

# Union Labour Ministry issues show cause notice to AIR INDIA EXPRESS

NEW DELHI, Dec 3 (PTI)

THE Union Labour Ministry has issued a show cause notice to Tata Group-owned Air India Express for alleged violation of regulations with respect to certain disputes with the airline's management and cabin crew members, according to sources.

Many cabin crew members have raised concerns, including about room sharing during layovers. In this regard, a complaint was filed before the labour department and the matter is under conciliation as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. A query sent to Air India Express seeking comments regarding the show cause notice remained unanswered.

The airline, which was taken over by the Tata Group in January last year, implemented certain policies that were



under the conciliation process, as per the sources.

The show cause notice has been issued alleging that the carrier changed the service conditions of the workmen during the pendency of the conciliation proceedings under the labour law regarding the disputes.

The show cause notice has been issued as to "why action should not be initiated against you/ your management for violation of Section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947," one of the sources said.

The Section 33 pertains to

conditions of service remaining unchanged during pendency of the conciliation proceedings. The Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), under the Office of the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (C) in the national capital, has issued the show cause notice to Air India Express.

Last month, the Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU) had written to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on various grievances about the airline's cabin crew members.

Scores of cabin crew members have also raised concerns to the airline's management about decision on room sharing by the cabin crew members during layovers as well as about curtailment of service contracts of some members and assessment, sources had said last month.

# India refrains from signing COP28 Health and Climate Declaration

■ By Uzmi Athar  
DUBAI, Dec 3 (PTI)

INDIA on Sunday refrained from signing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, with sources pointing out that curbing greenhouse gas use for cooling in the health sector, which is one of the points in the document, may not be practical or achievable within the country's healthcare infrastructure in the short term.

The declaration calls for climate action to achieve "benefits for health from deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including from just transitions, lower air pollution, active mobility, and shifts to sustainable healthy diets".

On the occasion of the first Health Day at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) on Sunday, the declaration expressed grave concern about the negative impacts of climate change on health.

The declaration is signed by 124 countries till now with the US and India, which are among the top greenhouse gas emitters, absent from the list of signatories.

The declaration focused on addressing the critical intersection between climate change and global health, emphasises the need for swift and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

However, a sticking point emerged as the draft outlined a commitment to reducing greenhouse gases for cooling applications within healthcare infrastructure - a measure India finds difficult to comply with, sources said.

India, a nation grappling with significant healthcare challenges, including those exacerbated by climate change, expressed concerns that greenhouse gas reduction for cooling in the health sector could hinder its ability to meet the growing demands for medical services, particularly in remote

## India refrained from signing on global renewable energy pledge at COP28

DUBAI, Dec 3 (PTI)

INDIA refrained from signing the pledge to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 as the draft text mentioned phasing out coal, which New Delhi doesn't support, according to sources in the Indian delegation.

India and China both on Saturday refrained from signing the pledge at the COP28 climate summit to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 even though New Delhi already committed to it as part of its G20 presidency.

During the UN's climate talks here, 118 countries committed to tripling the global renewable energy

capacity by 2030 in a highly endorsed initiative.

A source in the Indian delegation said that India refrained from signing the pledge as the draft text mentioned phasing out/down coal, which New Delhi doesn't support. India has been asking countries to agree to phase down all fossil fuels rather than a narrower deal to phase down coal.

The source said that India has already delivered a deal on the tripling of renewable energy capacity at the G20 Summit held in Delhi in September and that the pledge taken by a group of countries was outside the ambit of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

and underserved areas, a delegate from Kenya said.

India had put emphasis on resilient health in its G20 declaration. The three health priorities of India's G20 presidency were building a resilient healthcare system, creating a platform for improving access to medical countermeasures and creating a platform for sharing digital goods between countries.

The COP28 Declaration underscores the importance of addressing the broad spectrum of impacts that climate change has on health.

This includes considerations for mental health and psychosocial well-being, preservation of traditional medicinal knowledge, protection of livelihoods and cultures, and dealing with climate-induced displacement and migration.

The declaration aims at promoting a holistic approach to understanding and mitigating the diverse health challenges posed by a changing climate.

# Most of the exit poll predictions for Chhattisgarh, MP went wrong

NEW DELHI, Dec 3 (PTI)

WITH the Assembly election results throwing up surprises, most exit polls got the outcome in Chhattisgarh and the scale of the BJP's win in Madhya Pradesh wrong.

Only India Today-Axis My India, Today's Chanakya and India TV-CNX had predicted a big victory for Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh.

Manypollsters, however, got their prediction for the Telangana and Rajasthan polls right. The BJP tightened its stranglehold in the Hindi heartland with big victories in the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh polls, while the Congress is set to oust the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) from power in Telangana.

