



(From left) People waiting to press the button; Voters get their temperature checked as a precautionary Covid-19 measure at the entrance of a polling station; a citizen gets her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote | SHEKHAR YADAV



Pro-people not pro-corruption: What youths want

Day 1 of Assembly polls at Ghaziabad sees large chunk of voters from the 18-21 age group turn up, some convinced their friends to vote

VATSALA SHRANGI & PRIYANSHI SHARMA @ Ghaziabad

FOR first-time voters in the satellite towns of Noida and Ghaziabad, which went to polls in the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh state assembly elections on Thursday, it's all about better infrastructure, greater mobility and a corruption-free government. Excited to hold on to their voting slips, young voters were seen lining up at the polling booths across the city happy to cast their first vote.

While Noida and Greater Noida under Gautam Buddha Nagar district are relatively new cities with high-rises and modern facilities, scores of residential towers coming up over the past years have added a large young population in the 18-21 age-group, who got the first chance to exercise their franchise in the assembly polls and since the pandemic struck. Most of the youth in this age-group said that better roads, connectivity and a government that is pro-people instead of

"pro-corruption" are attributes they are keen to vote for. Anamika Gupta, 19, a first-time voter, happy to pose with her inked finger, told *The Morning Standard*, that she had been waiting for the polling day since her voter card was made. "It is only when you go inside the polling booth before the EVM that you feel what means to cast one's vote is and chose one's own government," said Gupta, who was accompanied by her parents to a polling station in Ghaziabad.

Queues could be seen outside polling stations early morning, after which the crowd thinned out while it again picked up after mid-day when many youngsters, senior citizens and even groups of students were seen coming out in large numbers. Polls were held on Thursday for 58 assembly constituencies spread across 11 districts in Western Uttar Pradesh. Polling began at 7 am and went on till 6.30 pm at some of the booths. Anuj Sharma, 20, an engineering student from Noida Ex-

tension, had come with a group of friends to the polling station. "We decided to come together to celebrate our first vote. Connectivity is a major issue here. While there is the Metro, which is yet to come up in most areas, the auto rickshaws overcharge commuters just to reach the nearest metro station. Also, the electricity is too expensive, as most societies run just on DG sets. We want a government that is both pro-people and pro-youth," said Sharma. Many also said they had con-

vinced their friends, who were not so keen to come out and vote. "I told my friends, who were initially like what difference does it make if they vote or not, to come out and fulfill their duty as a citizen. It was a nice feeling after casting my vote," said 20-year-old Rajat Sikka, a medical student. Given that these are the first elections to be conducted since the pandemic began, the administration ensured thermal screening and sanitisation facilities at all booths.

Third wave almost ebbing but not over: Doctors

ANKITA UPADHYAY @ New Delhi

WHILE the peak of the third wave is over as cases are fast declining, the doctors say that it will take another 7-10 days' time for the wave to be over.

As per Dr Sanjay Kumar Rai, Professor, Department of Community Medicine at All India Institute of Medical Science, "This wave was not highly infectious, but active cases are still in large numbers."

Dr Rai says that surveillance system is the way forward as this virus is not going away anytime soon.

"We need to monitor the behaviour of the virus. In the last two years, we have generated a lot of evidence against it. We cannot stop the propagation but it is always better to take the correct measures. In future, the best way out is to monitor all the cases," he adds.

Dr Rai added: "There can be infections because the RNA virus mutates, but since we have good immunity with the help of vaccinations, we can say that severity will not happen again."

With vaccination drives being conducted for teenagers and adults and booster for senior citizens, the effectiveness of the virus is thought to reduce.

However, doctors point that no study has been conducted to prove that vaccination has had

an effect on Omicron variant.

Dr Jugal Kishore, HoD of Community Medicine, Safdarjung Hospital, feels that Omicron reduces the fatality and prevents cases from becoming severe. "The Omicron variant was mild and that is why the curve came so quick. Chances of cases increasing is very bleak but we still need to wait for 10 more days," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Suresh Kumar from Lok Nayak Hospital pitched for more vaccinations and predicted that the COVID-19 third wave will end by this month end. "ICU beds are still occupied and many states are reporting more and more cases. We need more vaccinations. Many people have only taken the first dose and did not take second dose yet," he informed.

Dr Kumar added that a laidback approach cannot be taken when it comes to vaccinations and following Covid

guidelines. On Thursday, the national capital recorded 1,104 fresh cases due to Covid-19 and 12 deaths, taking the positivity rate to 2.09 per cent. There are 5,438 active cases in the city at present.

