

'Child in conflict with law' describes a circumstance, not identity: CJI

NEW DELHI, Oct 10: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said names of 'children in conflict with the law' must be kept out of the news and off the internet, and the phrase describes a circumstance, not an identity.

He was speaking after inaugurating the National Annual Stakeholders' Consultation on "Ten Years of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: Progress, Challenges and Priorities for the Next Decade" organised by the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court in association with UNICEF.

The CJI said 10 years is a short time for a statute, but it is more than half of a childhood.

The 2015 Act, he said, makes a wager that a child given a second chance is far more likely to become a productive member of society than one branded as a criminal.

"The journey truly ends only when the past no longer casts a shadow over the future. For that, we must destroy old records on time, and keep the names of 'children in conflict with law' out of the news and off the internet, where they can linger for years," he said.

"Rehabilitation that ends at the gate of an institution is not rehabilitation at all, for reintegration means restoring a young person's place in family, school and community without stigma," the CJI said.

He said a 15-year-old brought before a Juvenile Justice Board in January 2016, when this Act came into force, would be aged about 25 today, and the first



promise the Act made to that 15-year-old minor lies in the words it uses.

"This is no mere courtesy, because the phrase 'child in conflict with law' describes a circumstance, not an identity," he said.

The CJI said circumstance is usually a difficult one, for the stories of these young people so often speak of schooling cut short, families under strain, and poverty. Most of them come before the law for the first time.

"Very often, the child in conflict with the law today was, only a little earlier, a child in need of care and protection we failed to provide in time. Our answer to such a predicament is restoration, not retribution," the CJI said.

He said the right to be heard means little unless someone is there to speak with the child and for the child.

He said that is why NALSA's child-friendly legal services scheme of 2024 provides for a lawyer at the police station and a legal services clinic at every Juvenile Justice Board.

"Yet many Boards still have no such clinic, and without this, the preliminary questions regarding the child's care and well-being may be taken without any adequate representation," Justice Kant said.

He also urged legal services institutions to consider creating a separate wing of trained defence counsel for children, so each has a dedicated lawyer from the first hour, and the same lawyer continues to assist, from the police station to the final order and into rehabilitation.

The CJI said between apprehension and the Board's final order, a child in conflict with law would meet a police officer, a probation officer, the Board, a lawyer and, perhaps, the staff of an observation home, "each of whom must see not only the offence, but the child behind it".

"Regular training through our judicial and police academies, bringing these persons together with psychologists, would teach them not only about adolescence, trauma and poverty, but also how to work with one another. After all, those who work together should not be trained in separate rooms," the CJI said.

He stressed regular, independent evaluation that can say, with due care for privacy, how many young people returned to school, found work and never came before a Board again.

Speaking at the inaugural session, apex court judge Justice B V Nagarathna said this consultation is an occasion to take stock of this

"seminal piece" of legislation and what these past 10 years have meant for the children for whom the law exists.

"On a more general note, it may not be out of place to mention that it is, as adults, our duty to understand the anxieties of our children. We cannot be dismissive of their concerns, lest they feel alienated and rejected," she said, adding, "All children are ours and their distress is ours too".

She said the Juvenile Justice Board is not intended to be a "miniature criminal court" and its role is anchored in a different philosophy, one which recognises that children possess capacities for development and change, and that the response of the justice system must take that developmental reality seriously.

Justice Nagarathna said an India Justice Report study in November 2025 found that in the year ending in October 2023, 55 per cent of cases before the Boards across 18 states and two Union Territories were pending.

"More than 55,000 children were awaiting decisions, and out of 1,00,904 cases before 362 Boards during that period, 45,097 were disposed of. The same study reported that 24 per cent of responding Boards -- 111 out of 470 -- were functioning without the full bench of a principal magistrate and two social worker members. These figures relate to 2023," she said.

Justice Nagarathna said the Act is ultimately a law about the future.

"When a child breaks the law, the law must not break the child," she said. (PTI)

PM-HM Duo Extremely Nervous, Rattled By Peaceful Protest Of Youth: Congress

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: The Congress on Saturday claimed that the "PM-HM duo is extremely nervous and rattled" by a peaceful protest of youth, and asserted that the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is a "moral imperative".

The opposition party also said the suspension of the SIR that has already disenfranchised nearly 14 crore Indians is essential to restore public faith and trust in the election system.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the nation's capital has been turned into a fortress and armed security personnel are all over the place.

"The PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo is extremely nervous and rattled by a peaceful protest by youth deeply concerned with the planned stealing of their Constitutional right to vote guaranteed by Article 326," Ramesh said on X.

There is incontrovertible



evidence that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar faithfully executed the orders given to him by the "destructive duo" when he was appointed, he alleged.

In December 2023, a law giving him lifelong immunity was bulldozed through Parliament when 145 Opposition MPs had been suspended, Ramesh said.

"The resignation of the CEC, who has lied to the Supreme Court itself, has become a moral imperative. But it is only the first step to reclaim the very foundations

of our democracy, which is so very essential for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of all people, especially the youth," the Congress leader said.

"The suspension of the SIR that has already disenfranchised nearly 14 crore Indians is essential to restore public faith and trust in our election system," Ramesh said.

His remarks came on a day the CJP is set to lead a protest at Jantar Mantar.

Delhi Police on Friday detained around 150 protest-

ers, who were trying to reach Jantar Mantar for the proposed CJP stir against the CEC.

Sources said the 150 protestors were detained across the New Delhi area where police are using drones to monitor movement of people attempting to reach the protest site.

The proposed protest has prompted heightened security measures in the national capital, with police maintaining a strict vigil to prevent any breach of peace.

