



Mehbooba Mufti claims many in Kashmir believe Article 370 will be reinstated

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# Afternoon

VOICETM

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 15, Issue: 21

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MUMBAI 08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com



## Gyanvapi Row: Varanasi Court dismisses the challenge by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee

The Varanasi district and sessions court Monday dismissed the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's challenge against the civil suits that questioned the Gyanvapi mosque's title and the land surrounding it. Five Hindu women had filed petitions seeking the right to worship Maa Shringar Gauri on the outer wall of the mosque complex located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Uttar Pradesh.

The dismissal by district judge A K Vishvesh means that the civil suits will be heard in detail and examination of evidence will follow. A court today agreed to hear a group of Hindu women who want year-long access to pray inside the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, next to the famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. The women's petition will be heard on September 22.

The five women want permission for year-long puja and rituals in a part of the

mosque complex and claim there are idols of Hindu gods and goddesses in other parts of the mosque complex. Muslim petitioners had urged the court to throw out the petition. Earlier this year, a lower court ordered the filming of the centuries-old mosque based on the petition of the women.

On May 20, the Supreme Court, underlining the "complexity of the issues involved in the civil suit", transferred

the Gyanvapi dispute that was pending before the Varanasi civil judge (senior division) to the district judge. While the Hindu side said the mosque was built on the site of a temple, the Muslim side said the mosque was built on waqf premises and that the Places of Worship Act barred changing its character. Judge Vishvesha began hearing the pleas in June. The media was not allowed to witness the proceedings.

### Sharad Pawar re-elected as the President of the National Congress Party

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Today it was a gigantic relief to all the Hindus who are waiting to worship Shiv Ling in Gyanvapi Mosque. Varanasi court upholds maintainability of Hindu side's petition, hearing to continue. The court rejected the Muslim side's petition and said the suit is maintainable. The next hearing of the case is on September 22. They submitted the report of the filming to the Varanasi court in a sealed cover, but the Hindu petitioners controversially leaked details just hours later. The report claimed a "Shivling" or relic of Lord Shiva had been found in a pond within the mosque complex used for "Wazoo" or purification rituals before Muslim prayers.

A court then banned large namaz gatherings in the high-profile mosque. The gatherings should be limited to 20 people. It challenged the filming inside the mosque in the Supreme Court by the Gyanvapi mosque committee, which said the move violates a 1991 law (Places of Worship Act) that maintains the religious status of places of worship as of August 15, 1947. The Muslim petitioners argued that "such petitions and sealing of mosques will lead to public mischief and communal disharmony, will affect mosques across the country."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Hindu may get permission to offer prayers in Gyanvapi

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*In May, the Supreme Court assigned the case to the city's most senior judge, referring to the "complexity and sensitivity" of the dispute.*

*Five women had filed the petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are said to be located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi mosque, which is located close to Kashi Vishwanath temple.*

*The Supreme Court said on July 21 that it will await the Varanasi district judge's decision on the Gyanvapi mosque committee's application.*

In May, the Supreme Court assigned the case to the city's most senior judge, referring to the "complexity and sensitivity" of the dispute. The Gyanvapi mosque located in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency (Varanasi), is one of the several mosques that Hindu hardliners believe were built on the ruins of temples. The Hindu petitioners have said they will seek carbon dating and a proper archeological survey to establish that a temple stood on the land.

Security was tightened and prohibitory orders under Section 144 were imposed in Varanasi as a district court will pronounce the verdict on the maintainability of the suit in the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri case on Monday. District Judge A K Vishvesh had last month reserved the order till September 12 in the communally sensitive matter.

Five women had filed the petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are said to be located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi mosque, which is located close to Kashi Vishwanath temple. Following this, a Varanasi court ordered the survey of the mosque complex. After the survey, it was claimed that a 'shivling' was found in the mosque compound.

Meanwhile, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee has said the Gyanvapi mosque is a Waqf property and has questioned the maintainability of the plea. Madan Mohan Yadav, a lawyer of the Hindu side, had said that the mosque was constructed after demolishing the temple. According to the petitioner, a self-styled Jyotirling of Lord Vishwanath in Kashi (Varanasi) is in the mosque complex. The petitioner also claimed that in 1669, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had destroyed a

portion of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and had built the Gyanvapi Mosque. The petitioner wants the court to declare that Muslims have no right to occupy the Gyanvapi mosque and their entry to be banned.

