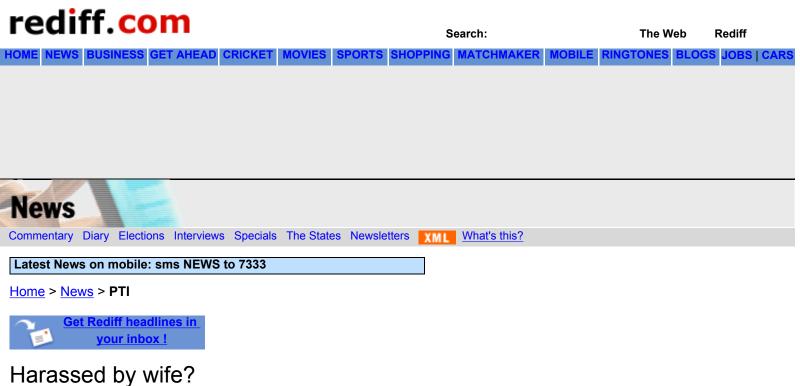


Sunday, September 12, 2004



Advertise with us

Front Page > Nation > Story IN TODAY'S PAPER £ ⊠≡ Front Page email this page Print this page Nation Gee! It's harassed men's turn to come crying Calcutta Bengal RASHEED KIDWAI Opinion Bhopal, Sept. 11: The Madhya Pradesh women's commission is flooded with complaints from International Business Stocks Live From Sports Panel member Rajo Malviya said she is "sympathetic" to the complainants and willing to hear them out. But since the commission is only empowered to seek justice on gender lines, she is WEEKLY FEATURES Durga Puja unable to fight for them. Look to the **CITY NEWSLINES** Member-secretary Shail Srivastava read out several complaints of men protesting against harassment, denial of conjugal and property rights and "false" dowry cases. Some of the Festival complainants were men from the weaker sections who had married upper-caste women, Srivastava said. of Light. FEEDS RSS Govind, a Dalit who married a Jain girl, turned to the commission after the marriage soured. In his plea, the man said he was harassed by his wife's family and was "tired of doing household My Yahoo! chores". He had found no support within his community, having married an outsider. ARCHIVES Since 1st March, 1999 Ramesh, a journalist with a Hindi daily in Jabalpur, had fallen in love with a girl and eloped with her. But within days, the girl's family took her away. She was married off in the neighbouring town of Katni but failed to adjust with her husband and in-laws. Harassment and abuses THE TELEGRAPH followed. Unable to bear it, the girl returned to her parents. Ramesh has filed a complaint with - About Us the women's commission and is fighting her case. The hearing is on. - Advertise - Feedback Meena aka Mehroonnisa is fighting for her child's right to his father's property, in accordance - Contact Us with Islamic law. Meena had married a Muslim man, who abandoned her and their child who has now grown up. But the commission is unable to help her because the child is male. The matter is likely to be referred to the Bhopal gazi. www.anandautsay.con Scores of complaints have come from the state's tribal regions where women have traditionally had an upper hand. Among many tribes, there is no child marriage and no stigma on widowhood. Tribal women generally enjoy the right to decide on marriage and can divorce and - ADVERTISEMENT remarry easily. Instead of dowry, there is bride price. Often, the women are economically independent. Heyya According to the commission's records, several tribal men are now complaining about women's **Bollywood Wallpapers** promiscuity and high bride price and are fighting for child custody. Bollywood Ringtones Srivastava said: "As we are not empowered to solve their problems, we try to give sympathetic hearing, prepare their case file and send them to other forums like the human rights Shopping Variety commission and the schedule caste-scheduled tribe commission.' Purchasing Club The commission also tries to help the men by counselling women. "Discrimination in any form or shape is reprehensible," Srivastava said. "During our sessions and tours, we impress upon Discount Shoes women to be just to all. 个 £ ⊠≞ email this page Print this page Copyright © 2002 The Telegraph. All rights reserved Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Contact Us



### Harassed by wife? Contact the men's cell

Rituparna Bhowmik in New Delhi | November 11, 2005 12:16 IST

Tiny signboards hang precariously on the central verge at many a traffic junction in New Delhi, inviting the attention of passers-by.

'Are you being harassed by your wife? Contact the men's cell,' the board, which also has a mobile number, says.

One phone call later, you learn that it is a one-man crusade against wives who harass or blackmail their husbands and the crusader is a lawyer-- willing to extend a helping hand.

"There are no laws to protect a man from being harassed and blackmailed by his wife. The anti-dowry laws are highly biased towards women. How does a man protect himself against constant nagging and suspicion?" questions R P Chugh, a Supreme Court advocate who started a men's advocacy group Crime Against Man Cell aka Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Husbands way back in the 80s to take head on cases of 'false charges of dowry harassment and torture'.

#### Teach in wife's presence, dance teacher told

Chugh claims, without naming anyone, the top notch of bureaucracy and judiciary of Delhi have, at some point or the other approached him with marital woes, complaining of harassment by their wives.

Chugh says he has long been campaigning for a legislation for 'Protection of Rights and Dignity of Married Men' is immediately required.



#### **Today in News**

•

"Almost 87 per cent of women lodged in Tihar jail have been booked on anti-dowry complaints," Chugh claims quoting media reports.

Citing a recent case, Chugh says a woman from Haryana was quick to slap a dowry harassment suit on her husband when she was allegedly caught in a compromising situation with her husband's colleague.

Most crime against men go unnoticed as a man's ego does not allow him to admit that the wife regularly attacks him with an assortment of household items, Chugh says.

The lawyer has taken a war of sorts against the society to defend the 'dignity and rights of men in married lives', and holds dharnas every year on Human Rights Day.

"The Dowry (Prohibition) Act safeguards women's rights but unfortunately it can also victimise an innocent man whose wife wants to blackmail him or draw heavy compensation," he says.

Although crime against women and domestic violence is a reality, through his chequered career in law, Chugh says he has defended numerous men against false claims of torture, dowry harassment and destroying marital harmony.

A similar 'brother' organisation, which reportedly is thriving in Kolkata has also seen men coming out more often to register their protest against 'exploitation' by wives, he says.

"I have a number of cases with me and the complaints vary from silent resistance-- of refusing to speak to their spouse after a row-- or constant nagging or actual physical violence," he says.

Chugh says that many of the rape charges filed against men are 'fake' and are simply examples of 'a woman scorned'.

However, while feminists have criticised his radical views over the years, Chugh says it hasn't deterred him from pitching for men and will not either in future.

Orissa students leave for NASA Pop singer Mika gets bail Army to open psychiatric centres 10 militants nabbed in J&K ULFA threat wasn't for Bezboruah Culture of terror must end:India Sri Lanka in battle mode, again AP: 3 Maoists shot dead Sonia visits Rae Bareli China-Pak nuke plant in limbo

#### Today in Business

Chindwara steals the show A superb flying experience Fiesta or Accent Viva? Read here Reliance not to exit CDMA Aftereffects of market crash Glenmark seals buyout in Africa Dummies guide to PE ratio Volvo to up outsourcing RITES plans Tanzania foray Royalty issue distorted: Qualcom **Today in Getahead** 8 weeks to a slimmer, fitter you

 Got a roommate from hell?

 GA: Best of the week

 Asst fashion designers needed

 Quiz: 'Tough' situations at work

 Time to invest in a mid-cap fund

 MCI registration test on Sept 24

 International biz prog for exects

 MKU: BSc-IT eligibility relaxed

 Need a break? Try Munnar

#### 7333: The Latest News on Your Mobile!

© Copyright 2005 PTI. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of PTI content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent.



#### THE TIMES OF **INDIA**

**CITIES: HYDERABAD** 

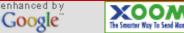
er Way To Send Ma



The Times of India

Indiatimes Web

ADVANCED SEARCH



Indiatimes > The Times of India > Cities > Hyderabad > Article

Search

#### Home

**CLASSIFIEDS** Matrimonial Jobs Real Estate| Auto Tenders Post Print Ads All Classifieds

HOT LINKS

ePaper **NRI** Finance

XML RSS feeds

NEWS

Politics [Value]

Cities J

Ahmedabad

Bangalore

- Chandigarh
- Delhi
- Hyderabad Kolkata
- Lucknow
- Mumbai
- Patna
- Pune

Thiru'puram

City Supplements

India Cricket

Sports 5 1

World Entertainment India Business Intl Business Infotech

Health/Science Photo Gallery

**TOI Headlines** Most Read Articles

Obituary Archives 4 1

Weather

OPINIO

Columnists

Editorial Interview Letters to Editor SUPPLEMENTS Education Times SUNDAY SPECIALS

Deep Focus Book Mark Culture curry Harassed husbands come together **Molin** 

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [ WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2004 12:41:45 AM ]

Surf 'N' Earn - Sign in now

HYDERABAD: Harassed husbands will meet behind closed doors at Padmaraonagar on Sunday to learn a few tricks and techniques of keeping their wives happy.

If they don't keep their spouses in good humour, they know they face the risk of annoyed wives slapping a dowry harassment case against them. Quite a few women, who are aware of how stringent the law is on dowry cases, are filing cases under section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code. From then on, begin the woes of husbands to save themselves from being put behind the bars.

At the 'Seminar on victimisation of husbands and their family members' being organised by Raksha, they will be given tips on how to humour their wives so that the situation does not get out of hand and they become victims of the misuse of law by their wives.

The men will be given tips on how to lay a strong foundation for a lasting relationship with their wives.

Individual counselling is also being done by Raksha. For instance, a police constable came seeking help as his wife was beating him. So vexed was he that he wanted to commit suicide. He was advised against it and instead asked to please his wife so that it would convey to her that he really cared for her.

> TALKING POINT: My First Sexual Encounter

HYDERABAD **HEADLINES** 

State gets no promises from VW emissary Cop, realtor held for murder plot Stranded Hyderabadis limp back home Man arrested with tiger skin; chinks in zoo security exposed View Charminar from tower in Jubilee Hills Trains cancelled, rescheduled It's 54 hours from US to Hyderabad Volkswagen dumps Vashishta Wahan HIV therapy in 100 hospitals Unions on the warpath BE seats in city colleges filled up Huda held responsible for plight of Borabanda people

in state Schuster case puts spotlight on 'investors'

BE seats up by 2,880



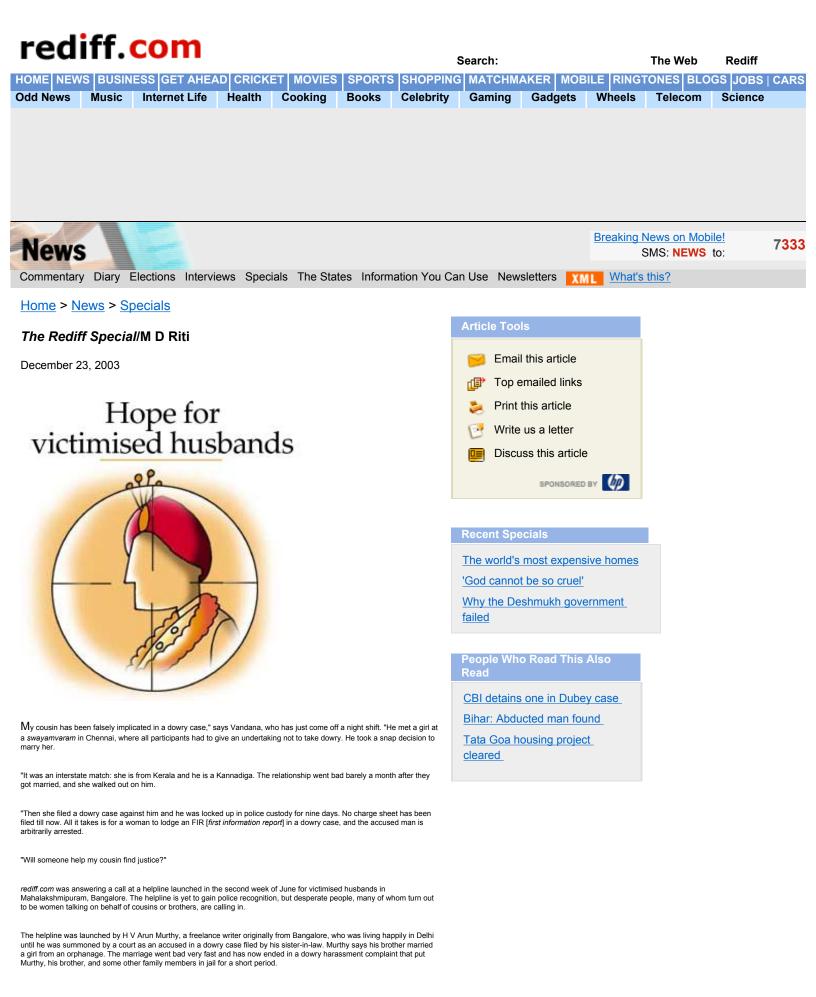
Send Flowers (a) Lowest Rates Order Now TO ADVERTISE HERE Click here TO ADVERTISE HERE Click here



NO CONNECTION FEE I MIN ROUNDING

"At the seminar, we will give specific advise to each harassed husband on how to get over their problems and not complicate matters for themselves by overacting to a situation," Raksha president C V L Narasimha Rao said on Tuesday.

Rao said a lot of men are desperate for help. Take the case of a 23-yearold who found love on the Internet and got married soon. His wife's parents, however, did not approve of the marriage and convinced their daughter that she should leave him. If he did not, they threatened to file a



"Who could have paid dowry for that girl? The orphanage authorities?" demands an angry, white-haired, single Murthy.

An architect couple, Girish and Pankaja, who are his friends, offered to share their office space with him and Murthy promptly set up the helpline. On Tuesdays and Fridays, between 7 and 9pm, he, lawyer Sathya Venkatesh, and a counsellor sit in the tiny office to field calls. They receive between eight and 10 calls in that time slot.

The phone line was not dedicated; it was the office number of the architect couple, who also fielded calls and passed on the information to Murthy.

The forum, Sangabalya, now operates from the first floor of a commercial complex in Munneshwara Block, Mahalakshmipuram. It already has 60 members, about half of them women. They hold fortnightly meetings, which at least 75 per cent of the members attend. Murthy hopes to turn it into a non-governmental organisation soon.

Venkatesh, who had for a long time felt that someone should help victimised men, volunteered his legal services.

"The courts are always sympathetic to women," he told *rediff.com* "Even our laws do not recognise the possibility of wives and daughters-in-laws ill-treating husbands and old in-laws. I know of so many cases where section 498-A [of the Indian *Penal Code*] has just been used as an instrument of blackmail. But public sympathy is all for the perpetrators of the crime. More than 90 per cent of dowry cases filed are dismissed. But no punitive action is taken against the women who file the cases, even though it is sometimes proved that they lied under oath."

The association considers Delhi high court Justice J D Kapoor's observations in a dowry case that he dismissed two months ago a vindication of its stand. "There is a growing tendency to come out with inflated and exaggerated allegations, roping in each and every relation of the husband," Justice Kapoor noted while recommending a review of anti-dowry laws. "If one of them happens to be of higher status or vulnerable standing, he or she becomes easy prey for bargaining and blackmailing."

Sangabalya has clear objectives: its first goal is to help all men who have had false complaints filed against them under section 498-A, which makes "cruelty by husband or relatives of husband" a non-bailable, cognisable offence.

According to the forum, many men in bad marriages complain that this section, used in tandem with the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, has become a stick for wives, sometimes aided by unscrupulous policemen, to use to extract money. In many cases, they say, this results in the wrongful imprisonment of husbands and their relatives.

Women's groups readily admit that because many husbands and in-laws who harass women for dowry get off free, they make sure that the men endure as many days of police or judicial custody as possible right at the beginning, so that others hesitate to follow in their footsteps.

"If you spend even a day or two in custody, you lose all respect in society," says G Narendra Kumar, a technical officer in the Aeronautical Defence Establishment, who is now under suspension pending a dowry case filed by his wife. He was arrested from his home some months ago, as his wife looked on, following a complaint filed by her. "I have been suspended, and the police are not even telling my company whether I have been charge-sheeted," Kumar says.

The forum is committed to preventing the misuse of the law from destroying the institution of marriage. It wants to promote reconciliation at all times, no matter how late. It also works towards getting divorce and child custody cases disposed off quickly, within the statutory six months. It tries to provide counselling and emotional support to men caught up in these cases, as it feels that they generally do not have access to such help. It also means working towards ensuring punitive action against those who make false complaints and swear false affidavits.

So far, they have only settled two cases successfully, and persuaded the couples to go in for a healthy divorce.

As soon as someone calls the helpline, his complaint is heard and he is called for a face-to-face discussion during which a lawyer and a counsellor are present.

Another issue the forum is fighting is the arbitrary manner in which interim wife support is provided. "After living with my wife for barely a month a decade ago, I have been paying her interim maintenance for the past decade," says Narayanaswamy, who works for a national cooperative bank. He had been wrongly advised that he would suffer if he filed for divorce, but Venkatesh asked him, in the presence of rediff.com, to file for divorce immediately.

During its short existence, the forum has already noticed certain patterns leading to what Murthy and his fellow victims insist are false police cases. First, this is an entirely urban phenomenon; secondly, in such cases, the woman usually walks out within the first few months of marriage; thirdly, the disputes are often over money matters or living in joint families; fourthly, FIRs seem strangely similar, irrespective of the differing stories of the alleged victims. "Most of them accuse men who are non-smokers of burning women with cigarette butts," says Murthy. "They also say the women had bites all over the body."

Then there are cases like that of Abdul Kaleem, which make it obvious that the forum does not try to make moral judgements about whether the man was in the right. Kaleem's wife walked out of their eleven-year-old marriage four months ago with her two children, aged 8 and 10. "She simply disappeared with the children," says Kaleem, sitting in the helpline office, "and the police are now accusing me of having killed her!"

Kaleem accuses his wife of "wanting to be too independent, go out whenever she liked, and visit her mother every day", all fundamental rights that many women enjoy.

"We are supporting him because the police are harassing him and asking him to produce his wife before them," argues Murthy. "Besides, we feel he has the right of access to his children. How can his wife just disappear with them?"

Similarly, there is the case of the non-resident Indian son of the ageing Suryanarayan Jois. Jois claims his son never married the woman who professes to be his wife and is demanding a marriage settlement. "We lied to the marriage registrar that they were man and wife," Jois explains, "and showed him studio portraits wearing garlands and someone else's mangalasutra, just to obtain a marriage certificate for visa purposes."

Many days after this false declaration, when the couple was actually going through the wedding ceremony, the girl had an epileptic seizure. The Jois family immediately stopped the wedding, saying the bride had lied about her health.

Hope for victimised husbands

When her family began agitating for justice, the Jois family got the 'marriage', which they claim never happened, annulled.

This was when the bride's family filed a dowry case against them. Jois appealed to the police to drop the case, but ended up paying various corrupt officers bribes totalling Rs 100,000. But he also recorded all these transactions and gave documentary evidence to the Lok Ayukta. No action has, however, been taken against the corrupt police officers yet.

"This case does have grey areas," admits Murthy, when asked why the helpline is taking up a case in which the family of the husband has actually lied to a registrar and committed an illegal act. "But then, our point is that this case is a civil matter, and is being converted into a criminal anti-dowry case. We agree that the family should be punished for trying to cheat the law by pretending the marriage took place before it actually did."

Karnataka Director General of Police T Madiyal prefers to give the organisation the benefit of the doubt. "We welcome any helpline or voluntary effort that tries to reach out to people in distress," he says.

Murthy and his friends are now trying to register themselves as a trust, which they hope will give them a better standing and solidity.

Many of the association's members are families of NRIs. There is, for example, the brother of a doctor working in the UK, whose marriage to a well-connected girl from Chennai ended in acrimony. "When my brother went to her house alone to return her jewellery and assets, she took them and then filed an attempt to murder case, saying he had beaten her and her relatives up," says Raghunathan. "Now my brother has to shuttle up and down from the UK for hearings. We have just settled out of court with her family for Rs 15 lakh."

Murthy says, "Judges are usually sent to family courts as punishment postings, and come ready to look at all cases as criminal cases. The police, too, convert many civil complaints that women file into dowry cases so that they become criminal cases, which are more lucrative. I often get cases of male victims... but always only when they are too poor to be able to pay the police anything to move their cases along."

As he puts it, "I decided it was time we had a collective voice and talked about the abuse of dowry laws by women. It's time someone pointed out that all women are not holy cows, and all men are not drunks and lechers. Let us start being fair to one another."

Sangyabalya can be contacted at 91-80-56969850. Their email address is victimsof498a@rediffmail.com.

Some of the names have been changed to protect identities of persons.

Illustration: Uttam Ghosh

#### **The Rediff Specials**

	Share your comments
What do you think about the story?	Post your Message
Read what others have to say:	
	Number of User Comments: 67
Sub: Harassment	
It's actually me and my family who are being harassed by my wife and her family. We have already heard a lot of vulgar words	
Posted by xxxxx	More
Sub: victimised by wife and family	
Dear sir, mywife gave gave criminal case against me and myfamily saying a lot of lies. now my family got bail. iam in uae now, actually	
Posted by <b>jayadevan</b>	More
Sub: Calling all victims of misuse of 498a	
Hi, I am also one of the victims of misuse of 498a. Me along with my family have been going thru the harrasment and the	
Posted by singh	More
Sub: i am also victim of 498a, plase help	
Friends, I am also victim of 498a, since my wife wanted all my money and also her earning wanted to spend over their parents, she	
Posted by raghavendra	More
Sub: Copy of CRLMM 3875/2003	
Dear Sir, Please send me a copy of the order CRLMM 3875/2003, i am harrassed since last 1 and half years. Please email me on	
Posted by Dharmendra Sharma	More
	View All Messages

# Crime by Indian women (killed husband and other attrocities)



#### Keyword

Home | Diary | Crossword | MyNews | Advertise | Big Break

#### [Advanced Search]

Saturday, May 13, 2006

#### Updated: 7:10:41 PM

#### Newsbar:

May 13, 2006

By: Vaishnavi Kanvinde

Channels

#### News

City

Sports HitList

Other Headlines

Metro

#### Weekly Specials

Play Hot Property

Big Break

#### Other links

Wallpapers Diary

Crossword

Cartoons

Voices

Columns

Mumbai Dope

#### Mid Day Poll

Should the Congress be worried about a stronger Left?



It was the perfect murder — a devoted wife, a helpful neighbour (she called him bhau) and an unsuspecting husband. In fact, the case was going to be closed.

BharatMatrimony

But an alert cop, saw through the 'grieving widow' act and finally, after 10 hours of interrogation, arrested the wife and her lover for murder. This is their story.

For two days, Pramod Gawli (24) and his lover, Ashwini Sakpal (20), plotted and planned. Then on the midnight hour of May 3, Pramod strangled Ashwini's husband, Ganesh, and killed him. A worried, Ashwini, ensured that Ganesh was dead by yanking the dupatta even tighter around his neck.

Police inspector Y L Jadhav of Deonar police station

The task was done easily enough. A few hours earlier, Ashwini, a nurse, added sleeping pills to her unsuspecting husband's dinner. The potent dose put him to sleep quickly, and all the lovers had to do, was tie the dupatta around his neck and pull.

Wife slept with dead body for 30 minutes

Ashwini removed the dupatta from around Ganesh's neck and slept next to his dead body for over half an hour, before calling out to her neighbours.

Ironically, Ganesh and Ashwini defied their parents and wed a year ago. But within a year, Ashwini realised she did not love Ganesh as he did not have a job and was living off her income.

Ashwini fell in love with Pramod who lived in the opposite hutment. Gawli too, was not happy with his marriage and wanted out. They hatched a plan to remove the first obstacle — eliminate Ganesh. The police believe they intended to murder Pramod's wife, later.

#### The incident

On May 3, after the murder, Ashwini told her neighbours that her husband wasn't breathing. She called out to Pramod (whom she called Bhau) to help her rush Ganesh to Shatabdi Hospital in Govandi. She told everyone that as she was a nurse, she thought her husband might have died of a heart attack. Ganesh was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

The doctors at the hospital, however, suspected something amiss as they had noticed ligature marks and advised post-mortem, which revealed that Ganesh was strangulated. The police grilled Ashwini for 10 hours and she spilled the beans, said police inspector Y L Jadhav, of Deonar police station.

#### Unusually quiet

"Ashwini was unusually calm after her husband's death. For over a week, after the incident, she played the role of a perfect widow, wailing and crying, but immediately after her husband's death, she was completely calm. That raised our suspicions," said Jadhav.

Ashwini even tried to tell the police that her husband had actually committed suicide and that she removed his corpse from the ceiling before calling her neighbours.

But this did not convince the police either, as she weighed only 40 kilos, while her husband, at 80 kilos, was too heavy for her to carry. Both Ashwini Sakpal and Pramod Gawli have been arrested and booked under section 302.

Columns | Diary | Hot Property | Big Break | Cartoons | Voices | 26th Anniversary © 2005 Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd. All rights reserved Disclaimer | About us | Feedback | Archive Other group sites: Inquilab | Corporate site | GO92.5 FM

#### Sports

- Gatlin sets world record in 100
  meters
- Kim wears Yuvraj's ring...
- Greg to convert ODI success to Test wins
- Tirupathi returned Sreesanth has new look
- Robin Uthappa all set to blast
   away

### hitList

- No 7-year itch for us: Lara and Kelly
- Condom zaroori hai: Maushmi
- Starry spiritual journey
- To mom, with love: Karan
- Film review: Tom, Dick And Harry

#### **Other Headlines**

- Jessica case witness Shayan Munshi held
- Explosives, AK-47 seized near Manmad
- Docs strike affect health services in Delhi
- Tarun Gogoi elected CLP leader
   in Assam
- Rangasamy elected CLP leader in Pondy





# **CHANDIGARH Newsline**

cities.expressindia.com

friend today

Find a **NeW** 

### Google

Advertisements Links

Business loans upto 10 Crores Today's Credit Tommorow's **Business Growth** 

Shaadi Matrimonials 5 Million Members, 12,00,000 Photos Register & Search for Free Now.

> Jobs@naukri.com **Best IT Jobs** Best Sales Jobs **Best Finance jobs**

\$ Zero minimum balance Open a Citibank Rupee Checking Account click here!

teenpatti.com We're giving away \$1000 everyday\_

Ask. Answer. Discover. Share your knowledge here!

Hot travel deals Top Travel deals for the week of June 19th

Indian Classified Ads Cars.. Flats.. Furniture.. find everything on Sulekha Classifieds

ExpressIndia Astrology Bejan Daruwalla offers personalized predictions. Starting at Rs 500.

