

## **ADULTERY**

### **Beyond Marriage**

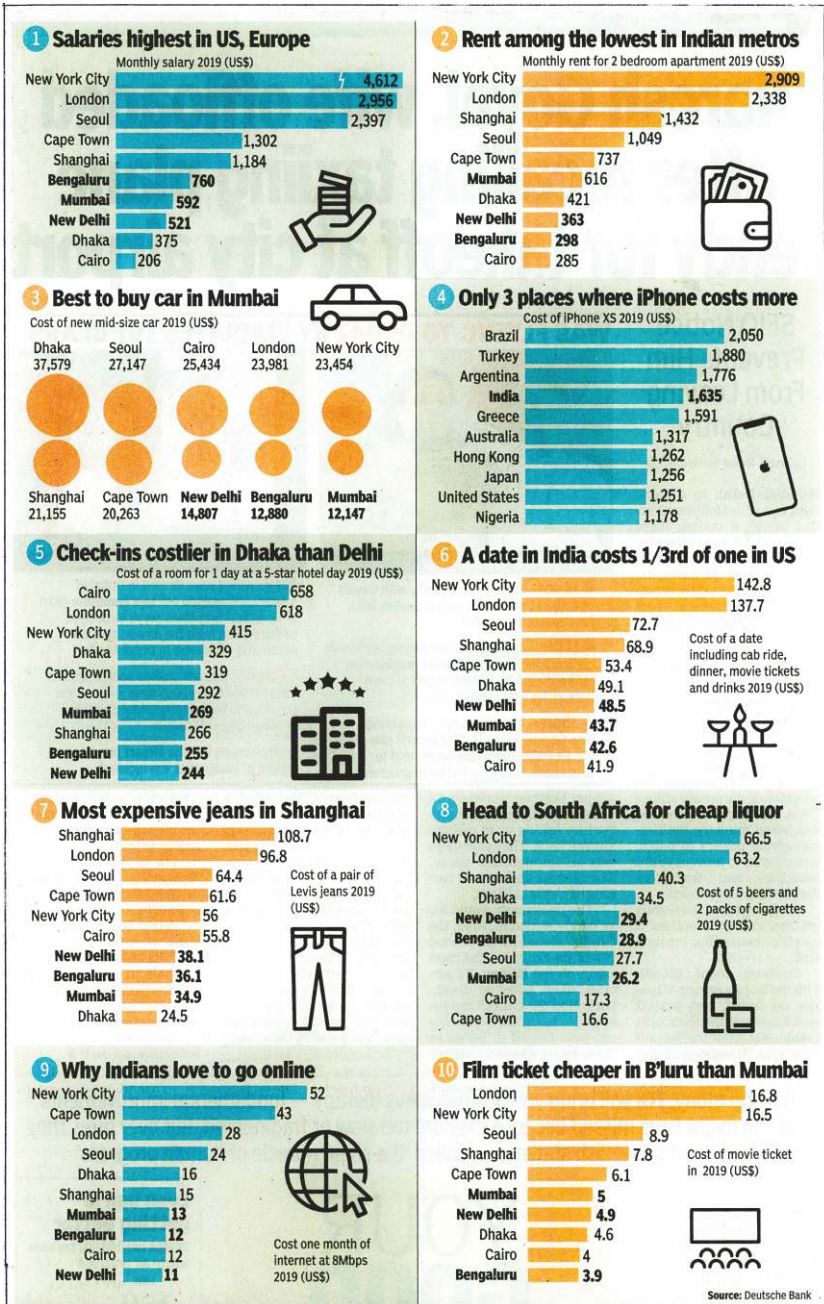
**O. S. Verma**

The most striking feature of adultery is the private sexual conduct between consenting adults especially when one of them is married. Sexual intercourse with married woman is adultery and not with unmarried woman. In Islamic Nations, adultery is a criminal offense. In civilized societies, by and large, adultery is an unacceptable conduct. Pew Research Centre studied the moral acceptability of adultery in 39 countries and they found that France is the most accepting adultery and Turkey the least. Data derived in the figure show the percentage of people finding adultery unacceptable. Interestingly, in United States, a remarkable 84 per cent people do not accept adultery in their societies. In 20 states of US, adultery is still a crime.

In India, adultery is no longer a crime. Raj and Raj (2018) reported that in September-2018, Indian Supreme Court has scrapped the law that made adultery a crime. The court in essence substituted popular morality with constitutional morality that gave birth to Individual Autonomy. It is loaded with two sexual conduct: Sexual Expression and Sexual Association. Sexual expression and right to private association are inherent aspect of the right to privacy, a Fundamental Right. It is based on the premise that sexuality is an organic and inherent human characteristic which can not be contracted away. If the right to privacy does not take in the right to sexual privacy, Fundamental Right is rendered superfluous. Here, it is important to distinguish illegality from immorality. Although, morality is not always the subject of law, it is still the subject of the Societies. As is indicated in the figure, adultery is not acceptable in the Societies of 39 countries of the World. Verma (2010) in his editorial commented that the ground reality of sexuality attached to adultery does not lie in the legal remedy but in one to one commitment, faith, compromise, society's attitude, appropriation, mutual trust, recounselling, changing social landscape, family support, social approval, change in social mindset, and voices of public support.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Kaleeswaram Raj and Thulasi K. Raj (2018). Beyond Marriage and Morals. Times of India, dated 29 September-2018.
2. Verma, O. S. (2018). Live-in Relationship. Journal of Extension Systems, No. 1, Vol-26 (2010), Editorial.



Source: Deutsche Bank