



The Marian Wire

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Wiring Marians Together

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Love is Love

The same-sex marriage case in India has marked a significant turning point in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and equality. The judiciary's progressive stance, coupled with the continued efforts of activists and supporters, has paved the way for a more inclusive and accepting society. The recognition of same-sex marriage as a constitutional right not only empowers same-sex couples but also fosters a nation that celebrates diversity and embraces love in all its forms. The same-sex marriage case presented an opportunity for the Indian judiciary to address the fundamental issue of marriage equality. The Court's verdict, delivered on May 15, 2023, will be remembered as a watershed moment in India's journey towards true equality and inclusivity.

This case challenges the existing marriage laws that restricted the institution of marriage solely to heterosexual couples. The case was lodged by a same-sex couple who sought legal recognition and the right to marry based on principles of equality, dignity, and privacy. The couple's petition argued that denying them the right to marry was a violation of their fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. They argued that the right to marry is a fundamental right that should be available to all, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Supreme Court, in its judgment, recognized the rights of same-sex couples to marry and enjoy the same legal benefits, responsibilities, and protections as opposite-sex couples. The court affirmed that the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and the right to privacy, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution, extend to all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation. The advocates for same-sex marriage presented compelling arguments centered around equality, non-discrimination, and the right to personal autonomy. They emphasized that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violated the principles of equal protection under the law and contravened



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the fundamental rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Supporters of same-sex marriage argued that marriage is a basic human right, irrespective of sexual orientation, and that withholding this right only perpetuates discrimination and marginalization. They pointed to the growing global trend towards legalizing same-sex marriage and the positive impact it has had on LGBTQ+ individuals and society as a whole. Opposing arguments were primarily rooted in conservative traditions, cultural norms, and religious beliefs.



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will be vital to dispel myths, reduce discrimination, and foster a more accepting environment for the LGBTQ+ community. Moving forward, it is imperative that the Indian government takes concrete steps to align the legal framework with the Supreme Court's ruling. Legislative amendments must be introduced to ensure the full realization of the rights of same-sex couples, including marriage registration, adoption rights, and inheritance rights. Opponents of same-sex marriage, on the other hand, argue that marriage is a sacred institution that should be reserved for heterosexual couples. They argue that allowing same-sex couples to marry would undermine the traditional institution of marriage and harm the social fabric of Indian society. The case is currently pending before the Delhi High Court, which is expected to hear arguments from both sides before making a decision. Whatever the outcome of the case, it is clear that the issue of same-sex marriage is a deeply divisive one in India, and it will continue to be a topic of debate and discussion in the years to come. In conclusion, while India has made significant strides in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, there is still a long way to go before same-sex marriage is legally recognized in the country.

Critics of same-sex marriage raised concerns about the potential erosion of societal values and claimed that legalizing same-sex marriage would undermine the institution of traditional marriages. While the same-sex marriage case represents a historic milestone, there are still challenges to overcome. Public opinion, cultural norms, and societal acceptance will continue to play a crucial role in shaping the practical implementation of this ruling. Education and awareness campaigns will be vital to dispel myths, reduce

~Suhani Sarin

Unveiling the Veil

A veil that has been drawn over our speech- the hijab. The hijab is the known symbol for Islamic women. It is their way of exercising their liberty to practice their religion. For years there have been debates about whether or not wearing a hijab is a symbol of oppression. To understand this we need to dig deeper into the history of it all- and understand its context in terms of modern feminism. Let's start with the question of why people believe the hijab to be a symbol of oppression. Hijab became obligatory in Iran after Sayyid Ruhollah Musavi Khomeini-led the Islamic Revolution in 1979 toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who had banned the use of the head covering. Gasht-e-Ershad is a morality

police in Iran to ensure that women always donned the hijab when outside. The Islamic government created an "Islamic Penal Code" that relies directly upon supernaturally inspired texts enclosed in the Shari'a (and its variations). (the collection of legal provisions divinely revealed to the Prophet). Article 638 of the Islamic



