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Legal experts slam marriage notices

Sonia Sebi

The notice of intended marriage is unconstitutional and is against the Right to Privacy and the right to live with human dignity opined Avani Chokshi, a member of All India Lawyers Association For Justice (AILAJ) on Tuesday.

AILAJ has written to the Karnataka Chief Minister requesting for the prohibition of the practice of uploading 'notices of intended marriage' under the Special Marriage Act and seeking action against Mohan Gowda, Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti (HJS) for hate speech and incitement of violence on social media. Gowda, on March 24, tweeted derogatory comments on inter-faith marriages disclosing the identities of the candidates.

The letter made three requests to the state government- to explore legal means to prohibit the prevailing practice of 'uploading of notices of intended marriage' under the Special Marriage Act, immediate steps to enact a law that deals with 'honour' crimes, and to ensure strict criminal action against Gowda. "There is no such requirement for such a publication. If it is only for those people who are getting married under special acts to know about the candidates' existing marriages or the legal impediments involved, it doesn't make sense. In no other marriage enactments there is a provision to publicise details," added Chokshi.

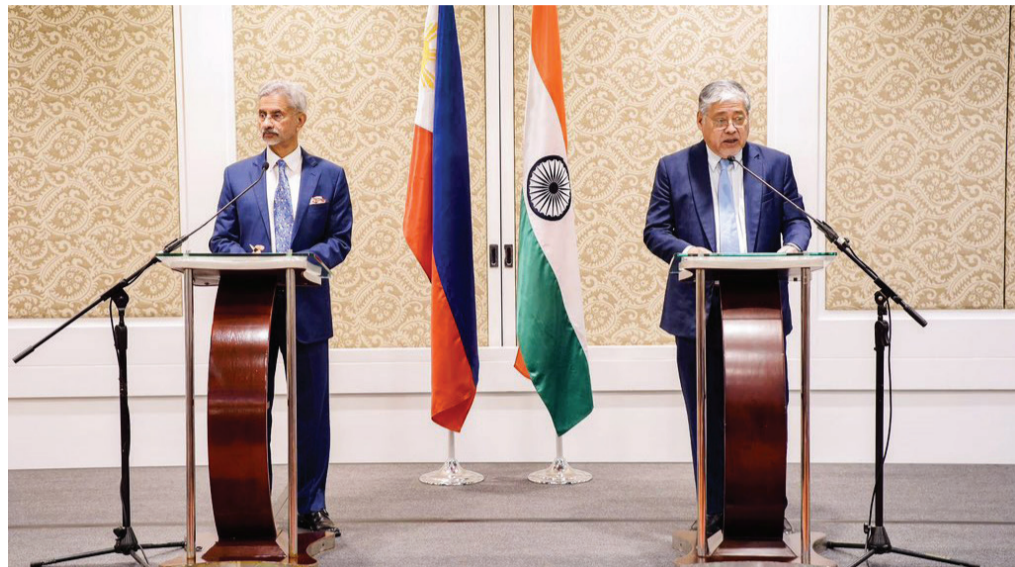
Jaishankar expresses support for Philippines' sovereignty

Parvathi Nair

Deeming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 as the constitution of the seas, Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India said on Tuesday that all parties must adhere to it in its entirety, both in letter and in spirit.

Jaishankar was speaking at a joint press conference with Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Enrique Manalo in Manila after claims of clashes involving Filipino vessels being attacked with water cannons by Chinese coast guard ships came to light last week.

He said that as a nation deeply invested in this region because of its Act East policy and Indo-Pacific vision, India follows all developments



Dr S Jaishankar and Enrique Manalo at the joint press conference in Manila

@DrSJaishankar

with great interest. Expressing strong support for ASEAN's centrality, cohesion and unity, he stated that the progress and prosperity of this region is best served by staunch adherence to a rules-based order. "I take this opportunity to firmly reiterate India's support

to the Philippines for upholding its national sovereignty," he added.

He maintained that India's partnership with the Philippines also has a larger context in terms of the engagement with the ASEAN as the Philippines will take over as India's country coordinator later

this year.

He said that some of the recent developments in ties between India and the Philippines were positively recognised in their meeting. The countries are moving ahead on Quick Impact Projects (QUIPs) in agriculture, health and capacity building. The

growing comfort and trust between the two countries is also reflected in the ongoing supplies of rice from India as an exceptional measure, he said.

Manalo said that the two countries have a shared interest in a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. He lauded the Indian Navy's immediate and effective response to the distress call of the bulk carrier MV, ultimately resulting in the safe return of 13 Filipino seafarers.

