

SHORT STORIES

Delhi Cong launches 'Aazadi Ki Gaurav Yatra'

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, under the leadership of party president Ch. Anil Kumar, on Tuesday started the 'Aazadi Ki Gaurav Yatra' to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence with a flag-hoisting ceremony held at the historic Town Hall, Chandni Chowk.

The 'Yatra', being organised at the direction of the All India Congress Committee, will be held in all the 14 districts of Delhi from August 9 to 15.

AICC general secretary Mukul Wasnik, MP hoisted the national flag at Town Hall, and also flagged off the 'Aazadi Ki Gaurav Yatra'. The Congress workers and leaders, carrying the national flag in their hands, participated in the 'Aazadi Ki Gaurav Yatra'.

Wasnik in his remarks said that the Aazadi 'Aazadi Ki Gaurav Yatra', which will remind the people of the country about the struggles and sacrifices launched by the Congress leaders and workers to get India's Independence from the British rule, was intended to end the atmosphere of hatred and spread friendship and brotherhood all around.

NDMC to organise exhibition on stories of freedom fighters

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is going to organise an exhibition on the stories of freedom fighters of India at Nehru Park, Chanakya Park, on Wednesday August 10, 2022.

The NDMC is also going to organise an event 'Live Make-Over of NDMC Bus-Q-Shelters (BQS)' with tricolours theme of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) at Bapu Samaj - BQS, Sardar Patel Marg.

In continuation of the series of the programmes and events organised by the b New Delhi Municipal Council on the occasion of India celebrating 75 years of India's independence as 'Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay will inaugurate the aforesaid events on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

According to the NDMC, a programme related to distribution of plants and Tiranga and selfie points for the visitors of Nehru Park, Chanakya Park will also be held on Wednesday.

Hundreds participate in 'Tiranga Yatra' in Delhi

New Delhi
Hundreds of people with national flags gathered at the Red Fort on Tuesday to take part in the 'Tiranga Yatra' which will pass through various locations that were visited by Mahatma Gandhi here during the freedom struggle. The yatra was flagged off by Union minister Jitendra Singh, MP Prakash Javadekar and senior BJP leader Vijay Goel. The eight locations include Katra Kushal Rai, Marwadi Sarvajnik Pustakalaya, Gandhi Maidan, Sangam theatre and Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, where Mahatma Gandhi visited and held meetings during the freedom movement, Goel said.

Delhi schools step up measures, experts not in favour of closure

New Delhi
The rise in COVID-19 cases in Delhi has brought back concerns about school going children, prompting the institutions to come up with online classes and recorded lectures as experts are against school closures.

Health experts believe schools should not be closed. There is, however, a need to reinforce COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, something which the elders and the younger cohort are not adhering to, they said.

As a result, school managements are bringing measures such as sending recorded lectures to students who are ill, allowing online classes for those in isolation and putting study tours on hold.

"We are all aware that COVID-19 is not over yet. We have instituted a proper mechanism of checks to ensure that a student's health is not negated and undermined. Unwell students are isolated and dropped off at their homes so that they can have proper rest and others can study without apprehensions or worries," said Anshu Mital, principal of MRG School, Rohini.

"We also send recorded lectures to unwell students so that they do not lag behind in studies. Students are receiving proper training to give priority to hygiene and sanitisation through health-centric workshops organised for them. Proper social-distancing is being followed as usual," she added.

Shubhi Soni, head of The Shri Ram Wonder Years in Rohini, said although the sudden uptick in COVID-19 cases is alarming, shutting down schools is not an option as students are habituated to planned routines



and study timelines which must not be disrupted as it can impede their revived academic progress after the lockdown.

"The health of students should also not be compromised, which is why we are taking necessary precautions of temperature checks and isolation measures for students who are ill. We are also sending worksheets to them so that they do not miss out on studies and can comfortably learn from their homes as well."

"School trips have been put on hold for a while. Outside food is not allowed, and we are facilitating hygienic meals for students. Students are encouraged to

bring home-cooked food and abstain from sharing meals with peers," she said.

