

Kejriwal, Sisodia Not Invited To Melania Trump's School Visit



NEW DELHI:- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia will not accompany First Lady Melania Trump to government schools during her brief visit to the national capital next week, it has been learnt.

"The chief minister and deputy chief minister have been dropped from the list of people who will be present at the school when Melania Trump visits," sources said.

On Tuesday, Melania is expected to attend a class on the happiness curriculum, one of the flagship programmes of the Delhi government in the education sector that aims to help children relieve stress, meditate and discuss things that are troubling them.

US President Donald Trump and Melania Trump will fly to Ahmedabad on February 24. They are then expected to travel to Agra and Delhi.

"The Delhi government is keen on showing Melania Trump a few other programmes they have started, such as the entrepreneurship curriculum, but her visit is expected to last just an hour or so. She and her team have expressed a desire to witness a

happiness class as it happens, so that is definitely on the cards," a source had earlier said.

The curriculum was started in July, 2018 by Education Minister Manish Sisodia. Under the programme, students spend 45 minutes a day meditating, telling stories and sharing their experiences. A teacher oversees the session.

Last year, a teacher in a school in Brooklyn, New York, read about the happiness curriculum and connected with a teacher in a Delhi government school. The two schools have, since then, been connecting over Twitter, with a happiness classroom also being replicated in the New York school sometimes.

"Happiness classes have been a big hit with people across the world. Whenever our officers go abroad for any education-related conference, they are asked about the innovative programme. In this case, too, there is interest in this specific programme," said a senior official who did not want to be named.

In 2018, the education ministers of Afghanistan and UAE, along with officials from several other Asian countries, had attended a happiness class in a Central Delhi school.

Up Bjp Mla Gets Clean Chit In Gangrape Case, Nephew Arrested



BHADOHI :- Police on Saturday gave a clean chit to local BJP MLA Ravindra Nath Tripathi in a gangrape case as "no evidence" was found against him and arrested his nephew, officials said.

Five others, who had also been named in an FIR lodged on Wednesday, were also absolved of rape charges by the district police, they said.

The FIR was lodged against Tripathi and his kin on a complaint by a 40-year-old woman who had alleged that they had raped her in 2017.

"During investigation, no evidence was found against the Bhadohi MLA and five others. They have been given a clean chit," Superintendent of Police (SP) Ram Badan Singh told newsmen here.

"Tripathi's nephew Sandeep Tiwari has been arrested on charge of rape," he said.

Another member of the family, Neetesh, who had been named in the FIR, has been booked for manhandling and abusing the woman, he added.

The officer said that after the woman's statement was recorded before a magistrate, the probe was handed over to a two-member team, including the Gulafsha women's police station incharge.

The team failed to find any evidence to corroborate her charges, Singh said.

The woman also refused to undergo medical examination, he added.

The complainant, a widow, had alleged that she was first raped by Tiwari in 2016. She said she did not lodge a complaint back then as Tiwari had promised to marry her, Singh had said on Wednesday.

She alleged that in the run-up to the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, she was kept at a hotel for a month by Tiwari. All the seven accused would visit the hotel and repeatedly rape her, he had said.

She also claimed that when she got pregnant, she was forced to undergo abortion, the officer had said.



Trump Will Raise Issue Of Religious Freedom With Narendra Modi: White House

WASHINGTON:- U.S. president Donald Trump will raise the issue of religious freedom with prime minister Narendra Modi during his visit to India that is starting on February 24, the White House said on Friday.

This is not very good news for India because there have been several instances of BJP ministers such as Giriraj Kishore speaking out on why Muslims should not have stayed on in India after 1947, and several cases of sedition cases being filed against Muslim or Christian protesters in some states, especially Karnataka in recent weeks.

As usual, this advance intimation of U.S. intent came in an official briefing by the Trump administration to reporters in Washington with no words minced. As the briefing official said, religious freedom is especially important to this regime in Washington.

The timing and nature of the White House is particularly interesting. This pointed mention of the state of religious freedom in India comes a couple of weeks after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo inaugurated a US-led initiative on international religious freedom, and US administration officials indicated that events in India were definite on that radar.

"President Trump will talk about our shared tradition of democracy and religious free-

dom both in his public remarks and then certainly in private. He will raise these issues, particularly the religious freedom issue, which is extremely important to this administration," a senior official told reporters in a conference call.

The official was responding to a question on whether the president was planning to speak to Narendra Modi on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or the National Register of Citizens.

"We do have this shared commitment to upholding our universal values, the rule of law. We have great respect for India's democratic traditions and institutions, and we will continue to encourage India to uphold those traditions," the official said, requesting anonymity.

"And we are concerned with some of the issues that you have raised," the senior administration official said, in response to the question on CAA and NRC.

"I think the president will talk about these issues in his meetings with prime minister Modi and note that the world is looking to India to continue to uphold its democratic traditions, respect for religious minorities," the official said.