According to the Election Commission (EC), while the BJP is projected to win 54 seats and the Congress 35 in Chhattisgarh, in Rajasthan, the BJP is set to win 115 seats and the Congress 69. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is set to win 165 seats and the Congress 64. In Telangana, the Congress is poised to win 64 seats, the BRS 39 and the BJP eight.

In Madhya Pradesh, while Dainik Bhaskar had predicted 95 to 115 seats for the BJP and 105 to 120 seats for the Congress, India Today-Axis My India had said the BJP would get 140 to 162 seats and the Congress between 68 and 90.

India TV-CNX had also predicted a landslide victory for the BJP, pegging the number of seats at 140 to 159 and 70 to 89 for the Congress. Today's Chanakya had predicted that the BJP would get up to 163 seats while the Congress's tally would be between 62 and 86.

While the Jan Ki Baat exit poll had predicted that the BJP would get 100 to 123 seats and the Congress 102 to 125, Republic TV-Matrize had given 118 to 130 seats to the BJP and 97 to 107 seats to the Congress. TV9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat had said the BJP would get 106 to 116 seats and the Congress between 111 and 121. Times Now-ETG had given 105 to 117 seats to the BJP and 109 to 125 seats to the Congress.

Jist-TIF-NAI had said the Congress had an edge in Madhya Pradesh, just like in 2018, and predicted 107 to 124 seats for the party as against

the BJP's tally of 102 to 119 seats.

In Rajasthan, India Today-Axis My India had hinted at a tight race, predicting 86 to 106 seats for the Congress, 80 to 100 seats for the BJP and nine to 18 seats for others.

While Dainik Bhaskar had given 98 to 105 seats to the BJP and 85 to 95 seats to the Congress, Jan Ki Baat had forecast that the BJP would get 100 to 122 seats and the Congress between 62 and 85.

TV9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat had predicted 100 to 110 seats for the BJP and 90 to 100 seats for the Congress in Rajasthan. Times Now-ETG had predicted 108 to 128 seats for the BJP and 56 to 72 seats for the Congress in the desert state.

Today's Chanakya got it wrong, giving a simple majority to the Congress, projecting that it would get 101 seats as against the BJP's tally of 89.

While India TV-CNX had put the Congress's tally at 94 to 104 in the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly and the BJP's at 80 to 90, Republic TV-Matrize had given 115 to 130 seats to the BJP and 65 to 75 seats to the Congress.

P-MARQ pollsters gave 105 to 125 seats to the BJP and 69 to 91 seats to the Congress.

Jist-TIF-NAI had predicted that the revolving-door tradition would continue in Rajasthan and said the BJP would bag 110 seats and the Congress 70.

For Chhattisgarh, while ABP News-CVoter had predicted 41 to 53 seats for the Congress and 36 to 48 seats for the BJP in the 90-member House, India Today-Axis My India had forecast 40 to 50 seats for the Congress and 36 to 46 seats for the BJP.

India TV-CNX had forecast 46 to 56 seats for the Congress and 30 to 40 seats for the BJP.

News 24-Today's Chanakya was off the mark in Chhattisgarh, predicting that the Congress would secure a clear majority with 57 seats (plus-minus eight) while the BJP would get 33 seats (plus-minus eight). According to Jan Ki Baat, the BJP would get 34 to 45 seats and the Congress between 42 and 53. Dainik Bhaskar had also predicted a Congress victory, putting the party's tally at 46 to 55 seats as against the BJP's 35 to 45 seats.

# India surpasses Montreal protocol targets

■ By Uzmi Athar  
DUBAI, Dec 3 (PTI)

INDIA has successfully phased out ozone depleting and climate warming chemical HCFC 141b and is ahead of schedule in eliminating another such gas, HCFCs, in new equipment manufacturing, according to a Government report launched here on Sunday during the

global climate talks.

The report, jointly brought out by the Environment Ministry and UNDP, during a side-event of the annual climate talks COP28, said that surpassing the 35 per cent phase-out target for HCFCs, India has achieved an impressive 44 per cent reduction, showcasing its commitment to collaboration and innovation

to meet climate targets.

India's proactive measures, outlined in the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage-II, have set a remarkable example for global climate action, the report said.

The report said India has successfully phased out ozone depleting and climate warming chemical 1,1-Dichloro-1-fluoroethane (HCFC-141b)

and is ahead of schedule in eliminating another such gas Hydrochlorofluorocarbons in new equipment manufacturing.

Environment Secretary Leena Nandan said India has demonstrated a convergent and collaborative approach in implementing measures to address ozone-affecting substances.

# India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

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INDIA was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation Council with highest tally and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25.

India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the UAE.