Image Credits: Gajendra Yadav

Penal Code jails women who do not wear it for 10 days to two months. This is what proves that government has made it an oppression, when in the original text of the Quran it is a choice for devotion. Hijab means barrier or partition in Arabic. However, the word is increasingly being associated with women not having agency over their bodies. It is a fight against oppression and for religious and bodily autonomy. This is a clear sign of the fact that these religious laws were made by men, as no woman would want the same for other woman to not have authority over their own bodies, such mandatory "laws" or "oppressive natures" were never a part of the original religious texts. Almost 4 decades after the Islamic revolution, women; supported by men, protested the killing of Mahsa Amini. She was just 22 when she was killed by the morality police on 16th September for not wearing the hijab traditionally. The mother of 16-year-old Nika Shahkarami, who died after going missing on September 20, insisted on Thursday she was killed by the state after joining an anti-hijab protest in Tehran. The ban on hijab by the Karnataka government and upheld by the High Court (HC) has resulted in 17,000 girls missing exams. According to a new report, 16% of Muslim girls from Mangalore University dropped out this year. In Karnataka, a vast majority of Muslim students were not allowed entry into educational institutes if they wore hijabs, triggering a debate about whether the piece of clothing is an essential religious practice or can the the judiciary declare doing away with it. More than 400 Iranians have died while

fighting the Basij paramilitary and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Basij had trained 2.4 million Iranians in the use of arms and sent 450,000 to the front. The lopsided nature of the application of such orthodox laws has led to Iranians burning hijabs as a mark of protest. After observing these case studies what I have understood is the horrible and toxic duality of the hijab. First, they were forced to wear the hijab (in Iran) and now they are being forced to take it off (Karnataka HC ruling). This violates Article 15, which states that no one can be discriminated against on any grounds. Women have embraced hijab for a variety of reasons, including expressing their identity in France or resisting neo-imperialism in Iran. An important question that needs to be addressed is- How does the hijab contribute to the patriarchy? Hijab-wearing women are reduced to being victims of



Image Credits: Anushree Fadnavis

patriarchy regardless of why they wear it-which is imperative to discuss why that happens. The hijab is seen as a battle between the oppressor (men) and the oppressed (women). This narrow dichotomy denies women their authority and forces them to see the world through a lens where they're at the losing end. This idea was created through a man-made stigma, not from the principles of the Quran. But people don't realize the contextual meaning of the hijab and misunderstand it to be a symbol of oppression. Not all women who wear the hijab are oppressed—and making such broad generalizations is wrong. In light of the Karnataka High Court ruling, there has been a tendency to 'protect' all hijab-wearing women without determining whether and why they even need such protection. Women are always portrayed as these helpless damsels in distress. What we need to realize is that we are not aiming to create a society where women get equal rights, we're trying to generate an environment where women themselves create such a society. We must recognize them as equals. This act of 'protection' is just sugarcoating what's actually happening; pitying. Pitying them this way is creating a new cycle of oppression and objectification. We need to let people fight for themselves. Now that does not mean that we stop being completely helpful. We need to fight with them, not for them. Men 'protecting' women will just prove to the misogynists that women are dependant on men. An example of the control that most men want to establish over women- women aren't allowed to pray on periods. Why so? In the Quran, it's because women should relax and have a break on their periods but we are made to believe that women are impure when menstruating. The same happens in Hindu households, and worse; women are confined to a room to "keep out impurities".

So why is Islam given more blame for such false beliefs? Another example I feel isn't discussed enough is domestic violence. Hijab-wearing women are more prone to domestic violence as they are "already oppressed". I dug deeper into the Quran and found out that Islam was the first religion to give women basic rights like not wearing a hijab, having a job, right to education, right to own property independently, to initiate divorce, etc. So why do we show Islam, specifically its women, in such a bad light? What we need to realize is that there are always three sides to a story. Your perspective, their perspective, and the truth. We need to stop believing, building, and encouraging such damaging claims without knowing the truth. Rather we should search for the truth and always try to understand a situation from all sides.

~Suhani Sarin

Judiciary vs Executive

In recent years, Israel's executive has been making efforts to expand its power and diminish the role of the judiciary in the country's democratic system. This power struggle has intensified in recent months as the government has sought to assert greater control, policies have become a subject of more apprehension and criticism by the people of Israel. It is imperative to look into the most recent developments and their potential impact. The latest move by the executive is the proposed amendment of The Basic Law This enables the government to appoint the majority of judges in the panel and diminish the role of the Supreme Court in the appointment process. The judiciary is an essential pillar of any democratic system. Its independence is crucial in ensuring that the law prevails.