Express Cricket Catch Live Commentary & Score, Latest News, Full Coverage, Cricket Crosswords

NL ARCHIVE	
Search by Date	Ahmedabad   Delhi   Kolkata   Lucknow   Ludhiana   Mumbai   Pune
SERVICES	Chandigarh> Home & Around Tuesday, June 20, 2006
Matrimonials	
Start new friendships!	Page One   Punjab Pulse   Himachal Pulse   News   Home & Around
The 99 Store - Just for you !!	Sportsline   Simplicity   Male Factor
Low Airfares to India	HOME & AROUND
in Feb	
Express Travel	Wife arrested for poisoning husband in Kharar
Shopping Animal	She allegedly had an illicit relationship with her brother-in-law; her brother also booked
Discounted Shoes	She anegeory had an mich relationship with her brother-in-law, her brother also booked
Worldwide Flower	Express News Service
Delivery	Express News Service KHARAR, JUNE 19: KHARAR police today arrested a Kharar resident for allegedly
GROUP SITES	poisoning her husband to death. Parkash Singh, about 30-years-old, was living at
Expressindia The Indian Express	Ranjit Nagar here. He was poisoned on June 12 and he died at PGI, Chandigarh,
The Financial Express	on late Sunday night, police said this evening.
Latest News	Parkash's wife Jaswinder Kaur, who is in her mid-twenties, brother-in-law Raju (a
Screen	resident of Bhaironmajra village in Chamkaur Sahib) and Jaswinder's brother Molu
Kashmir Live	have been booked for abetment to suicide and acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention, said police personnel, while citing Jaswinder's
Express Cricket	alleged illicit relations with Raju as the reason behind the incident.
Loksatta	
Lokprabha North American	The charge of murder, which was initially levelled against the suspects, was
Edition [Print]	dropped and replaced with abetment to suicide after preliminary investigations conducted by ASI Iqbal Singh, police said, while adding that Raju and Molu were
COLUMNISTS	yet to be arrested in the case.
The Indian Express	
The Financial Express	Parkash's father Jeewan Singh had reportedly told the local police that Jaswinder had married Parkash almost four years back and they had a 10-month-old baby
SUBSCRIPTIONS	girl from the wedlock.
Free Newsletter	
Wireless Express	Jeewan alleged that Jaswinder had developed illicit relations with her brother-in-
SYNDICATIONS	law Raju (Jeewan's son-in-law), following which they (Jaswinder and Raju), in connivance with Molu, allegedly hatched a plan to kill Parkash, whom they
RSS Feeds RSS 2.0	deemed as an obstacle in perusing their 'illegal relations', police said.
	Police added that as per the conspiracy, Jaswinder allegedly gave some poisonous substance to Parkash on June 12 and subsequently, he was rushed to PGI, where
	he died last night.
	Write to the Editor Search News
	Mail this Story
	Print this Story Advanced Search »

http://cities.expressindia.com/archivefullstory.php?newsid=188875&creation\_date=2006-06-20 (1 of 2)6/22/2006 3:29:38 PM

### MUMBAI MIRROR | City

#### UMBAI, Thursday, December 22, 2005

Secretly married man's body found



MY MUMBAI MIRROR





#### mAD hatters



**Terms & Conditions** for Mumbai Mirror's direct to readers offer



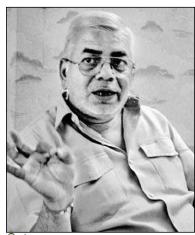
Be in touch with the happenings in your locality

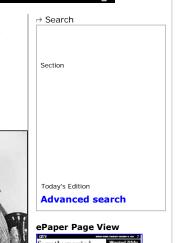
#### dumped him Q Search archive UCOMMENT Nilesh Nikade Nashik police recently said that they had found the body of a 25-year-old Thane resident who had gone missing nearly two Print this article View Comments years ago. The body was found two years ago in the jungles near Ghoti village but the police were not able to identify the same. A post-mortem had revealed that he was strangulated. They came across his case while reviewing unsolved cases of murder in their area. THE BACKGROUND Yogesh Pawar, a textile engineer, went missing in January 2004. His family tried every possible way to find him, including by putting up posters all over the city. His father Madhukar Pawar who operated a canteen in a textile mill in Thane said, "We had registered a complaint at the Thane Nagar Police station on January 29, 2004 when Yogesh did not return from office. When we could not find any clue, we opened his drawer Enlarge "It revealed that he was secretly married to Meghna Jadhav, a girl who was earlier living in our colony. We were astonished of their wedding to see their marriage certificate and photographs. Our son had got married on May 29, 2000 but kept us in the dark for four years. Yogesh's close friends told the family that the secret marriage had fallen apart. "Meghna, who had shifted to Pune after the marriage, had fallen in love with another person named Ramesh Shinde. They even got engaged on November 10, 2003. Yogesh was terribly upset," said Madhukar. After that Meghna started asking Yogesh for a divorce. Yogesh had even received a court notice from a Thane magistrate court. "Even a local goon, Sugriv Chavan, who works as a driver at a dairy, threatened Yogesh at his residence to release Meghna from the relationship. Later, police found out that Chavan was a relative of Ramesh Shinde," said Madhukar. "Just 10 days before Yogesh went missing, Meghna had made regular calls to our residence. She asked his mother about his schedule and office timings. We suspect Yogesh was abducted and murdered," said Hemant Pawar, Yogesh's uncle Police had filed cases against Meghna Jadhav and three Yogesh's father Madhukar Pawar others. But the investigation did not proceed further On November 29, 2005, Nashik police reported that they had found the body. His family now expects the investigation to proceed but it won't be easy for the police. Senior Police Inspector Nalawade of Thane Nagar said, "We have reopened the case. We are gathering more proof so we can arrest the accused. As the murder had taken place two years back, it is difficult to find proof and witnesses." E-mail this article Print this article Q\_Search archive Rate this article UCOMMENT View Comments More in City We ask BPOs: do you think this is safe? Afight over payments between a transport sub-contractor and the middleperson for Daksh call centre in Malad is compelling employees to rely on ......More No more adult movies on TV The Bombay High Court on Wednesday passed an order barring private channels and cable service providers from screening films not suitable for ...........More **D** Your booster pump could land you in jail Mumbaikars who have installed an unauthorised booster pump in their housing society to draw additional water from the BMCs water pipes could be ......More D Chiplun nature lovers rescue 6,000 turtles in Ratnagiri

A group of three animal lovers from Ratnagiri district has claimed it has saved around 6,000 turtles from poachers who kill them for their exotic ......More

■ <u>E-mail this article</u> Thane resident went missing two years back after wife

Yogesh Pawar with wife Meghna Jadhav at the time





Blog





→ Su Do Ku

5	3			7						
ï					9					
							4		Solve	
8				4				3		
ï		Г	e		3					
Ŧ				2					Today's	
	٠					1	٠			
			4	4				5	Su Do Ku	
		-			1		7		JU DU KU	

→ My Preference

Click to enlarge → Crossword



RSS

👝 🖗 - news feeds | Choose Font Size: 🔒 a a

Feedback | Mirror

Rate this article

Select

Prior Issue

### HTTabloid.com CRIMEPATROL

HindustanTimes.com	<u>m</u> » <u>HTTabloid.com</u> » <u>Crime Patr</u>		Monday, April 17, 2006		
• НОМЕ	Jealous mom burns own kid		отне	OTHER Crime Patrol STORIES	
• HOT SPOT	Alka Rastogi Lucknow, April 17, 2006	<b></b>	■ <u>Wi</u> i	fe gets a blood-soaked death	
• CRIME PATROL	Out of sheer jealousy and possessiveness, a mother put her son on fire! Reason: The	Feedback Send to friend(s)		ree cops rape a girl dies looted in Merrut mishap	
• SPORTS CENTRE	lady could not tolerate her mother-in-law cuddling with her one-year-old tot.	Advertisement	<ul> <li>Patient raped twice in hospital</li> </ul>		
• FASHION STREET	According to a report reaching the state police headquarters, the gory incident occurred in Meerut. After fighting bitterly with her mother-in-law, Parul was so incensed that she snatched her one-year-old baby from the lap of the former, threw the infant on the ground with a bang, poured kerosene oil and set her ablaze.			sband bashed by cruel wife!	
• HEARSAY				ore Stories »	
• HARD TALK				HOT SPOT Something fishy about it!	
◆ CELEB WATCH	The little girl obviously died. While Parul set her kid on fire, she too got hurt. When her husband, Hemendra, tried to save the kid he too got burnt.			What does it take from a buxom beauty to become a fisherwoman? Well, only Rs.	
• ON THE COUCH				100 is what Kim Sharma paid to learn tricks of the trade. Kim: Howzzat!	
• GIRL TALK	The girl died while the husband and the hospital.	wife are undergoing treatment in		SPORTS centre	
• BABE WATCH	According to the state police, the woman will soon be put behind bars. Have your say			Golfers! Sex can improve your swing	
• LIFE BIZARRE	Feel strongly about something. Have your say here » Read other views »		Ē	Here's a tip to all golfers – if you want to improve your swing, all you got to do is have	
• PUNCH LINE				sex twice a week. Check out the details.	
• YEAR ENDER 2005				fashion STREET	
• ARCHIVES				Flash your saucy body of work! This summer, show off your	
			•	assets with hot and sexy body art—be it paint or the good old tattoo. Download	
	-				

Home Photos Cricket Tabloid HT Next Hindustan Infotainment Money2India HT Editions Matrimonial Classifieds

	Ads by Go	ogle		
	Taste All www.Sin Lucknov	<u>v Resorts</u> India Has To Offer With, Essence o japoreAir.com <u>v Ringtone</u> ringtone to your phone, right now .com		
⊠ <u>E-mail us</u>	E Feedback	Terms & Conditions	* Advertisements	© HT Media Ltd. 2006.

Woman sentenced to life term for killing husband; ... NewKerala - India's Top Online Newspaper

#### Search The Web newKerala.com

Powered by 123bharath.com

#### Woman sentenced to life term for killing hust

- ---→ News Kerala News
- India News
- World News
- Business News
- Bollywood News
- Hollywood News
- Sports News
- Health News
- Technology News
- Travel News
- RSS Feed

#### …→ General

- Kerala Recipes
- Kerala Info
- Kerala Travel
- Kerala Education
- Kerala Classifieds
- Astrology
- Chinese Astrology
- Personality Test
- Word Scramble
- Word Find
- Quotable Quotes
- Support

Home : News > Bihar Posted on 23 May 2006 # IANS То vour Friend comment

#### Woman sentenced to life term for killing husband

Patna: A woman in Bihar was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing her husband out of anger after he refused to let her visit her parents

Sangeeta Devi, 23, was convicted by the additional district and sessions judge of a fast track court in Sitamarhi district Monday for the murder of her husband Mithilesh Paswan July 7, 2003, in Mahishari village.

According to a police complaint filed by Paswan's father, Sangeeta killed her husband, angry that he had refused to let her go to her parents' house. "She killed Paswan with a sharp-edged weapon when he was sleeping," the complaint stated.

#### More Stories:

- es as England face relaxed Ecuador No more e Luhrmann tipped to film Kidman's wedding CBI files charges in Kashmir sex scandal Five killed, 11 wounded in Kashmir violence Indian markets end on positive note 65 Afghan militants killed Delhi Police asks Rahul Mahajan to appear on Sunday ONGC will drill first well on offshore Farsi block in Iran NCC cadets receive Sahara Scholarships Efforts on to get Meerut of Metro network Bank's AGM approves 10 pc final dividend CSE index posts 367 points gain in the current week Subex completes Azure acquisition City corporation asked to continue services of ex-servicemen Woman commits suicide Stock market to stay volatile for three months: UTI Manmohan praises Kannadiga hospitality Precious metals recover on fresh buying PM inaugurates Bangalore elevated highway project Angler's lodge to be constructed in Gulmarg First cha argesheet in high-profile sex racket case filed Road links important to narrow urban-rural divide: Manmohan Singh Demilitarisation "final resolution" of Kashmir issue: Musharraf Sonia to visit famine, drought hit Rajasthan districts Govt to introduce "Nyaya Panchayat" Bill in winter session India fostering road revolution; funding hiked for highways Farmer allegedly consumes poison, dies This day in World Cup history - June 25 Musharraf says continuation as Prez, Army Chief needed for Pak VP's birthday bash to galvanise parties ahead of Uttar Pradesh polls Well-known writer dead Over 1.25 pilgrims visited Amarnath in past fortnight PM cut up with road rage; asks motorists to behave Student killed, three injured in firing in Kashmir Trinamool's 'Chakka jam' stir affects traffic in Kolkata One killed in Srinaga Delhi starts help line for tree lovers Franz Beckenbauer marries for third time Eleven injured in Srinagar grenade attack Pak man sells sister to save himself from stealing charges PM lays foundation stone of Bangalore-Electronic city expressway corridor Aziz Khan may continue as Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhii "Jeevashram", a hostel to make stray animals feel at home
   Meerut youngsters claim to have invented new source of energy Stem cells coaxed to produce both eggs and sperms Situation not yet critical to threaten GDP projections: Lahiri Patel earns dubious distinction Lightening kills 5 in Nepa Security forces recover 52 kgs of explosives in Jammu and Kashmir China promotes 10 generals
   Beijing not comfortable for living, but right for shopping'
   Murder in jail! Police stations in Kerala to be computerised: Minister Police stations in Kerala to be computerised: Minister 15 Injured in anti-Ahmadiya violence Equities raily on the Madras Stock Exchange Pakistan moots bilateral track on pipeline project Pizbul Mujahideen district commander, deputy shot dead in encounter Four Killed, three injured in shootout between rival groups Muchards active Kabmin (case should be accounded bilaterative) Musharraf says Kashmir issue should be resolved "bilaterally AICF expels Ummer Koya 14 Killed, two injured in road accident in South Africa Protests against "Kriss' in Madhya Pradesh 23 new stars for Walk of Fame Contest Statistics with our failure Charles Darwin's 175-year-old tortoise is dead Work on ONGC complex to begin without delay: PM Cautious India take on New Zealand in battle for bronze European Commission to release halted assistance worth USD 24 million
- CPI's Tamil Nadu unit opposes Centre's decision Govt keen on tapping pvt sector funds: PM Two Indians arrested for carrying illegal weapons

FIFA World Cup 2006 Germany News GERMANY 2006

#### Top Stories:

Updated 17 hours ago Kochi: The Associated NCC Officers (ANO)s have a great role to play in grooming NCC cadets, Brigadier O A James, Deputy Di...

#### City corporation asked to continue services of exservicemer

*Updated 17 hours ago* Madurai: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court today directed the City corporation to continue the services of the me.



Saturday laid the foundation stone for a 10 km expressway project here that is ex... n; funding

#### ked for highways

Bangalore: After the success with green and white revolutions,

Updated 18 hours ago Bangalore: Appalled by the chaos on Indian roads, Prime

Bangalore: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on Saturday laid the foundations for the ten-lane 9.89 km mixed expressway co ...

#### Patel earns dubious distinction

Updated 18 hours ago St. Kitts: India seamer Munaf Patel earned a dubious record when he conceded 25 runs in an over during the West Indies fir...

#### Police stations in Kerala to be computerised: Minister



Kasaragod: As a part of upgrading police networking in Kerala, the government would install a computer in all police stati ...

#### AICF expels Ummer Koya Updated 18 hours ago

Chennai: The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has expelled its former secretary P T Ummer Koya along with S L Harsh, V R ...

#### Work on ONGC complex to begin without delay: PM



Bangalore: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said work on the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation petrochemical complex at M ...

Andhra Pradesh	Assam
Bihar	Chattisgarh
Goa	Gujarat
Haryana	Himachal Pradesh
Jammu Kashmir	Jharkhand
Kamataka	Kerala
Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra
<u>Orissa</u>	Punjab
Rajasthan	Sikkim
Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal	USA
LIK	Middle East

Best of NewKerala:	Astrology	Numerology	Chinese Astrology	Personality Test
	World Cup 2006	Ooty Travel	Word Find	Word Scramble
News Channels:	India News	World News	Kerala News	Business India
	Bollywood	Hollywood	Sports News	Health News
	Technology	Travel News	Cinema South India	Quotable Quotes

Copyright 2001-2005 newkerala.com | Contact Us | Make "New Kerala" your homepage





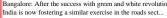
Sunday June 25 2006

PM inaugurates Bangalore elevated highway project Updated 17 hours ago Bangalore: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

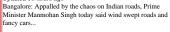


India fostering road revolution

#### Updated 17 hours ago







### PM lays foundation stone of Bangalore-Electronic city

expressway corridor Updated 18 hours ago 0



# newindpress

#### News

Top stories Sports Business Nation Orissa Infotech NRIs All Headlines

#### Southern News

Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Kerala Tamil Nadu

**Cities** Bangalore Chennai Hyderabad

#### Features

Kochi

Cinema Lifestyle & People Education Your day today Health & Science Women's Life Youth Travel Flashback Weird World

#### **Edits & Opinions**

First Editorial Second Editorial Main Article Second Article Time Out Columns

Classifieds

Lifemates Careers Tenders Rental/Real Estate

Place a classified In our newspapers

Religion Spirituality &

#### NATION

#### Woman kills son to hide illicit relations Sunday April 23 2006 00:00 IST

#### IANS

BHOPAL: A woman in Madhya Pradesh allegedly drowned her six-year-old son in a well to hide her illicit relations with a relative, police said.

The 25-year-old woman, a resident of Sarangpur village in Hoshangabad district, murdered her son as per instructions from her paramour Devi Singh and then lodged a police complaint saying her son was missing, police said.

Devi Singh used to visit her frequently in the absence of her husband, Kamal, who has a job in Indore. The woman, police said, was afraid that her son who had seen her in a compromising position with Devi Singh may reveal all to the father.

"The murder was allegedly committed to prevent the revelation of the love affair the woman was having with Devi Singh who lived in her neighbourhood," police said.



Google

Email this Article 🔀

Web Newindpress

Free Money Transfers to India

Apr 23, 2006

Bollywood singer bigamist, wife tells Nitish Kumar

Jessica Lal's father passes away

Controversy over place of worship in Kutch

Ambejogai in state of shock

Ceasefire with NSCN-K to be extended in Nagaland

'ISI targeting public utility services'

	PATROL om » HTTabloid.com » Crime Patrol » Story	Wednesday, August 18, 2004	
• НОМЕ		OTHER Crime Patrol STORIES	
<sub>о</sub> нот spot	Woman sets husband on fire after quarrel	<ul> <li>Guard killed at actor's home</li> </ul>	amantel.con
o CRIME PATROL	Shakti Sharma New Delhi, August 18 Advertisement	<ul> <li><u>Girl faces alleged rapist in court</u></li> </ul>	
• SPORTS CENTRE	A Delhi housewife who suspected that her husband had plans to kill her by burning, on Wednesday took the lead by setting him ablaze.	<ul> <li>Woman guilty of abusing maid</li> <li>Ploy to beat park entry fees triggers</li> <li>police alert</li> </ul>	
• FASHION STREET	According to police, Suman, 25, attacked her husband Ajay	<ul> <li>Lovers told to get married or face jail</li> </ul>	
• HEARSAY	Mishra, 28, at their home in Brijpuri in east Delhi at 6.30 p. m. on Tuesday. She allegedly doused her husband with kerosene and set him on fire following a quarrel. Ajay had	<u>more strories</u> »	
• HARD TALK	bought the kerosene for filling his bike.	HOT SPOT	
CELEB WATCH	Ajay married Suman about 2 years ago and they have a 9- month-old son. The couple reportedly had strained relations and frequently fought over petty issues. Police sources say Suman felt deceived because the particulars of the groom	Delhi becoming ghost         capital?         Some Delhi residents it seems	
ON THE COUCH	furnished to her family before the marriage had proved incorrect.	will never leave the city. Even after death. From Mughal rulers to murder victims, Delhi has	
GIRL TALK	Suman, who is a postgraduate, was told by her in-laws that Ajay was well settled and was drawing more than Rs 7,000	become ground for restless spirits.	
BABE WATCH	every month. She later discovered that this was untrue.	SPORTS Centre Rathore's silver worth Rs.	
LIFE BIZARRE	Police say Ajay, who worked as a technician with a private firm in Noida, returned home at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday. He had brought along a can containing approximately two and a half litres of petrol for filling his motorbike.	<b>80 lakhs</b> Shooter Rajyavardhan Rathore's silver medal effort at	
SNAPSHOT	Suman apparently thought there was a conspiracy afoot to	the Athens Olympics will make him richer by at least Rs 80	
• ARCHIVES	burn her alive and the fuel had been bought with malafide intentions. Her suspicions were strengthened when Ajay asked her to hand over their son saying he wanted to play with him. She assumed it was only a matter of time before her husband murdered her.	lakhs.	

When Suman refused to part with the child, a minor altercation took place between husband and wife. Finding an opportunity, Suman allegedly poured petrol over Ajay and set him ablaze.	fashion STREET Models are again face of fashion
Neighbours rushed to help Ajay after hearing his cries for help. He was admitted to the nearby Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital with 95 per cent burns and his condition is stated to be critical.	This year's comeback is straight from the catwalk: the model. The pretty faces who largely had been reduced to the background of the fashion scene are back in vogue —
Suman is meanwhile in police custody and has been charged with attempt to murder.	literally.
"After her arrest, Suman confessed that she had attacked her husband," a police officer said.	
Police have not ruled out the possibility that the fights between Ajay and Suman were triggered by demands for dowry, as Suman had reportedly been involved in fights with her in-laws.	
Have your say	
Feel strongly about something. Have your say here >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	
Read other views »	

# TIMESJOBS.COM If you have a reason, we have the job.

EMAIL ADDRESS :

#### UPLOAD RESUME:

File size not to exceed 50KB, .doc or .rtf format only.

#### THE TIMES OF INDIA

**INDIA** 



Click here shaadi.com	Search	in	Advanced Search Coogle	Bharat Matrimon <u>y.com</u>
Indiatimes > The Tir	mes of India > India > Article		Click here or call	1-800-INDIA-10 make
G@AL 2006	Woman stabs lover [Monday, May 08, 2006 02:51:0		lip	Mobile Downloads . Aaj nishana lagaya kya? . Swimsuit Calendar . Krrish on 8888!
HOME	XML RSS Feeds   SMS N	EWS to 8888 fo	r latest updates	. Mallika i hate you!
Mission Mumbai CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs	AHMEDABAD: A woman h his refusal to marry her, po		d for allegedly stabbing her lover to death y.	after Hotel stay@ affordable prices. . Holidays in Tirupati
Real Estate   Auto Travel		se off the body of	iday night when she, along with three of h f the youth, identified as one Devang Josh e said.	ni, in 7040 . Best Western the
Education Post Print Ads All Classifieds			v, were stopped by two constables. On see autorickshaw driver, fled from the scene	Emerald, Mumbai @ 2550 . Nalapad Residency,
HOT LINKS ePaper			overy of the body kept in a sack. The won , was immediately taken into custody.	Residency,
NRI Finance RSS Feeds	According to police, the vio years.	ctim allegedly ha	d an affair with the woman for the past five	e Mussoorie @ 1620
Test Centre		•	he called him to her residence Sunday nig bbed her lover to death, police said.	ght MY VOICE
Cities City Supplements	friend and the autorickshar	-	ree aides of the woman, including her bro	ther's MY TIMES, MY VOICE
India Cricket	KSM		Jurite to the	Editor
Sports World				MY TIMES. MY VOICE
Entertainment India Business				~
Intl Business				News in this Section . Ringtones help corporates bond with
Health / Science				customers Nalco protest
Photo Gallery TOI Headlines				gathers steam, effigies burnt . Lollywood calling
News	📇 Print this page	e 🖂 Email thi	s page 🛛 🖗 Comment on this article	Indian stars When England play,
Most Read Articles Archives	RATE THIS ARTICL	.E: [1=Poor,3=Av	erage, 5=Outstanding] 1 2 3 4 5	BPO staff have ball . Special grant to prevent farm suicides
Weather OPINION	Wellthis is what it has read Good on you ! You bravo w	-		on way: Pawar
Columnists Editorial			Read all commer	
SUPPLEMENTS Education Times				

#### Woman, paramour arrested for murder

#### NDTV Correspondent

#### Watch story 🚘

Thursday, December 15, 2005 (Katra):

Just days after her wedding, a newly-wed woman along with her paramour allegedly killed her husband in Katra in Jammu.

Harish came to Katra on a pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi shrine to seek blessings for a happy married life.

But destiny and his new bride Rachna had other plans.

Rachna and her paramour Ramesh killed Harish by suffocating him with a pillow and a blanket in a hotel room. After committing the crime, they dumped Harish's body in the hotel and fled to Delhi.

"The room boy had come to clean the room. When he was clearing the things around he saw a pair of shoes and he saw the feet of the body," said Kuldeep Raj, hotel receptionist.

#### **Shocking incident**

Within 24 hours, the Katra Police identified both the culprits. But it took them three days to trace the Rachna and Ramesh in Delhi and bring them back to Katra, where the crime took place.

"With great difficulty we got a clue. Based on that our enquiry intensified and on the clues gathered during this enquiry our team reached Delhi," said Rajesh Kumar, SSP, Udhampur.

Rachna's father, who has been summoned by the Katra police, says the murder has shocked the entire family and no one had a clue about the affair.

"We are shocked. We have been ruined from all spheres of home, society and the girl. We have lost our prestige," said Narain Singh Parihar, the girl's uncle.

With some luck and obvious clues, the police has solved the case in less than a week.

But nothing can change the fate of Harish who ended up paying a heavy price for his marriage.



#### Today's Topstories

Wolcker report: ED questions Jagat Singh

🔞 Polling underway in Iraq

Old wave intensifies in north India





Govt defers tabling of reservation bill



MP rape victim faces police apathy



More..



#### HindustanTimes.com

Only in HT

**=11** Saturday, February 4, 2006 | 01:31 IST

Home UK Edition Cricket Tabloid HT Next Hindustan Infotainment Money2India HT Editions Matrimonial Shopping

Search Google

Site

Web

My HT

🛚 My Links 🕂

HT Cricket

HT Tabloid

Editions

Delhi

Bhopal

Lucknow

HT Next

Hindustan

Links

News 🎽

Infotainment ¥

Interactives <sup>1</sup>/<sub>1</sub>

HT Specials »

HT Archives »

About Us

Advertise

Investors

Register

UK

Mumbai NEW

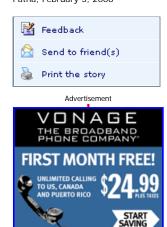
HT Classifieds

Today's Headlines

HindustanTimes.com » Only in HT » Story

### Couple pays with life for love

HT Correspondent Patna, February 3, 2006



A newly-married couple was lynched in broad daylight in Patna City on Friday. They had to pay with their lives for daring to fall in love and eloping, which the girl's family was not ready to accept.

The couple — Shailendra Mishra and Pushpanjali alias Juli — had returned on Thursday after getting married in Hajipur court against their families' wishes. The girl's father, Umesh Mishra, an astrologer, visited Shailendra's house at Machharhatta on Friday morning and asked him to accompany him.

An unsuspecting Shailendra stepped out of his house with his father in-law and was surrounded by Umesh's accomplices armed with lethal weapons. They held him captive and escorted him to the girl's house at Keshav Rai Ki Gali nearby.

What followed was macabre. Shailendra was assaulted by Umesh and his henchmen with sharp weapons and pelted with stones till he succumbed to his injuries. A distraught Julie rushed to her husband's rescue, but her world crashed when she found that her family had already killed Shailendra.

Juli asked her father to kill her too as life without Shailendra seemed "worthless". An enraged Umesh retorted, "Tum bhi maro (you also die)." The girl was meted out the same treatment as Shailendra. The entire drama ended in 10 minutes. As Juli crumpled within five metres from her husband, the "killers" fled. But the police arrived on time and managed to arrest them. A case has been lodged against the assailants.

Ads by Google

#### Attract, Retain, Achieve

Webhire talent management solutions, provide all you need to succeed www.webhire.com

#### **Background checks**

International & Domestic searches, Free social traces with orders www.accurateinformationsystems.com

#### Other Only in HT Stories »

- Police go after old pal Press
- Fill coffers, chief to BJP
- Mukesh sells natural gas to Anil

#### Post your feedback »

Have Your Say Feel strongly about something. Have your say here »

# STRAYER Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees for Working Adults.

Advertisement

Associate in Arts Bachelor of Business Administration Bachelor of Science Master of Business Administration Master of Science Master of Science in Professional Accounting

#### Top Stories @ This Hour Left demands debate in Parliament on Iran issue

- India seek to avenge
- Karachi loss » Kosmix, India's answer
- to Google »
- Airport services back to normal »
- India, France to sign nuclear deal >>

# Advertisement



#### Ad Links

- Valentine Gifts
- Send Flowers
- Flower Delivery
- <u>UK</u>medix <u>reductil</u>, <u>Health forum,</u> <u>xenical</u>, <u>propecia</u>,
- <u>Uprima, Levitra</u>, <u>Cialis, Propecia,</u> <u>Xenical, Reductil</u>
- Cialis, Reductil
- Study Abroad Guide
- Gifts to India
- <u>Travel</u> to <u>Las</u> vegas, <u>Bellagio</u>, <u>Venetian</u>
- Canada drugs, Hotel
- <u>Online shopping &</u> <u>Auctions in India</u>
- <u>Auctions on Ipods,</u> <u>Nokia Mobiles &</u> <u>Electronic items</u>
- Buy Cialis



**CRIME & CITY** 

### Sex, murder, wives

#### M BHASKAR SAI

Chennai, June 20:

The two shocking pieces of crime ? husbands killed by their wives to continue with their illict affairs ? have shocked the conservative Chennai out of its slumber as the cloak of prudery has been ripped apart with dramatic and disturbing force.

