

Classifieds PERSONAL

My son's actual/correct name is Abhinav Kaimanal Jose instead of Abhinav K. Jose (wrongly mentioned in some documents)...

I, Rakhee W/o Atin Soni R/o-B-275 G/F Janta Colony Shivaji Vihar New Delhi-110027, Changed My Name To Rakhee Sandhu...

I, Ashish S/O Parmod Kumar Gangwar H.No-280/1, Parvatiya Colony, Faridabad, Haryana-121005, have Changed My Name To Ashish Gangwar...

I Chirutha Spursh Sahdev D/O Shri.Manvender Babber R/O-F-136-A, Ground-Floor, Laxmi-Nagar, (Near-Bal-Bhavan-School), Delhi-110092, Have Changed My Name To Chirutha Babber...

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Sh. Virender Singh Rawat S/o Sh. V.K. Singh Sarjani Rawat and his wife Smt. Sarjani Rawat both R/o A-2/167, First Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have cancelled his previous statement...

सूचना हम शरद सिधल पुत्र स्व. जयकिशन सिधल निवासी एस. के.-40 शास्त्रीनगर माजियाबाद (उ.प्र.) प अपने राजकुमार सिधल जयकिशन सिधल निवासी अने-101 गंगा नगर मेरठ (उ.प्र.) अपने सौ राजकुमार सिधल अपने सौ शरद सिधल व अपने माताजी अक्षय व लक्ष्मी के मलत आचरण के कारण हम उनसे अपना सम्बन्ध विच्छेद करते हैं...

E - TENDER PRESS NOTICE The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, I&FC Department Govt. of Delhi, on behalf of the President of India, invites Online Percentage rate tender from the approved and eligible Contractors...

D-CHECK & E-CHECK MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE WORK E-Tender Notice No. EL/29/019-20/02/100, Tenders are invited by the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, C&W Workshop, New Bongaigaon for the following work...



THE WAR IN IRAQ

Roads to ruin

Did American road-building in Iraq lead to more violence?



American soldiers used the new roads to mount missions and transport supplies, while the insurgents used the roads to move around and launch attacks. Reuters

DRIVERS CALLED it the “highway through hell”. Attacks on the road linking Baghdad to Amman occurred so often in 2014 that truckers were paid three times the normal rate to haul goods along the artery. Gangs and militias were a constant threat. The jihadists of Islamic State set up roadblocks, charged drivers a tax of around \$300 and even handed out receipts. The road, officially called Highway 10, was recently secured by the Iraqi army. But those who drive on it still face the threat of extortion or attack.

America spent loads improving Highway 10 after 2003, the year it toppled Saddam Hussein, Iraq’s former dictator. Over the next decade, as the war in Iraq dragged on, America spent nearly \$12bn on infrastructure in the country. President George Bush touted the improved roads, hoping they would boost the local economy and lead to a reduction in violence. But a working paper presented at this year’s meeting of the European Economics Association suggests that the effort may have had the opposite effect.

The paper’s author, Tamar Gomez, a doctoral student at Imperial College London, had plenty of data with which to work. Digitised maps showed where new roads were built (the length of the road network increased by 21% between 2002 and 2011). American agencies kept track of spending on reconstruction. And a research centre at the University of Maryland logged the location and timing of attacks. Ms Gomez gathered the material and used regression analysis, a statistical technique, to look for relationships between road-build-

ing, economic progress and violence in Iraq. She found that, far from stabilising Iraq, road-building led to more political violence. Even as GDP rose as a result of reconstruction, so too did the number of attacks. “In other words, the political and military mechanisms linked to road-building overpowered the wished-for economic effects,” writes Ms Gomez. (Oddly, she did not find a correlation between spending on roads and violence, but this is probably because much of the money was lost to corruption.) Why did road-building in Iraq lead to

more attacks? One explanation is that roads are important not just for commerce, but also for military operations. American soldiers used the new roads to mount missions and transport supplies — becoming targets for insurgents’ ambushes and improvised explosive devices. The insurgents, too, used the roads to move around and launch attacks. A study in 2010 of America’s war logs from Afghanistan found that 86% of insurgent violence took place near a road. There is little reason to think that the Iraq war was much different.