"Of course, it's in the Indian Constitution -- religious freedom, respect for religious minorities, and equal treatment of all religions. So this is something that is important to the

president and I'm sure it will come up," said the official.

Pointing out that India has a strong democratic foundation, the official said India is a country rich in religious, linguistic, and cultural diversity.

"In fact, it's the birthplace of four major world religions," the official noted.

"Prime Minister Modi, in his first speech after winning the election last year, talked about how he would prioritise being inclusive of India's religious minorities. And, certainly, the world looks to India to maintain religious liberty and equal treatment for all under the rule of law," said the senior administration official.

Ahead of Trump visit to India, while the Modi regime has been eager to showcase the optics side of the event, such as the Namaste Trump rally at the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad, the signals from Washington have been more in the nature of statecraft.

Trump has played hot and cold on whether he will go in for a trade deal with India during this visit or keep it for later. At any rate, he has made it clear that he intends to get India to scale back its "extremely high" tariffs on some American products.

The pointed reference to religious freedom in India could well be a tactic of leverage ahead of the talk Trump will have with Modi next week.

Priyanka Gandhi Questions Govt Over Trump's Visit

NEW DELHI:- Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday attacked the Narendra Modi-led government over the huge amount of money being spent on US President Donald Trump's visit to Gujarat's Ahmedabad. She questioned the role of a committee which is the organiser for Trump's event in Ahmedabad.

"Rs 100 crore is being spent on the visit of President Trump. But this money is being spent through a committee. The members of the committee do not know that they are its members. Does the country not have the right to know which ministry gave how much money to the committee? And what is the government hiding in the garb of the committee?" Priyanka tweeted attaching a news report.

Priyanka, who is also incharge of the eastern Uttar Pradesh was referring to the "Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti" which is managing the US President's visit to Gujarat's Ahmedabad. Reportedly,



the "Abhinandan Samiti" has spent over Rs 100 crore on the beautification of the city ahead of the US President's visit.

On Friday, senior party leader Anand Sharma while addressing a press conference questioned who all were managing the proposed Ahmedabad visit of Trump, as the government said it was the "Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti".

"We have come to know that a quota has been fixed for schools, colleges and universities (to send students for Trump's welcome). School

children will also be lined up. As many as 100 teachers have been summoned from each block. All the hoardings put up there are not by any committee. The Gujarat government has given all approvals; Motera Stadium has been hired, artistes from all over India are coming. It's not under the control of a committee. A special grant for the visit has been given to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. We don't mind, but the government should not lie (about the arrangements)," Sharma had said.

Amu Students' Panel Begins Hunger Strike Over 'Police Brutality' During Anti-CAA Stir



ALIGARH:- Members of the AMU students' coordination committee has begun a three-day hunger strike, seeking action against police personnel for alleged brutality during an anti-CAA stir on the campus last December and withdrawal of cases against protesters.

Announcing that their 10-week-long peaceful agitation has entered a new phase, twelve students started the 72-hour hunger strike on Friday night.

The panel said if their demands were not met, a group of students would launch an indefinite hunger strike at the Bab-e-Syed gate of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

They have sent a notice of their proposed strike to the authorities concerned at the university as well as the district authorities.

The panel also copies of their notice to the President, prime minister and the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The spokesman of the committee, Faizul Hasan, told mediapersons that their main demand was that an FIR be registered against the members of the police force who "indulged in violence and vandalism" at the university on December 15.

"We also want the withdrawal of all false cases against those students who were exercising their democratic right of peace-

ful protest and were being pressured by the authorities to end their agitation," he said.

Hasan said the Uttar Pradesh chief minister held a very important constitutional post and if he had any concrete evidence to support his charge of unprovoked violence against the AMU students, he should place that before the court, instead of vilifying the institution.

"On our part, we are placing all the evidence before the court and will also do so if the government orders a judicial probe," he said.

The students' coordination panel is also demanding the resignation of top university officials, including the vice-chancellor and the registrar, on the grounds of moral responsibility with regard to the December 15 incident.

They demanded that the CCTV footage of all incidents pertaining to the "police brutalities" should be fully secured and protected.

Meanwhile, at the Eidgah grounds in the old city, the woman protesters, who have been on an indefinite dharna against the Citizenship Amendment Act since the past three weeks, staged a stir at the Kotwali police station.

They alleged that police prevented them from putting up a tent at the protest site on Thursday night during a hailstorm.

Senior district officials rushed to the spot and pacified protesters.

Rule Of Law Most Fundamental Feature Of Modern Constitutions: CJ

NEW DELHI:- The rule of law is probably the "most fundamental feature" of modern constitutions and its success depends on how judiciaries across the world respond to emerging challenges, Chief Justice S A Bobde said on Saturday.

The CJ, while speaking at the International Judges' Conference on the subject of 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court here, also stressed on the need for citizens to perform their legal duties.

