

Nitish Kumar joins NDA, set to be sworn-in as Bihar CM with BJP's support

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Nitish Kumar resigned as Bihar Chief Minister on Sunday, ending his 18-month ruling alliance with Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress. With the support of the BJP, he is expected to take oath as the new Chief Minister, possibly later today, marking his return to the NDA.

The state is poised to witness high-voltage political moves as all the parties have planned crucial meetings. The RJD camp is also exploring options to deal with the crisis, including asking their MLAs to resign. Stay tuned to IndiaToday.in as we bring all the latest

updates from Bihar.

Bihar Governor accepted Nitish Kumar's claim to form the government. Nitish Kumar is set to take oath as the new Chief Minister at 5 pm today. Eight ministers, including 2 Deputy Chief Ministers, will also be sworn in along with the Chief Minister.

After heading the grand alliance government since August 2022, Kumar is likely to take oath again as chief Minister of the NDA government in the evening, JDU sources said.

After holding a meeting with legislators of JD(U) at his residence, Kumar went to the Raj Bhavan and submitted his



resignation to Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

In the meeting of the JDU legislature party, Kumar was authorised to take any decision in the prevailing political scenario. After Kumar submitted his

resignation papers, the Governor requested him to continue as caretaker CM till the formation of the next Government.

Kumar, gearing up for another "U" turn during the day to join hands with the BJP-led

alliance, is expected to be unanimously elected leader of the NDA legislature party. He would then stake claim before the Governor to form the next government, which would be of NDA.

Kumar resigned as

state Chief Minister on August 9, 2022 and quit the NDA to form the Grand Alliance government with RJD, Congress and the Left parties.

On Sunday, both JDU and BJP convened meetings of their

respective legislators and other senior leaders to complete formalities for the formation of a Nitish-led NDA Government in the State. The meeting of BJP legislators was convened at the party's State headquarters here.

Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) convened a meeting of its legislators on Saturday. The meeting was chaired by former Chief Minister and patron of HAM Jeetan Ram Manjhi, in which a decision was taken to extend support to Kumar to form the NDA Government. Manjhi said he was solidly in NDA and there was no question of any second thought.

After the meetings of JDU and BJP legislature parties, a meeting of the NDA legislature party would be held at 1 Anne Marg, the official residence of the CM.

A source said in the NDA legislature meeting, Kumar would be elected its leader, enabling him to stake claim before the Governor to form the next government in the state.

Kumar, along with senior BJP leaders and HAM patron Manjhi, would meet the Governor to stake claim to form the NDA government. Kumar is expected to take oath as CM for the ninth occasion on Sunday evening.

Seat-sharing talks begin between Congress and DMK in TN

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: With the Lok Sabha 2024 elections just months away, the first set of talks on seat sharing between the DMK and Congress in Tamil Nadu

commenced today. According to reports, Mukul Wasnik, a senior Congress leader and convener of the National Alliance Committee (NAC) is set to engage in talks

with leaders from Tamil Nadu.

Subsequently, other senior Congress leaders including Salman Khurshid, Ajay Kumar (All India Congress Committee in-charge of

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry) will also hold talks with the DMK seat-sharing committee at Chennai's Anna Arivalayam today.

Sources reveal that



the Congress party anticipates securing the same number of seats as they did in the 2019 elections.

Notably, in the 2019 General elections, the Congress contested 10 seats, out of which it won 9 seats, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) contested 20 seats and emerged victorious in all of them.

The alliance led by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, won a landslide victory, taking 38 of the 39 seats.

Congress upsets The Tamil Nadu Congress committee was upset over the remarks made by senior DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister Raja Kannappan's that the Congress was not doing anything but was

seeking more seats. Kannappan had in a recent programme said, "The Congress in Tamil Nadu is not doing anything for the welfare and benefit of the people and instead during election time they come and ask for seats."

In the speech, he also said that the people of Tamil Nadu are not giving any importance to Congress as the party was seen only during election season seeking

seats. The speech of Raja Kannan went viral.

