



Exam Genius

Ace your Exams with Exam Genius



UPSC | SSC | Railway | Banking | Other Govt. Exams

Editorials

- The Hindu
- The Indian Express
- Hindustan Times
- The Times of India
- The Economic Times
- Business Standard
- Mint

Follow Us:

[Official Site](#) [Youtube](#)  [WhatsApp](#)  [Telegram](#)  [Insta](#)  [FB](#) 

The Hindu

12/07/2024

Secular remedy: On the Muslim woman, maintenance and Court verdict

Muslim women's right to seek maintenance under secular laws is well established

In holding that a divorced Muslim woman is not **barred** from invoking the secular remedy of seeking maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the Supreme Court of India has done well to clarify an important question concerning the impact of a 1986 law that appeared to restrict their relief to what is allowed in Muslim personal law alone. The **enactment** of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, was a **watershed** moment that is seen as having undermined the country's secular ethos by seeking to nullify a Court judgment in the Shah Bano case (1985), which allowed a divorced Muslim woman to apply for maintenance from a magistrate under Section 125 of the CrPC. Subsequently, the 1986 law was upheld by a Constitution Bench in 2001 after coming close to declaring its provisions unconstitutional for discriminating against Muslim women. The Act was declared valid after the Bench read it down in such a way as not to foreclose the secular remedy for Muslim women. Several High Court judgments took different views on whether Muslim women should avail of Section 3 of the 1986 Act or Section 125 of CrPC. The latest verdict by a Bench of Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih settles this question by holding that the **codification** of a Muslim woman's rights in the 1986 Act — including the right to maintenance during the Iddat period, provision for a dignified life until she remarries, and

Follow Us : [Official Site](#)  [Youtube](#)  [WhatsApp](#)  [Telegram](#)  [Insta](#)  [FB](#)

return of mehr and dowry — was only in addition to and not in **derogation** of her right to seek maintenance like a woman of any other religion.

Justice Masih, in his main opinion, concludes that both the personal law provision and the secular remedy for seeking maintenance ought to exist in parallel in their distinct domains. While the CrPC may be invoked by a woman if she was unable to maintain herself, the 1986 Act makes it a Muslim husband's obligation to provide for his divorced wife and her children up to a certain point. Justice Nagarathna, in her **concurring** opinion, looks at the social purpose behind the provision for maintenance in the CrPC, namely that it aims to prevent **vagrancy** among women by compelling the husband to support his wife. The 1986 Act codified the right available to a divorced Muslim woman in personal law. This right is in addition to, and not at the cost of, the rights available in existing law. The verdict is a great example of the Court using **harmonious** interpretation to expand the scope of rights as well as to secularise access to remedies. In the process, the Court has also neutralised the perception that the right of Muslim women to seek maintenance under secular provisions stood **extinguished** since 1986.

Vocabulary

1. Barred

Synonyms: prohibited, blocked, excluded, banned, forbidden

Antonyms: allowed, permitted, admitted, included, accepted

2. Enactment

Synonyms: allowed, permitted, admitted, included, accepted

Antonyms: Repeal, abolishment, annulment

3. Watershed

Synonyms: divide, drainage basin, turning point

Antonyms: confluence, junction, lowland

4. Codification

Synonyms: Systematization, Organization, Classification

Antonyms: Disorder, Disorganization, Chaos

5. Derogation

Synonyms: disparagement, belittlement, and denigration

Antonyms: praise, commendation, and approval

6. Concurring

Synonyms: agreeing, coinciding, and harmonious

Antonyms: disagreeing, conflicting, and contradicting

7. Vagrancy

Synonyms: Homelessness, vagabondage

Antonyms: Residency, settlement

8. Harmonious

Synonyms: peaceful, concordant

Antonyms: discordant, conflicting

9. Extinguished

Synonyms: quenched, doused, snuffed out

Antonyms: ignited, burning, blazing, aflame





Exam Genius

Ace your Exams with Exam Genius



UPSC | SSC | Railway | Banking | Other Govt. Exams

Editorials

- The Hindu
- The Indian Express
- Hindustan Times
- The Times of India
- The Economic Times
- Business Standard
- Mint