According to the defence, there was no temple in the Gyanvapi complex and the mosque was standing on the site from the start. The Supreme Court said on July 21 that it will await the Varanasi district judge's decision on the Gyanvapi mosque committee's application. The SC bench then posted the matter for further hearing in the first week of October after the outcome of the proceedings before the district judge.

On May 20, the apex court transferred the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees from civil judge (senior division) to the district judge of Varanasi in the Gyanvapi. Citing the "complexities" and "sensitivity" of the issue, the SC said it is better if a senior judicial officer having an experience of over 25-30 years handles this case. The top court had made the observation that the process to find out the religious character of a place of worship is not barred under the Places of Worship Act of 1991. This came after the commission appointed by a district court to conduct a video surgery of the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex submitted its report on May 19.

Vaidehi

Volume No. 15 | Issue No. 21

Afternoon  
VOICE

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Power Corrupts And Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely

After the tug of war between two factions of AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, the sections of Sena are trying to get the better of the other in a power struggle. In Maharashtra, Sena sections led by Shinde file plea to withdraw MLC list submitted by Yuddhav Thackeray faction and for which a counter plea has been filed against the Governor's decision to allow withdrawal of the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) list has been challenged in a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Bombay High Court. The plea alleges inaction and haste of the Governor. It also states that as per the Constitution, he can either accept or reject the list, but cannot allow withdrawal. The plea further seeks that direction be issued not to lower the Honour of the Governor by encroaching upon the field of legislature by actively involving in the party activities in the state. The power struggle is on Sena like AIADMK.

- C.K. Ramanathan

### Queen Elizabeth II was a dignified and royal simple woman

Queen Elizabeth II who died of old age at the age of 96 on September 8 was a very dignified and beautiful royal simple woman. She provided inspiring leadership to her nation and her people. Her calmness was unique and behind her quiet smile and proper voice, there was a shy lady who loved animals and the countryside. She was beautiful in how she possessed riches while enjoying the simple things in life like walking with her dogs or driving her own vehicle or riding a horse. She had her own way of a humble and simple living.

She was the longest reigning monarch in British history. Her strength, resilience, grace, and kind heart will always be remembered and she personified dignity and decency in public life.

She reigned for over 70 years and saw fourteen Prime Ministers of the UK during her reign, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss.

She made three State visits to India over the course of her reign – in 1961, 1983 and 1997. Her death marks the end of one of the most successful reigns in history. May her soul rest in peace.

--- Jubel D'Cruz

### Helpless stray dogs

This is reference to Supreme Court's observation 'If stray dogs attack people those who feed them could be held liable'. Supreme Court has observed that if stray dogs attack people, those who feed them could be held liable. While emphasising the need to find a solution to the menace of stray dogs, the apex court said people who routinely feed stray dogs could be made responsible for their vaccination. I totally beg to differ with this observation. Such observations put the fate of stray dogs in limbo as people will think twice before feeding to these voiceless and helpless living beings. The court further said that the stray dog feeders should also be liable to bear the cost for the treatment if strays bite people. The bench also observed that we need to accept there is a problem of stray dogs. "Dogs may sometimes become aggressive due to lack of food or they may get an infection. That is very true that Stray Dogs have the right to food and citizens have the right to feed community dogs but in exercising this right, care and caution should be taken to ensure that it does not impinge upon the rights of others or cause any harm, hindrance, harassment and nuisance to other individuals or members. It is beneficial to feeding stray dogs is to make them friendly so they are easy to catch for spay/neuter operations, easy to handle when they are sick or injured and also for the yearly anti-rabies vaccination." Instead of socially elevating people who help and feed animals, we are making them culprits. Let's hope sense prevails in the end.

—Akshita Dhurve

# GOD'S OWN COUNTRY- KOZHIKODE THE COASTAL CITY

Spice root gave a good account of Kozhikode (called Calicut) about the importance of the place in Indian History. From Vasco da Gama days to the present day set up, the place is considered a business spot for years. As I belong to the Thali area of Kozhikode I followed the development of the place from my younger days. As a Bank officer I was working in Quilandy branch and was able to visit the Kappad beach, through which Vasco da Gama entered India.

When I was watching Surabhi programme of Siddharth Kak through Doordarshan, I came to know that Hooka manufactured at Quilandy was exported to Persia and other countries. Whenever I return from Kozhikode I used to buy the Aluwa (Sweet) specially made in different colours for my children. When I was leaving Kozhikode Railway Station, I saw repairs were being made in a grad scale to make the station as a model one for the Indian Railways.

