

SAME-SEX MARRIAGES CAN ROCK SOCIETAL VALUES: CENTRE

ANY CHANGE IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIP SHOULD COME FROM LEGISLATURE, NOT COURT, CENTRE SAYS IN ITS AFFIDAVIT IN RESPONSE TO A SUPREME COURT DECISION TO EXAMINE PETITIONS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The Centre in the Supreme Court frowned upon same-sex marriage while invoking the "accepted view" that a marriage between a biological man and woman is a "holy union, a sacrament and a sanskar" in India. The institution of marriage has a sanctity attached to it and in major parts of the country, it is regarded as a sacrament, a holy union, and a sanskar. In our country, despite statutory recognition of the relationship of marriage between a biological man and a biological woman, marriage necessarily depends upon age-old customs, rituals, practices, cultural ethos and societal values," the Centre said in a 56-page affidavit filed on March 12.

Any "deviation" from this "statutorily, religiously and socially" accepted norm in "human relationship" can only happen through the legislature and not the Supreme Court, the government said.

The government argued that the Court had only decriminalised sexual intercourse between same-sex persons in its 2018 judgment in Navtej Singh Johar, and not legitimised this "conduct". The court, while decriminalising homosexuality, had never accepted same-sex marriage as part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.



RRR AT OSCARS: ON NAATU NAATU'S BIG DAY, UPASANA KAMINENI POSTED THIS PIC

RRR: Ram Charan's wife Upasana Kamineni has many pictures from the award ceremony

New Delhi: RRR made India proud once again by winning the Best Original Song for Naatu Naatu at the 95th Academy Awards. Now, Ram Charan's wife Upasana Kamineni is here with more pictures straight from the award ceremony. On Instagram, Upasana treated her followers to many photos with RRR director SS Rajamouli and his wife Rama Rajamouli and others. In the images, parents-to-be Ram Charan and Upasana look adorable in traditional ensembles. RRR star can be seen in black, while Upasana looks beautiful in a white cream saree paired with statement jewellery. SS Rajamouli keeps his look simple yet traditional in a dhoti kurta set, while his wife, Rama Rajamouli, opts for a pink saree. Sharing the post, Upasana captioned it as "Oscar Love. Thank you @ssrajamouli Garu & family We are here for India. #jaihind." RRR's insanely viral track Naatu Naatu has won the Best Original Song at the Oscars. It is India's second award after Kartiki Gonsalves' The Elephant Whisperers won Best Documentary Short Subject. A while ago, Naatu Naatu singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava performed live and received a standing ovation from the audience. Deepika Padukone introduced the performance and said, "An irresistibly catchy chorus, electrifying beats and killer dance moves to match have made this song a global sensation. It plays during a pivotal scene in RRR, a movie about the friendship between real-life Indian revolutionaries Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem.



BUDGET SESSION RESUMES, OPPOSITION STRATEGY MEET TODAY

Opposition parties will meet on Monday at Congress president and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's office to discuss their floor strategy.

Opposition parties will meet on Monday at Congress president and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's office to discuss their floor strategy, a meeting where they are likely to zero in on contentious issues such as price rise, alleged misuse of federal agencies and the exposure of State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India to the Adani Group in order to confront the government in parliament. People aware of the matter said the Trinamool Congress is unlikely to attend the meeting. Congress MPs are likely to meet at 9.30 am. A senior Congress leader, who asked not to be named, said the party is keen to raise people's issues in the second half of the budget session, which begins on Monday. "We will continue to raise the people's issues such as price rise, LPG price hike, Adani Group, misuse of central agencies, farmers issues and interventions by governors. We will continue to work with all like-minded parties and want Opposition to remain united."

KERALA GOVT SEEKS NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE TO DOUSE BLAZE AT KOCHI DUMP YARD

THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CONTAIN A MAJOR HEALTH HAZARD IN KOCHI HAS ALSO COME UNDER SHARP CRITICISM FROM CIVIL SOCIETY.

As a garbage hill in Kochi is still smouldering after a fire broke out on March 2 and people of the state's commercial capital continue to live under a blanket of toxic air, the Kerala Government Sunday sought the advice of the fire department of the New York City.

Ernakulam District Collector N S K Umesh, who is also the chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, said officials held a virtual discussion with New York City Fire Department's deputy chief George Healy about the crisis at the Brahmapuram waste dumping yard. He said 95 per cent of fire in the yard could be doused.

Quoting Healy, Umesh said, "He (Healy) said the present method of extinguishing the blaze in the plastic waste is the suitable option and suggested that an alert should be maintained in areas of the garbage hill where the fire could be contained."

The district collector said it was suggested during the meeting that areas where the fire had subsided but chances of re-ignition are very high should be constantly monitored. Officials said there are practical difficulties in shifting the waste to another site for soaking in water.

Healy also suggested that garbage should not be dumped again in places where the fire had been doused. Drones equipped with thermal (infrared) cameras can be used to detect embers deep in the garbage, he added. Officials also said during the meeting that the air and water quality in Brahmapuram and its surrounding areas should be monitored continuously.

