

National

Blood bag delivery by drones is now possible in India for first time

This drone sortie was in the visual line of sight conducted at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Noida.



Dr Rajeev Bahl, DG ICMR ANI

ANI

Updated on : 10 May, 2023, 5:10 pm



NEW DELHI: A key aspect of drones is that they can be used in healthcare during emergency response not only for providing vaccines and medicines but also for supplying blood bags.

The inaugural flight in a validation study carried 10 units of whole blood samples from The Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) and Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC). This drone sortie was in the visual line of sight conducted at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Noida.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Dr Rajeev Bahl, DG ICMR said, "This 'i-DRONE' was first used during covid19 pandemic by ICMR for distributing vaccines to unreachable areas. Today, we are transporting blood & blood-related products, which are supposed to be kept at a low temperature. After the experiment, we found that not only can we maintain the temperature, but there was also no damage to the products transported. We sent another sample through an ambulance & if there are no differences in the samples sent using the two modes, then this drone will be used all over India."

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been a pioneer in using drones for healthcare purposes and successfully conducted the delivery of medical supplies, vaccines, and medicines in remote areas of Manipur and Nagaland.

According to Dr Nivedita Gupta, Head, Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases and Scientist, ICMR explained "Challenges in timely delivery of blood and blood products especially in the remote areas and congested metropolitan cities of India were identified. The drone-based delivery of blood may reduce the time for last mile deliveries within the district"



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Prof Pammi Gauba (JIIT), Prof Anita Nangia and Prof Sangeeta Pahuja from LHMC, Prof Rambha Pathak and Prof Shalini Bahadur from GIMS. Continuing with the mission of expanding the drone ecosystem in India, the inauguration of this validation study was conducted in Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida on May 10 by dignitaries from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Health Research, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Directorate General Health Services, and NITI Aayog," reads a statement by ICMR.

Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research said, "Clarity in challenge mapping and identifying the possible solutions can be achieved by developing indigenous capacities in research, and introduction of innovations and technologies in the mainstream. With digitization, efficient manufacturing of vaccines and the development of a rapid delivery mechanism, India achieved 90pc coverage within a year. The boost of technology is an accelerator which is gradually pushing India towards achieving the status of being a developed nation as envisioned by the Prime Minister."

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A woman doctor on duty at a government hospital in Kerala's Kollam district was stabbed to death on Wednesday by a school teacher who was brought to the facility for a medical examination by the Police.



Doctors, medical students raise slogans during their protest against the killing of a female doctor PTI

ANI

Updated on : 11 May, 2023, 7:42 am

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Medical students from different colleges under the aegis of House Surgeon Students Union and PG Doctors Association staged a mass protest in front of the Secretariat in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district on Wednesday after a woman doctor was stabbed to death in Kottarakkara Taluk Hospital.

After the shocking incident on Wednesday, the doctors in the state launched an emergency 24 hour-strike which will continue on Thursday also. The strike will be observed by various medical associations including the students unions in the state.

Kerala Government Medical Teachers Organisation, State General Secretary Dr Roshnara Beegum told the ANI that the strike will continue till the government takes a firm decision on the security of doctors.

"We have been already telling the administrators of the attacks we have been facing. Today a sad incident took place and we are standing here with deep grief, we urge the government to take necessary steps to urge the security of all the students faculty, health care workers in this state. So that we can work without any fear. We will be continuing our strike till a firm decision from the government is taken on our security", Dr Roshnara Beegum said.

She also urged that the Hospital Protection Act Amendment should be implemented immediately.

"The Hospital Protection Act Amendment should be implemented, no action has been taken so far. We want that action to be taken fast", she said.

Beegum further added, "It's really pathetic that all the doctors have to come to the streets, this is the inefficiency of the government where such incidents take place. If you look at the past 2-3 years so many incidents have taken place and none of the accused have been convicted. It is clearly the inefficiency. Tomorrow all services will be stopped except emergency services and doctors including the house surgeons, PG, and MBBS Students will go on strike."



The Division Bench of Justice Devan Ramachandran and Justice Kauser Edappagath while taking up the matter suo moto criticised the state government and the police strongly. The court said, "If you can't protect the doctors, shut down the hospitals."

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Hospital Protection Act Amendment

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Visual from the spot ANI

ANI

Updated on : 11 May, 2023, 7:20 am



KOLKATA: The Barddhaman-Bandel local train derailed near Saktigarh Railway Station, Bardhaman on Wednesday night, said officials. The accident happened around 9.20 pm and the concerned officials rushed to the spot.