There are many facets of the place in the northern part of Kerala and if you want a quiet holiday and somewhere you can unwind and get away from the stress of metropolitan life then Kozhikode is the ideal place. It is a place of the erstwhile capital of the Zamorin Kings of Yore. Calicut as the old name suggests is literally meaning a cockerel crowing, is a city of contrasts. A city that showcases wide-open spaces and lush, green countryside as well as narrow, tightly wound streets that teem



with activities. This is not only Kerala's commercial hub and centre for its timber industry but also the home of Ayurveda-an ancient system of medicine that operates in tune with nature.

In fact about 50 kilometres from Kozhikode lie the largest herbal gardens in the world. Kerala's verdant forests have, for long years, nourished a profusion of herbs, plants and trees that extremely valuable in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines. Not surprising therefore, that the ancient tradition of Ayurveda has been kept alive in this State by master Vaidya. The Chief Vaidyas belonged to just eight families and were calls Ashta Vaidyas due to their competence in all the eight branches of Ayurveda.

If you are looking for the bright city lights then Kozhikode is not really your kind of the place. On the other hand, if you want a quiet holiday and somewhere you want to unwind and get away from the stress of metropolitan life then this is the ideal getaway and there is no doubt about it. There is the sea, rather quiet beach and a few good museums like the

Pazhassiraja Museum and the Krishna Menon Museum whose exhibits include an excellent selection of paintings as also wood and ivory carvings.

A large number of the population here is Muslim and in Kuttichira possibly the oldest quarter in the city you can hear the muezzin call the faithful to prayer. Visit the Muccunti Mosque and discover some interesting facets in history of the Zamorins of Kozhikode and their patronage of Islam in Kerala. Better still, see the Mananchiri Maidan and the Manachira tank. Once the bathing are of the Zamorin Kings, it stands amidst the hustle and bustle of the city. The musical fountain the Maidan is a local favourite. Kozhikode is a city that exudes all our expectations.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Writer

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No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

# 42 cattle die due to lumpy skin disease in Maharashtra

As many as 42 cows and buffaloes have died due to the onslaught of the Lumpy Skin Disease in Maharashtra, the state's animal husbandry department said on Monday.

A total of 42 infected cattle has died due to Lumpy Skin Disease in different districts of Maharashtra including 17 in Jalgaon, 13 in Ahmednagar, 1 in Dhule, 1 in Akola, 3 in Pune, 3 in Buldhana, 3 in Amravati and 1 in Washim till Sunday, according to the department.

The first case of Lumpy Skin Disease was reported on August



4 in Chinawal village of Raver taluka of Jalgaon district.

The virus has been found only in cows and buffaloes. There is no

danger to humans in using milk of animals that do not have the symptoms of the disease.

Animals can be cured from

the disease; however, the milk of such animals may get affected due to the virus.

The infected cattle with Lumpy

Skin Disease have been noticed in a total of 280 villages of Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Akola, Dhule, Pune, Latur, Aurangabad, Beed, Satara, Buldana, Amravati, Osmanabad, Kolhapur, Sangli, Yeotmal, Parbhani, Solapur, Washim, Nashik and Jalna till Sunday.

As per reports, lumpy skin disease is a viral disease that affects cattle. It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks. It causes fever and nodules on the skin and can lead to the death of the cattle.

## Maha govt should implement its policy to promote Marathi language: HC

The Maharashtra government should implement seriously its policy to promote Marathi language, the Bombay High Court has said while directing it to henceforth hold the public prosecutor recruitment exam in the state in Marathi also. A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and R N Laddha passed the order on September 7 on a petition filed by one Pratap Jadhav, seeking that the exam for the posts of public prosecutors be

conducted in Marathi also instead of only English.

The order was made available on Saturday. Jadhav had said he studied in Marathi since school, and that proceedings before the courts of Judicial Magistrate First Class and Civil Judge Junior Division are normally conducted in Marathi language. Marathi is a local language, he said. The high court in its order said the Maharashtra government ought to have been serious on the issue.

## Siddhu Moose Wala murder case Accused conducted recede in Mumbai to target Salman Khan

Accused in Sidhu Moose Wala death case had conducted a recce in Mumbai to target Bollywood actor Salman Khan on the instructions of Lawrence Bishnoi, said Gaurav Yadav, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) on Sunday.

Earlier in June, a threat letter was sent to him and his father Salim Khan. The letter in Hindi said that both Salim Khan and his son would soon meet the same fate as slain singer Siddhu Moosewala (Tera Moosawala bana denge), said the police sources on condition of anonymity

## There is plan for Rs 350 crore bridge in Andheri- BMC

There is a marked rise in notifications of new leprosy cases in Mumbai this year, a jump that appears to be caused by the normalizing of screening and health systems hit by the pandemic. Worryingly, the proportion of advanced multibacillary leprosy has increased in the new detections. Civic data shows that between April and August, the city has recorded 236 cases already, which is almost 70% of the total cases (335) detected in the entire 2021-2022.