The shock here is on two counts: The first one is the cultural one, a sense of disbelieve as what is happening to the the good old tradition that the city prides itself on. And the second is psychological, due to extreme kinkiness in the crime and that too women being behind the brutality.

In the first incident that took place amidst the cool quietude of Munnar on Sunday, a Chennai-based newly married man, who had been there for honeymoon, was killed by his new wife and her paramour. The wife had tipped her illicit suitor about their tour programme, and the man too obligingly arrived to violently bump off the unsuspecting husband, in order to lead an 'uninterrupted life of love and bliss'.

In the second in Madhavaram yesterday, a lawyer's wife heartlessly killed him to pursue her affair with his nephew. The woman, who first gave sleeping pills to him, later attacked him with an iron rod.

In both the cases, the wives initially told the police that their respective husbands could have been killed for jewels and money. Only after repeated interrogation and investigation could the police zero in on the real motive and the criminals.

But the two incidents do not seem isolated. It points to a new trend, and also women, long romanticised and almost deified in the local context, may not be as docile as was made out. Gender quality has arrived pretty fast into the portals of crime and kink.

Noted sexologist and psychotherapist Dr D Narayana Reddy says, 'apart from sex, one should see this as a mental imbalace, as there should definitely be a reason that had provoked the wives to take such a decision. Either it could be the torture of the husband, motivation of the paramour or some unavoidable family problems. Persons who are forced to kill their husbands cannot be mentally equilibrated persons. They are certainly abnormal.'

Many others says it is not love that drives them blind. 'True love will never hurt anyone,' says R Ramakrishnan, a sociologist. 'For love to end in brutal murders is paradoxical'.

But are there any other 'abetting' reason? Yes, says city-based psychologist and sociologist C R Celin. 'Other than motivational factors, our films and TV serials play a major role in changing the attitude of women. Most of our television soaps are based on illicit affairs only. Also, there can be other factors like sex.' Her point is if you bring in promiscuous women to your house through TV, she will soon show up in reality too.

But filmmakers don't buy this idea of 'morally corrupting' the masses.

Susi Ganesan, director of the movie '*Thiruttu Payale*', which was based on the storyline of a wife having an affair with a friend of her husband, says, 'I have taken the knot of the story from the day to day real life stories which appears regularly in news papers. Nothing is my imagination and just a reflection of the happenings of the society.' He says reel relects the real, and not the other way round.

Maybe. Or may not be. True, most wives still are truthful and caring, and the two incidents of the week may not reflect a larger trend.

#### SPECIAL STORY

Yet, deep down, most agree that women of today are made of different mettle. As a wise man said in a Tamil movie several decades ago, kolaiyum seival pathini. Indeed.

**<u>GO TOP</u>** / <u>HOME</u> / <u>OTHER SPECIAL STORIES</u>

#### PRINCIPAL SPEAK Mamma mia! Let me unburden myself

**A** child enters a whole new world when it steps in the school for the first time. It has a divine heart and an untraced intellect. It has no judgement of the right or wrong. I have tried to think for the child and advise to the parents and teachers about his/her tender feelings in an innovative way.

This is a child addressing the mother.

Dear Mom,

Thank you for sending me to school. I feel so happy today. I have always wondered how papa could read the newspaper. Now I shall learn how to read like him.

I shall read books to know how people get inside the TV set. But I dislike that fighting and bloodshed depicted in movies. I want to talk to the stars and want to know who colours the butterflies.

You have always given me good food to make me grow strong. Please also suggest things that will help my mind grow. I shall be asking you so many questions, so don't snub me. Instead explain to me what is written in the colourful books of mine.

Sometimes take me around to see the beautiful world outside. Ask papa to come back early from work because I love talking to both of you. It upsets me when you and papa fight.

Teach me how I can win the love of all my friends and teachers. I want to share my things with them. However, to save me from becoming over-dependant allow me to learn on my own. Kindly request my teachers not to overload me with work otherwise I will have no time left to play.

Please make me imbibe the difference between freedom and discipline. And keep me away from envy, greed, untruth, fear and hate.

I will miss you when I am away to school, but you have told me that is important. Going by your advice, I shall take care of my books and belongings and shall be right back.

O. S Shekhawat, Vidya Niketan School, Faridabad.



#### Life sentence for killing husband

COURTS

#### Faridabad, April 28

A woman, convicted for murdering her husband last year, was sentenced to life term by the Court of Additional Session Judge, Mr S. S. Lamba. Her brother-in-law and son, however, were acquitted due to the lack of evidence. According to the prosecution, the accused along with her son, Mahesh, had lodged a complaint with the police on September 26, 2001, that Jeetram (woman's husband) was murdered by three persons. His body was found in a field.

The FIR named Darshan, Sudesh and Mamman as the main accused. The woman, identified as Chanderwati, "helped" the police to recover the pistol that was used to kill Jeetram. However, there was some dispute over the money deposited in a bank by the deceased. Later, in a dramatic twist, the woman changed her statement and told the Panchayat of Manpur village that Jeetram was mentally upset and had committed suicide by using the firearm. Subsequently, the suspicion was directed towards the woman, who admitted during interrogation that she killed her husband for the money and disposed of the body with help of her son and brother-in-law. **TNS** 



#### THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: HYDERABAD**



Click here	Search in Advanced Search Google	Bharat Matrimony, <i>com</i>		
Indiatimes > The Times of India > Cities > Hyderabad > Article				
G@AL 2006	Minor aborts unhappy marriage by stabbing husband [Sunday, May 21, 2006 03:03:06 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]	Mobile Downloads Aaj nishana lagaya kya? Swimsuit Calendar		
HOME Mission Mumbri	XML RSS Feeds   SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates	. Krrish on 8888! . Mallika i hate you!		
Mission Mumbai CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs Real Estate   Auto	HYDERABAD: A minor, who was forced to marry against her wishes, allegedly stabbed her husband to death at Ramanthapur in the city. The ninth-standard student from Peddamamidi village in Mahbubnagar district was coerced into marriage by her parents last year.	Hotel stay@ affordable prices. . Holidays in Tirupati 1 night/2 days @ 7040		
Travel Education Post Print Ads	"I did not want to marry. But my parents forced me into it," the accused told reporters after she was taken into custody by the Uppal police. She showed little remorse for the crime she committed. The 16-year-old girl had married G Shiv Raj, 30, a native of Polepalli village of the same district on May 29 last year.	. Best Western the Emerald, Mumbai @ 2550 . Nalapad		
All Classifieds HOT LINKS ePaper	Shiv Raj owned a sweet shop near Ramanthapur and the couple were staying in a house at Vasavi Nagar Colony. The girl had stayed back with her parents till she completed her SSC.	Residency, Bangalore @ 1485 . Hotel Nand Residency,		
NRI Finance RSS Feeds	Having cleared the exam with 320 marks, her parents insisted she stay with her husband. Thus, much against her wishes she was packed off to Hyderabad on April 23 this year.	Mussoorie @ 1620		
Test Centre NEWS Cities	She, however, reportedly maintained a distance with her husband and the couple quarrelled regularly over the issue frequently. Her in-laws also admonished her for her behaviour. The couple's neighbours also claimed that their relationship was strained.	<b>~</b>		
Ahmedabad Bangalore Chandigarh	The girl tried to run away to her parents once, but was brought back. On Friday night, the couple reportedly attended a wedding and returned home at around 10.30 pm.	MY TIMES WY VOICE		
Delhi Hyderabad	Uppal police inspector A Muthyam Reddy said the couple might have had an argument over some issue following which she stabbed her husband in the chest with a kitchen knife. Hearing Shiv Raj's cries the neighbours came to his rescue and shifted him to a hospital.	MY TIMES. MY VOICE		
Kolkata Lucknow Mumbai	The girl also accompanied her husband and remained in the hospital while he underwent treatment. Shiv Raj died in the wee hours on Saturday following which the girl was taken into custody.	۶		
Patna Pune	Write to the Editor	News in this Section		
Thiru'puram		for dowry? . PR polls: YSR		
City Supplements India		predicts clean sweep for Cong		
Cricket		. Builders, flat-owners lock horns over fire		
Sports		safety norms		
World Entertainment		. Telugus abandoning mother tongue		
India Business		. HC puts PR polls back on the rails		
Intl Business				
Health / Science	📇 Print this page 🛛 Email this page 🥈 Comment on this article			
Lifestyle	RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] 1 2 3 4 5			
Photo Gallery	Read Comments			
TOI Headlines	No comment has been posted for this article yet.			



Search DH

#### DECCAN 🚵 H Monday, May 22, 2006

Home | About Us | Subscribe | Contact Us | Archives | Feedback | DH Avenues

	Deccan Herald »
News National	Rape: Mino
State	-
District	DH News Service H
City	A minor girl, v
Business	killed him whe
Foreign	The girl, who
Sports	and was agair
Comment	(30) last year
Edit Page	
Panorama	But she insiste the 10th class
Net Mail	
Your Take	Her husband v
Infoline	pressurised he
In City Today	school. Her pl
Helpline	forcibly broug
Daily Almanac	husband. She
Festivals of India	According to t
Weather	On Friday she
In Bangalore	with it to keep
Mainly clear sky	
Max: 31.5	However, she himself upon I
Min: 20.1	help took him
- Tex	alcohol in Shiv
Leisure	
Crossword	According to l
Horoscope	under Juvenile
PYear 2006	put in a juven
Weekly	Women's activ
Daily Astrospeak	treated as a v
Annual Chinese	
Horoscope - 2006_	
₩ <u>Calendar 2006</u>	
Pearls of wisdom "Money speaks but it speaks with a male voice."	

Andrea Dworkin

#### **National** » Detailed Story

#### r girl murders husband

-lyderabad:

who was forced into marriage by her parents and who was raped by her husband, en he tried to rape her again here on Saturday. She is in police custody.

is said to be around 15 or 16 years old, told the police that she wanted to study nst marriage. But her family forced her and married her off to her cousin Shivraj

ed on finishing her school and remained in her village in Mahbubnagar to finish s. She passed with Second Class last month.

who runs a mithai shop in Ramantapur locality, er parents to send her to him as she had finished eas to study further were rejected and she was ht by her parents to the city and left with her tried to run away but was again brought back.

Open a Citibank NRI Account for S Chat now>> \*Conditions apply

the girl, she was raped by her husband a few times. e kept a knife with her and wanted to threaten him p him off.

told the police she did not remember how it happened. When he tried to force her she stabbed him. When he collapsed she ran to the neighbours and with their to Osmania Hospital where he died. Police said autopsy showed there was vraj's stomach.

egal experts here, since the girl is a minor she will be tried in a juvenile court e Justice Act. If proved guilty she will be sent to special schools for reformation or nile home and would be allowed to continue her studies.

vists said the marriage is null and void since the girl is a minor and she should be victim of rape who acted in self-defence.





Monday, January 16, 2006, Chandigarh, India

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

PUNJAB

**HARYANA** 

Years of Trust

#### **JAMMU & KASHMIR**

- HIMACHAL
- REGIONAL BRIEFS
- OPINIONS
- MAILBAG
- BUSINESS
- SPORTS

#### SPECIAL COVERAGE

- CHANDIGARH

DELHI

THE TRIBUNE SPECIALS 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

> TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



JALANDHAR

#### What's making these femmes fatal?

# Majority of the murder cases have roots in extramarital affairs

Kapurthala, January 15

It is a revelation that is baffling the district police more and more everyday. Investigations into the murder cases reported recently from the area have revealed that majority of these had roots in women having extramarital affairs and some of them wanting to get rid of their husbands.



Students throng the open air theatre in Lyallpur Khalsa College to watch the cultural meet—Galaxy 2006— in Jalandhar on Sunday. The event was organised by the college's Commerce Department. — Tribune photo by Pawan Sharma

#### Search

#### **EARLIER STORIES**

- Sansarpur yet to have its own hockey ground
   January 15, 2006
- Incomplete bridge inconveniences commuters, PUDA blamed January 14, 2006
- <u>Dharmendra's</u>
   <u>homecoming</u>
   January 13, 2006
- Members of RCF's Staff Council resign January 12, 2006
- Manila murder spree continues January 11, 2006
- Money exchanges flourish in Doaba January 10, 2006
- Frost damages potato, tomato crops in region January 9, 2006
- City colder than Srinagar at minus four degrees January 8, 2006
- Financier trapped, murdered by women, male accomplices
   January 7, 2006
- Woman paraded naked after tiff over constructing gate January 6, 2006

#### PCCTU to observe 'Protest Week'

#### Phagwara, January 15

The Punjab and Chandigarh College Teachers Union (PCCTU), the apex body of over 5000 college teachers working in 170 non-government affiliated colleges of the state and the Union Territory, has decided to launch an agitation to press for their demands.

#### Principals' Association writes to PU VC

#### Jalandhar, January 15

The Principals' Association of the Non-Government Colleges affiliated to Panjab University has written to the Vice-Chancellor of the university demanding a probe into the state of the sports hostel that has been constructed on the campus for sportspersons from the affiliated colleges.

#### Over 2 lakh children given polio drops

Jalandhar/ Phagwara, January 15 Over 2 lakh children under the age of five were administered polio drops under the polio mopup drive in the Jalandhar district today. According to Dr S.P. Sharma, Civil Surgeon, Jalandhar, 70 per cent of the total 29,5402 children in need of polio drops in the district, were vaccinated.

A month-old baby being administered polio drops during the pulse polio campaign in Jalandhar on Sunday. — A Tribune photo



#### Unidentified body found, murder suspected

Phagwara, January 15

An unidentified body of a youth was recovered by the local police from a deserted house in the middle of a field in Chaheru village here last night.

#### Three killed in separate incidents

#### Phagwara, January 15

Three persons were died in three separate accidents here in the last 24 hours. Parsani Devi (70) from Sant Nagar in Chachoki village died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle on the G.T. Road.



#### What's making these femmes fatal? Majority of the murder cases have roots in extramarital affairs Arun Sharma Tribune News Service

#### Kapurthala, January 15

It is a revelation that is baffling the district police more and more everyday. Investigations into the murder cases reported recently from the area have revealed that majority of these had roots in women having extramarital affairs and some of them wanting to get rid of their husbands.

As such, the Kapurthala SSP, Mr Rajeev Ahir, said he had ordered reinvestigations into all those unsolved murder cases and the reports of missing persons where the wives of the victims did not "seriously" pursue the cases after lodging their complaints.

The SSP said the motive behind the murders pointed to a depletion in social values in the region. "In many cases, the police found that the murder plans were hatched by women wanting to preserve their extra-marital relations."

Days before the arrest of a granthi in Phagwara on charges of killing a youth whose father, he suspected, was having an affair with his wife, the police here cracked the mystery behind the disappearance of a man and his son from Tanda Ram Sahai village in Mukerian and one Rawail Singh from Tandi village in Kapurthala.

In the first case, Daljit Singh, the paramour of Paramjeet Kaur, allegedly killed her husband, Gurtaj Singh, and even his father, Mohinder Singh, to make the extra-marital relation hindrance-free, the

#### police said.

The officials added that Daljit Singh, the accused in the first case, also extended a helping hand to one Kuldeep Kaur by allegedly killing her husband, Rawail Singh. The woman here was a distant relative of Paramjeet Kaur and she too wanted to get rid of her husband to maintain her alleged illicit relations in the village, the police added.

Sometime before this, Dimple, a resident of Jalandhar, was held with two persons on charges of murdering one Gurmit Singh, a resident of Rasoolpur village in Nakodar.

The police said all the accused and even the victim were found to be involved in illicit relations.

Another interesting aspect of these cases, sources in the police said, was that the victims as well as the male accused were found to be drug addicts.

Another aspect, they added, was that the husbands of the accused women habitually remained absent from their homes for long durations.

A government official here, Mr Nath Singh Buttar, said that the number of men who had settled abroad from the region was vast. "The long spell of separation between a man and his wife here results in the extra-marital relations. It also becomes a root cause of acrimony between the couple when the man returns home."

The drug menace prevalent in the Doaba region could also be one of the major reasons behind this "femme fatale" phenomenon, Mr Ahir said.

"All the three persons whom Daljit Singh allegedly shot, were found to have taken heavy doses of drugs and liquor."

A member of the Drug De-addiction Society here, Mr Naveen, said there was a strong possibility that majority of the drug addicts might have remained unsuccessful in satisfying their wives and led their women turn towards other men.

But Mr J.J.S. Arora, President of the Bar Council in Kapurthala, said the search for more comforts was pulling some women into the world of crime.



#### PCCTU to observe 'Protest Week' Our Correspondent

#### Phagwara, January 15

The Punjab and Chandigarh College Teachers Union (PCCTU), the apex body of over 5000 college teachers working in 170 non-government affiliated colleges of the state and the Union Territory, has decided to launch an agitation to press for their demands.

The PCCTU teachers would observe a 'Protest Week' from January 19 to 24. During the agitation, they would resort to "two periods peak-time strike," and hold dharnas and rallies in the campus, Prof R.S. Brar and Dr Jagwant Singh, president and general secretary of the association, respectively, today told this correspondent.

This would be followed by a statewide mass casual leave and "Cease Work Protest Action' on January 31, the PCCTU leaders said, adding that they would also organise a state-level demonstration and rally at Matka Chowk at Chandigarh the same day.

They alleged that even though a budgetary provision of Rs 8.68 crore was made for giving 50 per cent DA from April 2004, yet the DA had not so far been merged.

Despite announcement by the Chief Minister on October 10 last year, Pension cum Gratuity issue was still hanging fire. The other poll promises mentioned in the party manifesto had not so far been fulfilled, they alleged.

	prices on starting from Rs. 999!	SHOPPING	Lovely flowers
MP3	B players Grab one, play your music!	Buy Now	your loved
	<b>CITY SUPPLEMENTS:</b>		ones in India.
		POWERED BY	12) . Al
THE TIMES OF	<b>LUCKNOW TIMES</b>	INDIATIMES	100
Click here) shaadl.com	Search in <u>Advanced Search</u> Coogle	Click Here	Bunch of Love
Indiatimes > The Tin	nes of India > City Supplements > Lucknow Times > Article Click here or call 1-800-	INDIA-10 make	INR: 557 USD: 12.81
Goo AL 2006         HOME         Mission Mumbai         CLASSIFIEDS         Matrimonials   Jobs         Real Estate   Auto         Travel         Education         Post Print Ads         All Classifieds         HOT LINKS         ePaper         NRI Finance         RSS Feeds         Test Centre	<ul> <li>Show me the money, hubby! Cip Anjali Singh Jaiswal [Saturday, May 20, 2006 11:02:26 pm TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]</li> <li>Marital Construction of the city are cashing in on their marital disputes.</li> <li>Marital disputes are fast becoming a popular way to rake in the moolah and legally at that. Legal eagles in the city claim that the abla nari now is the one laughing all the way to the bank.</li> <li>Confirming the trend, lawyers at family courts say they are seeing a rise in cases where economically independent women are exploring ways to make the most of their failed marriages.</li> <li>Says Ranjana Dixit, advocate and president of the American Library Bar Association (Family Courts), "A large number of cases coming to us are of women seeking maintenance despite not being entitled to the same.</li> <li>The law clearly states that if a woman is economically independent, she cannot demand financial help from her husband. But that does not deter women from making quick money through marital disputes.</li> </ul>	Mobile Downloads . Timesjobs now on 8888! . Swimsuit Calendar . Mirchi hits . Mallika i hate you! Hotel stay@ affordable prices. . Holiday in Australia @ 32,960 . Nalapad Residency, Bangalore @ 1485 . Emarald hotel, Mumbai @ 2550 . Silla Goa, Goa @ 1600 MY TIMES. MY TIMES.	Bunch of Roses INR: 310 USD: 7.31 12 Pink Gerberas INR 410 USD: 9.43 Same day delivery anywhere in India* indiatimes SHOPPING *Conditions apply
NEWS Cities City Supplements Delhi Times Bombay Times	With marriage laws titled in the women's favour, it's not difficult either. An added advantage is the ignorance of the husband and his family about their own rights." 1   2   Next >	MY TIMES. MY VOICE	
Bangalore TimesPune TimesCalcutta TimesHyderabad TimesAhmedabad TimesLucknow TimesKanpur TimesIndiaCricketSportsWorldEntertainmentIndia Business	Print this page      Email this page      Comment on this article     RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding]      2 3 4 8  Read Comments No comment has been posted for this article yet.	News in this Section . It happened one night . Kaif reloaded . Ash playing hide & seek . Khanna khandaan's filmi union? . 'Why is only Rahul being victimised?'	
Intl Business Infotech Health / Science Lifestyle			

	t prices on Starting from Rs. 999!	SHOPPING	Discover the best deals	
MP3	Grab one, play your music!	Buy Now	across the	
CITY SUPPLEMENTS:				
THE TIMES OF	LUCKNOW TIMES	POWERED BY INDIATIMES	V. 10	
Click here Shaad1.com	Search in Advanced Search	Click Here	+	
Indiatimes > The Tin	nes of India > City Supplements > Lucknow Times > Article Best Deals • NYC-DEL-NYC L	US \$720 Call 1-800-INDIA-10		
G@AL 2006	Show me the money, hubby! <u>Sclip</u> Anjali Singh Jaiswal [ Saturday, May 20, 2006 11:02:26 pm TIMES NEWS NETWORK ]	Mobile Downloads Timesjobs now on 8888! Swimsuit Calendar Mirchi hits		
HOME	RSS Feeds   SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates	. Mallika i hate you!	+	
Mission Mumbai CLASSIFIEDS Matrimonials   Jobs Real Estate   Auto Travel	With a Supreme Court ruling legalising live-in relationships, Dixit informs, "Even those who remarry don't declare their second marriage by presenting it as a live-in relationship, in order to continue claiming maintenance from their ex-husband. Since such women come from affluent homes, the sum they receive as maintenance is sizable."	Hotel stay@ affordable prices. . Holiday in Australia @ 32,960 . Nalapad Residency, Bangalore @ 1485	↓ 00	
Education Post Print Ads All Classifieds HOT LINKS	Making matters worse is the family interference from both sides, say city sociologists. Explains Pallavi Bagchi, a city based sociologist and a counsellor for an NGO dealing with marital disputes, "Ambitious women today are encouraged to teach their husbands a lesson.	Emarald hotel, Mumbai @ 2550 Silla Goa, Goa @ 1600	where India comes to travel Book Now!	
ePaper NRI Finance	With her standard of living too having risen, she refuses to be taken for granted. These reasons can lead her to consider ways that are immoral to maintain a steady flow of money and the marital dispute is seen as the easiest way to ensure that."			
RSS Feeds Test Centre NEWS	Agrees Kailash Nath Sahu, secretary Agarwal Samaj, who was called upon by the parents of a groom to bail them out of such a situation, "The marriage was solemnised in a mass mas marriage ceremony sans any dowry.	MY TIMES. MY VOICE		
Cities City Supplements	Unable to adjust to the family in Gorakhpur, the girl returned to her parents in Sitapur after a few months and refused to go back. A case of dowry harassment was filed and money given as dowry was demanded back.	MY TIMES. MY VOICE		
Delhi Times Bombay Times Bangalore Times	The boy's side then approached us to testify in court that no dowry was taken at the time of marriage. The intention was to financially gain as much as possible through a marriage turned sour."	<b>*</b>		
Pune Times Calcutta Times Hyderabad Times	But feels Ranjana Bajpai, president, State Women Commission, "I don't deny such cases occur, but these are exceptions.	News in this Section . It happened one night . Kaif reloaded		
Ahmedabad Times	In fact, the lawyers and police egg on the warring parties to demand a fat sum which can be shared between them. So why blame only women?" So why blame only women? So why blame only women?	. Ash playing hide & seek . Khanna khandaan's		
Kanpur Times		filmi union?		
India		. 'Why is only Rahul being victimised?'		
Cricket Sports World		being victimised?		
Entertainment				
India Business				
Intl Business				
Infotech				
Health / Science Lifestyle				



# MUMBAI MIRROR | CITY

MUMBAI, Tuesday, November 22, 2005

Home			
Front Page	Mumbai's divorce cases are doubling	E-mail this article	
City	annually	Q_Search archive     ↓	
Nation	Coursellors blong infidelity incompatibility and	Print this article	
World	Counsellors blame infidelity, incompatibility and interference from in-laws		
Business			
Views	Bapu Deedwania		
Technologies	The rate at which the number of divorce cases have been	n increasing in the last few years i	
Sports	say marriage counsellors. While in 2002, there were 1,819 cases, the number went up to :		
Health & Fitness	Currently, there are a whopping 6,000 petitions pending	In the family courts.	
Relationships	"The number of divorces has been almost doubling annu	5	
Entertainment	family court," said Sunanda Joshi, Principal Judge, Bandı every day, she added.	a family court. About 30-35 coup	
People	Other than incompatibility and infidelity, marriage couns	ellor Rukhsana Avaz said impulsiv	
Chai-Time	reason for broken families. She said couples gave up on their marriages very easily.		
Television	Sexologist Rajan Bonsle said problems with in-laws was relationships. "Usually, the couple functions better in iso	3	

### MY MUMBAI <mark>Mirror</mark>

The counsellors also noted that more and more couples in the city were opting for divorce

misunderstandings between spouses. When in-laws don't influence the marriage, a couple

"There is a speedy rise in divorce by mutual consent among urban couples because it is m obtain. As both spouses are financially independent, they prefer to end the association wit Ayaz.

Considering the sharp increase in divorces many in the legal fraternity feel that the time h nuptial agreements to become acceptable.

"Judicial activism can introduce new laws that accommodate pre-nuptial agreements. Thes the process and settle matters in an amicable way," said Justice Joshi.



■ <u>E-mail this article</u>
 <u>Rate this article</u>

■ Print this article
▼ Comment

Q\_Search arc
∞\_View Comr

#### More in City



#### Abu Salem now sells a sob story

reduced almost by 80 per cent," he said.

During an informal chat in the first week of his interrogation, gangster Abu Salem reporte to Central Bureau of Investigation ............<u>More</u>

#### Mom drags daughter's stalker to police station

Mom, it seems, knows best, be it the treatment for colds or how to deal with those roadsi plague you while you trudge to school. .....<u>More</u>

#### Win until death

http://www.mumbaimirror.com/nmirror/mmpaper.asp?sectid=2&articleid=112120052326... 11/21/2005

Mangalorean.Com- Serving Mangaloreans Around The World!



#### Bar girl leaves hubby pauper

**Bhopal, May 31:** A bar girl, who married a Mumbai-based businessman, ran away with all his money, valuables and their child, and now refuses to leave her hometown in Madhya Pradesh despite her husband's pleas.

Vyomesh Mittal, a garment dealer in Mumbai, married Sonu two-and-a-half years back. However, while he was away on a business trip last month, the bar girl reportedly decamped with his money and is now living with her parents in Morena town.

Mittal travelled all the way to Morena in search of his wife, where he narrated the incident to Superintendent of Police Ravi Gupta.

Despite his numerous pleas, Sonu refused to return to Mumbai with Mittal. Further, he was threatened by her family members to forget her or pay with his life.

"I was not even allowed to meet my 18-months-old son and her family members threatened to kill me if I dared to visit the place ever again. I am not worried about the money and the valuables, but I simply want her to return and live with me", Mittal was quoted as telling Gupta.

According to the police, Sonu belongs to a family deeply rooted in prostitution. However, they too are helpless, as Mittal has refused to lodge an official complaint.

They said that the businessman does not want any action against Sonu, but wants her to return home with his child.

