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Himachal Pradesh CM Calls for Clear Separation of Politics and Religion at National Conclave

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Legal experts and constitutional scholars convened in New Delhi to emphasize the need for a clear distinction between religion and politics in India's governance. The event, held at Vigyan Bhawan, was part of a broader conclave exploring constitutional challenges and the importance of secularism in maintaining social harmony.

During a session titled *Religion and the Constitution: Guardrails and Guidelines*, speakers stressed that religion must remain a personal matter and should not influence state decisions. The discussion underscored that India's secular framework, as enshrined in the Constitution, is key to preserving the country's longstanding traditions of unity in diversity.

Participants highlighted that the misuse of religion in politics could undermine democratic stability and potentially incite social unrest. They pointed to India's legal structure, which already provides protections for religious freedom and equality, but warned that these safeguards are weakened when political narratives exploit faith for electoral advantage.

It was emphasized that all religions must be treated with equal respect and that governance must be impartial to maintain peace and trust among diverse communities. Speakers reiterated that secularism does not equate to a denial of faith, but rather ensures the fair and neutral treatment of all religious groups under the law.

The event featured contributions from academics, legal professionals, and civil society representatives, who collectively called for a recommitment to the principles of constitutional secularism. They advocated for the consistent application of the law to prevent the politicization of religious identities and to uphold the rule of law across all states in India.

In closing remarks, attendees reaffirmed that maintaining a secular state is not just a constitutional obligation, but also essential for national unity. The conclave concluded with calls for policymakers and institutions to act with responsibility and impartiality when navigating religious matters in the public sphere.

The discussions at the conclave reflect a growing concern among legal thinkers and public commentators about the importance of safeguarding constitutional values amid evolving political dynamics. The event served as a platform to reinforce the view that sustainable governance in India depends on a balanced, religion-neutral political approach rooted in law and civic equality.