A senior leader of the Congress party told IANS that the statement of the minister in the threshold of an election period speaking in this manner was creating difficulties for the party. He said that the DMK - Congress alliance was in good stead in Tamil Nadu and added that such an irresponsible statement

by a senior leader of the DMK was not in good intention.

The Congress leader also said that Congress was a Pan India party unlike the DMK and that seats were provided to the Congress as part of the broader alliance.

The Congress has already communicated its protest to DMK president and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M.K. Stalin.

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It was expected, says Cong president Kharge on JDU leaving Mahagathbandhan alliance

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Taking a dig at the JD(U) and its leadership for quitting the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) in Bihar and returning to the BJP-led NDA to form a new government in that state, Congress President M



allikarjun Kharge on Sunday said this was expected and there are many such people in the country who are "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram".

He said he had received information from RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav about JD(U)'s plans to walk out of Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) five days ago, and despite all efforts the Nitish Kumar-led party has left.

"Lalu Prasad Yadav (RJD leader) had hinted about this development five days ago, I had spoken to him in detail

about the situation, what is the number, what is their number, and what to do. He (Yadav) told me if they (JD(U)) are going, let them go. We have been fighting, earlier also, we (Congress and RJD) both have fought (elections) together and we will continue to fight..." Kharge said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said despite knowing about it, he did not want to disclose till the end.

Averting that it was "expected" that JD(U) would go, the AICC President further said, "There were

something wrong, a wrong message may go. So, when I was questioned about this during the last two days, I said I was not aware of the developments," he added.

Further, noting that the information provided by Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav and Lalu Prasad Yadav was right, Kharge said, "there are many such people in the country, who are Aaya Ram Gaya Ram." Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar submitted his resignation to Governor Rajendra Varlekar this morning. A new government with the support of the BJP is likely to be in place by the evening, according to sources. The 'Mahagathbandhan' government in Bihar consisted of RJD, JD(U), Congress, and three Left parties.

indications of it... when I spoke to Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav (Bihar Deputy CM), both had mentioned that JD(U) will leave and both of us (Congress and RJD) will have to fight together." RJD leadership had also said that they would still make all efforts to ensure that JD(U) stayed, he said. "If they want to stay with us, fine, but despite our efforts if they want to go, they will." "So, we were aware of it, but to keep the INDIA alliance intact, we did not speak out, as we thought if we say

6 killed as truck collides with car in Tenkasi

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: As many as six people were killed in a horrifying accident involving a truck and a car as they collided head-on near Puliangudi in Tenkasi district on Sunday. The truck reportedly was loaded with cement bags.

Five residents from the Puliangudi area died on the spot, and one expired while being taken to the hospital.

Chokkampatti police after registering a case, are investigating the fatal fate.

Tenkasi District Superintendent of Police T.P. Suresh Kumar after being appraised rushed to the accident spot.

The five deceased were identified as Karthik, Muthuselvan, Vel Manoj, Subramani, Manokaran and Bothiraj all hailing from Bhagavathy Amman Temple Street

area of Puliangudi, Tenkasi district. They had gone to attend the Balasubramanya Swamy Temple Festival at Puliangudi on January 27.

After that, they went to the Courtallam waterfalls. As per police information, fatality struck while they were on their way back to home town. They were returning by car from Courtallam to Puliangudi on Sunday

morning.

As per reports, the driver fell asleep between Punnaiyapuram and Singilipatti near Puliangudi. That caused the collision with the truck. It is said that the car got stuck under the lorry and was thrown for a few feet.

The bodies of the deceased were taken to the Tirunelveli Government Hospital for postmortem.

US firm to build 100-room resort In Ayodhya

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Following the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Lord Ram at the temple in Ayodhya, there has been an upsurge in tourist inflow to the town.

This uptick has spurred investments in the hospitality sector to enhance tourism potential and cater to the growing influx of visitors.

