

Why continue with rapid antigen tests when false negatives so high: HC to Delhi govt

CM Kejriwal
launches job portal



The portal -- jobs.delhi.gov.in -- will serve as a "Rozgar Bazaar" for the recruiters and job aspirants, Kejriwal said, highlighting that many people had lost their jobs and businesses were affected due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

New Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a job portal on Monday and appealed to the traders, industrialists and people to join hands to revive Delhi's economy.

The portal -- jobs.delhi.gov.in -- will serve as a "Rozgar Bazaar" for the recruiters and job aspirants, Kejriwal said, highlighting that many people had lost their jobs and businesses were affected due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"There are people who want jobs and there are traders, businessmen, professionals, contractors who are not getting the right person for their work," he said at a virtual press briefing. "This portal will fill this gap by bringing them together on one platform."

Kejriwal said a special order was being issued to allow the street vendors to resume work. According to the chief minister, many migrant workers who left Delhi during the lockdown have started returning.

Labour Minister Gopal Rai had said the services of the job portal would be free and an applicant need not pay any money to anyone for registration.

Kejriwal expressed happiness that Delhi managed to bring the coronavirus "under control" without going back to the lockdown that other cities and states were doing.

He said Delhi was registering a sustained lowering of COVID-19 cases at a time the infections were increasing in the country and worldwide.

The chief minister pointed out that the recovery rate in Delhi had gone up to 88 per cent and the positivity ratio had dropped from around 35 per cent in June to 5 per cent currently.

Deaths are also lower as compared to June and only 2,850 hospital beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients, while 12,500 beds are empty, he added.

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NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to Regulation 47(1) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 31st July, 2020 at Registered office of the Company, to inter-alia consider and approve the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter Financial year ended 31.03.2020. Further, details of this notice are available on Website of the company at: www.morninggloryleasing.in and also on the Website of MSEL Ltd., (www.msel.in).
For Morning Glory Leasing & Finance Ltd. Sd/-
Date: 27.07.2020
Place: New Delhi
Payal Madaan
Company Secretary cum Compliance Officer

New Delhi
The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the AAP government why it was going with Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT), which has a high rate of false negative results, as the primary test of COVID-19 infection.

It also made it clear to the Delhi government to "strictly" follow the guidelines on COVID-19 testing as issued by ICMR and not according to its own interpretation.

The high court also noted that the sero survey of the national capital carried out by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) indicated that more than 22.86 per cent of the population have gone through the COVID illness without even realizing they were infected as they probably were asymptomatic.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad said in such a scenario how can the Delhi government go with RAT as its front line test, when its rate of false negatives was very high, with RT/PCR being recommended for only those who were symptomatic.

It added that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not said that testing has to be done in this manner.

RT/PCR, short for Reverse Transcription Poly-



merase Chain Reaction, is a laboratory technique widely used in the diagnosis of genetic diseases and to measure gene expression in research.

Delhi government additional standing counsel Satyakam told the bench that the health department was strictly adhering to ICMR guidelines which say that people testing negative for RAT but showing influenza like illness (ILI) have to undergo RT/PCR.

The stand was opposed by advocate Rakesh Malhotra, whose plea for increasing of the testing numbers in the national capital and getting speedy results was being heard by the court,

He told the bench that ICMR only said that persons showing influenza like illness (ILI) and testing negative in RAT have to go for RT/PCR and this strategy was not applicable to those having severe acute respiratory illness (SARI).

However, Delhi government had included SARI also in its list high risk group individuals who have to first undergo RAT.

ICMR, represented by central government standing counsel Anurag Ahluwalia, told the bench that it had never recommended SARI for RAT and that it was not similar to ILI.

Dr Nivedita Gupta from ICMR also told the court

that it never said asymptomatic RAT negative persons should not undergo RT/PCR testing, it only said the symptomatic RAT negative patients be given priority.

Taking note of the ICMR stand, the bench told the Delhi government that it has to "strictly" follow the guidelines on COVID-19 testing as issued by ICMR and not according to its own interpretation.

"Why are you tweaking ICMR advisory? Why are you including SARI? Tell your clients (Delhi government) to strictly follow ICMR advisory. You cannot interpret on your own," it said.