Delhi reported 1,372 more Covid infections and six deaths as the case positivity rate rose to 17.85 percent, the highest since January 21, according to health department data.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said Covid cases are on the rise in Delhi but there was no need to panic as most new cases were mild in nature and the city government was keeping a close watch on the situation.

According to Anil Sachdev, director of the Paediatrics Intensive Care at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, children are at an increased risk due to the coronavirus and seasonal illnesses.

"However, we have seen that children have had mild Covid symptoms. Only two children in the last one month were serious but they had comorbidities. One child had Down syndrome and the other had some comorbidities but those children have recovered. Schools

should not be closed but there is a need to reinforce Covid-appropriate behaviour, something which the elders and the younger cohort is not adhering to," he said.

Krishan Chugh, director and HOD of Paediatrics, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, said once a child goes to school while infected but not diagnosed and isolated, they can become a source of infection for classmates and friends.

"Though not common in children, they are not immune to this dreaded disease. In the initial period of the epidemic, they are more likely to pick up the infection from adult close contacts."

"At present there is no need to close the schools but parents and the public should be educated regarding the symptoms and preventive measures of monkey pox," he said.

Schools reopened in completely offline mode from April this year after prolonged closure of nearly two years in view of the pandemic. Experts have been warning against any further closure of school, citing irreparable learning loss.

Covid cases rising in Delhi but no need to panic: Kejriwal

New Delhi
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said Covid cases are on the rise in Delhi but there is no need to panic as most new cases were mild in nature.

Kejriwal said his government is keeping a close watch on the situation. "Covid cases are rising. We are keeping watch on it and whatever steps are needed will be taken. But most cases are mild and there is no need for panic," the chief minister told reporters here.

Delhi on August 7 reported 1,372 new Covid infections and six deaths as the case positivity rate rose to 17.85 percent, the highest since January 21, according to health department data.

On January 21, the positivity rate was 18.04 percent. Delhi had Sunday reported 2,423



COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 14.97 percent and two deaths. On Saturday, it recorded 2,311 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 13.84 percent and one fatality.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Delhi stands at 7,484, down from 8,048 the previous day. As many as 5,650 patients are in home isolation, the bulletin said.

Barring two, all Delhi districts record normal rainfall

New Delhi
Barring west and north-east Delhi, all districts in Delhi have recorded normal rainfall this monsoon season so far, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

On average, Delhi as a whole has recorded 283.6mm of rainfall against a normal of 300.8mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts.

In IMD's parlance, rainfall in the plus 19 percent and minus 19 percent range of the long-period average is considered normal.

East Delhi has recorded 62 percent excess rainfall - 595.3 mm so far against a normal 368.2 mm.

Northeast Delhi has logged 211 mm of precipitation against a normal of 368.2mm, while West Delhi has recorded



just 194.4mm of rainfall against an average of 332.4mm.

West Delhi's rainfall deficit stood at 60 percent on July 12.

Southwest Delhi has gauged 344.7 mm of rainfall against a normal of 368.2 mm.

The IMD data showed Central Delhi and South Delhi recorded 383.4 mm and 344.7 mm of precipitation, respectively, which falls in the normal range.

New Delhi and North Delhi districts have received 343.8 mm and 307.5mm of rainfall, respectively.

The capital had recorded a relatively dry June with 67 percent less rainfall than normal.

July, however, recorded bountiful monsoon rains (286.3 mm against a normal of 209.7), which yielded 24 "satisfactory" air quality days in the month.

Arrange ad-hoc teachers' break such they don't face salary loss after rejoining: DUTA

New Delhi
DUTA has urged the principals of DU colleges to arrange the one-day notional break given to the ad-hoc teachers after the end of their tenure in such a way that they do not have to undergo loss of salary after rejoining.

As per the rules of Delhi University (DU), an

ad-hoc appointment is made for a maximum of four months. If the requirement persists beyond four months, a college can continue with the service of the teacher after giving them a notional break of one day.