"In line with this trend, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on January 27 in the presence of Tourism Director Prakhar Mishra, sealing a partnership with the American firm Anjali Investment LLC as Paryatan Bhawan," as per a press release from the Chief Minister's



Office.

The agreement focuses on the construction of a 100-room resort in Ayodhya. This development is poised to elevate the amenities available to tourists and guests, fostering the growth of tourism in the region and offering top-notch facilities to

visitors.

The American firm is led by Ramesh Nangurnoori, an entrepreneur from Hyderabad engaged in real estate and other businesses in the US.

"The resort aims to enhance the facilities available to tourists and

contributing to the overall growth of tourism in the region. Ramesh Nangurnoori emphasised the strategic decision to invest in Ayodhya's hospitality sector, citing the substantial tourism potential after the consecration of the Ram temple," the release said.

Kerala IT firms make presence felt at Nevada show

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Seeking global avenues for networking and investment opportunities, a contingent of 10 companies, led by Group of Technology Companies (GTECH), the industry body of IT companies in Kerala based in Technopark, participated in the high-profile Consumer Electronic Show (CES 2024) in Winchester, Nevada, USA.

CES 2024, one of the largest consumer electronics trade shows in the world, showcased breakthrough technologies and innovative products from global innovators at the January 9-12 expo. The event hosts presentations of new products and technologies in the consumer electronics industry.

Top themes of this year's show, held at Las Vegas Convention Centre, included artificial intelligence (AI), mobility, sustainability and innovations to solve some of the world's biggest challenges.

The annual event set the stage for the GTECH delegation, comprising companies

from Kerala IT Parks, the US India Importer Council (USIIC) to



and sharpest innovators, besides interacting with them for global networking along with funding and investment opportunities.

The companies, which attended CES 2024, were Zoondia, Sparks Support Infotech, John & Smith Solutions, Mirox Cyber Security & Technology, aTeam Soft Solutions, Axia Technologies, GTECH, Edify Data Science, Codes App and Ace Money.

Vishnu Nair, CEO, GTECH, said Kerala-based technology companies could identify and tap larger new markets at CES 2024 which is the only event in the world where new technology innovation products are launched in a big way.

He said GTECH had collaborated with

of technology, fostering connections among investors, companies, and industry experts," said Shri Rajesh Babu, who is also the Convenor of Member Service Focus Group, GTECH.

Organized by Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the event drew over 4,000 exhibitors and around 1,200 innovative startups from more than 150 countries, showcasing their products at the expo that sprawled across 3.5 million-plus square feet of space.

A blend of cutting-edge technologies, launching of products, and quirky gadgets were held at the CES 2024. Besides, global technology giants showcased the latest trends and innovations in the consumer electronics industries. GTECH has a membership base of 300-plus IT companies comprising 80 percent of IT professionals in the state, totaling over 1.50 lakh. All leading IT companies in Kerala, including TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant, IBS Software, UST, EY and Tata Elxsi, are its members.

Rajesh Babu, USIIC President, Kerala and CEO of Mirox Cyber Security, said the event provided a great opportunity for Kerala-based technology companies to showcase their capabilities on the global platform, besides the state's burgeoning significance in the global tech landscape.

CMRL rewards top metro train travellers



Chennai, Jan 29 2024: In a strategic move to enhance commuter experiences and facilitate seamless travel across various modes, CMRL integrated the Singara Chennai Card (NCMC) by SBI into the AFC system.

To promote the adoption of Singara Chennai Card (NCMC) fare media and encourage passenger

usage, CMRL rewarded by M.A. Siddique, Managing Director of CMRL, during the event held at Thiru.Vi.Ka Park, Shenoy Nagar Metro Station.

Rajesh Chaturvedi, Director (System & Operations) CMRL, Benudhar Parhi, Deputy General Manager (B&O) SBI, D.C. Aswath Durai Selvam, Regional Manager, SBI, Anand Krishnan, Director of

Mark Metro, and other senior officials from CMRL were present during the event.