Times of India

Print article | E-mail article | Post comment | View comments

#### **News Headlines**

- Foundation stone for ONGC project will be laid soon,assures PM
- Mangalore- bound goods train derails
- PM In Bangalore: Tells banks to reach out to every farmer (Roundup)
- Manipal: Syndicate Bank to float brand image
- Mangalore: High alert, heavy rains predicted
- Mangalore: Girls fare better than boys in degree exams
- Mangalore: Daily Wage Employees to go on hunger strike
- Mangalore Airport
   Scene Blow-By Blow Account
- Kinfisher Airlines
   launches First
   Companion offer
- Mangalore: Dr Vivian Mendonca for Toronto

more news

Browse Previous News:



 Web
 Mangalorean.Com

 Privacy
 Terms and Conditions
 Tell your Friend
 Contact Us
 About Us
 Join Us
 Home

Site designed and maintained by Roshan D'souza, USA.

# CRIME PATROL

	Husband bashed by cruel wife!	
НОМЕ	Alka Rastogi	OTHER Crime Patrol STORIES
	Lucknow, April 3, 2006	Woman stripped, laughed at!
HOT SPOT	Feedback	
	A rare case of domestic abuse	Tongue cut to appease God
CRIME PATROL	has been reported. A doctor, living in Agra, has filed a	Incestuous siblings make porn!
SPORTS CENTRE	complaint with the cops 🛛 📓 Print the story	
SPORTS CENTRE	alleging that he has been physically and mentally tortured	Man stripped, stoned!
FACHTON CTREET	by his wife.	
FASHION STREET	Dr Himanshu Kulbhushan has filed the complaint against his wife,	Principal sexually abuses kids
HEARSAY	Leena Kulbhushan, an ophthalmologist.	More Stories »
0 HEARDA (	According to Himanshu, his wife often slapped, boxed and beat hi	m
HARD TALK	with rods! Recently, she gave him a beating as a result of which h	
	hand got fractured.	What shocked Adam at IFW?
CELEB WATCH	The doctor has further complained that his wife used to hurl	Model Adam Bedi spills the
	unprintable abuses on him causing mental torture from last three years. Moreover, the wife has soiled her husband's reputation in t	beans on his first hand
ON THE COUCH	eyes of his relatives, friends and patients by abusing and torturing	revelation that came his way
	him. Currently, the man is very scared of his wife, who is also an essurgeon.	
GIRL TALK		5 SPORTS centre
<b>6</b>	Meanwhile, Leena (his wife) after being arrested has been release on bail. The police has registered a case against her under sectio	ne David Deckhain enjoys the
BABE WATCH	325,323,499, 504, and 506 of IPC.	paini
		England football captain and fashion icon David Beckham
LIFE BIZARRE	It is learnt that the police released her on a personal level as "she was a reputed eye surgeon and there was no chance of her runni	
,	away."	enjoys the pair of tattoos.
PUNCH LINE	l laura a ba buchand ann air a barbar in sin air a bir uife	fashion STREET
·	However, her husband expects a harsher treatment on his wife.	Oomph & Oeuvre at Fashion
YEAR ENDER 2005	Interestingly, after the lady doctor was released she once again	Fiesta
×	threatened her husband with dire consequences for having report the matter to the police. She has reportedly left for Kota but her	The Deini Fashion Week
ARCHIVES	husband is living in constant fear of her arrival.	countdown is on. Check out all the glam & gossip right here!
·	Have your say	Photos   Download
	Feel strongly about something. Have your say here »	
	Read other views »	

Home Photos Cricket Tabloid HT Next Hindustan Infotainment Money2India HT Editions Matrimonial Classifieds

	Ads by Go	ogle			
	Are Your www.pla iBoss In The affor	to Parent Child's Play Dates Safe?, Don't Tak ydatesecure.com ternet Filtering rdable hardware solution., Easy to u antom.com			
⊠ <u>E-mail us</u>	E Feedback	Terms & Conditions	Advertisements	© HT Media Ltd.	2006.



#### Home > Business > Special

India's new worldly BusinessWeek online women

Pete Engardio, Businessweek | October 03, 2005

When the first American music videos and popular TV shows began appearing in Indian homes in the early 1990s thanks to satellite and cable, many pundits predicted Indian society would never be the same. For the first time, young Indian women saw a regular dose of sexy, scantily clad divas shimmying.

Female viewers also saw independent, successful women -- think Ally McBeal -- and fun, sensitive guys a la Friends. Sex and divorce were openly discussed in these TV imports and couples kissed passionately -- then still a taboo in Indian TV shows and movies.

Indeed, the impact on younger generations of Indian women has been profound. Whereas Indian women traditionally have been submissive to parents and husbands and valued frugality and modesty, a number of sociological studies show that young Indian females now prize financial independence, freedom to decide when to marry and have children, and glamorous careers.



#### A New World Economy

#### **Tomorrow's buyers**

"A generation back, women would sacrifice themselves and believed in saving," says Nisha Singhania, senior strategic planning director of Grey Worldwide India. "Today, it is spend, spend, spend. It is O.K. for a woman to want something for herself, and people will accept it if she goes out into a man's world making a statement."

Because today's young women are the key consumer group of



tomorrow, these shifts have big implications for marketing companies.

# Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

#### Jobs That Could Swim Offshore

And the trends come out clearly in two recent studies by Grey Global Group. One study examined 3,400 unmarried women aged 19-22 of different income and social levels. Altogether, the project involved 40 focus groups in five large metro areas and five smaller cities.

In some cases, the researchers lived with the women for a while to study them more closely. The researchers supplemented this data with interviews of journalists, teachers, and psychologists.

Among the findings:

**Guilt-free materialism.** Fifty-one per cent of young single women in major metro areas say it's necessary to have a big house and big car to be happy. In smaller cities, 86% agreed with this statement. "This shows that the less women have, the greater are their aspirations," says Singhania.

One woman interviewed was making just \$200 a year but said she wants to own a jet plane. "A typical comment in recent interviews was, 'I want money, fame and success," says Singhania.

**Parental ties.** Traditionally, parents regarded girls as somebody else's future property. They arranged marriages for their daughters, and then the daughters would go away and take care of their in-laws, so parents needed and doted on sons. "As a girl, you never spoke to your parents. They spoke to you," Singhania says.

But today's young women are rebelling against that. Sixty-seven per cent say they plan to take care of their parents into their old age -- and that means they need money.

Unilever played on that sentiment with a recent controversial -- but successful -- ad for its Fair and Lovely line of beauty products. A daughter came home and found that her parents had no sugar for coffee because they couldn't afford it. She became an airline hostess after using the Fair and Lovely products to make her beautiful. She then visited her parents and took them to a first-class restaurant.

**Marital freedom.** Now many women say they'll marry when ready -not when their parents decide to marry them off. Sixty-five per cent say dating is essential, and they also want to become financially independent before they marry. More than three-quarters -- 76% -say they want to maintain that independence afterward. Sixty per cent say they'll decide how to spend their own salaries.

What's more, 76% say they'll decide when to have children. "They now regard this as the woman's decision completely," observes Singhania. In big metro areas, 24% say they never want children, and that number reaches 40% in smaller cities.

**Individualism.** Female role models in Indian culture used to personify perfection, Singhania says. Now, 62% of girls say it's O.K. if

SC gives 2-week breather to Tata OVL, GAIL tie up with Daewoo Wanted: Lots of civil engineers Maharashtra wine output rockets Sensex up 60 points at 8758 How to win in the stock market Go for term insurance now Red tape stalls ONGC's plan Story behind the Mirinda ad BPL rules out Sanyo rejig impact Today in Getahead

3 balanced funds to considerProblems with your home loan?Test your biz English skillsTest your English lang. skillsTest your English lang. skillsPG programmes in ITPG programmes in ITDoes an MBA in Australia help?GA: Best of the weekHow to write a winning SOPToday in CricketMumbai Ranji probables named

Ganguly must score runs: Hussain Dalmiya refutes mail leak charge Railways on brink of victory 'Selectors to decide on Ganguly' Dalmiya: A master negotiator Tait, Hogg out of Super Series Dravid stars in World XI victory Sourav's eatery bags US order Indian eves rout Pakistan India's new worldly women

they have faults and that people see them. "They don't want to be seen as Mrs. Perfect," she says. "Popular characters are Phoebe of Friends and Ally McBeal. They like women who commit blunders."

**Careerism.** A decade ago, most young women saw themselves as housewives. After that, most said they wanted to be teachers or doctors. "If they had a profession at all, it had to be a noble cause," Singhania says. "Now, it is about glamour, money, and fame."

A surprising 45% of young single females say they would like to be journalists. Singhania says that's largely because prominent female journalists, especially TV reporters, are seen as very glamorous.

Another 39% say they would like to be managers, 38% are interested in design, and 20% think they want to be teachers. Interestingly, 13% say they would like to be in the military. The per centage of those saying they want to be a full-time housewife was minuscule.

**Modern husbands.** "The relationship with the husband used to be one of awe," Singhania says. "Now, women want a partner and a relationship of equals. They want to marry a man like Greg of Dharma and Greg or Chandler of Friends."

A recent Whirlpool ad shows a man washing the family clothes before his wife comes home from work, while a Samsung home-appliance ad shows a husband and wife cooking together.

For Indian society, the changes in young women's outlook on life is revolutionary. For marketers, they offer interesting new opportunities to exploit.

ALSO SEE: What's Cool in India and China

More Specials

Share your comments

HOME NEWS BUSINESS GET AHEAD CRICKET MOVIES SPORTS SHOPPING MATCHMAKER MOBILE RINGTONES BLOGS JOBS CARS

Copyright © 2005 rediff.com India Limited. All Rights Reserved.

#### **FIMES** ONLINE st of The Times and The Sunday Times, in rea

#### ember 19 2005

TIMES ONLINE Britain

World Business Money Sport

Comm Travel Entertainment

Books

Driving Property & Gardens

Women Health

Jobs

Food & Drink Education

Student Tech & Net Games

Crossword Law Weather Sunday Times

TLS Weblogs Site Map

SPECIAL REPORTS Auto Inno

Power 100 Sporting Greats Future Life CRM and compliance Management Issues The Art of Travel Men's Style French Film Café Business Travel



Marketplace



RSS NEWS FEEDS FROM TIMES ONLINE NEWSPAPER EDITION THE TIMES
 THE SUNDAY TIMES

CPAPER THE TIMES AND THE SUNDAY TIMES ELECTRONIC PAPER

Search



SITE WEB MSN. Search

Wife's Lib makes Indian

pin the blame for the breakdown; women's

when with older members of his family.

His wife, Anjali, 26, is a marketing executive who often works until late at night and travels for her job. Anil, 28, says he had no problem with her career but

wanted her to come home earlier to spend time with

their six-year-old son. What also rankled was her reluctance to perform *puja* (prayers) and wear a sari

"I don't mind if she roams around in shorts or jeans when we're with friends, but I expected her to wear

traditional clothes in front of my parents," he said.

"Whenever I asked her to follow any Indian tradition, she'd ask, 'Why?' I'm all for working women and I

know society is changing, but we have to preserve

Indian marriage is in crisis. More and more young couples like the Srivastavs are getting divorced. Although no reliable national statistics are available, the number of divorces within the first year of

marriage have risen by around 30% since 2000. Seven out of 10 involve couples aged 25 to 35.

considering Indian society's obsession with marriage. Weddings, which often last for days, are

These statistics are all the more shocking

both highly expensive and lavish by western

Traditionally to be unmarried was to be a circus

For centuries Indian women were expected to "adjust" to their husbands — a classic euphemism

husband and in-laws and endure virtually anything short of insanity or depravity. But young, educated,

meaning a bride must bend to the will of her

The new woman is smart, has an MBA, wears

designer clothes, drives herself around town and sips chardonnay in funky bars. Increasingly economically independent, she is no longer prepared to remain in an unhappy marriage

"Women are driving the change. They are the ones

whose marriage manual, Spouse: The Truth About Marriage, is soaring up the bestsellers list. A short, light, breezy read aimed at the middle classes. Spouse has sold 15.000 copies in a week. De, who claims to have been "blown away" by the book's success, says: "Indian couples are confused

and bewildered. With women changing so radically, the men are really struggling to adapt."

The onus, according to De, is on men to change. "They have to realise that women no longer need marriage as a security blanket or as a meal ticket,

she said, "Women can pay their own way, pay their own bills. What they want now from marriage is respect and equality."

"I like stability and a settled life," she said. "His lifestyle is wild and anarchic and we just couldn't get along. My parents supported me. My mother told me

Many males appear reluctant to move with the times. In a recent survey of men in 11 cities, 72% said they expected their brides to be virgins. Asked if they would marry a woman who admitted to having had pre-marital sex, 77% said "No". Subhashini Ali, a women's rights activist, accuses men of trying to have the best of both worlds: "It suits them to continue with the old ways. They want their wives to work because they need a second

happy I should get out while I was still

if I was un

young.

Take Alisha Kapoor, 32, who has divorced her husband after four years of marriage because she considers they are temperamentally incompatible and want different things out of life.

questioning the old patterns and demanding change, while Indian men still want them to follow some 16th-century model of marital behaviour," says Shobhaa De, a former "bonkbuster" author

urban women lack their mothers' docility

freak, a divorced man was a curiosity and a divorcée was viewed as a painted Jezebel. But such perceptions are changing, even though some 95%

of marriages remain arranged.

The Sunday Times

divorce soar

Amrit Dhillon, New Delhi

liberation

our culture."

Boy kills himself with mum's gun Sharon recovering after

ADVERTISEMENT

0 LIVING LEGENDS TELL IT IN THEIR OWN WORDS READ THE TIMES SPORT TOMORROW JOIN THE DEE



income for a glamorous lifestyle, but they hate it when she comes home late from the office, puts her career first or doesn't grovel in front of her mother-in-law."

It is not that Indian women are abandoning all traditional notions. Most women still accept that they will probably live with their in-laws; and many would still not dream of eating before first serving their husbands. Some 78% of young people polled in a survey last year said it was "very important" for their spouses to be accepted by their families.

The question is how adept will Indian men be at the kind of "adjusting" that used to be expected of women. "It's going to very difficult," says De. "They have been mollycoddled for centuries by their mothers and wives. But this is their wake-up call."

#### ₿₿₩

Contact our advertising team for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times.

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Ltd. This service is provided on Times Newspapers' standard Terms and Conditions. Please read our Privacy Policy . To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from The Times, visit the Syndication website.

# Indian Courts on Misuse of 498a







#### Today's Edition

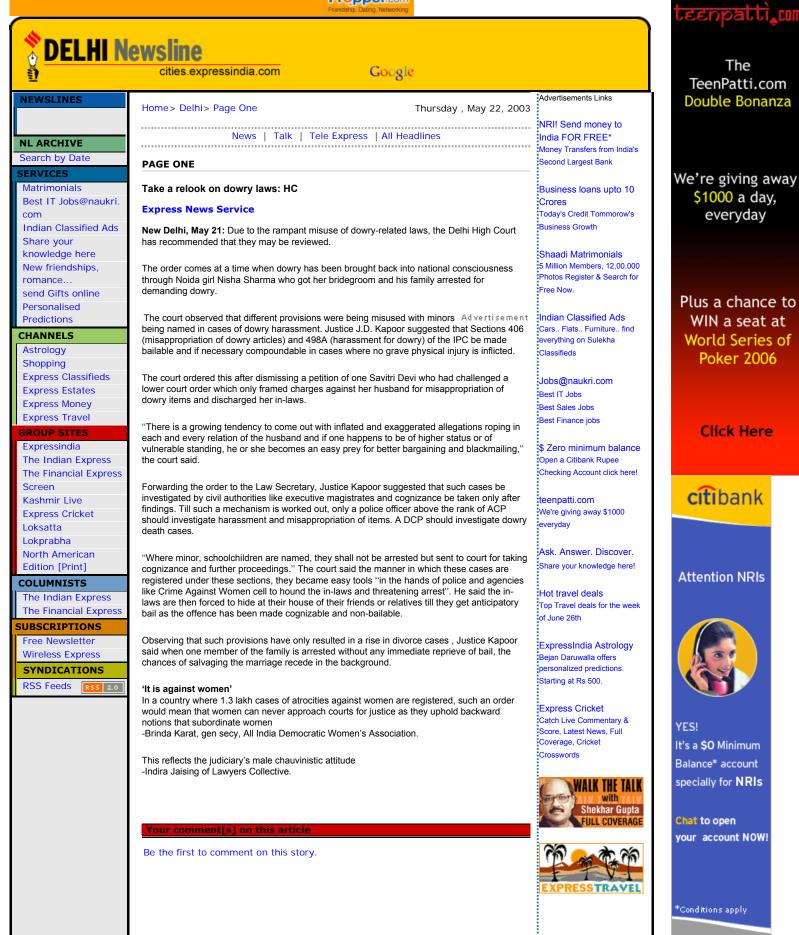
Friday, July 22, 2005

#### Advertise with us

IN TODAY'S PAPER	Front Page > Nation > Story	
Front Page		B
Nation	email this page Print this page	Business
<u>Calcutta</u>	Dowry law no licence to settle scores: SC	
<u>Bengal</u>	R. VENKATARAMAN	News
Opinion	New Delhi, July 21: The Supreme Court today warned that misuse of anti-dowry laws could	
International	unleash a "new legal terrorism".	
Business		<b>DDO D</b>
<u>Sports</u>	A division bench of Justices Arijit Pasayat and H.K. Sema said provisions in the laws are often	<b>BPO Buzz</b>
<u>At Leisure</u>	being misused to settle personal scores.	
WEEKLY FEATURES	The judges, however, declined to strike down Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code and	
Knowhow	Section 113B of the Dowry Abolition Act providing punishment for giving or taking dowry.	
Jobs		BSchool
Careergraph	"Merely because the provisions are constitutional that does not give a licence to	Bechovi
Telekids	unscrupulous persons to wreck personal vendetta or unleash harassment," the bench said.	channel
<u>Etc</u>		CHAINE
Weekend	The judges said "it may become necessary for the legislature" to find "appropriate" ways to deal with people behind "frivolous complaints or allegations", as the laws do not give any directions	
Look	in this regard.	
CITY NEWSLINES		W/ah
	The observation is neither a directive nor a mandate under any article of the Constitution.	Web
		1.1
SEARCH	However, the judges said trial should continue in the dowry case that prompted the apex court's comments.	exclusives
	Courts "have to take care of the situation within the existing framework" till the legislature brings	
	a provision to deal with "frivolous" complaints, the bench said.	
Archives Web		Archivas
Google	The object of the laws are "to strike at the root of the dowry menace" and the "provision is intended to be used as a shield and not an assassin's weapon, it said. If people cry "wolf" too	ALCIIITCS
0	often as a prank, assistance and protection may not be available when the actual "wolf"	
ARCHIVES	appears", the court cautioned.	
Since 1st March, 1999		
THE TELEGRAPH	"The object of the provision is prevention of the dowry menace. But many instances have come	
- About Us	to light where the complaints are not bonafide and have been filed with an oblique motive. In such cases, acquittal of the accused does not in all cases wipe out the ignominy suffered during	
- <u>Advertise</u>	and prior to trial. Some times, adverse media coverage adds to the misery," the judges said.	
- Feedback		
- Contact Us	-	
	email this page Print this page	

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1050722/asp/nation/story\_5020229.asp (1 of 2)7/27/2005 9:03:52 PM

**Fropper.com** 



FREE Money Transfers

or Life\*

http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=52582 (1 of 2)6/26/2006 9:54:29 PM

#### Arrest should be avoided until very necessary: HC

**NEW DELHI, Feb 1:** Stressing that the liberty of a citizen is of paramount importance, the Delhi High Court has directed the CBI, police and other investigating agencies to avoid arrest of a person until it was "very necessary" for the purpose of gathering evidence.

Maintaining that arrest should always be avoided if the probe could be completed even otherwise and accused gives full co-operation, Justice J D Kapoor said "the liberty of citizen and a Constitutional guarantee cannot be incised and therefore the police or investigating agencies should not remain under the impression that in every cognizable and non-bailable offence they should invariably arrest the offender".

The High Court's direction was delivered while holding prima facie "illegal" a trial Court order refusing to accept a CBI chargesheet on the ground that the accused was not arrested during the investigation of the case.

"It (Trial Court) has no power to return the chargesheet directing the Investigating Officer to first produce the accused in custody," the Court held.

Referring to the provision of arrest, the Court said it has been much abused and exploited by the police in offences related to section 498A/406 (cruelty by husband for dowry/ criminal breach of trust) of IPC where all relatives including husband and even old or minors are arrested.

Emphasising that unless the allegations are of "very serious nature" and "highest magnitude", the arrest should always be avoided", the Court observed "arrest of a person for less serious or such kinds of offence or offences which can be investigated without arrest by the police cannot be brooked by any civilized society".

The Court said arrest becomes necessary if the offence alleged was of grave nature and prescribes severe punishment and there was likelihood of an offender either absconding or not appearing on being summoned or his fleeing away from justice or judgement.

The Investigating Officer of a police station or CBI should arrest an accused for cognizable and non-bailable offence if it becomes necessary that only the custodial interrogation of an offender would help in the recovery of incriminating articles or weapons of offence or eliciting information as to his accomplice etc or for the purpose that would help in gathering evidence to prove the guilt, the Court said.

"Power to arrest is altogether different than the need for arrest," the Court observed and added "no authority howsoever powerful or mighty can be allowed to deny a person his liberty as it hits at the very foundation of democratic structure". (PTI)





Online edition of India's National Newspaper Monday, Dec 06, 2004

National

News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Advts: Classifieds | Employment | Obituary |

National

# Nagging by wife a ground for divorce, rules Supreme Court

By J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI, DEC. 5. The Supreme Court has held that a husband can seek divorce if he is subjected to mental agony and cruelty due to constant nagging by his wife.

A three-Judge Bench, comprising Justice Ruma Pal, Justice Arijit Pasayat and Justice C.K. Thakker, held that nagging by a wife in regard to her husband's relations with women, casting doubt on his reputation, character and fidelity would be a valid ground for seeking divorce.

#### "Grave and weighty"

The Bench, however, said the charges should be "grave and weighty enough so as to infer that it would be impossible for them to live together without mental agony, torture or distress." Further, "it must be something more serious than ordinary wear and tear of married life."

The judges felt that the matter should be considered in the light of the norms of the particular society to which the parties belong, their social values, status and the environment in which they live.

In this case, the doctor couple, a Telugu Brahmin and a Sikh woman, were married in 1978. They had two children. In 1997, the husband sought a divorce alleging that his wife's behaviour was obnoxious and humiliating.

Abused in public

·=\* 🕒

## **News Update**

About Us Contact Us

Stories in this Section

- Army Major, 10 others killed in blast
- The Vice-President did the trick
- Naxal outfit to observe black day on December 10
- President's intervention sought for suitable medication for Kanchi Acharya
- Congress pursuing vote bank politics, says Advani
- India, Russia to develop airlaunched BrahMos
- Bharat Petroleum, Kochi Refineries merger by April
- Insurgents, Army trade fire in Manipur
- Seize the chance, Chidambaram tells foreign investors
- Navy building high-speed data network
- Nagging by wife a ground for divorce, rules Supreme Court
- It is an honour, says Gopal Gandhi
- Dignity rally demands right to work
- We will not tolerate CPI(M)'s `terror politics': Pranab
- CPI(M) working for consensus on right to strike
- Five missing after mob violence
- Samajwadi Party plans walkout
- Krishna clarifies on `anti-Maharashtra' charge
- `Time for Generation Next to step in'
- Free power issue may dominate session

A Hyderabad Family Court passed a decree of judicial separation on the husband alleging that his wife ill-treated him and abused him in vulgar language at home and hospital and other places. The Andhra Pradesh

High Court set aside the order holding that the evidence did not emit smell of cruelty.

Allowing an appeal against the High Court order, the Supreme Court Bench said divorce should be allowed if an inference could be legitimately drawn that the treatment of the spouse was such that it caused an apprehension in the mind of the other spouse about his or her mental welfare.

Referring to the High Court order that the husband could not prove the allegations, the Bench said: "The concept — a proof "beyond shadow of doubt" — is to be applied to criminal trials and not to civil matters and certainly not to matters of such delicate personal relationship as those of husband and wife."

On the wife constantly objecting to her husband working with female staff at the hospital, the court said this amounted to casting doubt on the reputation, character and fidelity of her husband. "Constant nagging on these aspects certainly amounted to causing indelible mental agony and amounts to cruelty," the Bench observed and granted divorce to the couple.

Printer friendly page Send this article to Friends by E-Mail

#### National

News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Advts: Classifieds | Employment | Obituary | Updates: Breaking News | Archives Yesterday's Issue Datewise

Features: Life Magazine Literary Review Metro Plus Open Page Education Plus Book Review Business SciTech Entertainment Young World Property Plus Quest Folio

The Hindu Group: Home | About Us | Copyright | Archives | Contacts | Subscription Group Sites: The Hindu | Business Line | The Sportstar | Frontline | The Hindu eBooks | Home |

Copyright © 2004, The Hindu. Republication or redissemination of the contents of this screen are expressly prohibited without the written consent of The Hindu



Online edition of India's National Newspaper Thursday, Mar 23, 2006



# National

News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Engagements | Advts: Classifieds | Jobs | Obituary |

#### National

#### Amend Hindu Marriage Act, Court tells Centre



Make breakdown of marriage a ground for divorce

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has given yet another reason for divorce. Since at present "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" is not a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA), 1955, it has asked the Centre to suitably amend the Act to make this reason a ground for divorce.

A three-Judge Bench comprising Justice B.N. Agrawal, Justice A.K. Mathur and Justice Dalveer Bhandari pointed out that because of the change in circumstances and for covering a large number of cases where the marriages were virtually dead this concept ought to be pressed into service.

The Bench noted that "irrevocable breakdown of marriage" as a ground for divorce was prevalent in many other countries and "this court would like to recommend the Union of India to seriously consider bringing an amendment in the HMA to incorporate it as a ground for the grant of divorce. A copy of this judgment is to be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice." The Bench said, "Once the parties have separated and the separation has continued for a sufficient length of time and one of them has presented a petition for divorce, it can well be presumed that the marriage has broken down. The court, no doubt, should seriously make an endeavour to reconcile the parties; yet, if it is found that the breakdown is irreparable, then divorce should not be withheld."

In this case, the appellant Naveen Kohli got married to Neelu Kohli in November 1975. From 1994 they started living separately. On a petition Mr. Kohli, the trial court ordered cancellation of the marriage and directed him to pay Rs. 5 lakh to his wife. On an appeal from Ms. Kohli, the Allahabad High Court set aside the decree and Mr. Kohli preferred the present appeal to the apex court. "Once the marriage has broken down beyond repair, it would be unrealistic for the law not to take notice of that fact," the Bench said, granting divorce.

Printer friendly page Send this article to Friends by E-Mail

#### **News Update**

#### Stories in this Section

- Adjournment aimed at `saving' Sonia
- Capital account convertibility: CPI (M) expresses opposition
- Five-phased polling to ensure free voting: Chief Election Commissioner
- No middlemen: Pranab

i=" (-)

- Election Commission's fiat on rural job scheme
- Fuel loading into TAPP-3 begins
- AGP chief not interested in contesting
- Black panther's day out
- It is not an office of profit, says Congress
- Special police establishment Bill passed
- Australian visas online
- Amend Hindu Marriage Act, Court tells Centre
- Poll observers to meet tomorrow
- Samba spy case: High Court order set aside
- Slain men had links with Pakistan: police
- Start demilitarisation from Srinagar: Tarigami
- Readers' Editor for Hindi daily
- Anil Biswas still critical
- A special festival of films in Mumbai
- Report moderate in criticism of
   Pakistan
- Fatwas not binding, says AIMPLB
- AIDWA's concern
- New parameters for BPL category notified
- NGOs demand implementation of national policy on vendors
- Thrust to agriculture, infrastructure in Goa budget
  - NBA: expedite rehabilitation
- PM's assurance

Archives Yesterday's Issue Datewise



Online edition of India's National Newspaper

Monday, May 16, 2005

Tamil Nadu

News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Engagements | Advts: Classifieds | Employment |

Tamil Nadu

# Woman inspector asked to pay compensation for rights abuse

K.T. Sangameswaran

Probe conducted in violation of Dowry Prohibition Act

- Inspector did not allow a complainant to take treatment
- Departmental action recommended against the inspector
- Complainants harassed

CHENNAI: As per the Dowry Prohibition Rules, only a Deputy Superintendent of Police can investigate a complaint lodged under the Dowry Prohibition Act, the State Human Rights Commission has said.

