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In a first, drones deliver blood bags in Delhi. Watch

By [HT News Desk](#) | Written by Ritu Maria Johny

May 10, 2023 03:08 PM IST

Named 'i-DRONE', it was first used during the Covid19 pandemic by the Indian Council of Medical Research for the distribution of vaccines to remote areas.

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In a first for the country, drones transported blood bags in [Delhi](#) on Wednesday, as per news agency ANI. Sharing visuals of the historic delivery, ANI wrote, "In a first in India, validation of blood bags delivered by drones compared to the conventional method of transportation was done today."



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Named 'i-DRONE', it was first used during the Covid19 pandemic by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the distribution of vaccines to remote areas. "Today, we are transporting blood and 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 and if there are no differences in the samples sent using the two modes, then this drone will be used all over India," said Dr Rajiv Bahl, director general of the apex medical research institute told ANI.

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Blood components are required to be transported under appropriate temperature conditions, security and hygiene. Validated blood transport boxes with thermal insulation inserts are used for safe delivery.

However, it is not the first time that drones have been deployed for medical purposes in India. In 2022, a Delhi-based diagnostics company started a pilot project to [collect blood samples from hospitals using drones](#) and deliver them to a lab to cut down on turnaround time and provide faster test results. Officials said a four-day trial will take place in and around Gurugram to test the efficacy of the system.

Skye Air Mobility conducted the first trial wherein a drone collected samples from a private hospital near Huda Metro station and flew them to SRL Labs in Sector 14 in Gurugram.

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Officials said the samples were first collected by a technician, and then packed in a temperature-controlled storage box attached to the drone. The drone was then sent to a predetermined laboratory, taking almost one-third of the time required by a technician to collect the sample and reach the lab by road.

Last year, the ICMR released a guidance document for use of drones in healthcare related to items such as measles, mumps and Covid-19 vaccines with storage temperature between 2°C and 8°C, tablets and capsules, syrups in bottles, gloves, syringes, blood bags, diagnostic biological tissues, urine, blood, sputum, saliva or frozen specimens



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NDMC to revamp 12 Delhi roads ahead of G20

By [Paras Singh](#)

May 11, 2023 12:18 AM IST

CRRI had recommended that the roads need re-carpeting in 2021 and the roads were later also inspected by officials from LG office

In run-up to the series of G20 meetings expected to be held in the Capital in September, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will be redeveloping 12 more arterial routes in Lutyens Delhi.



The civic body plans to re-carpet Mother Teresa Crescent Marg, Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Marg, Jantar Mantar Road, Raisina Road, Sansad Marg, Bangla Sahib Road, Red Cross Road, Bhai Veer Singh Marg and RK Ashram Marg. The re-carpeting work is being undertaken after a study of these stretches by Central Road Research Institute as the defect liability period of all the 12 stretches is now over and longitudinal cracks were being observed on their surface, an NDMC official said.

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said that even though the council meeting on Wednesday was disorderly, it was decided that some urgent matters must be approved so that timely execution can be ensured. "We have cleared the proposals related to the road rejuvenation in wake of G20 meetings as the city should put up its best foot forward in front of our visitors and delegates. We have also approved the rules related to cellular towers while the matter pertaining to expanding the electric vehicle charging stations will be taken up later. In principle, we wish to expand the charging station network to promote electric vehicles," he added.

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NDMC member Kuljeet Chahal said that the proposals related to road revamp projects have been approved as work is expected to be completed in the next three months before the summit meetings begin. "New Delhi will be seen a new avatar during the G20 meetings. We have already completed the beautification work of flyovers

said. NDMC is expected to spend around ₹7 crore on the road revamp project which will be completed before the summit meetings in September.

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Row as BJP raises Kejriwal house revamp during NDMC meet

By [HT Correspondent](#)

May 11, 2023 12:13 AM IST

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Delhi's NDMC meeting chaired by Arvind Kejriwal descended into chaos as BJP members raised the issue of alleged irregularities during the renovation of the CM's official residence. The meeting ended in under 30 minutes with accusations by the BJP of corruption and misuse of taxpayer money. The AAP has previously stated that the CM residence is not personal property but a house allotted to the chief minister by the government. The BJP and Congress have been attacking the AAP over alleged irregularities in the renovation of the Flagstaff Road bungalow.

A New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) meeting, chaired by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday, descended into chaos after members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) raised the issue of alleged irregularities during the renovation of the CM's official residence.



Minutes after the meeting began, BJP members of the council – vice-chairperson Satish Upadhyay, and members Kuljeet Chahal and Vishakha Sailani – raised the issue, asking questions about the ₹45 crore expenditure by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government to renovate the residence.

Amid the chaos, the meeting that usually lasts for two to three hours was wrapped up in under 30 minutes.

NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay, in a press conference after the meeting, accused Kejriwal of deflecting the questions by attempting to move on to the agenda items. “This was the first time the NDMC meeting has seen disruptions. We raised the issue of the massive expenditure made on the CM house renovation and corruption in which he has engaged. People have paid taxes and their tax money has been misused in this house revamp,” Upadhyay said.

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NDMC members Chahal said that this was the first time in NDMC’s history that a meeting witnessed such ruckus. “Kejriwal had promised that he will not take any facilities after being elected. We displayed the photographs of his home in the meeting and sought answers about the expenditure made in the revamp. He continued to stare at us but did not give a single answer,” Chahal said.

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However, the AAP has said that before the renovations, the CM house was in a dilapidated condition, having been built 80 years ago in 1942.