The event featured live music performance by Priyanka NK, accompanied by Kumaran's Collective Band. The prize bonanza and music performance were sponsored by the State Bank of India and co-sponsored by M/s Mark Metro.

Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar lights jyothis at Thaiposam



Chennai, Jan 29 2024: The "Thaiposam" festival was celebrated at The Melmaruvathur Adiparasakthi Siddharpeetam. Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar lit the jyothi at the temple in the presence of Aameega forum vice presidents K.P. Senthilkumar, K.P. Anbazhagan

The Siddharpeetam and the venue of "Jyothi function" was decorated colourfully with lights and flowers.

Lakhs of people and many V.I.P's from India and abroad participated in this function.

The Thaiposam "Sakthi maalai Irumudi" rituals were started on December 1 and ended January 24. The Thaiposam day the Abhishekam to the deity was performed in the early morning at 3.00 A.M. Evening 4.30. "Thaiposam Guru Jyothi" was lit by the President of Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Spiritual Movement, Thirumathi Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar. Then the Guru jyothi was taken in a procession and brought to the venue.

F o l k

Arts, Traditional drums and dances were part of the procession. Also a large number of devotees from abroad participated in the procession holding placards and flags of respective nations.

Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar lit the traditional lamp. After reaching the venue the "Guru Jyothi" was placed in the dais specially decorated for this purpose in front of the main Jyothi which was ready to be lit.

By 6.30 After performing pooja and few rituals the Jyothi was lit by High Court

Judge Sivagnanam, Magistrate Kothadaraj, Arun Raj, lit the jyothi in the presence of Lakshmi Bangaru Adigalar.

Lakhs of devotees participated in the Thaiposam festival at Melmaruvathur.

Vice Presidents Sri Devi Ramesh, Umadevi Jaiganesh Aasha Anbazhagan, Srilekha Senthilkumar, Advocate Agathiyan, Erode district Melmaruvathur Adiparasakthi devotees made elaborate arrangement for grand function.

ISRO to launch indigenous met sat in mid-Feb



Chennai, Jan 29 2024: India's exclusive meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS, to be flown on board Geo Synchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV), was flagged off to SDSC-SHAR Range from Bengaluru.

The satellite, realised by ISRO with the primary objective to provide continuity of services to the existing in-orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites and significantly enhancing the capabilities of INSAT system, will be launched by GSLV-F14.

After undergoing various tests at the spaceport of Sriharikota, the launch is likely to place from the second launch pad in mid-February.

In a social media post, ISRO said

"GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS Mission: INSAT-3DS, ISRO's latest meteorological satellite, developed at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URRSC) in Bengaluru for the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), has been flagged off to SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota, for launch aboard GSLV-F14." It was flagged off to SDSC-SHAR launch port on January 25, 2024 after the Satellite had successfully completed Satellite Assembly, Integration and Testing activities at URRSC.

The pre-shipment review (PSR) was held with the participation of members from user community on January 25, 2024.

The satellite is a user funded project with Ministry of Earth

Science (MoES), configured around ISRO's well proven I-2k bus platform with a Lift-Off Mass of 2275 kg. Indian Industries have significantly contributed in the making of the Satellite.

The satellite is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning, with state-of-the-art payloads viz., 6 channel Imager and 19 channel Sounder meteorology payloads, communication payloads viz., The Data Relay Transponder (DRT) and Satellite aided Search and Rescue (SAS&R) transponder.

The DRT instrument, receives meteorological,

hydrological and oceanographic data from automatic Data Collection Platforms / Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and augments the weather forecasting capabilities. Satellite aided Search and Rescue (SAS&R) transponder is incorporated in the satellite to relay a distress signal / alert detection from the beacon transmitters for search and rescue services with global receive coverage.

This would be the third mission for ISRO after the New Year day launch of XpoSat using PSLV and the successful insertion of Aditya-L1 satellite, India's first solar exploratory mission, in the Halo Orbit around Sun-Earth L1 on January 6.