The high court directed

It also made it clear to the Delhi government to "strictly" follow the guidelines on COVID-19 testing as issued by ICMR and not according to its own interpretation

Delhi government to delete SARI from its office orders of July 5 and July 9 which give a list of high risk group individuals who have to first undergo RAT.

The high court was also of the view that in light of the NCDC sero survey report and the high rate of false negatives of RAT, RT/PCR tests, whose numbers were plummeting, should be ramped up.

It said that while there were 54 labs, both public and private, in Delhi which are capable of carrying out RT/PCR tests and have a combined capacity of 11,000 tests per day, between July 15 to July 23 the number of RT/PCR tests per day have not even crossed 6,000.

The high court said, "ICMR never said that RT/PCR, which is the gold standard test, be replaced

with RAT."

Delhi government faced the court's ire also over the issue of requirement of a doctor's prescription for undergoing COVID testing.

The high court asked the Delhi government how it could in May permit private doctors to issue prescription for COVID-19 when the ICMR and Health Ministry permitted it only on July 1.

"This is how confusion is created in public which is running helter-skelter from prescription from government doctors for undergoing COVID tests," the bench said.

The high court said that the media or the press, which has been doing a commendable job, alone cannot be relied upon to disseminate information to the public and the Delhi government and ICMR too have to do so.

The high court asked NCDC, which was also represented by Ahluwalia, as to what were its short term recommendations in light of the sero-survey report and it said that it would advise RT/PCR tests be conducted for general public and RAT be used only in hospital settings where patients need urgent treatment and RAT would give faster results which can be re-confirmed subsequently.

The bench asked the

ICMR to place before the court its next advisory, in view of the sero survey, on testing strategy and listed the matter for further hearing on August 4.

The Delhi government was also directed to give an updated status report of the tests carried out till then.

-Delhi's COVID-19 tally rises to 1,31,219 with 613 fresh cases-

Delhi recorded 613 fresh COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the national capital's tally to over 1.31 lakh, while the death toll due to the disease mounted to 3,853, authorities said.

On Sunday, the city had reported 1,075 fresh COVID-19 cases.

Twenty-six fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, a Delhi health department bulletin released on Monday afternoon showed.

The number of active cases stood at 10,994, down from 11,904 the previous day.

On June 23, the national capital had reported its highest single-day spike of 3,947.

According to the Monday bulletin, the death toll due to coronavirus infection has risen to 3,853 and the total number of cases climbed to 1,31,219.

The death toll stood at 3,827 on Sunday.

NR GM holds performance review meeting

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

General manager Northern & North Central Railways Rajiv Chaudhry held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of the Northern Railway through video to discuss on-going efforts taken to maintain and enhance infrastructure and assets of the zone.

Though normal train operations have not yet been resumed, the Northern Railway is focusing to work on improving the safety issues, maintenance

and monitoring of rail tracks especially as the monsoon season is on, efforts to increase speed in sections, improving amenities on stations and steps to prevent spread of Coronavirus in the railway fraternity.

The general manager advised that all laid down procedures of train operations, maintenance of assets both permanent way and rolling stock should be immaculate. He also reiterated on regularly sensitizing and training the staff involved to prevent mishaps due to

human errors. The track maintainers to be extra vigilant and responsive to inundation of tracks due to heavy rains, he added.

He also emphasized on timely de-stressing of tracks i.e. before the start of winter and summer seasons to prevent rail fractures and distortions. The general manager also advised to take necessary precaution against the Coronavirus saying our vigilance and Covid conducive behavior will keep all of us safe and away from the disease.

Pay property tax only for two years, SDMC announces major waives off

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided that residential and commercial property holders have to pay the property tax only for two years (i.e. 2019-20 & 2020-21). The pending tax since 2004 will be completely waived off.

Mayor of South Delhi Anamika said that in order to provide relief to the citizens of Delhi, the SDMC has decided that residential and commercial property holders have to pay the property tax only for two years (i.e. 2019-20 & 2020-21). The pending



tax since 2004 will be completely waived off.

Under the Amnesty Scheme, the benefit of 100% waiver of interest and 100% penalty is provided to all the properties. The last date

of this Amnesty scheme is 30 July 2020.

She said that earlier it was decided that owners of non-residential or commercial properties have to pay the property tax for the last three

years and residential properties have to deposit two year property tax, but now there will be the same condition for both residential and non-residential properties.