## Cops book Dadar MLA under Arms Act too, arrests likely

Simmering tensions between the Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions came to the fore on the final day of the Ganesh festival. As loyalists of the two parties participated in different processions, taking idols for immersion, they ran into each other on the road and began shouting slogans against each other. The presence of a strong police force ensured the matter did not get out of hand.

## Elgar Parishad Case: Court says, constant medical treatment was provided to Activist Vernon Gonsalves in jail

Activist Vernon Gonsalves, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, was under constant medical treatment in jail once his ill health came to light and before he was diagnosed with dengue and admitted to a government hospital, prison authorities told a special NIA court here on Monday.

The activist (65), who was in judicial custody and lodged at the Talaja jail in neighboring Navi Mumbai, was on September 8 admitted to the state-run JJ Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment for dengue.

On the last hearing, Gonsalves's lawyer and family members had alleged the jail authorities had delayed in providing medical treatment to the activist and he should have been admitted to the hospital in central Mumbai long back.

Advocate Larsen Furtardo had filed an affidavit before the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court, saying he had taken a "legal interview" of some of the co-accused of the activist inside the prison on September 7.

During the interview, the co-accused had said health condition of Gonsalves was visibly getting bad and he was only being given paracetamol and antibiotic tablets, the affidavit said.

The special court had then asked the superintendent of the Talaja jail to submit a report to it. Accordingly, the superintendent submitted the report, through special public prosecutor (SPP) Prakash Shetty, on Monday.



The SPP told the court continuous medical treatment was given to Gonsalves once the jail authorities came to know about his health condition.

The jail superintendent, in his report, has given a chronology of developments related to the activist. The prison hospital was not informed about Gonsalves's ill health till August 31, the report said.

Two days later, the accused visited the jail hospital with complaints of fever and headache and was given medicines, the superintendent maintained.

On September 3, the prison's medical officer visited Gonsalves in his barrack and gave him required medicines. The following day, the medical officer visited him again and this time administered him an injection, said the report.

On September 5, as his fever was not subsiding, a rapid malaria test was conducted, which came negative. He was asked to get admitted to the jail hospital, but he refused, it said.

Further, in his report, the jail superintendent said on September 6, the blood sample of the accused

was collected and he was also checked by a physician (Doctor of Medicine or MD) from a hospital in nearby Panvel city.

Based on the visiting physician's advice and following further discussion with the chief medical officer of the prison, guards were called and Gonsalves was taken to JJ Hospital in central Mumbai. He was sent back to the jail from JJ Hospital after treatment.

A day later (September 7), his blood test report was received and the activist was diagnosed with dengue, but the accused could not be shifted to the hospital as guards were not available to escort him due to the Ganpati festival, said the superintendent.

Finally, on September 8, Gonsalves was admitted to the government-run hospital where he is still undergoing treatment for the mosquito-borne disease, said the report.

The jail authorities also told the court a report on Gonsalves's health condition was sought from the JJ Hospital, but since September 10 and 11 were holidays, it hasn't been received yet.

The medical report of the accused will be presented before the court as and when it was made available by the hospital, they said.

Meanwhile, the special court on Monday permitted Gonsalves's wife Susan Abraham and his brother to meet him in the hospital daily for 30 minutes.

The activist's plea for temporary bail on medical grounds is likely to be heard by the court on Tuesday.



# Nation

## Mehbooba Mufti claims many in Kashmir believe Article 370 will be reinstated

Claiming that there were voices in Jammu and Kashmir who believed that the abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution will be reinstated, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Monday dismissed former Union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's views on the matter as merely his "personal opinion".

Mufti was reacting to remarks made by Azad at a rally on Sunday where he said removal of article 370 required a two-thirds majority in Parliament which he did not expect the Congress to get. I will not 'mislead' people on the issue of removal of article 370, Azad had said.



"It's his personal opinion...Congress had raised its voice against the British and stopped them.

Similarly, there are voices in J&K who believe 370 will be reinstated," former chief minister Mufti told Agencies.

Attacking the BJP, Mufti said, "

Removal of article 370 did not solve the Kashmir issue but it further complicated it. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Sir Syed Khan, Subash Chandra Bose, and Shaheed Bhagat Singh fought against the British when there was this dilemma that we cannot fight against the Brit-

ish. Likewise, We will fight against BJP and we will end the excesses committed by BJP here. We have a positive mindset".

