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DOWRY EVIL MUST NOT CONTINUE

» Twisha Sharma Case

- Twisha Sharma (33), a resident of Noida, Uttar Pradesh, won the Miss Pune title in 2012 and had acted in a few Telugu and Hindi films. She had also worked as an advertising model.
- She married lawyer Samarth Singh from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, in December 2025.
- On May 12, she allegedly died by suicide by hanging herself at her husband's residence.
- Investigations revealed : The groom's family had allegedly received dowry worth several lakhs during marriage.
- They allegedly pressured her to transfer shares worth Rs.20 lakh, registered in her name, to them.
- Six injury marks were reportedly found on her body during investigation.
- Twisha's parents claimed injustice because : Her husband is a lawyer.
- Her mother-in-law, Kripala Singh, is a retired district judge from Bhopal.
- Due to public attention and media coverage, the Supreme Court took up the matter on its own initiative.
- Deepika Nagar Case - Deepika Nagar (25) from Greater Noida, near New Delhi, died on May 17.
- According to her father Sanjay Nagar : During marriage, the bride's family provided: Rs.11 lakh in cash; Gold worth Rs.50 lakh; A Scorpio car
- Despite this, the groom's family allegedly demanded : An additional Rs.51 lakh, A Fortuner car

PRIME MINISTER'S SVANIDHI SCHEME

- ♦ The Central Government launched the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme on June 1, 2020.
- ♦ Under this scheme, street vendors are provided collateral-free loans in phases : First installment: Rs.15,000, After timely repayment, second installment: Rs.25,000; After repaying the second loan on time, third installment: Rs.50,000
- ♦ Beneficiaries who repay their loans regularly are also provided with a RuPay credit card linked with UPI, enabling them to obtain loans of up to Rs.30,000.
- ♦ So far, under this scheme, more than 1.12 crore collateral-free loans have been approved across the country, and more than Rs.17,800 crore has been disbursed to street vendors.
- ♦ The main objectives of the scheme are trust, dignity, and empowerment.
- ♦ The government has appreciated beneficiaries of the scheme for their contribution toward strengthening the country's economy.

- Her father alleges that she was pushed from the terrace of the house and murdered.
- In this case: Deepika's husband Rithik and father-in-law Manoj were arrested.
- In Twisha's case, husband Samarth Singh and mother-in-law Kripala Singh were arrested after several days.
- Dowry Death Statistics
- Statistics indicate that dowry deaths, which stood at 7,634 cases in 2015, have gradually declined.
- However, even today : On average, 15 women die every day due to dowry-related harassment.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, in 2024 alone, 5,737 dowry deaths were recorded across India.
- State-wise figures : Uttar Pradesh: 2,038 deaths, Bihar: 1,078 deaths, Madhya Pradesh: 450 deaths
- According to NCRB data for 2024, states reporting high numbers of murders involving women included : West Bengal: 163 murders, Odisha: 161 murders, Rajasthan: 75 murders
- Only a few cases receive media attention. Social Reality Behind Dowry Harassment Many cases of women facing dowry harassment never come to light.
- Lakhs of women continue to experience : Dowry harassment, Domestic abuse, Psychological torture
- A common allegation is that mothers-in-law often play a major role in demanding dowry.
- Instead of directly calling it dowry, demands are often framed as : "This is for your daughter's future." "If your daughter expands her business, it benefits her too."
- During marriage, the bride's family may promise : More jewelry in future, Buying a car later, Helping build a house.
- But financial difficulties often make these promises impossible to fulfill.
- As a result, many young women face emotional abuse, humiliation, and harassment in their marital homes.

INDIA'S FUTURE PSYCHOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

- According to the recently released Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) — the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her lifetime — has now declined to 1.9.
- This is below the replacement level of 2.1, which is required to maintain population stability.
- The birth rate has declined from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024. At the same time, the death rate has only marginally decreased from 6.7 to 6.4.
- India's median age is currently 29.2 years, while China's median age is 40.2 years. In many European countries, it is even higher.

Today News...