Chairman, standing committee, Rajdutt Gahlot said that SDMC has provided both manual and online facilities for filing property tax returns. In addition to this, SDMC is trying to provide more relief to its citizens and are organising special property tax camps in all colonies in association with the RWAs and local councillors.

SDMC starts 'Special Auto Tipper' facility for disposal of bio medical waste

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) in collaboration with Janasa Foundation started 'Special Auto Tipper' facility for disposal of bio medical waste in the South Zone.

Chairperson, South Zone, Dr. Nandini Sharma said that under this project a team of doctors will be providing Yellow disposable bags of Covid-19 positive cases under home isolation. These patients will be provided a kit containing 14 bags for the duration of isolation and quarantine with a



zipper facility so there is no spillage.

The NGO will also provide a spray bottle of sodium hypochlorite solution for sanitization of the bags. This will build confidence amongst the residents and

neighbours and sanitation workers that the bag has been sanitized and is infection free. There will be no transmission of Covid-19 from this biohazard waste. These bags will be lifted by auto tipper for disposal.

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Delhi Cong protests against BJP's alleged attempts to topple non-BJP state govts

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Members of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) led by party president Ch. Anil Kumar staged a protest, 'Speak Up For Democracy' outside Raj Niwas, against the BJP's alleged attempts to violate constitutional and democratic norms and values by trying to topple the democratically-elected non-BJP ruled state governments in the country.

However, the Delhi Police, did not allow the Delhi Congress workers to proceed further than the Ludlow Castle School, Civil Lines and they were



detained.

Others who participated in the demonstration were DPCC vice-presidents Jai Kishan, Mudit Agarwal, Ali Mehndi, Dr Narendra Nath, Ch. Maateen Ahmed, Hari Shankar Gupta and Amrish Gautam.

Kumar said that when

Expedite sanitation drive, North DMC panel chief directs officials

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

Chairman of the standing committee in North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC), Chhail Bihari Goswami, inspected Mukundpur and surrounding area to check civic amenities here on Monday, directing the officials concerned to expedite sanitation drive.

While inspecting the area he expressed unhappiness over the sanitation level and directed the officials to strengthen the sanitation work so that the citizens do not face any kind of in-

convenience. He said cleanliness is one of our foremost priorities and any kind of dereliction will not be tolerated in this regard.

During the inspection of the under construction primary school of North DMC, he directed the officials of engineering department to expedite the construction work. While inspecting the drains in Mukundpur area, the chairman directed the officers concerned to write a letter to PWD describing the conditions of the drains in their jurisdiction.

Delhi BJP leaders detained during protest against AAP govt

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

BJP leaders, including its Delhi unit chief Adesh Gupta and leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ramvir Bidhuri, were detained during a protest against the AAP government over the issue of electricity bills in the Civil Lines area in New Delhi on Monday.

Demonstrators, led by Gupta and Bidhuri staged a sit-in demonstration near the Civil Lines metro station and attempted to march towards Chief Min-



ister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Flagstaff Road when they were stopped and detained by the police.

Addressing the protest-

ers, Mr Gupta said that people of Delhi are receiving electricity bills for "huge" amounts and demanded that the Mr Kejriwal government withdraw the fixed charges and stop the disconnection notices being sent by the discoms to the consumers.

The leaders, including Mr Gupta and Mr Bidhuri, were taken to the Civil Lines police station, from where they were released subsequently, according to a press statement issued by state BJP

office.

People of Delhi were expecting financial relief from the Delhi government in their electricity bills during the pandemic, but instead of giving relief to the people, the Delhi government with the nexus of power companies is deceiving people of Delhi, Gupta alleged.

Kejriwal who pretends to be well wisher of the people of Delhi, has exposed himself by sending power disconnection notices to the people of Delhi, Bidhuri alleged.

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| OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE | |
| The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work: | |
| 1. Name of Work | Repair to road surface & damaged platform in DKZ goods shed in the section of SSE/W/D/LI Line under ADEN/DLI. |
| 2. Approx. Cost of work | Rs. 1,49,99,962 (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two only) |
| 3. Earnest Money to be Deposited | Rs. 2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only) |
| 4. Cost of tender document | Rs. 5900/- |
| 5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender. | 21.08.2020 @15.00 Hrs. |
| 6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. | www.ireps.gov.in |
| * The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tendering system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. | |
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