TOPIC OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER'19 (05 to 11 Dec)

The numbers don't lie

Law and justice are of supreme importance in any society, because, whatever the level of economic development, if there is no justice, fairness and rule of law, there will be dissatisfaction, oppression and anarchy. In India, the Constitution guarantees protection of life, property and personal liberty to the people and provides safeguards against deprivation thereof by any individual, body or state. Injustice drives conflict; justice on the other hand demands an end to impunity for abusers of rights on the field of battle, in political systems, workplaces and domestic homes.

From the Magna Carta to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, legal texts offer a protection of human rights and freedoms, which is why they are themselves frequently the targets of dictators and tyrants. But failure to deliver equal access to justice is also a rebuke to democratic leaders, who have not given sufficient attention, priority or investment to the issue. Securing justice and the freedoms it underpins must be a collective, inclusive endeavor for governments and all sections of society - especially women, minorities and other marginalized groups. All citizens must have access

to its instruments and institutions; allowing access to justice to remain the preserve of a privileged elite will continue to erode rights, debase shared values and weaken freedoms. The rule of law is at the heart of the relationship between society and the state. It is the basis for creating trust and accountability and forms the social contract between a government and its citizens. Law is a system of rules and guidelines which are enforced through social institutions to govern behavior, wherever possible. It shapes politics, economics and society in numerous ways and serves as a social mediator of relations between people.

In this context we should definitely talk about women safety in India, which has become a major issue now days. The crime rates against women in the country have only risen to a great extent. According to a 2019 Neta App survey, 42 percent of Indian women feel 'unsafe' in their surroundings, and 78 percent feel that authorities are not taking enough measures to ensure the safety of women in India. About 43 percent revealed that they have faced an incident where their safety was undermined. The states where women feel the most unsafe are Haryana (83 percent), Arunachal Pradesh (68 percent), and Chhattisgarh (62 percent).On the other

hand, the states where women feel the safest are Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Kerala. Among metros, Delhi was the worst performer with 56 percent women feeling unsafe. It was followed by Kolkata (32 percent), Mumbai (27 percent), and Chennai (10 percent).Women in India have been given equal rights as men; however, people do not follow this rule. They contribute to the growth and development of our country; still, they are living in fear. Women are now on respected positions in the country, but if we take a look behind the curtains, we see even then they are being exploited. Each day we read about horrific crimes being committed against women in our country like it's a norm. Although the list of crimes is very long, we can take measures to ensure women's safety in our country. Firstly, the government must make stringent laws that ensure the punishment of criminals immediately. Fast track courts must be set so the victim gets justice instantly. This will serve as a great example for other men to not commit crimes against women. Most importantly, men must be taught to respect women from an early age. They must consider women as equals so they don't even think of harming them. When you consider someone inferior, you tend to oppress them. If

this thinking goes away, half of the crimes will automatically end.

Despite of formation of various effective rules and regulations by the Indian government to handle and control the crimes against women, the number and frequency of crimes against women are increasing day by day. Women status in the country has been more offensive and dreadful in the last few years. We should not blame the government because women safety is not only the responsibility of government only, it is the responsibility of each and every Indian citizen especially men who need to change their mind set for women.

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For reference:-

- https://medium.com/we-the-peoples/seven-reasons-why-rule-of-law-matters-for-peace-860d5d4fc313

- https://yourstory.com/herstory/2019/12/india-women-safety-rape-hyderabad-voices

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/06/27/india-ranked-worlds-most-dangerous-place-for-women-reigniting-debate-about-womens-safety/

Additional Readings:-

- https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/compensate-states-for-gst-shortfalls/

- https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/in-a-wto-without-dispute-settlement/

- https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-strategic-pause/article30195840.ece

- https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/01/the-guardian-view-on-truth-and-art-fiction-as-a-guide

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➢ https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/04/the-guardian-view-on-trump-and-johnson-a-toxic-alliance

Suggested Refresher Book:-

King John and the Road to Magna Carta

Book by Stephen Church (Author)