Image Credits: Avshalom Sassoni

The judiciary keeps a check on the power of the executive. Any attempt to diminish its role could have severe consequences for Israel's democracy. This action is seen as an attempt by the executive to increase its influence over the judiciary and undermine its independence. The potential to compromise the quality of justice delivered could lead to the appointment of judges based on political affiliations, rather than merit and experience; undermining the integrity of the judiciary. It is a political move to consolidate power in the hands of the government. If the judiciary's independence is compromised, the government will have absolute power which could lead

to the potential infringement of citizens' rights; the erosion of human rights and the freedom of expression as the judiciary plays a critical role in protecting these fundamentals.

This move has been met with strong opposition from the judiciary, civil society and opposition parties. In conclusion, the Israeli executive's attempt to form hegemony over the judiciary is a cause for concern. These attempts to diminish its role are met with strong opposition from civil society. It is crucial that the judiciary maintains its independence to protect democracy and its stakeholders, the people.

—Ananya Das

India's Jewel in Crisis

Ethnic riots erupted on 3rd Of May in Manipur between the Meitei people, a largely Hindu majority that live in the Imphal Valley, and the majority Christian tribes from the surrounding hills, particularly the Kuki and Zo peoples. At least 60 people were killed and 230 were injured as a result of the violence. It all started in Churachandpur district during a "Tribal Solidarity March" organized by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM), to protest the granting of reservations to the majority Meitei group. The conflict between the

Meitei and the Kuki people dates back to the 18th century. The Meitei are Manipur's indigenous population, while the Kuki are a recent addition. Cultures, religions, and languages differ amongst the two groups. Meitei are Hindus, whilst Kuki are Christians. The Meitei speak Meiteilon, whereas the Kuki speak a mix of Kuki, Zomi, and Hmar. A number of factors have



Image Credits: NDTV

contributed to the conflict between the Meitei and Kuki peoples, including competition for land, resources, and jobs. Manipur's political and economic life has long been dominated by the Meitei, while the Kuki have been marginalized. The Kuki people are now filled with resentment and bitterness as a result of this. The influx of refugees from neighboring Myanmar has also intensified the strife. The Myanmar government has waged a ruthless campaign against the country's ethnic minorities and many of these refugees have fled to Manipur. The sudden arrival of refugees has strained resources and heightened tensions between the Meitei and Kuki people. The Manipur High Court's decision to provide reservations to the Meitei community in government jobs and educational institutions

ignited the 2023 riots. The ATSUM, which represents the Kuki people, was outraged by the decision and organized a protest march. When the march was greeted with a counter-protest by the Meitei community, the march turned violent.

The violence immediately reached other parts of Manipur and the entire state was soon embroiled in a state of chaos. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and people were killed. The Indian government was compelled to send in the army to restore order. The uproar dwindled in a matter of days but the damage had been done. Numerous people were killed and hundreds more had been injured. The violence had also left an enormous scar on the Meitei and Kuki peoples' relationship. The riots' aftermath has been challenging. There is rising mistrust between the Meitei and Kuki peoples. The violence has also had a significant impact on Manipur's economy, with many businesses forced to close. The government has taken a variety of initiatives to address the conflict's root causes. It has established a commission to investigate the disturbances and has committed to execute the commission's conclusions. The state's security has been enhanced as well and a number of programmes to foster peace and harmony between the Meitei and Kuki peoples have been launched. At the same time, the administration has been chastised over the way it dealt with the situation. The government has issued shoot-on-sight orders for "extreme cases". It remains to be seen, however, if these efforts will be fruitful. The struggle between the Meitei and Kuki peoples is complicated and solutions do not exist. Healing the wounds that have been inflicted will require time and effort.

~Pratyush Singh

Examinations Kill Education?



