

President Murmu urges Ayurveda students to follow path of Acharya Sushruta

NEW DELHI, JULY 15: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday urged young Ayurveda students and researchers to follow the path shown by Acharya Sushruta and remain steadfast in their commitment to medical ethics and compassionate patient care, while embracing scientific research and new technologies to strengthen the global acceptance of the traditional system of medicine.

Addressing the inaugural session of the three-day international seminar 'Saushrutam 2026' at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) here on the occasion of Sushruta Jayanti, the president said the future of Ayurveda lies in the hands of the younger generation.

She advised students and researchers embarking on their professional journeys to pursue practical research and generate high-quality scientific evidence with curiosity, integrity and a scientific temper.

"Wherever appropriate, they should not hesitate to make use of new technologies," Murmu said, urging them to follow the path shown by Acharya Sushruta and remain committed to medical ethics and compassionate service towards patients.

The president also inaugu-



rated the MRI section of AIIA during the event.

Congratulating the Ayurveda fraternity on the birth anniversary of Acharya Sushruta, widely regarded as the father of surgery, Murmu said his pioneering work in surgery centuries ago was revolutionary for its time.

said Sushruta introduced several complex and innovative surgical techniques, including plastic surgery, cataract surgery, treatment of tumours and ENT procedures, while the Sushruta Samhita provided a new direction not only to the Indian subcontinent but to the world.

Murmu said the knowledge embedded in India's

traditions should be carried forward in harmony with changing times for the benefit of society.

Describing Ayurveda's holistic vision of life as a boon to humanity, she said efforts should be made to ensure that the ancient system remains relevant and effective in the present era.

The president said the Government of India has worked to establish Ayurveda and Yoga on the global stage with renewed vigour and is making efforts to validate the ancient tradition of surgery through scientific benchmarks.

She said standardised documentation, digital health integration and modern sci-

entific research techniques would help enhance the global acceptance of Ayurveda.

Expressing confidence that the deliberations at 'Saushrutam 2026' would generate new knowledge and strengthen international co-operation in Ayurvedic surgery, Murmu said such initiatives would further enhance Ayurveda's contribution to holistic healthcare.

The three-day international seminar hosted by AIIA has brought together eminent surgeons, academicians and researchers from India and abroad to deliberate on advances in Ayurvedic surgery and related disciplines.

BJP Terms Soz's Call For Restoration Of Art 370 In J&K 'Anti-National', Asks Cong To Clarify Stand

New Delhi, Jul 15: The BJP on Wednesday termed Saifuddin Soz's suggestion for raising demand for restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as "anti-national", and asked the Congress to either clarify if its leader's remark was the "official line" of the party or take action against him.

The BJP's response came after Soz said the ruling National Conference should not confine its protest to Jantar Mantar for only the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) but also raise the demand for the reinstatement of special status under Article 370 for the erstwhile state.

The real issue for the people of J-K is internal autonomy and they should fight for the restoration of Article 370, the former Union minister said. "Our young generation should have this in mind that we, a Muslim-majority state, acceded to India, which had a Hindu majority. Sheikh (Mohammad Abdullah) Sahab then deemed it appropriate that at that time there were eight crore Muslims in this India," he told reporters in Srinagar.

"Now there are 23-24 crore Muslims, that's why we

made the right decision to remain in India. But, our internal autonomy must definitely be restored on our own terms," he added.

Reacting sharply, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi described Soz's remarks as "anti-national" and asked the Congress to clarify if its leader's view was the official stand of the party.

"How could it be that Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi returns from his characteristic mysterious sojourn abroad without an anti-India statement emerging? No sooner had he set foot on India's soil than a highly condemnable, anti-national and offensive statement came from Saifuddin Soz, a very senior leader of the Congress," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP told reporters here.

Trivedi noted that Soz remarked that J-K does not require only statehood but also restoration of Article 370. "He went beyond and stated: 'Our main target is sovereignty in India.' And not only this, he also said: 'Since we are a Muslim majority state, we will be with India on our own terms,'" the BJP leader said, and asked

the Congress if it was the "official line" of the party. Ladakh news highlights

"We want a categorical answer from Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge... If the Congress party does not explicitly condemn this and take action against Saifuddin Soz, it will be assumed that his statement advocating breaking the country represents the official position of the Congress," Trivedi added.

Reacting to Soz's remarks, another BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the Congress wants not just statehood for J-K but also the restoration of Article 370, under which, he claimed, the Indian Constitution will not fully apply.

"The INC is not the Indian National Congress, it is the Islamabad National Congress. The Congress is not speaking only about statehood. It is actually talking about a separate identity for Jammu and Kashmir, and it is echoing Pakistan's line," he said.