While the cases are on a steep decline, the number of tests conducted have been above 40,000 on a regular basis and a total of 52,848 tests were conducted on Thursday alone.

OPEN RELIGIOUS PLACES: BJP TO L-G

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta on Wednesday urged Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal to allow people to visit temple and other religious places in view of declining Covid cases in the capital. Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), chaired by Bajjal, had earlier directed that religious places will stay open but visitors will not be allowed. In his letter, Gupta said with Covid cases coming down, the DDMA has lifted weekly curfew and allowed reopening of schools, gyms, spas, swimming pool, cinema halls, offices, marriage halls, restaurant among others. He said this restriction was causing inconvenience to those who worship regularly at religious places. PTI

Delay in allotting hostel rooms to affect admission

NEW DELHI: While Delhi University (DU) announced the resumption of offline classes, students seeking hostel accommodation will have to wait a little longer as colleges might take a few more days to complete the allotment of rooms, officials said.

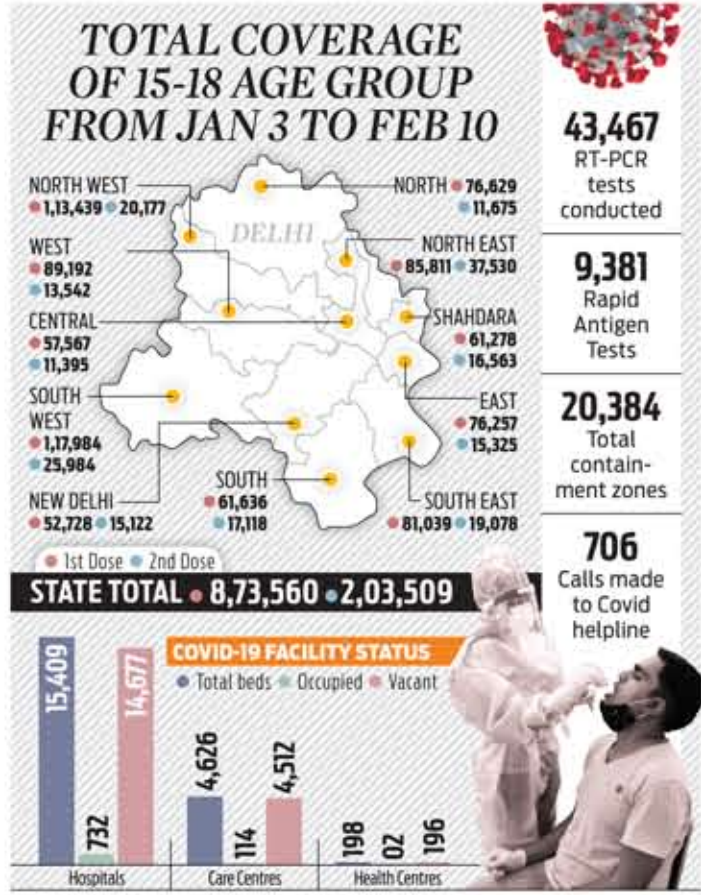
Following the reopening announcement, DU colleges have sprung into action and are re-vamping their hostel rooms, officials said.

College principal Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, Maharaja Agrasen College, said they are working on a "war footing" to prepare hostel rooms to accommodate 56 students. "We have begun preparing the rooms by applying a fresh coat of paint

on the walls," he said.

"If it's a small room, only one student will be allowed. The hostel list can't come out on February 17. After the admission process finishes, the hostel list is prepared. This usually happens every year," said Kirti Mal College principal Vibha Chauhan.

Pankaj Arora, Dean Students' Welfare, DU, said, "We advised provosts to complete the process of hostel allotment online so that students know where they are going after their return to Delhi. Arranging isolation facility is the hostel's prerogative. If students wish, they can complete their three-day isolation period elsewhere and then come to the hostel." PTI



After classes reopen, maximum teen vaccine camps in schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH schools reopening, it has become an important task for the government to vaccinate children of the 15-17 age group. According to officials in Delhi government's health department, the maximum vaccination camps were set up in government schools where teenagers were jabbed.

Vaccination for this age

group that began on January 3, has witnessed a total of 10,41,887 teenagers who were administered both Covid doses so far. Till February 10, 8,73,560 teenagers received their first dose.

This age group are being administered Covaxin, a two-dose vaccine, with each jab to be taken at least 28 days apart.

The maximum first dose of the vaccine has been given in the South West district with

1,17,984 followed by the North West district with 1,13,439.