Image Credits: Moksi Singh

Exams are an important part of our education system. They are designed to test students' knowledge on certain topics and concepts and later the scores are used to analyze academic progress. From elementary school to university, students are put through a series of exams that are meant to measure their knowledge and understanding of subjects. It helps students retrieve the knowledge they have gained and put it to test and gain confidence if they are able to perform well. The increasing emphasis on examinations and scores has led many to question- are they really beneficial for students? Measuring someone's ability on the basis of their scores doesn't seem to be right. People who have been

average at studies throughout their school life are said to have succeeded in acquiring ' education '. One of the main criticisms of examinations is that the education system focuses more on bookish knowledge and mugging up. We are not learning how to live in the practical world and are just too focused on scoring well and being amongst the top students while the whole point of going to school is gaining knowledge as well as learning how to live in the practical world. That is true education.

A generous volunteer, 25 years old, shared her thoughts- (After years of passing out of school) "Even after these 14 years of school life I don't think I am capable of introducing myself in front of the world. Our whole education system focuses on scores, which in the long term are of no use." She was constantly made fun of by teachers and peers for not being confident enough which left an impact on her. A person's ability and talents are measured by their grades. A person who has scored above 90% will be labeled as a genius whereas the others who scored average marks are told they don't have a future. The competition faced by students to be the best rote learners increases burden and anxiety among students. It may harm a student's self esteem and decrease the enthusiasm and curiosity they have. The problem is, continuous examinations can put an overwhelming amount of pressure on a student. This can be particularly acute in high-stakes exams such as university entrance exams or standardized tests which can have a significant impact on a student's future. The emphasis on exams can compel students to prioritize grades over learning. Students are not exposed to a wide range of subjects and ideas, which can limit their intellectual growth and development. This would have chronic negative effects on their education and character.

There are a lot more things a student needs to deal with other than the stress that comes from studies. They are, perhaps, having a hard time juggling mental, physical and social issues; they have a hard time fitting in with their own peers and over time these issues amplify. During teenage and early 20s, a person goes through a lot of physical and psychological changes which in itself are hard for a student to cope with. No doubt education is important for an individual but does it not include working on one's personality, mindset, mental and emotional health? A student needs to work on their problem



Image Credits: Andy Barbour

solving abilities and learn how to work in a daily practical world. I will not, however, go to the extent of suggesting that examinations should be scrapped, but a better way of testing one's knowledge and problem solving abilities must be explored. Education, and perhaps exams, should be a joyful experience; academics must have a complementary and not a debilitating role for students. We need an education pattern where a student will not be judged by their grades. A system which educates people. A system which does not end up manufacturing robots.

~Moksi Singh

Through The Woods...

Still forests fill the temporary canvas of my window.
The bus is transporting travelling travellers,
In soils of serene stillness.

The scenery paints the variety of green.
No compromise in its uniformity,
A display of its dazzling integrity.
The wise old trees stand firm,
As if history failed to test these,
Gazing life every year with profound eyes.
Oh, how elegantly they mock the jitter in human beings!

The window gets stuck on its final art piece,
The ugly rush and cement of a polluted city
Closing the curtains of my window
Seemed to offer the most peace.

~Ali Hussain

3				6	4		5	
4					2		7	
9							1	
	8							
			3			2		7
	2		4		6			3
			6	8		1		
		1		7		9		

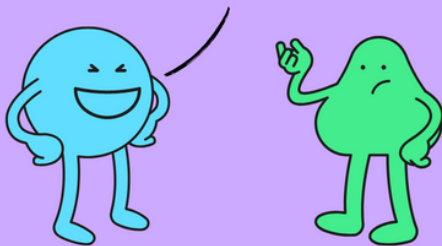
Monthly Sudoku

Challenge

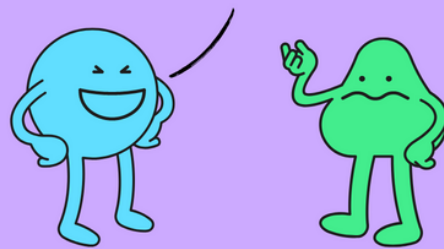
Complete this Sudoku and mail your solution to marianwire@gmail.com; we'll give you a treat

Melancholy

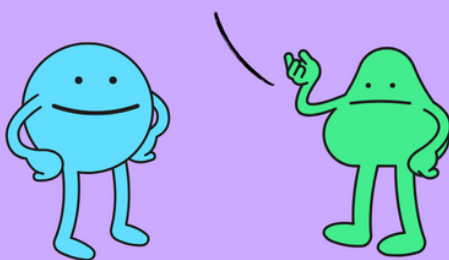
What do you call a sad coffee?