"Probably the most fundamental feature of most modern constitutions is the idea of the rule of law," he said, adding, "Undoubtedly, the success of the rule of law in our countries depends on how the judiciaries respond to such challenges and how they emerge."

Referring to Constitutional provisions, Justice Bobde said it was often implicit in law that "legal rights have correlatives of legal duties."

"A feature often neglected is a chapter on fundamental duties imposing on every citizen the duties to abide by the constitution, the whole of it and respect its ideals and institution," he said.

The CJ said more than 50 countries have specific provisions on fundamental duties in their constitutions.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Justice Bobde said the exercise of rights depends on one's sense of duty and "real rights are a result of performance of duty".

The CJ also referred to "incredible technological advancement" and said now the entire world was interconnected and a small change in one corner of the world can result in changes in different parts of the world.

"Judiciaries all over the world are dealing with this kind of change, what might be called a rights revolution, a technological revolution and a demographic revolution. Our decisions no longer impact only those who live in our jurisdiction but also those who live in other jurisdictions, some far away," he said.

Wishing success to the first such conference organised by the Indian Supreme Court in which judges from over 20 countries are taking part, he said this would offer opportunities to judges "to exchange ideas and gain knowledge from each other on many aspects of gender justice, right to privacy, populism, environment and sustainable development."

He said the Constitution has created a "strong and independent judiciary" which was separated from the executive and the legislature.

"We have strived at every turn, not just as a judicial institution but also as a citizenry to keep these basic ideals intact," he said.

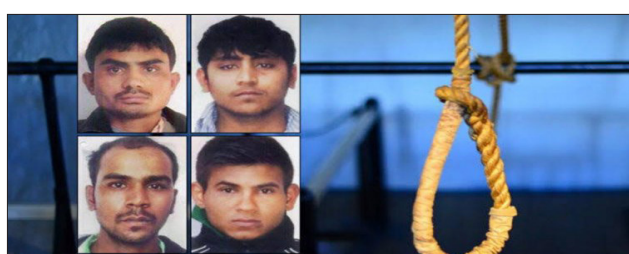
The CJ then delved into the 2,000-year-old history of Indian jurisprudence and said, "India had a well-established system of courts.

Nirbhaya Case: Court Reserves Order On Convict's Plea

NEW DELHI:- A Delhi court on Saturday reserved its order on an application filed by one of the death-row convicts in Nirbhaya rape case seeking better treatment for his claimed mental illness, schizophrenia and head and arm injuries.

An application was moved on behalf of Vinay Sharma, seeking a direction to shift him to Delhi's Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IH-BAS) for "high level treatment" for his mental illness.

Vinay also attempted to hurt himself by hitting his



head against a wall in jail, earlier this week. He also sought treatment for it.

Vinay has exhausted all this legal remedies. He, along with three other convicts, are scheduled to be hanged on March 3 at 6 a.m.

One of the convicts, Pawan, has yet not availed the remedy of either curative or mercy petition.

The case pertains to the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old girl in the national capital in December 2012.

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Shaheen Bagh Protesters Seek Security From Supreme Court

NEW DELHI:- The two Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors began the third day of their discussions with the Shaheen Bagh protesters on Friday evening.

The protesters said if they opened the parallel road to the protest site, the SC should pass an order ensuring their security. The Delhi police also admitted that the protesters hadn't blocked the parallel road, but it was the police that barricaded the road to ensure security at the Shaheen Bagh protest site.

Meanwhile, the Noida police reopened the road linking Noida to Delhi's Kalindi Kunj briefly for

40 minutes on Friday morning, leading to some traffic movement.

A woman protester told senior advocates Sanjay Hegde and Sandhana Ramachandra, the two interlocutors, "When several adjoining roads are open, why are they insisting that we move from this road. This is not the only road connecting Delhi and Noida."

Hegde said, "Today is Shivratri. Aaj agar koi gaali de tab bhi duwa ban jati hai. Say everything you want to say. Let's take a joint decision for all parties affected here."

Remember What Happened In Gujarat: BJP MLC To Pathan

NEW DELHI:- Hitting out at AIMIM leader Waris Pathan over his '15 crore Muslims can be heavy on 100 crore' remark, Maharashtra BJP legislator Girish Vyas has said he should remember what happened in Gujarat. Vyas, who is an MLC and a BJP spokesperson, also urged the Muslim community to boycott people like Pathan and "teach them a lesson".

"The youths and patriots of this country and each worker of the BJP are ready to give a befitting reply to Waris Pathan in the same language he has used," Vyas said while speaking to TV9 news channel on Friday.

"We are tolerant and patient, but this not does mean that we cannot deal with them. Remember Gujarat, the incidents happened in Kalapur. I feel the Muslims there today do not dare to rise again," he said.

Vyas was apparently referring to the 2002 post-Godhra riots in Gujarat, in which over 1,000 people, mostly of the minority community, were killed.

"Maharashtra chief minister (Uddhav Thackeray) should take action against Pathan for sedition and the Indian government should send him to Pakistan," he added.