Recommending that a city woman Inspector of Police should pay Rs. 1.50 lakhs as compensation in a case relating to human rights violation, the Commission Member, S. Sambandham, wondered how the inspector conducted the investigation when the rules clearly assigned the role to a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Sambandham said the Tamil Nadu Government should initially pay the compensation. The amount should be recovered from the salary of inspector Mrs. Marimuthu of the All-Women Police Station (AWPS), Secretariat Colony, Kilpauk. He also recommended that the Director-General of Police take departmental action against the inspector for the human rights violation committed by her.

He said one of the complainants before the Commission was

About Us Contact Us

### **News Update**

Stories in this Section

i=" (\_)

- Virtual classroom to be launched in July
- High voltage campaign spurs big turnout
- U.K. varsity teams to interact with students
- Banks urged to honour credit rating of small scale units
- `Parents must guide, not influence, children'
- State committed to eradication of leprosy: Minister
- New lease of life for Sembakkam lake?
- Woman inspector asked to pay compensation for rights abuse
- Veterans fight for their hardearned money
- Conservation reserve planned in Tirunelveli village
- Medicinal plants `awareness low'
- State officials boycotting Union Ministers'
- Apex committee established to implement e-Governance plan
- Veteran trade unionist felicitated
- Voter mood clearly in favour of DPA, says Vasan
- Percentage of votes polled higher than in Assembly elections
- Polio drops for over 2 lakh children
- Repaired boats handed over to fishermen
- City remembers HIV/AIDS
   victims
- Tender coconut dearer in Tiruchi

The Hindu : Tamil Nadu News : Woman inspector asked to pay compensation for rights abuse

said to be a diabetic and as a result gangrene formed in his leg. He was also operated upon. In spite of this, the inspector did not allow him to take treatment or medicine when he was in the police station. The orders of the Madras High Court on the anticipatory bail applications of the complainants made it clear that not only were they harassed, but also driven from pillar to post on several occasions.

J. Samuel and his parents residing at Adambakkam here complained to the Commission that in February 2004 when they were in the AWPS in connection with a complaint from his (Samuel) wife under the Dowry Prohibition Act, they were treated badly. Even when their lawyer said Mr. Samuel had filed a petition before the Family Court for restitution of conjugal rights, the inspector replied she was not bothered about it.

Mr. Sambandham said if the inspector had impartially enquired into the matter, she would have verified the petition also. The complaint by Ms. Princy was later withdrawn.

He said the Dowry Prohibition Rules came into force on February 4, 2004. As per rule 2(e), the police officer had been defined as DSP. Further, prosecution should be recommended or resorted to only if all other measures were found ineffective.

The complaint should be scrutinised and an enquiry conducted to collect evidence from the parties on the genuineness of the complaint.

The inspector should pay a compensation of Rs. 50,000 to each of the three complainants, the Commission said.

Printer friendly page Send this article to Friends by E-Mail

Tamil Nadu

News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Engagements | Advts: Classifieds | Employment | Updates: Breaking News |

- This robot can go where humans cannot
- Plan to create buffer stock of textbooks
- Safeguard duty slapped on tapioca starch imports
- Briefly

Archives Yesterday's Issue Datewise

Features: Life Magazine Literary Review Metro Plus Open Page Education Plus Book Review Business SciTech Entertainment Young World Property Plus Quest Folio http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2005092916900400.htm&date=2005/09/29/&prd=th&



Date:29/09/2005 URL: http://www.thehindu.com/2005/09/29/stories/2005092916900400.htm

Tamil Nadu - Chennai

Court restrains police from probing dowry charges

Special Correspondent

Should be referred to Dowry Prohibition Officers

• Dowry Prohibition Officers are duty-bound to accept complaints and investigate them

- Police officers can take action in case of punishment for cruelty by the husband
- "Dowry complaint has to be properly inquired into by the competent government machinery"

CHENNAI: The First Bench of the Madras High Court has restrained the Greater Chennai police from receiving and investigating dowry harassment complaints without referring them to Dowry Prohibition Officers.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice Markandey Katju and Justice A. Kulasekaran, gave the interim injunction restraining the City Police Commissioner and his subordinates on a public interest litigation petition filed by advocate S.V. Ramamurthy on Wednesday.

The petitioner said the Government framed the Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004, and consequently appointed Dowry Prohibition Officers.

The District Social Welfare Officers who have been designated as Dowry Prohibition Officers are duty-bound to accept complaints and investigate them.

Stating that the role of the police officer came only when the case was referred to court for prosecution, Mr. Ramamurthy said the Home and the Social Welfare Departments were not implementing the law.

#### Referring the complaint

Police officers can take action in case of punishment for cruelty by the husband or relatives of the husband as it is likely to drive the woman to commit suicide or cause grave injury, the petitioner said, adding, "if a complaint to police relates to dowry then the police must refer the portion of the complaint to the Dowry Prohibition Officer who is to receive complaints, investigate and lay charge sheet in court."

The Tamil Nadu Dowry Prohibition Rules provide for the designated officials to mediate or conciliate with a view to restore harmony between the couple and their families, the petitioner said.

"On the other hand, the nature of duty of the police is quite different as they will investigate, take statements and launch prosecution to get conviction."

#### No authority

Narrating his own experience, after being accused of harassing his daughter-in-law, the petitioner said the City Commissioner of Police had no authority under the provisions of the Act to receive any complaint regarding dowry.

The Inspector of Police who investigated the matter had no power to probe any offence regarding the alleged dowry demand, he said.

He said many persons were placed in a similar situation, and added, "the dowry complaint has to be properly inquired into by the competent government machinery and not by an

http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2005092916900400.htm&date=2005/09/29/&prd=th&ber height and the second secon

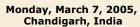
officer of the police department at the initial stage ... Otherwise, the purpose of enactment of the Act will become infructuous."

He prayed for a direction to the Home and Social Welfare secretaries to engage the services of the Dowry Prohibition Officer without the interference of police officials and sought an interim injunction restraining the Commissioner and his subordinates from receiving and investigating dowry harassment complaints.

© Copyright 2000 - 2005 The Hindu

# The Tribune

DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD



Years Of Trust

#### **NEWS AND VIEWS**

- JAMMU & KASHMIR
- HIMACHAL
- **REGIONAL BRIEFS**
- <u>NATION</u>
- OPINIONS
- MAILBAG
- BUSINESS
- SPORTS
- **WORLD**

#### SPECIAL COVERAGE

- CHANDIGARH
- LUDHIANA
- DELHI

#### THE TRIBUNE SPECIALS 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



#### Court declares CAW Cell illegal

#### **Cell cannot take up work like conciliation** New Delhi, March 6

The Delhi Police have found itself in a piquant situation with the entire working of the Crime Against Women (CAW) Cell in the national Capital being declared "illegal" by a local court, which has held that the cell had been functioning in contravention of the law of the land.

#### Fire chief urged not to stop water, power supply to highrises

#### New Delhi, March 6

In a letter submitted to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), the Public Interest Litigation Watch Group (PILWG) said that disconnection of power and water supply from high-rises can be a threat to the lives of citizens of the national Capital.

#### Schoolkid missing in Ballabhgarh

Faridabad, March 6

Another schoolchild has reportedly been missing from Ballabhgarh town since Thursday. The family of the eight-year-old boy has lodged a complaint with the police.

#### Exporter's son 'kidnapped'

#### Noida, March 6

The 14-year-old son of a garment exporter in Sector-10, Noida, has been missing for the past two days. The family has expressed apprehension that the boy might have been kidnapped.

#### Search

#### EARLIER STORIES

- Gang of desperate Bangladeshi dacoits
   busted
   March 6, 2005
- Brothers held for cheating banks of crores March 5, 2005
- Chhota Shakeel gang member held for extortion
   March 4, 2005
- Visa racket busted, passports seized March 3, 2005
- Man kills wife, mother-inlaw for dowry
   March 2, 2005
- Gang of kidnappers
   busted
   March 1, 2005
- Jhuggis gutted in R K
   Puram, Jehangirpuri
   February 28, 2005
- Prostitution racket busted February 27, 2005
- Pak espionage ring busted
   February 26, 2005
- Probe demanded into shortage of TB medicines
   February 25, 2005

# NDMC to frame fresh rules for maintenance of parks

#### New Delhi, March 6

The New Delhi Municipal Council is all set to come up with new rules and regulations relating to the maintenance of parks and prevent their misuse.

#### Rainwater harvesting project launched Noida, March 6

The Noida Authority has launched the rainwater harvesting project to safeguard and supplement the subsoil water in Noida. The rainwater project scheme has been made applicable on all plots of 300 sq mt and above, including the parks, water works compounds below overhead water tanks, green belts, community centres, residential and non-residential compounds in Noida.



Schoolchildren performing at *Samanvay,* organised by Manav Sthali organisation at National Stadium in the Capital on Sunday.— Tribune photo

#### Court declares CAW Cell illegal Cell cannot take up work like conciliation Tribune News Service

#### New Delhi, March 6

The Delhi Police have found itself in a piquant situation with the entire working of the Crime Against Women (CAW) Cell in the national Capital being declared "illegal" by a local court, which has held that the cell had been functioning in contravention of the law of the land.

"The entire working of the CAW Cell is entirely illegal and is against the settled principles of the law. A statutory agency (CAW Cell) cannot justify its action on other grounds if it is violative of the statute itself," Metropolitan Magistrate Pratap S. Malik said.

Agreeing that the Commissioner of Police does have the power to set up such cells, the court, however, said any statutory creation by the Commissioner of Police has to be within the amplitudes permissible under the Delhi Police Act. "They cannot go beyond the 'policing' i.e. they cannot, for any reason, whatsoever, be anything more than being responsible for maintaining public order," Malik noted.

The order implies that CAW cell cannot take up work like conciliation. The order has created a strange situation for the Police Department as the CAW Cell, set up in 1983 under Section 19 of Delhi Police Act, handles about 8,000 to 10,000 complaints received from women every year.

Asked whether the Police Department would challenge the order, Delhi Police Commissioner K. K. Paul said: "We are examining it. There are other judgments also...," he said

Under the Delhi Police Act, the Commissioner of Police cannot constitute a cell and ask it to provide better civic amenities in place of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Nor any cell constituted by the Commissioner of Police can facilitate 'better team management' in place of BCCI with an object to improve the performance of Indian Cricket Team. The good objective does not justify the transgression of the parent state (Delhi Police Act), the court observed.

Instead of straightaway registering FIRs on complaints lodged by women as required under CrPC, CAW Cell conducts an "inquiry" to examine the details of alleged offences against women, provide assistance in case the complainant wants reconciliation, pin-point the guilty, collect evidence for prosecution and prevent miscarriage of justice.

During the inquiry it follows its own procedure (and not the Criminal Procedure Code) to identify the nature of offence, collection of evidence and examination of witnesses. According to the Delhi Police, this is because the Cell is not an SHO in the eyes of the law and a case is registered in a cognizable matter only after conciliatory efforts fail.

"The complaints are usually much exaggerated and the CAW Cell first sifts the chaff from the grain and only the real facts are brought on record...If complaints are registered straightaway then the immediate arrest of the accused would cause irreparable damage to the relations between the parties," the Police had submitted before the court.

Terming it untenable under the law, the court said it can easily be done during investigation after lodging an FIR. The court said law enforcing agencies cannot on their own substitute a more just and equitable code of procedure and pointed out that the apex court has said in several cases that FIR must be registered immediately after the incident.

Meanwhile, sources said the order has sent shock waves through the Department and the Police Commissioner's Legal Advisor R. S. Ghumman has sought Delhi Government's "legal opinion" as the Cell was involved in "reconciliatory" efforts, which the court felt was beyond the purview of "policing".



Mumbai <mark>Mirror</mark>				Select Prior Issue
MUMBAI, Sunday, March 26, 2006			Feedback	Mirror Blog
Home	MCOCA/a not fax anthing newspaped anews/			→ Search
Lead Story	MCOCA's not for settling personal scores'	<u>E-mail this article</u>	Rate this article	
City Nation	HC reprimands court for ordering investigation in a dowry case filed under the Act, which targets gangster			
World	activity	Q Search archive	<mark>₩_Comment</mark>	Section
Business	Manoj R Nair			
Sunday Read	The Bombay High Court last week reprimanded the special	Print this article		
Views	MCOCA Court for ordering an investigation in a dowry harassment case filed as a complaint under the Maharashtra		<u>New comments</u>	
Technologies	Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), a legislation meant p	primarily to reign in gangst	er activity.	
Sports Relationships	After the Bombay High Court permitted individual citizens to fil complaints have been filed under the MCOCA without police sa			
Health & Fitness	complaints, the full bench of the HC stated that the MCOCA Co	ourt should take cognisance	of such complaints	
Entertainment	'sparingly, cautiously and only if the allegations made in the co provisions of MCOCA'. However, Chief Public Prosecutor at MCO			Today's Edition Advanced search
People	been filed as private complaints under the MCOCA.		· ·	Auvanceu search
Chai-time	Last week, Justice R S Mohite asked the special MCOCA Court Shaikh Hassan was accused by his wife of having connections			ePaper Page View
Television	marriage failed.	with gangsters after the co	upie 3 one-month old	City And the second
Introducing -	The court asked the special court to send back related docume			What killed my girl?
MUMBAI MIRROR	as a dowry case. Hassan had approached the high court after t on his wife's complaint.	the MCOCA court started co	ourt proceedings against him	New work - Ber for Capita's Adding of the filled in some of the second of a 12 Main fully for formation and the second of the second of the second of the second of the the second of th
	Hassan's wife Syeda, in a complaint to the Byculla police static	on in June 2004, accused he	er husband, mother-in-law	
ISUNDAYI	and sister-in-law of harassing her for dowry.			
CHALLENGE	Subsequently, in July 2004, she also filed a complaint with the husband had threatened her by boasting of his connections with			'MCOCA's not for settling personal scores'
My Mumbai <u>Mirror</u>	The MCOCA court then asked the Commissioner of Police to ap to court documents, the police said that it could not sanction p proved against the husband.			Click to enlarge
<b>    B    S    E</b>	However, despite this the MCOCA court initiated prosecution, a Sathyanarayanan and Shaikh Zakir Hussain.	according to Shaikh Hassan	's lawyers R	and
Buy / Sell / Exchange	Syeda's lawyers told the HC that there was indeed prima facie	evidence that the petitione	er had links with gangsters.	Win exciting
	However, on March 17, Justice Mohite stated, "In matters whe			Prizes
	must give reasons as to how giving of such threat can amount mind that otherwise virtually every crime can be dragged into		COC Act. One must bear in	→ Crossword
BUZZ	E-mail this article	Q Search	h archive	
		- <u></u>		Solve Today's Crossword
	Rate this article	<u>~_View (</u>	<u>Comments</u>	
	More in City		RSS	i⇒ Su Do Ku
	Not everyone here agrees with Lataji		una et Dedden Deed	5 3 7 9 1 9 9 9 4 9 4 Solvo
	Now that the state government has decided to go ahead with many residents have come out in the open to <u>More</u>	the much talked about liyo	iver at Peddar Road,	<u>Solve</u> <u>Today's</u>
	What killed my girl?			<u>Su Do Ku</u>
speck	After almost nine months of their daughter's death, Janardhar received her complete post-mortem reportMore	n Sonu Patil and his wife Ja	yshree have not yet	
out	Officially, there are no rogues' galleries			→ My Preference
	In spite of a high court order directing the removal of photogr rogues' galleries still adorn the <u>More</u>	aphs of accused displayed	at police stations, the	
	Lodge FIR against senior who beat me or I die			
	Pradip Thopte, sub inspector at Ulhasnagar Central police stat	ion, who alleges he was be	aten by a drunken senior	
	officer, has threatened to commit <u>More</u> <b> Pervert' teacher arrested, let out on Rs 2,000 ba</b>			
Terms & Conditions for Mumbai Mirror's	Pramod Chitari, prime accused in the molestation case of two		odkar School, was	
direct to readers offer	arrested by police from his residence in <u>More</u>			
	We sang at Satsang It is not just car horns that bleat in Kandivli. We residents ma	v sing off-key but we sure	sina loud enouah to wina	
TIMES	our voices heavenwards. SatsangsMore			
INFOLINE				
THE ATM OF INFORMATION				
CALL 26005555				
Do in touch				
Be in touch with the				
happenings in				
your locality				

#### Woman standing in queue delivers baby Our Correspondent

#### Noida, November 23

A woman standing in a queue, waiting for her turn among patients who had come for treatment in the government hospital here for a long time, gave birth to a baby girl while standing in the queue yesterday. The premature delivery of the baby by a seven-month-old pregnant woman is said to be in critical condition. The woman doctor said the newborn needed blood transfusion.

Sayeda, 30, of Sector 8 here, who was seven months' pregnant, while standing in the queue was waiting for her turn among patients. She had come for an examination.

While standing in the queue of patients before room no 139 on first floor of the district hospital here she gave birth to a premature girl child.

Dr Raj Rani Kausal said the mother needed urgent blood transfusion also. Patients and their attendants were complaining the district hospital lacked proper arrangements for the patients who had to wait there from two to three hours in the queue for their turn.

Rajveer from Khora Colony said his wife was standing in the queue since 7.30 am but by 10 am her turn had not come.

The same was the grouse of Ms Vidhywati who had come from Sector 8 at 8 am.

"There is no one to listen to your grievances or attend to you" was the general refrain.

The CMO, Dr Vinode Kumar, said there was a shortage of doctors. All doctors are supposed to be in hospital by 8 am.

Four doctors were relieved on Tuesday itself, further worsening the crisis.



#### Petition against Crime Against Women Cell Tribune News Service

New Delhi, November 23

A city-based lawyer and his family today moved the Delhi High Court challenging the legal validity of the Crime Against Women (CAW) cell of the Delhi Police.

Justice R C Jain issued notices to the Delhi government and the city police on a petition filed by advocate B K Agarwal, his wife, daughter and son-inlaw and asked the respondents to file their replies by December 16.

Claiming to be victims of anti-dowry laws and improper enquiry done on the complaint lodged by his daughter-in-law, Agarwal sought quashing of the probe conducted by the CAW cell and the FIR registered against them.

Agarwal's counsel K C Mittal contended that CAW cell has no legal authority to function and investigate a complaint in the absence of any legislative backing and urged the court to lay down general guidelines for enquiry of such matrimonial offences by the cell.

He sought direction to the Delhi government to place on record the source of creation of CAW cell to investigate matrimonial disputes. Citing Supreme Court's ruling in the Bhajan Lal case, the petitioners contended when no cognizable offence has been committed and no FIR has been lodged, the police has no power to conduct a Preliminary Enquiry (PE). They alleged that CAW cell personnel were not acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code and unnecessarily harassing innocent people. Last year, a Metropolitan Magistrate had declared the functioning of CAW cell as illegal but later the order was set aside by the Sessions Court.



#### Meet on 'Women Work and Health' from November 27 Tribune News Service

New Delhi, November 23

The 'International Congress on Women Work and Health' (WWH) will be held at Hotel Ashok here from November 27 to November 30. As many as 800 delegates from 58 countries are expected to participate in the event.

According to Dr Sunita Kaistha, secretary general, International WWH, "Among its main objectives, the Congress aims to introduce the gender perspective into health, promote research, teaching, occupational health care and to spread gender awareness."

Some of the eminent speakers include 2003 Noble Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi from Iran, UK-based Diane Perrons, Director, Gender Institute, London School of Economics, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, a release stated.

The Chairperson, WWH, Indira Kothiar, said, "For the first time ever, short films and video sessions have been initiated to facilitate more realistic global experience sharing, where delegates from various countries can themselves watch and learn from the real-life problems and solutions of other participating countries. One truly unique and unprecedented addition to this fourth Congress is the women's crafts mela.



# Plug loopholes in law on dowry: SC

#### http://www.tribuneindia.com/2005/20050722/nation.htm#1

New Delhi, July 21

The Supreme Court has asked the legislature to find ways for plugging the loopholes in the law against "false" dowry complaints against the in-laws and husband by a woman in view of the increasing number of such cases coming to courts but refused to strike down Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with such complaints.

Merely because the provision of Section 498A "is constitutional and intra vires, does not give a licence to unscrupulous persons to wreck personal vendetta or unleash harassment (of in-laws and husband). It may, therefore, become necessary for the legislature to find out ways how the makers of frivolous complaints or allegations can be appropriately dealt with," a Bench of Mr Justice Arijit Pasayat and Mr Justice H.K. Sema said while disposing of public interest litigation (PIL) on the issue.

But the court rejected the plea of striking down the provision of Section 498A made in the PIL, saying that as long as the legislature comes out with a remedy, "till then the courts have to take care of the situation within the existing framework."

While noting that the object of the provision of Section 498A is to strike at the root of dowry menace, the court said it had also been rightly pointed out in the PIL that many instances had come to light where the complaints by the so-called dowry victims were "not bona fide and have been filed with oblique motive."

In such cases, the acquittal by courts of the accused persons after a long legal proceedings did not "wipe out the ignominy suffered during and prior to the trial by them", the court said.

Describing such misuse of law as "legal terrorism", the court said no one could be allowed to unleash frivolous proceedings on this count as the provisions of Section 498A "is intended to be used as shield (a woman against harassment) not as an assassin's weapon."

The PIL was filed by Sushil Kumar Sharma in the wake of the Delhi High Court judgement in a false dowry case, in which it had expressed concern over a sudden rise in frivolous dowry complaints.

Section 498 deals with complaints by a married woman against her husband, in-laws and his relatives about harassment and ill-treatment on demand of dowry. In a guideline to the courts below as how frivolous dowry complaints should be dealing with, the apex court said there was no question of the investigating agencies and the courts taking such complaints lightly and dealing with them casually.

The investigating agencies and trial courts have to take note of the fact that the "ultimate objective of every legal system is to arrive at the truth. Punish the guilty and protect the innocent. There is no scope for any pre-conceived motion or view on this," the court observed.





Wednesday, December 14, 2005



Advertise with us Front Page > At Leisure > LAW - Street Legal IN TODAY'S PAPER £ ⊠≡ Front Page Print this page email this page Nation STREET LEGAL Calcutta Bengal Her choice Opinion International A woman claimed damages from the operating surgeon because she gave birth to a child despite undergoing a sterilisation procedure. The Supreme Court held that getting pregnant Business Stocks Live From after the operation did not automatically entitle her to claim damages. She must establish if Sports there was negligence while performing the operation. Further, it was up to the mother to opt for At Leisure a medical termination of pregnancy once she came to know of it. If she opted to bear the child, Durga Puja Sudoku New the child ceased to be unwanted and hence compensation could not be claimed (State of Puniab vs Shiv Ram). to the WEEKLY FEATURES Knowhow Ground for divorce Festival Jobs Careergraph of Light. The husband filed a divorce petition on grounds of cruelty. He alleged that the wife used to **Telekids** torture him and often threatened to commit suicide. The trial court held that the grounds were not adequate for granting a divorce. Acting on an appeal by the husband, the Andhra Pradesh Etc High Court held that merely the filing of a criminal case might not be a ground for divorce, but if Propertt cruelty was established, divorce ought to be granted. It further said that the fact that the wife Weekend had also filed a maintenance case and was living apart for 13 years proved that she didn't wish to lead a happy married life (Gajjala Shankar vs Mrs Anuradha). Look **CITY NEWSLINES** The dead don't talk The husband was convicted under Section 498A when his wife killed herself. The conviction FEEDS was based on the evidence submitted by his wife's mother and sister, who said that she had told them how her husband harassed her and demanded dowry. The husband filed a revision RSS against the order. The Andhra Pradesh High Court held that in this case, it was impossible to My Yahoo! cross-examine what had been communicated to the witnesses. The husband was, therefore, SEARCH acquitted. (S. Narasimulu vs State of UP) www.anandautsay.com SOLON 个 - ADVERTISEMENT -Archives Web £ ⊠≡ Shopping Marketplace Google email this page Print this page Abolins DVDs, ARCHIVES Electronics & Digital Since 1st March, 1999 **Cameras** THE TELEGRAPH Baby Bedding Town - About Us - Advertise Car Hire in Australia - Feedback - Contact Us Wedding Favors Company Registration Bollywood Ringtones The Power of Words **Bollywood Wallpapers** Hey Ya!

Copyright © 2005 The Telegraph. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Contact Us



Goa's complete online news edition

#### Home

# Four acquitted in dowry death case

### News

- <u>Goa</u>
- <u>Sports</u>
- Business
- Entertainment
- Science & Technology

# **Editorial**

- Edit
- **Opinions**
- <u>Letters</u>

# **Goa Diary**

- Events
- Short Takes

# Classifieds

- <u>Matrimonial</u>
- <u>Situations</u>
- <u>Accomodation</u>
- <u>Properties</u>
- Business Offers
- <u>Others</u>

#### **BY HERALD REPORTER**

PANJIM, MAY 14 — The District and Sessions Court, South Goa Margao has acquitted four persons accused in connection with death of a woman in Curchorem allegedly due to dowry harassment eight years ago, on the grounds that the prosecution failed to prove the charges of subjecting her to cruelty before her death owing to dowry demands. Archana Killedar who had married Anil in May 1997 succumbed to burn injuries at Curchorem in February 1998 under mysterious circumstances and later a case of harassment for dowry leading to her death was filed against her husband and four others. Case was booked against Anil Killedar (husband) - a government servant, his brother Arun, his mother Shakuntala, his sister Anita Garud and his father Madhav Killedar charging them for committing offences under Sections 304-B, 489-A of the IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Madhav died after charge sheet was filed and accordingly the proceedings against him abated. Acquitting the four, the III Additional Sessions Judge Desmond S D'Costa said there is not an iota of evidence to show that

# Search

# Pic of the Day



The sight of a possible landslide

Four acquitted in dowry death case | oHERALDo

# **Magazines**

- Mirror
- Insight
- **Sports Watch**
- Junior Herald
- Friends

# **Obituaries**

- Deaths
- Month's Mind
- Anniversaries

# Your Corner

Articles

# **Photos**

Photos

# Weather

# Goa / Panjim, IN

90 °F / 32 °C



# Contact

Feedback

just before her death, the accused had subjected Archana to such cruelty so as to drive her to commit suicide. No direct evidence of the accused actually demanding any valuables from Archana's family could be proved by the prosecution. The judge agreed to the contention of Adv Menino Teles who appeared for the accused that there was no evidence at all to show that there was any understanding that if the gifts were not given, the marriage would not go ahead. Making references to provisions of Dowry Prohibition Act, the judge said dowry means any property or previous polls | results valuable security given by one party to a marriage to the other party, as consideration for the marriage of the said parties. For Archana's wedding, an agreement was signed by fathers of the bride and groom listing the items to be exchanged by the two parties. The judge said there is nothing to show that the gifts were exchanged as the consideration of the marriage and as such, they are exempted from the concept of dowry, he added. The prosecution examined 34 witnesses in support of its case including 11 relations of Archana. P P Bhanudas Gaonkar who represented the State said that from day one of the marriage the accused persons were demanding a wooden cot from the family of Archana, a point, which was disproved by the defence lawyer. Going through the case thoroughly, the judge in his 43 page judgement, said the relations had given different and conflicting versions about the "demands" for cot, loan for truck, loan for a house, gold chain and clothes. It has come on record that the investigating officer

Mahesh Gaonkar recorded the statements of the witnesses more than one month of the incident. "... This put the court on guard in assessing their evidence", the judge

More...