"It has been brought to the notice of Delhi University Teachers' Associ-

ation (DUTA) that if the

four months (120 days) term of some teachers working on an ad-hoc basis comes to an end on the day that may result in longer break than the one-day notional break, then in such instances teachers have to loose more than a day's salary," the DUTA said in

the letter on Friday.

In the letter, the DUTA suggested the colleges to give the nominal break on the day prior to the completion of 120 days and allow their re-joining soon after the break.

The university currently has over 4,200 ad-hoc teachers in 66

colleges.

Last month, Delhi University directed its colleges to continue the services of existing ad-hoc teachers on usual terms "for the time being" in the 2022-23 academic session till regular appointments are made.

Students have understood JNU not a place for 'anti-national' activities: VC

New Delhi
Students of Jawaharlal Nehru University have understood the message that the university is a place for a free exchange of ideas but it cannot be used for activities that are 'anti-national' or against the 'interest of the nation's sovereignty', its chancellor V K Saraswat has said.

Saraswat, who is also a member of NITI Aayog, further said that in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), people have enough freedom to exercise their

thinking processes and they are very vigilant about what is happening in India and globally. "It is a free-thinking society there. So, you will find a lot of contradictory thought processes, and a lot of contradictory ideologies, which people will nurture. So at times, there was a clash of ideologies, that is why you need to hear that there are problems," he said.

In recent years, the university has witnessed several instances of violence involving Left-affiliated student

outfits and RSS' student body Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). In April this year, two groups of students clashed at the varsity's Kaveri Hostel allegedly over the serving of non-vegetarian food on Ram Navami in the mess.

"But we have now given total shape to this that you (students) have the freedom to express yourself, except that any activity which is anti-national, any activity which is against the interest of the

nation's sovereignty, such things should be dissuaded."

"And that message has been delivered to all concerned. I think, by and large, people have understood," Saraswat said.

He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic also helped to a large extent because people started working from home and then they realised that the ecosystem of JNU is required for them to be more creative and productive rather than sitting at home.

MCD rejects toll tax related allegations

Staff Reporter
New Delhi
The MCD has rejected toll tax related allegations as reported in media clarifying that in 2017 the contract was awarded to a company named MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited for payment of Rs. 1206 crore per annum for a period of five years.

After getting the contract, the company stated that it has suffered loss on account of opening of the Eastern Peripheral and Western Peripheral as well as the order of the court to stop toll collection from the free lane.

The company instead sought compensation to the loss it alleged to have suffered. The MCD held several rounds of meetings to resolve the matter and on failure of the company to make due payments, it terminated the contract.

The MCD also forfeited the security deposit of MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited. At present, the MCD has initiated proceedings for attachment of properties of MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited. The winding up of the company is pending in NCLAT. All legal steps have been initiated against the company and the matter is sub judice in the High Court and the Supreme Court, added the MCD.



In 2021, the contract of toll tax was given to a company named Sahakar Global Limited for Rs 786 crore. The reserve price of tender was Rs. 636 crores against which the Sahakar Global Limited bid was Rs. 786 crore. Sahakar Global Limited is paying full amount as per the contract except for the period when GNCTD imposed lockdown and restricted entry of heavy vehicles in Delhi.

The remission had to be given due to an unprecedented event of imposition of lockdown by Delhi government and it is as per the provision of contract agreement. It may be further noted that both MEP Infrastructure Developers Limited and Sahakar Global Limited are different companies. There is no relation between the two companies as per the records available with the Corporation.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No: AGC-ELG-14-2022-23 Date: 08.08.2022

TENDER NOTICE			
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.			
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work with its location & Completion Period	Approx. Cost of the work
1.	AGC-ELG-14-2022-23	Agra Division: Prepared energy meter at station, GPS based energy meter and automation of pump and replacement of HT/LT overhead conductor of various size.	Rs. 8018751.61
Completion period 12 months			

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.reps.gov.in up to 16.00 hrs on 31.08.2022. 1037/22 (D)

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