









**INTERSTATE**

# Organs of state obligated to be models of good conduct, says President Kovind

NEW DELHI: Cautioning the three organs of state -- the executive, the judiciary and the legislature to respect each other's boundaries and be obligated to be models of good governance, President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said there is a relentless demand for transparency and scrutiny in public life today. Speaking after inaugurating the National Law Day Conference organised here jointly by the Law Commission of India and NITI Aayog, President Kovind said, "Public life is today a glass house. There is a relentless demand for transparency and scrutiny. Our legal fraternity needs to be mindful of these legitimate urges of the people - the ultimate masters in a democracy. All three organs of the state - the judiciary, the executive and the legislature - are obligated to be models of good conduct. They also need to be careful not to cross into each other's finely-defined spaces..."

Her further said, "Our Constitution is both a major source of our laws, as well as the custodian of an ethic and a value system that inher-



ently believes in the dharma of law. On National Law Day, we recall with gratitude the members of the Constituent Assembly who gave us this vibrant and inspiring document, our Constitution. And in particular we pay tribute to Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the chair of the Drafting Committee, and in a sense the Chief Architect of our Constitution."

President Kovind also used the occasion to flag the under-representation of women and under-privileged sections of Indian society in the legal field.

"(Out) of the 17,000 judges in our subordinate courts, high courts and Supreme Court, only about 4,700, roughly one in four, are women. In addition, there is an unacceptably low representation of traditionally weaker sections such

as OBCs, SCs and STs, especially in the higher judiciary. Without in any manner compromising on quality, we need to take long-term measures to remedy this situation. Like our other public institutions, our judiciary too has to be judicious in being representative of the diversity of our country. And the breadth and depth of our society," he said.

He said that it is the sacred duty of the higher judiciary to groom district and sessions judges and raise their skills. In this manner, more and more of them can graduate to the high courts. This will also enhance trust in our lower courts and their judgements and serve to de-clog our high courts.

On the issue of strengthening the justice delivery system, he emphasised that there is the need to ensure speedy justice with a greater efficiency. "While we take pride in our courts and their independence, it is a paradox that the poor often shy away from a legal battle, worried about the duration and the cost. And the well-off sometimes use the judicial

process and its intricacies to delay resolution to issues they simply do not want resolved. This paradox needs to be addressed," he said. President Kovind also said that in this age of instant communication and technology, "we must use these tools to speed up the justice delivery process."

On the question of affordability of legal fees, he said, "The idea that a relatively poor person cannot reach the doors of justice for a fair hearing only because of financial or similar constraints violates our constitutional values and our republican ethic. It is a burden on our collective conscience."

He said that he would leave it to India's legal fraternity to find an answer to rectify this anomaly.

He noted that the government has identified around 1,800 laws that require to be removed from the statute books. In the past three years, Parliament has repealed about 1,200 obsolete and unnecessary laws. He stated that this will decongest the statute books and promote ease of governance.

## Rahul Gandhi takes dig at PM Modi after Hafeez Saeed's release



NEW DELHI: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after Pakistan released 2008 Mumbai attacks mastermind and Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed from house arrest, saying that the former's 'Hugplomacy' with US President Donald Trump failed.

Gandhi to his Twitter handle and said "more hugs were urgently needed" between PM Modi and Trump.

Earlier on November 24, Saeed was released from house arrest in Lahore.

Police guards were removed from his residence where a large number of supporters gathered to celebrate the end of his house arrest.

In his first address after being released, Saeed blames India and the U.S. for detention and raked up Kashmir.

Saeed is said to be the head of the U.S.-designated terror outfit, Lashkar-e-Taiba and had been under house arrest since January 31 this year.

The decision to put Saeed under house arrest in January was seen as a response to actions by US President Donald Trump's White House against nations deemed linked to terrorism. He has been declared a global terrorist by the United Nations and the US for his role in the Mumbai attack which claimed the lives of 166 people and maimed over 300 others. He has a USD 10 million bounty on his head.

## Renaming Dyal Singh College unbelievable, shocking: Harsimrat Badal

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Saturday termed renaming of Dyal Singh College (Evening) as unbelievable and shocking. The evening college was recently turned into a day college in July this year and renamed as Vande Mataram Mahavidyalaya on November 17.

Talking to ANI, Badal said, "It is unacceptable and shocking. The person who is so keen to change name must change his own name. He can put all his wealth to create something and give it whatever name he wants." She further questioned: How can you take away legacy of someone else?

The Union Minister of Food Processing further added that even the contribution of Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia so how could India forget his contribution.

"Even in Pakistan, they've recognised contribution of Sardar Deen Dyal Singh Majithia and colleges are being run on his name," Badal asserted.

Even, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has opposed the move.

"Strongly oppose renaming of Dyal Singh College as #vande mataram college. Founder Dyal Singh Majithia was a progressive visionary. We should preserve his great legacy instead of indulging in petty name



changing games," Captain Amarinder tweeted. However, the college administration has said there won't be any backtracking on renaming decision.