# Poll

How would you react to the forthcoming film on 'Da Vinci Code'?:

Boycott the movie

Ask government to ban movie

Agitate against movie

Watch the movie

Can't Say



#### THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: LUCKNOW**

POWERED BY

**INDIATIMES** 

#### Free Money Advanced Search Google indiatimes Search in <u>Transfer</u> Indiatimes > The Times of India > Cities > Lucknow > Article Click now Fly non-stop to India Mobile Downloads Case against income tax officer quashed **M**Clip HOME . SMS & win prizes! [Wednesday, January 11, 2006 01:01:44 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ] . Swimsuit Calendar . Shamur exclusive **NRIs Grab Free DVD CLASSIFIEDS** . SMS For Free! Matrimonials | Jobs **XML** RSS Feeds | SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates Real Estate | Auto **Shopping Deals** LUCKNOW: A division bench of the high court comprising Justice Bhanwar Singh and . Biggest Online Travel Shopping festival Justice JM Paliwal here on Tuesday guashed the entire criminal proceedings pending Education against an assistant income tax commissioner, Sanjiv Yadav, for dowry harassment. . Mega Sale upto Post Print Ads 75% off The bench passed the order while allowing a writ petition filed by Dharam Raj Yadav . Digital Cameras All Classifieds (Sanjiv's father) and others for quashing the chargesheet while treating it to be a petition starting at Rs. 2990 under Section 482 Cr PC. . Flowers delivered HOT LINKS anywhere in India It may be recalled that the proceedings against Sanjiv was initiated on the basis of an FIR ePaper lodged by his wife Dipti Yadav on January 11, 2005 alleging harassment for dowry. Click here **NRI Finance** After going through the material on record, the bench observed that the investigating **RSS Feeds** officer had acted in a malafide manner and had manipulated things to mislead the court of LETSUIFIL NEWS the additional chief judicial magistrate as well as this court. TO ADVERTISE The bench further remarked that the additional chief judicial magistrate had also acted Cities HERE without application of mind in taking cognizance of the matter as the Lucknow court had no Ahmedabad jurisdiction to deal with the offence alleged to have been committed in Jaunpur, Sultanpur, Click here Bangalore Gorakhpur etc. Chandigarh TO ADVERTISE 1 | 2 | Next > HERE Delhi Hyderabad Click here Kolkata Lucknow News in this Section Mumbai . Double trouble for Neera Patna . STF rescues CAL Pune secv Thiru'puram . Medical board to question Singh **City Supplements** competency India . Countdown for new Cricket KGMU V-C begins 👼 Comment on this article 📇 Print this page 🛛 🖂 Email this page 🤅 . Police is gagged in Sports the age of RTI RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] World Entertainment **Read Comments**

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1366706.cms (1 of 3)1/25/2006 9:27:05 PM

India Business

No comment has been posted for this article yet.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# **CITIES: LUCKNOW**

#### POWERED BY INDIATIMES

indiatimes	Search	in	<u>Ac</u>	dvanced Search Google	N R Is
Indiatimes > The Ti	mes of India > Cities > Lucknor	w> Article		Fly non-stop to In	dia <u>Click now</u>
HOME	Case against incon [Wednesday, January 11, 2006				Mobile Downloads . SMS & win prizes! . Swimsuit Calendar
CLASSIFIEDS		<u>NRIs G</u>	rab Free DVD		. Shamur exclusive
Matrimonials   Jobs	XML RSS Feeds   SMS N	EWS to 8888 fo	r latest updates		. SMS For Free!
Real Estate   Auto	]				Shopping Deals
Travel	The bench also came to th	ne conclusion that	at the presents and	d gifts given at the time of	Biggest Online Shopping festival
Education	marriage to Sanjiv or his fa		•		. Mega Sale upto
Post Print Ads	The court, hearing Dr LP N	Visra for the petit	tioner and counse	I for the complainant and	75% off
All Classifieds	-	-		ement was delivered in the	Digital Cameras starting at Rs. 2990
	open court on Tuesday.	) Narain Mathur.	has been appoint	ed additional advocate general	. Flowers delivered
ePaper	by the state government.	, indian matrici,			
NRI Finance	Born in 1963 Jaideen had	his education at	t La Martiner Colle	ege, Lucknow and did his law	Click here
RSS Feeds	graduation from Lucknow			ege, Eucknow and did his law	
NEWS	He started practicing in the	-			
Cities	advocate and former presi	ident of Oudh Ba	r Association, Luc	know bench. < Previous   1   2	TO ADVERTISE
Ahmedabad					
Bangalore					<u>Click here</u>
Chandigarh	-				TO ADVERTISE
Delhi	-				HERE
Hyderabad	-				Click here
Kolkata	-				
Lucknow	-				News in this Section
Mumbai					. Double trouble for
Patna					Neera . STF rescues CAL
Pune	-				secy
Thiru'puram				· · · · · · · · · ·	Medical board to
City Supplements	Print this page		_ *	nent on this article	question Singh competency
India	RATE THIS ARTICL	.E: [1=Poor,3=Av	erage, 5=Outstand	ling] 1 2 3 4 5	. Countdown for new
Cricket	Read Comments				KGMU V-C begins
Sports	No comment has been post	ted for this article	yet.		. Police is gagged in the age of RTI
World	-				
Entertainment	]				
India Business	]				
Intl Business	]				
Infotech	]				
Health / Science	]				
Photo Gallery	]				

# Harassed husbands Commit Suicide



# पत्नी से तंग युवक ने जीवनलीला समाप्त की

सुसाइड नोट में पत्नी और ससुराल वालों की प्रताड़ना का जिक पति-पत्नी के बीच खर्च को लेकर विवाद, कई बार कहासुनी मायके में रहती थी पत्नी, लिवाने के लिए पहुंचा तो पियई की

#### अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

बुजुर्ग अधिवक्ता के फांसी लगाने की घटना को अभी चौबीस घंटे ही बीते थे कि सोमवार रत नोएडा सेक्टर 24 थाना क्षेत्र स्थित चौड़ा गांव में 24 वर्षीय युवक ने पत्नी और ससुराल वालों की प्रताड़ना से तंग आकर फांसी लगा ली। वह देर रत मोहल्ले में आयोजित एक शादी समारोह से लौटा था।घटना की जानकारी परिजनों को तब लगी जब वे सुबह उसे जगाने कमरे में पहुंचे। कमरे का दखाजा अंदर से बंद था। बहन के काफी देर तक आवाज देने के बाद भी दखाजा न खुलने पर उसने खिड़की से झांक कर देखा, तो उसके पैरो तले जमीन खिसक गई। उसके भाई का शरीर छत में लगे हुक में रस्सी के सहारे लटक रहा था। उसने शोर मचाकर अन्य पर्खार वालों को बुलाया। पर्खार वालों ने तत्काल इसकी सूचना पुलिस को दी।

पुलिस ने शव को हुक से नीचे उताय। पुलिस को कमरे की तलाशी में एक सुसाइड नोट मिला। जिसमें उसने लिखा था कि वह अपनी मर्जी से आत्महत्या कर रहा है उसमें उसके परिवार वालों का कोई दोष नहीं है। लेकिन उसने सुसाइड पत्र में अपनी पत्नी आशा, ससुर चमन लाल और अपने सालों द्वारा की जा रही प्रताड़ना का पूरा सिजरा लिखा था।

ब्रह्म सिंह अपने परिवार के साथ सेक्टर24 थाना क्षेत्र के चौड़ा गांव में रहता था। चार वर्ष पूर्व उसने बेटे रविंद्र की शादी दिल्ली ओखला टैंक में कार्यरत चमन लाल के पुत्री आशा के साथ कर दी।

शादी के कुछ ही दिन बीते थे कि दोनों में खर्चे को लेकर विवाद शुरू हो गया। इसी को लेकर दोनों में कई बार कहासुनी हुई, लेकिन परिवार वालों ने बीचबचाव कर दोनों को शांत कर दिया। लड़के के पास पैसे की तंगी देखकर उसके पिता ने पड़ोस में ही चार मंजिला मकान बनवाकर किराये पर उठा दिया। वह किराया दोनों बेटों में बांट देता था।

इधर रविंद्र ने नजदीक ही एक प्राइवेट प्रिटिंग प्रेस में नौकरी कर ली। शादी के चार साल बाद अचानक रविंद्र का साला ससुराल में शादी का बहाना बताकर उसकी पत्नी आशा को दिल्ली ले गया। शादी के बाद जब वह उसे लेने गया तो ससुराल वालों ने भेजने से इनकार कर दिया। कारण पूछने पर ससुराल वालों ने मिलकर उसकी जबरदस्त पिटाई कर दी।

यही नहीं उसकी पत्नी ने दिल्ली लाजपत नगर महिला आयो ग में दहेज उत्पीड़न का मामला दर्ज कर दिया और प्रॉपर्टी व कमाई में आधे हिस्से की मांग करने लगी। महिला आयो ग की ओर से मई 2006 से कई नोटिस आए और हर बार रविंद्र दिल्ली महिला आयो ग के सामने पेश भी हुआ जिससे वह मानसिक रूप से बुरी तरह परेशान रहने लगा।

बीती रत वह मोहल्ले में ही बुद्ध सिंह के यहां आयोजित शादी समारोह में गया और देर रत लौटने के बाद वह मकान के तीसरे मंजिल के एक कमरे में सोने चला गया। सुबह जब तक लोग सोकर उठते उसने फांसी लगाकर अपनी इहलीला समाप्त कर ली। पुलिस ने मामला दर्ज कर शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया। पुलिस के अनुसार मामले की विवेचना की जा रही है। अभी मूतक के ससुराल वालों से बात नहीं हो पाई है। Harassed by daughter-in-law, old couple commits suicide- The Times of India



HOME

Travel

Cities

Delhi

Patna

Pune

India

Sports

World

Photo Gallery **TOI Headlines** 

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE RELIABLE HP PROLIANT BL20P G3 BLADE SERVER eaturing the Intel® Xeon® Processor and HP Systems Insight Manager.

Now save \$350 instantly.

» SAVE NOW

# **CITIES: CHANDIGARH**

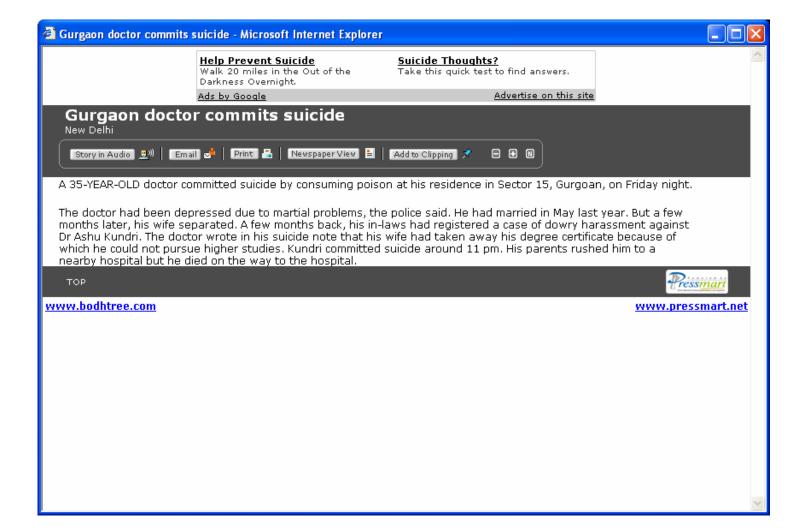


Bharat Click here Advanced Search Google Search in Matrimony.com shaadi.com Indiatimes > The Times of India > Cities > Chandigarh > Article Click here or call 1-800-INDIA-10 make Matrip Mobile Downloads Harassed by daughter-in-law, old couple commits suicide Relin . Aaj nishana lagaya Balwant Garg [Wednesday, June 21, 2006 02:02:23 am TIMES NEWS NETWORK ] kya? . Swimsuit Calendar . Krrish on 8888! . Mallika i hate you! XML RSS Feeds | SMS NEWS to 8888 for latest updates **Mission Mumbai** Hotel stay@ CLASSIFIEDS affordable prices. FARIDKOT: There are ample incidents when a daughter-in-law commits suicide after being . Holidays in Tirupati Matrimonials | Jobs harassed by her in-laws but in a departure from the usual practice, an old couple allegedly 1 night/2 days @ committed suicide at Tehna village of Faridkot on Tuesday after they were harassed by Real Estate | Auto 7040 their daughter-in-law. . Best Western the Gurjant Singh and his wife Sukhdev Kaur allegedly ended their lives by consuming some Emerald, Mumbai @ Education pesticide. Sources in village revealed that the deceased were feeling harassed and 2550 Post Print Ads terrorised after their daughter-in-law got a criminal case registered against them at . Nalapad All Classifieds Bikhiwind for brining insufficient dowry. Residency, Bangalore @ 1485 On Monday, a police party from Bikhiwind raided the residence of the deceased at Tehna HOT LINKS . Hotel Nand village to arrest them but they escaped the police net. On the run, the duo decided to end Residency, ePaper their lives by consuming poison on Tuesday. Mussoorie @ 1620 **NRI** Finance The deceased have left behind a suicide note. Sources revealed instead of blaming **RSS Feeds** anybody for their death, the deceased have clarified that they never harassed their **Test Centre** daughter-in-law for brining insufficient dowry. NEWS According to sources, Harnek Singh, the only son of the couple was married to Sarbjit Kaur of Bikhiwind about eight months back. After a dispute between the couple, the girl left to Ahmedabad live with her parents. Bangalore But the relations became more strained after she underwent an abortion. Then the girl got Chandigarh registered a dowry case against her in-laws. The police have registered a case. Write to the Editor Hyderabad Kolkata Lucknow Mumbai News in this Section . These are no children of a lesser Thiru'puram God **City Supplements** . Docs worried about losing a term . 10 PEC students get Cricket a reprieve . PU releases LLB/ LLM admission 📇 Print this page 🛛 🖂 Email this page 👼 Comment on this article schedule Entertainment . Counselling to RATE THIS ARTICLE: [1=Poor,3=Average, 5=Outstanding] India Business restart from June 26 Intl Business **Read Comments** No comment has been posted for this article yet. Infotech Health / Science Lifestyle



Nonday, June 26, 2006		Updated: 03:53 am
NEWS	CM Matara afficial commite ovicida	
HOME	GM Motors official commits suicide	New Daily Pioneer Mail Account
CITY	Staff Reporter/Gurgaon	
NATION	In an unfortunate incident a mechanical engineer committed suicide in the wee hours on	
STATES	Tuesday.	
BUSINESS	When the police reached the spot late in the night, the body was lying in a pool of blood on the floor. Manju Nath Nayak (27), the deceased, was working as a mechanical	Members' Email Login
SPORTS	engineer at GM Motors (Gurgaon).	
ENTERTAINMENT	The police, however, is not sure about the reason of suicide. His relatives and neighbours	<b>Exclusive Press Pics</b>
WORLD	have told the police that he was not happy with his married life since the past few days.	TheDiscourt
EDIT PAGE	Manju Nath was staying with his wife at the eastern state apartments of DLF phase-5. He	The Pioneer
OP-ED	was originally from Bangalore and had been living here from the last one year. He had	GALLLAI
EDITOR'S MAIL	got married eight months before. His wife, Rajeshwari Nayak, was also from Bangalore. His parents, who were staying at Bangalore, came to Gurgaon after listening about the	CHANGER CONTRACTOR CONTRACT
SEARCH ARCHIVES	incident. They, however, were not in a state to say anything.	CLIDCODIDE
STATE EDITIONS	"He was staying at the 12th floor of the apartment and probably jumped from there after	SODSCRIDE
BHOPAL	he had an argument with his wife," said a senior police official. According to the police,	FOR HEADLINES
BHUBANESWAR	the incident took place at around 12:30 am on Tuesday.	
КОСНІ	His colleague was shocked after listening about the incident and said that Manju Nath	
LUCKNOW	had been looking disturbed from the past few days. Meanwhile the police is waiting for the postmortem report. "We cannot say anything before the postmortem report," said a	
FEATURES	police official.	
VIVACITY		
BAZAAR		
AVENUES		
URBAN REALTY		
BOOKS	SEARCH SITE ARCHIVES	
COLUMNISTS		
FORECAST	Search Today Archives	
SUNDAY PIONEER		
AGENDA		
FORAY	Web dailypioneer.com	
	iocl. petrotech2007.	
	com com	

info@dailypioneer.com edback@dailypioneer.com



#### http://www.tribuneindia.com/2006/20060319/delhi.htm#15

#### Estranged from wife, doctor ends it all Ravi S. Singh Tribune News Service

Gurgaon, March 18 A medical practitioner having strained relations with his wife committed suicide here today.

Dr Aashu Kundra, in his suicide note, has pointed out that he was married to Dr Monica in May last year. Soon after the marriage, their relations soured.

The doctor has mentioned that he wanted to pursue his MD degree and even got admission in an institute in Pune. However, his wife, a homeopathic doctor, allegedly stopped him and wanted him to do his practice in Delhi, wrote the doctor in his note.

The relationship soured so much so that the deceased had recently filed a divorce petition in the court. While he was staying in Rail Vihar Colony here with his father, the wife was staying in Delhi.

The police have registered a case. The deceased is said to have consumed some poisonous drugs to commit suicide.

lome Hindustan	HT Cricket	HT Classifieds	HT Tabloid
----------------	------------	----------------	------------

Thursday, February 23, 2006

#### HTTabloid.com

o SPORTS CENTRE

# HindustanTimes.com > HTTabloid.com > Hot Spot > Story HOME Harassed by girls boy slits vein Alka Rastogi Lucknow, February 23, 2006 HOT SPOT Strange but a boy tried to commit suicide after he and

some of his friends were badly

hostel girls of Harcourt Butler

heckled and harassed by

Feedback
 Send to friend(s)
 Print the story

	technological Institute ,Kanpur. Advertisement							
• FASHION STREET	The boy Vikram Singh, a second year Chemical Engineering student and about a dozen of his							
• HEARSAY	friends had planned to organise a function to select Mr and Mrs Chemical Engineering. When rumour spread that the function was being organised to ridicule girls of the institute and that posters would							
HARD TALK	be prepared describing their figure vivdly they became angry. And a meeting of senior hostel girls was held at the hostel in which 120 girls participated.							
CELEB WATCH	They summoned the boys who had planned to organise the beauty paegant							
ON THE COUCH	and asked them to explain why they were so keen about advertising figures of girls in advance. The boys felt happy at the invitation but when they reached the girl's hostel a different fate awaited them.							
GIRL TALK	They were aghat to find more than a hundred girls advancing menacingly towards them. It is learnt that some girls reportedly hurled							
BABE WATCH	filthy and unprintable abuses on the boys.							
LIFE BIZARRE	Later they were heckled and 'girl –handled'. In the pushing and jostling done by scores of girls some of the boys also sustained minor injuries. They were also kicked in their private parts, boxed slapped and their ears were pulled							
	This forced the boys to apologise before the huge crowd of girls in the							
• YEAR ENDER 2005	girl's hostel. All of them left red-faced for they had been badly roughed up by the eves. The Adam teasing however, left one of the boys, Vikram so humiliated that when he returned to his hostel he							
• ARCHIVES	tried to commit suicide by slitting his vein he was later admitted to hospital.							
	Later students created ruckus and demanded action against the guilty girls who had harassed the boys. Harcourt Butler Technological Institute Director RO Singh has instituted an inquiry into the incident. Have your say							
	Feel strongly about something. Have your say here »							
	Read other views »							

# OTHER Hot Spot STORIES What turns on sexy Shilpa Have massage in hostel rooms

- Pooja Bedi's bitter-sweet memories
- Amrita stumps cricket hero
  - Hot celebrities kiss and tell all!

more strories »

#### CRIME patrol

#### Britain against sex trafficking

British police and the travel industry launched a campaign on Tuesday against the "modern day slavery" of sex trafficking.

#### SPORTS Centre Posh must bare to see Becks swim!

Victoria Beckham and Wayne Rooney's girlfriend Coleen McLoughlin will have to strip off if they fancy a swim during World Cup soccer championship.

# fashion STREET

Matthew brings London style to Pucci

Matthew Williamson brought his love of rich colours to Milan with a debut collection at Emilio Pucci.

#### Ads by Google

E Feedback

Help Prevent Suicide Walk 20 miles in the, Out of the Darkness Overnight. www.TheOvernight.org Suicide Thoughts? Take this quick test, to find answers. www.GodTest.com

☑ E-mail us

Terms & Conditions

\* Advertisements

© HT Media Ltd. 2004.





Friday, February 27, 2004



Advertise with us

IN TODAY'S PAPER	Front Page > Nation > Story	
Front Page		
Nation	email this page Print this page	Post your ad
Calcutta	Harried husband ends life	on Sulekha
Bengal		Classifieds
Opinion	ANAND SOONDAS	Your Personal
International	Mumbai, Feb. 26: Manohar Gangurde, an unemployed 26-year-old, committed suicide	Market Place
	yesterday by swallowing poison as he could no longer bear the "taunts and torture" by his wife	
Business Sport	of three years, Sunanda, and her family members.	
Sport	D. Codicari investigating officer at Nashik Dood police station sold a case under Section 206	The No.1
At Leisure	P. Gadkari, investigating officer at Nashik Road police station, said a case under Section 306 (inducing suicide) has been lodged against Sunanda, who is missing. "Investigations are on and	classified portal
	we are trying to get to the bottom of the case, which after preliminary inquiry looks like one of	
CITY NEWSLINES	harassment leading to death," he said.	75+ categories
		to choose from
	All hell reportedly broke loose when Manohar, a Nashik resident, lost his job last year. "She	
ARCHIVES	(Sunanda) would not allow any physical contact between them and would go and stay at her	• Over 70,000 ads
Since 1st March, 1999	mother's house in Mumbai for months on end," a constable at the police station said.	to choose from
	"She would then come back and torture him along with her brother and mother. In fact, only	
THE TELEGRAPH	seven days back, Manohar had filed a missing persons complaint after he received no news	
- About Us	from his wife and son," he added.	
- Advertise		
- Feedback	The husband is thought to have consumed poison after Sunanda refused to return. He died on	
	his way to the hospital.	
- <u>Contact Us</u>	:	1
	Inquiries have revealed that Manohar approached the Purush Haq Samiti — an association of	
	harassed husbands — three months ago with a complaint against his wife.	
	Advocates associated with the tortured men's association in Nashik and Sangli say Manohar's	
	case is not unusual. Founder members of the Samiti, which has branches in 13 states, say	<b>S</b>
	such cases will recur if laws that are meant to protect women but are instead "loaded against	Sulekha Classifieds
	men" are not changed.	http://classifieds.sulekha.com
	"It is most unfortunate " sold Dalasabib Madhular Datil, an advasate and foundar membra of	Get Started
	"It is most unfortunate," said Balasahib Madhukar Patil, an advocate and founder member of the organisation.	- ADVERTISEMENT -
		Bollywood Wallpapers
	"We started with 10 members in 1996 and today we have 9,000 active members. We have	
	received 9,834 complaints so far. And the cases just increase every day."	
	At the Samiti's Mumbai office, Bhimrao Laksman Buddhiwant, secretary of the zonal wing, says:	
	"Every day I receive two to three cases. I have around 1,000 cases with me and they keep	
	piling up. Maybe it has something to do with liberalism and women's emancipation."	
	Another member, Bram Noth Bawar, save women have learnt how to "misuse" the verieve	
	Another member, Prem Nath Pawar, says women have learnt how to "misuse" the various women's protection laws. "The dice is loaded in their favour. Once the women file a case, the	
	men are at the receiving end. There is nothing we can do though the police will tell you, and this	
	is supported by our own research, that 95 per cent of the cases turn out bogus."	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	email this page Print this page	
	Copyright © 2002 The Telegraph. All rights reserved. Disclaime	r   Privacy Policy   Contact Us



Online edition of India's National Newspaper Thursday, Mar 23, 2006

#### Andhra Pradesh News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | **News Update** Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Miscellaneous | Engagements | Advts: Classifieds | Jobs | Obituary | Stories in this Section Corporate houses urged to give Andhra Pradesh - Hyderabad a push to sports Smart' move finds takers **Crime Watch** Police officials stuck with `useless' mobile phones Commits suicide Sending out a message through ship of desert Old city to get 10 more photo Reportedly depressed after an argument with his wife Anita over a • family matter, M. Ravi Kumar, 30, committed suicide by jumping in location centres Naidu comes up with more front of a running train near Seetaphalmandi on Tuesday. The `evidence' victim was a resident of Upparbasthi, according to the Kachiguda Torture of Dalit girl comes to Railway Police. light MCH to increase bulk garbage Succumbs to injuries collection charges Mahavir Hospital steps up drive • A lorry driver Maqbool, 45, who had sustained injuries after an against TB autorickshaw hit him while he was crossing the road near L.B. Ex gratia announced for Nagar crossroads six days ago, died on Wednesday while hailstorm victims undergoing treatment at Osmania General Hospital. He was a Police `helpless' with `useless' resident of Nirmal in Adilabad district, the L.B. Nagar police said. mobile phones Transco threat to switch off • Fatal fall for epileptic power to seven districts Now you can SMS your resume Babu, 25, who was reportedly suffering from epilepsy, died after Lobbies buzz with talk on Naidu's falling from the Naryanaguda flyover when he suffered a seizure ploy while riding a scooter on Wednesday. Worker at shop selling silver Journalist accuses police of • articles in Begumbazar, Babu was going towards Barkatpura when manhandling he suffered a seizure and hit against the railing. Stir of sorts both in and out of House Printer friendly page Three police teams descend on • city Send this article to Friends by E-Mail CII's `vision' impresses YSR • One held on impersonation charge Cheating case against college principal Andhra Pradesh Be careful in dealing with visas, police told News: Front Page | National | Tamil Nadu | Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Abandoned accident victim dies Kerala | New Delhi | Other States | International | Opinion | Business | Sport | Exhibition on modern Andhra Miscellaneous | Engagements | painting Advts: Classifieds | Jobs | Obituary | Updates: Breaking News | House panel to probe Republic • Forge case Deadline set for ORR phase I • Plastic ban: court directive Power theft cases booked Additional Veera service



Search DH

## IERA Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Home | About Us | Subscribe | Contact Us | Archives | Feedback | DH Avenues

DECCAN HERALD	Deccan Herald » City » Detailed S
G paper Click here	CRIME BEAT
News	3 harassed husbands o
National	
State District	DH News Service Bangalore:
City	Unable to tolerate their spor
Business	suicide by consuming poisor
Foreign	According to police, Arun Ku
Sports	He ended his life by consum
Comment Edit Page	Recently married Sanjay, a
Panorama	He committed suicide by co
Net Mail	police are investigating the
Your Take	
Infoline In City Today	In another case, Gopala Kris deserted him. He also took
Helpline Daily Almanac	Police said, Gopala Krishna
Festivals of India	Receptionist waylaid, rob
Weather In Bangalore	A receptionist of Chinnaswa money from an ATM centre
Partly cloudy Max: 30.2 Min: 19.1	According to police a gang of travelling on his scooter near
Leisure Crossword	They allegedly picked up a c away, while one of the misc
Horoscope →Year 2006	They allegedly took him to a to withdraw Rs 15,000. The and fled.
Weekly	They also gave him Rs 150
····	They also gave thin its ree
<mark>}}Annual Chinese_</mark> Horoscope - 2006	Rajkumar came back to Nar Nandini Layout
<mark>₩Calendar 2006</mark>	Techie robbed at knife-po
Pearls of wisdom "Wisdom is knowing what to do next;	A software engineer was wa Seva Mandira Road in Korar
virtue is doing it." David Starr Jordan	The software engineer Shre the incident occurred.
Supplements Economy & Business Metro Life - Mon	The miscreants robbed him 20,000) police said.
Science & Technology Spectrum	
DH Avenues	
Cyber Space	

#### itory

#### commit suicide

uses, three persons including two newly-married men committed n, in different parts of the City on Monday.

umar (32) was disgusted as his wife was always fighting with him. ning poison.

resident of Srinivasa Nagar could not cope with his nagging wife.

nsuming poison. Hanumanth Nagar case.

shna (28) was upset as his wife had poison and ended his life.

had married last year.