To emphasise her point, Mufti sought to point to instances where events considered unlikely happened over a period of time.

"Did it ever cross our mind, that LK Advani will shake hands with incarcerated leader Yasin Malik, Modiji will go to Pakistan to attend Nawaz Sharif's grand daughter's wedding and Muzaffarabad road will open? Likewise, article 370 will be reinstated," Mehbooba added.

Earlier on Sunday, addressing his first political rally in Jammu,

since resigning from Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad had said, "I will not 'mislead' people on the issue of removal of article 370.

Removal of article 370 requires a 2/3rd majority in Parliament. I don't see Congress getting 350-360 seats in my lifetime.

Azad further said, "I have not decided upon the name of my party yet. The people of J-K will decide the name and the flag of the party. I'll give a Hindustani name to my party that everyone can understand. My party will focus on the restoration of full statehood, right to land and employment to native domicile."

## SC seeks Centre's response on fresh pleas challenging CAA, next hearing on October 31



The Supreme Court on Monday posted for hearing on October 31 a batch of petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 and sought the Centre's response on some fresh pleas.

A bench of Chief Justice of India UU Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat observed it would refer the CAA case for hearing to a three-judge bench.

The bench asked the Solicitor General's office to identify and segregate the petitions so that submissions can easily be advanced and confined.

"The office of Solicitor General shall prepare a complete list of the matters pertaining to these challenges. The matters shall be put in different compartments depending upon challenge raised in individual petitions," the apex court stated in its order.

At least 220 petitions against the CAA were filed before the top court. The plea first came up for hearing in the Supreme Court on 18 December 2019. It was last heard on June 15, 2021.

CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and it was met with protests all across the country. The CAA came into effect on 10 January 2020.

Kerala-based Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, Congress leader and former Union minister Jairam Ramesh, All India Majlis-eIttehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi, Congress leader Debabrata Saikia, NGOs Rihai Manch and Citizens Against Hate, Assam Advocates Association, and law students, among others, had filed a plea before the top court challenging the Act.

## First batch of Cheetahs being brought from Namibia to Kuno National Park, MP

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Member Secretary S P Yadav said that the first batch of cheetahs is being brought from Namibia to Kuno National Park in Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh on September 17.

NTCA Member Secretary S P Yadav said, "We are getting eight cheetahs out of which five are female and three are male at Kuno National Park, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh."

The Prime Minister will launch the cheetah reintroduction project on September 17 at MP's Kuno National Park.

Yadav added, "this is a big and historic time and there is no other example like this in the entire world where it is being released and brought from one continent to another continent and all the international standards are being followed for this."

"As of now, our plan is to have bring the cheetahs in the morning of September 17 and for this we



hired a chartered cargo plane. The cheetahs will come to Jaipur from Windhoek, Namibia's capital and then by helicopter will come to Palpur Kuno National Park and then there will be a programme to release them, the helipad has also been built," said SP Yadav.

NTCA Member Secretary said, "when it seems that Cheetah is completely adopted the atmosphere then we will release it in the open forests but before release, a radio collar has already been in-

stalled in each leopard and every leopard will be monitored 24 hours by the surveillance team."

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the "Reintroduction of the Cheetah" project at the Kuno National Park in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh on September 17.

## NIA conducted raids over various locations against terror gangs

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids at over three dozen locations associated with organized 'terror gangs' active in Delhi, National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining states in northern India, sources said.

The searches are underway in Delhi, NCR, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and many other locations in a recently registered case against activi-

ties of 'terror gangs', which are involved in sensational murders to terrorize common citizens.

Sources said that these gang members indulged in extortion, drug smuggling, and other organized criminal activities to finance their nefarious designs. Raids are being conducted at the Tajpur village in Delhi linked to gangster Neeraj Bawana as well as the residence of gangster Kala Rana in Haryana's Yamu-

nanagar.

The raids are being carried out in coordination with state police forces. Similar searches were carried out at gangster Vinay Deora's residence in Punjab's Faridkot. The agency also reached Amritsar and Kotkapura, among other places where the 'Tillu' gang is operational. The NIA raid followed a case registered under the strict Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.



# World

## Pakistan digitizes flood relief assistance to bring transparency

Amid reports of corruption, Pakistan has digitized flood relief assistance and distribution activity in a bid to ensure transparency.

It will now be operated digitally with the Digital Flood Dashboard as per the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reported Geo News.