Approval for new connections: Tangedco launches new app



Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Tangedco has introduced a user-friendly mobile application in 12-section offices, including cities like Chennai and Coimbatore, in an attempt to streamline the approval process for new electricity connections.

A senior official told TNIE, "This app enables us to swiftly identify payment defaulters, manage disconnection services, address meter damage or repairs, and handle consumer grievances."

Despite serving

approximately 3.3 crore consumers statewide, Tangedco faces a staff crunch. To ensure prompt and efficient services without delay, it is necessary to turn to digital tools, the official said.

"The app is currently deployed in 12 section offices covering nearly 15,000 connections. Its performance will be evaluated in May or June. Based on the findings, modifications will be made before extending its usage to other section offices," he added.

Highlighting Tangedco's commitment to improvement, another official said, "In the recent consumer service rating of discoms (CSR) by the power ministry, Tangedco climbed to the 10th rank among 62 discoms nationwide, shifting from B+ to A grade. This recognition is attributed to our online services and accurate meter readings. Our goal is to enhance services for consumers in both rural and urban areas, aiming for an A+ rating in the future."

K Kathirmathiyon, secretary of Coimbatore Consumer Cause, expressed concern saying, "Tangedco must enhance its consumer services."

For instance, as per the Electricity Act, new connections should be granted within a week.

However, in Coimbatore alone, consumers are waiting for a month owing to insufficient single-phase meters. Tangedco needs to address these ground-level issues before implementing further reforms."

Rajinikanth clears air on alleged feud with Vijay, at 'Lal Salaam' audio launch

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Superstar Rajinikanth's public speeches have always been a massive hit among the audience. At the 'Lal Salaam' audio launch in Chennai on January 26, Thalaivar cleared the air saying that 'crow-eagle' story he shared at the 'Jailer' audio launch was not directed at Thalapathy Vijay. He further spoke about Vijay's political entry and said that he'd always be his well-wisher and not his competitor.

Addressing the social media wars, Rajinikanth, at 'Lal Salaam' event, said, "The story of a crow and eagle was interpreted differently. On social media, many spread rumours saying it was against Vijay. It's so disappointing. Vijay grew up in front of my eyes. During the



shooting of 'Dharmathin Thalaivan', he was just 13 years old and looked at me from upstairs. After the shooting, SA Chandrasekar introduced Vijay to me and said that he was interested in acting. He asked me to tell Vijay to concentrate on his studies first. I advised him to complete his schooling."

He added, "Vijay

then became an actor, and now he's at the top because of his discipline, hard work and talent. He is going to politics next. It feels said to hear that there's competition between us. Vijay had said that he is his competition and I have also stated the same. It's disrespectful to say that we are each other's competition. I'd request our fans not to

compare." Rajinikanth will be seen next in his daughter Aishwarya's upcoming film, 'Lal Salaam', which will release in theatres on February 9. The actor is presently shooting for director TJ Gnanavel's 'Vettaiyan', which is likely to hit cinemas this year. He also has director Lokesh Kanagaraj's 'Thalaivar 171'.

Middle Mist Creates Guinness Record

Chennai, Jan 28 2024: Step into a world of unparalleled opulence and artistic brilliance as Ocean Sapphire, a distinguished diamond centric unit of The KTM Jewellery, presents the pièce de résistance of their collection—Middle Mist. This extraordinary bangle, adorned with an astounding 48,975 diamonds, stands a testament to the limitless creativity and craftsmanship of team Ocean Sapphire and highlights the Pride of India. Crafted with meticulous precision, Middle Mist is a fusion of seven distinct parts, each an embodiment of nature's splendour. The bangle comprises six exquisitely detailed butterfly pieces, symbolizing the delicate grace and transformation found in the natural world. Additionally, nine intricately designed flowers bloom across the surface, capturing the essence of floral beauty with unparalleled intricacy. Completing the ensemble are three captivating balls, adding a touch of whimsy and sophistication to this breath-taking creation. The Middle Mist has earned its place in the prestigious Guinness World Record for featuring the highest