- At present : Around 380 million (38 crore) Indians are between 15–29 years of age. This accounts for nearly 27% of the population. More than 65% of India's population is below 35 years of age.
- » Changing Human Relationships
- Several factors have contributed to the decline in fertility rates : Urbanization, Educational advancement; Family planning awareness; Preference for smaller families.
- While these are signs of development, they are also transforming traditional family structures.
- Earlier, Indian families were built around intergenerational relationships.
- Children grew up in environments where : Grandparents were central figures, Relatives shared caregiving responsibilities, Families acted as emotional support systems, not just economic units.
- Today, the artificial identity-driven world created by social media is slowly replacing real human relationships.
- Despite having hundreds of online connections, a generation is emerging that lacks emotionally secure relationships.
- Urban lifestyles, frequent migration for employment, and individual-centered thinking are weakening family structures further.
- Many young people spend large amounts of time on social media, resulting in emotionally unstable states. Likewise, many elderly people receive financial support but remain emotionally neglected.
- » Transformation of Emotions
- The lives of today's Indian youth are vastly different from previous generations.
- Factors affecting young minds include : Educational competition, Fear of unemployment, Social comparison, Social media pressure, Constant pressure to prove success.
- Earlier, children compared themselves only within schools or local communities. Today, they compare themselves globally.
- Young people often showcase achievements online but may not develop resilience to handle failure.
- Social media has turned emotions into marketable products.
- As a result, many young people increasingly feel pressured to display emotions artificially.
- Negative emotions such as : Anger, Hatred, Fear, Aggression, Political polarization are often amplified and targeted toward youth audiences.
- This pushes young people toward emotional reactions before critical thinking, which is dangerous.
- » Increasing Risks
- India's average life expectancy has now increased to 72 years. This reflects medical progress.
- However, longevity alone does not determine quality of life.
- Old age without emotional support creates psychological challenges.

- Factors increasing loneliness among older adults include : Retirement, Loss of social participation, Health problems, Children migrating to cities or abroad
- In earlier times, older people were respected as symbols of wisdom.
- Today, rapid technological and cultural changes are pushing many elderly people to the margins of society.
- The SRS report also highlights another important issue : Regional and Rural–Urban Inequality.
- Large differences still exist between : Regions, Rural and urban areas.
- Many South Indian states perform better than northern states on health indicators.
- This inequality is not merely developmental — it also creates psychological impacts.
- Communities living with : Poverty, Insecurity, Social anxiety are more emotionally vulnerable.
- Such societies are more easily influenced by fear, hatred, and political mobilization.
- Therefore, India’s demographic transition requires not only economic planning but also psychological and social planning.

» What Can Be Done?

- Schools should not function only as examination centers.
- Education should include : Emotional management, Stress management, Communication skills, Decision-making ability, Problem-solving skills, Safe social media usage.
- Children should also learn : How to handle failure, Emotional regulation, Relationship-building skills.
- Similarly, elderly people should not be viewed merely as people who require care.
- They should become active participants who guide society through experience. Society must create conditions for this participation.
- Older generations provide : Experience, Wisdom, Memory
- Young generations provide : Energy, Innovation
- Societies that separate generations eventually lose this continuity. This is one of the major challenges facing Indian society.
- The solution is not limited to : Hospitals, Jobs, Pension schemes.
- India also needs : Supportive families, Human-centered education systems, Societies that value mental health, Programs that connect youth and elderly populations.
- These measures are essential for building a healthier and more socially connected future.
- India therefore needs not only : Hospitals, Employment opportunities, Pension schemes but also : Supportive families, Human-centered education systems, Communities that value mental health, Programs connecting young and elderly populations.
- Such efforts are essential for building a healthier, more connected society.