"The minister and I have decided to accelerate our maritime cooperation with a planned maritime dialogue with India to be held in Manila, following the successful track 2 dialogue in September last year which confirmed several promising areas of collaboration" he added.

BWSSB to penalise defaulters in Bengaluru

Amrutha GP

BENGALURU:The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has put out strict guidelines to reduce water wastage amidst Bengaluru's extreme water deficit.

Over the previous week, locals who were found washing vehicles have been imposed fines.

According to Section 109 of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, those who are found wasting Cauvery water for pointless purposes such as car washes and plant watering are being imposed with fines ranging from Rs 3,000 to Rs 15,000.

Even those who used borewells or tap water to wash their cars



Representational Image

The Leaflet

have also faced repercussions.

The practice of using Cauvery water apart from drinking purposes, for unnecessary tasks is prevalent in the city," said Srinivas G, Manager of Water Conservation and Demand Management at the BWSSB. He further added that despite

appeals and alerts, people are not complying with the guidelines.

People could raise a complaint with the BWSSB's toll-free number - 1916. This helpline has been made to ensure that people realise their responsibility amidst this dire situation and people violating the guidelines are held

accountable added Srinivas.

RS Munisami, vehicle service centre owner from KR Puram, while talking to The Beacon, said, "I didn't know about the regulations since I don't read newspapers, but when a client informed me, I ignored it because such news came up daily."

Recollecting an incident he said that a BWSSB official tried to fine him with Rs 6000 because of the wastage of water that happens at the service centre. But since he wasn't aware of the guidelines, the official left him with a warning.

He further added that since it is their only source of income, the vehicle service association might hold a strike.

Indian coast guard ship arrives in Manila

Parvathi Nair

Like-minded countries of the Indo-Pacific should be doing more with each other, said Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India in his address during his visit to Indian coast guard (ICG) ship Samudra Pahredar in Manila on Tuesday.

Samudra Pahredar, a specialised Pollution Control Vessel, arrived at Manila Bay, Philippines on March 25 on a three-day visit. Besides strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the visit of specialised Pollution Control Vessels is part of a broader initiative aimed at demonstrating ICG's marine pollution response capabilities, and shared concern and resolve towards marine pollution in the ASEAN region.

Jaishankar said that the ship's presence happens to coincide with his bilateral visit to the Philippines and each signifies a deepening partnership. "The visit of this pollution control vessel to the Philippines is significant because it highlights the shared challenges we face in that domain, not just in combating pollution but even in IUU fishing or ensuring marine environment protection," he said.

Congress 'aids' Kangana's campaign

Shruti Srivastava

Every woman deserves dignity, be it a teacher, actress, journalist, politician, or sex worker, said Kangana Ranaut, an Indian actress and recently turned politician while talking to the media in the wake of a social media post by Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete on Monday.

Shrinete allegedly posted "Kya bhaav chal raha hai mandi mai koi batayega" (Can someone tell me the price in the mandi?). This comes after Ranaut got the Lok Sabha

election ticket from the BJP from Mandi constituency in Himachal Pradesh.

"I am very disappointed that a place like Mandi, which is called mini Kaashi and respected by prominent saints, has been subject to such derogatory comments," said Ranaut. She added that this comment has not been well received by the residents of Mandi and that they are hurt.

The social media spat started when Shrinete posted a picture of the actress on her social media account with

alleged derogatory remarks.

Ranaut took to Twitter to react to the post, where she said, "In the last 20 years of my career as an artist, I have played all kinds of women." She further wrote that we should free our daughters from the shackles of prejudices, rise above the curiosity of their body parts and refrain from mocking the struggles and challenging life circumstances of sex workers. However, Shrinete erased the post and claimed the post uploaded by someone in her team.

Rogue elephant injures eight

Neenu M

In the aftermath of an elephant attack during the Tharakkal festival at Arattupuzha temple in Thrissur, Kerala, on March 21, eight people were seriously injured including two mahouts and a child and many vehicles were damaged, said Adithyan Pradosh, a devotee who attended the festival. Many devotees who had gathered for the Tharakkal festival at Arattupuzha temple were injured in a stampede triggered by an elephant attack. One of the elephants brought

for the procession became agitated and tried to attack another elephant and its mahouts, causing a commotion and making the devotees flee in panic. "Because of the running and the screaming among the huge crowd, I hurt my ankle and shoulder trying to protect my parents and my younger sister who was also slightly injured," said Pradosh, a devotee.

Despite the lack of preventive measures and a tranquilisation team, the elephants were controlled.