Follow Us:

[Official Site](#) [Youtube](#)  [WhatsApp](#)  [Telegram](#)  [Insta](#)  [FB](#) 

The Hindu

12/07/2024

Can of worms: On NEET-UG 2024

The government must ensure greater transparency in NEET

Trust can be everything, in governance. The can of worms that split open with the publication of results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-UG-2024 has **elevated** the entrance examination for medical (and dental) seats to a **metaphor** for distrust in the system, among the people. This year, **dogged** by accusations of paper leak, malpractices, and technical failures, besides the grant of grace marks to some students, NEET, which was conceived to homogenise selection on merit, has now **morphed** into a beast that is far removed from its original idea. The Supreme Court of India, on Thursday, rescheduled the NEET-UG hearing to July 18, to address complaints regarding irregularities and malpractices during the exam conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). A CBI investigation into the charges is ongoing. Meanwhile, the Centre has **leaned** heavily on a report, a data analysis, submitted by IIT Madras, examining the results to see if malpractices have occurred. The report's executive summary claimed that there was no abnormality that was discovered in a centre and city-wise analysis that was done for two years. The analysis was carried out for the top 1.4 lakh ranks in the country. It further stated that there was no evidence of either mass malpractice or a localised set of candidates benefiting. The overall increase of marks among students, a charge that was laid out initially, is attributed to the 25% reduction in

Follow Us : [Official Site](#)  [Youtube](#)  [WhatsApp](#)  [Telegram](#)  [Insta](#)  [FB](#)

syllabus, and it confirms that this occurred across multiple cities. However, outrage among student applicants on social media continues.

While NEET is no stranger to controversy, with States opposing it, the charges that have been levelled against it this year have had the effect of invoking distrust against the test among a larger subset of **chary** students across the country. The only way to move forward from here is to ensure that the issue is debated **threadbare** on public platforms and all doubt is removed, instead of trying to sweep the worms that have spilled out under the carpet. Loud denials of malpractice should be matched with the willingness to engage with those affected in a public forum and provide clarifications. Where errors have taken place, as is possible in an exercise of this scale, it **behoves** a proper acknowledgement and apology. When trust is violated, the **reparation** for it should sometimes be utter honesty. For the longer term, the government must introduce greater **limpidity** in the examination process, and make sure that the NTA and its line agencies remain committed to maintaining transparency. It might also be the opportunity to set right other issues raised about the conduct of the examination itself, including security checks on students.

Vocabulary

1. Elevated

Synonyms: high, lofty, raised, tall

Antonyms: low, depressed, lowered, beneath

2. Dogged

Synonyms: Persistent, determined, tenacious, resolute

Antonyms: Indifferent, lax, yielding, hesitant

3. Metaphor

Meaning: A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action by referring to something else. It suggests that two unlike things are similar in some way, often through implicit comparison. For example, "Time is a thief" compares time to a thief to convey the idea that time steals moments from our lives.

4. Morphed

Synonyms: transformed, changed, altered, mutated

Antonyms: unchanged, static

5. Leaned

Synonyms: inclined, tilted, slanted, tipped

Antonyms: straightened, upright

6. Chary

Synonyms: cautious, wary, hesitant

Antonyms: careless, reckless

7. Threadbare

Synonyms: worn-out, shabby, ragged, tattered

Antonyms: new, pristine, immaculate, luxurious

8. Behoves

Synonyms: necessitates, requires

Antonyms: frees, releases

9. Reparation

Synonyms: compensation, restitution

Antonyms: penalty, neglect

10. Limpidity

Synonyms: clarity, transparency, clearness

Antonyms: opacity, murkiness