Poonawalla alleged that Soz, who had "batted for Afzal Guru and Burhan Wani in the past", is once again trying to play into Pakistan's

hands. "Saifuddin Soz has proven it. He has batted for Afzal Guru and Burhan Wani in the past. He says forget statehood, we want Article 370 to be restored.

"Restoring Article 370 means the Constitution should not apply. It means the Dalits, the tribal community and the backward classes should not get reservation," Poonawalla said.

He added that restoring Article 370 means the RTI Act and other important laws should not apply.

"It means they want to play into the hands of Pakistan, which wants Pakistanparasti (Pakistan-worshipping) and pattharbaazi (stone-pelting), not democracy and development," Poonawalla alleged.

The BJP spokesperson accused the Congress of repeatedly echoing Pakistan's narrative.

"The Congress has always echoed Pakistan's line on every issue, be it the surgical strikes or Operation Sindoor. Yet again, it is doing the same. Therefore, the Congress is not the Indian National Congress; it is the Islamabad National Congress," Poonawalla said. (Agencies)

Complex surgery for rare lung malformation in infant marks new milestone

NEW DELHI, JULY 15: Doctors at AIIMS Delhi have successfully performed a rare and technically demanding lung-preserving surgery on a four-month-old infant born with a congenital lung malformation affecting both lungs, hospital authorities said.

The child was discharged just two days after the operation, they said.

The procedure -- a segment-level lung resection or segmentectomy in an infant -- on one of the youngest patients is among the rarest reported cases of its kind and highlights the advanced paediatric surgical care available at the premier institute, authorities added.

The surgery was performed on the infant's right

lung, while another one on the left lung will be scheduled after a few months, according to doctors.

The baby was diagnosed before birth with congenital pulmonary airway malformation (CPAM), a condition in which part of the lung develops abnormally during pregnancy, forming cyst-like tissue that cannot function like healthy lung tissue.

Doctors said the case was particularly challenging because the malformation involved both lungs, unlike the more common presentation affecting only one lung.

Removing an entire lung lobe would have significantly reduced the child's future lung capacity, they said. The surgical team therefore opted for a lung-preserving ap-

proach by removing only the diseased segments from the right lung.

Each lung is divided into smaller functional units called segments, each with its own airway and blood supply. While removal of an entire lobe is relatively straightforward, segmentectomy requires meticulous dissection of deeply placed blood vessels and airways while preserving the surrounding healthy lung tissue.

In this case, surgeons removed segments 9 and 10 of the lower lobe of the right lung, considered among the most technically difficult lung segments to access because of their deeply situated blood vessels, the hospital statement said. "Segments 9 and 10 are among the most diffi-

cult to remove in the entire lung, since their vessels and airway are buried deep within the tissue, far from the surface. Performing this safely through keyhole surgery in an infant just four months old is a significant technical achievement," Dr Sandeep Agarwala, Head, Department of Pediatric Surgery, AIIMS Delhi, said.

Outcomes like this are only possible because of teamwork, and because of the dedicated healthcare workers at AIIMS, whose infrastructure and facilities are well suited to conducting this kind of complex, lung-preserving pediatric surgery," he said.

The surgery was led by Professor Dr Vishesh Jain of the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Govt 'Cruel' For Ignoring Wangchuk's Fast As Activist Completes Day 18 Of Hunger Strike

NEW DELHI, JUL 15: Activist Sonam Wangchuk was under round-the-clock medical supervision on Wednesday as he entered the 18th day of his hunger strike, with Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke accusing the government of being "cruel" for refusing to engage in dialogue with the protesters.

The CJP's protest at Jantar Mantar against alleged irregularities in the NEET examination entered its 26th day on Wednesday.

According to the medical bulletin issued by the CJP, Wangchuk remains "very weak" and is under 24-hour medical vigilance.

His weight has fallen to 57.15 kg, a drop of 400 grams in the last 24 hours, taking his total weight loss since the beginning of the fast to 8.9 kg. His blood pressure was recorded at 105/76, blood sugar at 80 mg/dL, oxygen saturation at 97 per cent, while hydration was described as fair.

Doctors said he remained conscious and mentally alert but required continuous monitoring.

"Day 18 of Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. The man who chose to put his own life on the line to seek justice for students who died by suicide has received nothing but silence from the government. The government is not just unaccountable; it is also cruel," Dipke said on X.

said the questions that deserved answers were why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was refusing to engage in dialogue and why Union



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had still not been held accountable.

"Instead of asking why opposition leader hasn't supported CJP, or why every CJP team member isn't on a hunger strike alongside Sonam sir, ask the questions that actually matter," he said.

"Why is the Prime Minister refusing to engage in a dialogue? Why is the Education Minister still not being held accountable? These are the questions that deserve answers, not distractions that only help shield those in power from accountability," he said

The CJP also announced a one-day mass hunger strike on July 16 in solidarity with Wangchuk and students protesting at Jantar Mantar.