#### bed



my Stadium, Rajkumar was waylaid, abducted, forced to withdraw and robbed on Monday night.

of five miscreants waylaid Rajkumar in a Tata Sumo when he was ar Kanteerava Studio in Nandini Layout.

quarrel and bundled Rajkumar into the vehicle and started driving creants followed the vehicle on Rajkumar's scooter.

an ATM centre of Corporation Bank on Bidadi Road and forced him y later drove the vehicle to Magadi Road, left him and his scooter.

before leaving the place, police said.

ndini Layout on his scooter and lodged a complaint with the police.

#### oint

ylaid by three persons and robbed at knife-point near Nijaguna mangala on Monday night.

yas, was walking towards his home in Koramangala 7th Block when

of a gold chain, a mobile phone and Rs 1,000 cash (total value Rs

# Articles about Misuse of Dowry law (498a)



# Volume 18 - Issue 21, Oct. 13 - 26, 2001

India's National Magazine from the publishers of THE HINDU



Table of Contents

# BEHAVIOUR

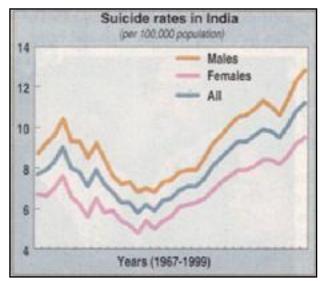
# The Indian situation

# V. SRIDHAR

MORE than one lakh persons take their own lives in India every year, and the problem is assuming alarming proportions. The rate of suicides in India, about 5 per 100,000 persons in the late 1960s, has more than doubled since then. The gravity of the problem is highlighted by the fact that nearly three-fourths of all suicides in India are by people in the socially and economically productive age group of 15 to 49. The increase is particularly striking since the mid-1980s - the number of suicides per 1,000 deaths has doubled from 6 in 1985 to 12 in 1998.

A paper presented at the Congress by Professor K. Nagaraj, senior economist at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), reveals that although the suicide rate has generally tended to be high in the larger cities, the rate has also been increasing sharply in cities other than the major metros.

While the suicide rates have been decidedly higher in the southern States, the variation across the country has been diminishing in recent years. In other words, States elsewhere have been "catching up" with the southern States in the last few years. While the national average is currently about 11 per 100,000 persons, the southern States together have a rate of 30 for male suicides. The lowest rate for males is in the northern region, about 4 per 100,000 persons.

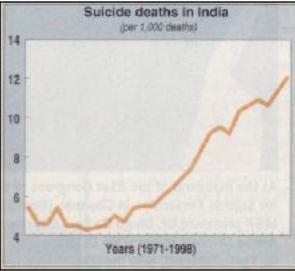


Across the country, the suicide rate for females is consistently lower than that

for males, in keeping with the global sex ratios of suicides. But in the younger age group, between 5 and 29 years, the female suicide rate is as high as that for males. Moreover, the rates for educated females - those who have gone beyond primary school - is higher than that for males. The greater vulnerability of women is also associated with the more unstable nature of their livelihoods. Nagaraj's study reveals that the suicide rates for women are significantly higher than those for men among those engaged in non-agricultural activities - whether they are engaged in the activity on a regular basis or are self-employed. He points out that employment and incomes in such activities are unstable. The growing reach of the market into these sectors further destabilises life in these sectors.

Nagaraj's study provides shocking data of suicide rates among those who declare themselves totally unemployed. For males in the age group of 30 to 44, the rate is a whopping 508 per 100,000 persons; for women it is more than 200. More important, as the duration of unemployment increases, suicide rates rise dramatically - the rates among men in the age group of 45 to 59 is a shocking 1,812 per 100,000 persons and among women, nearly 550.

The distribution of suicides by marital status reveals some interesting patterns. The rates do not vary much between the sexes for the never married. Among those currently married, while the rate for males is about 17 per 100,000 persons, the rate for females is 11.4 per 100,000. Among those widowed, while the rate for males is 21 per 100,000 persons, the rate for females is also significantly lower, at 6.6 per 100,000. However, among divorced males the suicide rate is 164 per 100,000 persons, but even in this class, among females the rate is only 63 per 100,000. While the suicide rate for separated men is about 167, for females it is only 41 per 100,000 persons.



facilities like health and education.

Development by itself does not appear to make societies more secure. For instance, suicide rates are higher in the southern States such as Kerala (30.5 per 100,000 persons) and Karnataka (24.2), Tamil Nadu (18.6) and Pondicherry (58), which has the highest suicide rate in the country. This appears to be paradoxical in the context of the high degree of access that people in these States have to social sector Nagaraj argues that the characteristics of societies in these States perhaps explains the paradox. He points out that these societies are "more plural", in which "the aspiration levels of people are higher". Moreover, the rural-urban linkages are greater, enabling "the greater play of urban values and the media".

Nagaraj argues that the greater reach of the market as an institution in these States is another key factor. He points to Kerala's direct linkages to the world market - the large presence of Malayalees in the Gulf countries and the dominance of plantation crops in the State's economy being two instances. He argues that these have exposed society to greater instability and insecurity.

There is little evidence to show that the government has done anything even to acknowledge the presence of a mounting social problem, let alone combating it. The suicide rate in Pondicherry is a classic example of this neglect. The rates are, according to a paper presented at the Congress, "at world record level" for some sections of the population.

While voluntary and non-governmental organisations can play a role at the "micro" level, particularly in suicide prevention, it is evident that they are hardly in a position to intervene in the larger social processes that cause suicide and suicidal behaviour. For instance, suicide prevention organisations play a useful role during particularly stressful times such as when examination results are due. It is also a period when not only children but even their parents are under stress. By all accounts, it is evident that they are successful in preventing at least some suicides during this period. However, until the factor that constitutes the stressor in this situation, the examination system and the larger issue of school education, is addressed, the problem will remain. And this is where the state has a role to play.

[Subscribe | Contact Us | Archives | Table of Contents]

[Home | The Hindu | Business Line | Sportstar ]

Copyrights © 2001, Frontline.

Republication or redissemination of the contents of this screen are expressly prohibited without the written consent of Frontline



#### 9, <u>2005</u>

Thursday, September 29, 2
NEWS
НОМЕ
СІТҮ
NATION
STATES
BUSINESS
SPORTS
ENTERTAINMENT
WORLD
EDIT PAGE
OP-ED
EDITOR'S MAIL
SEARCH ARCHIVES

State Editions **BHOPAL** 

**BHUBANESWAR** 

KOCHI

LUCKNOW

FEATURES

VIVACITY

BAZAAR

**AVENUES** 

**URBAN REALTY** 

BOOKS

COLUMNISTS

FORECAST

SUNDAY PIONEER AGENDA

FORAY





#### Spare a thought for Dowry law abuse

It had been with great joy that I attended the wedding of my friend's brother two years back. So it came to me as a great shock the other day when she came to me for solace. Her sister-in-law, who was considered the Lakshmi of the house, was unfortunately driving the household completely insane. She couldn't blame her brother because it was an arranged marriage.

I wonder if we should be proud or disgusted with our younger generation of girls. Gone are those days when the in-laws harassed the new brides for dowry or just to show them who is the boss, simply on account of the boys' side being considered superior. Actually, this is not the first instance where I have ended up feeling sorry for the boy's side. Thanks to the various NGOs, women these days can really use and misuse all the power to their advantage. Being a woman I do sympathise with my sisters who are genuinely harassed by their in-laws and would want to see them get the severest of punishment. But the change that has come over the girls of today cannot be ignored. An example is the new movie Aitraaz where this young girl goes all out to use her looks and her manipulative and calculating mind to finish off a man. Well, there is a saying that "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned".

I am also dead against the interference of a girl's family once she is married, having realised that it is often the over-ambitious/possessive mother who usually sets off disturbances in her daughter's new home. Coming back to the law isn't it a fact that at least 50 per cent of harassment cases are filed by the girls who want to teach their in-laws/husband a lesson, for not having been able to get their way. After all, today's girls are more independent financially and divorce is no longer a taboo in our society. Further, they only stand to gain sympathy all around. After all, we women too know how to manipulate situations to our advantage.

Somehow we seem to have forgotten to teach our new generation the traditional lessons of patience, sacrifice, respect and family honour. It is sad, because it is always a woman who can make or break a home. I am all for women's rights, I am against dowry, I am for equal status of married partners but I am not blind to biased laws that are used by manipulative girls to torture innocent families who put honour above everything and have to pay a high price for their peace of mind.

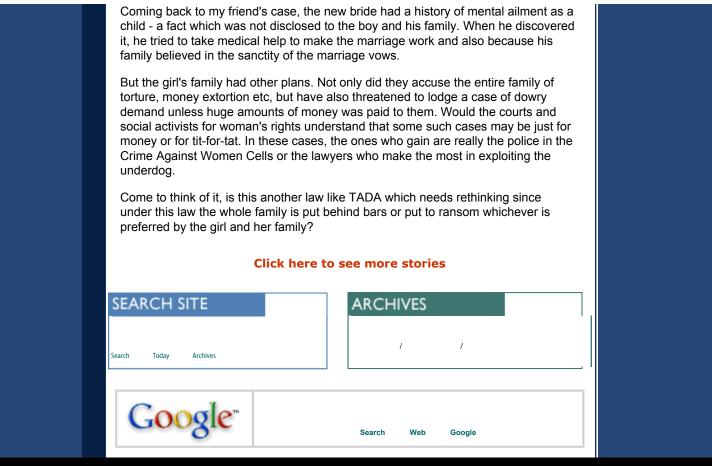
This is the dowry system in reverse. If the boy's family refuse to yield to their demands, they are threatened to be put behind bars as the the law is on the girl's side. And shockingly, girls today are marrying for money looking for hefty alimony and property.



Updated: 03:53 am

Members' Email Login

## SUBSCRIB FOR HEADLINES



© CMYK Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. To access reprinting rights please contact Pioneer Syndication Services at info@dailypioneer.com.

For comments and feedback, please mail us at feedback@dailypioneer.com



#### Tuesday, September 27, 2005

NEWS	
HOME	
CITY	
NATION	

STATES

BUSINESS

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

WORLD

EDIT PAGE

OP-ED

**EDITOR'S MAIL** 

**SEARCH ARCHIVES** 

State Editions

BHUBANESWAR

косні

LUCKNOW

FEATURES

VIVACITY

BAZAAR

AVENUES

**URBAN REALTY** 

BOOKS

COLUMNISTS

FORECAST

SUNDAY PIONEER

AGENDA

FORAY





Members' Email Login

SUBSCRIBE

FOR HEADLINES

# Chandan Mitra

#### Woman on top

Women are the flavour of the season. In the last few weeks, legislation and schemes aimed at their protection and empowerment have dominated the news. Although the contentious Bill to reserve 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament once again failed to garner consensus, this was, perhaps, the most serious effort to evolve one.

In the process, some of its bitterest critics, such as UP strongman Mulayam Singh Yadav even softened his position from one of no reservations at all to provision of 10 per cent of seats in the first phase.

However, the proposal to enhance the total number of seats in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha by one-third - perhaps, the most politically convenient even if logistically problematic solution - did not find too many takers. But the issue will not go away. Between now and the Winter Session of Parliament starting in November, it is certain that the Bill's proponents will jack up their campaign. Given the growing importance of women in the nation's political life, I believe the reservation will materialise in some form within a couple of years, certainly before the next general election.

Meanwhile, the Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women Bill has already got the Lok Sabha's unanimous approval and its passage through the Rajya Sabha this week is a mere formality. Although widely hailed as a model piece of legislation, one that secures the dignity and ensures the rights of women, especially those victimised after marriage both in their marital and parental homes, the Bill raises some pertinent questions.

Undoubtedly, it empowers women to seek legal security from harassment, especially outrageous pronouncements by caste panchayats as well as obscurantist Qazi courts. The "verdict" against Imrana is a classic instance of the kind of gender injustice that prevails in rural society, particularly among a section of North Indian Muslims. In theory, she will now be in a position to assert her legal right to live in her husband's home in defiance of the fatwa that decreed her to treat him as her "brother" besides vacating his house.

But can we realistically expect Imrana to run to the nearest courthouse to obtain an order entitling her to remain in her marital home in defiance of Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband's fatwa? Assuming she does, who will enforce such an order? Will a policeman be permanently posted in her husband's house to ensure she is allowed to stay there, get two square meals and live with dignity? If her husband's family including the rapist father-in-law ill-treats her, will the law-enforcing authorities intervene on a regular basis?

#### Updated: 07:00 pm

Further, soon after the fatwa, Imrana who had initially shown enormous guts to lodge an FIR against her sasur, publicly declared her acceptance of the verdict saying she would abide by the dictates of the Shariat. This was stated in the presence of National Council for Women chairperson Girija Vyas who sat through the averment nonchalantly. Under pressure from relatives and village opinion, the mother of five buckled.

I don't wish to be misunderstood as a rampant critic of this latest piece of progressive legislation. The kinds of atrocities that are perpetrated on Indian women are probably the worst in the world, and the most depressing aspect of it is that their humiliation enjoys wide social sanction. But that's the reason I believe the status of women in Indian society will not materially change till mindsets are altered.

Going through some statistics of dowry deaths recently, I discovered there had been virtually no change in their numbers over the last five years. If a few States registered a decline, bride-burning increased in others, keeping the total roughly the same: This despite the existence of a most draconian anti-dowry law.

It has often been contended that the anti-dowry Act is more abused than used. There is some justification in that assertion. The provisions of the law are such that even the innocent are often harassed by rapacious wives and their families. On the other hand, very few convictions take place in genuine cases of victimisation and/or cold-blooded murder. This is not to suggest that the anti-dowry Act should be removed from the statute books. But we need to seriously introspect whether it has achieved its objective and, if not, how it can be made more effective.

I am afraid the Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women Bill is slated to go the same way. Given the mindsets and our social structure, any woman who seeks protection under its provisions will surely have to say good-bye to her marital home. Recourse to this proposed piece of legislation shall be viewed as scandalous by her husband and in-laws.

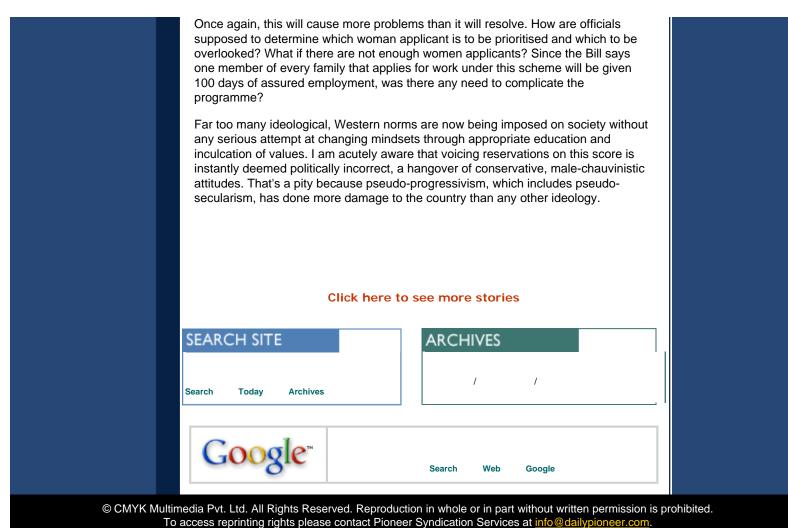
And even if she wins the legal right to stay in their home, she will never again be regarded as part of the family. How she will cope with the added trauma of her children is another matter altogether. Again, I don't wish to argue that a husband should have the unfettered right to turf out a wife on any pretext, which is often the reality. My case is that there are better ways to deal with marital disputes than mere legislation. Mandatory counselling, for instance, could be easily more effective.

In urban areas, marital problems are sometimes compounded by the confrontationist advice given to distressed women by aggressive NGOs. Undoubtedly, NGOs do play a positive role in many cases; but for the support structure they provide to traumatised women, some of the worst criminals would never have been brought to book.

But there is need to better train NGO activists and bring them under some kind of official supervision. This is what the Ministry of Women's Empowerment ought to be doing. By abdicating its role to insensitive policemen or overworked judges, the Ministry has signalled its unwillingness to come to the aid of the very segment of our society it is supposed to protect. If a more proactive role by the Ministry demands a bigger budgetary allocation, that must be seriously championed.

I also feel that the addition of "emotional" to verbal and physical abuse as a ground for seeking legal protection is liable to rampant misuse. In any law, intangibles are best left out for they are open to varied interpretation and, thereby, prolong and complicate the judicial process.

Last week, some misguided champions of women's rights scored yet another theoretical triumph. Overturning the Standing Committee's recommendation, the Government decided to concede the Left's demand that "priority" must be given to women up to 33 per cent in selecting beneficiaries of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.



For comments and feedback, please mail us at feedback@dailypioneer.com

free advertisement : Learn more



#### indiatogether org

	•	nat matters.			GOM	080	DEJU
ether	Home	Op-Ed	Interact	States	Services	Support	Searc
	<b>T</b> b			Destined to f		: Table of Conten	ts
	The present	dav dowry syst	em symbolizes the	disinneritance of	<ul> <li>manuchi@</li> </ul>	inda vent not in	

> New Issue

MANUSHI

- > Archives
- > Subscribe
- > Campaigns
- > Press Room
- > Media Centre



aay dowry system symbolizes the disinheritance of women and the resulting desperation of parents to push their daughters out of their homes after marrying them off. Madhu Purnima Kishwar points to inherent flaws in the anti-dowry legislation, and argues that equal inheritance is the way forward. Campant

- manushi@nda.vsnl.net.in
- Manushi, on India Together
- Women's Issues

Spread The Word

Even though MANUSHI played a leading role in bringing national attention to domestic violence and the role dowry has come to play in making women's lives vulnerable, after nearly 28 years of experience with these issues, I have come to the firm conclusion that the terms 'dowry death' and 'dowry violence' are misleading. They contribute towards making domestic violence in India appear as a unique, exotic phenomenon by giving the impression that Indian men are the only ones in the world to use violence based on astute and rational calculations. By this logic, it would appear that men in all other parts of the world are truly stupid because they beat and kill their wives without any benefit accruing to them, whereas Indian men attack their spouses in the expectation of extorting financial rewards from their in-laws.

Domestic violence is about using brute force to establish power relations in the family whereby women are taught and conditioned to accept a subservient status. Domestic violence is a way of trying to get women to believe that they can only live at men's mercy. It is often committed by men with low self-esteem who destroy a woman's sense of self worth because they feel inadequate to cope with a woman who thinks and acts as a free human being with a mind of her own. Like rape, wife battering points to the common predicament of women across nations, castes, classes, religions and regions.

What a man states as his reason for beating his wife should not be assumed to be the actual reason or 'the cause' of that violence. For example, if a violent incident is triggered off in a home in Germany by a man flying into a rage and battering a woman to death saying, 'you are a lousy cook' or 'you are fat and ugly', we don't call such crimes 'Lousy Cooking Murders' or 'Ugly Woman Murders'. We recognize that the ostensible reasons given by men for their violent rages are mere excuses to destroy a woman's sense of self worth. They are not the real cause. The same logic applies to dowry related violence. I have not come across a single case where a man battered a woman solely because of additional dowry demands and would begin to treat his wife well if his in-laws met with all his demands.

By contrast, I have come across numerous situations, where a woman suffers a lot of taunts and even violence because her husband's family feel she might start considering herself high and mighty for bringing in a huge dowry. Director Vijay Anand's film Kora Kagaz produced in 1970s provided a very sensitive and insightful portrayal of an otherwise happy 'love marriage' suffering a break-up because the bride's mother insists on showering her daughter and son-in-law with gifts to make up for the modest income of the latter, leading to a sense of inadequacy and humiliation in the son-in-law.

Even though I maintain that dowry per se is not the cause of domestic violence, there is no denying that dowry demands and sharp escalation in the amounts of money being spent by families in putting together dowries has contributed to viewing



daughters as a burden and consequent devaluation of women's lives. (See article "To Ensure Happiness or to Disinherit Her?", Issue 34, MANUSHI, 1986.)

The culture of dowry-giving is spreading even to communities, which had no such tradition a generation or two ago. This

despite the fact that in the last two decades the anti dowry laws have been made very stringent and draconian. Many interpret the failure of these laws to lessen dowry giving as a sign of their poor implementation. However, these laws have so many inherent flaws that their honest implementation is well nigh impossible. In fact, these laws have created more problems than they have solved. You cannot combat a 'crime' which is as ill defined as the anti dowry laws of India.

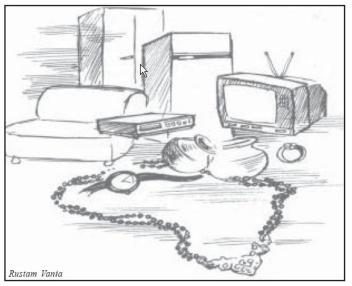
#### An III-Defined Crime

- Definition of dowry: As per the Dowry Prohibition Act (originally passed in 1961 and amended twice in the 1980s), dowry is defined as 'any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage or by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person at or before [or any other time after the marriage] in connection with the marriage of the said parties'. As per this definition, gifts of jewelry, clothes and cash traditionally given by the groom's family would also be covered by the anti-dowry law and hence declared illegal.
- Cognizable offence: Two amendments enacted in 1984 and 1986 made dowry giving and receiving a cognizable offence. This means, a court can initiate proceedings upon its own knowledge or on the basis of a police report, even if the aggrieved person has lodged no such complaint. Gifts allowed : As per this law 'dowry' is forbidden but 'gifts' are allowed. The anti-dowry law cannot be invoked against the giving of presents at the time of marriage to the bride without any demand having been made 'provided that such presents are entered in a list maintained in accordance with the rules' as defined under the Anti- Dowry Act.

Presents to the groom allowed: Presents given to the groom are also exempted, provided no demand has been made and they are entered in a list and provided that 'such presents are of a customary nature and the value thereof is not excessive' in relation to the 'financial status of the person by whom, or on whose behalf, such presents are given.'

The theory that growing greed is the cause of dowry increase would make sense only if our country had two distinct sets of families - those who only produced sons and those who produced only daughters.

- Prescribed punishment: A person found guilty of taking or abetting the giving or taking of dowry, invites imprisonment for a term not less than five years and with a fine which shall not be less than Rs 15000 or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more.
- Legalising the illegal: After declaring that giving or taking of dowry is illegal, the Act adds a curious rider that 'where any dowry is received by any person other than the woman in connection with whose marriage it is given, that person will transfer the dowry to the woman within three months after the date of marriage or within three months after the date of receipt. Failure to transfer a woman's dowry invites imprisonment for not less than six months and a fine of Rs.10,000. If the dowry was received when the woman was a minor, it should be transferred to her within three months after she has attained the age of 18 years.
- In most other crimes, including murder, Indian jurisprudence puts the burden of proof on the complainant and the accused is considered innocent till proven guilty. However, in the case of dowry related offences, a husband and his family have to prove that they did not make dowry demands and what was given by the bride's parents were voluntary gifts.
- Dowry return : Section 406 prescribes imprisonment of up to three years for criminal breach of trust for not returning a woman's dowry, if a woman demands it after her marriage breaks down. Section 406 is one of the few clauses in the law that has proven useful for women with a genuine case because it helps in the retrieval of dowry where the husband or in-laws are



unwilling to return the goods that came as dowry. If a person fails to comply with the court's direction to transfer a woman's dowry within the specified period, an amount equal to the value of the property may be recovered

#### from him.

- Draconian anti-cruelty law: In 1983, Section 498A of the IPC defined a new cognizable offence, namely, 'cruelty by husband or relatives of husband'. This means that once such a complaint is registered by the victim or any of her relatives, the police have no option but to take action. It prescribes imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years, and also includes a fine. The definition of cruelty is not just confined to causing grave injury, bodily harm, or danger to life, limb or physical health, but also includes harming mental health by harassment and emotional torture through verbal abuse. This law takes particular cognizance of harassment, where it occurs with a view to coercing the wife, or any person related to her, to meet any unlawful demand regarding any property or valuable security, or occurs on account of failure by her, or any person related to her, to meet such a demand.
- Punishment for 'dowry death': Women's organizations also pushed to get a new category of crime included on the statute book via an amendment to the Indian Penal Code. This crime named 'dowry murder' or 'dowry death' is covered by Section 304B. This section states that if the death of a woman is caused by burns or bodily injury, or occurs under abnormal circumstances, within seven years of her marriage and it is shown that just prior to death she was subject to cruelty by her husband or his relatives, in connection with demands for dowry, such a death would be called 'dowry death' and the husband or relative would be deemed to have caused her death. The person held guilty of a 'dowry death' shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.
- Assumption of guilt: By inserting a new section 113B in the Indian Evidence Act, the lawmakers stipulated that in cases that are registered by the police as those of 'dowry death', the court shall presume that the accused is guilty unless he can prove otherwise.
- Bail provisions for 'dowry crimes': Under section 304B, in the case of a 'dowry death', where allegations of
  demand of dowry or non-return of dowry are made, the accused are frequently denied anticipatory, or even
  regular bail. This is understandable in cases of death because the unnatural demise of a woman is in itself likely
  evidence that something was seriously wrong in the marriage. But it has also meant that in all cases of a
  married woman's death, lawyers tend to advise the woman's family that they must build a case of dowry
  demands even if the murder or suicide was due to other reasons.

#### **Basic Flaws in the Laws**

Many problems arise from this fuzzy definition of crime combined with draconian provisions for punishment:

- Who decides what is a 'voluntary gift' and what is given under pressure of a demand? The very same family that often declares, at the time of marriage, that they only gave 'voluntary gifts' to the groom's family, does not hesitate to attribute all their 'gift-giving' to extortionist demands, once the marriage turns sour and is headed for a breakdown. Thus, even when marital troubles may not be connected to tussles over dowry, and the marital strain is due to mutual incompatibility rather than the husband's violence or abuse, many women's families tend to seek an advantage in registering cases using the draconian provisions of the anti-dowry law when the marriage heads towards a breakdown.
- How do you decide what is 'excessive' in relation to income by way of gifts when in India no more than 2-3 percent people declare their incomes and those too are grossly under reported? How do you judge the paying status of a family if most of their wealth is in 'black' money and property holdings held in bogus names to escape taxes?
- Burden of proof on the accused : What makes this law especially draconian is that the burden of proof has been shifted onto the accused. The bride's parents rarely want to declare the true value of gifts given because the big dowry givers also put together their daughter's dowry from black money and, therefore, don't want it listed.
- When dowry giving is a crime, why would a groom or bride's family put their signature on the list of gifts being given?



• Since a good part of modern dowries consist of expensive jewelry, household goods and high priced clothes, how do you prove whether or



not these things were transferred to the bride's name within three months of marriage? For example, if a family has spent Rs.3-4 lakh on providing new furniture for their daughter's home, does it mean that all that furniture must be kept in rooms meant for the exclusive use of the daughter?

• As per the law, even dowry giving is an offence, but there is hardly ever an instance of the bride's family being prosecuted for giving dowry. The assumption is that only 'takers' are guilty while 'givers' are hapless creatures yielding to the greed and callous demands of the groom's family.

The campaigners against dowry make it appear as if escalating dowries are solely due to the greed of the groom's family. However, as I have argued in several articles, the theory that growing greed is the cause of dowry increase would make sense only if our country had two distinct sets of families - those who only produced sons and those who produced only daughters. The 'son-blessed' families would thus be permanent gainers as dowry receivers while

Difference between modern day dowry and *stridhan* is as profound as that between a horse carriage and a motorized truck. Though both move on wheels, the power that propels the two kinds of wheels is altogether different.

'daughter-cursed' families would be permanent victims of greed and be always at the mercy of extortionist demands. This is clearly not the case because a family, which gives on its daughter's wedding, becomes a recipient when its sons get married.