The digital dashboard will keep the general public informed about foreign flood relief being received and distributed among victims. The decision was made in a meeting chaired by the premier on Saturday.

The latest technology is used in creating a digital flood dashboard to provide all details about relief activities and receipt and distribution of goods and assistance.

The prime minister also announced that the financial audit for flood victims would be conducted by the Accountant General Pakistan Revenue (AGPR) and the world's reputable audit firms to ensure transparency, reported agencies.

He also reviewed the restoration of services in affected areas and called for expediting the rehabilitation of roads, bridges and

power supply. He directed the provision of basic necessities of life to the victims. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail has said the government had provided Rs 70 billion for the relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people, reported agencies.

Talking to the media Ismail said that another Rs 50 billion would be provided to the affected people. He said that every penny received from abroad would be audited internally and externally. He also said that 33 million people were living under the open sky.

## Sri Lankan Navy thwarts illegal migration attempt



Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday detained over 80 people who were trying to migrate illegally to a foreign country by boat in eastern waters, local media reported citing the Navy.

"The Sri Lanka Navy detained 85 individuals who had attempted to migrate illegally by boat to a foreign country. The group had been

detained at sea off Batticaloa early this morning (Sunday)," Colombo Gazette reported citing the Navy.

According to the Navy, during a patrol conducted off Batticaloa in the early hours of Sunday, the Navy seized a local multiday fishing trawler carrying 85 individuals including 60 men, 14 women and 11 children.

The Navy also held the mul-

tiday fishing trawler used for this illegal sea voyage. The individuals held were identified as residents of Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Muthur, Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Madhu, Colombo Gazette reported. SLNS Ranawickrama, which is attached to the Eastern Naval Command, detained the multiday fishing trawler, during the patrol, Colombo Gazette reported.

The detained individuals were brought to the Trincomalee Harbor and they will be handed over to the Trincomalee Harbor Police for onward legal proceedings

## Lebanon on verge of becoming failed state

Lebanon is facing a full economic meltdown and is virtually on a precipice economically, politically and socially. Although it cannot yet be described as a failed state, it is on the verge of becoming one.

A failed state can be described as a state that cannot protect its borders, cannot govern all the people on its territory, cannot provide basic utilities and services and does not have a monopoly on the use of force or police itself.

Lebanon is very close to fulfilling all these characteristics, as there are strong and well-armed groups - such as the Iranian-backed Hezbollah- which act as a state within a state in parts of the country, arresting and imprisoning citizens, while the government is unable to police all the territory of the country or provide essential services such as water

and electricity which is supplied only three to four hours a day.

The value of Lebanon's currency - the Lebanese pound- has lost more than 95 per cent of its value, compared to pre-crisis levels and now 35,300 Lebanese pounds are equivalent to one dollar, while in the not-too-distant past people were using dollars and Lebanese pounds interchangeably. A combination of events brought Lebanon to the cliff's edge.

The Syrian Civil War dealt a heavy blow on Lebanese exports to Arab countries, while more than 1 million Syrian refugees sought shelter in Lebanon. Then the coronavirus decimated its tourist industry, while the Central Bank catastrophically implemented unrealistic exchange rates and spend hundreds of millions of dollars to support the Lebanese pound.

## Jaishankar concludes his first official visit to Saudi Arabia

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday concluded his first official visit to Saudi Arabia during which he reviewed all aspects of India-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues. Jaishankar arrived in Riyadh on September 10, 2022.

During the visit, he called on Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman on September 11 in Jeddah and handed over a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying greetings on the upcoming National Day of Saudi Arabia on September 23 and reiterating an invitation to Crown Prince to visit India at an early date, an Embassy of India in Riyadh press release stated.

Earlier, on September 11 afternoon the EAM met the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh. The two Ministers co-

## French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna to visit India from Sept 14-15



French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna will be visiting India from September 14- 15 on her first official trip to India and her first bilateral visit in Asia. During her stay in New Delhi, Colonna will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on September 14, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, read the Ministry of External Affairs press release.

As part of the visit, Colonna will travel to Mumbai for engagements with industry leaders and site visits on September 15.

India and France have a long-standing strategic partnership, strengthened by regular high-level consultations and growing convergences in various areas.

The French Foreign Minister's visit will pave the way for further strengthening the partnership across trade, defence, climate, migration and mobility, education and health sectors, added the release.

India and France have traditionally had close and friendly relations. In 1998, the two countries entered into a Strategic Partnership which is emblematic of their convergence of views on a range of international issues apart from a close and growing bilateral relationship.