number of diamonds on a singular jewellery (Bangle) and has become the Pride of India. This extraordinary piece, aptly named after the elusive "Middlemost Red" flower, was meticulously created in India and holds the Guinness World Record for most number of diamonds set on a single bangle. Middle Mist We all know flowers are beautiful. But not many of us know that they are rare too! Gems, which are precious, hard to find and thus, all the way more gorgeous! The foundation of Middle Mist is a meticulously crafted 18K gold base, which is worth value \$ 5,00,000 USD. This provides the perfect canvas for the radiant display of the diamonds, which collectively weigh 214.70 carats. The jewel, which weighs 935.11 grams, is a wearable work of art that transcends

traditional jewellery with multiple diamond colours of all being first quality. It has been made by 21 workers who took 1860 hours. The visionary team behind the world's most diamond-laden jewellery (Bangle) was spearheaded by Mr. Wineet Ammasi, Managing Director of The KTM Jewellery Ltd. This unparalleled masterpiece required the skilled hands of 21 karigars, dedicating a staggering 1860 hours to craft every detail. Their expertise, precision, and unwavering commitment to excellence brought to life the bangle that stands as a testament to artistry & luxury, and will achieve the aim of putting India back on the No 12 spot of the diamond artistry. The KTM Jewellery Ltd is the jewellery division of the conglomerate of SCM group of companies comprises of The Chennai Silks,

Sree Kumaran Thangamalgai, Teemage precast, SCM garments and many more and has a legacy of over six decades, with a multi-billion-dollar empire operating with over 50,000 employees. The KTM Jewellery Ltd is a silver jubilee company specializes in jewellery retail and manufacturing under the brands Sree Kumaran Thangamalgai and Ocean Sapphire. The Middle Mist has propelled India back to the pinnacle of the diamond trade. Just as the Kohinoor defined India's legacy, this extraordinary bangle is set to redefine its global presence. The KTM Jewellery group, creators of this unparalleled gem, plans to showcase this marvel which is Pride of India at a private auction, ensuring its place in history as an emblem of India's enduring brilliance in the world of fine jewellery.

Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) rolls out India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A Vaccine 'Havisure®'

Chennai, Jan 28 2024: Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) a wholly owned subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and a leading biopharmaceutical company in India marks a historic moment in public health with the launch of India's first indigenously developed Hepatitis A vaccine "Havisure®". The vaccine represents a significant step forward in India's fight against Hepatitis A and is poised to make a substantial contribution to public health.

The new vaccine, Havisure® is the result of extensive research and development efforts by IIL's dedicated team of scientists and researchers. This indigenously developed vaccine is poised to play a crucial role in preventing Hepatitis A, a highly contagious liver infection that poses a

significant public health challenge. Hepatitis A is a viral infection primarily spread through the fecal-oral route, meaning that it is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

This Novel Vaccine launch event was held today at Hyatt Place, Hyderabad. Chief guests were Shri Nagaraj Karpan, MLA and Shri Ajay Mishra, IAS-Chairman Indian Redcross Society, Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. K Anand Kumar, Managing Director, Indian Immunologicals Ltd shared "The launch of Havisure® is a testament to our commitment to advancing healthcare solutions for the nation. Currently Hepatitis A vaccines are imported into our country and as a true meaning of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, IIL has tirelessly put in efforts

and developed India's 1st vaccine for Hepatitis A. The vaccine Havisure® has undergone extensive clinical trials in 8 centers and has proven to be safe and efficacious. The vaccine is comparable to the world's leading vaccine sold by a multinational. With Havisure®, we aim to contribute significantly to the prevention of this infectious disease. IIL launching three vaccines in a single year is itself a big achievement and full credit to my team."

"Havisure" is set to play a crucial role to protect against the Hepatitis A virus, which primarily affects the liver. The vaccine is effective in preventing the disease and is recommended for children in the routine immunization. It is a two-dose vaccine wherein the first dose is administered at above 12 months of age and the second dose is given at least after 6 months

of the first dose. The vaccine is also recommended for individuals who are at risk of exposure or travel to the regions with high hepatitis A prevalence. In addition to this people with occupational risk of infection and suffering from chronic liver diseases also need Hepatitis A vaccination.