• This law does not take into account the rapidly changing forms of marriage transactions and mixes up the tradition of *stridhan* with modern day marriage transactions. Even the anti-dowry campaigners attribute the problems of the modern day dowry system to the tradition of *stridhan*, both of which are projected as a hangover of 'traditional' patriarchal norms. The present day custom of dowry giving may retain some ingredients of the tradition of giving stridhan (a woman's own inalienable property) to daughters but the difference between modern day dowry and stridhan is as profound as that between a horse carriage and a motorized truck. Though both move on wheels the power that propels the two kinds of wheels is altogether different.

#### Dowry vs Stridhan

*Stridhan*, as per Hindu customary practice, is that portion of wealth, which is the exclusive property of women and passes from mother to daughter. It includes gifts of money, property, jewelry or a share in a family business given to a woman as a daughter, sister, wife or daughter-inlaw. It also covers wealth generated through her own enterprise or any other wealth accruing to her due to her own effort or by inheritance. It includes, but is not limited to, gifts or wealth given to a daughter at the time of her marriage. It also includes gifts given to her by her in-laws. A key-defining characteristic of stridhan is that no one in the family can touch it, except if the woman concerned voluntarily gifts a portion to someone. In the natural course, stridhan passes from mother to daughter and if in a contingency a male member uses a part of a woman's stridhan, he is expected to return it with interest.

The traditional *stridhan* given at the time of a daughter's marriage was determined by predictable norms within each community and was more in the nature of pre-mortem inheritance for the daughter that usually included items such as gold, cows or even a piece of land, along with a few clothes and utensils. Up to my grandmothers' generation, community norms decided the gifts given to a daughter. By my mother's generation dowry had started emerging as a problem because marriage alliances began to be made on the basis of a groom's potential income and status in the 'modern' economy rather than traditional notions of stridhan.

Traditional *stridhan* gives women stronger and inalienable rights to a portion of wealth in both parental and marital families. By contrast, dowry is a device for disinheriting daughters from parental property, as discussed in my articles, "To Ensure Her Happiness or to Disinherit Her?" and "Dowry Calculations." (See MANUSHI No. 34, 1986 and No. 78, 1993. This theme is also dealt in my film: Dahej : Zaroorat ya Majboori? Available on CD from MANUSHI.). Modern inheritance laws also fall short of *stridhan* because they allow daughters and wives to be disinherited at will. As I have previously discussed, the provision of 'free will' was included in the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 specifically with a view to giving the power to fathers to disinherit their daughter. (For a detailed analysis see, 'Myth Vs Reality: The Hindu Code Bill', Economic Political Weekly, Vol. XXIX, No. 33, August 13, 1994).

Therefore, misplaced hostility to traditional cultural norms, including those like *stridhan* that gave women strong rights, results in ill-conceived campaigns that cause further harm to women. Punishment for such a poorly defined and

conceptualized law is heavy and draconian; the anti dowry law is being widely misused by unscrupulous families, policemen and lawyers.

#### From Dowry to Groom Price

Unlike *stridhan*, which was the exclusive property of the woman, the present day dowry includes gifts and wealth given at a daughter's wedding, not just to her but to her husband, in-laws and his relatives as well as household goods required for setting up the house. These vary from simple gifts of clothing and small items of jewelry for the woman, to exorbitant sums in cash or expensive pieces of property to the groom and his parents.

The amount of dowry commanded by a groom has more to do with his social status, income potential and socialfamilial connections than with the perceived share of a daughter in her parental property. Thus that part of wealth, which is given to the groom and his family, has acquired the form of groom price because it is an offering for seeking an alliance with a family with lucrative potential. Not surprisingly, men in those government jobs such as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), which command the highest bribes and unlimited avenues for looting the public as well as robbing from the public exchequer and appropriating resources such as land allotments and business contracts



command the highest dowries. If in a family one son is an IAS officer, his dowry will be substantially higher than that of his brother who may have managed to get nothing more than a schoolteacher's job.

Contemporary dowry is more like an investment by the bride's family in the hope of plugging into powerful connections and money-making opportunities. Marrying a daughter to such a man may mean upward mobility for her entire natal family, especially brothers, because they may secure huge benefits through this connection.

The component of dowry that still retains some resemblance to the traditional *stridhan* involves the bride's trousseau, gold jewelry, household goods and any property that her parents might put in her name. But even this does not always remain in her control, leading to bitter tussles. It is not uncommon for a groom's family to keep a part of this dowry for their own daughter's wedding or treat the household goods as offerings made to the family, rather than being reserved for the bride.

#### **Recompense for Disinheritance**

Denial of inheritance rights to daughters is justified on the ground that they inherit in their marital homes. However, the share women acquire in their marital family's property is not made in their own right, but comes to them through their husbands. Women inherit more often as widows than as daughters or wives. Because as widows they become claimants to their husband's share of property, dowry given at the time of a daughter's wedding has come to be seen as an offering to her in-laws, rather than her exclusive personal property.

Since in most cases only sons inherit parental property and family businesses, and it is only in the form of *dahej* that daughters get a share - albeit an unequal one - in parental property, most women consider dowry as their legitimate due. After marriage, even the parental home comes to be their brothers' and bhabhis' home. Most women feel that a dowry-less wedding does not work in their interest because it only means their brothers end up with an even bigger share of family resources.

#### How People Justify Dowry

Some of the commonly expressed justifications for dowry run as follows: When a young woman enters a new family, she feels diffident to ask for basic things she needs for her daily use. If she goes to her marital home without anything to call her own, her dependence on her in-laws and husband increases, unless she has a reasonable income of her own, which most women do not. Therefore, all the household goods and clothes parents provide their daughters are

supposed to help them feel that they have something to call their own in their new home.

Since daughters in most cases are disinherited by their parents after marriage, their main security lies in strengthening their economic rights in their husband's family. However, if they go 'empty-handed' to their husband's home, how can they expect that they will be treated as equal partners? The dowry is, therefore, in part an 'investment' made by parents to secure a share for their daughter in her husband's family property.

When women go as new brides, their in-laws are also expected to provide them with expensive new clothes and jewelry. How can gift giving be one-way? Why should women's parents not give gifts to their husband's relatives as a goodwill gesture when the bride is expected to become a claimant in the husband's income and property?

When one raises the issue of marital violence and abuse due to dowry demands many have responded with the counter question: "Are you suggesting that women get beaten, abused and murdered only in India, and that too only among communities that give dowry? Don't women in America, Europe, Australia, the Philippines, and Africa also get beaten and killed, even though in these countries dowry giving is not an issue?" Most women are in favour of a reasonable amount of dowry being given provided the groom's family does not put undue pressure on her natal family with additional extortionate demands.

**Reasons for Dowry Increase** Those who make a case for a stringent anti-dowry law on the ground that dowry amounts are rising exponentially forget that among many families in the dowry practicing groups, standards of living have also risen dramatically. Up to my grandmother's time, dowry consisted of clothes for the bride, gold or silver jewelry, several sets of bedding, cows, buffaloes and bedsteads, cots or *peedhas* and perhaps a wooden closet. Some communities also gifted a portion of land - a tradition still common in regions like Andhra. By the time of my mother's wedding, sofa sets and dressing tables had become mandatory and dinner sets and tea sets were included along with kitchen utensils. Watches, wall clocks and radio sets also became common because by then all these items had become customary parts of middle class life. Today, refrigerators, air conditioners, automobiles and a whole range of gadgetry are an integral part of upper class and upper middle class dowries because these families use many of these conveniences in their daily lives.

However, there is no escaping the fact that ugly tussles are becoming commonplace over dowry payments. An important reason for growing cash demands and expensive gifts for the groom's family is that parents see this as their main, if not the only chance, to be compensated for the big bonanza they are offering the bride in the form of an earning son. They feel they should be recompensed for their investment in his education and upbringing since after marriage his wife may influence him not to support his own parents. As long as joint families were the norm and most parents could count on their sons to support them in old age and treat their income as belonging to a common pool, dowry demands were not as much of an issue. However, with increasing breakdown of joint families and reluctance of many women to stay with in-laws, the insecurity of parents in many families takes the form of trying to extract what they can from the bride's family at the time of their son's marriage.

The rapid upward mobility made possible due to opening of new opportunities for urban educated middle and upper class men, whose earning potential has increased exponentially, has meant that such grooms are avidly sought after. For most women upward mobility comes through the man they marry rather than their own employment. Most families try getting higher status grooms in the belief that their daughters will find it easier to adjust in such families than if they were to marry below their status, apart from the benefits accruing in the long run to the girl's family by forging an alliance with a well-connected kinship network; the demand for such upwardly mobile men is far in excess of supply.

An important reason for the increase in domestic conflicts, rising dowry demands and the transformation of dowry from *stridhan* to groom price is that our legal enactments, administrative interventions and state policies are forcing the nuclearisation of families without due attention to the fact that the only or main old age security for the vast majority of people in India are their children, especially their sons. Parents invest all they can in their son's education and career building in the hope and expectation that sons will get jobs or other forms of earning opportunities bringing about upward mobility for the whole family. Sons are expected to contribute to the education and marriage costs of younger siblings as well as take care of parents in their old age. In societies where there is near total absence of any other form of



social or old age security, this is an understandable expectation.

However, too many parents find this expectation belied after their sons get married, especially if their sons take up well paying jobs or succeed in an independent enterprise separate from the joint family economy. Not just in metropolitan cities, but even in small towns and villages of India, young wives are increasingly prone to insist on moving away from the joint family and set up their own independent establishment, even when the in-laws are not abusive.

A man continuing to financially support his parents or younger siblings even after nuclearization of the family often finds stiff resistance from his wife. Many even stop doing so. Sometimes parents themselves withdraw from receiving such support in order to avoid friction in the marital life of their sons.

Without doubt, in some cases daughters-in-law willingly endorse their husbands' efforts to support their natal families. But the over all trend is more in the direction of moving away from taking responsibility for the in-laws.

#### Insecurity of Groom's Family

In recent years I have heard any number of parents tell me that marriage no more means 'kanya daan' (gift of a daughter) but 'putr samarpan' (handing over of son to the daughterin- law). They say that they have to be prepared for the eventuality that even occasional visits to the son's house may be resented and blocked by his wife, if she succeeds in winning him over to her side. That is why one finds many parents try to marry off their daughters before they arrange their sons' marriages because of the fear that they may not be allowed to contribute to the expenses after their sons get married. This is also the reason why dowry is increasingly taking the form of 'groom price', with parents expecting that a certain sum of money will be given to them almost as 'recompense' for their handing over the income and assets of their son to the woman who becomes his wife.

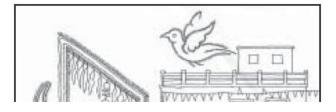
This increasing insecurity and uncertainty is at the heart of family tussles between the bride, her natal family and her-inlaws. While some gracefully resign themselves to this fate and even encourage sons to set up a separate house after marriage, many fight a grim battle to keep their sons under their influence, which often means using even vicious methods to prevent the couple from enjoying a close conjugal relationship. The young bride has a formidable weapon in her armory - her youth and sex. The old parents exploit the emotional appeal of blood bonds. This bond is easier to sever where the parents are dependent on the sons for old age support. The few families who are very wealthy may succeed in using their property as a glue to keep their married sons close to them. This anxiety and uncertainty about their fate vis-a-vis their sons is in large part responsible for strengthening the culture of 'dowry demands'.

The fierce battles between daughters-in-law and parents-in-law are also largely due to the fact that women in most communities are conditioned to believe that their rights lie in their husbands' families. Therefore, they feel extremely insecure and resentful about the claims of other members of their husbands' families. Part of the solution to this dilemma, therefore, lies in giving women inalienable rights in their parental property so that they enter their marital homes with a sense of self confidence in the knowledge that they don't have to keep the marriage going 'at all costs' and don't have to carve out a niche for themselves by curbing the rights of their in-laws.

#### **Draconian Yet Ineffective**

The anti-dowry agitationists do not take these new dynamics into account. They have relied mainly on pious outrage combined with emotive outbursts demanding that the law be made more and more stringent in their attempt to abolish this 'social evil'. However, such laws work only if people perceive their own interest in the proposed measure of reform. If a woman believes in taking a portion of her parental wealth at the time of her marriage and if her parents believe this is a necessary investment for her future happiness, how can any law stop such giving and taking? The only effect of the anti-dowry law and campaign has been that the giving and taking has become more surreptitious. Earlier, families ensured that proper lists and accounts were prepared and the groom's family was made to sign the list of things they received while the dowry itself was put on display for all the relatives to take note of so there were numerous witnesses to the transaction. Today, no lists are signed and most of the giving and receiving is shrouded in secrecy and made known only through whisper networks within the kinship social circle. Though there is a helpful provision in the anti-dowry law making it a criminal offence if the girl's dowry is not returned to her on demand, in case of breakdown of marriage, the battles over return of dowry have become more difficult and complicated because in order to secure the return of her dowry, a woman has to first establish what was given. If there is no clear proof of what the transactions were at the time of marriage, there is ample scope for false claims and fraudulent denials.

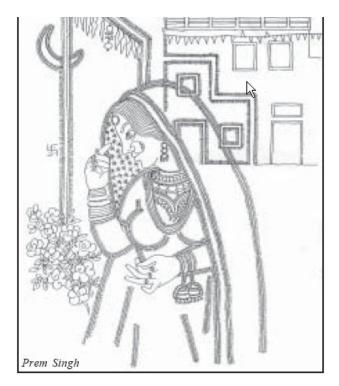
In the first decade of MANUSHI's existence, most of those who came to us for legal aid were women who alleged abuse in their marital home. In the last few years, a good proportion of the cases coming to us involve complaints by mothers-in-law and husbands about the misuse and abuse



of laws, especially section 498A. Such cases are brought to my notice not only by aggrieved families and their friends, but more often by members of women's organisations themselves. (See my article 'Under Use & Abuse of Laws against Domestic Violence' - MANUSHI No. 120, 2000).

Even the most active proponents and defenders of the antidowry law cannot claim that the law has been a success. Instead of fine-tuning their campaign to the realities on the ground, the anti-dowry agitationists have continued to demand that the law be made still more stringent.

Even though in recent years a good number of Indian feminists have evolved far more nuanced positions on this subject, in recent year, the Dowry Prohibitionists continue to get a lot of support from some international networks that help them remain politically fashionable. Since the wide gap between precept and practice, between what they say and what they do, has never bothered these rhetorically militant feminists, not surprisingly, the heroines produced by such a 'high-on-emotion, low-on-commonsense' anti dowry campaign have been as phony as the Dowry Prohibition Act.



#### Phony Laws, Phony Heroines

On May 12, 2004, most national papers and TV channels splashed the story of the 'heroism and courage' of 21 year old Nisha Sharma for having called the police to arrest her groom and his parents on her wedding day, alleging that they had suddenly demanded an additional 12 lakh as dowry from her father. Several women's organizations, including the National Commission for Women, vied with each other to give trophies and awards to Nisha Sharma, who overnight became a national icon held up as a role model for young women. Every newspaper and TV channel carried long reports of the glorious saga of Nisha Sharma. She became an instant heroine of the international media. A New York Times correspondent specially flew down to India to interview Nisha Sharma. However, to the allegations by the groom's family that the fracas on the wedding day was not created by them over dowry but instead was created by a former boyfriend of Nisha who came with his friends to stop the marriage by creating a scene, were given short shrift without proper investigation. Nisha's family did not deny that her boy friend Navneet had threatened to obstruct the marriage but insisted that the fight with the groom's family was over additional dowry demands.

An unusual aspect of this conflict over dowry was that certain items like a home theatre system, refrigerator, airconditioner and washing machine had been purchased in duplicate - one set for Nisha and her husband and a second set for the groom's elder brother and wife. The justification given for this second dowry was that the groom's mother had demanded these additional items so that the standard of living of the two brothers would not vary too much. Apparently the first brother's wife comes from a family of modest means. Therefore, Nisha's father was expected to bridge the gap in the standard of living of the two brothers. Whatever the truth of the matter on that front, neither Nisha nor her father hid the fact that the family had already spent Rs. 18 lakh on buying all these goods. Thus, even as per Nisha's version, the fight was over the alleged additional demand of Rs.12 lakh, not over the giving of dowry per se. Nisha's father is reported to have told the press that they had even tape-recorded earlier phone conversations with the groom's family after they had begun making more and more demands for dowry.

Both Nisha and her father repeatedly justified the Rs. 18 lakh expenditure on dowry by saying they were not against 'voluntary giving' but were opposed to 'dowry demands'. Nobody bothered to ask them by what stretch of imagination they could describe a whole range of expensive gadgets for the elder brother's family as 'voluntary gifts' for Nisha.

So elated were the anti-dowry campaigners within the media as well as among NGOs that even before the start of court proceedings to prove the allegations leveled by Nisha against Munish Dalal and his mother, even before anyone bothered to investigate the authenticity or otherwise of Munish Dalal's counter allegations against Nisha regarding her boyfriend's role in disrupting the marriage, a chapter on her as an emulation-worthy role model for young women was included in the school textbooks of the Delhi Secondary Board curriculum.

Thus, for the public at large, Munish Dalal's family had been permanently condemned as guilty and their alleged crime turned into a moral lesson for generations to come on the basis of half-baked media reports even before the lowest court in the land pronounced its verdict. The Sharma family, by contrast, has been lionized as though they performed a great heroic deed despite the provision of the anti-dowry law that clearly states that both the giver and taker of dowry

are liable for prosecution. No one wondered why they were not arrested for having offered Rs. 18 lakh dowry as inducement to Munish Dalal's family. A few months later, media persons lost interest in her story as they allegedly discovered more and more holes in the version of the dispute Nisha and her family offered.

#### **Consensus against Extortion**

The bottom line is that Nisha, like millions of other people, believes that the voluntary giving of gifts and wealth - whatever be the amount - is perfectly legitimate, while anything demanded by the groom's family ought to be treated as an offence against the law if it exceeds the paying capacity of the bride's family or goes beyond their willingness to comply. If that is the social and legal consensus, if that is how law is actually enforced, if the dowry prohibition law comes into play not when dowry is being given or taken but only when the bride's family levels charges of coercion and blackmail, then logic demands that we scrap the anti-dowry law since extortion is in anyway a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

All cases of dowry related harassment can easily then be tried under relevant provisions of the IPC as cases of extortion. Since there is a broad-based consensus that extortionist demands are both wrong and illegal, enforcing such a law will result in greater clarity and better implementation of its scope and ambit.

Today, most women end up using the anti-dowry law to book husbands for maltreatment even if dowry is not the cause of marital breakdown. Thus anti-dowry law has not curbed the giving and taking of dowry. It has only provided a strong weapon for revenge in the hands of wives against their husbands and in-laws, whether or not their conflict is over dowry. Lawyers and even police routinely advise families to list 'dowry demands' as the primary cause of marital violence, even if in actual fact this is not at all the case, or is only a relatively minor factor in marital conflict. We have found that when we probed deeper, women narrate far more complex stories of conflict than come out in their simplistic statements to the police and law courts about dowry being the cause of all their woes.

#### **Harmful Emphasis**

It has become politically fashionable to attribute all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including female infanticide and female foeticide to the economic burden of dowry that a daughter is said to represent.

Dowry requirements are used as another excuse for considering daughters a burden. The anti-dowry movement, by limiting itself to the constant repetition of 'dowry abolition' as a panacea for women's empowerment and as the primary strategy for ending their oppression, has only helped give further legitimacy to the conventional belief that daughters are an economic liability.

There is little mention of exorbitant dowries causing the ruin of families in the literature of pre-British India. Ruin due to exorbitant dowry payments became a major theme in nineteenth century literature because this period witnessed an unprecedented erosion of women's economic importance and inheritance rights due to the manner in which the colonial rulers carried out land settlement operations in India.

We need to combat the culture of disinheritance if we wish to effectively combat the growing hold of dowry culture.

In conformity with Victorian norms that they were familiar with in their home country, land entitlements were given to 'male heads of the family', bypassing our customary laws that allowed various categories of entitlements to women. This concentrated property in the hands of men in an unprecedented way and paved the way for the disinheritance of women. In addition, the rapacious land revenue demands drained large amounts of the economic surplus from the rural economy. It made the peasants extremely cash poor. The destruction of traditional crafts pushed large sections of impoverished artisan groups to fall back on their small landholdings and the consequent increasing pressure on land made land ownership bestow special power and status.

However, with rural society and artisan groups becoming extremely cash poor, the tradition of *stridhan* seems to have become burdensome. The traditional view of daughters as paraya dhan got a new and deadlier meaning. The term paraya dhan had the connotation of viewing women as wealth. This is an apt description in a society in which women carried their *stridhan* with them, that is, property that is theirs by right Traditionally, the entry of a bride into her new family would be referred to as the coming of Lakshmi (Lakshmi aayi hai). Even today vestiges of that tradition remain in most communities. A young bride entersher marital home with haldi (turmeric) soaked feet, leaving auspicious marks on the floor, marks associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth.

As women were increasingly disinherited, daughters began to appear as liabilities. Kanyadan, the gift of a daughter, became not so much a matter of earning dharmic merit (the merit of doing one's religious duty) so much as getting rid of an unwanted burden. It is in this context of devaluation of women's lives and marginalisation of their economic rights that

dowry payments began to assume the form of offerings to a groom's family so that they would take a burden from the bride's family.

Thus, our modem inheritance laws have increasingly moved in favour of men and against the interests of women. All those communities that practiced matrilineal inheritance, such as the Nairs in Kerala, have also been forced through legislation to move towards patrilineal inheritance. Systems that provided reasonable or adequate protection of women's economic rights have been steamrollered out of existence.

#### **The Way Forward**

The present day dowry system in India symbolizes the disinheritance of women and the desperation of parents to push their daughters out of their homes after marrying them off, no matter how this affects their well-being. Failure to do so is considered a severe stigma on the family's *izzat* (reputation). Since the woman is being sent as a disinherited dependent, the receiving family has to be compensated.

Once women become equal inheritors, parents will not have to depend only on sons and daughters-in-law for old age security because daughters too will be empowered to take care of their parents. This will make families less male-centric and therefore, less prone to violent tussles. We need to combat the culture of disinheritance if we wish to effectively combat the growing hold of dowry culture. For this the following steps are likely to work better than anti-dowry laws:

- Encourage parents through widespread, high profile campaigns, to gift mainly income-generating forms of property to their daughters (land, house or business shares) depending on the economic status of the family.
- Encourage those parents who can afford it to ensure that their daughter has a house, room or even a jhuggi in her own name so that she is never rendered homeless, can never be 'thrown out of the house'.
- Amend the Hindu Succession Act to give coparcenary rights to daughters at par with sons as the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamilnadu have already done.
- Amend the Hindu Succession Act to make it illegal to routinely disinherit daughters through their wills unless they can provide strong extenuating circumstances for doing so.

#### Madhu Purnima Kishwar

Manushi, Issue 148 (published July 2005 in India Together)

- This issue of Manushi: Table of Contents
- Dowry
- Women's Laws
- Laws
- Feedback: Tell us what you think of this article





#### We have the law. To what effect?

Mumbai Pune	conducting cases? Statistics tell a sobering tale.	Indian EXPRESS
ROUP SITES Expressindia The Financial Express Ecreen	Due to the way in which the criminal justice system works, the odds are stacked up against women. The production of evidence on "verbal and emotional abuse" may not be in the forms and shapes the courts appreciate. The large number of acquittals in IPC 498 cases proves this point.	click here
ashmir Live xpress Cricket oksatta okprabha xpress Computer lorth American dition [Print] OLUMNISTS he Indian Express he Financial Express UBSCRIPTIONS ree Newsletter	As it is, there are 41 acts that are women related and/or women specific. Dowry Prohibition Act, Illegal Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA), Pre-Natal Diagnostics Act (PNDT), to name just a few, are each well intended. But it is time to make them effective. Parliament would have done a greater service to the women of this country if it looked at the recommendations of commissions to improve the judicial infrastructure and reform the criminal justice system. It is time we thought of bringing all offences of criminal nature against women under one umbrella act. This act should allow the aggrieved woman to choose her prosecutor, and provide legal aid and protection, like the Atrocities against Scheduled Castes (Prevention) Act. Such cases should go through fast track courts. Only then can the promise of justice for women be meaningful. The writer is a former member, National Commission for Women	<ul> <li>Harassment at work law soon</li> <li>'Restore NCW credibility'</li> <li>A muted cheer</li> <li>What leading women are saying about the new law governing Hindu women/c right to a</li> </ul>
Vireless Express YNDICATIONS SS Feeds RSS 2.0	Ads By Google	women's right to a share in agricultural and ancestral property
RESOURCE LINKS dipex hentermine Didrex Designer Bags cheap Phentermine	Berkeley Martial Arts Free intro lesson kids & adults. Learn self-defense. www.karateberkeley.com Threat Assessment Group TAG, Inc., Consulting and Training in Workplace Violence Prevention www.taginc.com Fear No Man	<ul> <li>LS passes Bill giving women equal rights over agriculture land and joint property</li> </ul>
viscount Footwear uy Phentermine hentermine Online	Discover What The Martial Artists And The Army Don't Want You To Know www.TopSecretTraining.com	Varanasi Blasts
heap Phentermine viscount Shopping hoe Legends	Your comment[s] on this article         • The word verbal abuse , economical abuse , other w »       swarup         • To me, all the governments provisions towards wome »       Satya	<ul> <li>Assembly Poll '06</li> <li>The Bush Visit; March '06</li> <li>Budget 2006-07</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>I echo with Mr Jinesh Zaveri views. It is another » Prudvi</li> <li>Suicide rates in India: National Suicide rate is: » srivastava</li> <li>If only a handful of cases were convicted, it clea » Jinesh Zaveri</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>India-England Series</li> </ul>
	Total comment[s]: 5 Read comment[s] Post your comment	
	Home   Front Page   Op-Ed   Edits   Columns   Sport   National Network   International   Business	

N.FO

We're giving away \$1000 a day, everyday

Plus a chance to WIN a seat at World Series of Poker 2006 Click Here

DNA - India - We are also women, say transsexuals - Daily News & Analysis



Home | Evolutions | Grandeur | India | Money | Mumbai | Opinion | Salon | Speak Up | Sport | World | After Hrs | epaper

Sunday: DNA Sunday | After hrs.sunday | Me | Ya! Supplements: Bio DNA | Academy | AdZip | Revv Up | Glory | Life360° | Bricks & Mortar

#### We are also women, say transsexuals

**Print Article** 

Search This Site

**RSS Feed** 

Q

Sumanta Ray Chaudhuri Tuesday, March 07, 2006 22:50 IST

KOLKATA: Transsexuals -- or males who have undergone sex-change operation to become females -have an agenda today, on Women's Day.

They too want to enjoy the rights and social status of women. In fact, they want the special laws enacted

M Email Article

Most Emailed Articles

Most Viewed Articles

for the protection of women to be applicable to them as well. Further, they have demanded that women rights groups and activists give equal importance to their cause.

A cross-section of the community has demanded that as 'women' they should also be able to reap the benefits of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which defines the offence of matrimonial cruelty.

The demand has come mainly from Manabi Banerjee, a professor in a college in West Bengal, who is currently fighting a matrimonial-cum-criminal suit against her husband, Avijit Pahari.

Manabi, born male as Somnath Banerjee, underwent a sex-change operation three years ago and married Avijit a year later.

Be the first to rate this article!

M Email Article

Print Article Search This Site

More India headlines...

#### Latest News

- Congress to contest 48 seats in TN
- US-Japan missile tip passes first test

RSS XML

- Indo-US N-deal won't fuel arms race: White House
- Iran nuclear issue heads for UNSC
- NCP to announce RS candidates by March 13
- China calls for further talks to defuse Iran issue
- N Korea test-fires two missiles
- China blogs reappear a day after closure
- You had better be nice to your 'bai'

#### News At A Glance

Most Emailed Articles

😷 Most Viewed Articles



What your stars foretell by MARJORIE ORR

#### **SUTRA**

He who seeks vengeance must dig two graves: one for his enemy and one for himself. **Chinese Proverb** 



Contact Us | About Us | Advertise with Us | Subscription

COPYRIGHT © 2006 DILIGENT MEDIA CORPORATION LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

BEST VIEWED WITH 800X600 SCREEN RESOLUTION