The two countries have a burgeoning economic relationship. French businesses and industry have forged linkages with the Indian economy and contribute significantly to our goal to become an Atmanirbhar Bharat.



chaired the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC), under the framework of the IndiaSaudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council, added the release.

Both Ministers assessed the progress in bilateral relations

positively across all domains including political, trade, energy, investments, defence, security and culture.

Several areas were identified for further enhancing bilateral cooperation such as food security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence industry and entertainment.

# Should NEET UG repeat a year or not?

Vijay Garg

The results for NEET 2022 exams are out. Of the 18.72 lakh students who registered for the exam around 1.5 lakh will get a MBBS, BDS and AYUSH seats. That means roughly only 1 in 12 aspirants will be able to realise their dream of becoming a doctor via NEET. To majority of others, it has left the perplexing question of whether to drop a year and take another attempt at NEET, which is often referred to as repeat or to look for other available options. The article here presents facts, arguments and data that will help such students take more sound and informed decision and choose one of the binary options available to them. The article also discusses various other available career options for such students impact of NEET on medical admissions in Tamil Nadu suggests that repeater students have fared well over the last five NEET exams. But that should not be the sole reason for you as a student to take any decision. The decision should be more subjective and relevant to you on an individual basis. There are cases when not repeating could be the better choice. Let us discuss a few of them:



## When not repeating is the better choice

The decision of not repeating can be the more relevant one to students due to various reasons. There are a few situations discussed below where this would be the better choice to make.

You gave your best in the exam yet scored very low marks. It is important to understand that not everyone is meant to do everything. We all have peculiar minds and particular qualities and skill sets. It is very much possible that a student's aptitude might not be aligned to the specific demands of NEET. In such situations, it is advisable that you should move forward and evaluate other options available.

It may be the case that the decision of preparing and appearing in NEET was not yours but due to family or peer pressure. If that is the case then it is better you don't take a drop. It's better to move on and choose something which is your calling and not derived from any external influence.

The NEET examination is very demanding and requires total commitment and demands a lot of hard work to qualify. It could very well be the case that you gave your

best and now you don't have the desire or will to sustain for another year. Then you should not repeat and better off choosing some other course or even consider changing your subject.

## There are various options available for students that can be pursued and doesn't involve NEET result. A few of them are as follows

Getting admission under management or NRI quota: There are few MBBS seats reserved in many colleges and can be availed by meeting some criteria and requirements specific to the college. You are advised to do some research and check if you fulfil them.

Doing MBBS from abroad: There are many countries that provide MBBS course. While some require you to take tests there are others where getting admission is comparatively easier. A few of these countries are US, UK, Germany, China, Poland, Australia amongst others.

Pursuing other science and medical related course: There are many good courses that a student can choose as a career. A few of them are BSc Psychology, BSc Nursing, Bsc Biotechnology, B.Pharma etc. a comprehensive list

of such courses can be obtained by doing some research. Student can opt out for any of these as per his/her likings.

Changing stream: It may very well be the case that you may come to the realisation that you have interest in other subjects like commerce, arts, humanities or languages. This option is still available to you and should be chosen without hesitation and can offer much satisfying and rewarding career.

## When repeating for NEET is more relevant

We have previously discussed various options that do not require NEET result. However, they are more often then not quite expensive or involve moving to a distant country. There are also options where you decide to move out of medical profession altogether. But all said and done for some students giving up on their desire and ambition of becoming a doctor is not easy. A few situations when taking another attempt at the exam could be the more suitable choice. We discuss them here.

If you have missed qualification by very few marks then it is better you take another attempt. The fact

that you have another year where you don't have to take board exam and can solely focus on the NEET exam should help you qualify in the next attempt. The odds of qualifying in multiple attempt as presented earlier are in your favour.

There was lack of guidance and so you were not able to acquire knowledge and skills required for NEET. In such situations its better you take another attempt. But it is advisable that you consider joining a good NEET classes where you can get proper guidance.

It is possible that some other non-academic reason might have caused your poor result in the exam. It could be poor health, some family misfortune, examination errors or some other external factors. In such situation it is better that you take another attempt at the exam

There is another situation often observed among NEET aspirants. Many students are not able to perform well in one of the three subjects either Physics chemistry or biology and that drags their result. It could be a good idea to take a drop and focus on this subject as it provides you enough time to improve and possibly qualify in the next attempt



# Entertainment



## Actor Rajinikanth's daughter Soundarya and his husband welcomes baby boy

Superstar Rajinikanth's younger daughter Soundarya Rajinikanth and her husband Vishagan Vanangamudi have been blessed with a baby boy. On Sunday, Soundarya announced on social media. Taking to her Twitter handle, Soundarya Rajinikanth shared the news along with pictures.

