

Supreme Court paves the way for women's entry into Sabarimala Temple

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 28,

The Supreme Court today paved the way for the entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala. The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, in its 4:1 verdict, said banning the entry of women into the shrine is gender discrimination and the practice violates rights of Hindu women. It said religion is a way of life basically to link life with divinity. While Justices R F Nariman and D Y Chandrachud concurred with the CJ and Justice A M Khanwilkar, Justice Indu Malhotra gave a dissenting verdict. The court pronounced its verdict on a clutch of pleas challenging the ban on the entry of women of menstrual

age in Kerala's Sabarimala temple saying law and society are tasked with the task to act as levellers. The bench passed four set of separate judgments. The CJ said devotion cannot be subjected to discrimination and patriarchal notion cannot be allowed to trump equality in devotion. He said devotees of Lord Ayyappa do not constitute a separate denomination. The CJ said the practice of exclusion of women of 10-50 age group cannot be regarded as essential religious practice and Kerala law denies rights to women on the ground of physiological reasons. Justice Nariman said the Sabarimala temple custom barring women of 10-50 age is not backed by Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution. The

custom of barring women is violative of Article 25 (Clause 1) and Rule 3(b) of Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (authorisation of entry) Rules, 1965 is struck down by Justice Nariman. Justice Chandrachud said religion cannot be used as cover to deny rights of worship to women and it is also against human dignity. He said the prohibition on women is due to non-religious reasons and it is a grim shadow of discrimination going on for centuries. Devotees of Lord Ayyappa do not form separate religious denominations, Justice Chandrachud said and added that any custom or religious practice if violates the dignity of women by denying them entry due to her physiology is unconstitutional.

UPSC aspirant from Manipur heard voices in his head says his friend

Source: TNT
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A UPSC aspirant, Benzi Singh (25) who has been arrested by the police for Wednesday's murder of a security guard in south Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave had claimed that he heard voices to commit crimes. "It was around 3-4am when I woke up to an impatient knock on the door. Benzi was shivering. He said someone was talking to him. He came and slept next to me that night. The following day, we took him to a psychiatrist. We did not know he would murder someone," Singh's roommate, who did not wish to be named, claimed. In the early hours of Wednesday, Singh, who hails from Manipur, who was reportedly suffering from insomnia and depression, was arrested for the murder of Ram Bahadur Khatri (65), a security

guard. His roommates said he had failed to clear the civil services examination recently. Police said that Singh was upset after an argument with an autorickshaw driver last week and had stepped out of his house on Wednesday to reportedly kill any autorickshaw driver he came across. And then he met Khatri. Police said Khatri, a guard, had just taken a nap in the autorickshaw parked on the road. Singh allegedly stabbed him on the neck with a paper cutter. Singh's roommate claimed that around 11 am when they first heard about a murder in the neighborhood, they told Singh. "His first reaction was that he could solve the case. We found it strange but we let it be. After an hour, there was a knock on our door. Two police officers walked in and said our friend was wanted for murder," the roommate said.

Police recovered Singh's phone, which they said had a "15-point guide to a perfect murder". Singh and his two friends lived in a two-room flat in Humayunpur, less than 400m from the crime scene. His friends claimed Singh suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Singh's friends said on Thursday he read a lot of detective and crime stories — his favorite character was Professor James Moriarty, the antagonist in Arthur Conan Doyle's famous Sherlock Holmes series. "He always said he would name his son Ben Moriarty. Recently, he had ordered a pen knife and a pepper spray. Then he canceled the order. He always said he felt unsafe," said the other roommate. His roommates shared pictures of him with a gun, which they claimed he had been posting on social media.

In one of these photos, Singh appeared to be holding a gun, while in another, there was a gun on a desk alongside some study material. The authenticity of these pictures and whether the gun was real could not be independently verified. Both of his roommates said they did not wish to be identified. His roommates said Singh appeared depressed since he failed to the civil service exam. "He had gone home after learning that he had failed. He returned after a month and had become more aggressive. He told us his relatives had advised him not to take the pills prescribed by his psychiatrist," the second roommate said. Deputy commissioner of police (south) Vijay Kumar said police have found several copies of medical prescriptions in Singh's room. "He has confessed he could not sleep for days and was having hallucinations," Kumar said.