The outfit that was born online renewed its appeal to people to join its "Chalo Sansad" march on July 20,

demanding a transparent examination system, accountability for repeated paper leaks, and Pradhan's sacking. a separate stage, the All India Students' Association (AISA) leaders Neha, Manish, and Aameen continued their fast despite worsening health.

The Left-backed organisation said a delegation comprising academics Nivedita Menon, Aditya Nigam, Anuradha Chenoy, and Radha Kumar visited the students. Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj, MLA Atul Pradhan, and MLC Man Singh Yadav also extended support and urged people to join the July 20 Parliament march.

On Tuesday, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and AAP national convenor Arvind

Kejriwal appealed to Wangchuk to end his fast, while veteran actor Zeenat Aman urged the government to initiate dialogue with the activist.

Former Gujarat chief minister Shantersinh Vaghela was among those who visited Jantar Mantar on Tuesday to express solidarity with Wangchuk and the CJP protesters.

Actor Swara Bhaskar also joined the protest. The CJP thanked Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for extending support to the agitation.

Dipke also appealed to supporters to change their display pictures on social media as a mark of solidarity with Wangchuk. The CJP has claimed that more than 1.3 lakh people have registered support through its missed-call campaign for the Parliament march. (Agencies)

Himalayas Could Be Receiving More Snowfall Than Previous Estimates, Study Suggests

NEW DELHI, JULY 15: A new study shows that in just one winter, the previous best available Himalayan snowfall analyses underestimated total seasonal snowfall by 37 per cent over Lake Hampta area in Himachal Pradesh.

Researchers, including those from the British Antarctic Survey, UK Met Office and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, said Himalayan snowfall has been miscalculated for years and that the study provides improved estimates of snowfall across the west-central Himalayas.

Snowfall, a vital source of freshwater and key component of terrestrial water budget, is difficult to measure in mountains owing to complexities in terrain, they said.

The study, published in the journal Monthly Weather Review, tackles the difficulties by using frozen lakes at high altitudes as naturally occurring pressure sensors for monitoring snowfall across sites in the western-central Himalayas, among other mountainous terrains.

The team installed commercially available water-pressure sensors at three lakes -- Ghepan and Hampta in the western Himalayas,



and Mugu in Nepal.

"Unlike conventional instruments, these sense the whole lake surface -- an area of thousands to billions of square metres -- to measure the timing and intensity of snowfall," author Siddharth Gumber, a mountain climate scientist with the British Antarctic Survey, explains in an article for The Conversation.

on the Archimedes principle of displacement, the instruments use water pressure in lakes to directly measure mass of accumulating snow, "providing an accurate and unbiased estimate of snowfall", Gumber said.

Results from the study show that the model can generally reproduce both when the snow falls and how much accumulates, and is particularly good at representing extreme snowfall events, he said.

"The results show that the model can accurately simulate both the timing and amounts of the snowfall observations and can effectively be used for the generation of long-term snowfall products," the authors wrote in the study.

Understanding when snow falls could be crucial for predicting melt and how much water will flow into

rivers, helping communities and policymakers better prepare for water shortages, Gumber said in the article.

The mountain climate scientist added that while it is time to reassess reliance on mountain water supplies -- as the region is starting to see more water shortages -- how much water the mountains provide and how it changes remain "remarkably uncertain".

"Good measurements of snowfall are now more important than ever for predicting the future of water resources, which until now have been lacking," Gumber said. (PTI)

Baghel meets Venugopal, hands over report on Punjab leadership issue

NEW DELHI, JUL 15: Amid infighting in Punjab Congress, the party's in-charge for the state Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday met AICC general secretary, Organisation, K C Venugopal and handed over his report to him.

Congress Legislature Party leader in the state assembly Partap Singh Bajwa also met Venugopal at his residence but did not disclose what transpired during the meeting. Baghel's report is based on days of deliberations and one-on-one meetings with state leaders.

A section of the state leaders has revolted against the party high command's decision to continue with

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring as the state Congress chief.

The rebel group is led by former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, former deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and other state leaders.

Baghel said his report is based on meetings with state leaders during his stay in Punjab.

"I visited Punjab for six days where I met the leaders and heard all of them, including at the Punjab Congress office and during one-on-one meetings. After meeting everyone and having discussions with leaders of Punjab, I have submitted my report to AICC general sec-

retary, Organisation, K C Venugopal," Baghel told reporters here.

Asked whether he has recommended a change in state leadership to end the infighting in the Punjab unit, Baghel said, "How can I tell you what report I have given to the party leadership?"

He said he held one-on-one interactions with all party leaders and then handed over his report to the leadership. After returning from abroad, Rahul held a crucial meeting with party president Mallikarjun Kharge here and is learnt to have discussed the leadership crisis ahead of the Assembly elections due early next year.