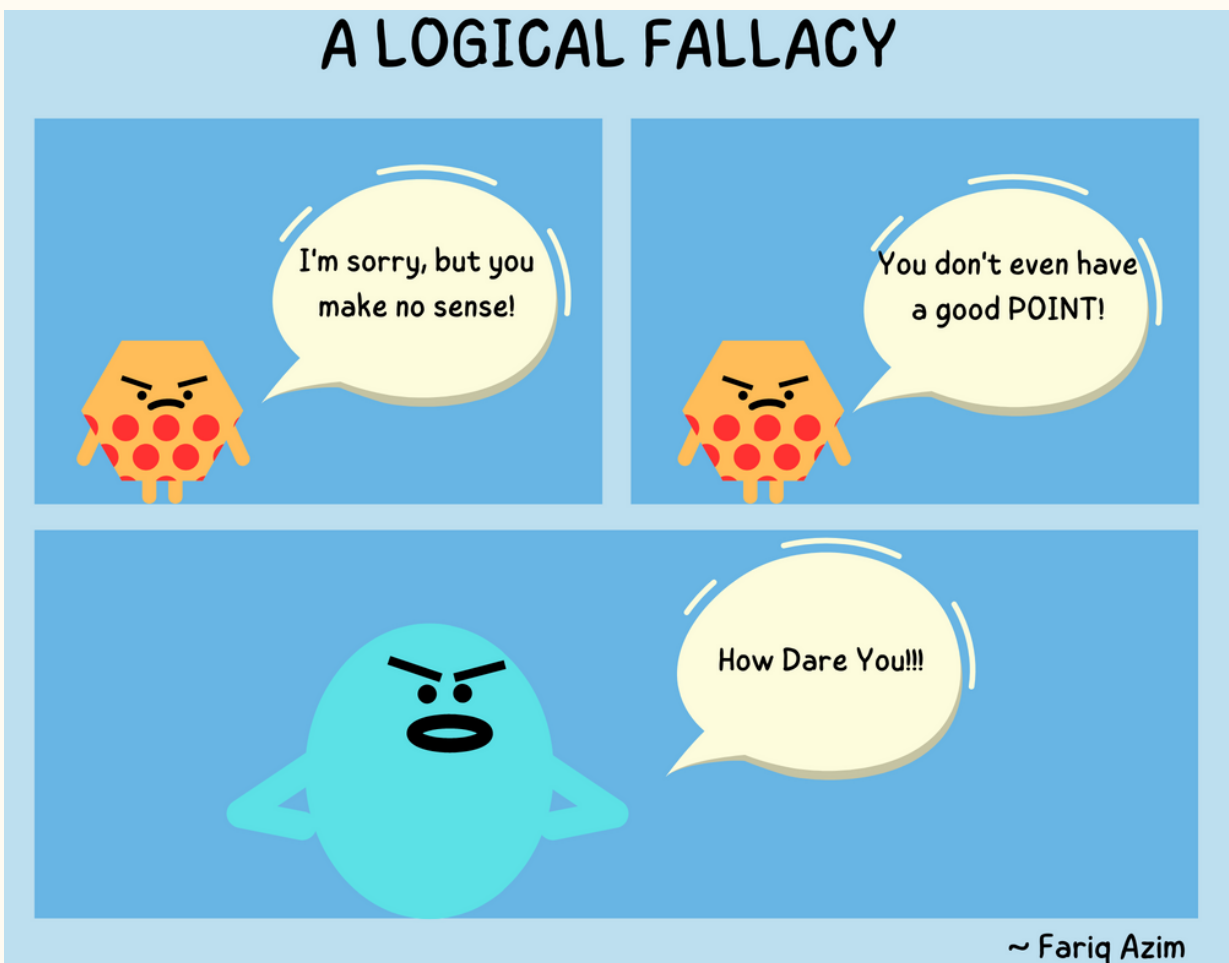
A Despresso!



Dude, are you ok?



~ Fariq Azim



About Us

The Marian Wire is a non-funded, liberal and uncensored newsletter. We bring to you crisp news, unadulterated and transparent. We cover a wide range of topics, from socio-political issues to what's happening in the school.

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