More details are awaited on the matter. In a similar incident, in February, three coaches of a local train from Belapur to Kharkopar on the Central Railway's trans harbour line derailed according to Railway officials.

The incident happened at 8.46 am when the train was entering the Kharkopar station, according to Shivaji Sutar, CPRO of Central Railway.

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Air India extends deadline for pilot contracts amid union opposition

The sources revealed that during the meeting, approximately 800 pilots who had not yet agreed to the new compensation structure, were in attendance.



Representative Image Reuters

Dt Next Bureau

Published on : 11 May, 2023, 5:21 am



NEW DELHI: Air India has decided to extend the deadline for pilots to accept the revised compensation structure, despite facing opposition from two unions, according to sources.

This development follows the May 4 town hall meeting organised by the flag carrier where the concerns of numerous pilots were addressed.

The sources revealed that during the meeting, approximately 800 pilots who had not yet agreed to the new compensation structure, were in attendance.

The meeting was presided over by Air India's Chief of Operations, Captain Rajwinder Singh Sandhu, who is also a pilot.

In response to requests from the pilots, who had previously declined the revised compensation structure, the airline has granted an extension until the end of this week to sign the new contracts.

Meanwhile, the two pilot unions - the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) and the Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) - convened a joint meeting on Tuesday to discuss the airline's revised compensation structure. According to a source, a significant number of pilots remained resolute in their stance of not signing the new contracts.



On April 19, the ICPA and IPG had rejected the new pay structure proposed by the airline.

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Kerala doc killed with scissors by man being treated for leg injury

While wound was being dressed by Dr Vandana Das, he suddenly got provoked and attacked everyone standing there using a pair of scissors and scalpel.



Dt Next Bureau

Published on : 11 May, 2023, 3:58 am



KOLLAM: A 23-year-old doctor was stabbed to death on Wednesday by a man whose leg wound she was dressing at a hospital in Kerala's Kollam district where he was brought after an alleged fight with his family members.

According to ADGP Law and Order M R Ajith Kumar, the incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when the accused, identified as Sandeep, a school teacher by profession, was being taken to the hospital for treatment of the wounds he had suffered allegedly due to a quarrel.

While wound was being dressed by Dr Vandana Das, he suddenly got provoked and attacked everyone standing there using a pair of scissors and scalpel. Das, who suffered grievous injuries in the attack, died a few hours later. The accused was apprehended.

The ADGP said Sandeep had called on the emergency number 112 claiming his life was in danger. When police located him, he was standing 10-15 metres away from his home, surrounded by local residents and his relatives, and had a wound on his leg.

He was taken to the hospital in a police jeep and was accompanied by his brother-in-law and a local political party leader. While being examined by the casualty doctor, Sandeep was calm, the officer told reporters.

However, while his wound was being dressed, only his brother-in-law and the local political leader were present, and during the procedure, he kicked the relative. Thereafter, he grabbed a pair of surgical scissors and attacked those present in the room. When the police, including an officer and a home guard tried to stop him, he slashed at them too, Kumar said.

While other doctors escaped, the victim could not, and he turned on her and repeatedly stabbed her, the officer said.

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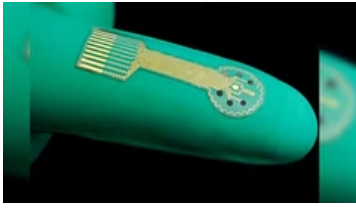
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Siddaramaiah most preferred CM choice in Karnataka, shows survey

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar had openly declared his ambition of becoming the Chief Minister prior to the polls, and he is considered by political analysts to be a strong contender.



Siddaramaiah File photo

IANS

Updated on : 10 May, 2023, 10:18 pm



NEW DELHI: If the trends thrown up by the ABP/C-Voter Exit Poll for Karnataka hold, former Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah could be back as the CM of the southern state.

Voters in Karnataka seem to have identified him as their first choice for the top job. The exit poll data suggest that 40.1 per cent of the electorate in Karnataka want Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister.

The Congress leader is followed by current Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is the preferred choice for 34.1 per cent of the voters. JD(S) leader and another former Chief Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, comes a distant third with 18.1 per cent of the electorate backing him as their first choice.

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar had openly declared his ambition of becoming the



While 54 per cent Dalit voters in Karnataka want him as the next CM, close to 69 per cent of the Muslim voters share the same viewpoint.

Siddaramaiah leads current Chief Minister Bommai in most regions in Karnataka, except Coastal Karnataka and Greater Bangalore where Bommai holds the edge.

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