Ms Gomez also offers another explanation, rooted in the politics of reconstruction. “Roads are a politically charged infrastructure,” she says. Those funded by America were viewed by insurgents as the embodiment of an unwelcome occupation and became “privileged targets”. American officials have admitted that they often failed to win local support for their big projects. The roads to hell were, as ever, paved with good intentions.

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CULTURE WAR IN FRANCE

One tummy, two mummies

IVF for lesbians pits French progressives against traditionalists

SINCE BELGIUM legalised the use of IVF by gay female couples in 2007, its fertility clinics have been overwhelmed by demand — and not only from its own citizens. At one Belgian clinic in the French-speaking region of Wallonia roughly a third of patients are now from over the border in France. The reason is simple: strict French laws still restrict the use of IVF to heterosexual couples only.

France is now liberalising those rules. The consequence is a new skirmish in its hard-fought culture war.

The draft law, which went to parliament on September 24th, will for the first time give gay female couples and single women the right to use IVF and other forms of assisted reproduction. This will end rules that put France at odds with most of its neighbours (though Germany still applies similar restrictions). France will also let both mothers be identified on a birth certificate. For women under the age of 43, the cost of treatment will be fully reimbursed by the state.

During his election campaign in 2017 Emmanuel Macron said he favoured liberalisation, denouncing the existing rules as a form of “intolerable discrimination”. Around 25,000 children in France each year, or 3% of the total, are born thanks to fertility treatment, at a cost to the taxpayer of about €300m (\$328m). The government estimates that another 2,000 women a year would be treated after the change in the law, at an extra annual cost of no more than €15m. France, it argues, needs to catch up with the

times. “The criterion that defines a family,” declared Agnès Buzyn, the health minister and a medical doctor, “is the love that unites a parent and a child.”

Such views have cracked open the old division between liberals and family-values traditionalists. Having mobilised hundreds of thousands onto the streets against the legalisation of gay marriage six years ago, protesters are now planning their first big demo against Mr Macron’s law on October 6th. A group of over a dozen associations, including the *Manif pour Tous*, which organised the rallies in 2013, argues that “one cannot deliberately deprive a child of a father”. Their slogan, *naturellement*, is “liberty, equality, paternity”.

The issue has agitated the political right. Marine Le Pen, leader of the National Rally (formerly the National Front), claimed that “the state is going to lie” to a child by stating it has two mothers. Her niece, Marion Maréchal, a young former deputy and unofficial champion of ultra-Catholic conservatives, organised a “convention of the right” in Paris, where one speaker railed against the “extermination of the white heterosexual male”. Giving gay couples access to IVF, says Ms Maréchal, is part of a “stupid injunction to ‘be modern’”. Her pitch echoes the views of the Catholic church. “I’m not sure that the figure of the father is optional,” Michel Aupetit, the Archbishop of Paris, told French radio this week, claiming that “most psychiatrists today say there is a need for a male



Protesters demonstrate against a reform bill that will widen access to medically assisted procreation to lesbian couples and single women, in Paris on October 6. Reuters

reference, who is not just an uncle.”

The bill’s opponents claim it is the first step towards granting broader rights to gay couples, notably over surrogacy, which is illegal in France. During his campaign Mr Macron ruled that out, though he did promise to grant clear legal status to children born through surrogacy abroad. Marc-Olivier

Fogiel, a well-known French broadcaster, has done much to help normalise such families by publishing a book last year about his and his husband’s quest to become parents via surrogacy in America. Mr Macron has yet to fulfil his promise.

Recent French presidents have tended to pass their own piece of landmark progres-

sive social legislation. Valéry Giscard d’Estaing legalised abortion in 1975; François Mitterrand abolished the death penalty in 1981; François Hollande legalised gay marriage. This is Mr Macron’s signature bill: a way for him to distinguish his liberal, centrist politics from those of the conservative right. Yet France remains fragile after the civil

disorder of the *gilets jaunes* protests, and Mr Macron has already delayed the bill for fear of fresh unrest. Those fighting France’s culture wars are a somewhat different crowd, but no less determined to make their voices heard.

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