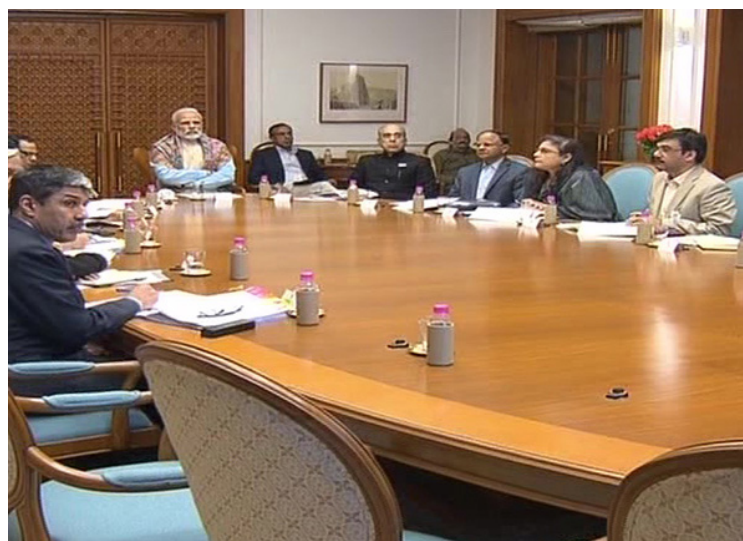
The college's origin arose from the estate of Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia, founder of The Tribune and Punjab National Bank, who willed his estate in 1895 for the establishment of an educational trust for a secular college. Consequently, Dyal Singh College was established at Lahore in 1910. After the Partition of India, Dyal Singh College was established in Karnal and Delhi. It started functioning in the capital as a constituent college of the University of Delhi in 1959 and was taken over by the University of Delhi as a university maintained institution in 1978.

## PM Modi reviews steps taken to reduce under-nutrition

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reviewed the progress and efforts taken up to prevent and reduce under-nutrition and related problems in India.

The high level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister was attended by officials from PMO, NITI Aayog and other Ministries. In the meeting current status of malnutrition, stunting and related problems were also reviewed. A statement, issued by the PMO, mentions that Prime Minister Modi in his meeting stressed on the need to bring in changes within 2022.

The Prime Minister stressed on the need to work towards concrete objectives to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, low birth weight, and anaemia. He emphasised that visible and measurable results should be seen by 2022, the 75th anniversary of inde-



pendence," it said.

"Towards this end, real-time monitoring towards progress of nutrition outcomes was discussed, especially in the worst performing districts," adds the statement.

During the meeting, senior officials repeatedly emphasized that initiatives of the Union Government such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Mission Indradhanush, Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana etc, are having a positive impact on nutrition, the statement further reads.

PM Modi also called for convergence among all schemes of Union and State Governments, which directly or indirectly have an impact on nutrition outcomes.

In the meeting, Prime Minister Modi further stressed that raising awareness is very important and informal channels should be used to generate this awareness.

He said, "Raising social awareness towards the importance of nutrition is necessary, to achieve the desired results."

## Man arrested for raping differently abled girl in MP

DAMOH: A man was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping a differently abled girl in Damoh of Madhya Pradesh.

The accused was arrested following the family of the victim filed a police complaint against him.

The accused allegedly raped the girl when she went to defecate. The probe is underway in the incident, police said.

## K'taka police offer roses to traffic rule followers

KARNATAKA: In a bid to promote abidance to road safety rules, police in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district gave roses to people following traffic norms.

The Kalaburagi Police in Karnataka have started a drive for road safety in which people flouting the traffic norms will be booked while the followers will be offered roses.

North Eastern range IGP Alok Kumar on Friday came to the field for the safety drive, booked cases and also offered rose for those who followed the rules and wore helmet.

The initiative is setting an example for other states where accidents keep on happening every other day due to violation of traffic rules.



## Haryana: Mobile internet services suspended till Nov 26 in 13 districts

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana government on Friday suspended mobile internet services in 13 districts of the state till the midnight of November 26. This decision has been taken by the state government in view of maintaining law and order ahead of the two public rallies.

An official statement issued by the Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Home Department) S S Prasad reads, "Internet services provided on mobile networks except voice calls shall



remain suspended for the next three days until midnight of November 26 beginning today (November 24) in the territorial jurisdiction of districts of Jind, Hansi, Bhiwani, Hisar, Fatehabad, Karnal, Panipat, Kaithal, Rohtak, Sonapat, Jhajjar, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri.

"This order is issued to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order in the jurisdiction of the State district as mentioned and shall be in force for the next three days...", the order

adds. The All India Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJASS), led by Yashpal Malik, announced a rally at Jassia village of Rohtak district on Sunday. On the same day, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Raj Kumar Saini will address another rally at Jind.

A group of Jats opposing Kurukshetra MP Raj Kumar Saini's rally at Jind reportedly clashed with the police and blocked the Jind-Chandigarh national highway in Jind.

## Egypt mosque attack: Sonia Gandhi calls for response from global community

NEW DELHI: Condemning the recent terror attack in Egypt, Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said such an attack is a reminder that terrorism remains a formidable challenge and calls for a concerted and sustained response from the global community. Expressing solidarity with the people of Egypt, Gandhi said it is an unacceptable act of brutal terror against innocent citizens.

"This cowardly attack is a stark reminder that the persisting menace of terrorism remains a formidable challenge that calls for a concerted and sustained response from the global community," she said.

She said terrorism is a crime against humanity for which there can never be

any justification and such barbaric acts are against the tenets of every religion.

The party president said the horrific attack is a deeply disturbing manifestation of the evil forces of terror.

"The attack took place at a place of worship and claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent worshippers make this senseless act of violence even more tragic," she added. The terrorist attack that took place on Friday claimed over 200 lives and wounded scores of worshippers in Egypt.

An explosion took place at a packed mosque in the Bir al-Abd region of north Sinai in Egypt when worshippers were carrying out their afternoon prayers.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.