FORMER ANDHRA PRADESH CM KIRAN KUMAR REDDY RESIGNS FROM CONGRESS, MAY JOIN BJP

Now he has once again quit the Congress, sending a one-line resignation letter to party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

FIVE YEARS after he rejoined the Congress, N Kiran Kumar Reddy – the last chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh – has quit the party once again. He is likely to join the BJP.

Reddy was the Chief Minister when the UPA government at the Centre bifurcated Andhra and created a separate state of Telangana in 2014. He was against the division of the state, and had opposed the move both within and outside the Assembly.

The bifurcation cost the Congress heavily in Andhra Pradesh. It suffered huge exodus of leaders and the party had not been able to win a single Lok Sabha or Assembly seat in Andhra Pradesh since then.

Reddy, too, had quit the Congress in 2014 and floated his own outfit – Jai Samaikya Andhra party. He fought the 2014 elections but failed to make a mark.

In 2018, he returned to Congress after months of negotiations.

He expected to be given an essential organisational role but nothing came his way. So much so that Reddy was not invited to the Udaipur Chintan Shivir, surprising many at the party. He has once again quit the Congress, sending a one-line resignation letter to party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

AKHILESH YADAV SHARES VIDEO OF IPS OFFICER DEMANDING ₹20 LAKH BRIBE; PROBE ON

Akhilesh Yadav attacked the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh asking it whether it will take "bulldozer" action against the officer.

A probe has been ordered after Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav tweeted an old video of an IPS officer demanding money from a businessman on Sunday and attacked the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh asking it whether it will take "bulldozer" action against the officer. Anirudh Singh, an IPS officer with the UP Police, is reportedly posted in Varanasi. He is purportedly seen asking someone on a video call to arrange for ₹20 lakh. The purported video has been stated to be of the time when Singh was posted in Meerut district. The police commissioner has been asked to submit his report on the matter, news agency PTI reported.

"After this video of an IPS demanding money in UP, will the direction of bulldozers change towards him or will the BJP government get rid of the matter by adding one more name to the list of absconding IPS? The people of UP are seeing the reality of BJP's zero-tolerance towards crime," Akhilesh Yadav tweeted along with a 10-second clip of the video. Responding to Yadav's tweet, the Meerut Police said, "This video is over 2 years old and does not have any connection with Meerut. Probe has been completed in the matter." Later, the director general of the UP Police issued a statement saying police are probing the contents of the video, which is more than two years old.

"A video of Shri Anirudh Singh, IPS officer appointed as SP Rural in district Meerut, is going viral in which he is seen conversing with a person through video call. On the basis of the said video, allegations of corruption are being levelled against Singh," an official release issued by the DGP said.



PREM NATH PANDE



UP MAN KILLS FATHER WITH HAMMER, CHOPS UP BODY OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE: COPS

According to the police, following the murder, the 30-year-old murder accused allegedly chopped the victim's body into pieces to fit it into a suitcase and dispose it off.

GORAKHPUR: n a shocking incident, a man allegedly killed his 62-year-old father over a property dispute here in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur, police said on Sunday.

According to the police, following the murder, the 30-year-old murder accused allegedly chopped the victim's body into pieces to fit it into a suitcase and dispose of it.

The incident took place in Suraj Kund colony under Tiwaripur police station limits late on Saturday night.

Police lodged a case on Sunday after Prashant Gupta, the brother of the accused, approached police with a complaint.

The man has been identified as Murli Dhar Gupta, the father of the accused.

The accused, identified as Santosh Kumar Gupta alias Prince has been arrested, Superintendent of Police (city) Krishna Kumar Bishnoi said.

He said the murder was the fallout of a property dispute in the family.

"Finding him alone at home, the accused attacked the victim with a hammer. The victim died on the spot. Then brought a suitcase from their brother's room and kept the pieces of the body in the suitcase and hid it in the street behind the house".

"On the information of the accused's brother, the police recovered the body parts and sent them for postmortem," the official added.

Further investigation has begun, officials added.

INDIGO FLIGHT DIVERTED TO KARACHI DUE TO MEDICAL EMERGENCY, PASSENGER DIES

Sources say the passenger was a Nigerian national.

New Delhi:

An IndiGo flight from Delhi to Doha was diverted to Karachi in Pakistan after a medical emergency on-board. The airline in a statement said a passenger who had fallen ill was declared dead by the airport medical team on landing. The flight was allowed to take off from Karachi and returned to Delhi with the body of the passenger who died. Sources say the emergency landing was made to save the passenger, Abdullah, a Nigerian national who was around 60 years old.

The officials said the aircraft A320-271N, which was parked at Karachi airport for nearly five hours, returned to Delhi after the authorities in Karachi issued the death certificate of the passenger and all formalities were completed.

Civil Aviation Authority officials at Karachi said the passenger fell ill onboard and the captain requested for an emergency landing at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

We are deeply saddened by the news and our prayers and wishes are with his family and loved ones. We're currently making arrangements for transferring the other passengers of the flight, in coordination with the relevant authorities," IndiGo said in an official statement.