IMPRINT OF ISLAM IN CHOLA INSCRIPTIONS

- Recently, during Prime Minister Modi's official visit to the Netherlands, the Chola-era Anaimangalam copper plates were officially handed over by Leiden University.
- These copper plates, internationally known as the Larger Leiden Plates, weigh around 30 kg and their return marks a new chapter in Tamil Nadu's history. There is another aspect that adds pride to Tamil heritage.
- » Creation of the Copper Plates
- These copper plates were created in the early 11th century CE, when the Chola Empire was at its peak in overseas trade and naval dominance. Although the Chola rulers strongly followed Shaivism, they maintained international diplomatic relations.
- At that time, the ruler of the Srivijaya kingdom (present-day Indonesia), Maravijayottunga Varman, requested permission to build a Buddhist monastery (vihara) for monks in Nagapattinam, the major port city of Tamil Nadu.
- King Rajaraja Chola I granted permission and donated the revenue from the entire village of Anaimangalam, consisting of 97 veli of land, for the maintenance of the Buddhist institution called Chudamani Vihara (also known as Rajaraja Chola Perumpalli).
- After Rajaraja Chola's death, his son Rajendra Chola I formalized this verbal order by engraving it on 21 large copper plates, sealing them with the official Chola emblem and preserving them as permanent state records.
- » Taken Away by the Dutch
- After the decline of the Cholas, Nagapattinam came under Dutch control in the late 17th century. During wars and political instability, local people reportedly buried these plates underground for protection, but they eventually came into Dutch possession.
- Around 1712, Dutch priest Florentius Camper, who served in Nagapattinam, took these plates to the Netherlands. Later, in 1862, his descendants handed them over to the Asian Division of Leiden University Library.
- Before that, historians had identified the significance of these copper plates through archival records of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), which traded extensively in the East Indies.
- » India's Effort to Recover Them
- Recovering this historical treasure was not easy. India had been making diplomatic efforts since 2012.
- A turning point came in 2022 when the Dutch government introduced a new restitution policy stating that historical artifacts taken during colonial rule would be returned to their countries of origin if proper evidence existed.
- At the 24th session of UNESCO's international committee on restitution, India's claim over these plates was legally recognized.
- As a result of negotiations, at an official ceremony held in The Hague, the board of Leiden University handed over the plates to Prime Minister Modi in the presence of Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten.

» Religious Harmony Reflected in the Inscription

- A famous Tamil historical book, Kalvettu Oru Arimugam (Introduction to Inscriptions), clearly records that these copper plates were preserved in Leiden.
- More importantly, historian Pulavar Se. Rasu's research book Tamilaga Islamia Varalaru Aavanangal documents the final lines of the Tamil inscription:
- "...I, Thurukkan Ahamadhan, mediator and village accountant, wrote this on behalf of the assembly..."
- This means that a donation given by a Hindu (Shaivite) king to a Buddhist institution was officially documented and signed by an Islamic official named Thurukkan Ahamadhan (Ahmed), who served as an administrator and mediator.
- Senior archaeologist and epigraphist Dr. V. Vedasalam has pointed out that these plates prove:
- The international diplomatic relations of the Chola period
- High levels of religious harmony in Tamil society
- Muslims held trusted administrative positions even during Rajaraja Chola's reign
- Thus, these inscriptions suggest that Muslims were not later outsiders to Tamil society but had already become part of the social and administrative fabric during the Chola period.

**SENIOR ADVOCATE FROM COIMBATORE BECOMES
SUPREME COURT JUDGE**

- The Central Government approved the recommendation to appoint the following as judges of the Supreme Court : Chief Justice Sheel Nagu (Punjab & Haryana High Court), Chief Justice Chandrashekar (Bombay High Court), Chief Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva (Madhya Pradesh High Court), Chief Justice Arun Palli (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court), Senior Advocate V. Mohana from Tamil Nadu.
- Following approval, President Droupadi Murmu appointed all five as Supreme Court judges.

» Number of Judges Increased to 37

- With these appointments, the number of Supreme Court judges (excluding the Chief Justice) rises to 37.
- Chief Justice Suryakant is scheduled to administer the oath of office to the newly appointed judges.

» Historical Significance

- V. Mohana has achieved two milestones : She becomes the first woman from Tamil Nadu to be directly elevated from senior advocate to Supreme Court judge.
- She becomes only the second woman in Supreme Court history to be directly appointed from the position of senior advocate to Supreme Court judge.