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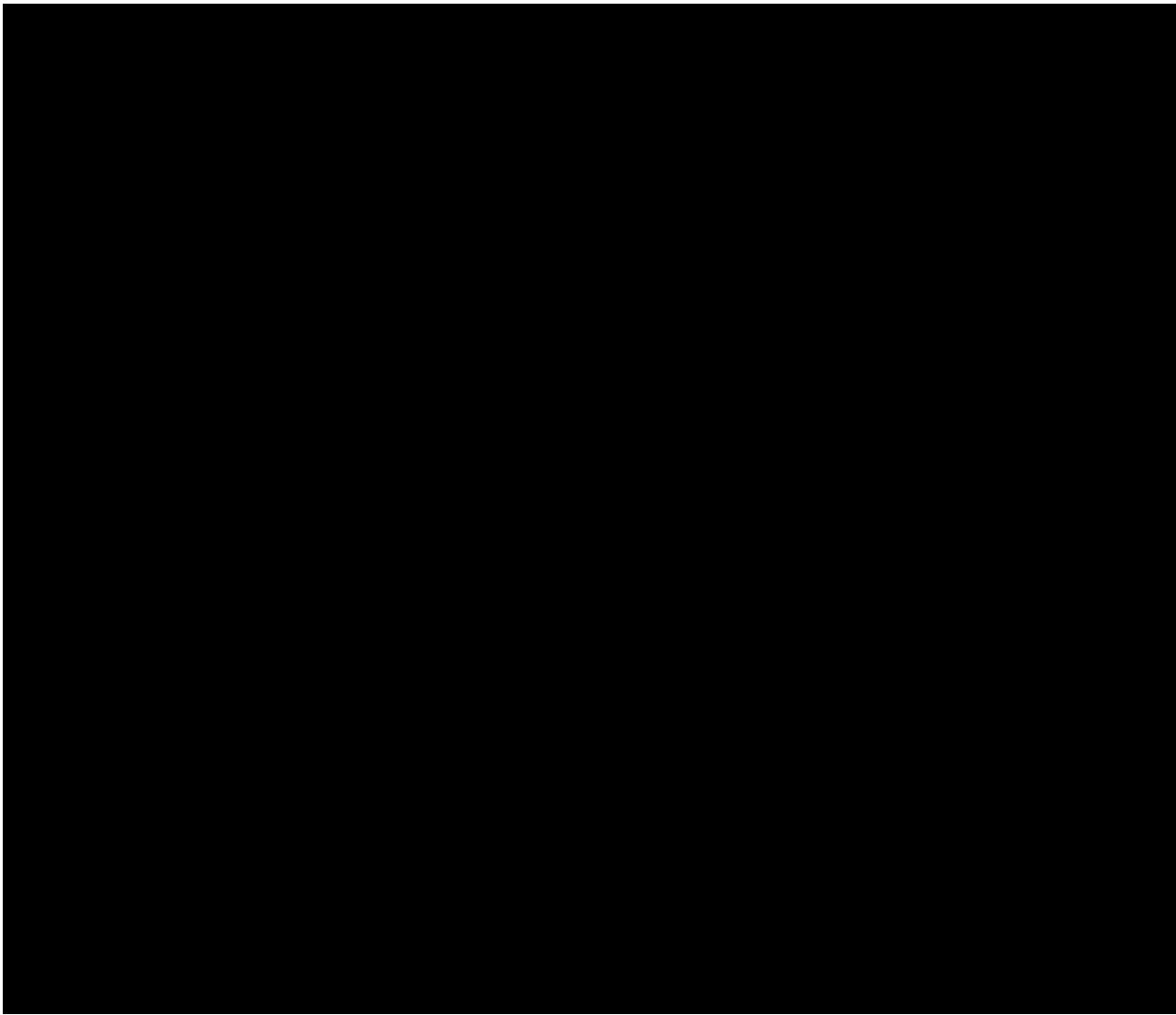
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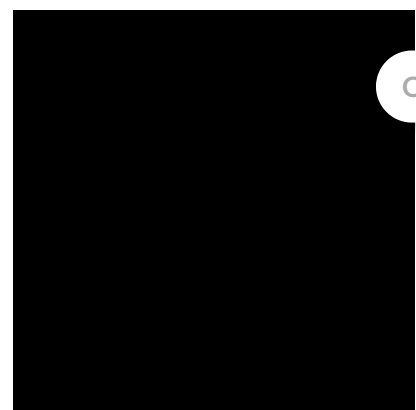
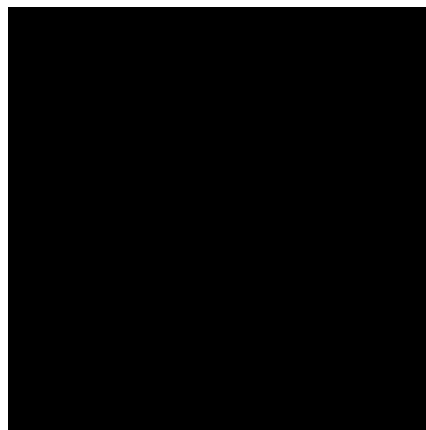
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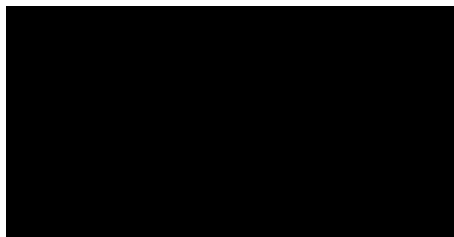
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