Discussing on manufacturing capabilities of IIL, Dr. Priyabrata Pattnaik, Dy. Managing Director-IIL said, "The company has considerably invested in state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities to scale up production and meet the growing demand for Hepatitis A vaccine. As part of the launch, IIL will be collaborating with healthcare professionals, corporate hospitals, and government agencies to promote awareness about Hepatitis A and the importance of both paediatric, adolescent & adult vaccination".

Speaker bemoans lack of parliamentary decorum Enough space or dissent in democracy: Birla

Chennai, Jan 29 2024: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said that the conduct of public representatives should be in accordance with parliamentary decorum.

Speaking after inaugurating the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) in Maharashtra Legislature premises here, he expressed concern over incidents of indiscipline, disruption of proceedings and unparliamentary conduct in the legislatures affecting their credibility.

Birla noted that there is enough space to give voice to dissent in the democratic system, therefore, disruption should not be used as a tool of protest and dissent.

Maintaining the prestige and dignity of the legislatures and dignified conduct in the Legislatures are paramount but it is a matter of concern that despite having a consensus on these issues, we are yet to implement our commitments for smooth functioning of the house, the Lok Sabha Speaker said.

Birla urged the Members to devote their time in the house on productive business.

In this regard, he suggested that concrete and definite action plan, including changes in rules, if necessary, should be prepared to ensure that Legislatures function sans disruptions.

Emphasizing on innovation, the Lok Sabha Speaker suggested that new and innovative methods of working should be promoted in legislatures so that the democratic institutions can better perform their responsibility of monitoring the executive and people's faith in these institutions will enhance.

The good works being done by the State Legislatures in the socio-economic fields should be discussed in the house, best practices may be shared as such measures will enhance credibility of both Legislatures and people's representatives among the public.

Stressing on use of technology in legislative works, Birla suggested that public representatives should be proficient in technology and use them to connect with the public. More and more use of technology will enhance efficiency of members.

Capacity building of members should be

taken seriously by the Legislatures, regular training programmes on rules of legislatures, legislative tools and using technology should be conducted for the members, added the Speaker.

He also urged the State legislatures for digitisation of debates in a time bound manner so that 'One Nation, One Legislative Platform can be a reality soon'.

Referring to the role of parliamentary committees in democracy, Birla noted that parliamentary committees play a vital role in shaping laws and policies in the present perspective.

Parliamentary Committees are actually 'mini Parliaments' and they review these laws, policies and programs on behalf of the Parliament and make them more useful to the public, he added.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also suggested that parliamentary committees should work in a spirit of collaboration and inclusivity, using the collective knowledge of all parties to engage in constructive discussion and be productive.

The reports of the committees which have brought positive changes in the society

should be highlighted.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde; Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh; Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Rahul Narwekar, Deputy Chairperson, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Dr. Neelam Gorhe and Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Narahari Sitaram Jirwal graced the Inaugural Session and addressed the distinguished gathering.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Conference through video message. 26 Presiding Officers participated in the inaugural session.

Ahead of the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference, Lok Sabha Speaker also presided over the Standing Committee of AIPOC in Maharashtra Legislature premises, Mumbai.

As part of the AIPOC, the 60th Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held today to discuss the following Agenda Topic on 'Making Use of Cutting Edge Technologies in the Service of Legislature.



B. Ramakrishnan, Senior Vice Chairman of Divyang Cricket Control Board of India (DCCBI) and MD of Corporate Clinic of Chennai and R. Muruganraj, Vice Chairman of DCCBI, met with the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Nivas today to extend an invitation to the Physically Challenged First World Cup opening ceremony to be held on Mar 10 at the CAP Cricket Stadium, Pondicherry. The World Cup is being organized by DCCBI and will be held between Mar 10 and 22 with eight teams competing for the trophy.