Sharing the series of pictures, she wrote "With gods abundant grace and our parents blessings. Vishagan, Ved and I are thrilled to welcome Ved's little brother. VEER RAJINIKANTH VANANGAMUDI today 11/9/22 #Veer #Blessed. thank you to our amazing doctors @sumana\_manohar Dr.Srividya Seshadri @SeshadriSuresh3."

Rajinikanth's daughter Soundarya, her husband Vishagan Vanangamudi welcome baby boy

This is Soundarya and Vishagan's second marriage. Rajinikanth's younger daughter was earlier married to businessman R Ashwin, with whom she has a son Ved. On the work front, the 'Lingaa' actor has teamed up with filmmaker Nelson Dilipkumar for this project. The upcoming movie also includes stars like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Ramya Krishnan, Priyanka Arul Mohan, and Shiva Rajkumar. Meanwhile, Rajinikanth was last seen in 'Annaatthe', directed by Siva, which was released to mixed reviews for Diwali in 2021.

## Actor Olivia Colman speaks about Queen Elizabeth's legacy

Actor Olivia Colman, who played Queen Elizabeth II for two seasons of Netflix's hit royal series 'The Crown', is still processing the death and legacy of the British monarch. On Thursday, the day before the Toronto International Film Festival opened, the queen's passing was announced.

"I wouldn't know where to begin with that," she told Variety at the Variety Studio presented by King's Hawaiian at the Toronto International Film Festival. "She made a promise as a young woman and she absolutely kept it with such dignity. We're all incredibly impressed by what she did." According to Variety, Colman, who was in Canada to promote Sam Mendes' romance film 'Empire of Light', also lauded the monarch's inaugural speech in which he praised his mother and promised to serve with "loyalty, respect, and love".

"From a British point of view, he did it so beautifully," Colman said, in reference to the King's televised address to the nation. "He did it about love, tolerance and gentleness, and that is what she always wanted and she's done." She continued, "From the outside world looking at Great Britain, at the moment, we've got some comedy going on at one side -- politics -- and something so dignified. I felt proud to be British. I think he's going to do a good job." Colman is anxious to hand the sceptre to Imelda Staunton, another great British actress. Did she give the "Vera Drake" actress any advice? "No! Who gives Imelda Staunton advice? She will be incredible," Colman said with a laugh. "I can't wait to watch her." 'The Crown' production is paused briefly after Queen Elizabeth's death.



With the passing away of Queen Elizabeth II, people across the world have expressed grief. Many political leaders, diplomats, actors, and famous personalities have mourned the loss of the longest-serving UK Monarch. Many celebrities had the opportunity to meet the Queen on various occasions at the Palace or during public gatherings.

But did you know that the Queen had once visited the sets of an Indian film? South Megastar Kamal Haasan

## Kamal Haasan mourn the demise of Queen Elizabeth II and recalls of her visiting to his film set in Chennai

recently spoke to ANI and revealed that the Queen had attended the launch of the 'Marudhanaygam' film at MGR Film City on October 16, 1997. He added that the Queen had spent 20 minutes on the 'Marudhanaygam' film set during which the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi had also joined her. He said, "I was pained to learn of the demise of Queen Elizabeth II, who had been Queen of England for seventy years. She was someone who had earned the love of not just the English people but people from all over the world. Queen Elizabeth 2 came to our film Marudhanayagam set to show that no colonialism is still there. In fact, the 'Marudhanayagam' film which I shot and the dialogues were against them (British)."

He continued, "Twenty-five years ago, she accepted our invitation to attend the inaugural function of the 'Marudhanayagam' film. She graced the occasion and felicitated us."

Kamal Haasan also revealed that he met the Queen again during a cultural event in London.

## Harry Styles accepts his first acting award of Oscar season

**Don't Worry Darling**- star Harry Styles was soft-spoken while accepting an award for one of his first major movie roles at this year's Toronto International Film Festival. According to Variety, Styles, a man of relatively few words, and the cast of 'My Policeman' received the ensemble award at the festival's Tribute Awards on Sunday night. "Thank you so much to everyone here,

on behalf of all of us, for this wonderful, wonderful award," said Styles, who stars in the romantic drama as a closeted police officer. "We all loved working on this film so much. And we hope you enjoy it." Styles then hastily exited the Fairmont Royal York, where the annual gala is held while carrying the train of his co-star Emma Corin's long, black dress.