Maximum number of second doses were given in North East district with 37,530 teenagers fully jabbed followed by 25,984 teenagers in South West district.

"These districts are densely populated with a large number of schools and residential areas, and this is why we

were able to attain the highest number of the vaccinations," said an health official.

New Delhi district had the lowest number of first doses with 52,728 teenagers. While the Central Delhi district got the lowest in second dose vaccinations with just 11,395 teenagers inoculated.

"Initially, we did not focus more on private schools but we

collaborated with both government and private schools; however, a majority of private institutions did the vaccination of their students on their own," said an official working with the health department of the Delhi government. Street children are also being inoculated in the drive, the official added.

Children who fell sick in the Omicron wave, can get vaccinated after three months.

ICICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010.
[See proviso to rule 8(i)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower (s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mohammed Sami (Borrower) Nagma Bano (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHNOD00000791030/ NHHNOD00000736487	710 & 711 7th Floor Devika Tower Plot No4a & B Chander Nagar Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010	Rs. 46,39,098/- (As on 9th February, 2022)	Rs. 52,65,000/- Rs. 5,26,500/-	March 10, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM	March 14, 2022 from 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://sarfaei.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/>) of our auction agency Auction Tiger. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till March 11, 2022 before 5.00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010 on or before March 11, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer as per above mentioned time then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 1st floor, Vishwakarma Complex, Plot No 17/18, Behind Yashoda Hospital, Koushombi, Ghaziabad-201010 on or before March 11, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited-Auction" payable at Ghaziabad. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9819881654. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>

Date: February 11, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad

Authorised Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

SDMC BUDGET

No to tax hike, yes to yoga in parks

NEW DELHI: The proposal made in South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) annual budget to increase property tax levied on residential and commercial properties was rejected by the Leader of House on Thursday, officials said.

The move comes ahead of Delhi civic polls due in April. Recently, EDMC also rejected a hike in property tax, proposed in its budget. Leader of House in BJP-led SDMC, Inderjeet Sehrawat on Thursday finalised the SDMC budget after making several proposals, including "increasing the budget for moral education from ₹15 lakh to ₹25 lakh" in SDMC schools.

SDMC Commissioner Gyanesh Bharati on November 23 had proposed to increase property tax levied on residential and commercial properties, and reduce the number of rate slabs from three to two.

Also, the last date for availing the amnesty scheme for payment of property tax with 100 per cent waiver of both interest and penalty, to March 31, it said. Leader of House also proposed to start special yoga centres at SDMC parks. At first, one yoga centre will be started in each ward. PTI

City to get 10 specialised schools this year, 31 in all

NEW DELHI: Ten new schools of specialised excellence (SoSEs) will be operational in Delhi from the 2022-23 academic session and an Armed Forces Preparatory School (AFPS) will start operating in the Jharoda Kalan area, according to Directorate of Education (DoE) officials.

Total SoSEs operational in the 2022-23 will be 31. "Ten more schools across four specialisations (four STEM, two humanities, two performing and visual arts and two high-end 21st-century skills) are being added, while AFPS will be operational in Jharoda Kalan. Thus, the total number of SoSEs in 2022-23 will be 31," a senior DoE official said.

"All SoSEs shall be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) operating in partnership with International Baccalaureate (IB). Admissions will be offered in

Class 9 and in Class 11 in STEM SoSEs and AFPS through an aptitude test or on the basis of a child's interest in earlier classes," the official added.

The Delhi government had launched the SoSEs last year as choice-based schools. With world-class infrastructure and facilities suited to transact new-age curriculum, the students of these schools will have the opportunity for experiential learning through projects, field visits and internships in their areas of interest. Twenty such schools were made operational in Phase I last year.

"A minimum of 60 per cent aggregate marks in Class 7 is required for admission in Class 9 of any SoSE. In case of performing and visual arts, minimum marks can be waived if the candidate received an award in any art form at zonal level and upwards," the official said. PTI

L-G reviews unlit spots for women safety

NEW DELHI: Delhi L-G Anil Bajjal on Thursday reviewed the status of illumination of dark spots in the national capital and stressed the need for real-time monitoring of the functioning of streetlights and their repair within 48 hours.

Bajjal chaired the 16th meeting of the Task Force on Women Safety with Delhi Chief Secretary, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) chief Anurag Kundu and other senior officials and stakeholders, including a senior police officer.

While appreciating the efforts made by authorities so far, he stressed upon seamless inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of policies, programmes and schemes, related to women safety in Delhi, it said. PTI