Delhi Police has denied permission to the CJP to hold its proposed demonstration at Jantar Mantar, citing security considerations and procedural requirements.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has called the proposed demonstration against the CEC over allegations of voter-list manipulation during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and changes relating to Form 6, used for voter registration. (PTI)

CJP Stir Against CEC: Delhi Police Detains Around 200 Protestors

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Delhi Police on Friday detained around 200 protesters, who were trying to reach Jantar Mantar for the proposed CJP stir against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Sources said the 200 protestors were detained across the New Delhi area, where police are using drones to monitor movement of people attempting to reach the protest site.

YouTube Dhruv Rathee has also been detained by the Delhi Police from Sector 56 in Gurugram, the sources said.

Ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) proposed protest at Jantar Mantar, police sources said over 600 people with criminal records

were detained across all 15 districts of the national capital as part of preventive measures.

The preventive action is aimed at ensuring that people with criminal backgrounds do not create a law-and-order situation during the proposed demonstration, the sources said.

Police are also keeping a close watch on the movements of certain people, who could mobilise crowds or influence others to participate in the proposed protest, the sources said.

Surveillance has been intensified outside the residences of such people as part of the security measures, they added.

Police personnel have been deployed at strategic lo-

cations across the city, particularly in areas leading to Jantar Mantar and other sensitive locations, to prevent any untoward incident.

The security arrangements include heightened surveillance and monitoring of the movement of people suspected of attempting to disrupt law and order. Police are also keeping a close watch on possible mobilisation efforts ahead of the proposed demonstration.

The proposed protest has prompted heightened security measures in the national capital, with police maintaining a strict vigil to prevent any breach of peace.

Delhi Police has denied permission to the CJP to hold its proposed demonstration at Jantar Mantar,

citing security considerations and procedural requirements.

Police have said that prohibitory orders are in force in the New Delhi area and appealed to people to abide by the restrictions.

Security arrangements have been tightened across Delhi in view of the proposed protest, with personnel deployed to maintain law and order and prevent any unauthorised gathering, the sources added.

The CJP has called the proposed demonstration against the CEC over allegations of voter-list manipulation during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and changes relating to Form 6, used for voter registration. (Agencies)

ED arrests chairman of media broadcast company in insolvency-linked case

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested the chairman of a Delhi-based media and broadcast company in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) processes, officials said on Saturday.

Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Chairman of the Sadhna Group, was taken into custody on Friday around 10:25 pm in Delhi under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The 63-year-old was produced by the central agency at the residential camp office of Additional Sessions Judge (Patiala House Courts) Saurabh Pratap Singh Laler in Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) around 2 am on Saturday.

The court sent him to five days ED custody. The agency has sought his remand for 7

days. The money laundering case against Gupta and others stems from a September FIR filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police.

It was alleged in the police complaint that Gupta engineered the insolvency of Sadhna Media Pvt. Ltd. (SMPL) through related creditors holding 99.41 per cent of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) so that Income Tax dues of Rs 110.10 crore were settled for Rs 20 lakh.

other charges against the businessman include receipt of over Rs 2 crore in cash through crypto currency/hawala on the resale of SMPL/Aryan TV. He allegedly led SMPL to pay Rs 4.48 crore to connected creditors, including Rs 2.99 crore to his own company named Sharpline Broadcast.

As per the police complaint furnished by the ED to

the court in its remand papers, SEBI issued an order in May 2025 calling Gupta the "mastermind" of the "manipulation" of shares of Sadhna Broadcast "jointly and severally liable" for about Rs 58 crore.

The ED told the court that the alleged proceeds of crime in this case stands at Rs 168 crore.

The defence counsel argued before the court that neither the SEBI nor the Income Tax Department made a complaint against Gupta and that he even obtained a no dues certificate from the tax department. The counsel added that the SEBI imposed a penalty against him which was paid.

The court rejected these arguments, saying the action taken by the ED cannot be said to be illegal "merely because there is no complaint by the SEBI or the I-T department."

"The order of SEBI though

stated to be under challenge indicates that the complaint has some basis and it is not that the case has been made with nothing there to be investigated."

"It was also argued that the NCLT order passed (in relation to the said media company) in 2024 has not been challenged, however, the same cannot be the basis to stop the ED from investigating the allegations as alleged, where there is loss to the exchequer of over Rs 100 crore," the court said in its order.

It added that the investigation in such a matter was "necessary" and the arrest was found to be in accordance with law.

The court said the money trail runs "outside" banking channels and the seized device data has not yet been put to the accused and these tasks cannot be completed in judicial custody. (PTI)

Gyanesh Kumar Will Go, This Government Will Go: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will go and so will the Modi government, and then the repair of democracy will begin.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "Gyanesh Kumar will go. This government will go. Then the repair of democracy will begin."

He also tagged on X a video clip of his speech to INDIA bloc MPs at the Central Hall of Parliament.

Gandhi on Friday had said there is a "much deeper problem" than Chief Election Commissioner Kumar and it requires termination of the current government, as he asserted that if the opposition continues to push the way it has in the last few days, the government would fall.



Opposition protests have shaken foundations of this government which is now scared, Gandhi had told INDIA bloc MPs at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

"There is a much deeper problem than Gyanesh Kumar and it requires termination of this current government," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had said.

This is something that is worth fight-

ing for and dying for, he had said.

"If we continue to push the way we have in the last three-four days, I guarantee this government will fall," the former Congress chief had said.

The opposition's aggressive push comes days after a report by The Indian Express said Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months, mostly to decisions and orders related to the SIR of electoral rolls.

Under fire over objections raised by two of its commissioners, the Election Commission had asserted that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations in any institution and that all its orders carry full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures. (Agencies)