Don't do anything to dishonor the prestige of our mothers and sisters: Vice President tells Students

PIB Delhi

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has asked students to not to indulge in any activity that dishonor the prestige of our mothers and sisters and remain committed to highest moral and ethical values in their life. He was addressing the 4th Convocation of the National Institute of

Technology, Panaji, Goa today. The Governor of Goa, Smt. Mridula Sinha, the Chairman and Members of Board of Governors, NIT Goa and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The Vice President advised the graduating students not to take any short-cuts or quick fixes to scale new heights. He further said that perseverance, honesty, empathy, patience

and self-belief will enable you to realize their dreams. Nothing is impossible to achieve but the path you choose has to be a righteous one, he added. The Vice President said that as engineers, it is important for students and the youth to take a closer look at the collective needs of the populace and come up with innovative, cost-effective solutions, especially in areas such as healthcare and

education. He further said that wherever they go, do not forget their obligation towards the society and the nation. You cannot neglect the ethical aspect of your engineering profession and remember that if you make your contribution towards the cause of the society with a sense of responsibility and commitment, you will always be remembered, he added. Saying that India poised to become a high middle-income country by 2030, and lot of

opportunities will be waiting for the skilled youth in different sectors, the Vice President asked the Teachers to impart skills to the youngsters to enable them find gainful employment or become self-employed. Government's 'Skill India' programme is a step in that direction, he added. The Vice President said that even 71 years after attaining Independence, we are saddled with numerous challenges such as poverty,

illiteracy, diseases, farmers' distress and social evils like atrocities on women and weaker sections, child labour, terrorism, communalism and corruption have to be eradicated to build a New and Resurgent India. I expect the youth of the country to be in the forefront of this noble mission, he added. Stressing the importance of education, the Vice President said that it is not just for employment and it is meant to empower, enlighten, widen the

perspective of the students and develop them into global citizens. He emphasized the urgent need to revamp our higher education in tune with contemporary requirements. We simply cannot continue to have lakhs of engineering students graduating without basic employable skills every year and this undesirable trend has to be stopped. Our Universities need to overhaul the syllabi and the teaching methodologies to make the courses relevant to the needs of the industries, he added.

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Manipur Proletarian Peoples Democratic Union - MPPDU
Socialist Students Union of Manipur - SSUM
Proletarian Feminist Movement, Manipur - PoFM
Socialist Women Association - SWA Manipur

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NITI Aayog and United Nations in India sign Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022

PIB Delhi

NITI Aayog and United Nations in India signed the Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022 at a function in the capital today. The agreement is a reflection of the commitment and efforts made by India towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022 was signed by the CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant and United Nations Resident Coordinator in India Yuri Afanasiev, at a special signing ceremony presided over by Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Members of NITI Aayog and Heads of UN agencies in India were present on this occasion. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairperson of the NITI Aayog, emphasized that 2018-2022 will be a crucial phase in India's development story since the year 2022 marks the 75 years of India's independence. In this backdrop, partnership instruments such as the UNSDF assume even more significance to accelerate the

pace towards building a New India by 2022, an India that is free of poverty and equal for all. The UNSDF outlines the development cooperation strategy between the Government of India and the United Nations Country Team in India, in support of the achievement of India's key national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNSDF was framed following a highly participative process, in consultation with government entities, civil society representatives, academia, and the private sector. The focus areas include poverty and urbanization; health, water, and sanitation; education; nutrition and food security; climate change, clean energy, and disaster resilience; skilling, entrepreneurship, and job creation; and gender equality and youth development. Across outcome areas, the UN will support the Government of India on south-south cooperation, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. The total planned budget outlay for the implementation of the UNSDF

2018-2022 is approximately INR 11000 crore, of which 47 percent is planned to be mobilized through the course of implementation from multiple sources, including the private sector and the government. CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, highlighted the need to promote innovation in meeting India's development challenges and bringing on board the power of social entrepreneurs and the private sector to act on scale. The UNSDF is underpinned by the overarching principle of the SDGs to leave no one behind, echoing the Government of India's message of *Sakha Saath Sakha Vikas* (development for all). The programmatic work outlined in the UNSDF targets the seven low-income states (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, Odisha, Rajasthan, UP), the North-East region, and the aspirational districts identified earlier this year by the NITI Aayog. Work will focus on improving the lives of the most marginalized, poor, and vulnerable communities and people in the country, especially women and girls. UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, said that "The United Nations in India is

committed to provide full support to the Government of India's development priorities, ensuring that the UNSDF outcomes are achieved. The solutions we find together can catalyze action across the global south - just as solutions from elsewhere in the world will be adapted to India. He added that together, the India-UN team will ensure that poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities participate in and benefit from the country's robust growth trajectory." The UNSDF also includes a set of UN flagship programs that are aligned with major government schemes. The flagship programs will be scalable innovative, multi-sectoral solutions to some of the most pressing development challenges that India faces, while also serving as catalysts for increased investment of development finance. The programmes range from affordable housing for the poor to increasing access to clean energy in rural off-grid areas; from protecting all children from vaccine-preventable diseases to quality education for all children and skilling for young people, especially young girls; and from ending stunting to improving the child sex ratio.